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 $75,000 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 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.

Program Totals since 1996

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant Funding</th>
<th>Match</th>
<th>Projects</th>
<th>U.S. States</th>
<th>Acres Affected</th>
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<td>$175,153,153</td>
<td>818</td>
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Migratory Bird Conservation Commission

Honorable Ryan Zinke (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 Scott Pruitt, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency
A. Eric Alvarez (Secretary), Chief, Division of Realty, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

North American Wetlands Conservation Council

Terry Steinwand (Chair), North Dakota Game and Fish Department
Greg Sheehan, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
John Carlson, Jr, California Waterfowl Association
James Leach, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Gordon Myers, North Carolina Wildlife
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
Laura Farquharson, (Ex Officio) Canadian Wildlife Service
Wendy Jackson, (Ex Officio) Land Trust Alliance
José Luis Pedro Funes Izaguirre, (Ex Officio) SEMARNAT
Glenn Olson, (Ex Officio) National Audubon Society
Sarah Mott (Council Coordinator) U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Project Highlights

In 2018, approved U.S. Small Grants projects will invest more than $3 million in federal funds, including:

- A NAWCA small grant will protect the Eagle Reserve in Massachusetts.

History

Over the past 24 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.

More Information

Please visit www.fws.gov/birds/grants/north-american-wetland-conservation-act/small-grants.php or contact Rodecia McKnight, Program Coordinator, 703/358-2266, Rodecia_McKnight@fws.gov

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Division of Bird Habitat Conservation
5275 Leesburg Pike MS-MB
Falls Church, Virginia 22041
703/358 1784

dbhc@fws.gov
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