

North American Wetlands Conservation Council Meeting Highlights

December 7, 2010

The North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Council) met on December 7, 2010, in Spanish Fort, Alabama, to select wetland conservation projects that will be recommended to the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission (Commission) for funding approval in March 9, 2011.

The total estimated funding of \$82,386,333 (from all funding sources) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 is allocated as follows: All Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act receipts must be used in United States coastal ecosystems; of the fines paid under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, \$4,630,743 were derived from and must be spent within the District of Massachusetts, with preference to projects along the Mystic River (\$4,455,343) and within the states of Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas and Wyoming (\$175,400). An additional \$1,330,097 was received from the Environmental Protection Agency's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and must be spent within the Great Lakes Basin. All other receipts will be allocated 50% to United States, 45% to Canadian, and 5% to Mexican projects, resulting in estimated country allocations of: United States, \$53,943,850 (including \$3,000,000 allotted for the Small Grants Program and \$23,172,692 in U.S. standard grant projects previously approved by the Commission at its September 2010 meeting); Canada, \$25,390,015; and Mexico, \$3,052,469.

Project Recommendations

Based on the President's FY2011 budget request, the Council selected 26 United States Standard Grant Program proposals. However, if the amount of funding available decreases, projects will be removed from the slate presented to the Commission, beginning with the lowest ranked proposal. The following selected proposals requested a total of \$26,133,414 in funding, with matching contributions of \$70,593,559. Total partner contributions amount to \$72,273,735.

- CE Basin: Edisto River Corridor V, SC
- Ark-La-Miss Wetlands Conservation II, AR, LA
- Buzzards Bay: Little River, MA
- Buzzards Bay: Lower Weweantic, MA
- Chelsea Creek Wetlands and Habitat Conservation Project, MA
- Coastal Marin Wetlands Restoration Project II, CA
- Cobscook Bay - Bold Coast Project Area Phase II, ME
- Glacial Ridge Prairie Landscape Expansion, MN
- Glaciated Wetlands and Prairies of ND and MN, MN, ND
- Great Marsh Habitat Protection, MA
- Harvey Dunn Grassland Preservation Project - IV, SD
- Klamath Basin Wetlands II, CA
- Lake Ontario Watershed and Coastal Wetland Protection: Phase I, NY
- Living Floodplains of NW Oregon and SW Washington, Phase III, OR

- Lower Yellowstone Wetlands Conservation Project - Phase I, MT
- Piscataquis River / Alder Stream Wetlands, Phase II, ME
- Platte River Wetlands Partnership III, CO, WY
- San Luis Valley Rio Grande Initiative III, CO
- Southcentral Wisconsin Prairie Pothole Initiative V, WI
- Southeast Wisconsin Coastal Habitat Initiative - Phase V, WI
- Southern San Joaquin Valley Wetland Habitat Project, Phase I, CA
- Texas Chenier Plain Wetland Rest. and Enh. of Private and Public Lands III, TX
- Upper Iowa Prairie Pothole Partnership - Phase II, IA
- Vermilion Bay Coastal Wetlands Restoration, LA
- West Pontchartrain - Maurepas Swamp IBA Habitat Conservation Effort, LA
- White and Cache Rivers Wetlands Conservation Project, AR

- New Matching Contribution Plans were also approved for the following six proposals:
- Cobscook Bay - Bold Coast Project Area Phase II, ME
- Glaciated Wetlands and Prairies of ND and MN, MN, ND
- Lake Ontario Watershed and Coastal Wetland Protection: Phase I, NY
- Piscataquis River / Alder Stream Wetlands, Phase II, ME
- Southern San Joaquin Valley Wetland Habitat Project, Phase I, CA
- White and Cache Rivers Wetlands Conservation Project, AR

The Council will also recommend the following nine Mexican proposals, requesting a total of \$3,022,162 in funding, to the Commission. The proposals' partnership contributions amount to \$19,565,598.

- Conservation of the Pacific Brant Wintering Habitat in the Vizcaino Wetlands, Baja California Sur
- Freshwater Wetland Restoration and Creation Adjacent to the Laguna Madre for Migratory Birds, Tamaulipas
- Protection and Restoration in Rio Bravo Delta, Laguna Madre, Phase II, Tamaulipas
- Habitat Protection for Migratory Birds in Bahia Magdalena-Almejas Wetland Complex, Phase II, Baja California Sur
- Inventory and Classification of Mexican Wetlands VI: Northern Highlands, Chihuahua, Durango, Zacatecas, San Luis Potosi, Sinaloa, Sonora, Coahuila, Nuevo Leon, Tamaulipas
- Priority Wetland Conservation in the Yucatan Peninsula, Phase II, Yucatan
- Protection and Management of Laguna Babicora, Chihuahua Phase II, Chihuahua
- Restoration and Alternatives for the Sustainability of the Alvarado Lagoon System, Veracruz
- Strengthening the Management and Sustainable Use of a New Wetland Reserve in Yucatan State, Yucatan

All recommendations are subject to available funding for FY 2011.

The balance of estimated FY 2011 funds will be allocated as follows: U.S., \$4,637,744 (including \$3,000,000 for U.S. Small Grants); Canada, \$25,390,015; Mexico, \$30,307.

Scheduling

The next Council meeting will be held in Washington, DC on March 9-10, 2011.

Meeting Summary

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