

2019 National Coastal Wetland Conservation Grants Project Summaries

Region 1

Baird Cove Acquisition

The Washington State Department of Ecology, in partnership with Nisqually Land Trust, will protect Baird Cove, an 88-acre estuarine complex in southern Puget Sound. The project will protect 4,200 feet of intact estuarine shoreline surrounding 7.8 acres of estuarine intertidal wetlands, 42 acres of intact freshwater forested wetlands and 38 acres of mature forested uplands surrounding the estuary. The project builds on prior investments in coastal protection and restoration, including the 900-acre Nisqually Delta restoration project and establishment of the 14,800-acre Nisqually Reach Aquatic Reserve. Baird Cove’s coastal wetlands sustain many state and federally listed species. Key stakeholders include the Nisqually Indian Tribe, Squaxin Island Tribe, Washington State Department of Ecology, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Ducks Unlimited, Nisqually Land Trust, Nisqually Delta Association, as well as commercial and recreational fishers, commercial shellfish growers and recreational boaters.

State/Territory	Grant request	Cost share	Other federal funds	Total project cost
Washington	\$995,000	\$1,431,667		\$1,426,667

Elwha Estuary Acquisition

The Washington State Department of Ecology, in partnership with the Coastal Watershed Institute, will acquire a 2.4-acre parcel, including 210 feet of marine shoreline in Clallam County, Washington. The project will conserve and restore 1.4 acres of critical coastal wetlands at the mouth of the Elwha River. This parcel is one of six essential conservation acquisitions identified by the state to allow for the restoration of the historic Elwha River delta and reconnection of the estuary to Puget Sound. It is also adjacent to a property acquired by the state last year with a 2018 Coastal Wetland Grant. These conservation efforts maximize the ecosystem benefits associated with the recent removal of the Elwha River dams by coupling watershed-scale restoration with estuary and nearshore conservation and restoration. This project is part of a broader effort by local conservation partners to protect the Elwha River corridor from its headwaters to the estuary.

State/Territory	Grant request	Cost share	Other Federal funds	Total project cost
Washington	\$1,000,000	\$420,000		\$1,420,000

Lower Hood Canal Estuarine Wetlands Reconstruction

The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife will acquire and protect 219 acres of estuary, associated freshwater wetlands and forested wetland habitat. The project will restore seven acres of estuarine wetland habitat in the Union River estuary in lower Hood Canal at the base of the Kitsap Peninsula. This project will continue restoration and protection efforts on the Union River Estuary to conserve a complex, functional and a truly connected coastal wetland ecosystem. The Union River watershed supports federally listed Hood Canal summer chum salmon, spawning in the lower watershed and rearing in the estuary. The Union River estuary is considered a stronghold for summer chum recovery within Hood Canal, and the estuarine/nearshore habitat is important to support early life stages of summer chum. In addition to being important habitat for fish and wildlife, the estuary offers countless recreational and educational opportunities to the nearby population centers of Bremerton and Shelton.

State/Territory	Grant request	Cost share	Other Federal	Total project cost
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Washington	\$1,000,000.	\$922,280		\$1,922,280

Skookum Valley Wetland Acquisition

The Washington State Department of Ecology will acquire, restore and permanently protect a 158-acre former cattle ranch that contains 85.7 acres of wetlands and 4.6 miles of Skookum Creek and tributary shoreline draining directly into Puget Sound in Mason County, Washington. The restoration component of the project will provide important biological benefits by removing six derelict structures and accumulated debris, followed by removal of invasive vegetation and planting of native trees and shrubs. The streams on the site provide habitat for four salmonid species. The wetlands consist of perennial wetlands that are connected to Skookum Creek by tributaries providing important habitat for numerous waterfowl, migratory birds and raptors. This project supports numerous conservation plans such as the *Puget Sound Partnership’s Action Agenda*, and has been identified as high priority for acquisition by the Squaxin Island Tribe.

State/Territory	Grant request	Cost share	Other Federal funds	Total project cost
Washington	\$564,000	\$236,000		\$800,000

Sound View Camp Conservation Easement

The Washington State Department of Ecology, in partnership with Nisqually Land Trust, will protect Sound View Camp, a 93-acre waterfront property on Drayton Passage in southern Puget Sound. The project will protect 4,000 feet of marine/estuarine shoreline and a coastal wetland complex consisting of barrier beach, barrier lagoon, closed lagoon, saltmarsh, bluff-backed beach, intact feeder bluff, tideland and associated upland forest habitats. The project will help address primary threats to the region’s coastal wetlands. The site’s estuarine and nearshore areas sustain critical fish, wildlife and bird populations, including many state and federally listed species. The project supports numerous conservation and recovery plans and will further the habitat protection goals of stakeholders, including Nisqually Indian Tribe, Squaxin Island Tribe, Washington State Department of Ecology, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Ducks Unlimited, as well as commercial and recreational fishers, commercial shellfish growers and recreational boaters.

State/Territory	Grant request	Cost share	Other Federal funds	Total project cost
Washington	\$950,000	\$416,667		\$1,366,667

West Oakland Bay Restoration Phase 2

The Washington State Department of Ecology, in partnership with the Squaxin Island Tribe, will complete Phase 2 of a 3-phase project designed to restore critical coastal wetlands in West Oakland Bay in Mason County, Washington. The goal of this project is to restore 28.6 acres of saltmarsh and remove ¼ mile of intertidal dikes. This project is part of a larger, strategic effort to conserve and restore key marine nearshore, estuary and freshwater habitats and ecosystem functions in the Oakland Bay watershed. The project area provides crucial habitat for five salmonid species, forage fish, numerous migratory and resident shorebirds, waterfowl and land bird species, shellfish and other wildlife. It will also continue a successful conservation partnership between the Squaxin Island Tribe, Capitol Land Trust, Washington State Department of Ecology, South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group, Taylor Shellfish Farms, Mason Conservation District, City of Shelton, Mason County and Salmon Recovery Funding Board.

State/Territory	Grant request	Cost share	Other Federal funds	Total project cost

Washington	\$1,000,000	\$420,000		\$1,420,000
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Region 2

Settegast Coastal Heritage Preserve #5

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will purchase and conserve in perpetuity approximately 75 acres of coastal habitats. The purchased tract will be added to and be managed as part of the 672-acre Coastal Heritage Preserve. Coastal wetland loss in Texas and in the Galveston Bay system is significant and is a continuing concern because of the essential roles that wetlands perform. This project will conserve breeding, nesting, foraging, roosting and wintering habitats that benefit numerous coastal-dependent and migratory bird species. This project will also protect habitat types that are crucial to numerous commercial and recreational estuarine fishery species, including habitats classified as essential fish habitat for species under federal fishery management plans.

State/Territory	Grant request	Cost share	Other Federal funds	Total project cost
Texas	\$1,000,000	\$333,335		\$1,333,335

Region 3

Point Au Sable Nature Preserve/Wequiock Creek Coastal Wetlands

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, partnering with the Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust and the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, will assist with the acquisition of 73.8 acres of land along Wequiock Creek and restore 25 acres of palustrine emergent wetland on the adjacent Point au Sable Nature Preserve in Brown County, Wisconsin. The Point au Sable wetlands are by far the largest coastal wetlands on the entire east shore of Green Bay. Each spring and fall, thousands of migratory waterfowl, gulls, terns, shorebirds and passerines pass through Point au Sable on their way south. In addition to land acquisition and ecological restoration, this project will provide opportunities for fish and wildlife-based recreation and public use and enjoyment of natural resources. The outcomes will expand educational and research opportunities at the Point au Sable Nature Preserve.

State/Territory	Grant request	Cost share	Other Federal funds	Total project cost
Wisconsin	\$450,515	\$526,100		\$976,615

Region 4

D'Olive Bay Coastal Wetlands Acquisition

The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources will conserve 212 acres of coastal wetlands, the majority of which is nationally decreasing types in Baldwin County, Alabama. The project includes the fee-simple purchase of 100 acres from a private landowner and the donation of 112 acres from the City of Daphne and the Village Point Foundation. Acquisition of this tract will further the goals of federal, state and other agencies to protect sensitive species and their habitats by safeguarding valuable coastal wetlands and shorelines. The project will also provide additional fish and wildlife-based recreation opportunities to the public. The parcel will be deeded, with grant restrictions, to the Alabama Forever Wild Land Trust. The acquisition of these wetlands will complement the current National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's D'Olive Creek Watershed Restoration project.

State/Territory	Grant request	Cost share	Other Federal funds	Total project cost

Alabama	\$498,000	\$453,000		\$951,000
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Tarpon Cove Estuarine Habitat Restoration Project

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will make habitat improvements to Lake Worth Lagoon in Palm Beach County, Florida. The project will cap borrow pits in the benthic zone that are filled with fine-grained organic sediments (i.e., muck), and restore and enhance shallow estuarine seagrass habitat. Currently, the dredge holes are anoxic, impair the ecosystem and inhibit the natural recruitment of seagrasses, like Johnson’s seagrass. The project will also result in five intertidal islands consisting of mangrove, tidal saltmarsh, intertidal sand flat and oyster reef habitats, along with a beach nesting bird island. These islands are expected to support over 120 species of fish, 39 species of birds and 14 state and/or federally listed species, including West Indian manatee, Johnson’s seagrass, American oystercatcher and least tern. The final project, including all phases, will ultimately provide 40 acres of restored estuarine habitat.

State/Territory	Grant request	Cost share	Other Federal funds	Total project cost
Florida	\$1,000,000	\$417,334		\$1,417,334

Floyd’s Neck and Grover Island Project

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GA DNR) will acquire approximately 2,733 acres of diverse coastal habitats known as Floyd’s Neck and Grover Island in Camden County, Georgia. Floyd’s Neck and Grover Island contain significant areas of coastal plain maritime habitats, including freshwater, forested wetlands and emergent wetlands. The salt marsh habitats and maritime forest edge support foraging wading birds, such as white ibis and wood stork, and provide critical breeding, feeding and nesting habitat for Neotropical migrants. The salt marsh habitats in particular are important for several life stages of commercially important fish species. Protection of Floyd’s Neck and Grover Island is also part of a long-term initiative by GA DNR and its partners to conserve priority habitats in the lower Satilla River system, and is designated within GA DNR’s 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan as a priority area.

State/Territory	Grant request	Cost share	Other Federal funds	Total project cost
Georgia	\$1,000,000	\$7,451,741	\$500,000	\$8,451,741

Oatlands Plantation Acquisition

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources will acquire and protect in perpetuity approximately 99 acres of diverse habitat known as Oatlands Plantation in Glynn County, Georgia. The acquisition parcel is made up of maritime forests, saltmarsh and rare freshwater wetlands on St. Simons Island. The acquisition of Oatlands Plantation satisfies goals listed in Georgia’s State Wildlife Action Plan, and will preserve 70.4 acres of nationally declining wetlands and 30.6 acres of maritime forest. This acquisition will also add a crucial component to both the Altamaha conservation lands and to the St. Simons protected lands network. To date, over 184,000 acres of adjacent wetlands and uplands, stretching inland for 50 miles, have been protected along the lower Altamaha River. This project will also create opportunities for wildlife recreation and education and research focused on tidal and wetland ecosystems.

State/Territory	Grant request	Cost share	Other Federal funds	Total project cost
Georgia	\$1,000,000	\$400,000		\$1,400,000

Shellbine Acquisition

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GA DNR) will help purchase approximately 1,899 acres of diverse habitat known as the Shellbine Tract in Glynn County Georgia. The area includes tidal wetlands and adjacent uplands in the lower Satilla River watershed. Over 100 rare plants and animals occur at the site, of which eight are federally listed as threatened or endangered. More than 34 different natural communities are found on the tract. Shellbine is a component of a larger project by GA DNR, The Nature Conservancy, Open Space Institute and U.S. Department of Defense to conserve a critical 11,000 acre property called Cabin Bluff, and ultimately to functionally connect all 1.5 million acres of conservation lands in the Coastal Georgia Ecoregion. The protection of Shellbine is also part of a long-term plan by GA DNR and partners to conserve priority habitats in the lower Satilla River system, which is designated as a priority area in GA DNR's State Wildlife Action Plan.

State/Territory	Grant request	Cost share	Other Federal funds	Total project cost
Georgia	\$1,000,000	\$3,948,300	\$500,000	\$4,948,300

Meter Point Acquisition

The North Carolina Division of Coastal Management (NC DCM) will acquire 35.6 acres of barrier island maritime evergreen forest and wetland habitats on Little Colington Island in Dare County, North Carolina. The tract is on a peninsula in Kitty Hawk Bay and is adjacent to the Kitty Hawk Woods Coastal Reserve's Kitty Hawk Bay Islands. Once it is purchased, it will be incorporated into the Kitty Hawk Woods Coastal Reserve. Acquisition of the Meter Point tract will protect it from development and conserve critical maritime forest and wetland habitats, maintain water quality, enhance resilience to sea level rise and increasing storms, and provide habitat for a variety of important aquatic and terrestrial species. The site will be accessible to the public by boat, and NC DCM will install educational signage at nearby public boat ramps detailing the importance of maritime forest and coastal wetland habitats.

State/Territory	Grant request	Cost share	Other Federal funds	Total project cost
North Carolina	\$912,750	\$326,500		\$1,239,250

Region 5

Clark Island Wetlands Conservation Project

The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW), working with Maine Coast Heritage Trust, will purchase 168 acres of Clark Island abutting MDIFW's 250-acre Clark Island conservation easement in Saint George, Maine. The site will be a preserve that protects significant breeding and migratory bird habitats and enhances wildlife-oriented recreation opportunities. The project will protect approximately 53 acres of nationally decreasing coastal wetland types, more than 800 linear feet of tributary streams that drain to intertidal habitats, 25 functional vernal pool habitats and almost two miles of undeveloped tidal shore frontage. The Clark Island Wetlands Conservation Project directly addresses habitat protection goals for 28 Highest and High Priority species of migratory passerines, shorebirds, waterfowl and wading birds identified by the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture.

State/Territory	Grant request	Cost share	Other Federal funds	Total project cost
Maine	\$1,000,000	\$2,929,525		\$3,929,525

Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center Resiliency Project

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources, partnering with the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center (CBEC), will: protect and restore 50 acres of coastal wetlands; restore 21 acres of freshwater wetlands; create one acre of oyster reef and 3.5 acres of intertidal coastal wetland; and permanently protect 307 acres at CBEC and Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge in Queen Anne’s and Kent County, Maryland. This project will provide important fish and wildlife habitat and water quality benefits to the Chester River and the larger Chesapeake Bay. Through the installation of living shorelines, this project will slow the loss of ecologically valuable saltmarsh and protect coastal wetland habitats including 100 acres of extensive submerged aquatic vegetation beds, create a nearshore oyster reef habitat and enhance wetland habitat by improving water control in a freshwater wetland at CBEC. The project supports numerous state and federal conservation plans, including the Chesapeake Bay Protection and Restoration Executive Order.

State/Territory	Grant request	Cost share	Other Federal funds	Total project cost
Maryland	\$1,000,000	\$424,000		\$1,424,000

Cuttyhunk Land Conservation Project

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, partnering with Buzzards Bay Coalition and the Gosnold Conservation Commission, will permanently protect 339 acres of high priority coastal wetland ecosystem on Cuttyhunk Island in the Elizabeth Islands of Buzzards Bay in Gosnold, Massachusetts. The parcel contains a diversity of habitats important to a variety of birds, fish and other wildlife, including two federally threatened and endangered species and a number of other protected species. The coastal upland maritime forest, shrub land and grassland habitats that this project will protect are important to a variety of non-coastal migratory birds that use these diverse landscapes for resting, cover and feeding during migration. Protection of the site will improve water quality, provide buffers from storms and flooding and increase coastal resilience to sea level rise and other impacts of climate change.

State/Territory	Grant request	Cost share	Other Federal funds	Total project cost
Massachusetts	\$1,000,000	\$750,000		\$1,750,000

Cold Brook Eco-Restoration Project

The Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration, in partnership with the Harwich Conservation Trust (HCT) and Town of Harwich, will create a high-quality and self-sustaining coastal wetland and stream complex within approximately 66 acres of existing conservation land owned by the HCT in Harwich Port, Massachusetts. The project site, known as the Robert F. Smith Cold Brook Preserve, contains a complex of former cranberry bogs and Cold Brook, a coastal stream that runs through the bog complex. This project will eliminate barriers to fish and wildlife movement, address farm-related physical simplification to dramatically enhance habitat and expand resident and transient biota, improve water quality through nitrogen and phosphorous attenuation, improve resiliency by allowing for future salt marsh migration and sea level rise, and provide opportunities for scientific research, public education and passive recreation.

State/Territory	Grant request	Cost share	Other Federal funds	Total project cost
Massachusetts	\$1,000,000	\$2,937,224		\$3,937,224

Tidmarsh Restoration Project Phase 3

The Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration, in partnership with the Town of Plymouth, Mass Audubon, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Living Observatory and Ducks Unlimited, will restore hydrology in Foothills Preserve and the West Beaver Dam Brook sub-watershed in

Plymouth, Massachusetts. The project will restore approximately 42 acres of retired cranberry bogs, approximately 5 acres of degraded floodplain and 1.27 miles of stream channel. The site is part of 600-acre Tidmarsh Farms, which is now known as the Foothills Preserve. The project will eliminate fish passage barriers, reconnect freshwater streams and wetlands and restore the native plant community to create a healthy, self-sustaining mosaic of native wetland habitat types. The project will also create opportunities for passive wildlife oriented recreation and education.

State/Territory	Grant request	Cost share	Other Federal funds	Total project cost
Massachusetts	\$1,000,000	\$600,000	\$674,000	\$2,274,000

Region 8

Big Canyon Wetlands Restoration

The California State Coastal Conservancy will restore 9.6 acres of coastal wetlands and associated uplands draining to Upper Newport Bay in the 60-acre Big Canyon Nature Park in Newport Beach, California. The project goal is to restore a self-sustaining coastal wetlands complex across the tidal to freshwater to uplands continuum. Specifically, the project will restore and enhance 1,000 feet of channel and instream habitat, 5.8 acres of riparian scrub, 0.5 acres of alkali meadow and 3.3 acres of coastal sage scrub. Big Canyon Creek is in urgent need of habitat restoration and enhancement due to watershed impacts from channel incision, loss of floodplain, unstable banks, poor water quality and aggressive encroachment of invasive species. This project will benefit listed species including least Bell's vireo, Belding's savannah sparrow, coastal California gnatcatcher, light-footed Ridgway's rail and California least tern.

State/Territory	Grant request	Cost share	Other Federal funds	Total project cost
California	\$1,000,000	\$641,854		\$1,641,854

Eel River Estuary Preserve Restoration Project Phase 2

The California State Coastal Conservancy will restore and enhance a coastal wetlands complex comprising 384 acres of wetlands and associated uplands in the Eel River estuary, California's fourth largest, at the Eel River Estuary Preserve. This 384-acre Phase 2 project is part of an overall project comprising the restoration and enhancement of 1,255 acres of coastal wetlands, dunes and other associated uplands. The Phase 2 project goal is to restore a resilient complex of wetlands, dunes and riparian habitats in the Eel River Estuary Preserve, as part of a larger regional effort to restore the estuary and its threatened species. Restored and enhanced wetlands will provide nursery habitat for state and federally listed fish species and habitat for waterfowl and shorebirds. The dunes will provide nesting and wintering habitat for the threatened western snowy plover.

State/Territory	Grant request	Cost share	Other Federal funds	Total project cost
California	\$1,000,000	\$504,891.21		\$1,504,891.21

Elkhorn Slough Tidal Marsh Restoration Phase 2

The California State Coastal Conservancy, in partnership with the Elkhorn Slough Foundation, California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, will restore approximately 30 acres of tidal wetlands in Elkhorn Slough and to establish perennial grassland on five acres adjacent to the restored tidal wetlands. The project is Phase II of a larger plan to restore at least 100 acres of tidal marshes in Elkhorn Slough and the adjoining 35 acres of existing buffer

areas to perennial grassland. The Elkhorn Slough estuary supports the largest tract of salt marsh on the west coast south of San Francisco Bay. Restoration of tidal marsh along the central coast of California carries particular significance because of the relative rarity of tidal marsh and the extent of its historic loss. Along the 300-mile stretch of coastline from Point Reyes to Point Conception, only 4,490 acres of tidal marsh exist, of which Elkhorn Slough accounts for 17 percent.

State/Territory	Grant request	Cost share	Other Federal funds	Total project cost
California	\$1,000,000	\$500,000	\$10,000	\$1,510,000