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# News Release



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## Secretary Salazar Announces \$26 Million for Wetlands Grants, Nearly \$12 Million for Refuge Acquisitions Benefiting Migratory Waterfowl

*Pacific Region States Receive \$4 Million for Wetlands and Acquire 225 acres for wintering Tundra Swan*

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar announced today that the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission has approved more than \$26 million in funding to protect and restore more than 200,000 acres of wetland areas and wildlife habitat in the U.S. and Mexico under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA). The commission, which is chaired by Secretary Salazar, also approved \$11.5 million to protect more than 3,500 wetland acres on seven units of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

More than \$24.2 million of NAWCA grant funds will support 25 projects in 21 states and Puerto Rico, with partners contributing an additional \$60.6 million in matching funds to help protect, restore and enhance almost 185,000 acres. Nearly \$2 million for seven projects will help protect 85,427 acres of habitat in Mexico, with partners contributing an additional \$3.5 million the projects. The grants were awarded under NAWCA's U.S. Standard Grants and Mexico Grants Programs administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, an agency of the Department of the Interior. The grants are funded by annual Congressional appropriations; fines, penalties and forfeitures levied under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act; interest accrued on funds under the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act and excise taxes paid on small engine fuels through the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Fund.

The Small Grants projects in the Pacific Region are:

### Washington:

**North Olympic – Dungeness Wetland Basin Phase I:** (Clallam County, Washington). Grantee (\$980,927): Ducks Unlimited, Inc. **Project Partners include:** The North Olympic Land Trust; City of Sequim; Northern Conservation Farms; a private individual; Pacific Coast Joint Venture; and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board. **Matching Funds:** \$1,912,169. **Nonmatching Funds:** \$74,991.

This project is the first step in a long-term effort to protect, restore and enhance wetland habitats and associated upland buffers in the North Olympic-Dungeness wetland basin providing migration and wintering habitat for millions of migratory birds, including vast numbers of waterfowl, wading birds and shorebirds. This project will restore and enhance 105 acres of freshwater and estuarine wetlands important for salmon populations. Approximately 60 acres of upland habitat will be restored and enhanced to be used by large numbers of waterfowl, including sea ducks.

### Oregon:

**Willamette River Delta Restoration Project, Phase II:** (Clackamas, Multnomah, Washington and Columbia counties, Oregon) Grantee (\$1 million): Ducks Unlimited, Inc. **Partners include:** Metro; Oregon Department of Fish

and Wildlife; private individuals; Orion GPS; Oregon Trout; Columbia Land Trust; MY Sportsman's Club, LLC; Tualatin River Keepers; Natural Resources Conservation Service. **Matching Funds:** \$2,393,089. **Nonmatching Funds:** \$25,500.

This project will protect, restore or enhance wetlands and associated upland habitats to benefit migratory waterfowl and other species within the Willamette River Delta. This project adds six new properties plus new restoration work on two properties that were part of the successful Phase I proposal. Seven of the project elements will protect and/or restore palustrine forested wetlands. Habitats will benefit waterfowl, wading birds, neotropical migratory birds, fish, and small mammals. Other wetland types to be affected include riverine wetlands, palustrine shrub-scrub wetlands and uplands. These uplands will benefit nesting waterfowl, neotropical migratory birds, and a wide variety of other wildlife.

“This grant shows a diverse partnership coming together to restore and protect crucial waterfowl habitat in the Willamette River Delta, says Manager of Conservation Programs Chuck Lobdell. “These NAWCA grants are absolutely critical to DU’s ability to restore and protect wetlands. Partners from both the public and private sector are stepping up and helping DU to leverage our conservation dollars, and the support of our members to conserve even more habitat”

The commission also approved acquisitions that will be added to seven units of the National Wildlife Refuge System to secure breeding, resting and feeding habitat. These acquisitions are funded with proceeds from sales of the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, otherwise known as the Federal Duck Stamp.

One acquisition project in Oregon:

- **Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge, Wapato Lake Unit, Washington and Yamhill Counties, Oregon** – Acquisition of 225 acres. The addition will provide migration and wintering habitat for a variety of waterfowl species, including the tundra swan, five important duck species (mallard, northern pintail, canvasback, ring-necked duck and lesser scaup), and six varieties of Canada geese (dusky, lesser, Taverner, cackling, western and Aleutian). The Wapato Lake Unit is located near the community of Gaston in the northwest corner of the Willamette Valley.

“It is an honor to preside over a program that for nearly eight decades has secured hundreds of thousands of acres of wetland habitat throughout North America for migratory birds,” Secretary Salazar said. “The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission is about common-sense conservation, protecting wetlands critical to birds throughout their nesting, wintering, and migratory ranges irrespective of state and international borders that may intersect the flyways.”

This year marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1934 amendment to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act that created the Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, commonly known as the Duck Stamp. For every dollar spent on Federal Duck Stamps, ninety-eight cents goes directly to purchase vital habitat for protection in the National Wildlife Refuge System. The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission oversees the use of Federal Duck Stamp funds for the purchase and lease of these wetland habitats for national wildlife refuges. To date, more than 5 million acres of wetlands have been purchased using more than \$650 million in Duck Stamp revenue.

More information about NAWCA grant programs and summaries of the projects approved today is available on the Web at: <http://www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/Grants/NAWCA/index.shtm>

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