

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act (Act) of 1989 provides matching grants to organizations and individuals who have developed partnerships to carry out wetlands conservation projects in the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

History

The Act was passed, in part, to support activities under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, an international agreement that provides a strategy for the long-term protection of wetlands and associated uplands habitats needed by waterfowl and other migratory birds in North America. In December 2002, Congress reauthorized appropriations for the Act through Fiscal Year (FY) 2007, reflecting its and the public's support of the Act's goals.

The Mexico Program



Redhead/Dick Pospahala, USFWS

North American Wetlands Conservation Act

Funding

The Congressional appropriation to fund the Act's Grants Program in FY 2007 is approximately \$39.4 million. Additional program funding comes from fines, penalties, and forfeitures collected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918; from Federal fuel excise taxes on small gasoline engines, as directed by amendments to the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act of 1950; and from interest accrued on the fund established under the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937. Approximately \$74 million in total is expected to be available to fund grants in FY 2007. Of the Act's total funding, 5 percent is allocated to the Mexico Program which, in recent years, has been approximately \$2.5 million annually. Partnerships must match the grant request by at least a 1-to-1 ratio.

The Process

Applicants submit project proposals both to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of Bird Habitat Conservation (Division) and Mexico's Secretariat of the Environment and Natural Resources' General Direction of Wildlife (SEMARNAT-DGVS) once a year. These offices collaborate on the preliminary review of each proposal. Eligible proposals are presented to the North American Wetlands Conservation Council, which reviews, ranks, and recommends proposals to the Migratory Bird Conservation

Commission for final funding approval. The Division administers the approved projects' grants.

Accomplishments

Since 1991, more than 850 partners have been involved in 194 Act-supported projects in Mexico. Partners have received more than \$25.7 million in grants and have contributed another \$39.2 million in total partner funds to carry out the following activities, associated with nearly 2.2 million acres to date:

- protect, restore, or enhance wetlands and other migratory bird habitats throughout the country;
- create or strengthen conservation-stewardship attitudes within many local communities through environmental education programs;
- enhance Mexican conservation professionals' capabilities in natural resources management through various technical or capacity-building training programs; and
- advance the conservation community's understanding of bird populations and habitats through monitoring and sustainable-use studies.

More Information

Please visit <http://www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/Grants/NAWCA/Standard/Mexico/> or contact Ellen Murphy, Program Coordinator, (703) 358.1937, ellen_murphy@fws.gov.



**The North American Wetlands
Conservation Council**

Duane Shroufe (*Chair*), Arizona
Game and Fish Department

Wayne MacCallum (*Vice Chair*),
Massachusetts Division of
Fisheries and Wildlife

Dale Hall, U.S. Fish and
Wildlife Service

Scott Henderson, Arkansas Game
and Fish Commission

Mary Pope Hutson,
Land Trust Alliance

David Nomsen, Pheasants Forever

Terry Steinwand, North Dakota
Game and Fish Department

Jeff Trandahl, National Fish and
Wildlife Foundation

Alan Wentz, Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

Mark Elsbree (*Alternate*),
The Conservation Fund

Michele Brenning (*Ex Officio*),
Canadian Wildlife Service

Michael Dennis (*Ex Officio*),
The Nature Conservancy

Martin Vargas Prieto (*Ex Officio*),
SEMARNAT-Dirección General de
Vida Silvestre, Mexico

Mike Johnson (*Acting Council
Coordinator*), U.S. Fish and
Wildlife Service

**Migratory Bird Conservation
Commission**

Honorable Dirk Kempthorne (*Chair*),
Secretary of the Interior

Honorable Blanche Lincoln,
Senator from Arkansas

Honorable Thad Cochran,
Senator from Mississippi

Honorable John Dingell,
Representative from Michigan

Honorable Mike Johanns,
Secretary of Agriculture

Honorable Stephen Johnson,
Administrator, Environmental
Protection Agency

A. Eric Alvarez (*Secretary*), Chief,
Division of Realty, U.S. Fish and
Wildlife Service