2011 National Coastal Wetland Conservation Grants by State

Alabama

Heron Bay and Portersville Bay Wetlands – The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources was awarded $1 million to help acquire a 595 acre wetland tract within Heron Bay and a 520 acre tract within Portersville Bay. The total project cost is $1,379,500. This acquisition will complement management of existing Federal and State lands within the Mississippi Sound: 1,000-acre Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Grand Bay National Estuary Research Reserve, and the 5,151 acres of State managed wilderness areas, which has a wetland management regime to complement the Federal programs. These tracts were identified as priority acquisition sites by the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program and their protection will support the management objectives of the Alabama Coastal Area Management Program. In addition to the proposed acquisitions, the Alabama chapter of The Nature Conservancy has offered a 159 acre tract that is within the project area as match.

Alaska

Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge Inholdings – Spring Creek Conservation Project – Alaska Department of Natural Resources and its project partners was awarded $70,900 to help permanently protect approximately 87 acres of privately-owned inholdings within the 28,000-acre Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge located in Palmer, Alaska. The total project cost is $112,900. The three parcels in the Spring Creek Conservation project are within the Knik/Matanuska watershed and are adjacent to the Kepler Bradley State Park. The parcels provide coastal wetlands and riparian and in-stream habitats for dozens of migratory birds and critical spawning and rearing habitat for Coho salmon, which is the main food source for the endangered Cook Inlet Beluga Whale. These parcels contribute to the overall health of the fishery in the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge and support salmon stewardship education and outreach programs. Protection of these parcels has been identified as a priority by the FWS Region 7 Coastal and Fish Passage Programs. Once acquired, these wetlands would be managed as a part of the Refuge.

California

Breuner Marsh Restoration - Phase I, Point Pinole Regional Shoreline - The East Bay Regional Park District, a California State agency, was awarded $1 million to help restore and enhance 66 acres of tidal and seasonal wetlands, mudflats/open water, and coastal scrub and grassland located between San Pablo Creek Marsh and Point Pinole Regional Shoreline Park in Contra Costa County California. The total project cost is $2,350,000. The goal of this project is to provide long-term, self-sustaining tidal wetlands, seasonal wetlands, and coastal prairie to create valuable habitat for protected species. Specifically, this project would restore and enhance 36 acres of declining wetland types, 23 acres of stable coastal wetland types, and 7 acres of coastal uplands. This project would provide habitat for several Federally endangered species, including Salt marsh harvest mouse and California clapper rail. The project would also provide public access for compatible, passive recreation and public education.

Devereux Slough Coastal Wetland Project - The California Coastal Conservancy was awarded $1 million to help acquire and permanently protect a 63-acre property in Santa Barbara County, California. This project will also result in the restoration of approximately 13 acres of coastal wetlands and 6 acres of coastal uplands. The total project cost is $9,039,704. Additional restoration of the property is planned for future projects. Devereux Slough comprises the easternmost watershed of the Gaviota Coast, which is a significant biological area because

it connects the coastal watersheds running from the Santa Ynez Mountains down to the Santa Barbara Channel. This project has the potential to be one of the most important actions to restore coastal wetland habitat on the south central California coast. Historically, this site supported more than half the coastal wetlands in the slough system. This project will effectively double the coastal wetland area found in the system. The property abuts existing coastal wetland and upland habitats that are adjacent to University of California at Santa Barbara's Coal Oil Point Reserve.

Emerson Parcel Tidal Marsh Restoration - The California Coastal Conservancy was awarded $1 million to help restore 438 acres of leveed grazing lands to a mosaic of open water, tidal channels, intertidal marsh, riparian woodland, and uplands. This project is part a larger effort being undertaken by several state agencies to restore the wetland habitat in the 1,166-acre Dutch Slough Tidal Marsh. The total project cost of this phase is $6,142,500. The Dutch Slough project is located in the Marsh Creek delta, which drains a large area on the east side of Mt. Diablo. The project will reroute Marsh Creek from its current engineered channel to a meandering channel through the Emerson parcel. Flows in the marsh creek will deliver sediment to the marshes, recreating natural deltaic processes and features that will benefit native fish and wildlife. The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta ecosystem has been severely impaired by pollution, invasive species, and hydrological modifications. The Governor has identified the Dutch Slough Project as critical to addressing the ecosystem's decline.

Riverside Ranch Restoration Project - The California Coastal Conservancy was awarded $1 million to help restore the natural ecosystem functions of the Salt River Delta in the Eel River estuary. The total project cost is $2,001,150. The Eel River estuary is the second largest estuary in California and lies just south of Humboldt Bay. The 446-acre Riverside Ranch sits at the confluence of the Salt and Eel Rivers was acquired with a 2007 National Coastal Wetland Conservation Grant. The Salt River watershed has been degraded by a century of diking and other landscape modifications. This project will restore and enhance a total of 334 acres of estuarine tidal marsh, riparian forest, and other estuarine habitats, and 112 acres of associated uplands for numerous Federal and State listed and other wetland-dependent fish and wildlife species. It will restore a functional tidal ecosystem, restore habitat for special status species, and reduce flooding by restoring tidal prism, sediment transport, and floodplain connectivity. The project area will be managed by the California Department of Fish and Game as part of the Eel River Wildlife Area.

Ventura River Estuary Property Acquisition - The California Coastal Conservancy, in partnership with the Ventura Hillsides Conservancy, was awarded $1 million to help acquire and permanently protect 52 acres of the 105-acre property in the upper Ventura River Estuary in the City of Ventura, California. The total project cost is $1,604,500. Historically, the entire property consisted of wetland vegetation and riparian forest in the river mouth, however, 75 acres are in intensive agricultural production and only 30 acres remain as confined river bottom habitat even though 97 acres are within the 100-year floodplain. This project will also result in the restoration of 22 acres of row crops to coastal riparian forest. During storm events, large amounts of sediment carrying nitrates, nitrites, phosphorous, and pesticides runoff into the estuary and the Pacific Ocean. While some of the land will remain in agriculture, the project will prevent it from being developed and enhance riparian buffering of the river channel to reduce erosion and polluted runoff directly into estuarine and marine habitats.

Delaware

Broad Dyke Wetland Protection Project - The Delaware Division of Wildlife was awarded $800,000 to help acquire a 60-acre parcel at the confluence of Broad Dyke Creek and the Delaware River in the City of New Castle, Delaware. The parcel consists of 43 acres of coastal wetlands - 21 acres of emergent estuarine wetlands, 18 acres of marine intertidal wetlands, 4 acres of freshwater forested wetlands tidal mudflats, and 17 acres of forested uplands. Acquisition of the property would also protect 1,200 linear feet of Delaware River shoreline. The total project cost is $1,220,000. The parcel provides 60 acres of breeding, wintering, and stopover habitats for waterfowl, including the American black duck, migratory birds during fall and spring migration, and breeding habitat for waterbirds shorebirds, and salt marsh associates. Protection of this parcel will also benefit over 40 different species of fish that have been documented within the Broad Dyke Creek and Delaware River, including River herring, American shad, Weakfish, Atlantic Sturgeon, and Shortnose sturgeon. The parcel will be added to 250 acres of lands already managed for conservation by the City of New Castle.

Florida

Florida Big Bend Coastal Wetland Acquisition Project – The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission was awarded $1 million to help acquire and manage as a part of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission's Big Bend Wildlife Management Area, four contiguous parcels totaling 223.6 acres of coastal wetlands near the mouth of the Steinhatchee River and the Gulf of Mexico in Dixie County, Florida. Acquisition of this parcel will bring a key part of this ecosystem into conservation and connect surrounding conservation lands. The parcel consists of intact salt marsh, a tidal creek network, salt pan, karst features, mesic flatwood habitats and natural communities. The acquisition and protection of this parcel will also prevent the loss and degradation of two important, nationally decreasing, coastal wetland habitat types: estuarine intertidal emergent wetlands and marine intertidal wetlands. The total project cost is $2.1 million. This site provides habitat/nesting areas for numerous Federal and State listed species, including Manatee, Wood stork, Piping plover, and Beaked spikerush.

Restoration of Dragline Ditched Coastal Wetlands in Volusia County, Phase 2 – The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, partnering with St. Johns River Water Management District, was awarded $540,000 to help restore 300 acres of dragline ditch impacted coastal wetlands in Mosquito Lagoon in Volusia County, Florida. The overall objective of this two-phased project is to restore 600 project acres of the dragline ditch-impacted wetlands remaining on public lands in Volusia County. The total cost of Phase 2 is $835,848. In Phase 1, 300 project acres were identified and are being completely restored. The estimated per acre cost of about $2,600 and around $6,850 per restored acre. The wetlands of Mosquito Lagoon provide important habitat for eight species of Federally listed threatened and endangered animals and numerous species of migratory birds and fish.

Maine

Basin Cove/Curtis Cove Project - The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) was awarded $603,267 to help protect two parcels totaling 86.9 acres with 1,883 feet of shore frontage on two coves in the Town of Hapswell, Cumberland County, Maine. The Harpswell Heritage Land Trust will be the sub-grantee of MDIFW. The total project cost is $906,570. These parcels contain 32.1 acres of palustrine forested and palustrine shrub wetlands, 15.5 acres of marine intertidal mudflats, and 38.9 acres of buffering uplands. Basin and Curtis Coves have been mapped as significant waterfowl and wading bird habitat by MDIFW and as high value shellfish habitat by Maine Department of Marine Resources. Of the 91 USFWS trust species that occur in the Gulf of Maine, these two parcels provide habitat to 53. The project area contains four of the five types of habitat used by shorebirds as listed in the

North Atlantic Regional Shorebird Plan. The project will also protect existing eelgrass beds in the two coves, which provide habitat for numerous species of commercial and recreational importance. Both of these parcels are on the market and could be developed for residential use.

Long Cove and Seal Cove - The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) was awarded $962,000 to help acquire four properties in Long Cove and Seal Cove in the Pleasant River estuary of Washington County, Maine. The Long Cove and Seal Cove Project include pristine coastal wetlands and upland buffer. The project areas include intertidal mudflats, subtidal rockweed and eelgrass beds, and both spruce/fir maritime forest and early successional habitat. The project will permanently protect 170.9 acres of coastal habitat, including 93.3 acres of intertidal and palustrine wetlands, and a 77.6 acre upland buffer. Together these properties have over 6,200 feet of shoreline frontage. The total project cost is $1.4 million. This grant will also trigger the donation of third 64.8 acre parcel that is not claimed as project acreage or match because it is already pledged as match for a NAWCA grant application. These parcels will be managed by MDIFW as part of the new 1,920-acre Pleasant Bay Wildlife Management Area.

Maquoit Bay - Henshaw Project - Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife was awarded $772,100 to help acquire a permanent conservation easement on the 237-acre Henshaw parcel and protect 1,507 feet of shorefront along Maquoit Bay in Brunswick Maine. Of these acres, 101.2 acres are comprised of stable or declining wetland types. This conservation easement will add to two abutting and nearly abutting parcels in conservation totaling 440 acres. The total project cost is $1,123,375. Maquoit Bay has been identified as a conservation priority in Maine's Wildlife Action Plan and this property includes 9 of the 21 key habitat types in the Plan. Of the 91 USFWS trust species that occur in the Gulf of Maine, these two parcels provide habitat to 53, including Bald eagle, Peregrine falcon, Piping plover, Roseate tern, and Red knot. This parcel includes a portion of the largest coastal unfragmented forest block in Cumberland County and offers a rare opportunity to provide landscape level conservation in a rapidly developing region.

Massachusetts

Sisters of Notre Dame Conservation Easement - The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, partnering with the Essex County Greenbelt Association, the Great Marsh Land Protection Team, and the Town of Ipswich was awarded $1 million to help permanently protect approximately 78.05 acres of coastal salt marsh, freshwater marsh and ponds, and associated upland buffer. The Great Marsh is the largest salt marsh in New England covering over 25,000 acres. The project area is located at the mouth of Eagle Hill River, which drains into Plum Island Sound and Ipswich Bay. It is part of a 7,000-acre conservation corridor that includes Parker River NWR four miles to the north. The total project cost is $1,520,225. The barrier beaches of the Great Marsh support large breeding populations of water birds, including the Federally-threatened Piping plovers. The property also lies within the USFWS's Atlantic Coast Joint Venture North Shore Waterfowl Focus Area and the Massachusetts Bays Program National Estuary Program.

New Jersey

Cohansey Bayshore Wetlands Project - The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, partnering with the USFWS Coastal Program, was awarded $1 million propose to help acquire four parcels in Cumberland County, New Jersey, totaling 365 acres. The total

project cost is $2,020,000. The parcels are within an ecologically unique and rare area in the Delaware Estuary, which includes two National Wildlife Refuges and one Wild and Scenic River. The Delaware Estuary is world renowned as a critical stop-over site for a variety of neotropical migratory birds and the estuarine wetlands are a Ramsar site. The parcels include 64 acres of palustrine forested wetlands, 7 acres of palustrine open water, 12 acres of palustrine scrub/shrub wetlands, 45 acres of palustrine emergent wetlands, 25 acres of modified agricultural wetlands, 37 acres of upland forest, 84 acres of agricultural upland, and two acres of residential area. The parcels will be incorporated into the Dix Wildlife Management Area and managed by the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife.

North Carolina

Brown's Island Project – The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, in partnership with the North Carolina Coastal Land Trust, was awarded $387,400 to help acquire a 45-acre parcel on Brown's Island located near Cape Lookout National Seashore in Cataret County, North Carolina. The total project cost is $622,400. Brown's Island is a 600-acre undeveloped island. The parcel contains a diversity of wildlife habitats including 31.5 acres of salt and brackish marsh, pocosin, and 13.5 acres of maritime Live oak and Longleaf pine forest. The project would protect habitat for eight Federally listed species, 10 State listed species, 18 coastal dependent and/or migratory bird species, and conserve four priority habitat types: forested wetlands, estuarine emergent wetlands, Longleaf pine habitat, and maritime forest. The North Carolina Natural Heritage Program considers the island to be a state significant natural heritage area. The island has been under threat of development in recent years and the applicants hope that the acquisition will encourage other owners to put their properties into conservation.

Oregon

Coquille Valley Wetland Conservation and Restoration – The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board was awarded $1 million to help acquire and restore approximately 622 acres of coastal wetlands in the Coquille Valley on the southern Oregon coast for permanent conservation, protection and restoration by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). This project is the first phase of a larger initiative by ODFW to conserve and restore approximately 3,000 acres in the lowlands along the lower Coquille River encompassing some of the most productive wetland habitats on the Oregon Coast. The total cost of the first phase is $2,506,000. Protection and restoration of freshwater wetlands would complement downstream estuarine restoration efforts on Bandon National Wildlife Refuge. This project would protect nesting, feeding, and nursery areas for a diversity of at-risk fish and wildlife species, including Oregon Coast Coho salmon, Coastal cutthroat trout, Bald eagle, Purple martin, Willow flycatcher, Western meadowlark, and Townsend's big-eared bat. The Nature Conservancy is providing technical and financial support for this effort through the Northwest Wildlife Conservation Initiative.

Miami Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Project – The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board was awarded $317,700 to help acquire and restore approximately 76.2 acres in the Miami River Basin in Tillamook Bay, on the northern coast of Oregon, including 56.7 acres of nationally declining wetlands. This proposal is the second phase of a two-phase project to improve aquatic habitat by enhancing the increasing tidal channel connection, restoring the historic character of the site vegetation by reducing invasive species and planting native vegetation, enhancing riparian corridors to reduce the water temperature, and permanently protecting the project area. The total cost of the second phase is $567,700. The

Miami River watershed is one of five watersheds that drain into Tillamook Bay on the north coast of Oregon. The Miami River watershed has lost much of its original estuarine, emergent, scrub-shrub, and forested wetland areas to diking, draining, and the conversion of land to agriculture. The Miami River wetlands support a wide variety of plants and wildlife, including all five species of Tillamook Bay salmonids: Coho (Federally threatened), Chinook, Chum, Steelhead, and Cutthroat trout.

Tillamook Bay Wetlands Acquisition and Restoration – Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board was awarded $1 million to help acquire four parcels totaling 100 acres of declining wetlands in Tillamook Bay on the northern Oregon Coast. This project also includes the restoration of 484 acres of intertidal marsh that includes 377 acres of land acquired through a 1999 National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant. The total project cost is $3,350,000. Numerous studies have identified the Tillamook Bay Estuary as a high priority for wetland conservation and restoration. This project is the largest wetland restoration effort proposed to date in Oregon. This project will provide nesting, feeding, and nursery areas for a diverse array of at-risk fish and wildlife species such as the northern red-legged frog, bald eagle, peregrine falcon, Pacific lamprey, Chinook and chum salmon, and Federally threatened Coho salmon. Tillamook Bay represents the southernmost boundary and the largest remaining population of chum salmon. Restoration of these tidal habitats is crucial to protecting this population.

Washington

Central Willapa Bay Conservation Project – The Washington State Department of Ecology, in partnership with the Columbia Land Trust, was awarded $1 million to help acquire and permanently protect four parcels totaling 575 acres of highly threatened, pristine, declining coastal wetlands, riparian areas, and associated mature and old growth conifer forest on Willapa Bay in southwest Washington. The total project cost is $1,405,000. Willapa Bay is the second largest estuary on North America's west coast and is one of the most pristine estuaries in the United States. The unique habitats of Willapa Bay include a variety of estuarine wetlands, freshwater wetlands, lakes, old growth and mature conifer forest, sand dunes, beaches, and grasslands that support a diversity of wildlife and plants. The project area is home to Federally threatened salmon, Green sturgeon, Marbled murrelet, Brown pelican, and Bald eagle. The four parcels are located near the 15,000-acre Willapa Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

Drayton Harbor Estuary: Coastal Wetland Protection and Restoration – The Washington State Department of Ecology, in partnership with the Whatcom Land Trust and the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association, was awarded $340,000 to help acquire, restore and protect in perpetuity eight acres of estuarine habitat at the confluence of California Creek and Drayton Harbor in northwestern Washington. The total project cost is $496,000. The project area includes 1,700 feet of freshwater and saltwater frontage and contains both estuarine and palustrine wetlands, of which six acres are nationally declining wetlands. The project will also restore the wetland hydrology; remove noxious weeds and establish native plants; and remove a dilapidated house, outbuildings, driveway, and culverts. The property is adjacent to State-owned tidally inundated mud flats and is within the 100-year floodplain of California Creek. Upon completion of the project, public access for passive recreation will be accommodated, including a parking lot and educational signage.

North River/Willapa Bay Conservation – The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) was awarded $1 million to help acquire and restore 505 acres of estuarine and freshwater marsh, and forested riparian and shoreline in northern Willapa Bay in southwest Washington. The total project cost is $1,460,000. Willapa Bay is regarded as one of the most

pristine estuaries in the United States and is the second largest estuary on the west coast. This project will protect an assemblage of high quality wetlands, including estuarine, emergent salt marsh, marsh scrub/shrub and freshwater forested wetlands. The project area is adjacent to 1,300 acres of coastal habitat already protected by WDFW and the Cascade Land Conservancy, thus consolidating nearly 2,000 acres of protected lands in north Willapa Bay, including property which would otherwise be at risk of residential and commercial development. The project has wide support from a variety of partners, including the Cascade Land Conservancy, the State Department of Agriculture, Wildlife Forever Fund, and the USFWS Coastal Program.

Tarboo-Dabob Bay Acquisition and Restoration, Phase II – Washington State Department of Ecology was awarded $1 million to help acquire and protect in perpetuity eight properties making up approximately 108 acres within the State-designated Dabob Bay Natural Area. The total project cost is $1,500,000. This acquisition would complete a continuous nature preserve surrounding Tarboo-Dabob Bay, one of the least developed coastal embayments remaining in Puget Sound. Four previous National Coastal Wetland Conservation Grants have helped protect a total of 875 acres fronting on the Bay. This project will help protect highly productive salmonid habitats and benefit a diversity of at-risk freshwater and estuarine species, including five salmon stocks, forage fish species, numerous shorebird, waterfowl, and land bird species. This project is essential for the continued success of the larger effort by 34 project partners, including Federal, State, tribal, shellfish grower and landowner interests to protect wetlands of State and national significance.

Wisconsin

The Ridges Sanctuary – Dwarf Lake Iris Land Acquisition – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) was awarded $250,000 to help acquire 2.4 acres of palustrine forested coastal wetlands and 200 feet of Lake Michigan shoreline. The total project cost is $470,250. The parcel is within the boundary of privately owned Ridges Nature Sanctuary and is also part of the greater Bailey's Harbor State Natural Area project. The parcel is within a critical habitat unit of the Federally endangered Hine's emerald dragonfly and contains large amounts of Federally threatened Dwarf lake iris. This project is part of a large effort to conserve 15,360 acres along the east shore of Northern Door Peninsula. The Nature Conservancy has identified Northern Door Peninsula as one of 72 priority conservation areas in the Great Lakes Ecoregion.