FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Rocky Mountain Power Foundation Aids Effort to Expand Bear River Bird Refuge

Brigham City - A $5,000 gift from the Rocky Mountain Power Foundation this month has given a boost to an effort to expand the celebrated Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge.

Western Rivers Conservancy, a nonprofit that protects outstanding rivers across the West, is purchasing a 696-acre property that will be incorporated into the adjacent Refuge, located just west of Brigham City.

The gift from the Rocky Mountain Power Foundation goes directly toward on-the-ground efforts to make Western Rivers Conservancy’s project a success, including working with refuge managers and community volunteers with Friends of the Bear River Refuge.

"Rocky Mountain Power takes its environmental stewardship seriously,” said George Humbert, the company’s Customer and Community Manager. "We respect our natural resources and look for opportunities to preserve and improve our natural surroundings. Rocky Mountain Power is proud to support Western Rivers Conservancy’s project at the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge.”

Western Rivers Conservancy is working closely with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which regards this property as a high-priority acquisition for the Refuge.

“The Bear River Refuge is a treasure to the communities of Box Elder County, and an invaluable stopover for millions of birds across the hemisphere,” said Willis Yarberry, Western Rivers Conservancy’s Director of the Interior West. “Our goal is to improve waterfowl and wetland habitat and provide new opportunities for local residents and visitors to enjoy this phenomenal place.”

Western Rivers Conservancy’s project will conserve feeding, nesting and rearing areas for a tremendous array of waterfowl, including ducks, geese, egrets, avocets, tundra swan, American Pelican and black-necked stilts.

Adding nearly 700 acres to the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge will expand opportunities for the community to engage in environmental education, bird watching and welcoming visitors from across Utah and the world. The Refuge expects 55,000 visitors in 2009. Every dollar spent at the Refuge leverages approximately three dollars in spending in surrounding communities.

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**About the Rocky Mountain Power Foundation**
The Rocky Mountain Power Foundation is part of the PacifiCorp Foundation, one of the largest utility-endowed foundations in the United States. The foundation was created in 1988 by PacifiCorp, an electric utility serving 1.7 million customers in six Western states as Rocky Mountain Power (Utah, Wyoming and Idaho) and Pacific Power (Oregon, Washington and California). The foundation's mission, through charitable investments, is to support the growth and vitality of the communities served by Pacific Power and Rocky Mountain Power.  
http://www.rockymountainpower.net/rmpfoundation

**About Western Rivers Conservancy**
Western Rivers Conservancy protects outstanding river ecosystems in the western United States. The Conservancy acquires land to conserve critical habitat, provides public access for compatible public use and enjoyment, and cooperates with other agencies and organizations to secure the health of whole ecosystems. The organization has offices in Helena, MT, Portland, OR, and Sacramento, CA.  
http://www.westernrivers.org