

## **Migratory Bird Conservation Commission Approves Refuge Acquisitions, Wetlands Investments**

The [Migratory Bird Conservation Commission's](#) approval today of refuge acquisitions secured resting and feeding habitat at eight [National Wildlife Refuges](#) located in six states. In addition, the Commission approved the acquisition of a permanent easement of Grasslands Wildlife management Area in California. The fund receives revenue from [Duck Stamp](#) sales, import duties on firearms and ammunition, and right-of-way payments to the refuge system. Refuges that will secure additional wetlands include:

- [Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge, Middlesex County, Massachusetts](#) - Acquisition of 72 acres of wooded swamp and freshwater marsh will provide feeding areas and breeding areas for waterfowl and migratory birds.
- [Grasslands Wildlife Management Area, Merced County, California](#) – A permanent easement of 255 acres will promote and enhance wintering waterfowl habitat for a number of waterfowl species.
- [Lake Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge, Coos County, New Hampshire](#) - Acquisition of 727 acres of forested wetlands for waterfowl migration and breeding habitat.
- [Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Richmond County, Virginia](#) - Acquisition of 174 acres of marsh and adjoining uplands for waterfowl migration and wintering.
- [Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge, Liberty County, Texas](#) - Acquisition of 1,598 acres of bottomland hardwoods for migrating, wintering and breeding waterfowl.
- [Cache River National Wildlife Refuge, Woodruff County, Arkansas](#) - Acquisition of 1,140 acres of mature bottomland hardwood forest and tupelo/cypress swamp for wintering waterfowl.
- [Panther Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, Yazoo County, Mississippi](#) - Acquisition of 404 acres of bottomland hardwood habitat for wintering waterfowl.
- [Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, Hampshire County, Massachusetts](#) - Acquisition of 31 acres of wooded wetlands and floodplain forest for black duck nesting habitat and other migratory species.
- [Wapanocca National Wildlife Refuge, Crittenden County, Arkansas](#) - Acquisition of 141 acres of habitat for wintering migratory waterfowl and breeding for resident wood ducks.

The \$6.8 million approved for [North American Wetlands Conservation Act's \(NAWCA\)](#) Canadian Grants Program will support 13 conservation projects in 12 Canadian provinces. Combined with matching partner funds, these projects will secure more than 16,500 acres of wetlands and associated uplands, enhance more than 19,000 acres, and manage more than 4 million acres of wetlands. The Commission's approval of more than \$18 million will support 21 projects in 16 states under NAWCA's U.S. Standard Grants Program. Partners in these projects will contribute an additional \$36.9 million in matching funds to help conserve nearly 175,000

acres of habitat. The grants are financed by annual Congressional appropriations; fines, penalties and forfeitures under the [Migratory Bird Treaty Act](#); interest accrued to the [Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act](#); and excise taxes paid on small engine fuels through the [Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Fund](#).