

February 21, 2025



Dear Friends of IBP,

As I write to you today, The Institute for Bird Populations (IBP) faces unprecedented uncertainty and jeopardy. As you may have heard, a large amount of federal funding that had already been committed in grants to federal partners was canceled or paused indefinitely in the last few weeks. Much of IBP's work is conducted in partnership with federal agencies such as the US Forest Service and National Park Service, so we are deeply affected by this situation. Currently, more than a third of the funding we were relying on to finance our conservation and science work in 2025 – and meet basic expenses like salary for our permanent staff – is paused with no indication of when, or if, we will be able to access it again.

The federal grants freeze has interrupted IBP projects across the US. Examples of suspended IBP work include conservation of Bank Swallows in arctic Alaska, surveys of nesting owls and goshawks throughout California's Sierra Nevada that are necessary before forest treatments to reduce fire risk can proceed, and an ambitious new effort to assess population dynamics and threats faced by bird species across dozens of national parks.

We have already hired seasonal field crews for many of these projects and some of them are due to start work in just a few weeks. Beginning in March, year-round IBP staff will be taking a 25% pay cut to help make up for the funding shortfall, but even this sacrifice will not be sufficient to make up for all our lost funding if the situation persists.

If you are able to donate to IBP today, it will help us weather this period of uncertainty and keep our highly skilled and deeply committed team engaged in conducting science that supports bird conservation. Our research, monitoring, and conservation work on federal lands provides land managers with the information necessary to safeguard birds and other wildlife, and to spend conservation funding wisely. More than ever, IBP's work on federal lands is vitally important.

To help us, please make a tax-deductible donation via our [donations page](#), or send a check to:

The Institute for Bird Populations  
PO Box 518  
Petaluma, CA 94953

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Rodney B. Siegel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Rodney B. Siegel Ph.D., Executive Director