

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE ANNOUNCES MAJOR UPGRADE IN CHEYENNE BOTTOMS STATUS: KANSAS WILDLIFE AREA DESIGNATED INTERNATIONAL WETLAND

Washington, D.C. -- Senator Dole announced today that the Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area is being designated as a United States Wetland of International Importance by the Fish & Wildlife Service of the United States Department of the Interior.

Managed by the State of Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, Cheyenne Bottoms is the first non-federal area to receive this designation.

"Cheyenne Bottoms is a Kansas treasure. It fully deserves this important new status as one of America's great habitats. I was pleased to support the state petition calling for the listing of Cheyenne Bottoms as a world class wetland." said Dole. "The Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks has done an outstanding job establishing and maintaining a reliable water system for this marsh."

According to Senator Dole, the International Shorebird Survey lists Cheyenne Bottoms as one of the most important sites in the western hemisphere for migrating shorebirds. An estimated 45% of the North American Shorebird population stops at Cheyenne Bottoms during migration. More than 90% of five different species stop there while migrating. Several endangered and threatened species have been sighted there.

Located in northeast Barton County, Cheyenne Bottoms is one of eleven sites in the western hemisphere selected as a shorebird reserve by the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. To qualify for this designation an area must be a flyway stopover for more than 100,000 individual shorebirds or more than 30% of the known population of a species.

Formal designation is being made today, in Gland, Switzerland, by the Convention's Standing Committee on Wetlands of International Importance.