

North American Wetlands Conservation Council Meeting Highlights

March 16, 2009

The North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Council) met on March 16, 2009, in Arlington, VA, to select wetlands conservation projects that will be recommended to the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission (Commission) for funding approval on June 10, 2009.

The total funding of \$83,675,351 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 is allocated as follows: All Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act receipts (\$18,497,106) must be used in U.S. coastal ecosystems. Additionally, \$1,689,600 of the FY 2009 total is derived from fines paid under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and must be used for wetland conservation projects within Massachusetts. All other receipts will be allocated 50% to US, 45% to Canadian and 5% to Mexican projects. This results in country allocations of: United States, \$55,265,302 (including a base allocation of \$2,000,000 for the Small Grants Program); Canada, \$25,537,814; and Mexico, \$2,872,235.

Totals of \$26,091,956 and \$26,231,815 of this FY 2009 funding have been committed to proposals submitted to the Commission on September 9, 2008 and March 11, 2009, respectively, leaving \$31,351,580 in available funding allocated as follows: United States, \$4,932,552 (including \$2,000,000 allocated for the Small Grants Program); Canada, \$25,537,814; Mexico, \$881,214.

Project Proposal Recommendations

In 2008, the Commission authorized a base allocation of \$2,000,000 with funding authorized up to \$5,000,000 for the Small Grants program. The Council approved the following 46 U.S. Small Grant Program proposals, requesting a total of \$3,089,753 in funding. The partnership contributions from these 46 proposals total \$10,088,286:

Ballard County Managed Wetlands Enhancement Project, KY
Charter Marsh Restoration, CT
Chena Flats Greenbelt Project: Vanderpool/Dosch Property, AK
Christensen Land Acquisition, MI
Cranberry - Lower Eau Claire Lakes Point Acquisition, WI
Cranberry Ridge - Grindstone Lake Acquisition, WI
Critical Bird Habitat Restoration in the Indian River Lagoon, FL
Dugas Farms Conservation Easement, MT
GCJV Mottled Duck Conservation Plan Initiative - Phase 3, TX
Goose Bay Watershed Protection Project, AK
Grand River Watershed Protection Project - Bristolville Wetlands, OH
Grasslands Wetland Enhancement Project I, CA
Grizzly Ranch Wetland Enhancement Project, CA
Habitat Wheel, IL
Hail Cove Shoreline Project, MD
Jennie Lake Enhancement, MN

Lake Ripley Preserve Acquisition, WI
Mason Bay Coastal Wetlands and Waterbird Conservation Project, ME
Melville Acquisition of the Hallie Marsh Wildlife Area, WI
Mill Creek Wetland Restoration, NJ
Muskegon River Watershed Wetland and Grassland Enhancement Project, MI
Northeastern California Wetland Enhancement, CA
Northeastern Illinois Morainal Wetlands, IL
Old Point Easement Acquisition, ME
Pawtuckaway River Greenway, NH
Peter's Mountain Swamp Conservation Easement, PA
Pigeon River Protection Project: Van Campen Preserve, MI
Pymatuning WMA Wetland Project, PA
Rainwater Basin Wetland Easement Project, NE
Restoration of Native Species in the Lower Altamaha River Watershed, GA
Riverdale Ranch Conservation Easement, MT
Samish River Riparian and Wetland Protection, Phase I, WA
Sandhill Farm Restoration Project, AZ
Sheldon Lake State Park Coastal Prairie Wetland Restoration - Phase II, TX
Shiawassee NWR Moist Soil Management Unit 6 Restoration, MI
Snowden Wetlands Sandhill Crane Habitat Enhancement, WA
Springwater Farms, IL
The Peter Berle Wildlife Conservation Area, MA
Three Sisters Springs, FL
Tug Hill: Great Lakes Lumber LLC - Club Camp Journey End, NY
Upton Wetland Restoration, VA
Virginia Blackwater River Corridor Project, VA
Waterfowl Production Area Prairie Wetland Project, MN
West Central Minnesota Grasslands, MN
Wetland Enhancement at Old Hickory WMA, TN
Zemco Sawmill Preserve, CT

The Council also recommended that the Commission approve a FY 2010 Small Grant base funding allocation of \$2,000,000 with funding up to \$5,000,000 as needed.

The Council selected one U.S. Standard Grant, requesting \$1,000,000, to present to the Commission. The partnership will add a total of \$2,531,155 to achieve their conservation goals:

Lower Minnesota Valley Wetland Conservation Initiative II, Minnesota

The Council selected five Canadian proposals, requesting a total of \$25,537,814, to present to the Commission. The partnerships will add a total of \$56,554,364 to achieve their conservation goals:

Ducks Unlimited Canada Pacific Coast and Canadian Intermountain Joint Ventures, British Columbia

Ducks Unlimited Canada Eastern Habitat Joint Venture Wetlands Conservation, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Newfoundland/Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island,
Ducks Unlimited Canada Prairie/Parkland and Western Boreal Habitat Program, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, British Columbia, Yukon Territory, Northwest Territory
Nature Conservancy of Canada Quebec and Atlantic: Protecting Wetland and Upland Habitat, Quebec, New Brunswick, Newfoundland/Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island
Potholes Plus Project, Manitoba

The Council selected one Mexican proposal, requesting \$769,020, to present to the Commission. The partnership will add a total of \$2,586,193 to achieve their conservation goals:

Restoration of Critical Migratory Bird Habitat Utilizing Adaptive Measures to Reduce the Impact of Variable Climate Change on Wetlands of the Gulf of Mexico, Tabasco, Tamaulipas, Veracruz

The balance of FY 2009 funds will be allocated as follows: U.S., \$842,799; Canada, \$0; Mexico, \$112,194.

Scheduling

The next Council meeting will be held in Shepherdstown, WV, on July 7 - 8, 2009.

Meeting Summary

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