

North American Wetlands Conservation Act

The U.S. Small Grants Program

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act of 1989 provides matching grants to organizations and partnerships to carry out wetlands conservation projects in the United States, Canada, and Mexico.



Accomplishments

Since 1996, more than 1,700 partners have been involved in over 800 North American Wetlands Conservation Act projects through the U.S. Small Grants program. The program provides grants up to \$100,000 for conservation projects across the country. Partners have matched grant funds nearly four-to-one, significantly multiplying the impact on the ground.

The U.S. Small Grants program encourages grantees new to NAWCA and current partners to carry out smaller-scale, long-term wetlands conservation projects that may not



The North American Wetlands Conservation Act protects nesting habitat for waterfowl like these Cackling Goose goslings. Credit: J. Kelly/USFWS

be competitive in the U.S. Standard Grants program due to their size. The U.S. Small Grants program has become an important catalyst in developing a pool of new grantees and partners for the U.S. Standard Grants.

Grant and matching funds support projects that protect, restore, or enhance wetland and associated upland migratory bird habitats throughout the country. These projects conserve priority migratory bird species in the U.S., including waterfowl, shorebirds, waterbirds, and landbirds.

The Process

Applicants submit project proposals to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of Bird Habitat Conservation. Eligible proposals are presented to the North American Wetlands Conservation Council. The Council, which has been delegated final approval authority by the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, then selects the slate of projects to be funded and informs the Commission of its decision. The Division of Bird Habitat Conservation awards and administers the approved grant projects.

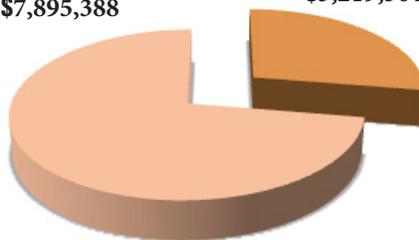


Palm Warbler. Credit: USFWS

2020 Grants

Partner Match:
\$7,895,388

Grant Funds:
\$3,219,304



Number of Projects: 34

Program Totals since 1996

Grant Funding: \$55,493,309

Match: \$194,237,132

Projects: 877

U.S. States: 50

Acres Affected: 421,522.58

Migratory Bird Conservation Commission

Honorable David Bernhardt (Chair),
Secretary of the Interior
Honorable John Boozman, Senator from
Arkansas
Honorable Martin Heinrich, Senator from
New Mexico
Honorable Mike Thompson, Representative
from California
Honorable Robert Wittman, Representative
from Virginia
Honorable Sonny Perdue, Secretary of
Agriculture
Honorable Andrew Wheeler, Administrator,
Environmental Protection Agency
A. Eric Alvarez (Secretary), Chief, Division
of Realty, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



American Wigeon. Credit: Gary Kramer/
USFWS

North American Wetlands Conservation Council

Terry Steinwand (Chair), North Dakota
Game and Fish Department
Aurelia Skipwith, U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Service
John Carlson, Jr, California Waterfowl
Association
Daneil Eichinger, Michigan Department of
Natural Resources
David Nomsen, Pheasants Forever
Jeff Trandahl, National Fish and Wildlife
Foundation
Tony Wasley, Nevada Department of
Wildlife
Nick Wiley, Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
Mark Elsbree (Alternate), The
Conservation Fund
Daniel Wolfish, (Ex Officio) Canadian
Wildlife Service
Wendy Jackson, (Ex Officio) Land Trust
Alliance
Maria de los Angeles Palma Irizarry, (Ex
Officio) SEMARNAT
Glenn Olson, (Ex Officio) National
Audubon Society
Kari Duncan (Council Coordinator) U.S.
Fish and Wildlife Service



A NAWCA small grant will protect the Eagle Reserve in Massachusetts.
Credit: John Rasku, Mt. Grace Land Conservation Trust

Project Highlights

In 2020, approved U.S. Small Grants projects will invest more than \$3 million in federal funds, including:

- Conejos Wetland Protection Initiative Phase I, Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust - Colorado: This project will permanently protect 155 acres of private lands located within a corridor of important wetlands along the Conejos River. The property is a seasonally flooded wetland meadow habitat for migratory birds, especially mallards and northern pintails during spring and fall migration. This project will help maintain the important nesting habitat for these high priority species.

- Conneaut Coastal Wetlands, Natural Areas Land Conservancy - Ohio: The purpose of this project is to acquire and permanently protect 122 acres of a Conneaut Coastal Wetlands property in Ashtabula County, Ohio. The property contains high quality palustrine forested, palustrine emergent, and palustrine scrub-shrub wetlands that provide critical habitat for waterfowl and wetland-associated migratory birds.

- South Branch Rancocas Creek, New Jersey Conservation Foundation-New Jersey: This project will permanently protect 185.81 acres of wetland habitat within the south branch Rancocas Creek project area in Burlington County, New Jersey. High priority species that will benefit include the American black duck and mallard. Other priority species include the American wigeon, wood duck, ring-necked duck, and blue-winged teal.

- Vly Creek Marsh - Helderberg Mountains, Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy-New York: This project will protect 362 acres in perpetuity (322 acres via conservation easement and 40 via fee acquisition) in the Helderberg Mountains of Albany County, New York. The protected areas include important adjacent uplands and critical wetlands for

History

Over the past 30 years, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act has provided funds to protect and restore more than 30 million acres in the United States, Mexico, and Canada. The Act was originally passed to support activities under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, an international agreement that provides a strategy for the long-term protection of wetland and associated upland habitats needed by waterfowl and other migratory birds. The Act has since expanded its scope to include the conservation of wetland-associated migratory birds listed in the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan, the North American Waterbird Conservation Plan and the Partners In Flight Conservation Plans.

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www.fws.gov/birds/grants/north-american-wetland-conservation-act/small-grants.php

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