

North American Wetlands Conservation Council Meeting Highlights

December 4, 2007

The North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Council) met on December 4, 2007, in Denver, Colorado, to select wetlands conservation projects that will be recommended to the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission (Commission) for funding approval on March 12, 2008.

Using the funding estimate based on FY 2007 funding levels as required under an existing Continuing Resolution effective through December 13, 2007, the total estimated funding of \$81,967,807 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 is allocated as follows: All Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act receipts must be used in U.S. coastal ecosystems, while all other receipts will be allocated 50% to US, 45% to Canadian, and 5% to Mexican projects. This results in estimated country allocations of: United States, \$52,693,070 (including a base allocation of \$2,000,000 for the Small Grants Program); Canada, \$26,252,949; and Mexico, \$3,021,788.

A total of \$24,885,043 of this FY 2008 funding has been spent on proposals approved by the Commission on September 12, 2007, leaving \$57,082,764 in available funding allocated as follows: United States, \$34,612,027 (including \$2,000,000 allocated for the Small Grants Program); Canada, \$19,448,949; Mexico, \$3,021,788. A portion of the United States remaining funds, \$1,689,600, is derived from fines paid under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and must be spent within the Federal District of Massachusetts.

Project Proposal Recommendations

The Council will recommend the following 31 U.S. Standard Grant Program proposals, requesting a total of \$29,658,064 in funding, to the Commission. The proposals' partnership contributions amount to \$118,566,074.

American and Sutter Basins Wetlands Project, CA
Bayou Meto Basin Phase I, AR
Cape May Peninsula Partnership, Phase I, NJ
Caribou Bog - Penjajawoc Wetland Conservation Project, ME
Centennial Valley Restoration and Protection Project I, MT
Chase Lake Area Wetland Project VIII, ND
Columbia - Cascades Habitat Partnership, Phase I, OR, WA
Grasslands VI Sno - Bird Unit, CA
Island Of Kauai Wetlands Acquisition and Restoration, HI
Little Narragansett Bay: Pawcatuck River Watershed, RI
Louisiana Delta Wetlands Conservation I, LA
Lower Obion River Phase IV, TN
Middleton Place Woodlands, SC
Mottled Duck Habitat Restoration and Enhancement, LA
Neuse - Pamlico Wetland Conservation Initiative, NC

North Carolina - Pee Dee River Conservation Initiative, NC
North Florida Wetlands Conservation Project, FL
North Park Wetland and Refuge Partnership, CO
North Sacramento Valley Wetland Habitat Project III, CA
Platte River Wetlands Partnership, CO, NE
Quinebaug Highlands Natchaug River Watershed Project, CT, MA
Rainwater Basin Habitat Conservation Project III, NE
Sabine Island Wildlife Management Area - Acquisition Effort II, LA
Snohomish Wetlands Phase II, WA
Sonoma Baylands Wetlands Restoration Project I, CA
Southcentral Wisconsin Prairie Pothole Initiative IV, WI
Southern California Coastal and Inland Wetland Project, CA
St. Mary's River Bird Migration Corridor III, MI
Steel's Fork Playas and Prairie, CO
White Oak River Morton Tract, NC
Wisconsin Northwest Pothole Habitat Initiative - Phase V, WI

The Council will also recommend approving as many of the following 23 Mexican proposals as available funding will allow under the current country allocation formula. Based on current estimates, the expected grant funds available will total \$3,021,788 with matching partner contributions of at least \$3,751,657.

Acquisition of Critical Habitat for Waterfowl and Shorebirds at Santa María Bay, Sinaloa
Conservation and Management of La Nacha Lagoon, Phase II: Freshwater Wetland Enhancement, Tamaulipas
Conservation Program for Temporary Wetlands in Texcoco Lake Hydro Ecological System, Mexico
Conservation Strategies for Bahía San Quintín, Baja California
Developing a Wetland Coastal Corridor Framework for Management for the Gulf of California, Nayarit, Sinaloa, Sonora
Development and Implementation of a Collaborative Wetland Information Network, National
Development of a Demonstration Area for Mangrove Reforestation and Wetland Restoration in Karstic and Semi-arid Regions of the Yucatan Peninsula, Yucatan
Environmental Services Assessment for Migratory Bird Habitat Conservation: Laguna Sayula, Phase III, Jalisco
Identification of Important Colonial Waterbird Areas in Mexico, National Implementation of Legal Conservation Mechanisms and Community Outreach in Bahía Magdalena-Almejas Wetland Complex, Baja California Sur
Integrated Resource Management and Environmental Education: Laguna de Santiaguillo, Durango
Joint Initiative for the Restoration of the Colorado River Delta, Phase II, Baja California, Sonora
Land Protection and Environmental Education in the Alvarado Wetlands, Phase III, Veracruz
Land Protection for Migratory Waterfowl Conservation: Laguna Madre, Tamaulipas

Participatory Management of Lake Chapala for Migratory Bird Habitat Conservation, Jalisco, Michoacan
Protection and Management of Laguna Babicora, Chihuahua
Strategy for the Conservation and Management of the Tecocomulco Lagoon, Hidalgo
Strategy for Wetlands Management and Conservation in Penjamo, Guanajuato
Strengthening Environmental Education and Public Involvement Program for the Conservation and Management of Yuriria Lagoon, Phase II, Guanajuato
Strengthening Regional Capacity for the Conservation of the Gulf of Mexico Wetlands, Campeche, Tabasco, Tamaulipas, Veracruz
Sustainable Management of the Altamira Wetlands, Tamaulipas
Waterfowl Refuges, Cuatro-cienegas, Phase II, Coahuila
Waterfowl Reserve Network, Northeast Chihuahua, Phase II, Chihuahua

As stated these recommendations are subject to available funding for FY 2008.

The balance of estimated FY 2008 funds will be allocated as follows: U.S., \$4,953,963; Canada, \$19,448,949; Mexico, \$0.

Scheduling

The next Council meeting will be held in Cambridge, Maryland on March 18 – 19, 2008.

Meeting Summary

For a complete meeting summary, contact David Buie or Bonnie Gaukler at (703) 358-1784, dbhc@fws.gov.