

North American Wetlands Conservation Act

The U.S. Standard Grants Program

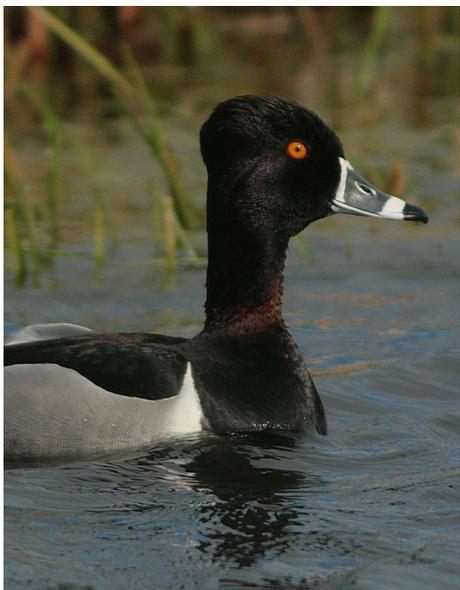
The North American Wetlands Conservation Act of 1989 provides matching grants to organizations and partnerships to carry out wetlands conservation projects in the United States, Canada, and Mexico.



Accomplishments

Since 1991, some 4,000 partners have been involved in 1,235 North American Wetlands Conservation Act projects through the U.S. Standard Grants program. The program provides grants over \$100,000 for conservation projects in all 50 states and several territories. Partners have matched grant funds more than two-to-one, tripling the impact on the ground. Funds support a wide range of conservation activities, including projects aiming to:

- protect, restore, or enhance wetland and associated upland migratory bird habitats throughout the country;



Ring-necked duck. Credit: Roger Baker/USFWS



American black ducks. Credit: USFWS

- promote long-term protection of acquired habitats for birds and other wetland-dependent species;
- catalyze conservation partnerships, bringing together federal, state, non-profit, and private organizations and individuals; and
- support conservation of priority migratory bird species in the U.S., including waterfowl, shorebirds, waterbirds, and landbirds.

2020 Grants

Partner Match:
\$122,645,132

Grant Funds:
\$46,108,247



Number of Projects: 46

The Process

Applicants submit project proposals to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of Bird Habitat Conservation for either of the program's two funding cycles per year. Eligible proposals are presented to the North American Wetlands Conservation Council, which reviews, ranks, and recommends projects to the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission for final funding approval. The Division of Bird Habitat Conservation awards and administers the approved grant projects.

Program Totals since 1991

Grant Funding: \$1,069,602,324

Match: \$2,730,722,365

Projects: 1,235

U.S. States: 50

Acres Affected: 11,108,476

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



The Common Eider is a NAWCA high priority waterfowl species. Credit: Amanda Boyd/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

*María 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



Black Tern. Credit: Ken Sturm/USFWS

Project Highlights

Wetlands provide many ecological, economic and social benefits such as habitat for fish, wildlife and a variety of plants. NAWCA grants conserve bird populations and wetland habitat while supporting local economies and American traditions such as hunting, fishing, birdwatching, family farming and cattle ranching.

In 2020, approved projects will invest \$46.1 million in federal funds, including:

- **Chenier Plain Marsh Enhancement - Louisiana** – \$1 million to enhance 3,950 acres of coastal marsh. Improved management capabilities will enhance overall marsh quality and benefit a wide variety of resident, migratory and wintering species of shorebirds, wading birds, waterfowl and other wetland-dependent species.
- **Conserving Maine's Coast & Headwaters II** – \$1 million to acquire over 13,000 acres of wetlands and associated uplands. The project will benefit many species of birds, including American bitterns, bald eagles and American black ducks.
- **San Joaquin Wetlands Conservation IV** – California – \$1 million to restore and enhance over 1,500 acres in the California's Central Valley. Activities will benefit species including cackling goose, American wigeon and sandhill cranes.

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, Canada, and Mexico. 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.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Bird Habitat Conservation

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

September 2020

