

NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION ACT

U.S. Standard Grants, 2019-1

Project Name VIRGINIA TIDAL RIVERS & BAYS III

Location (County) VA-ACCOMACK, VA-ISLE OF WIGHT, VA-SOUTHAMPTON

Congressional District VA-2, VA-3, VA-4

Grantee Organization DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer James Rader

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Project Country US

Partner Name CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S), STA-VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY, STA-VIRGINIA OUTDOORS FOUNDATION

Date approved 09/05/2018

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$2,001,199.00

Joint Venture ATLANTIC COAST

Bird Conservation Region BCR 27-Southeastern Coastal Plain, BCR 30-New England/Mid-Atlantic Coast

Project Description The objective of this project is to protect in perpetuity 867 acres of wetlands and 497 acres of uplands, and enhance 993 acres of wetlands across three project sites on public and private lands. Tract 1 is in Bird Conservation Region 27 and South Atlantic Migratory Bird Initiative while Tracts 2-3 are in BCR 30 and the New England/Mid-Atlantic Coast Bird Conservation Region Implementation Plan. The project sites are included in two Waterfowl Focus Areas defined in the BCR Implementation Plans. Tracts 2 and 3 are both included in the New England/Mid-Atlantic Coast Bird Conservation Region Implementation Plan, as Tract 2 lies within the Lower James River Focus Area and Tract 3 is in the Delmarva Peninsula Focus Area. Enhancement of 993 acres of managed emergent wetlands on Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge (Tract 3) will add foraging opportunities for a variety of bird guilds, with late summer and early fall migrants using these critical coastal wetland ecosystems. Enhancement of wetlands on Tract 3 is especially important as it lies within the Delmarva Peninsula, a Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network Site of International Importance and the most important bird area in the state of VA.

Project Name TUALATIN RIVER BASIN - LOWER COLUMBIA RIVER ESTUARY REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP I

Location (County) OR-WASHINGTON, OR-YAMHILL, WA-CLARK, WA-PACIFIC, WA-WAHKIAKUM

Congressional District OR-1, WA-3

Grantee Organization COLUMBIA LAND TRUST

Project Officer Ian Sinks

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Project Country US

Partner Name PRO-ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS NORTHWEST, INC, LOC-CLEAN WATER INSTITUTE, LOC-CLEAN WATER SERVICES, CON-COLUMBIA LAND TRUST, CON-FRIENDS OF THE TUALATIN RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, CON-FRIENDS OF TREES, LOC-JOINT WATER COMMISSION, LOC-METRO, STA-OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE

Date approved 09/05/2018

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$2,875,378.60

Joint Venture PACIFIC BIRDS HABITAT

Bird Conservation Region BCR 5-Northern Pacific Rainforest

Project Description This project is the first of several emphasizing collaborative engagement of multiple partners focusing on wetland and riparian conservation within the Willamette Valley of western Oregon and the Lower Columbia River Estuary of southwestern Washington and northwestern Oregon. At the foundation of this multi-phased effort is an extensive network of riverine and estuarine floodplains comprised of diverse palustrine and estuarine wetlands and forested uplands that extend over a 712 square mile area encompassing the Tualatin River Basin, and nearly 400,000 acres within the Lower Columbia River Estuary. This initial phase will conserve 870 acres of nationally and regionally decreasing wetland types and associated forested uplands. The project focuses on restoring a multitude of habitats such as: palustrine emergent wetlands, seasonal wet prairies, estuarine emergent wetlands, seasonally flooded upland wetland buffers, estuarine salt marshes, forested riparian corridors, forested estuarine and freshwater uplands, mixed coniferous-deciduous and oak dominated uplands, and forested scrub-shrub habitat communities in both palustrine and estuarine systems.

Project Name TEXAS BEACHES TO BAYS

Location (County) TX-BRAZORIA, TX-CALHOUN

Congressional District TX-14, TX-27

Grantee Organization GALVESTON BAY FOUNDATION

Project Officer Mike Lange

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Project Country US

Partner Name PRO-ADVANCED ECOLOGY, LTD, CON-NATIONAL FISH & WILDLIFE FOUNDATION (NFWF), OTH-NATURAL RESOURCES DAMAGE ASSESSMENT TRUSTEE COUNCIL (NRDATC), PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S), CON-TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE FOUNDATION, CON-THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND

Date approved 09/05/2018

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$2,009,000.00

Joint Venture GULF COAST

Bird Conservation Region BCR 37-Gulf Coastal Prairie

Project Description The project will permanently protect 5,369 acres of coastal habitat, representing a mix of coastal prairie, coastal barrier island, coastal marsh, uplands, shallow freshwater depressions, and beach/dune habitat located in three separate tracts in Brazoria and Calhoun counties in the Texas Mid-Coast. The application includes significant match activities in the form of a fee-title acquisition of

Powderhorn II consisting of 5,058 acres of coastal wetlands and uplands representing a portion of the historic Powderhorn Ranch. Galveston Bay Foundation will purchase two tracts in Brazoria County (Folletts Island Conservation Initiative) through fee title acquisition and transfer those tracts to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for permanent protection and management. Deemed a nationally significant coastal barrier ecosystem, Folletts Island is situated within the Gulf Prairies and Marshes ecological region and borders the Christmas Bay Coastal Preserve and Drum Bay, which are part of the Galveston Bay Ecosystem, and part of the Galveston Bay Estuary Program. Tract 1 is adjacent to the Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge and is located within the Columbia Bottomlands project area established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to conserve important wetlands through partnership conservation efforts.

Project Name SOUTHWEST WETLAND INITIATIVE OF MINNESOTA (SWIM) IV

Location (County) MN-BROWN, MN-COTTONWOOD, MN-JACKSON, MN-LAC QUI PARLE, MN-LINCOLN, MN-LYON, MN-MARTIN, MN-MURRAY, MN-NOBLES, MN-PIPESTONE, MN-WATONWAN, MN-YELLOW MEDICINE

Congressional District MN-1, MN-7

Grantee Organization PHEASANTS FOREVER, INC.

Project Officer Tim Zemke

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Project Country US

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

Date approved 09/05/2018

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$6,275,421.00

Joint Venture PRAIRIE POTHOLE

Bird Conservation Region BCR 11-Prairie Potholes

Project Description This project will permanently protect 1,039 acres of wetlands and associated uplands in the Minnesota portion of the Prairie Coteau. The strategic acquisition and restoration of lands adjacent to existing prairie wetland complexes increases the overall size of the habitat complex, thus reducing edge and tremendously benefitting those species that rely on larger blocks of habitat including the marbled godwit, bobolink, and grasshopper sparrow. The project will also reduce soil erosion and improve water quality that will stimulate vegetative growth and invertebrate populations within the wetlands, and provide high quality hunting and outdoor recreational opportunities to the public.

Project Name SOUTHERN CENTRAL VALLEY WETLANDS CONSERVATION I

Location (County) CA-FRESNO, CA-KERN, CA-MERCED

Congressional District CA-FRESNO-21, CA-KERN-21, CA-MERCED-16

Grantee Organization DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer Virginia Getz

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Project Country US

Partner Name STA-CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE, STA-CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD, CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, LOC-GRASSLAND WATER DISTRICT, PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S), CON-WATERFOWL ENVIRONMENT PRESERVATION ORGANIZATION

Date approved 09/05/2018

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$2,127,856.00

Joint Venture CENTRAL VALLEY

Bird Conservation Region BCR 32-Coastal California

Project Description This project will restore or enhance 3,546 acres of wetlands and associated habitats. Grant funds will enhance 400 acres of palustrine emergent wetlands on the San Luis National Wildlife Refuge- East Bear Creek Unit and Mendota Wildlife Area by recontouring wetland basins and using cut material to improve levee slopes and heights. Match and nonmatch funds will rehabilitate two re-lift pumps and conveyance structures that provide water to 1,275 acres of seasonal and semi-permanent wetlands on SLNWR - West Bear Creek, San Luis, and Kesterson Units. Match funds will restore 299 acres and enhance 52 acres of wetland and associated upland habitats at North Grasslands Wildlife Area - Salt Slough and Gadwall Units and Los Banos Wildlife Area through re-grading wetland basins, constructing levees, replacing conveyance structures, installing pipelines to improve delivery and management of water, and rehabilitating uplands adjoining wetlands by disking, grading, spraying perennial pepperweed, and planting native grasses.

Project Name SOUTH DAKOTA WOLSEY IBA HABITAT CONSERVATION II

Location (County) SD-AURORA, SD-BEADLE, SD-DAVISON, SD-DOUGLAS, SD-EDMUNDS, SD-FAULK, SD-HAND, SD-HANSON, SD-HUTCHINSON, SD-HYDE, SD-JERAULD, SD-MINER, SD-POTTER, SD-SANBORN, SD-SPINK, SD-SULLY, SD-WALWORTH

Congressional District SD-AT LARGE

Grantee Organization AUDUBON DAKOTA

Project Officer Marshall Johnson

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Project Country US

Partner Name CON-AUDUBON DAKOTA, CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, LOC-JAMES RIVER WATER DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S), STA-SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH & PARKS

Date approved 09/05/2018

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$1,505,884.00

Joint Venture PRAIRIE POTHOLE

Bird Conservation Region BCR 11-Prairie Potholes

Project Description The South Dakota Wolsey IBA Habitat Conservation (SDWIHC) Project is phase two of an ongoing project designed to perpetually protect wetland grassland communities using landscape level conservation planning. The SDWIHC Project Phase II grant and matching funds will be used to protect 2,131.9 acres through easements, establish 11.9 acres, and enhance 2,913.9 acres while overall protecting 5,057.63 acres within east-central South Dakota, in the Prairie Pothole Joint Venture.

Project Name SHERBURNE WMA & WHITE RIVER NWR ENHANCEMENT

Location (County) AR-ARKANSAS, LA-IBERVILLE, LA-MADISON, MS-HOLMES, MS-WARREN

Congressional District AR-1, LA-5, LA-6, MS-2

Grantee Organization DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer Nick Biasini

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Project Country US

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

Date approved 09/05/2018

Grant Award Amount \$999,854.00

Proposed Match Amount \$2,710,000.00

Joint Venture LOWER MISSISSIPPI VALLEY

Bird Conservation Region BCR 26-Mississippi Alluvial Valley

Project Description This project is the initial endeavor of a multi-phase effort aimed at the protection and enhancement of critical wetland habitats on public lands in the Mississippi Alluvial Valley (MAV) by leveraging private land conservation values perpetually protected via conservation easements/servitudes in Louisiana and Mississippi. Grant funds will be combined with match and federal non-match funds from five partners to complete protection and enhancement of 2,116 acres on four project sites in the MAV in Louisiana, Mississippi and Arkansas.

Project Name SABINE RANCH - MCFADDIN NWR II

Location (County) TX-JEFFERSON

Congressional District TX-14

Grantee Organization U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

Project Officer Tim Cooper

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Project Country US

Partner Name CON-NATIONAL FISH & WILDLIFE FOUNDATION (NFWF), CON-TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE FOUNDATION, OTH-THE FONDREN FOUNDATION, OTH-THE KELSEY FOUNDATION, OTH-THE MEADOWS FOUNDATION, PRO-WNH INVESTMENTS, LLC

Date approved 09/05/2018

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$4,201,000.00

Joint Venture GULF COAST
Bird Conservation Region BCR 37-Gulf Coastal Prairie

Project Description This project will acquire 2,102 acres of coastal palustrine freshwater wetlands and coastal prairie from The Conservation Fund, to be protected as part of the McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge on the upper Texas coast. This acquisition is contained within the larger 12,376-acre tract known as Sabine Ranch, purchased in September 2016 by TCF to eliminate the imminent fragmentation and development threat to the property.

Project Name PRAIRIE LAKES X WETLAND INITIATIVE

Location (County) IA-DICKINSON, IA-EMMET, IA-FRANKLIN, IA-HANCOCK, IA-HUMBOLDT, IA-KOSSUTH, IA-WINNEBAGO, IA-WORTH, IA-WRIGHT

Congressional District IA-1, IA-4

Grantee Organization IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Project Officer Kelly Smith

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Project Country US

Partner Name LOC-DICKINSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD, LOC-DICKINSON COUNTY WATER QUALITY COMMISSION, LOC-HUMBOLDT COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD, STA-IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, CON-IOWA NATURAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION, LOC-KOSSUTH COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD, CON-NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION - EAST FORK LONGBEARDS, CON-NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION - TWO RIVERS TIMBER GHOSTS, OTH-OKOBOJI FOUNDATION, CON-PHEASANTS FOREVER (HUMBOLDT COUNTY CHAPTER), CON-PHEASANTS FOREVER (KOSSUTH COUNTY), PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S), CON-SPIRIT LAKE PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION, LOC-WORTH COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD, CON-WORTH COUNTY CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

Date approved 09/05/2018

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$3,540,250.00

Joint Venture PRAIRIE POTHOLE

Bird Conservation Region BCR 11-Prairie Potholes

Project Description The project focuses on wetland and grassland restoration efforts in the Iowa portion of the Prairie Pothole Region (PPR), an area of continental importance to waterfowl and many other species of waterbirds, shorebirds, and grassland birds. Activities will turn large isolated wetlands into the cornerstones of wetland grassland complexes, and improve management of large prairie marshes to benefit migrating birds and provide better nesting and brood-rearing habitats for the birds that breed in this area. Historically, the project area was one of the most productive portions of the PPR.

Project Name PLATTE RIVER WATERSHED

Location (County) NE-BLAINE, NE-BUFFALO, NE-BUTLER, NE-COLFAX, NE-CUSTER, NE-DAWSON, NE-DODGE, NE-GARDEN, NE-GARFIELD, NE-GOSPER, NE-GREELEY, NE-HALL, NE-HAMILTON, NE-HOWARD, NE-KEARNEY, NE-KEITH, NE-LINCOLN, NE-LOUP, NE-MERRICK, NE-NANCE, NE-PHELPS, NE-PLATTE, NE-

POLK, NE-SAUNDERS, NE-SHERMAN, NE-VALLEY

Congressional District NE-1, NE-3

Grantee Organization DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer John Denton

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Project Country US

Partner Name CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, STA-NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST, STA-NEBRASKA GAME & PARKS COMMISSION, CON-PLATTE RIVER WHOOPING CRANE MAINTENANCE TRUST, LOC-PLATTE VALLEY WEED MANAGEMENT AREA, PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S)

Date approved 09/05/2018

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$2,009,370.00

Joint Venture PLAYA LAKES, RAINWATER BASIN, 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 will protect, restore, and enhance wetland habitat in this important migration habitat. It is a collaborative effort involving several organizations, state and federal agencies, and landowners determined to protect and restore vitally important wetland habitats along the Platte and Loup Rivers. The suite of projects will exhibit a concentrated landscape approach to dealing with habitat issues these rivers currently face. This includes direct habitat protection of over 900 acres via conservation easement and fee-title acquisition and over 9,000 acres of enhancement and restoration of shallow wetland habitat.

Project Name PHIL'S CUT MARSH ENHANCEMENT

Location (County) LA-JEFFERSON, LA-LAFOURCHE, LA-TERREBONNE

Congressional District LA-1

Grantee Organization DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer Cassidy Lejeune

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Project Country US

Partner Name STA-COASTAL PROTECTION & RESTORATION AUTHORITY OF LOUISIANA, CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, PRO-LIVING SHORELINES SOLUTIONS, INC, LOC-LOUISIANA LAND & EXPLORATION, CON-TIERRA FOUNDATION, LLC, PRO-TIERRA RESOURCES, LLC

Date approved 09/05/2018

Grant Award Amount \$878,259.00

Proposed Match Amount \$1,756,519.00

Joint Venture GULF COAST

Bird Conservation Region BCR 37-Gulf Coastal Prairie

Project Description In total, 2,865 acres will be enhanced on private and public lands in coastal Louisiana with benefits to priority migratory birds within National Priority Wetlands Areas of North American Waterfowl Management Plan, Partners in Flight, U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan, and North American Waterbird Conservation Plan. The project features of the four tracts will increase foraging,

resting, and nesting opportunities for waterfowl, shorebirds, waterbirds, and other migratory birds that regularly use coastal habitats in south Louisiana. Habitat conditions within these tracts are quite diverse and cater to the needs of a wide variety of bird species.

Project Name NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COASTAL WETLANDS PROTECTION & RESTORATION

Location (County) CA-DEL NORTE, CA-HUMBOLDT

Congressional District CA-2

Grantee Organization CALIFORNIA STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY

Project Officer Michael Bowen

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Project Country US

Partner Name STA-CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CORPS, STA-CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY, STA-CALIFORNIA STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY, CON-CALIFORNIA TROUT, CON-EEL RIVER WATERFOWL ASSOCIATION, LOC-HUMBOLDT COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT, SCH-HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY, LOC-MCKINLEYVILLE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT, CON-NORTHCOAST REGIONAL LAND TRUST, PRO-PACIFIC COAST SEED, INC., LOC-REDWOOD COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY, CON-SMITH RIVER ALLIANCE, CON-THE WILDLANDS CONSERVANCY

Date approved 09/05/2018

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$2,097,476.00

Joint Venture PACIFIC BIRDS HABITAT

Bird Conservation Region BCR 5-Northern Pacific Rainforest

Project Description This proposal will protect, restore or enhance 183 acres of tidal marsh, 30 acres of estuarine mudflat and aquatic habitat, 662 acres of seasonal wetlands, 15 acres of riparian, 6 acres of upland transition habitat, 50 acres of coastal dunes, and 44 acres of redwood forest. The project will benefit priority bird species by providing foraging and resting habitat for pintails, greater and lesser scaup, Pacific black brant, cackling goose, tundra swans, canvasbacks, and wigeon; and nesting, cover, and foraging habitat for mallards and wood ducks

Project Name NORTH DAKOTA GREAT PLAINS X

Location (County) ND-ADAMS, ND-BILLINGS, ND-BOWMAN, ND-BURLEIGH, ND-DUNN, ND-EMMONS, ND-GOLDEN VALLEY, ND-GRANT, ND-HETTINGER, ND-MCKENZIE, ND-MERCER, ND-MORTON, ND-OLIVER, ND-SIOUX, ND-SLOPE, ND-STARK

Congressional District ND-AT LARGE

Grantee Organization U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

Project Officer Steve Fairbairn

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Project Country US

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

Date approved 09/05/2018

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$2,000,000.00

Joint Venture NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS, PRAIRIE POTHOLE

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

Project Description This project is phase ten of a multi-year project to establish, enhance and protect valuable wetland and associated upland habitat. With our matching partner and grant funds from this project, 2,164 acres of native grasslands and 94 acres of wetlands will be perpetually protected by fee donation or acquired easements. Additionally, 400 acres of cropland will be restored to grassland habitat, and 7,155 upland acres will be enhanced through the implementation of managed grazing systems. These practices will enhance 354 acres of wetlands within the project area. The grazing management components of this project are designed to help private landowners improve the infrastructure needed to implement rotational grazing systems that will improve the overall rangeland condition on their ranches. By installing cross-fences and water developments to create additional paddocks, livestock managers can better control the timing and duration of their grazing. This gives the vegetation in each paddock time to rest and recover. Improved rangeland condition provides higher quality habitat for grassland nesting waterfowl and other birds as well as better forage for livestock. Grazing systems also provide benefits to the wetlands that are associated with these uplands by reducing soil erosion and improving water quality. It has also been found that these infrastructure improvements have the added benefit of keeping livestock on the landscape, which conserves the grassland habitat that is prevalent in the project area.

Project Name MISSOURI COTEAU WORKING WETLANDS

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-AT LARGE

Grantee Organization DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer Jonas Davis

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Project Country US

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

Date approved 09/05/2018

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$1,559,084.00

Joint Venture PRAIRIE POTHOLE

Bird Conservation Region BCR 11-Prairie Potholes

Project Description This project area consists of the critically important Missouri Coteau of the Prairie Pothole Region (PPR) that is utilized by nearly two million breeding pairs of ducks in any given year. The targeted counties contain more than 870,000 wetland basins where nearly 71% of those wetlands are

currently unprotected and at-risk of drainage. Through innovative and new program options, teamed with tried and true easement options, Ducks Unlimited and its partners are proposing to leverage grant funding and matching contributions to acquire critical grassland and wetland easements in perpetuity while offering short-term grassland retention and enhancement programs to conserve 9,169 acres of prairie pothole habitat for migratory birds and the rural farming communities of North Dakota.

Project Name MINNESOTA RIVER PRAIRIES

Location (County) MN-BIG STONE, MN-BLUE EARTH, MN-BROWN, MN-CHIPPEWA, MN-COTTONWOOD, MN-DOUGLAS, MN-FARIBAUT, MN-FREEBORN, MN-GRANT, MN-JACKSON, MN-KANDIYOHI, MN-LAC QUI PARLE, MN-LE SUEUR, MN-LINCOLN, MN-LYON, MN-MARTIN, MN-MCLEOD, MN-MURRAY, MN-NICOLLET, MN-NOBLES, MN-PIPESTONE, MN-POPE, MN-REDWOOD, MN-RENVILLE, MN-SIBLEY, MN-STEELE, MN-STEVENS, MN-SWIFT, MN-WASECA, MN-WATONWAN, MN-YELLOW MEDICINE

Congressional District MN-1, MN-7

Grantee Organization PHEASANTS FOREVER, INC.

Project Officer Tim Zemke

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Project Country US

Partner Name PRO-APPLE AUTO GROUP, INC., CON-FOX LAKE CONSERVATION LEAGUE, CON-FRIENDS OF THE WINDOM WETLAND MANAGEMENT DISTRICT, LOC-HERON LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT, STA-LESSARD SAMS OUTDOOR HERITAGE COUNCIL, CON-PHEASANTS FOREVER, INC., LOC-SHELL ROCK RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT, CON-THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Date approved 09/05/2018

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$3,939,415.00

Joint Venture PRAIRIE POTHOLE

Bird Conservation Region BCR 11-Prairie Potholes, BCR 22-Eastern Tallgrass Prairie, BCR 23-Prairie Hardwood Transition

Project Description This project will accelerate wetland and upland conservation by acquiring 433 acres in fee title, acquiring 1,621 acres in easement, restoring 15 acres of nesting cover and enhancing 575 acres of wetlands and uplands. 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. Species that will benefit include mallards, blue-winged teal, gadwalls, northern pintails, American wigeon, northern shovelers, canvasbacks, redheads, and ruddy ducks.

Project Name MAINE WETLANDS CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

Location (County) ME-HANCOCK, ME-PENOBSCOT, ME-WASHINGTON

Congressional District ME-2

Grantee Organization MAINE COAST HERITAGE TRUST

Project Officer Bob DeForrest

Grantee Email bdeforrest@mcht.org

Project Country US

Partner Name CON-DOWNEAST SALMON FEDERATION, CON-ELLIOTSVILLE PLANTATION, INC, STA-LAND FOR MAINE'S FUTURE, CON-MAINE COAST HERITAGE TRUST, PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S), CON-THE CONSERVATION FUND, CON-THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Date approved 09/05/2018

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$2,010,000.00

Joint Venture ATLANTIC COAST

Bird Conservation Region BCR 14-Atlantic Northern Forest

Project Description This project engages diverse conservation partners from across Maine, spearheaded by Maine Coast Heritage Trust's (MCHT) nearly 50-year history of successful partnership. Grant funds will help advance the goals of NAWCA, the four major bird conservation plans and the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture, including its flagship species initiative focused on conserving American black duck, saltmarsh sparrow, and black rail. Maine includes extensive habitat for the first two flagship species, particularly American black duck for which Maine continues to be a continental stronghold, hosting most of the U.S. breeding population as well as staging and wintering a significant portion of the population. All tracts in this project are located within the Penobscot and Maine Coastal watersheds, the latter stretching from the Penobscot River estuary eastward to the border of New Brunswick, Canada. The Maine Wetlands Conservation Initiative will protect interior wetland complexes and prime coastal habitats within an interconnected conservation network. All tracts demonstrate the importance of connections between the coastal zone and inland habitat blocks - often via river corridors like the Penobscot - to the conservation of high priority species including black duck that utilize a variety of habitats throughout their life cycle.

Project Name KLAMATH BASIN WETLANDS III

Location (County) CA-SISKIYOU, OR-KLAMATH

Congressional District CA-1, OR-2

Grantee Organization DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer John Ranlett

Grantee Email jranlett@ducks.org

Project Country US

Partner Name CON-CAL - ORE WETLANDS & WATERFOWL COUNCIL, STA-CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD, CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, LOC-KLAMATH DRAINAGE DISTRICT, STA-OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE, STA-OREGON WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT, PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S)

Date approved 09/05/2018

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$2,084,294.00

Joint Venture INTERMOUNTAIN WEST

Bird Conservation Region BCR 5-Northern Pacific Rainforest, BCR 9-Great Basin

Project Description This project is part of a long-term effort to conserve wetlands and wetland-dependent migratory bird populations within the Klamath Basin ecosystem. The project focuses on enhancement of 10,310 acres of palustrine emergent wetlands and 1,007 acres of lacustrine wetlands due to their very high value to the fall and spring migrating waterfowl and other wetland-associated birds in the region. The wetlands also support large populations of breeding waterfowl, waterbirds, and shorebirds, and provide molting habitat for waterfowl. The remainder of the new work will occur on a working cattle ranch to improve its wet meadow pastures that support waterfowl and Greater Sandhill Crane use during spring migration and nesting. DU will deliver all new habitat enhancement work that includes constructing a new pump station on Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), which will allow the NWR to recycle its own wetland drain water coming off thousands of acres of managed habitats, and pump it back onto the NWR instead of allowing it to flow out to the Klamath River.

Project Name GREEN BAY - MARQUETTE COASTAL II

Location (County) WI-ADAMS, WI-BROWN, WI-GREEN LAKE, WI-MARATHON, WI-MARINETTE, WI-MARQUETTE, WI-OCONTO, WI-OUTAGAMIE, WI-PORTAGE, WI-SHAWANO, WI-WAUPACA, WI-WAUSHARA

Congressional District WI-3, WI-6, WI-7, WI-8

Grantee Organization DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer Brian Glenzinski

Grantee Email bglenzinski@ducks.org

Project Country US

Partner Name LOC-BROWN COUNTY, CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, OTH-GREEN BAY PACKERS, CORPORATE GIVING, CON-LAKE PUCKAWAY PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT, OTH-NE PEE NAUK DUCK HUNTING CLUB, CON-NORTHEAST WISCONSIN LAND TRUST, NAT-ONEIDA TRIBE OF INDIANS OF WISCONSIN, PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S), STA-WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Date approved 09/05/2018

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$2,477,386.00

Joint Venture UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER-GREATLAKES

Bird Conservation Region BCR 23-Prairie Hardwood Transition

Project Description This project will continue an initiative to protect, restore and enhance critical wetland habitat in portions of the Lake Michigan watershed in Wisconsin. Partnerships in this project will mainly focus on important wetland ecological areas for birds near the Green Bay West Shores and Lower Wolf River Bottoms Conservation Opportunity Areas within the Marquette-Waupaca Focus Area. Partner match will provide a variety of declining wetland habitat types that will meet different life cycle requirements for a variety of birds and other wildlife species. The acquisitions identified using grant funds in this project are of the highest priority selected by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust (NEWLT) in Conservation Opportunity Areas. Wetland restorations identified by WDNR, Brown County (BC), Oconto County (OC), and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) are intended to restore palustrine emergent habitat in drained and degraded wetlands, to help meet goals identified in the UMRGLR Joint Venture Implementation Plan and Wisconsin's

"Reversing the Loss" program. Wetland enhancements identified as match by WDNR will improve habitat conditions and management capabilities on large emergent marshes. The project will directly benefit wetland and grassland bird species, including breeding habitat for several waterfowl species such as mallards, blue-winged teal, wood ducks and Canada geese.

Project Name DELTA - YOLO BASIN WETLAND

Location (County) CA-SACRAMENTO, CA-SAN JOAQUIN, CA-YOLO

Congressional District CA-3, CA-9

Grantee Organization DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer Virginia Getz

Grantee Email vgetz@ducks.org

Project Country US

Partner Name STA-CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION, STA-CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE, CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S), STA-SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN DELTA CONSERVANCY, CON-THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Date approved 09/05/2018

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$2,243,509.32

Joint Venture CENTRAL VALLEY

Bird Conservation Region BCR 32-Coastal California

Project Description This project will restore and enhance 2,660 acres of wildlife habitat. All but four acres of the grant and match activities are proposed for palustrine emergent wetlands, which are recognized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as nationally decreasing wetland type. The proposed activities will restore former agriculture fields into seasonal palustrine emergent wetlands, as well as associated transitional grasslands. Additionally, proposed enhancement activities will combine the replacement of deteriorated, non-functional infrastructure (e.g., water control structures and water delivery ditches) with excavating basins and swales to improve and increase specific habitat management capabilities to benefit many species of waterfowl, shorebirds, and waterbirds. Furthermore, except for 11 acres, these planned restoration and enhancement activities will be on lands protected in perpetuity.

Project Name DEEP LAKE UNIT MARSH ENHANCEMENT

Location (County) LA-VERMILION

Congressional District LA-3

Grantee Organization DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer Cassidy Lejeune

Grantee Email clejeune@ducks.org

Project Country US

Partner Name PRO-AVERY ISLAND, INC, CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, CON-NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY, PRO-RANDY MOERTLE & ASSOCIATES, INC, LOC-VERMILION PARISH POLICE JURY

Date approved 09/05/2018

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$2,201,000.00

Joint Venture GULF COAST

Bird Conservation Region BCR 37-Gulf Coastal Prairie

Project Description This project will restore 4,760 acres of coastal wetlands in two areas of the Louisiana Chenier Plain Initiative Area (CPIA). Both project areas are part of the Rainey Conservation Alliance (RCA), a collaboration of landowners that manage their property (185,000 acres) as one continuous landscape. The project will enhance and protect 2,900 acres of intermediate and brackish marsh, which will create a fully functional water management unit and allow for active management of interior marshes to improve habitat conditions for waterfowl and other wetland-dependent birds. Additionally, the project will ensure management capabilities for desirable plant communities, aid in effective management of salinity levels, regulate tidal exchange, reduce wave-action and erosion, and greatly facilitate drainage during high water events. The match tract is 1,860 acres of intermediate and brackish marsh along Freshwater Bayou, north of the grant tract. It will be protected by a bank stabilization project, which will protect interior marsh from wave action and erosion to the benefit of waterfowl and other wetland-dependent wildlife species.

Project Name CONNECTING CONSERVATION CORRIDORS II

Location (County) GA-BRYAN, GA-MCINTOSH

Congressional District GA-1

Grantee Organization DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer James Rader

Grantee Email jrader@ducks.org

Project Country US

Partner Name CON-COASTAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION, CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, CON-GEORGIA - ALABAMA LAND TRUST, INC, STA-GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, FED-U.S. ARMY FORT STEWART, CON-WETLANDS AMERICA TRUST

Date approved 09/05/2018

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$2,001,746.00

Joint Venture ATLANTIC COAST

Bird Conservation Region BCR 27-Southeastern Coastal Plain

Project Description : This project seeks to expand the success of partnerships connecting riparian corridors and providing contiguous protected, restored and enhanced wildlife habitat. Furthering the investment in wetland habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife species along the Altamaha River, Ducks Unlimited will enhance 644 acres of publicly accessible, critical wetland habitat on the Rhetts Island Unit of Altamaha Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in partnership with Georgia Department of Natural Resources and the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA). Grant funds will also be used to acquire 1,299 acres of predominately palustrine forested wetland habitat with 4.9 miles of river frontage along the Ogeechee River. Acquisition of a conservation easement on Tract 2 by the Georgia-Alabama Land Trust (GALT) perpetually protects 2,674 acres of important forested wetland and upland

habitat neighboring Ft. Stewart in the Ogeechee River Basin. Conservation projects total 4,617 acres of critical habitat with 7.8 miles of river frontage along two major river corridors in the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture's (ACJV) Coastal Waterfowl Focus Area.

Project Name COASTAL TEXAS III

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

Project Country US

Partner Name CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, CON-NATIONAL FISH & WILDLIFE FOUNDATION (NFWF), OTH-RED BLUFF PRAIRIE HUNTING CLUB, STA-TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

Date approved 09/05/2018

Grant Award Amount \$989,790.00

Proposed Match Amount \$1,980,008.00

Joint Venture GULF COAST

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

Project Description This project will restore and enhance 2,730 acres of decreasing coastal wetland types and other critical habitats in the Texas portion of the Gulf Coast Joint Venture (GCJV). Proposed activities for Tract 1 will use grant and match funding to restore and enhance 2,207 acres of privately owned wetlands, and will continue a 25-year partnership of landowners, state and federal agencies, and non-governmental organizations committed to the long-term support of wetlands conservation on the Texas Gulf Coast through the Texas Prairie Wetlands Project. Project sites on Tract 1 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 landbirds. These sites will be managed under agreements with private landowners, and will include projects across the three initiative areas within the Texas portion of the GCJV (Chenier Plain Initiative Area, Texas Mid-Coast Initiative Area, and Laguna Madre Initiative Area). The project also includes enhancement activities on 264 acres of palustrine wetlands and critical nesting islands adjacent to estuarine marsh.

Project Name COASTAL PRAIRIE STRATEGIC HABITAT INITIATIVE

Location (County) TX-BRAZORIA, TX-CALHOUN, TX-CHAMBERS, TX-COLORADO, TX-FORT BEND, TX-GALVESTON, TX-HARRISON, TX-JACKSON, TX-JEFFERSON, TX-LAVACA, TX-LIBERTY, TX-MATAGORDA, TX-VICTORIA, TX-WALLER, TX-WHARTON

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

Grantee Organization KATY PRAIRIE CONSERVANCY

Project Officer Mary Anne Piacentini

Grantee Email maryanne@katyprairie.org

Project Country US

Partner Name CON-KATY PRAIRIE CONSERVANCY, PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S), CON-TEXAS LAND TRUST COUNCIL, STA-TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT, CON-TEXAS R.I.C.E.

Date approved 09/05/2018

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$2,066,106.00

Joint Venture GULF COAST

Bird Conservation Region BCR 37-Gulf Coastal Prairie

Project Description The Katy Prairie Conservancy (KPC) and Texas Rice Industry Coalition for the Environment (TEXAS R.I.C.E.) will continue their successful partnership to acquire and restore land for migratory waterfowl and grassland species that inhabit both coastal and inland areas of the Texas Gulf Coast. This project includes 450 acres of palustrine emergent wetland establishment, and protection of 450 acres of land on the Katy Prairie through conservation easements acquired by KPC. Conservation easements will include 151 acres of palustrine emergent wetlands, which are decreasing wetland habitat types, and 299 acres of upland agricultural land, which provides foraging habitat for migratory waterfowl. Additionally, 5,332 acres of mixed agricultural, wetland, prairie, riverine, riparian, and Columbia Bottomland habitat has been protected through the donation of a conservation easement to KPC on a ranch in Matagorda County. Species that will benefit include northern pintail, mottled duck, mallard and lesser scaup.

Project Name CAROLINA WETLANDS INITIATIVE VII

Location (County) NC-BLADEN, NC-CARTERET, NC-ONSLOW

Congressional District NC-3, NC-7

Grantee Organization NORTH CAROLINA COASTAL LAND TRUST

Project Officer Janice Allen

Grantee Email janice@coastallandtrust.org

Project Country US

Partner Name STA-NORTH CAROLINA CLEAN WATER MANAGEMENT TRUST FUND, CON-NORTH CAROLINA COASTAL LAND TRUST, PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S), CON-THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Date approved 09/05/2018

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$2,923,135.00

Joint Venture ATLANTIC COAST

Bird Conservation Region BCR 27-Southeastern Coastal Plain

Project Description This project will conserve, through fee acquisition, estuarine intertidal wetlands, cypress-gum swamp, bottomland hardwoods, pocosin, maritime shrub, and longleaf pine forests that will benefit a diversity of priority bird species, as identified in the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture's (ACJV)

Waterfowl Implementation Plan and South Atlantic Migratory Bird Initiative. The Neuse-Pamlico Rivers Area is an important ACJV Waterfowl Focus Area. All of the target tracts within this project connect or buffer existing conservation lands. Additionally, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recognizes the Black River as a priority under the federal Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986. Tract 1 is adjacent to the 14,494 acre Cedar Island National Wildlife Refuge and 11,000+ acre Piney Island military complex; both sites are significant natural heritage areas that host a tremendous diversity of overwintering diving ducks and other waterfowl, along with excellent nesting habitat for American Black Duck. Tracts 2 and 4 connect to over 3,000 acres of The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) Black River Preserve, which hosts 2,000-year-old bald cypress trees. Tract 3 lies adjacent to, and is a part of, over 3,500 acres of public game lands, Stones Creek Game Lands, owned and managed by NC Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC). Tract 3 and Stones Creek Game Lands abut the 156,000 acre Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune.