

## 2017 National Coastal Wetland Conservation Grants Project Summaries

### Region 1

#### **Barnum Point**

The Washington Department of Ecology, partnering with Island County, will acquire a 67-acre waterfront property on the east side of Camano Island in Puget Sound, Washington. The project is situated in Port Susan Bay, within the Greater Skagit and Stillaguamish Delta, which is considered one of the most important places on the northwest coast for estuarine and nearshore conservation for its biodiversity and key role in the life histories of dozens of internationally important estuarine-dependent species. A total of 102 acres will be added to an existing 27-acre county natural area. This project will benefit a wide range of saltwater, nearshore and forest dependent species. Federal and state listed endangered salmon and other marine benthic organisms use the eelgrass beds in the intertidal zones and the upland forests provide habitat for federal and state listed species including pileated woodpecker and peregrine falcon.

| State/Territory | Grant award | Non-federal cost share | Other federal funds | Total project cost |
|-----------------|-------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Washington      | \$1,000,000 | \$507,500              |                     | \$1,507,500        |

#### **Dosewallips Floodplain and Estuary Restoration**

The Washington Department of Ecology (WDOE), partnering with Wild Fish Conservancy will restore five acres of tidally-influenced floodplain and enhance 25 acres of salt marsh and mudflats at Dosewallips State Park in Jefferson County, Washington. The goal of the project is to improve ecosystem processes that create and maintain wetland habitats in the delta of the Dosewallips River by recreating a distributary network on the right bank of the river, which will reconnect the mainstem channel to salt marsh to the south of the river. The Dosewallips Floodplain and Estuary Restoration Project will remove 1,500 feet of shoreline armoring, 2,500 feet of road surface, 6000 cubic yards of fill and 28 campsites, as well as construct three engineered log jams that will restore the distributary network on the right bank of the river.

| State/Territory | Grant award | Non-federal cost share | Other federal funds | Total project cost |
|-----------------|-------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Washington      | \$402,117   | \$387,118              |                     | \$789,235          |

#### **Grayland Acquisition Project**

The Washington State Department of Ecology, partnering with Ducks Unlimited, will acquire 1,750 acres of diverse and threatened habitats including wetlands in Grays Harbor County, Washington. The property contains more than 1,100 acres of estuarine and palustrine wetland habitats, tidal mudflats, old-growth forested uplands, interdunal wet/swale complexes, commercial timber lands and wet meadow/grasslands. It is surrounded by existing conservation lands and located within close proximity to other state and federal public lands including Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuge, Johns River Wildlife Area, Bottle Beach and Graylands Beach State Parks. This project will benefit 31 fish species that use the Chehalis watershed, including spring and fall Chinook salmon runs, chum, coho, summer and winter steelhead, bull trout and coastal cutthroat. The property also contains habitats that support waterfowl, shorebirds, dusky Canada geese, marbled murrelet, bald eagle, elk, deer, black bear and river otters.

| State/Territory | Grant award | Non-federal cost share | Other federal funds | Total project cost |
|-----------------|-------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Washington      | \$1,000,000 | \$455,000              |                     | \$1,455,000        |

**Lower Henderson Inlet Habitat Acquisition**

The Washington State Department of Ecology, partnering with Capitol Land Trust, will acquire two parcels totaling 106 acres and over 6,000 feet of Puget Sound shoreline in Thurston County, Washington. The project will restore 23 acres of nationally declining palustrine emergent wetlands damaged by past agricultural use, including restoring natural hydrologic function in some areas. It will also remove dilapidated structures, debris and invasive vegetation and restore impacted areas to prevent potential water and soil contamination and spread of invasive plants. The two combined ownerships of the project site create the largest privately held block of property on Henderson Inlet at 106 acres, with over 6,000 feet of marine shoreline, 3,700 feet of tributary streambank and minimal development.

| State/Territory | Grant award | Non-federal cost share | Other federal funds | Total project cost |
|-----------------|-------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Washington      | \$800,000   | \$470,000              |                     | \$1,270,000        |

**zis a ba Estuary Restoration**

The Washington Department of Ecology, partnering with the Stillaguamish Tribe, will restore 88 acres of coastal wetlands in Snohomish County, Washington. The project area is currently diked and isolated from tidal influence. The project is designed to restore tidal and riverine influence by removing the majority of the perimeter levee and building a setback levee to protect surrounding property owners. In addition to the tides, the site would be influenced by the Stillaguamish River, which would bring sediments and nutrients in to the interior of zis a ba. The project will restore estuary rearing habitat for endangered Chinook salmon in the Stillaguamish and Skagit Rivers. The restoration will also allow sedges to dominate the site, providing food for migrating waterfowl. Higher areas will have scrub-shrub and tidal forested vegetation. Restoration of tidal wetlands inside the project area is specifically called for in the Puget Sound Chinook Recovery Plan.

| State/Territory | Grant award | Non-federal cost share | Other federal funds | Total project cost |
|-----------------|-------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Washington      | \$511,496   | \$1,003,000            |                     | \$1,514,496        |

**Zylstra Lake Acquisition**

The Washington State Department of Ecology (WDOE), in partnership with the San Juan County Land Bank (Land Bank), will conserve and acquire over 541 acres on San Juan Island, Washington. The project, which includes two lakes, approximately one mile of riparian stream/estuary shoreline and almost three miles of marine shoreline, is located in the 11,464-acre False Bay watershed. It will implement land management changes and use water rights to reintegrate a network of lakes, wetlands and riparian areas into the interplay between the land and sea. Priority wildlife habitats will be protected and enhanced to become part of an integrated ecosystem. The effort to protect the Upper Lake parcel and match properties and to re-establish its ecological connectivity through San Juan Valley to the tidelands of False Bay promises to be one of the most significant conservation efforts undertaken in the San Juan Islands.

| State/Territory | Grant award | Non-federal cost share | Other federal funds | Total project cost |
|-----------------|-------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
|-----------------|-------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|

|            |             |             |       |             |
|------------|-------------|-------------|-------|-------------|
|            |             | share       | funds |             |
| Washington | \$1,000,000 | \$1,505,500 |       | \$2,505,500 |

**Region 2**

**Settegast Coastal Heritage Preserve-Anchor Bay**

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will acquire 65 acres of the 285-acre Anchor Bay tract. Anchor Bay is the canal subdivision in the Gulf Coastal Prairies and Marshes Region of Galveston Bay. The proposed acquisition will protect approximately 0.8 acres of irregularly exposed intertidal emergent marsh, 17.6 acres of regularly flooded estuarine intertidal emergent marsh, 21.6 acres of regularly flooded sand flat habitat, 10 acres of irregularly flooded estuarine emergent salt flat marsh habitat and fifteen 15 acres of upland coastal prairie. The project will implement multiple natural resource goals of numerous regional and statewide conservation plans. It will also protect habitats utilized by threatened and endangered species, commercially and recreational important fish, and coastal-dependent and migratory birds, including species on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s 2008 List of Birds of Conservation Concern.

| State/Territory | Grant award | Non-federal cost share | Other federal funds | Total project cost |
|-----------------|-------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Texas           | \$1,000,000 | \$461,000              |                     | \$1,461,000        |

**Region 3**

**Great Lakes Alvar Wetland Protection – Red Bank**

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) will help acquire 140 acres and the habitat enhancement of 29 acres on the proposed acquisition and 15 acres on the neighboring Red Banks Alvar State Natural Area (SNA) located adjacent to the bay of Green Bay in Brown County, Wisconsin. Acquisition of the proposed tract will provide the long-term protection of 140 acres of a globally rare habitat community that only occurs in five areas of the world. The project will protect 57 acres of palustrine emergent, scrub/shrub, and forested wetlands and habitat for the threatened dwarf lake iris. This project will enhance 44 acres of nationally decreasing wetlands, including 15 acres in the Red Banks Alvar SNA. Species of special concern that will benefit include flat-stemmed Spike-rush, leafhopper, American woodcock, least flycatcher and common nighthawk. This project will also enhance protection of an important stopover for migratory birds as they follow the west coast of Lake Michigan during spring and fall migrations.

| State/Territory | Grant award | Non-federal cost share | Other federal funds | Total project cost |
|-----------------|-------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Wisconsin       | \$152,496   | \$566,428              |                     | \$718,924          |

**Region 4**

**Musgrove Plantation Acquisition Phase 3**

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources will acquire and protect approximately 112 acres of maritime forests, upland pine flatwoods, and rare freshwater wetlands on St. Simons Island. The lower Altamaha River watershed supports a wide array of biologically diverse ecosystems. The habitat continuum from pine flatwoods to maritime forest and interspersed with former interdunal wetlands found within the project area is a top State Wildlife Action Plan priority. The examples of mature maritime forest on the subject property, combined with pond pine wetlands, are exceedingly rare, and

occur on only two other Georgia barrier islands (Cumberland Island and Sapelo Island). Among the more than 100 rare plants and animals that occur here, 15 are federally threatened or endangered, and 17 are state listed. The area contains more than 50 natural communities, including two extremely rare plants occur nowhere else in the world but in the Altamaha basin of Georgia.

| State/Territory | Grant award | Non-federal cost share | Other federal funds | Total project cost |
|-----------------|-------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Georgia         | \$1,000,000 | \$5,125,000            |                     | \$6,125,000        |

#### **Sansavilla Acquisition Phase 4**

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GA DNR) will acquire approximately 2,091 acres of diverse habitat known as Sansavilla Phase 4. The area includes tidal wetlands and adjacent uplands in the lower Altamaha River watershed. Among the more than 100 rare plants and animals occur here, 15 species are federally listed as threatened or endangered, and 17 are state listed and are considered globally rare or imperiled. The Sansavilla tract is owned by The Conservation Fund, with the majority currently leased by GA DNR as a Wildlife Management Area (WMA); it is a key tract in this corridor and one of the few remaining large parcels found along the lower Altamaha River. The protection of the Sansavilla tract is part of a long-term initiative by GA DNR, The Conservation Fund, The Nature Conservancy, and the U.S. Marine Corps, to conserve priority habitats in the lower Altamaha River system, and is designated as a priority within the Georgia State Wildlife Action Plan.

| State/Territory | Grant award | Non-federal cost share | Other federal funds | Total project cost |
|-----------------|-------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Georgia         | \$1,000,000 | \$1,002,000            | 1,448,150           | \$3,450,150        |

#### **Satilla Blackwater Phase 1**

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GA DNR) will acquire an easement to protect approximately 3,534 acres of diverse habitat known as Satilla Blackwater Phase 1. The area to be protected includes bottomlands, oxbows and sloughs, maritime forest, and xeric longleaf pine uplands in the Satilla River watershed. The protection of Satilla Blackwater Phase 1 is part of a long-term initiative by GA DNR and partners to conserve priority habitats in the lower Satilla River system, and is listed as “High Priority” in the State Wildlife Action Plan. The lower Satilla River watershed supports more than 34 natural communities and a wide array of biologically diverse ecosystems. Of the 109 rare plants and animals that occur here, eight are federally listed as threatened or endangered and 33 are state listed and are considered globally rare or imperiled. This project is part of a larger effort to conserve a critical 6,098 acre property called the Satilla Blackwater Tract, and ultimately to link 1.5 million acres of conservation lands in the Coastal Georgia Ecoregion.

| State/Territory | Grant award | Non-federal cost share | Other federal funds | Total project cost |
|-----------------|-------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Georgia         | \$1,000,000 | \$500,000              |                     | \$1,500,000        |

#### **Texas Plantation Protection and Wetlands Restoration Project**

The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) will protect a 1,453 acre property and restore the hydrology on 251 acres of palustrine emergent wetlands on six managed wetland units on the Texas Plantation in Tyrrell County, North Carolina. The Texas Plantation Tract is located within the Pasquotank River Basin, which encompasses 3,697 square miles of low-lying Sounds and the state’s northeastern outer coastal plain. The property borders Little Alligator Creek and is less than 5

miles from the Alligator River, which is classified as Outstanding Resources Water (ORW). The goal of the project is to restore the wetland function and value for waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, neotropical migrants, other wetland dependent wildlife and water quality for the aforementioned estuarine system on the Texas Plantation Tract. Texas Plantation supports important game species, such as black bear, small game, whitetail deer, waterfowl and furbearers.

| State/Territory | Grant award | Non-federal cost share | Other federal funds | Total project cost |
|-----------------|-------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| North Carolina  | \$1,000,000 | \$2,087,819            |                     | \$3,087,819        |

## **Region 5**

### **Surrey Coastal Ecosystem Project**

The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife will conserve approximately 2,105 acres in Surry, Maine. This project will protect over 700 acres of coastal wetlands that are directly linked to Blue Hill Bay and the Gulf of Maine. The project parcel is the largest single unfragmented parcel of land along the Maine coast. The parcel contains a variety of upland habitats as well as 701 acres of wetlands, 699 of which are nationally decreasing types. The 2,105-acre parcel will be owned and managed by the sub-recipient, Blue Hill Heritage Trust. It serves as a wildlife corridor link between adjacent areas and its extensive wetlands and streams drain into Blue Hill Bay, providing benefits to the coastal system. The project will help counter development pressures and the effects of unsustainable commercial forestry practices in this region.

| State/Territory | Grant Award | Non-federal cost share | Other federal funds | Total project cost |
|-----------------|-------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Maine           | \$532,812   | \$242,188              |                     | \$775,000          |

### **Ocean View Farm – Allens Pond Marshes Wetlands Protection Project**

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, in partnership with the Buzzards Bay Coalition and the Dartmouth Natural Resources Trust, will protect 72.40 acres of coastal saltmarsh and adjacent uplands along the shoreline of the Allens Pond Estuary on Buzzards Bay in Dartmouth, Massachusetts. Allens Pond is an especially high quality coastal embayment with high water and sediment quality, extensive eelgrass beds and excellent living resources that include shellfish, fin fish and coast dependent birds. Further, these significant resources help to support Buzzards Bay’s globally significant nesting populations of terns. These lands are highly ecologically sensitive, yet, because of their coastal location, expansive ocean views and abundant recreational opportunities, they are highly threatened by development. This project will complete the protection of the sensitive and ecologically important Allens Pond Estuary by protecting Ocean View Farm and adjacent salt marshes, which is the last significant piece of land that remains threatened by development around the estuary.

| State/Territory | Grant award | Non-federal cost share | Other federal funds | Total project cost |
|-----------------|-------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Massachusetts   | \$1,000,000 | \$1,760,000            |                     | \$2,760,000        |

### **South Shore Wetland Ecosystem Protection Project**

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, in partnership with Mass Audubon and the Town of Plymouth, will protect two coastal wetland properties located on the South Shore of Massachusetts totaling 567 acres, of which 56 percent is wetlands. The Tidmarsh Farms project has

four related components: ecological restoration, acquisition/protection of wetlands and upland buffers, operation/stewardship as a wildlife sanctuary and documenting the impacts of the restoration. The Tidmarsh property will serve as a critical link within a growing corridor of protected land that comprises approximately 25,000 acres. Plymouth’s rate of development is among the highest in Massachusetts. Permanent protection of the Tidmarsh property will provide outstanding stewardship benefits to the restored freshwater coastal wetlands and will boost biological diversity, enhance resilience and accommodate climate change-driven adaptation.

| State/Territory | Grant award | Non-federal cost share | Other federal funds | Total project cost |
|-----------------|-------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Massachusetts   | \$1,000,000 | \$2,449,000            |                     | \$3,449,000        |

**Great Bay Estuary – Stonehouse Forest Coastal Wetlands Conservation Project**

The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, in partnership with the Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire (SELT) will protect the 1,500-acre Great Bay Estuary-Stonehouse Forest Coastal Wetlands property in Barrington, NH. The Stonehouse Property has nearly 5 miles of stream frontage that are tributaries to the Lamprey River and the Bellamy River, which drain to the Great Bay estuary. The property has 188 acres of nationally declining emergent, scrub-shrub and forested wetland types, and a total of 232 acres of wetlands that are well distributed across the property. The property will be protected in perpetuity through SELT’s ownership and a conservation easement held by NHFG. The conservation easement will prevent and reduce the threat of wetland and water degradation by preventing the development of over 350 residential lots and associated roads.

| State/Territory | Grant award | Non-federal cost share | Other federal funds | Total project cost |
|-----------------|-------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| New Hampshire   | \$1,000,000 | 977,450                |                     | \$1,977,450        |

**Cape May Delaware Bayshore Acquisition Project**

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Green Acres Program will acquire and protect a 210-acre property known as Delsea Woods in Cape May County, New Jersey. The Delsea Woods property contains a significant amount of habitat identified as nationally decreasing coastal wetlands types, along with beachfront and a seasonal recreational vehicle campsite and associated structures that will be removed and demolished prior to acquisition. Delaware Estuary is a globally significant stopover site for migratory neotropical birds. The Delaware Bayshore, which includes the project site, has been designated as Hemispherically Important within the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network. The wetlands within the Delaware Estuary have been designated as a Ramsar site. The site is also part of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan’s “Delaware Bayshore Focus Area.

| State/Territory | Grant award | Non-federal cost share | Other federal funds | Total project cost |
|-----------------|-------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| New Jersey      | \$1,000,000 | \$1,380,952.38         |                     | \$2,380,952.38     |

**Region 8**

**Bel Marin Keys Wetland Restoration**

The California State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) will restore and enhance 67.9 acres of seasonal coastal wetlands at Bel Marin Keys on San Pablo Bay in the San Francisco Bay Estuary. The project is

the next step in the restoration of the larger Hamilton Wetlands Restoration Project that will result in a restored coastal wetlands complex up to 2,500 acres in extent. The project area is owned in fee by the California State Coastal Conservancy and consists of diked historic tidelands that are currently either dominated by annual grassland or utilized to grow organic oat hay. The project will restore seasonal wetlands that will provide valuable habitat for migratory waterfowl and shorebirds on the Pacific Flyway, as well as high tide refugia for listed tidal marsh species, including the endangered Ridgeway's rail. The project will be resilient to sea level rise, as the overall project includes an extensive tidal marsh restoration made possible by the construction of a setback levee. The SCC and its partners will provide on-site public education programs about tidal wetlands and sea level rise adaptation in San Pablo Bay.

| State/Territory | Grant award | Non-federal cost share | Other federal funds | Total project cost |
|-----------------|-------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| California      | \$1,000,000 | \$651,225              | \$2,500             | \$1,653,725        |

### **Martin Slough Restoration Project**

The California State Coastal Conservancy will restore 20.4-acres of wetlands in Martin Slough in the Elk River watershed, a tributary of Humboldt Bay in Humboldt County, California. The wetlands were historically tidal marshes before they were diked for agriculture. The project will restore 10.8 acres of these wetlands to salt and brackish marsh, freshwater marsh, riparian, and slough channel, constituting 53.9% of the project area. Palustrine emergent wetlands comprise approximately 17.3 acres of the 20.4-acre project area. The restoration is critical for the recovery of multiple listed species. The Martin Slough watershed supports important habitat for songbirds, waterfowl, and shorebirds; and critical habitat for anadromous fish, including threatened coho salmon and steelhead trout. The project area is owned by the North Coast Regional Land Trust (NRLT). A conservation easement held by NRLT will protect these wetlands from development, and they will be managed for habitat conservation in perpetuity.

| State/Territory | Grant award | Non-federal cost share | Other federal funds | Total project cost |
|-----------------|-------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| California      | \$1,000,000 | \$731,061              | \$100,000           | \$1,831,061        |

### **Newland Marsh Protection**

The California State Coastal Conservancy will acquire the 26.4-acre Newland Marsh, a key property in the 191-acre Huntington Beach Wetland Complex in Orange County California. Funding for the restoration of this property has been secured, making this acquisition the critical step in completing restoration of this site. Newland Marsh contains 24.9 acres of wetlands, 18.3 acres of which are nationally declining. Newland Marsh represents an opportunity to enhance an important wetlands complex by acquiring one of the few remaining wetland complexes in southern California. The restored marsh will provide habitat for listed species, 16 species of fish and 75 species of migratory birds, including five threatened and endangered species. The project will also provide public educational opportunities regarding wetland values, ecosystem services and recreational opportunities for wildlife viewing and passive recreation.

| State/Territory | Grant award | Non-federal cost share | Other federal funds | Total project cost |
|-----------------|-------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| California      | \$1,000,000 | \$492,671              | \$                  | \$1,492,671        |