

NAWCA U.S. Standard Grant Project Summaries

Approved April 25, 2018

Project Name YAZOO BASIN

Location (County) MS-COAHOMA, MS-HOLMES, MS-LEFLORE

Congressional District MS-2

Grantee Organization THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Project Officer Scott Lemmons

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Partner Name OTH-CATERPILLAR FOUNDATION, CON-DELTA WILDLIFE FOUNDATION, PRO-ENTERGY, OTH-JAMES M. COX FOUNDATION, STA-MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES & PARKS, PRO-POWERTREE / UTILITREE CARBON COMPANY, PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S), CON-THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, MISSISSIPPI CHAPTER, OTH-WALKER FOUNDATION, CON-WETLANDS AMERICA TRUST

Date approved 04/25/2018

Grant Award Amount \$673,789.00

Proposed Match Amount \$1,367,140.00

Joint Venture LOWER MISSISSIPPI VALLEY

Bird Conservation Region BCR 26-Mississippi Alluvial Valley

Project Description This project will restore, enhance, and protect important public and private land wetland habitats in the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley (LMAV) within the McIntyre Scatters/Malmaison Wildlife Management Area, managed by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks; Mathews Brake National Wildlife Refuge, which is part of the Theodore Roosevelt National Wildlife Refuge Complex; and Nagasaki Farms, which is privately owned with a conservation easement held by Wetlands America Trust. This project is in the Yazoo River Basin watershed in the LMAV. The bottomland hardwood forested, palustrine scrub-shrub, palustrine emergent, and agricultural wetlands support a rich diversity of wildlife species and provide migration and wintering habitat for waterfowl and wetland dependent migratory birds. A substantial amount of wetland habitat has been lost or degraded within the LMAV due to 90% of the landscape being converted to agricultural production and the subsequent loss of wetlands due to changes to natural hydrology and poor drainage practices. The work proposed herein will help to compensate some of that wetland habitat loss so that the LMAV will continue to support populations of waterfowl, wading birds, and wetland dependent species

Project Name YAZOO & WHITE RIVER NWRS ENHANCEMENT

Location (County) AR-ARKANSAS, AR-CROSS, MS-ISSAQUENA, MS-QUITMAN, MS-WARREN, MS-WASHINGTON

Congressional District AR-1, MS-2

Grantee Organization DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer Nick Biasini

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Partner Name CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, STA-MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES &

PARKS, CON-MISSISSIPPI LAND TRUST, PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S), CON-WETLANDS AMERICA TRUST

Date approved 04/25/2018

Grant Award Amount \$999,980.00

Proposed Match Amount \$4,093,198.00

Joint Venture LOWER MISSISSIPPI VALLEY

Bird Conservation Region BCR 26-Mississippi Alluvial Valley

Project Description The Mississippi Alluvial Valley (MAV) historically was once the largest forested wetland ecosystem in North America. As the center of the Mississippi Flyway, the MAV provides a key spring and fall migration conduit for a vast array of migratory bird species, including waterfowl, wading birds, shorebirds, and neotropical migrants, that breed in the Prairie Pothole and Boreal Forests regions of the U.S. and Canada and utilize the Gulf Coastal habitats during winter. The MAV is utilized by approximately 60% of all bird species in the continental U.S. and as such is one of the nation's most species rich bird migration corridors. In addition, the MAV hosts over 5 million ducks and geese during fall and winter, supports significant populations of forest-nesting birds, and provides habitat for threatened and endangered species, including the Louisiana Black Bear. Largely forested prior to European arrival, flood control for agriculture and human settlement has led to a loss of nearly 75% of riparian forests in the MAV by the late 20th century. The sum of this deforestation and hydrological alterations has negatively impacted both wildlife habitat quantity/quality and potentially contributes to localized and downstream water quality problems (both nutrient and sediment) manifested most notably along the Gulf Coast. The Yazoo and White River NWRs Enhancement proposal is the initial endeavor of a multi-phase effort aimed at the protection and enhancement of critical wetland habitats on public lands in the MAV by leveraging private land conservation values perpetually protected via conservation easements/servitudes in Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi. Primary conservation programs (such as those proposed herein) within the MAV aim to maintain and restore the landscape at some functional level that benefits both wildlife and people with specific emphasis on increasing survival and subsequent breeding success of migratory birds that utilize this landscape as wintering and migration habitat. Conservation efforts are therefore designed to decrease habitat fragmentation and enhance the quantity and quality of water on the MAV landscape toward improving wetland habitats and the provision of natural experiences such as wildlife viewing, hunting, and fishing.

Project Name UPPER SALT BAYOU MARSH RESTORATION & PRIVATE WETLANDS

Location (County) TX-ARANSAS, TX-AUSTIN, TX-BEE, TX-BRAZORIA, TX-BROOKS, TX-CALHOUN, TX-CAMERON, TX-CHAMBERS, TX-COLORADO, TX-FORT BEND, TX-GALVESTON, TX-GOLIAD, TX-HARRIS, TX-HIDALGO, TX-JACKSON, TX-JEFFERSON, TX-KENEDY, TX-KLEBERG, TX-LAVACA, TX-LIBERTY, TX-MATAGORDA, TX-NUECES, TX-ORANGE, TX-REFUGIO, TX-SAN PATRICIO, TX-STARR, TX-VICTORIA, TX-WALLER, TX-WHARTON, TX-WILLACY

Congressional District TX-2, TX-7, TX-8, TX-9, TX-10, TX-14, TX-15, TX-18, TX-22, TX-27, TX-28, TX-29, TX-34, TX-36

Grantee Organization DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer Todd Merendino

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Partner Name LOC-JEFFERSON COUNTY, TX, CON-NATIONAL FISH & WILDLIFE FOUNDATION (NFWF),

CON-TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

Date approved 04/25/2018

Grant Award Amount \$999,959.00

Proposed Match Amount \$2,000,000.00

Joint Venture GULF COAST

Bird Conservation Region BCR 36-Tamaulipan Brushlands, BCR 37-Gulf Coastal Prairie

Project Description Collectively, this proposal will restore and enhance 3,582 acres of coastal marsh and palustrine wetlands. Grant and match funds will be used for construction of a siphon that will provide hydrological restoration for 3,182 acres of estuarine wetlands in a portion of McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). This is one of two siphons that are significant components of a phased approach described in the Salt Bayou Watershed Restoration Plan to protect and restore Chenier Plain marshes within the 139,000-acre Salt Bayou ecosystem. Construction of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) in 1930s split the Salt Bayou Marsh system and blocked the natural flow of freshwater to marshes south of the GIWW. The siphon will allow excess freshwater from marsh north of the GIWW to flow into marsh south of the GIWW, which has been cut off from this source of freshwater inflow for more than 75 years. NAWCA funding will be used to enhance 400 acres of privately owned wetlands, and will continue a 25-year partnership of landowners, state and federal agencies, and non-governmental organizations partners committed to the long-term support of private lands wetlands conservation on the Texas Gulf Coast through the Texas Prairie Wetlands Project. Project sites will be managed under 10-year agreements with the Private Landowners, and will include projects across each of the 3 Initiative Areas within the Texas portion of the Gulf Coast Joint Venture. Project sites will include moist-soil units and seasonally flooded rice fields that will provide important migration, wintering, and breeding habitat for numerous species of waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, and migrant landbirds.

Project Name ST. LAWRENCE RIVER / THOUSANDS ISLANDS II

Location (County) NY-JEFFERSON, NY-LEWIS, NY-ST. LAWRENCE

Congressional District NY-21

Grantee Organization DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer Brandy Nevelndine

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Partner Name CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, CON-INDIAN RIVER LAKES CONSERVANCY, STA-NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION, CON-ONONDAGA AUDUBON, CON-ONTARIO BAYS INITIATIVE, INC., PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S), CON-ST. LAWRENCE LAND TRUST, SCH-SUNY COLLEGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE & FORESTRY, CON-THOUSAND ISLANDS LAND TRUST, LOC-TOWN OF BROWNVILLE, NY, FED-U.S. ARMY FORT DRUM

Date approved 04/25/2018

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$2,347,676.00

Joint Venture ATLANTIC COAST

Bird Conservation Region BCR 13-Lower Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Plain, BCR 14-Atlantic Northern Forest

Project Description This proposal will protect, enhance and restore 2,698.3 acres, most of which is near or contiguous to other protected lands, and near important aquatic resources including bays, rivers and streams. Ducks Unlimited has developed strong partnerships with private landowners, state and local partners to protect 1080.4 acres by fee-simple acquisition/donation, and 915.2 through conservation easements. We will also restore 20 acres of emergent marsh and enhance an additional 682.7 acres of critical wetlands. Species that will benefit include Wood Duck, Mallard, American Black Duck, American Wigeon, Blue-winged Teal, Greater and Lesser Scaup, Northern Pintail, Goldeneye, and Long-tailed Duck.

Project Name SOUTH DAKOTA HABITAT LEGACY III

Location (County) SD-AURORA, SD-BEADLE, SD-BON HOMME, SD-BROOKINGS, SD-BROWN, SD-BRULE, SD-BUFFALO, SD-CAMPBELL, SD-CHARLES MIX, SD-CLARK, SD-CODINGTON, SD-DAVISON, SD-DAY, SD-DEUEL, SD-DOUGLAS, SD-EDMUNDS, SD-FAULK, SD-GRANT, SD-HAMLIN, SD-HAND, SD-HANSON, SD-HUGHES, SD-HUTCHINSON, SD-HYDE, SD-JERAULD, SD-KINGSBURY, SD-LAKE, SD-MARSHALL, SD-MCCOOK, SD-MCPHERSON, SD-MINER, SD-MINNEHAHA, SD-MOODY, SD-POTTER, SD-ROBERTS, SD-SANBORN, SD-SPINK, SD-SULLY, SD-WALWORTH

Congressional District SD-1

Grantee Organization PHEASANTS FOREVER, INC.

Project Officer Tim Zemke

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Partner Name LOC-BRULE-BUFFALO CONSERVATION DISTRICT, CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, LOC-EDMUNDS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT, CON-PHEASANTS FOREVER, INC., PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S), STA-SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH & PARKS

Date approved 04/25/2018

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$1,109,246.00

Joint Venture PRAIRIE POTHOLE

Bird Conservation Region BCR 11-Prairie Potholes, BCR 17-Badlands and Prairies

Project Description This proposal will enhance, restore and protect private lands habitats in a manner that complements the current acceleration of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service easement acquisition in the project area. The strategic integration of grant and match funds to complement USFWS perpetual conservation easements has a demonstrated record of success within the South Dakota Habitat Legacy project area. NAWCA funds complement easement interests by providing a critically needed vehicle to enhance and restore grasslands and wetlands over and above the baseline habitat conditions protected by the easement. Many of the existing perpetual USFWS conservation easements in the project area were a direct result of previous positive experiences landowners had with shorter-term projects funded with grant or match sources. Despite high rates of habitat loss, landowner interest in this diverse conservation model remains very high in the SDHL project area, with over 500 landowners currently awaiting the option to consider perpetual easements and/or shorter term habitat agreements. Species that will benefit include Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Marbled Godwit, Upland Sandpiper and Savannah Sparrow.

Project Name SOUTH CAROLINA WETLANDS LANDSCAPE V

Location (County) SC-AlLENDALE, SC-BEAUFORT, SC-CHARLESTON, SC-HAMPTON, SC-HORRY

Congressional District SC-1, SC-6, SC-7

Grantee Organization DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer James Rader

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Partner Name LOC-CHARLESTON COUNTY PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION, CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S), STA-SOUTH CAROLINA CONSERVATION BANK, CON-THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Date approved 04/25/2018

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$2,892,940.00

Joint Venture ATLANTIC COAST

Bird Conservation Region BCR 27-Southeastern Coastal Plain

Project Description This proposal is a continuance of the sustained landscape-level approach to planning and implementing conservation projects on public and private lands within the Ducks Unlimited South Carolina Lowcountry Project (SCLCP) priority areas. This proposal reduces habitat losses through a strategic combination of wetland enhancement and land protection projects on 12,701 acres of private and public lands, with an emphasis on public lands. The 63-acre acquisition is palustrine forested wetlands and associated uplands that lies adjacent to three other tracts that will be acquired with previously awarded NAWCA funds in Horry County, SC. Grant funds will be used by Open Space Institute (OSI) to purchase the property and then transfer it to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for incorporation into Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge, where it will be managed for the benefit of waterfowl, wading birds and other wetland dependent species. The acquisition of this tract is a priority for partners of the Winyah Bay Task Force who are working to expand the refuge and protect strategic, contiguous tracts in the Waccamaw River Basin. The protection of a 12,342-acre privately owned property in Allendale and Hampton counties, is a keystone piece, connecting the Savannah River and South Lowcountry (SOLO) Focus Area to the Ashepoo, Combahee and Edisto (ACE) Basin Focus Area. This large protected tract is considered a major conservation victory by partners of the SOLO and ACE Basin Task Forces, as it connects a corridor of conservation lands between Georgia and South Carolina for wildlife that was threatened with residential development prior to protection. The enhancement of 182 acres of palustrine forested and emergent wetlands in Charleston County will provide quality wetland habitat for nature-based recreational use by the public on Laurel Hill County Park in partnership with the Charleston County Park & Recreation Commission

Project Name SCHELL OSAGE GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY WETLAND INITIATIVE

Location (County) MO-ST. CLAIR, MO-VERNON

Congressional District MO-4

Grantee Organization DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer Mark Flaspohler

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Partner Name CON-AUDUBON SOCIETY OF MISSOURI, OTH-DAVID T. BEALS III CHARITABLE TRUST, CON-

DUCKS UNLIMITED, CON-GREATER OZARKS AUDUBON SOCIETY, CON-MISSOURI BIRD CONSERVATION INITIATIVE, CON-MISSOURI CONSERVATION HERITAGE FOUNDATION, CON-MISSOURI CONSERVATION PIONEERS, STA-MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION, CON-MISSOURI PRAIRIE FOUNDATION, CON-NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION, PRO-OLSSON ASSOCIATES, PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S), CON-RIVER BLUFFS AUDUBON SOCIETY, LOC-VERNON COUNTY COMMISSION

Date approved 04/25/2018

Grant Award Amount \$997,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$3,484,865.00

Joint Venture UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER-GREATLAKES

Bird Conservation Region BCR 22-Eastern Tallgrass Prairie

Project Description This proposal will work to improve the floodplain function, obtain more effective water management, and reduce damage from the frequent flooding that occurs along the Osage River. The improvements will be made in a way that better emulates the natural hydrology of the floodplain. The proposed design changes will allow for independent management of individual wetland units without compromising habitat conditions in other units. Other changes include a reduction in the number of water control structures, and the length, height, and placement of levees that are subject to frequent flood damages. Broader, gradually sloped levees and spillways tied into the natural topography will provide better flood resiliency. Narrow boat lane ditches will also be replaced by a complex of wider, meandering channels creating a variety and greater amount of shoreline and aquatic habitat niches for a range of water birds and aquatic species. Wetlands have been greatly reduced and altered in this region; these changes will enhance the character of the existing wetlands by emulating the natural processes, and provide more consistent high quality vegetative communities. This proposal will improve habitat conditions and water management across the range of habitat types that currently exist within the 3,935 acre floodplain portion of the area. A portion of Schell Lake will be restored to wetland habitat and levees will be designed to enhance the management of See and Barber Lakes along with the adjacent wetland acres. The project will also include the restoration of a portion of a tributary stream channel that was straightened at some point in the distant past.

Project Name SAN JOAQUIN WETLANDS CONSERVATION III

Location (County) CA-MERCED, CA-STANISLAUS

Congressional District CA-10, CA-16

Grantee Organization DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer Virginia Getz

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Partner Name STA-CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, STA-CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD, CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, OTH-FIELDS DUCK CLUB, LLC, LOC-GRASSLAND WATER DISTRICT, PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S)

Date approved 04/25/2018

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$2,557,547.00

Joint Venture CENTRAL VALLEY
Bird Conservation Region BCR 32-Coastal California

Project Description This proposal will restore or enhance 3,547 acres of wetlands and associated habitats. Grant funds will restore 1,340 acres of riparian floodplain wetlands on the San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge by re-establishing connectivity between the San Joaquin River, its floodplain, and a former braided channel complex by excavating a relic channel and replacing a dilapidated pump station with several culverts. Enhancement on one tract will focus on upgrading Grassland Water District (GWD)'s Skeleton Weir to manage irrigation and flood flows on the Santa Fe Canal. This structure is a vital cog in water delivery to not only another tract's complex of wetlands but also is key in regulating and managing water deliveries to 890 acres of seasonal wetlands. Habitat enhancement work on 435 acres includes improving water conveyance, re-contouring wetland footprints, and re-habilitating brood ponds, which will continue to permit wetland managers the ability to manipulate and manage water levels to maximize high quality moist-soil management but also provide brood habitat. Match funds provided by GWD are part of a multi-year phased water re-circulation project (pipeline and re-lift pump installation) permitting GWD a greater ability to recycle water and provide it to 350 acres of the GWD. Two tracts as well as the Lonetree and Gun Club Road conveyance enhancements in San Joaquin Wetlands Conservation II emphasize the ongoing partnership Ducks Unlimited, GWD, and NAWCA have in delivering and managing large-scale infrastructure improvements that benefit the entire North Grasslands section of the GEA. Finally, Fields Duck Club LLC is involved drilling an irrigation well to help provide sufficient water on 200 acres, particularly during years or times of the years when access to water is restricted.

Project Name NORTH PUGET LOWLANDS

Location (County) WA-ISLAND, WA-KING, WA-SKAGIT, WA-SNOHOMISH, WA-WHATCOM

Congressional District WA-1, WA-2

Grantee Organization DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer Greg Green

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Partner Name CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, PRO-EDISON FIELDS, LLC, CON-LUMMI ISLAND HERITAGE TRUST, PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S), CON-SKAGIT LAND TRUST, LOC-SNOHOMISH COUNTY, PRO-SNOQUALMIE SPRINGS, LLC, CON-SOUND SALMON SOLUTIONS, NAT-STILLAGUAMISH TRIBE OF INDIANS, CON-THE TRUMPETER SWAN SOCIETY, STA-WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE

Date approved 04/25/2018

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$2,724,247.00

Joint Venture PACIFIC BIRDS HABITAT

Bird Conservation Region BCR 5-Northern Pacific Rainforest

Project Description This proposal will conserve 1,536 acres of freshwater wetlands, estuaries, working-winter flooded agricultural lands, natural shorelines, and riparian forests. Over half a million ducks winter in the North Puget Lowlands (NPL) Ecoregion with Mallard, Northern Pintail, and American Wigeon accounting for 67% of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan population objective. Proposal actions will provide crucial migration and wintering habitat for multiple NAWCA high and

priority waterfowl species, and support a myriad of other wildlife species such as; shorebirds, waterbirds, secretive marsh birds, threatened and endangered salmonids, raptors, and a variety of songbirds. Tracts within this proposal focus on historic wetland types that are regionally and nationally decreasing.

Project Name NORTH DAKOTA NORTHERN PRAIRIE IV

Location (County) ND-BOTTINEAU, ND-BURKE, ND-DIVIDE, ND-MC HENRY, ND-MCLEAN, ND-MOUNTRAIL, ND-PIERCE, ND-RENVILLE, ND-ROLETTE, ND-WARD, ND-WILLIAMS

Congressional District ND-1

Grantee Organization U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

Project Officer Steve Fairbairn

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Partner Name CON-AUDUBON DAKOTA, CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, STA-NORTH DAKOTA GAME & FISH DEPARTMENT, CON-NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION, PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S)

Date approved 04/25/2018

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$1,836,288.00

Joint Venture PRAIRIE POTHOLE

Bird Conservation Region BCR 11-Prairie Potholes, BCR 17-Badlands and Prairies

Project Description This proposal will conserve, restore and improve wetland and grassland habitat on 30,061.6 acres in northcentral North Dakota. Natural wetlands and the native grasslands that are associated with them continue to be lost to the expansion of crop production across North Dakota. The value of perpetually protecting threatened wetlands and the grasslands that are associated with them has long been recognized. This proposal will build on past successes and continue to protect and improve wetland and grassland habitat in this highly vulnerable landscape. The Prairie Pothole Region annually produces 60-70% of the continent's grassland nesting (Mallard, Northern Pintail, Gadwall, Blue-Winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, American Wigeon, Green-winged Teal) and over-water nesting (Redhead, Canvasback, Ruddy Duck) species of waterfowl. The Prairie Pothole Joint Venture objectives are twofold: 1) to conserve habitat capable of supporting 6.8 million breeding ducks with a recruitment rate of 0.6 and an average fall flight of 9.5 million ducks, and 2) to stabilize or increase populations of declining wildlife species that depend on prairie wetland/grassland complexes, with special emphasis on non-game migratory birds. To meet these objectives, the following habitat goals need to be achieved: 1) protect 1.4 million acres of high priority wetlands at risk and 10.4 million acres of priority grasslands; 2) restore 682,000 acres of wetlands and 393,000 acres of grasslands; 3) enhance 3.2 million acres of wetlands and associated upland. The protections provided by wetland and grassland easements as well as the restoration and enhancement activities outlined in this proposal will contribute significantly toward meeting these habitat and population goals.

Project Name MISSOURI COTEAU HABITAT CONSERVATION XVI

Location (County) ND-BURKE, ND-BURLEIGH, ND-DICKEY, ND-DIVIDE, ND-EMMONS, ND-FOSTER, ND-KIDDER, ND-LA MOURE, ND-LOGAN, ND-MC HENRY, ND-MCINTOSH, ND-MCLEAN, ND-MOUNTRAIL, ND-

SHERIDAN, ND-STUTSMAN, ND-WARD, ND-WELLS, ND-WILLIAMS

Congressional District ND-1

Grantee Organization DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer Randy W. Renner

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Partner Name CON-AUDUBON DAKOTA, CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, CON-NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION, PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S)

Date approved 04/25/2018

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$1,509,241.00

Joint Venture PRAIRIE POTHOLE

Bird Conservation Region BCR 11-Prairie Potholes

Project Description This is phase sixteen of an ongoing project designed to protect wetland and grassland communities using a landscape level approach to planning and targeting. Ducks Unlimited, Inc. and its partners along with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) is proposing acquire grassland and wetland easements and one fee donated tract in the Missouri Coteau Region of North Dakota to protect 3,503 acres of grassland and wetland habitat for migratory birds. There will also be 333 acres of wetlands and cropland protected. The easements will become part of the National Wildlife Refuge System under the Small Wetlands Acquisition Program. The Missouri Coteau Habitat Conservation Project (MCHCP) landscape contains approximately 2,985,187 acres of native grassland habitat of which only about 375,000 acres are currently protected. The PPJV objective is to maintain all native grasslands by acquiring perpetual grassland easements on another 10.4 million acres of grassland and 1.3 million acres of wetlands. Under this proposal, 3,019 acres of native grassland and 817 acres of wetland habitat will be secured by perpetual easements. In some portions of the MCHCP area with high wetland densities, which attract large waterfowl breeding populations (> 100 pairs/sq. mile), waterfowl nest success is below levels necessary to maintain populations. It has been determined that in order to maintain breeding waterfowl populations, between 30 to 40% of the landscape must be in perennial grass cover suitable for successful nesting. The native grasslands of the Missouri Coteau are essential to the recovery of grassland songbirds.

Project Name MIDDLE SALT BAYOU MARSH RESTORATION & PRIVATE WETLANDS

Location (County) TX-ARANSAS, TX-AUSTIN, TX-BEE, TX-BRAZORIA, TX-BROOKS, TX-CALHOUN, TX-CAMERON, TX-CHAMBERS, TX-COLORADO, TX-FORT BEND, TX-GALVESTON, TX-GOLIAD, TX-HARRIS, TX-HIDALGO, TX-JACKSON, TX-JEFFERSON, TX-KENEDY, TX-KLEBERG, TX-LAVACA, TX-LIBERTY, TX-MATAGORDA, TX-NUECES, TX-ORANGE, TX-REFUGIO, TX-SAN PATRICIO, TX-STARR, TX-VICTORIA, TX-WALLER, TX-WHARTON, TX-WILLACY

Congressional District TX-2, TX-7, TX-8, TX-9, TX--10, TX-14, TX-15, TX-18, TX-22, TX--27, TX-28, TX-29, TX-34, TX-36

Grantee Organization DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer Todd Merendino

Grantee Email tmerendino@ducks.org

Partner Name LOC-JEFFERSON COUNTY, TX, CON-NATIONAL FISH & WILDLIFE FOUNDATION (NFWF),

STA-TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT, CON-TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

Date approved 04/25/2018

Grant Award Amount \$999,959.00

Proposed Match Amount \$2,000,000.00

Joint Venture GULF COAST

Bird Conservation Region BCR 36-Tamaulipan Brushlands, BCR 37-Gulf Coastal Prairie

Project Description This proposal will restore and enhance 3,355 acres of coastal marsh and palustrine wetlands. Grant and match funds will be used for construction of a siphon and upgrading of a water control structure that will provide hydrological restoration for 2,955(1,100) acres of estuarine wetlands in a portion of J.D. Murphree Wildlife Management Area (WMA) - Salt Bayou Unit. This is one of two siphons that are significant components of a phased approach described in the Salt Bayou Watershed Restoration Plan to protect and restore Chenier Plain marshes within the 139,000-acre Salt Bayou ecosystem. The siphon will allow excess freshwater from marsh north of the Gulf Intercoastal Waterway to flow into marsh south of the GIWW that has been cut off from this source of freshwater inflow for more than 75 years. NAWCA funding will be utilized to enhance 400 acres of privately owned wetlands, and will continue a 25-year partnership of landowners, state and federal agencies, and non-governmental organizations partners committed to the long-term support of private lands wetlands conservation on the Texas Gulf Coast through the Texas Prairie Wetlands Project. Project sites will be managed under 10-year agreements with the Private Landowners, and will include projects across each of the 3 Initiative Areas within the Texas portion of the Gulf Coast Joint Venture (Chenier Plain Initiative Area, Texas Mid-Coast Initiative Area, and Laguna Madre Initiative Area). Project sites will include moist-soil units and seasonally flooded rice fields that will provide important migration, wintering, and breeding habitat for numerous species of waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, and migrant landbirds.

Project Name MARSH ISLAND MARSH ENHANCEMENT

Congressional District LA-3

Grantee Organization DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer Cassidy Lejeune

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Partner Name CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, STA-LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & FISHERIES

Date approved 04/25/2018

Grant Award Amount \$999,978.00

Proposed Match Amount \$2,200,000.00

Joint Venture GULF COAST

Bird Conservation Region BCR 37-Gulf Coastal Prairie

Project Description The primary objective of this proposal is wetland preservation through enhancement and protection of coastal marshes within the Teche/Vermilion Basin. This proposal will help offset Louisiana's dramatic coastal land loss. This proposal will be located at Marsh Island Refuge which is owned and managed by Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF). Marsh Island is considered critically important to the Teche/Vermilion Basin. It provides a barrier between the interior bays/wetlands of the basin and the saltier waters of the Gulf of Mexico. This proposal also benefits an

additional 4,000 acres of intermediate and brackish marsh at Marsh Island Refuge. Intermediate and brackish marshes of the Big Impoundment will be enhanced as a result of active management provided by the replacement of water control structures. Habitat conditions will also be improved for waterfowl and other bird species. The structure will also regulate salinity levels, improve plant diversity, and sufficiently manage water levels during normal tidal cycles and flood events.

Project Name LAKE ERIE COASTAL WETLANDS II

Location (County) OH-ASHTABULA, OH-CUYAHOGA, OH-ERIE, OH-GEAUGA, OH-LAKE, OH-LORAIN, OH-MEDINA, OH-PORTAGE, OH-SUMMIT, OH-TRUMBULL

Congressional District OH-4, OH-7, OH-9 OH-11, OH-13, OH--14, OH-16

Grantee Organization DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer Russ Terry

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Partner Name OTH-CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, LOC-LAKE METROPARKS, CON-NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION, STA-OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, LOC-PORTAGE PARK DISTRICT, PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S), CON-THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, CON-WESTERN RESERVE LAND CONSERVANCY

Date approved 04/25/2018

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$5,522,033.00

Joint Venture UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER-GREATLAKES

Bird Conservation Region BCR 13-Lower Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Plain, BCR 22-Eastern Tallgrass Prairie

Project Description This proposal will conserve 2,765.5 acres of habitat for waterfowl, other wildlife and people. Partners will work together to permanently protect 2,515.5 of these acres at targeted locations through fee-title and conservation easement acquisition. Partners will work together to restore an additional 250 acres of wetlands and uplands within the proposal area. The diversity of habitat types provide nesting, migration stopover and wintering habitat for a number of waterfowl species, wetland obligate species and landbirds. Mallards, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, American Wigeon and other waterfowl are common in the proposal area during migration, particularly in spring.

Project Name KISSIMMEE TO THE COAST I

Location (County) FL-MARTIN, FL-OKEECHOBEE

Congressional District FL-17, FL-18

Grantee Organization DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer James A. Rader

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Partner Name CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, STA-FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, STA-FLORIDA FISH & WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION, STA-FLORIDA PARK SERVICE, CON-LOXAHATCHEE RIVER PRESERVATION INITIATIVE, CON-OPEN SPACE INSTITUTE

Date approved 04/25/2018

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$2,000,000.00

Joint Venture ATLANTIC COAST

Bird Conservation Region BCR 31-Peninsular Florida

Project Description This proposal's objectives are to enhance, restore and protect key wetlands within crucial watersheds in central peninsular Florida including, the Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee and the Loxahatchee River. The 4,400-square mile Okeechobee watershed is large and biologically diverse. Additionally, the Loxahatchee River is a designated national wild and scenic river, one of only two in the state of Florida. As home to an abundance of diverse plant and animal species, the geography supports a complex system of aquatic and terrestrial habitats. This proposal will support the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Project, the Everglades Headwater National Wildlife Refuge Land Protection Plan and Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project goals of protecting and restoring vital habitats in the watershed and will assist in maintaining or improving existing water quality in the Everglades and Jupiter Bay Estuary. This proposal will protect 5,783 wetland and associated upland acres in the Florida Peninsula and Coastal Plain multiple designated focus areas defined in the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture Implementation Plans for the Bird Conservation Region 31. The objectives of this proposal are to protect in perpetuity 1,361 acres of wetlands and 2,631 upland acres, and enhance 961 acres of wetlands and 830 acres of associated uplands across three proposal sites.

Project Name KANSAS PRAIRIE WETLANDS IV

Location (County) KS

Congressional District KS-1,2,3,4

Grantee Organization DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer Matthew Hough

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Partner Name CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, STA-KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, STA-KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, PARKS & TOURISM, PRO-ONEOK, INC, CON-PHEASANTS FOREVER, INC., PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S), PRO-STAR SEED, INC, PRO-STATE FARM INSURANCE, PRO-WWWW, INC

Date approved 04/25/2018

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$1,547,654.00

Joint Venture PLAYA LAKES, UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER-GREATLAKES

Bird Conservation Region BCR 18-Shortgrass Prairie, BCR 19-Central Mixed-grass Prairie, BCR 22-Eastern Tallgrass Prairie

Project Description This project is a continuation of the success of the playa wetlands initiative in western Kansas as well as the first efforts to initiate a large-scale private wetlands restoration effort across Kansas. Kansas Private Lands will promote additional private lands conservation statewide. This will further expand our private lands program across the state. These funds will target the restoration of priority wetlands and uplands, habitat enhancement, and the enrollment of conservation programs. Overall, we anticipate over 950 acres of enhanced and restored habitat, though we anticipate exceeding

these estimates as well. Public Land Restoration is a new focus on public lands wetland restorations that will provide at least 300 acres of wetland restoration and enhancement. In addition, Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area Restoration will include the restoration of a large wetland on the Wildlife Area to restore a wetland area known as the "goose pens". DU will assist Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism (KDWPT) with filling borrow areas, removing sediment, and installing a new water control structure. These efforts will allow staff to manage water tables for ideal habitat conditions, restoring 105 acres of shallow water marsh at one of the most important whooping crane migration stopover habitats in the world. This is a high priority area for KDWPT, The Nature Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, and other conservation partners for its importance to several priority migratory species including 45% of the shorebirds in the Western Hemisphere during spring migration. This includes 90% of the White-rumped, Baird's, and Stilt Sandpipers. In addition, Long-billed Dowitchers and Wilson's Phalaropes use the area during spring migration, when enough habitat is present per the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network.

Project Name EASTERN SOUTH DAKOTA WETLANDS III

Location (County) SD-AURORA, SD-BEADLE, SD-BON HOMME, SD-BROOKINGS, SD-BROWN, SD-BRULE, SD-BUFFALO, SD-CAMPBELL, SD-CHARLES MIX, SD-CLARK, SD-CLAY, SD-CODINGTON, SD-DAVISON, SD-DAY, SD-DEUEL, SD-DOUGLAS, SD-EDMUNDS, SD-FAULK, SD-GRANT, SD-HAMLIN, SD-HAND, SD-HANSON, SD-HUGHES, SD-HUTCHINSON, SD-HYDE, SD-JERAULD, SD-KINGSBURY, SD-LAKE, SD-LINCOLN, SD-MARSHALL, SD-MCCOOK, SD-MCPHERSON, SD-MINER, SD-MINNEHAHA, SD-MOODY, SD-POTTER, SD-ROBERTS, SD-SANBORN, SD-SPINK, SD-SULLY, SD-TURNER, SD-UNION, SD-WALWORTH, SD-YANKTON

Congressional District SD-1

Grantee Organization DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer Steve Donovan

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Partner Name LOC-BEADLE CONSERVATION DISTRICT, LOC-DAVISON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT, CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, LOC-EDMUNDS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT, PRO-FIRST BANK OF OMAHA, OTH-GROHNE FAMILY FOUNDATION, LOC-HANSON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT, LOC-JAMES RIVER WATER DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, LOC-KINGSBURY CONSERVATION DISTRICT, LOC-MARSHALL COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT, LOC-MCPHERSON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT, LOC-MINER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, PRO-NEXT LEVEL AG, LLC, PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S), LOC-ROBERTS CONSERVATION DISTRICT, LOC-SANBORN CONSERVATION DISTRICT, STA-SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH & PARKS, STA-SOUTH DAKOTA HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND

Date approved 04/25/2018

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$1,615,216.00

Joint Venture PRAIRIE POTHOLE

Bird Conservation Region BCR 11-Prairie Potholes

Project Description This project will protect, restore, enhance and establish over 30,000 acres in the Prairie Pothole Region of eastern South Dakota. A diverse and extensive partnership helped develop proposal targeting important wetland habitats in this landscape. Partners are continuing and expanding efforts to protect important wetland and grassland habitats with perpetual conservation easements. In

this current effort, almost 1,500 acres will be permanently protected through easements held by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The second point of emphasis is targeted at "working agricultural lands" and promoting innovative farming practices that benefit wildlife. Over the last several decades, agricultural operations in the Northern Great Plains have changed dramatically, usually resulting in detrimental impacts to wetlands, grasslands, wildlife and other natural resources. Livestock numbers and grasslands have declined. Intensive tillage practices became the norm, which has had detrimental impacts to soil health and water quality. In many areas, over half of the original topsoil is gone, wetlands are filling with sediment and water quality has become severely impaired in our lakes, streams and rivers.

Project Name CONSERVING THE UPPER MISSISSIPPI MIGRATION CORRIDOR

Location (County) IA-CLAYTON, IA-CLINTON, IA-DES MOINES, IA-LINN, IA-LOUISA, IA-MUSCATINE, IA-WASHINGTON, IL-CALHOUN, MO-LINCOLN, MO-ST. CHARLES

Congressional District IA-1, IA-2, IL-13, MO-3

Grantee Organization DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer Michael Shannon

Grantee Email mshannon@ducks.org

Partner Name LOC-CLINTON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD, CON-CLINTON COUNTY CONSERVATION FOUNDATION, PRO-CRST INTERNATIONAL, CON-DELTA WATERFOWL FOUNDATION, THREE RIVERS CHAPTER, CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, OTH-FRED MAYTAG II FAMILY FOUNDATION, STA-IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, LOC-LINN COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD, LOC-LOUISA COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD, CON-MISSISSIPPI VALLEY SPORTSMEN, PRO-MONSANTO, PRO-NEXTERA ENERGY, PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S), CON-THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, CON-WATERFOWL USA, MISSISSIPPI FLYWAY CHAPTER, CON-WETLANDS AMERICA TRUST

Date approved 04/25/2018

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$4,628,736.00

Joint Venture UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER-GREATLAKES

Bird Conservation Region BCR 22-Eastern Tallgrass Prairie, BCR 23-Prairie Hardwood Transition

Project Description This project is the start of a multi-year effort that focuses on the protection, restoration and enhancement of major wetland and grassland complexes within the Upper Mississippi River floodplain and associated tributaries in eastern Iowa, western Illinois and northeast Missouri. The proposed area is located midway along one of the largest waterbird migration corridors in North America. Millions of waterfowl, wading birds, shorebirds and songbirds follow this migration corridor as they migrate out of breeding areas in the Prairie Pothole Region (PPR), Boreal Forest and Arctic tundra each fall, working their way south to wintering areas in the Mississippi Alluvial Valley (MAV), the Gulf Coast and beyond. Conversely, these same birds utilize habitat in the Upper Mississippi River watershed during spring migration to acquire essential nutrients for migration and breeding. While many species of migratory birds breed within the project area, project activities concentrate on protecting and improving migration habitat for a wide variety of wetland, riparian and grassland dependent birds. The goal is to create "Stepping Stones" of habitat to ensure that migrating birds have dependable, high quality habitat available at this critical point in their annual cycle. This habitat will

benefit five NAWCA High Priority species including Northern Pintail, Mallard, Lesser Scaup, Greater Scaup and American Black Duck. Proposed sites will also benefit six priority waterfowl species and thirteen priority NAWCA species including American and Least Bittern, Black Crowned Night Heron, King Rail, Short-eared Owl and Redheaded Woodpecker.

Project Name CAROLINA WETLANDS INITIATIVE VI

Location (County) NC-CARTERET, NC-ONSLow, NC-PENDER

Congressional District NC-CARTERET-3, NC-ONSLow-3, NC-PENDER-7

Grantee Organization NORTH CAROLINA COASTAL LAND TRUST

Project Officer Janice Allen

Grantee Email janice@coastallandtrust.org

Partner Name CON-NORTH CAROLINA COASTAL FEDERATION, CON-NORTH CAROLINA COASTAL LAND TRUST, STA-NORTH CAROLINA ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT GRANT PROGRAM, PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S)

Date approved 04/25/2018

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$2,296,861.00

Joint Venture ATLANTIC COAST

Bird Conservation Region BCR 27-Southeastern Coastal Plain

Project Description This project will permanently conserve three target tracts through fee title or conservation easement acquisition: the 4,243-acre Salters Creek Landing/Sailors' Snug Harbor Tract in Carteret County, NC; the 60-acre private landowner tract in Pender County, NC; and the 50-acre White Oak River/Schneider Farm in Onslow County. This proposal includes an important Atlantic Coast Joint Venture (ACJV) Waterfowl Focus Area, the Neuse-Pamlico Rivers Area. One of the tracts is situated near the Cedar Island National Wildlife Refuge and Pamlico Sound, hosts a tremendous diversity of overwintering diving ducks and other waterfowl, along with excellent nesting habitat for American Black Duck. All of the target tracts within the Carolina Wetlands Initiative VI connect or buffer existing conservation lands. Another tract connects over 200-acres of conservation easement lands held by North Carolina Coastal Land Trust (NCCLT) along the Foy-Futch Creek Watershed. Tract 3 lies near over 700-acres of land on the White Oak River owned and managed by North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission as public game lands. Habitat for five high priority waterfowl species (Mallard, American Black Duck, Lesser Scaup, Greater Scaup, and Northern Pintail) and six priority waterfowl species (Wood Duck, American Widgeon, and Ring-necked Duck, Redhead, Atlantic Brant and Canvasback) will be enhanced.

Project Name ATCHAFALAYA RIVER BASIN II

Location (County) LA-IBERIA, LA-IBERVILLE

Congressional District LA-3, LA-6

Grantee Organization THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Project Officer James Bergan

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Partner Name OTH-CATERPILLAR FOUNDATION, PRO-ENTERPRISE PRODUCTS OPERATING LLC, STA-LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, OTH-META ALICE KEITH BRATTEN FOUNDATION, PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S), CON-THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Date approved 04/25/2018

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$2,850,760.00

Joint Venture LOWER MISSISSIPPI VALLEY

Bird Conservation Region BCR 26-Mississippi Alluvial Valley

Project Description This proposal is part of a larger effort to reverse this downward trajectory in wetland quality in the Atchafalaya. It will be the first project to install hydrological restoration features on private lands in the Atchafalaya River Basin. Without restoration and enhancement activities that address these hydrological problems, habitat quantity and quality will continue to decline along with critical ecosystems such as bald cypress-tupelo forest and back swamp lakes, fisheries, and waterfowl and waterbird habitat. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and partners will restore a more natural hydrologic regime on a portion of TNC's Atchafalaya Basin Preserve (Basin) and adjacent state lands. The hydrologic restoration, and the accompanying wetland restoration, will be focused on the areas south of Bayou Sorrel and incorporates restoration elements from the State of Louisiana's East Grand Lake Plan (LADNR-ABP 2012). This Plan seeks to restore the natural north to south sheet flow pattern in portions of the Basin that have been isolated by stream channelization and canal dredging. A critical challenge to accomplishing large-scale restoration projects is that landowners are reluctant to cooperate with the LADNR-ABP due to fears about loss of property rights and liability. The proposed restoration and enhancement will allow TNC and the state to work together to implement projects, for the first time, and develop a platform to demonstrate to landowners, the benefit of cooperating in wetland restoration efforts. Our hope is that success of this project on TNC and State lands will encourage other private landowners to engage with LADNR-ABP, thus allowing us to leverage this work for additional restoration in the future. Habitat protected through this project will benefit six high priority waterfowl species (Mallard, Northern Pintail, Lesser Scaup, Greater Scaup, American Black Duck, and Mottled Duck), five other priority waterfowl species (Wood Duck, Ring-necked Duck, American Wigeon, Canvasback, and Redhead), and 11 additional waterfowl species.

Project Name AT-RISK PRAIRIE POTHOLE CONSERVATION II

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

Congressional District ND-1

Grantee Organization DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer Jonas Davis

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Partner Name CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, STA-NORTH DAKOTA GAME & FISH DEPARTMENT, CON-NORTH DAKOTA NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST, PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S)

Date approved 04/25/2018

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$1,526,685.00

Joint Venture PRAIRIE POTHOLE
Bird Conservation Region BCR 11-Prairie Potholes

Project Description This proposal was 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. With the tremendous response and participation of landowners in the Phase I project, Ducks Unlimited, its partners, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) are proposing Phase II to acquire critical wetland and grassland easements in perpetuity and maintain grassland habitat through short-term programs to conserve 12,029 acres of prairie pothole habitat for migratory birds and the people of North Dakota (ND).

Project Name SOUTHERN RED RIVER VALLEY WETLANDS II

Location (County) MN-BECKER, MN-CLAY, MN-NORMAN, MN-TRAVERSE, MN-WILKIN

Congressional District MN-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, STA-MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, CON-PHEASANTS FOREVER, INC., CON-THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Date approved 04/25/2018

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$4,333,533.00

Joint Venture PRAIRIE POTHOLE

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

Project Description This project builds upon the habitat protection and enhancement efforts and is aimed at accelerating the conservation of prairie wetlands and associated wildlife in the Prairie Pothole Region (PPR), specifically the Red River Valley in Minnesota (MN). Seven state, federal and non-profit partners have come together in MN to protect and enhance 2,033.71 acres of habitat crucial to waterfowl and a whole suite of species. This proposed area has been identified by partners because of its importance to breeding waterfowl and stateside efforts taking place in this area that are improving waterfowl populations. This project area is home to high waterfowl breeding densities and has and will be an area where partners build upon existing habitat complexes to improve waterfowl densities. Due to its high value to numerous rare, threatened and endangered plant and animal species, there is an urgent need to act quickly to protect and restore remaining wetlands, native communities and upland nesting cover that has been previously converted.

Project Name NORTHEASTERN CALIFORNIA WETLAND HABITAT PROJECT IV

Location (County) CA-LASSEN, CA-MODOC, CA-SHASTA, CA-SISKIYOU

Congressional District CA-1

Grantee Organization CALIFORNIA WATERFOWL ASSOCIATION

Project Officer Chadd Santerre

Grantee Email csanterre@calwaterfowl.org

Partner Name STA-CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE, STA-CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, CON-CALIFORNIA WATERFOWL ASSOCIATION, LOC-PIT RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT, PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S)

Date approved 04/25/2018

Grant Award Amount \$972,430.00

Proposed Match Amount \$1,460,377.00

Joint Venture INTERMOUNTAIN WEST

Bird Conservation Region BCR 15-Sierra Nevada, BCR 9-Great Basin

Project Description The Southern Oregon and Northeastern California (SONEC) region is an area of continental significance to Pacific Flyway ducks, geese, and swans (NAWMP 2012), and is identified by the Intermountain West Joint Venture (IWJV) as one of the highest priority landscapes in need of wetland restoration. SONEC provides an essential link between the continentally significant waterfowl wintering area of California's (CA) Central Valley and continentally significant breeding areas in Alaska and the Prairie-Parklands. SONEC is identified as the most important fall and spring migration habitat complex within the Pacific Flyway, supporting an estimated 80% of the Flyway's waterfowl. Over 30% of the continental pintail population relies on SONEC for meeting resource energy requirements during spring migration. Estimates suggest that 20% of North America's cinnamon teal population and 18% of the Pacific Flyway population of Mallards and Redheads breed within SONEC. The region hosts eight of the 18 key shorebird sites identified by the IWJV, and is very important to breeding waterbird species such as the Sandhill Crane, American White Pelican, and White-faced Ibis.

Project Name IOWA-MINNESOTA PRAIRIE POTHOLE II

Location (County) IA-BUTLER, IA-CERRO GORDO, IA-CLAY, IA-DICKINSON, IA-EMMET, IA-FRANKLIN, IA-HANCOCK, IA-KOSSUTH, IA-MITCHELL, IA-PALO ALTO, IA-POCAHONTAS, IA-WINNEBAGO, IA-WORTH, IA-WRIGHT, MN-BLUE EARTH, MN-FARIBAULT, MN-FREEBORN, MN-MARTIN, MN-WASECA

Congressional District IA-1, IA-4

Grantee Organization PHEASANTS FOREVER, INC.

Project Officer Tim Zemke

Grantee Email tzemke@pheasantsforever.org

Partner Name CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, LOC-FRANKLIN COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD, STA-IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, CON-IOWA NATURAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION, PRO-ITC MIDWEST, LLC, STA-LESSARD SAMS OUTDOOR HERITAGE COUNCIL, LOC-MITCHELL COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD, CON-PHEASANTS FOREVER, INC., PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S), LOC-WINNEBAGO COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

Date approved 04/25/2018

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$3,827,815.00

Joint Venture PRAIRIE POTHOLE

Bird Conservation Region BCR 11-Prairie Potholes, BCR 22-Eastern Tallgrass Prairie

Project Description Partners will accelerate wetland and upland conservation by acquiring 1,199.7 acres in fee title and enhance 2,668 acres of wetlands. Lands acquired from willing sellers will be prioritized using criteria used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and MN Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which include location on the landscape, breeding waterfowl density, restoration potential, native community protection, proximity to other investments in perpetually protected habitats. Wetlands will be enhanced by constructing water control structures or other professionally engineered solutions to water quantity/quality management, rough fish management or other relevant considerations. All partners involved in this proposal are familiar with the proper techniques for acquiring and enhancing wetland and upland habitats.

Project Name CENTRAL MISSISSIPPI WETLANDS CONSERVATION I

Location (County) MS-CLAIBORNE, MS-RANKIN, MS-YAZOO

Congressional District MS-2, MS-3

Grantee Organization MISSISSIPPI FISH & WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

Project Officer James L. Cummins

Grantee Email jcummins@wildlifemiss.org

Partner Name PRO-HEADWATERS, INC, CON-MISSISSIPPI FISH & WILDLIFE FOUNDATION, CON-MISSISSIPPI LAND TRUST, PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S), CON-WETLANDS AMERICA TRUST

Date approved 04/25/2018

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$4,655,500.00

Joint Venture EASTERN GULF COAST, LOWER MISSISSIPPI VALLEY

Bird Conservation Region BCR 26-Mississippi Alluvial Valley, BCR 27-Southeastern Coastal Plain

Project Description This proposal will protect in perpetuity 2,343 acres of wetlands and associated uplands on private lands along the Pearl and Mississippi Rivers and tributaries, and to restore 285 non-add acres. This proposal directly supports permanently protecting 2,343 acres on four strategic private tracts in both drainages, and restoring through reforestation and control of non-native, invasive vegetation on 285 non-add acres of forested wetlands within the protected area on the Pearl River. Proposed fee acquisition and restoration will conserve in perpetuity 1,733 acres of forested wetlands, 205 acres of emergent marsh, 7 acres of open water and 398 acres of adjacent uplands (forest and fields) within the East Gulf Coast Prairie (EGCP) and Lower Mississippi Valley (LMV) Joint Venture areas. Purchase and restoration of 375 acres will enlarge the 2,595-acre Fannye Cook Natural Area (FCNA) owned and administered by Mississippi Fish and Wildlife Foundation (MFWF) adjacent to the Pearl River. Protection through conservation easements on 126 acres of managed wetlands in the Yazoo-Sunflower River Basin and 1,842 acres along the Mississippi River will provide large tracts of natural wetlands along migratory corridors used by a diversity of birds on their way to the coastal areas of Mississippi, Louisiana and East Texas.