

NAWCA U.S. STANDARD GRANTS 2017-1

Project Name WHITE ACQUISITION - SALVADOR WMA

Congressional District LA-LIVINGSTON-6, LA-ST. CHARLES-2

Grantee Organization DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer Mike Carloss

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Partner Name STA-COASTAL PROTECTION & RESTORATION AUTHORITY OF LOUISIANA, STA-LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & FISHERIES

Date approved 09/07/2016

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$2,420,000.00

Joint Venture GULF COAST

Bird Conservation Region BCR 37-Gulf Coastal Prairie

Project Description This proposal will conserve and restore sensitive and vulnerable coastal marsh and swamp habitat in southeast Louisiana, just southwest and west of New Orleans. It will directly impact a total of 3,339 acres of wetlands of which 1,694 acres are primarily fresh marsh and 1,645 acres of swamp/forested wetland habitat. This proposal will help offset the dramatic coastal land loss occurring along Louisiana's coast, especially prominent in the southeastern portion of the state. Since the 1930s, Louisiana has lost over 1.2 million acres of coastal wetlands. It is expected that an additional 1,750 square miles will be lost over the next 50 years which is approximately 1.1 million acres by 2050 without restoration action. This proposal includes the fee-title acquisition of 1,783 acres of wetland adjacent to Salvador Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in St. Charles Parish, LA. The acquired property will be donated to the state of Louisiana and incorporated into the 30,000 acre WMA boundary. This proposal also includes the construction/dredging of three gaps in the Amite River Diversion Canal spoil bank that will restore 1,556 acres of forested wetlands. These gaps will be constructed to reduce impounding and reintroduce water flow (via gaps which will serve as conveyance channels) in order to add connectivity with the interior swamp habitat. In addition to reintroducing flow, vegetative plantings will jumpstart restoration by providing a seed source within highly degraded portions of the project area. Without this restoration, it is anticipated that the majority of the existing swamp will convert to marsh and/or open water within the next 50 years. These habitat types support a multitude of resident, wintering, and migratory waterfowl and waterbirds as well as a diverse array of fish and wildlife species. Common waterfowl species that utilize the marshes of this proposal include blue-winged teal, mottled ducks wood ducks. Shorebirds include dunlin, dowitchers, and sanderlings. Also common are several Louisiana species of concern, including but not limited to the roseate spoonbill, bald eagle, and peregrine falcon.

Project Name SOUTHWEST WETLAND INITIATIVE OF MINNESOTA (SWIM) III

Congressional District MN-BROWN-1, MN-COTTONWOOD-1,7, MN-JACKSON-1, MN-LINCOLN-7, MN-LYON-7, MN-MARTIN-1, MN-MURRAY-7, MN-NOBLES-1, MN-PIPESTONE-7, MN-WATONWAN-1

Grantee Organization PHEASANTS FOREVER, INC.

Project Officer Tim Zemke

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Partner Name CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, STA-LESSARD SAMS OUTDOOR HERITAGE COUNCIL, STA-MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER & SOIL RESOURCES, STA-MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, CON-PHEASANTS FOREVER, INC., PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S)

Date approved 09/07/2016

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$3,419,149.00

Joint Venture PRAIRIE POTHOLE

Bird Conservation Region BCR 11-Prairie Potholes

Project Description SWIM III provides an efficient and effective partnership to deliver long term wetlands and wetland-associated upland habitat for the benefit of waterfowl and other wildlife. This proposal focuses on wetlands in the Prairie Coteau of Minnesota and works primarily on restoring converted wetlands and enhancing degraded wetlands through permanent habitat protection efforts on both public and private lands. This is the third proposal of a multiple year initiative with an overall goal to accelerate the permanent protection of prairie wetland complexes open to the public and to ensure every Waterfowl Production Area and Wildlife Management Area is providing the maximum benefits for waterfowl and wetland dependent species. More specifically, SWIM III accelerates efforts to permanently protect in fee title and easement 690-acres of Waterfowl Production Areas and Wildlife Management Areas and 61.9-acres via Re-Invest in Minnesota perpetual conservation easement. Further, this partnership restores 40-acres on Hurricane Lake WMA and enhances another 270-acres of wetland habitat on Chen Bay and Sioux Valley WMAs. Projects within this proposal will address both reproductive and migration habitat needs of waterfowl and wetland dependent species within the area. The project area and project components are important to successful implementation of the NAWMP and the PPJV Implementation Plan. Several stateside conservation plans are served by the work outlined in this proposal as well, including the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan and Minnesota's duck and pheasant plans.

Project Name SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO BAY WETLANDS RESTORATION PROJECT PHASE II

Congressional District CA-ALAMEDA-15, CA-SAN MATEO-14, CA-SANTA CLARA-18

Grantee Organization DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer Virginia Getz

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Partner Name STA-CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE, STA-CALIFORNIA STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY, STA-CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD, CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, CON-PENINSULA OPEN SPACE TRUST, LOC-SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

Date approved 09/07/2016

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$2,024,000.00

Joint Venture SAN FRANCISCO BAY

Bird Conservation Region BCR 32-Coastal California

Project Description The San Francisco Bay Estuary is the nation's second largest estuary. It is a major stopover and wintering ground on the Pacific Flyway, and is perhaps the most biologically significant estuary on the Pacific Coast. Unfortunately, 85-90% of its historic wetlands filled for urban development or altered for agriculture or salt production. Over a century of habitat loss has taken a toll on the health of this estuary and the wildlife that inhabit it. Two major acquisitions of former salt production pond complexes have created an unprecedented opportunity for habitat restoration in South Bay. All of these lands are now in public ownership, providing land managers with an opportunity to reverse the dramatic decline in populations of marsh-dependent fish and wildlife by restoring significant amounts of tidal wetlands, while also balancing tidal habitat restoration with the needs of waterbirds that become adapted over time and generations to utilize the salt ponds. While managed for salt production, the ponds lost the high level of ecological productivity provided by tidal marshes, but they continue to provide habitat to species favoring high salinities and open water habitats. NAWCA funding provided to this project will directly benefit 1,449 acres of habitat in one of the most biologically significant areas of the Pacific Flyway, including tidal estuarine wetlands, shallow open water managed ponds, seasonal wetlands, and associated transitional and upland habitats. Waterfowl species that will benefit include cackling goose, northern pintail, mallard, lesser and greater scaup, American wigeon, redhead, canvasback, green-winged teal, ruddy duck, bufflehead, and Northern shoveler. Other birds that would benefit include shorebirds such as American avocet, black-bellied plover, black-necked stilt, marbled godwit, long-billed curlew, willet, whimbrel, short-billed dowitcher, as well as song birds like common yellowthroat and song sparrow.

Project Name SANSAVILLA PHASE III

Congressional District GA-GLYNN-1, GA-MCINTOSH-1, GA-WAYNE-1

Grantee Organization GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Project Officer Jacob Thompson

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Partner Name STA-GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, OTH-KNOBLOCH FAMILY FOUNDATION, CON-THE CONSERVATION FUND, CON-THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, FED-U.S. MARINE CORPS

Date approved 09/07/2016

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$3,433,456.00

Joint Venture ATLANTIC COAST

Bird Conservation Region BCR 27-Southeastern Coastal Plain

Project Description Sansavilla Phase III will protect through fee acquisition 2,619 acres of the entire Sansavilla Tract, which is approximately 19,577 acres along the Altamaha River, to benefit breeding, migrating, and wintering birds within the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture (ACJV) and South Atlantic Migratory Bird Initiative (SAMBI) Project Area, and protect through easement Driftwood Plantation including 524 acres of tidal estuarine emergent saltmarsh and 70 acres of estuarine tidal stream. The

entire Sansavilla Tract is being acquired in phases and the Sansavilla Phase 3 Tract will be purchased using grant and match funding. The protection of this property addresses the SAMBI goals, as stepped down for implementation in Georgia. As stated in SAMBI, protection of existing floodplain forested wetlands, including those of the Altamaha River, should be a top priority. This tract is in the Ocmulgee-Oconee-Altamaha Focus Area of the ACJV and all 5 of the SAMBI "all bird" focus areas, and addresses specific wintering, migrating, and breeding goals for waterfowl in the Atlantic Flyway as detailed in the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and the ACJV's Waterfowl Implementation Plan and the South Atlantic Migratory Bird Initiative. The Altamaha River basin is the second largest watershed on the eastern seaboard and drains more than one-quarter of the state of Georgia. This project contributes to the long term, multi-partner effort to conserve the Altamaha Watershed and meets the objectives of The Nature Conservancy's Altamaha River Bioreserve Initiative and Georgia Department of Natural Resources' (GA DNR) State Wildlife Action Plan. This tract is part of and protects key features of the Altamaha River Basin, recognized as a Western Hemispheric Shorebird Reserve Network site and an Important Bird Area by both Audubon Society and American Bird Conservancy. Conservation of bottomland forests in the Altamaha River Corridor, as identified in the PIF Bird Conservation Plan for the South Atlantic Coastal Plain, is critical to meeting objectives for numerous priority species of land birds, shorebirds, and wading birds. This project complements nine previous NAWCA and ten NCWCG projects in the Altamaha watershed. It also contributes to the network of protected habitats in the Altamaha floodplain, now more than 164,000 acres.

Project Name ROCKEFELLER REFUGE UNIT 4 WETLANDS ENHANCEMENT

Congressional District LA-CAMERON-3, LA-VERMILION-3

Grantee Organization DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer Mike Carloss

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Partner Name STA-COASTAL PROTECTION & RESTORATION AUTHORITY OF LOUISIANA, CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, STA-LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & FISHERIES

Date approved 09/07/2016

Grant Award Amount \$971,988.00

Proposed Match Amount \$2,297,198.00

Joint Venture GULF COAST

Bird Conservation Region BCR 37-Gulf Coastal Prairie

Project Description The primary objective of this proposal is to help offset the dramatic coastal land loss occurring along Louisiana's coast. Since the 1930s, Louisiana has lost over 1.2 million acres of coastal wetlands. It is expected that an additional 1.1 million acres will be lost over the next 50 years without restoration action. This proposal positively impacts a total of 7,315 acres of intermediate and brackish coastal marsh. Grant funds will be used to replace a water control structure that provides marsh management capabilities and salinity control of a large tract of critical public owned coastal marsh. This structure will allow for the active management of interior marshes to improve habitat conditions for waterfowl and other wetland-dependent bird species. Additionally, it will allow for the promotion of

desirable plant communities, aid in the effective management of salinity levels, and greatly facilitate drainage during extreme high water events. This proposal will also protect/enhance 965 acres of intermediate marsh in the vicinity of Freshwater Bayou, LA via bank stabilization and protect/enhance approximately 1,320 acres of brackish marsh in Cameron Parish via the construction of earthen terraces.

Project Name RAINWATER BASIN WORKING LANDS

Congressional District NE-ADAMS-3, NE-BUTLER-1, NE-CLAY-3, NE-DAWSON-3, NE-FILLMORE-3, NE-FRANKLIN-3, NE-FRONTIER-3, NE-GOSPER-3, NE-HALL-3, NE-HAMILTON-3, NE-HARLAN-3, NE-JEFFERSON-3, NE-KEARNEY-3, NE-LINCOLN-3, NE-NUCKOLLS-3, NE-PHELPS-3, NE-POLK-1, NE-SALINE-3, NE-SEWARD-1, NE-THAYER-3, NE-WEBSTER-3, NE-YORK-3

Grantee Organization DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer John Denton

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Partner Name PRO-CROPMETRICS, LLC, CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, PRO-LINDSAY CORPORATION, LOC-LITTLE BLUE NATURAL RESOURCE DISTRICT, STA-NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES DISTRICTS, STA-NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST, STA-NEBRASKA GAME & PARKS COMMISSION, CON-NEBRASKA LAND TRUST, CON-RAINWATER BASIN JOINT VENTURE, PRO-REINKE MANUFACTURING COMPANY, LOC-TRI-BASIN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT, LOC-UPPER BIG BLUE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT, PRO-VALMONT INDUSTRIES, INC

Date approved 09/07/2016

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$1,658,541.00

Joint Venture RAINWATER BASIN

Bird Conservation Region BCR 19-Central Mixed-grass Prairie

Project Description The Rainwater Basin (RWB) in Nebraska is one of the most important wetland ecosystems for migratory birds in the Central Flyway. Unfortunately, approximately 80% of the original wetlands have been lost due to drainage and conversion activities, primarily for agricultural purposes. The proposal will perpetually protect 685 acres ensuring the associated wetlands on these tracts are not negatively impacted through drainage or development activities. Funding from this grant will be leveraged with financial assistance from federal, state, and local government conservation agencies, and contributions from pivot irrigation manufactures and agronomists to protect and restore the wetlands and associated uplands. Wetland restoration activities in both easement options will include filling concentration pits, closing surface drains or road ditches draining the wetland, excavating fill material or sediment out of the wetland footprint, and/or recontouring the wetland footprint.

Project Name PATHFINDER WETLANDS PARTNERSHIP

Congressional District NE-BANNER-3, NE-CHEYENNE-3, NE-DEUEL-3, NE-GARDEN-3, NE-KEITH-3, NE-KIMBALL-3, NE-MORRILL-3, NE-SCOTTS BLUFF-3, NE-SIOUX-3, WY-AT LARGE-1

Grantee Organization DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer Julia Firl

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Partner Name LOC-CITY OF LARAMIE, CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, STA-NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST, PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S), CON-ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION, LOC-SARATOGA ENCAMPMENT RAWLINS CONSERVATION DISTRICT, CON-THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, STA-WYOMING GAME & FISH DEPARTMENT, CON-WYOMING GOVERNOR'S BIG GAME LICENSE COALITION, STA-WYOMING WILDLIFE & NATURAL RESOURCE TRUST FUND

Date approved 09/07/2016

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$2,599,967.88

Joint Venture INTERMOUNTAIN WEST, PLAYA LAKES

Bird Conservation Region BCR 10-Northern Rockies, BCR 16-Southern Rockies/Colorado Plateau, BCR 17-Badlands and Prairies, BCR 18-Shortgrass Prairie

Project Description The newly established "Pathfinder Wetlands Partnership" recognizes that the existence of high-quality wetlands is critical to the ecological and economic viability of the project area. However, the ability of the North Platte to support waterfowl continues to be compromised by longer and more frequent droughts and the increasing pressure to supply municipal, industrial, agricultural, and recreational water. This is the first of two planned phases of the partnership, whose goal is to conserve wetlands and other habitats important to nonbreeding migratory bird populations in the North Platte River basin. The projects are focused on the protection, restoration, and enhancement of emergent wetlands, other wetland types, riverine wetlands, riparian habitat, and associated native rangelands along - and in close proximity to - the North Platte River. The wetlands within the basin, and their contiguity to productive agricultural lands, provide critical roosting and foraging sites for millions of waterfowl during migration and winter. The objectives of this proposal include 12 projects on 11 different tracts aimed at improving the quantity, quality, and availability of preferred habitats for the ducks, geese, and other waterbirds that rely on the river and adjacent habitats as a stopover point on their migratory routes. Over the past 18 months, the grantee has brought together a diverse 16-member partnership that will work together to deliver projects on 5 private tracts, 1 municipally-owned tract, 4 state recreation areas, and the Pathfinder National Wildlife Refuge.

Project Name NORTHERN TALLGRASS PRAIRIE

Congressional District MN-BECKER-7, MN-BELTRAMI-7,8, MN-BIG STONE-7, MN-BLUE EARTH-1, MN-BROWN-1, MN-CHIPPEWA-7, MN-CLAY-7, MN-CLEARWATER-7, MN-COTTONWOOD-1,7, MN-DOUGLAS-7, MN-FARIBAULT-1, MN-FREEBORN-1, MN-GRANT-7, MN-JACKSON-1, MN-KANDIYOHI-7, MN-KITTSOON-7, MN-LAC QUI PARLE-7, MN-LE SUEUR-1, MN-LINCOLN-7, MN-LYON-7, MN-MAHNOMEN-7, MN-MARSHALL-7, MN-MARTIN-1, MN-MCLEOD-7, MN-MEEKER-7, MN-MURRAY-7, MN-NICOLLET-1, MN-

NOBLES-1, MN-NORMAN-7, MN-OTTER TAIL-7, MN-PENNINGTON-7, MN-PIPESTONE-7, MN-POLK-7, MN-POPE-7, MN-RED LAKE-7, MN-REDWOOD-7, MN-RENVILLE-7, MN-ROCK-1, MN-ROSEAU-7, MN-SIBLEY-7, MN-STEARNES-6,7, MN-STEELE-1, MN-STEVENS-7, MN-SWIFT-7, MN-TRAVERSE-7, MN-WASECA-1, MN-WATONWAN-1, MN-WILKIN-7, MN-YELLOW MEDICINE-7

Grantee Organization THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Project Officer Rich Johnson

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Partner Name CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, STA-MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER & SOIL RESOURCES, STA-MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, CON-PHEASANTS FOREVER, INC., CON-THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Date approved 09/07/2016

Grant Award Amount \$1,995,032.00

Proposed Match Amount \$7,190,794.00

Joint Venture PRAIRIE POTHOLE, UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER-GREATLAKES

Bird Conservation Region BCR 11-Prairie Potholes, BCR 12-Boreal Hardwood Transition, BCR 23-Prairie Hardwood Transition

Project Description The Northern Great Plains prairie pothole region is recognized for its importance for waterfowl and other migratory birds. However, these lands are under threat. The 49 counties comprising Minnesota's prairie region once contained nearly 18 million acres of prairie and associated wetlands. Today those counties have collectively lost 92% of their wetlands and 98% of the prairie uplands. Many landowners, however, remain interested in protecting their grasslands for ranching and recreation. This project will impact 3,402 acres of wetland and grassland habitat through fee acquisition, conservation easement, restoration and enhancement.

Project Name MID-BARATARIA WETLANDS II

Congressional District LA-JEFFERSON-1

Grantee Organization THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND

Project Officer Stacey Shankle

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Partner Name STA-COASTAL PROTECTION & RESTORATION AUTHORITY OF LOUISIANA, PRO-HUGHES WALMSLEY & COMPANY, INC, CON-PARTNERSHIP FOR GULF COAST LAND CONSERVATION, PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S), CON-THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND

Date approved 09/07/2016

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$2,020,750.00

Joint Venture GULF COAST

Bird Conservation Region BCR 37-Gulf Coastal Prairie

Project Description This proposal is the second in a series by The Trust for Public Land (TPL) in collaboration with state, federal and local partners to conserve and restore vulnerable coastal wetlands south and east of the city of New Orleans. The focus area is the Mid-Barataria Basin in Jefferson Parish,

Louisiana. TPL's goal is perpetual protection through fee acquisition 1,270 acres of coastal wetlands (Tract 1- Fleming Plantation, Phase 2) for inclusion into Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve's Barataria Preserve unit using grant and match funds. Once all phases are complete, this acquisition from a willing seller will add over 3,400 acres in the heart of the Barataria-Terrebone National Estuary to the 23,000 acre Preserve. Upon acquisition, TPL will convey Tract 1 to the National Park Service (NPS), enabling future restoration and management actions such as hydrologic restoration/enhancements, invasive species control, plantings and other management actions. Just south of the Barataria Preserve, Louisiana's Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) is implementing a large-scale coastal marsh restoration project around the Barataria Land-bridge, a critical land form in the mid-Barataria Basin that will help abate marsh type conversion and loss from saltwater intrusion and excessive tidal action. The marsh restoration is part of an integrated system designed to sustain the land-bridge and its ecological and infrastructure protection functions via the introduction of Mississippi River sediment to restore and nourish wetlands. CPRA is contributing work toward restoration of 50 acres of critical coastal marsh along the land-bridge as match for this proposal. Protection and restoration of 1,320 wetland acres within the Mid-Barataria Basin through this proposal will improve coastal wetland habitat available within a broader network of managed wetlands and natural wetlands in southeast Louisiana. Louisiana's Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast (Master Plan) identified Mid-Barataria Basin as a focal area for restoration of freshwater and sediment pathways to build marsh. The proposal is particularly important because this portion of the Barataria Basin is relatively far inland and land loss projections are favorable and where marsh building capacities are enhanced through Master Plan projects that help restore lost hydrologic processes to the system. Work on the Barataria Land-bridge, of which Tract 2 is part, further buffers this complex from risk of land loss. Strategic protection and restoration of coastal wetlands contribute to Gulf-wide efforts to mitigate for losses from increasing sea level rise.

Project Name MAV PUBLIC LANDS ENHANCEMENT

Congressional District AR-CLAY-1, LA-AVOYELLES-5, LA-CALDWELL-5, MS-HOLMES-2

Grantee Organization DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer Nick Biasini

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Partner Name CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, STA-LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & FISHERIES, PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S), CON-WETLANDS AMERICA TRUST

Date approved 09/07/2016

Grant Award Amount \$999,101.00

Proposed Match Amount \$2,082,000.00

Joint Venture LOWER MISSISSIPPI VALLEY

Bird Conservation Region BCR 26-Mississippi Alluvial Valley

Project Description The MAV Public Lands Enhancement project will be the first phase of proposals aimed at protection and enhancement of priority wetlands in the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley (LMAV) on public lands through leveraging strategic private land conservation easements in Arkansas,

Louisiana and Mississippi. The LMAV supports a rich diversity of wetlands and wetland dependent wildlife species. Forested, scrub-shrub, emergent wetlands and associated uplands in the region provide migration and wintering habitat for millions of wetland dependent wildlife and associated migratory birds. However, the LMAV has lost a substantial amount of its wetlands due to human altered hydrology and conversion to agriculture. The completion of proposed work will build on past NAWCA investments in wetland conservation in the LMAV that will set a foundation for future efforts to help mitigate some of the habitat degradations and ensure that the LMAV continues to fulfill its historical role as one of the most important landscapes in North America for continental populations of waterfowl, wading birds, shorebirds and other wetland-dependent migratory birds. The partners are working together to implement long-term wetland conservation strategies to meet regionally specific goals and objectives of these science-based plans. Grant funds will be combined with match and federal non-match funds from five partners to complete protection and enhancement of 1,631 acres on four proposal sites in the LMAV in Mississippi, Louisiana and Arkansas. All tracts are protected either as public lands or through a conservation easement and will provide wildlife habitat in perpetuity. Once implemented, all tracts will help compensate for the long-term loss and degradation of palustrine emergent, palustrine forested and palustrine scrub/shrub wetlands in the LMAV. The projects taking place on public lands will improve the capability of managers to more efficiently manage larger wetland areas for the benefit of waterfowl, other waterbirds and wetland dependent wildlife. The enhancement work will also provide additional recreational and educational opportunities for public benefit. Protection of the privately owned tract will secure a large intact forested complex as conservation land in perpetuity through a donated conservation easement.

Project Name LOWCOUNTRY PROTECTION III

Congressional District SC-BEAUFORT-6, SC-COLLETON-6, SC-HORRY-7

Grantee Organization DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer James Rader

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Partner Name CON-NEMOURS WILDLIFE FOUNDATION, CON-WETLANDS AMERICA TRUST

Date approved 09/07/2016

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$2,321,072.00

Joint Venture ATLANTIC COAST

Bird Conservation Region BCR 27-Southeastern Coastal Plain

Project Description This proposal represents the third of several phases to permanently protect strategic coastal properties consisting of diverse wetland and upland habitats in the project area which is defined as the entire South Carolina Lowcountry. It is also located in the heart of the ACJV's ACE Basin Waterfowl Focus Area. Acquisition will help ensure that incompatible land uses, including development, do not encroach upon the ACE Basin NWR and other protected lands along the Combahee River Corridor. Grant funds will also add key in-holdings to the conservation lands of Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge, building off of the landscape scale conservation efforts of DU, TNC and partners in the

Winyah Bay Waterfowl Focus Area. These Lowcountry regions have been areas of significant conservation success through prior agreements, and the grant will build on this success in strategic and cumulative ways. 25 tracts in the ACE Basin Focus Area, 4 tracts in the South Lowcountry Focus Area, 8 tracts in the CAWS Basin Focus Area, 2 tracts in the Santee Cooper Lakes Focus Area, 7 tracts in the Santee River Focus area, and 9 tracts in the Winyah Bay Focus Area, have been protected or enhanced through prior grants, advancing the South Carolina conservation goals set by the ACJV and SAMBI in each ACJV focus area. This grant expands previous conservation successes in the SC Lowcountry and directly relates to two prior phases of Lowcountry Protection. This grant, which will advance adaptation and resilience in the face of climate change significantly, contributes to the goals of the national and regional bird conservation plans.

Project Name LAKE COUNTY CLOSED BASIN V

Location (County) OR-LAKE

Grantee Organization DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer Chris Colson

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Partner Name CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, PRO-MAXWELL CATTLE COMPANY, STA-OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE, STA-OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD, PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S)

Date approved 09/07/2016

Grant Award Amount \$648,383.00

Proposed Match Amount \$972,920.00

Joint Venture INTERMOUNTAIN WEST

Bird Conservation Region BCR 9-Great Basin

Project Description This proposal represents the fifth phase in a long-term effort to conserve critical habitat for wetland-dependent migratory birds in the Lake County Closed Basin Project Area within the Southern Oregon / Northeastern California (SONEC) region as defined by the Intermountain West Joint Venture (IWJV) Implementation Plan. Around 70% of Pacific Flyway migrants stage in the SONEC, and the area supports 20% of North America's entire breeding population of cinnamon teal and 18% of the Pacific Flyway's population of breeding mallards and redheads. The project focuses on restoring shallow, seasonal wetland habitat on private lands. The project will protect, restore and enhance approximately 1,423 acres of seasonally flooded wetlands and irrigated meadows improving water distribution, efficiency, and management. Other species that will benefit include northern pintails, tule white-fronted geese, Wrangel Island snow geese, greater sandhill cranes, white-faced ibis, long-billed curlews, Virginia rails, and northern harriers.

Project Name HEART OF THE BIG RIVERS

Congressional District IL-ALEXANDER-12, IL-CALHOUN-13, IL-JACKSON-12, IL-JERSEY-13, IL-JOHNSON-15, IL-MADISON-12,13,15, IL-MASSAC-15, IL-MONROE-12, IL-PULASKI-12, IL-RANDOLPH-12, IL-ST. CLAIR-12, IL-UNION-12, KY-BALLARD-1, KY-CARLISLE-1, KY-FULTON-1, KY-HICKMAN-1, KY-MCCRACKEN-1, MO-

BUTLER-8, MO-CAPE GIRARDEAU-8, MO-DUNKLIN-8, MO-JEFFERSON-2,3,8, MO-LINCOLN-3, MO-MISSISSIPPI-8, MO-NEW MADRID-8, MO-PEMISCOT-8, MO-PERRY-8, MO-PIKE-6, MO-SCOTT-8, MO-ST. CHARLES-2,3, MO-ST. LOUIS-1,2, MO-ST. LOUIS CITY-1, MO-STE. GENEVIEVE-8, MO-STODDARD-8

Grantee Organization DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer Michael Sertle

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Partner Name OTH-CATERPILLAR FOUNDATION, CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, CON-FRIENDS OF THE CACHE RIVER WATERSHED, LOC-GRAND TOWER TOWNSHIP ROAD DISTRICT, CON-HEARTLANDS CONSERVANCY, STA-ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, STA-KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE RESOURCES, STA-MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION, CON-NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION, PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S), LOC-SAND RIDGE ROAD COMMISSION, PRO-UNITED COUNTRY TROPHY PROPERTIES & AUCTION, NAT-WAGANAKISING ODAWA NATION

Date approved 09/07/2016

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$2,870,114.00

Joint Venture CENTRAL HARDWOODS, EASTERN GULF COAST, LOWER MISSISSIPPI VALLEY, UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER-GREATLAKES

Bird Conservation Region BCR 22-Eastern Tallgrass Prairie, BCR 24-Central Hardwoods, BCR 26-Mississippi Alluvial Valley, BCR 27-Southeastern Coastal Plain

Project Description This project focuses on the protection, restoration, and enhancement of wetland habitats associated with the Mississippi and other major rivers of the southern Upper Mississippi River (UMR) and northern Mississippi Alluvial Valley (MAV) for the benefit of migrating and wintering waterfowl and other wetland-dependent migratory birds and wildlife. The projects chosen for this proposal are all currently connected to the floodplain of the Mississippi River and its tributaries, or were historically connected as such prior to human alternations of the landscape and hydrology. DU and its conservation partners propose to permanently protect 751 acres of forested, emergent, and scrub-shrub wetlands within the floodplains of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. An additional 1,090.6 (192) acres of prior-converted wetlands will be restored in order to either re-establish and mimic historical hydrology, or to transition previous or current agricultural lands back to bottomland hardwoods and seasonal, emergent wetlands. Finally, 300.1 acres of existing wetlands which have degraded due to insufficient management infrastructure, prior human disturbance, or vegetative encroachment will be enhanced to improve their species vigor and overall productivity. The project will benefit numerous waterfowl species, including mallards, northern pintails, wood ducks, lesser scaup, American black ducks, and others, numerous species of migratory birds, such as cerulean and prothonotary warblers and American woodcock, and other wetland-dependent species, such as the federally endangered Indiana bat.

Project Name EASTERN SOUTH DAKOTA WETLANDS PHASE II

Congressional District SD-AT LARGE-1

Grantee Organization DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer Steve Donovan

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Partner Name LOC-BEADLE CONSERVATION DISTRICT, CON-BROOKINGS WILDLIFE FEDERATION, LOC-DAVISON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT, CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, LOC-JAMES RIVER WATER DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, CON-MARSHALL COUNTY SPORTSMAN"S CLUB, CON-PHEASANTS FOREVER, NORTHERN SOUTH DAKOTA CHAPTER, PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S), STA-SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH & PARKS, STA-SOUTH DAKOTA HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND, CON-SOUTH DAKOTA IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE, CON-WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY (WCS)

Date approved 09/07/2016

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$1,010,731.00

Joint Venture PRAIRIE POTHOLE

Bird Conservation Region BCR 11-Prairie Potholes

Project Description This proposal will protect, restore, enhance and establish 9,886 acres of important wetland and upland habitats in the Prairie Pothole Region of eastern South Dakota. The project landscape is the portion of South Dakota that lies east of the Missouri River. Every wetland and grassland easement project included in this proposal is in the "highest" priority landscape for easement acquisition. A total of 944 acres will be permanently protected by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) easements. The restoration, protection, enhancement and establishment of small wetland basins is the highest priority activity being undertaken through this proposal. Protecting temporary and seasonal wetlands in landscapes that support greater than 25 duck pairs per square mile is one of the main objectives in the step-down plan from the Prairie Pothole Joint Venture Implementation Plan, intended to guide conservation and management strategies in South Dakota. Goal #1 of the Plan is to improve the capacity of this landscape to increase the number of breeding duck pairs it can support through protecting "at-risk" wetlands and restoring previously drained wetlands. A total of 286 acres of small, shallow wetland basins will be protected. Approximately 35 acres of small wetlands will be restored, which includes 24 acres that are also being protected. The restoration of wetlands is another objection of the Joint Venture Plan. A total of 1,082 acres of wetlands will be enhanced and an additional 65 acres established. The remaining acres to be protected through conservation easements (658 acres) are associated uplands consisting primarily of native prairie, including 273 acres that will also be restored on former cropland. Another component of this project is to enhance and establish upland habitat that lies in close proximity to important wetland complexes. As part of the Native Prairie Enhancement project element, an estimated 5,680 acres will be enhanced, including an estimated 894 acres of wetlands and 4,786 acres of native prairie. The goal of this project element is to improve the condition of both wetland and upland plant communities through the implementation of improved grazing systems. Another major component of this proposal is to promote the use of cover crops as part of standard farming practices. Cover crops can improve soil health, reduce erosion, increase water infiltration, improve water quality and provide cover for wildlife. Through this proposal, project partners will work with agricultural producers and provide incentives to establish at least 1,500 acres of cover crops.

Project Name COLUMBIA BOTTOMLANDS I

Congressional District TX-BRAZORIA-14

Grantee Organization THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Project Officer Jeff Weigel

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Partner Name PRO-BHP BILLITON PETROLEUM (DEEPWATER) INC, CON-THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Date approved 09/07/2016

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$2,000,000.00

Joint Venture GULF COAST

Bird Conservation Region BCR 37-Gulf Coastal Prairie

Project Description The Columbia Bottomlands is a mosaic of forest, prairie, and wetland habitats that extends inland along the floodplains of the lower Brazos, San Bernard and Colorado rivers near Houston. The signature habitat of the Columbia Bottomlands-bottomland hardwood forest-has been identified as a "globally imperiled" habitat type by The Nature Conservancy and NatureServe in their worldwide assessments of habitats and species. The bottomland hardwood forest within the Columbia Bottomlands is among the most diverse of Texas' ecosystems and one of the most endangered ecosystems in the United States. This proposal will permanently protect approximately 2,336.57 acres of wetlands, riparian habitat and bottomland hardwood forest to benefit breeding, migrating and wintering waterfowl, water birds, and Neotropical migrants, and contribute to the goals of national and regional bird conservation plans. Species that will benefit include swallow-tailed kite, prothonotary warbler, worm-eating warbler, Swainson's warbler, and Louisiana waterthrush.

Project Name CHESAPEAKE RIVERS CONSERVATION PHASE I

Congressional District MD-DORCHESTER-1, MD-SOMERSET-1

Grantee Organization U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE CHESAPEAKE BAY FIELD OFFICE

Project Officer Christina Ryder

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Partner Name CON-CHESAPEAKE CONSERVANCY, CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, CON-EASTERN SHORE LAND CONSERVANCY, STA-MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, CON-MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, CON-THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, FED-U.S. NAVY, NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER

Date approved 09/07/2016

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$3,111,500.00

Joint Venture ATLANTIC COAST

Bird Conservation Region BCR 30-New England/Mid-Atlantic Coast

Project Description The Chesapeake Bay is the largest estuary in the United States and stages or winters millions of waterfowl and other wetland dependent migratory birds every year. This project will contribute to a long-term, large landscape-scale effort to protect and restore wetland habitat in the Choptank, Nanticoke, Wicomico, and Pocomoke River watersheds, four of the most pristine watersheds of the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland. These watersheds are renowned for verdant tidal and nontidal

wetland complexes that support notable plant and wildlife biological diversity, including a significant number of rare species. The lower reaches of these rivers encompass three waterfowl Focus Areas for the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture (ACJV), primarily due to the large expanses of coastal marshes and submerged aquatic vegetation beds that provide excellent shelter and forage for migrating waterfowl like American black duck and several other high priority species. Phase I will add 1,400 acres of permanently protected wetland/upland migratory bird habitat to the Maryland's State Forest System, and place conservation easements on another 1,205 acres. A total of 1,976 acres, or 76 percent, of the project area are declining palustrine forested, emergent, and scrub-shrub wetland habitats. Species that will benefit include priority waterfowl species such as the American black duck, northern pintail, wood duck, and mallard. The wetland-dependent American woodcock will also directly benefit from the project. Specific neotropical migrants which will benefit from protected habitat include prothonotary warblers, Kentucky warblers, wood thrush, and worm-eating warblers.

Project Name CAROLINA WETLANDS INITIATIVE III

Congressional District NC-BRUNSWICK-7, NC-COLUMBUS-7, NC-CRAVEN-3, NC-DUPLIN-7, SC-MARLBORO-7

Grantee Organization NORTH CAROLINA COASTAL LAND TRUST

Project Officer Janice L. Allen

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Partner Name LOC-CITY OF HAVELOCK, STA-NORTH CAROLINA CLEAN WATER MANAGEMENT TRUST FUND, CON-NORTH CAROLINA COASTAL LAND TRUST, CON-PEE DEE LAND TRUST, PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S), STA-SOUTH CAROLINA CONSERVATION BANK

Date approved 09/07/2016

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$2,504,300.00

Joint Venture ATLANTIC COAST

Bird Conservation Region BCR 27-Southeastern Coastal Plain

Project Description The project will permanently conserve three target tracts in the Cape Fear Arch Region, which spans from Cape Lookout in North Carolina to Cape Romaine in South Carolina. Despite the amazing biodiversity in this region, many of the natural communities and endemic plants and animals are under threat. Indeed, one of the more rapidly developing areas of coastal North and South Carolina region is between Myrtle Beach, SC and Wilmington, NC. The economic recession has slowed residential and commercial development to some degree in coastal North and South Carolina making this a particularly opportune time to continue and expand on existing land conservation work. The Carolina Wetlands Initiative III is directly supported by the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture's South Atlantic Migratory Bird Initiative and complements past work by the partners to acquire, restore, and enhance wetland habitat on a landscape level for migratory birds and other wetland dependent wildlife in the southeastern Coastal Plain of North Carolina and northeastern Coastal Plain of South Carolina.

Project Name BORDER PRAIRIE WETLANDS V

Congressional District MN-BECKER-7, MN-DOUGLAS-7, MN-KANDIYOHI-7, MN-MAHNOMEN-7, MN-MEEKER-7, MN-OTTER TAIL-7, MN-POPE-7, MN-STEARN-6,7, MN-TODD-7

Grantee Organization PHEASANTS FOREVER, INC.

Project Officer Tim Zemke

Grantee Email tzemke@pheasantsforever.org

Partner Name CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, STA-LESSARD SAMS OUTDOOR HERITAGE COUNCIL, STA-MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER & SOIL RESOURCES, CON-PHEASANTS FOREVER, INC., PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S)

Date approved 09/07/2016

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$2,778,625.00

Joint Venture PRAIRIE POTHOLE

Bird Conservation Region BCR 11-Prairie Potholes, BCR 23-Prairie Hardwood Transition

Project Description This proposal builds upon habitat protection and enhancement efforts and is aimed at accelerating the protection and enhancement of prairie wetlands and associated wildlife in this portion of the PPR in Minnesota. Long-standing and new partners have come together to purchase, restore and enhance 1,656.6-acres of habitat crucial to waterfowl and a whole suite of additional species. Fee-title acquisitions of Waterfowl Production Areas and Wildlife Management Areas focus on strategic investments in habitat that build upon existing wetland complexes. Partners will accelerate wetland and upland conservation by acquiring 825-acres in fee title and 138.6 acres under perpetual easement. Further, the proposal will provide for the enhancement of four priority shallow lakes totaling 693-acres. All habitat on lands acquired in fee-title will be restored to the fullest extent using other funding sources and in collaboration with partners. All partners involved in this proposal are familiar with the proper techniques for acquiring, restoring and enhancing wetland and associated upland habitats. Additionally, partners are working to add technical capacity through this grant to place a wetland restoration biologist in the project area to assist with the added workload due the increased funding and activity around wetland and associated upland restoration projects.

Project Name BAYOU MONNAIE MARSH II

Congressional District LA-LAFOURCHE-1, LA-PLAQUEMINES-1

Grantee Organization DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer Mike Carloss

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Partner Name STA-COASTAL PROTECTION & RESTORATION AUTHORITY OF LOUISIANA, LOC-LOUISIANA LAND & EXPLORATION, LOC-SOUTH LAFOURCHE LEVEE DISTRICT

Date approved 09/07/2016

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$2,200,000.00

Joint Venture GULF COAST

Bird Conservation Region BCR 37-Gulf Coastal Prairie

Project Description The primary purpose of this proposal is to help offset the dramatic coastal land loss occurring along Louisiana's coast. Since the 1930s, Louisiana has lost over 1.2 million acres of coastal wetlands. It is expected that an additional 1.1 million acres will be lost over the next 50 years without restoration. Some of the highest rates of wetland loss in coastal Louisiana are found in the southeast basins, particularly the Terrebonne and Barataria Basins (as high as 7,000+ acres lost per year). It is critically important to address wetland loss in the southeast portion of coastal Louisiana. This proposal positively impacts a total of 1,566 acres in the Terrebonne and Barataria Basins of coastal Louisiana. This proposal will fund the restoration of important migratory bird habitat through the construction of 31,000 linear feet of earthen terraces in the vicinity of Bayou Monnaie. Approximately 75% of marsh in the proposed project area for Bayou Monnaie has eroded away which has resulted in areas of turbid, open, saline water of little value to migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife. Once constructed, the earthen terraces will decrease fetch/turbidity and lessen erosion, create marsh habitat, increase submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) productivity, and restore water quality by decreasing nutrient loading on 1,289 acres. This proposal also benefits 277 acres via the restoration of barrier island habitat that includes 136 acres of salt marsh and 141 acres of dunes (approximately 1.75 miles of Gulf of Mexico shoreline). This proposal directly contributes to the habitat and population goals of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) through the Gulf Coast Joint Venture (GCJV) Mississippi River Coastal Wetlands Initiative Area (MRCWIA). Both tracts of this proposal are located in the MRCWIA. According to the GCJV MRCWI Plan, restoration and management of wetland habitats are key strategies for achieving conservation goals. The plan specifically addresses the need to reduce erosion, create marsh to provide more habitat, and provide a wide variety of habitat types from shallow flooded areas to mudflats. The goals of this proposal are consistent with the objectives listed above. This proposal is also consistent with USFWS's Vision for a Healthy Gulf of Mexico Watershed. The restoration/protection of brackish marshes and barrier island habitats are specifically listed as "high priority conservation actions" in the focal area of the Mississippi River Delta coastal wetlands and barrier islands.

Project Name AT-RISK PRAIRIE POTHOLE CONSERVATION

Location (County) ND-BENSON, ND-BOTTINEAU, ND-MC HENRY, ND-NELSON, ND-PIERCE, ND-RAMSEY, ND-RENVILLE, ND-ROLETTE, ND-TOWNER, ND-WALSH, ND-WARD

Congressional District ND-AT LARGE-1

Grantee Organization DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer Jonas Davis

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Partner Name CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, CON-NORTH DAKOTA NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST, PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S)

Date approved 09/07/2016

Grant Award Amount \$1,019,700.00

Proposed Match Amount \$1,066,636.00

Joint Venture PRAIRIE POTHOLE

Bird Conservation Region BCR 11-Prairie Potholes

Project Description The North Dakota At-risk Prairie Pothole Conservation project is designed to protect small shallow wetlands in an agriculturally dominant landscape that are critical for breeding duck pairs and duck broods while restoring and enhancing available native grasslands that provide nesting cover for female ducks. The project area lies in the heart of the prairie pothole region (PPR) and the Prairie Pothole Joint Venture (PPJV). The targeted counties occur within the Missouri Coteau and Drift Prairie regions where wetland densities are some of the highest in North America, unprecedented land-use change is occurring, and available funding sources are becoming more limited. Ducks Unlimited and its partners along with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) are proposing to use \$1,019,000 in grant funds and \$1,066,636 in match funds to acquire critical wetland easements in perpetuity and maintain grassland habitat through short-term programs to conserve 4,680 acres of prairie pothole habitat for migratory birds.

Project Name ALBEMARLE / CHOWAN WETLAND CONSERVATION INITIATIVE - PHASE II

Congressional District VA-SOUTHAMPTON-4, VA-SUSSEX-4, VA-VIRGINIA BEACH CITY-2

Grantee Organization THE NATURE CONSERVANCY VIRGINIA CHAPTER

Project Officer Brian van Eerden

Grantee Email bvaneerden@tnc.org

Partner Name OTH-AIRFIELD 4-H CONFERENCE CENTER, NAT-CHEROENHAKA (NOTTOWAY) INDIAN TRIBE, LOC-CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH, PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S), CON-THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, STA-VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

Date approved 09/07/2016

Grant Award Amount \$860,520.00

Proposed Match Amount \$1,721,500.00

Joint Venture ATLANTIC COAST

Bird Conservation Region BCR 27-Southeastern Coastal Plain

Project Description This proposal represents the second phase of a multi-year project to protect key forested wetland tracts in southeastern Virginia and northeastern North Carolina in the headwaters of the Albemarle Sound, one of the largest estuarine systems on the Eastern seaboard of the United States. This landscape supports a diverse and abundant assemblage of wetland communities including cypress/tupelo forest, peatland forest, marsh, vernal pools and bottomland hardwood forest. A number of high-priority waterfowl and waterbird species utilize the region's wetlands for breeding, stopover and overwintering habitat and river floodplain courses support multitudes of migratory and breeding songbirds. Phase 2 will build upon Phase 1 successes and protect a total of 2,456 acres across 8 separate tracts comprised of 1,947 acres of wetlands and 509 acres of adjoining uplands. All tracts are located in Virginia and all adjoin existing conservation lands owned by public agencies and non-profit organizations.