

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Sustain Songscapes II Conner Youngblood releases new music for Utah public lands

SALT LAKE CITY, UT -- Today, a National Wildlife Refuge receives its own song and starring role in a music video. Conner Youngblood, a Dallas-born multi-instrumentalist, visited Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge (Bear River) last fall for a songwriting retreat. The retreat is part of nonprofit, Sustain Music & Nature's, Songscapes program. Songscapes partner bands with public land areas, in order to create new music inspired by these protected landscapes. It's an effort to generate new audiences for public lands and the issues that face them.

Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, Youngblood's aptly titled song, was inspired by Bear River's nearly 80,000 acres of freshwater marshes on the northeast arm of the Great Salt Lake. The oasis provides critical habitat to millions of migratory birds, including priority species such as white-faced ibis, American white pelican, snowy plover, tundra swan, and many others. One of the best birding areas in the country, Bear River is designated as a globally important shorebird area. Listen carefully to Youngblood's song to hear recordings of birds he took at the Refuge. Scenes in the music video for this Songscape project were shot on location, and highlight the grandeur of Bear River.

Conner Youngblood was a natural choice for this partnership between Sustain Music & Nature and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. His introspective lyrics often draw from the natural world, and when he's not in the studio, collaborating with other bands (like Linkin Park) or on tour, he's out rock climbing or hiking. Youngblood has a longstanding appreciation of public lands, evident in *The Badlands*, a music video shot at Badlands National Park. "America's public lands offer endless possibilities of inspiration," says Youngblood. The time he spent at Bear River this past fall were "some of the best days I've had all year."

"National Wildlife Refuges provide not only critical habitat for wildlife, they provide us with incredible beauty and opportunity for adventure. But not enough people know about them, even though they are our lands. That's why we're using music as a way to get Youngblood's fans to realize these places are out there, and that they're important to support," explains Sustain's co-founder, Betsy Mortensen.

Online sales of Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge support not only Bear River's Friends group, but also Sustain and Youngblood.

To listen to Youngblood's moving song alongside Bear River, watch the music video at: <http://bit.ly/2E8PaQT>

Support this project and purchase at: <http://bit.ly/2IWO4jo>

Please contact Sustain's co-founder, Betsy Mortensen, with any questions and to arrange interviews with Conner Youngblood and/or Sustain. E-mail: betsy@sustainmusicandnature.org or Cell: [860-462-3038](tel:860-462-3038)

To learn more about the project visit the Sustain website: <http://www.sustainmusicandnature.org/songscape-bear-river-migratory-bird-refuge>

Music Video: <http://bit.ly/2E8PaQT>

Song Purchase: <http://bit.ly/2IWO4jo>

Project Page: <http://bit.ly/2vGp84s>

Sustain Music and Nature Website: <http://bit.ly/2veGpBi>

Conner Youngblood Website & Tour Tickets: <http://bit.ly/2vFFmNi>

Bear River Website: <http://bit.ly/2dyf8CR>

About Conner Youngblood

From growing up in Dallas, wrestling at Yale, and eventually moving to Nashville, music has always been a big part of Conner's life. Influenced early on by artists like Elliott Smith, Gorillaz and Sufjan Stevens, Conner's music focuses on the beauty in intricate instrumentation, simplicity in song structure, and mostly introspective lyrics. Conner's debut label release in 2016, 'The Generation of Lift,' on esteemed Ninja Tune subsidiary, Counter Records, garnered media coverage and song premieres in tastemaker publications such as Noisey/Vice, The Fader, and Stereogum. Learn and listen at: <http://www.conneryoungblood.com/>

About Sustain Music and Nature

A new nonprofit working to elevate the music industry's role in promoting environmental responsibility and awareness. Sustain has two programs: Songscares and Green Roster. Songscares pair bands with public land areas to create music inspired by protected

landscapes. Green Roster is a community of bands, luthiers, and recording studios that pledge to uphold environmental practices in their businesses. Learn more at: <http://www.sustainmusicandnature.org>

About Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge

Bear River MBR is one of the over 550 refuges in the National Wildlife Refuge System - a network of lands set aside and managed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service specifically for wildlife. The Refuge and other wetlands associated with the Great Salt Lake provide critical habitat for migrating birds, over 250 species moving through this area annually by the millions to rest and feed. As part of the Bear River Bay, the Refuge is designated as a Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network site, a globally important shorebird area.

Today, Bear River MBR contains nearly 80,000 acres of marsh, open water, uplands, and alkali mudflats. The Refuge is an excellent place to observe wildlife along a 12-mile auto tour route, as well as enjoying hunting, fishing and wildlife photography.