

North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grants

U.S. Standard Grants, 2020-1 Cycle

Project Name WETLANDS OF THE SACRAMENTO VALLEY III

Congressional District CA-1, CA-3

Grantee Organization CALIFORNIA WATERFOWL ASSOCIATION SOCIATION

Project Officer Chadd Santerre

Grantee Email csanterre@calwaterfowl.org

Project Country US

Partner Name STA-CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE, CON-CALIFORNIA WATERFOWL ASSOCIATION, STA-CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD, PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S)

Date approved 09/13/2019

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$2,577,750.00

Joint Venture CENTRAL VALLEY

Bird Conservation Region BCR 32-Coastal California

Project Description The projects will directly contribute to conservation goals by increasing habitat availability by restoring 398 acres of palustrine emergent habitat, and 272 acres of associated upland nesting cover. The enhancement of 1,212 acres of palustrine emergent, 19 acres of palustrine forested and 124 acres of associated uplands will improve the ability for managers to effectively and efficiently manage these habitats, thus maximizing resource availability, values and diversity. All of the developed infrastructure will also aid in combating future global warming issues by allowing managers to implement advanced management strategies to conserve water supplies allowing less water to go farther. In addition, quality and quantity of spring and summer flooded wetlands and undisturbed upland nesting cover are the main limiting factors affecting production of waterfowl in California

Project Name WEST CENTRAL MINNESOTA WETLANDS III

Congressional District MN-7

Grantee Organization PHEASANTS FOREVER, INC.

Project Officer Tim Zemke

Grantee Email tzemke@pheasantsforever.org

Project Country US

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

Date approved 09/13/2019

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$4,611,664.00

Joint Venture PRAIRIE POTHOLE

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

Project Description This project will accelerate the protection and restoration of Northern Tallgrass Prairie, and prairie wetlands for associated wildlife. The partners involved in this effort build upon past

investments in long- term wetland and associated upland conservation. The project focuses on permanent habitat protection (865.68 acres) and the restoration and enhancement of public waters and/or protected lands managed for waterfowl and wildlife. The Northern Tallgrass Prairie portion of the Prairie Pothole Region (PPR) has been identified as a priority geographic area because of its unique flora and fauna that have been witness to extensive habitat conversion

Project Name VIRGINIA TIDAL RIVERS & BAYS IV

Congressional District VA-4

Grantee Organization DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer James Rader

Grantee Email jrader@ducks.org

Project Country US

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

Date approved 09/13/2019

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$2,000,000.00

Joint Venture ATLANTIC COAST

Bird Conservation Region BCR 27-Southeastern Coastal Plain

Project Description This project will enhance, restore and protect key wetlands along tributaries in coastal Virginia (VA). Enhancement of 3,510 acres of palustrine forested wetlands on Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge will add foraging opportunities for a variety of bird guilds, with over 200 bird species documented using the refuge including late summer and early fall migrants that will use these critical wetland ecosystems. This enhancement will benefit bottomland hardwood forests dominated by cypress-gum and Atlantic white cedar, communities considered globally uncommon to rare and in need of conservation. Conservation easements will protect an additional 978 acres and 2.69 miles of old-growth forested wetland habitat along the state-designated scenic Nottoway River. Perpetual protection followed by investment in enhancements of managed wetlands on public and private lands within BCR 27 contribute to the landscape-scale work of partners to protect, enhance and manage a series of critical wintering grounds in the Atlantic Flyway.

Project Name UPPER SNAKE RIVER

Congressional District ID-2

Grantee Organization TETON REGIONAL LAND TRUST

Project Officer Tamara Sperber

Grantee Email tamara@tetonlandtrust.org

Project Country US

Partner Name STA-IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME, PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S), CON-TETON REGIONAL LAND TRUST, CON-THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Date approved 09/13/2019

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$2,366,098.00

Joint Venture INTERMOUNTAIN WEST

Bird Conservation Region BCR 10-Northern Rockies, BCR 9-Great Basin

Project Description Project objectives aim to offset impacts of current threats to avian resources and heighten the profile of the value of wetland conservation by 1) expanding permanent protection of 1,069 acres of wetlands and 699 acres of associated uplands around core wetland conservation areas and corridors through perpetual conservation easements acquired by Teton Regional Land Trust (TRLT) and the Bureau of Land Management that will enhance water quality, quantity and security of highly productive wetland areas; 2) enhancing 50 acres of emergent wetlands by Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) on the globally significant Mud Lake Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and 6 acres on two key permanently-protected parcels within core wetland conservation areas by private landowners and The Nature Conservancy and 3) leveraging capacity of TRLT and partners to galvanize support for wetland and waterbird conservation through community engagement initiatives, a goal of NAWMP. These initiatives are wide reaching, engaging youth, adults and teachers from across the region in tangible conservation efforts.

Project Name UPPER SAN LUIS VALLEY WETLAND PROTECTION

Congressional District CO-3

Grantee Organization RIO GRANDE HEADWATERS LAND TRUST (RIGHT)

Project Officer Allen Law

Grantee Email allenl@riograndelandtrust.org

Project Country US

Partner Name STA-COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE, CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, OTH-GATES FAMILY FOUNDATION, STA-GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO, PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S), CON-RIO GRANDE HEADWATERS LAND TRUST (RIGHT)

Date approved 09/13/2019

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$2,010,294.00

Joint Venture INTERMOUNTAIN WEST

Bird Conservation Region BCR 16-Southern Rockies/Colorado Plateau

Project Description The project will focus on the protection, restoration and enhancement of two major habitat types. First, it will largely use conservation easements to protect seasonally flooded wet meadows, which provide important wildlife habitat as well as hay for local ranching operations. This project will permanently protect 2,800 acres of these wet meadow habitats. Second, it will restore and enhance streams, riparian areas, and wetlands mostly on public lands with a focus on returning historic flood regimes to playa wetlands. This project restores and enhances over 2,400 acres of mostly playa wetlands. As a secondary goal, project activities will protect, restore and enhance well-developed cottonwood and willow riparian areas, which are important to wildlife but extremely rare in the upper San Luis Valley.

Project Name TEXAS RICE PRAIRIES

Congressional District TX-2, TX-7, TX-8, TX-9, TX-10, TX-14, TX-15, TX-18, , TX-22, TX-26, TX-27, TX-28, TX-34, TX-36

Grantee Organization DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer Todd Merendino

Grantee Email tmerendino@ducks.org

Project Country US

Partner Name LOC-CITY OF EAGLE LAKE, CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, OTH-EAGLE LAKE ROD & GUN CLUB, STA-TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT, CON-TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

Date approved 09/13/2019

Grant Award Amount \$999,111.00

Proposed Match Amount \$2,075,720.00

Joint Venture GULF COAST

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

Project Description This project will enhance or restore 2,735 acres of wetland habitat including decreasing wetland types and other critical wetlands within the Texas portion of the Gulf Coast Joint Venture. Activities include enhancement of 1,850 acres of privately-owned wetlands and will continue a 27-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 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.

Project Name TEXAS BAYS, WETLANDS & PRAIRIES II

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, PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S), STA-TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT, CON-TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE FOUNDATION, OTH-THE MEADOWS FOUNDATION

Date approved 09/13/2019

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

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 project will enhance 2,885 acres of decreasing wetland types and other critical wetland habitats in the Texas portion of the Gulf Coast Joint Venture (GCJV). Activities include restoration and enhancement of 2,052 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 wetland conservation on the Texas Gulf Coast through the Texas Prairie Wetlands Project. Project sites include freshwater emergent wetlands, 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. This project also includes enhancement activities on state and federal public lands comprised of palustrine and estuarine wetlands at Guadalupe Delta Wildlife Management Area and Buffalo Lake Marsh. Construction of rock breakwater for Sargent Marsh Shoreline Protection IV will complete efforts to reduce erosion along a 3-mile section of the north GIWW shoreline and will enhance 572 acres of additional coastal marsh habitat at San Bernard National

Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and adjacent private land. Additional enhancement activities will result in the improvement of habitat quality and quantity of private wetlands in Matagorda County for migratory waterfowl and shorebirds, wading birds and Mottled Ducks.

Project Name SOUTHWEST WETLAND INITIATIVE OF MINNESOTA (SWIM) V

Congressional District MN-1, MN-7

Grantee Organization PHEASANTS FOREVER, INC.

Project Officer Tim Zemke

Grantee Email tzemke@pheasantsforever.org

Project Country US

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

Date approved 09/13/2019

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$9,307,285.00

Joint Venture PRAIRIE POTHOLE

Bird Conservation Region BCR 11-Prairie Potholes

Project Description This project area is home to high waterfowl breeding densities and will be an area where partners build upon existing habitat complexes to improve breeding waterfowl densities, nesting success and recruitment. The partners involved in this project aim to protect, restore and enhance wetlands and wetland-associated upland habitat in the project area that includes the Minnesota portion of the Prairie Coteau. The project will permanently protect 214.3 acres of wetlands and 1,315.19 acres of adjacent uplands critical for nesting waterfowl and other wildlife. This project also enhances 138 acres of palustrine emergent wetlands, 7 acres of palustrine unconsolidated bottom wetlands, and 517 acres of lacustrine wetlands and restores 20 acres of palustrine emergent wetlands. By permanently protecting, enhancing and restoring these lands, partners will optimize waterfowl production and enhance grassland bird habitats.

Project Name SOUTHEAST NEW JERSEY COASTAL INITIATIVE IV

Congressional District NJ-2

Grantee Organization DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer Jim Feaga

Grantee Email jfeaga@ducks.org

Project Country US

Partner Name CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, CON-NATURAL LANDS, CON-NEW JERSEY CONSERVATION FOUNDATION, STA-NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, STA-NEW JERSEY NATURAL LANDS TRUST, CON-NEW JERSEY WATERFOWL STAMP ADVISORY COMMITTEE, CON-THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Date approved 09/13/2019

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$2,233,998.00

Joint Venture ATLANTIC COAST

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

Project Description : New Jersey's (NJ) tidal marshes are globally significant, supporting one-third of the entire breeding population of Saltmarsh Sparrow, a continental highest- priority wetland bird. NJ tidal marshes support most (60%) American Black Duck and Atlantic Brant (53%) wintering in the Atlantic Flyway, and a third or more of the regional breeding population for many other species of greatest conservation need, including Seaside Sparrow, Willet, and Clapper Rail. However, much of NJ is heavily urbanized; it's the most densely populated state with over 1,000 people per square mile, and 39% of its historic wetlands have been lost. The quality and quantity of valuable coastal wetlands continue to face pressure from commercial and residential development; the state lost approximately 1,755 acres of wetlands per year between 1986 and 1995. Furthermore, changes in wetland area between 2004 and 2009 indicated that the coastal watersheds of the Atlantic Coast declined by an estimated 111,960 acres. This project will protect important wetland areas for migratory birds and wetland dependent species in the coastal regions of southeastern New Jersey through fee title and conservation easement acquisition. The protection of over 1,530 acres of wetland and associated uplands will become part of the State Wildlife Management Areas, and various State and Non- profit Preserves that will be open to public access year-round. Opportunities for the public include outdoor activities such as hunting, fishing, hiking, bird watching, and research.

Project Name SOUTH DAKOTA HABITAT LEGACY IV

Congressional District SD-AT LARGE

Grantee Organization PHEASANTS FOREVER, INC.

Project Officer Tim Zemke

Grantee Email tzemke@pheasantsforever.org

Project Country US

Partner Name LOC-BRULE-BUFFALO CONSERVATION DISTRICT, LOC-DAVISON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT, CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, LOC-HAMLIN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT, LOC-JAMES RIVER WATER DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, LOC-MINER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, CON-PHEASANTS FOREVER, INC., PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S), STA-SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH & PARKS, CON-THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Date approved 09/13/2019

Grant Award Amount \$999,948.00

Proposed Match Amount \$1,516,350.00

Joint Venture PRAIRIE POTHOLE

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

Project Description Phase IV of the South Dakota Habitat Legacy (SDHL) project will restore, enhance and protect wetland and grassland habitats on approximately 220 sites throughout the project area. Specifically, 1,266 acres will be protected with perpetual conservation easements, 1,000 cropland acres will be restored to grassland, 834 wetland acres will be enhanced with beneficial grazing systems, 100 acres of drained wetlands will be restored and 14,166 grassland acres will be enhanced with beneficial grazing systems. A new lease program to restore 435 grassland acres will continue in the heart of the project area. In addition, 580 new acres of public access will be obtained by securing a new Game, Production Area (GPA). The 18,381 acres of grassland and wetland conservation completed through this proposal will be strategically targeted within some of the highest quality and most threatened grassland and wetland habitat remaining in the PPR. The SDHL project area is ecologically important to the entire

or partial life cycle of over 50 bird species. The project is estimated to provide direct breeding benefits to a wide range of waterfowl, shorebirds, waterbirds and passerines including 230 Mallard pairs, 370 Blue-winged Teal pairs, 150 Marbled Godwit pairs, 380 Upland Sandpiper pairs, 1,800 Grasshopper Sparrow pairs, 1,400 Clay-colored Sparrow pairs, 500 Savannah Sparrow pairs and 30 Baird's Sparrow pairs.

Project Name SOUTH ATLANTIC BASINS: LOWER PEE DEE TO OKEFENOKEE II

Congressional District GA-1

Grantee Organization THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Project Officer Wade Harrison

Grantee Email wharrison@tnc.org

Project Country US

Partner Name STA-GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, CON-THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, FED-U.S. NAVY, KINGS BAY NAVAL BASE

Date approved 09/13/2019

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$2,100,000.00

Joint Venture ATLANTIC COAST

Bird Conservation Region BCR 27-Southeastern Coastal Plain

Project Description This project will result in the permanent protection of 5,252 acres, which includes 1,969 acres of decreasing wetlands - estuarine emergent and palustrine forested wetlands. The project includes 556 acres of pristine estuarine marsh and tidal creeks on North Cabin Bluff contiguous with the wilderness- designated salt marsh complex of the Cumberland Island National Seashore. The extensive marsh complex advances the ACJV's Coastal Marsh and Flagship Species Initiative by permanently protecting the marsh and the adjacent uplands. The project includes permanent protection of Atlantic Coastal Plain Streamhead Seepage Swamp habitat within the Altamaha Conservation Corridor. Together, the two project tracts support 1,461 acres of palustrine forested and 19 acres of freshwater emergent wetlands. Upland habitats include several rare maritime habitats, longleaf pine forest, and loblolly and slash pine. The project area is part of an important conservation corridor for the Atlantic Flyway, providing stopover and breeding habitat for a diversity of waterfowl, shorebirds and other wetland birds. Significant riverine and non-riverine basins form a network of wetlands that vary across salinity and topographic gradients along the GA and SC coast.

Project Name RAINWATER BASIN VIII

Congressional District NE-1, NE-3

Grantee Organization DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer John Denton

Grantee Email jdenton@ducks.org

Project Country US

Partner Name LOC-CENTRAL NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER & IRRIGATION DISTRICT, CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, OTH-NEBRASKA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, STA-NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST, STA-NEBRASKA GAME & PARKS COMMISSION, CON-RAINWATER BASIN JOINT VENTURE

Date approved 09/13/2019

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$2,009,087.00

Joint Venture RAINWATER BASIN

Bird Conservation Region BCR 19-Central Mixed-grass Prairie

Project Description This project combines wetland protection, restoration, and enhancement in the continentally important spring migration habitat of the Rainwater Basin. Approximately 10-20% of the historic playa wetland footprints remain on this relatively small landscape approximately 4,200 square mile in south central Nebraska that serves as spring staging habitat for millions of migratory waterfowl, shorebirds, and wading birds in addition to songbirds and other mammals, amphibians, and reptiles. The Western Rainwater Basin Waterfowl Production Area Water Delivery will deliver water to five large public playa wetlands owned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This is a novel project due to the new partners involved and the use of an existing, very large irrigation canal system to deliver excess water wetlands to benefit wildlife. Other restoration and enhancement efforts in this project seek to restore hydrology by permanently filling pits that prevent the water from flowing to playas in their watershed while also installing grazing infrastructure or disking and spraying invasive plants with herbicide to produce moist-soil, primarily annual seed producing plants, for the benefit of migratory waterfowl and other species. This project will impact over 6,000 acres when repeat acres are added to the unique acres being conserved.

Project Name PRAIRIE LAKES XI WETLAND INITIATIVE

Congressional District IA-3, IA-4

Grantee Organization IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Project Officer Kelly Smith

Grantee Email Kelly.Smith@dnr.iowa.gov

Project Country US

Partner Name CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, LOC-HUMBOLDT COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD, STA-IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, CON-IOWA NATURAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION, CON-PHEASANTS FOREVER (SAC COUNTY), CON-PHEASANTS FOREVER - WINNEBAGO/HANCOCK, LOC-POLK COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD, CON-WHITETAILED UNLIMITED

Date approved 09/13/2019

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$2,748,960.00

Joint Venture PRAIRIE POTHOLE

Bird Conservation Region BCR 11-Prairie Potholes

Project Description This project continues to build on what has been a successful and long-term partnership between the USFWS Waterfowl Production Area program and NAWCA grants. Land acquisition and habitat restoration is targeted to prairie pothole priority landscapes and prairie stream corridor projects identified in the Prairie Pothole Joint Venture Implementation Plan and USFWS Habitat and Population Evaluation Team (HAPET) to target efforts to conserve habitats within the most intact landscapes. Acquisition and long term active management of these areas by public land management agencies will result in improved aquatic vegetation and invertebrate communities within wetland habitats and more diverse tallgrass prairie uplands. Previous wetland complex restorations within the project area have shown rapid and impressive use by migratory birds as production habitat as well as during both spring and fall migrations. Projects identified in this project also provide increased captivity

for active management of water levels allowing wildlife management biologists to manage aquatic vegetation in large wetlands and to time availability of various wetland habitats to migration and breeding requirements of migratory birds.

Project Name NORTH DAKOTA POTHOLE I

Congressional District ND-AT LARGE

Grantee Organization DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer Randy Renner

Grantee Email rrenner@ducks.org

Project Country US

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

Date approved 09/13/2019

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$1,527,621.00

Joint Venture PRAIRIE POTHOLE

Bird Conservation Region BCR 11-Prairie Potholes

Project Description North Dakota Potholes (NDP) project will protect wetland and grassland communities using a landscape level approach to planning and targeting while contributing to the goals of the 2017 Prairie Pothole Joint Venture (PPJV) Implementation Plan goals. This project will acquire grassland and wetland easements and enhance wetland-associated uplands in the Prairie Pothole Region (PPR) of North Dakota to protect 5,497 acres of grassland and wetland habitat for migratory birds. The easements will become part of the National Wildlife Refuge System under the Small Wetlands Acquisition Program. The grazing system agreements will be held by the North Dakota Natural Resources Trust (NDNRT).

Project Name MISSOURI RIVER VALLEY WETLANDS

Congressional District IA-3, IA-4, MO-6

Grantee Organization DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer Michael Shannon

Grantee Email mshannon@ducks.org

Project Country US

Partner Name CON-AUDUBON SOCIETY OF MISSOURI, CON-BURROUGHS AUDUBON SOCIETY, CON-COLUMBIA AUDUBON SOCIETY, CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, PRO-ENEL GREEN POWER NORTH AMERICA, INC, PRO-FAIRFAX AGENCY, INC, PRO-FARMERS MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY, MOUND CITY, CON-FRIENDS OF LOESS BLUFFS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, STA-IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, CON-IOWA NATURAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION, OTH-LOESS HILLS ALLIANCE, CON-LOESS HILLS MISSOURI MASTER NATURALISTS, CON-MIDLAND EMPIRE AUDUBON SOCIETY, CON-MISSOURI BIRD CONSERVATION INITIATIVE, STA-MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION, CON-PHEASANTS FOREVER, FREMONT/MILLS COUNTY CHAPTER, CON-PHEASANTS FOREVER, MONTGOMERY COUNTY CHAPTER, PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S), OTH-WATERFOWLER'S HALL OF FAME, CON-WHITETAILED UNLIMITED, LOC-WOODBURY COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

Date approved 09/13/2019

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$2,396,160.00

Joint Venture UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER-GREATLAKES

Bird Conservation Region BCR 22-Eastern Tallgrass Prairie

Project Description This project focuses on the acquisition, restoration and enhancement of major wetland and grassland complexes within the Missouri River Alluvial Plain and associated tributaries in western Iowa and northwest Missouri. The project area is located midway along one of the largest waterbird migration corridors in North American. Project sites connect the Prairie Pothole Region (PPR) with major wintering areas in the Mississippi Alluvial Valley (MAV). Millions of waterfowl, wading birds, shorebirds and songbirds follow the Missouri River as they migrate out of breeding areas each fall to wintering areas in the MAV and the Gulf Coast. These same birds utilize habitat in the Missouri River Floodplain during spring migration to acquire nutrients for migration and breeding. Proposed activities concentrate on protecting 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 during this critical point in their annual cycle.

Project Name MAINE WETLANDS CONSERVATION INITIATIVE II

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-COASTAL MOUNTAINS LAND TRUST, CON-DOWNEAST SALMON FEDERATION, CON-ELLIOTSVILLE PLANTATION, INC, STA-LAND FOR MAINE'S FUTURE, CON-MAINE COAST HERITAGE TRUST, PRO-MAINE WATER COMPANY

Date approved 09/13/2019

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$12,378,000.00

Joint Venture ATLANTIC COAST

Bird Conservation Region BCR 14-Atlantic Northern Forest

Project Description The Gulf of Maine Ecosystem is considered one of the world's most biologically productive environments, renowned for its pristine habitat that hosts 2,000 species of plants and animals. Maine has the largest undeveloped block of forest and wetland habitat east of the Mississippi River, and is famous for its 7,000 miles of irregular coastline, which includes some 4,600 coastal islands. Maine's high-quality wildlife habitat includes tens of thousands of wetlands resulting from its glacial past, ranging in size from small pools to large lakes, and comprising more than 2 million acres This project is the second phase of the MWCI project submitted by Maine Coast Heritage Trust. All tracts in this Phase II 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. Project 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 MAINE WETLANDS CONSERVATION INITIATIVE - DOWNEAST COASTAL WATERSHEDS

Congressional District ME-2

Grantee Organization FRENCHMAN BAY CONSERVANCY

Project Officer Aaron Dority

Grantee Email aaron@frenchmanbay.org

Project Country US

Partner Name CON-ELLIOTSVILLE PLANTATION, INC, CON-FRENCHMAN BAY CONSERVANCY, CON-MAINE COAST HERITAGE TRUST, STA-MAINE DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES & WILDLIFE, PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S)

Date approved 09/13/2019

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$2,010,500.00

Joint Venture ATLANTIC COAST

Bird Conservation Region BCR 14-Atlantic Northern Forest

Project Description This project includes acquisitions in the coastal watersheds of "Downeast" Maine within the two easternmost counties in the United States. Downeast Maine includes perhaps the most untouched, extensive blocks of coastal habitat in the country, where the great North Woods meet the North Atlantic, home to the nation's highest tides and last wild populations of Atlantic Salmon, and hosting the state's only national park. The project area includes extensive habitat for Atlantic Coast Joint Venture (ACJV) flagship species American Black Duck, for which Maine continues to be a continental stronghold, hosting most of the US breeding population as well as staging and wintering a significant portion of the population. Coastal wetlands in the project area are used extensively by dabbling ducks, sea ducks and geese during winter and migration, where high tidal amplitude and saltwater maintain open water conditions year-round.

Project Name KISSIMMEE TO THE COAST II

Congressional District FL-9, FL-17

Grantee Organization DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer James Rader

Grantee Email jrader@ducks.org

Project Country US

Partner Name CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, STA-FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, STA-FLORIDA FISH & WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION, LOC-SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Date approved 09/13/2019

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 project will support the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Project, the Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) Land Protection Plan and Kissimmee River Restoration Project goals of protecting and restoring vital habitats in the watershed and will assist in maintaining or improving existing water quality in the Okeechobee watershed and the Everglades. Under this project, partners are collaborating to improve and protect 9,554 acres of wetlands and associated upland

habitats in the Florida Peninsula and Coastal Plain designated focus areas defined in the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture Implementation Plans for the Bird Conservation Region (BCR) 31. Project sites are within identified geographic priority areas for the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, Partners in Flight Atlantic Coastal Plain Bird Conservation Plan, the North American Waterbird Conservation Plan, and the United States Shorebird Conservation Plan and BCR 31 Plan. The objectives of KTC II are to protect in perpetuity 427 acres of wetlands and 1,575 upland acres, and enhance 4,035 acres of wetlands and 3,517 acres of associated uplands across four project sites to support the goals outlined in the above listed bird and wetland conservation plans.

Project Name JEFFERSON COUNTY WETLANDS IMPROVEMENT II

Location (County) TX-CALHOUN, TX-JEFFERSON

Congressional District TX-14, TX-27

Grantee Organization DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer Todd Merendino

Grantee Email tmerendino@ducks.org

Project Country US

Partner Name CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, LOC-JEFFERSON COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT NO. 6, CON-TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

Date approved 09/13/2019

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$2,000,000.00

Joint Venture GULF COAST

Bird Conservation Region BCR 37-Gulf Coastal Prairie

Project Description The project will enhance 1,424 acres of coastal marsh habitats on McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and adjacent private lands. This project will reduce negative impacts of extended deep flooding on coastal marsh habitats caused by the GIWW spoil bank which blocks natural hydrology. Water levels in the affected watershed will be managed to a more natural depth with the installation of a multi-bay, water control structure in the GIWW spoil bank at the Oil Cut Ditch on McFaddin NWR. The resulting lower water levels will promote coastal wetland functions and values by mimicking natural hydrology and flood patterns; and, in turn, will improve emergent and submerged aquatic vegetation production and sustainability. The project also includes significant match from Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation in the form of a fee-title acquisition of 4,595 acres of coastal wetlands and uplands representing a portion of the historic Powderhorn Ranch. This acquisition is the final phase of conserving the 17,351-acre ranch and establishing the Powderhorn Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and State Park for public use. The entire ranch was recently transferred to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The proposed tract contains a mosaic of coastal prairie, wetlands and woods that were never converted for cultivation of agricultural crops and is relatively unaltered from other land developments. Most importantly, this grant application proposes to bank the excess match value from this acquisition in a Matching Contributions Plan (MCP) for future grant project submissions.

Project Name EASTERN WISCONSIN GREAT LAKES FOCUS AREA

Congressional District WI-5, WI-6, WI-8

Grantee Organization DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer Brian Glenzinski

Grantee Email bglenzinski@ducks.org

Project Country US

Partner Name PRO-AMERICAN TRANSMISSION COMPANY, CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, CON-GLACIAL LAKES CONSERVANCY, LOC-MILWAUKEE METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT, LOC-OZAUKEE COUNTY PLANNING & PARKS DEPARTMENT, PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S), LOC-SHEBOYGAN COUNTY, STA-WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Date approved 09/13/2019

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$2,326,979.00

Joint Venture UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER-GREATLAKES

Bird Conservation Region BCR 23-Prairie Hardwood Transition

Project Description The project is a multiyear, landscape scale initiative to acquire wetlands and associated uplands and to restore and enhance similar lands in the coastal Lake Michigan watershed to deliver habitat objectives associated with the Upper Mississippi River Great & Lakes Region (UMRGLR) Joint Venture - 2007 Implementation Plan. The objectives of this project are to protect, restore and enhance 1,888 (40) acres of wetland and adjacent upland habitats throughout the Eastern Wisconsin Great Lakes Focus Area. Conservation efforts will target critical breeding and migration habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, colonial waterbirds, and migratory songbirds. The project goal is to protect 900 acres including 679 acres of wetlands and 221 acres of associated uplands, restore 19 (11) acres of wetlands and 62 (29) acres of associated grasslands. A total of 907 acres of existing emergent wetland habitat will be enhanced by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and Sheboygan County on public lands within the initiative area. The Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) and the Glacial Lakes Conservancy (GLC) primary drivers in land protection efforts, however a broader community has already submitted potential acquisitions. GLC, Ozaukee County (OC) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) will meet restoration goals through work on their properties and through the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program on private land. Lastly, the WDNR and Sheboygan County will complete two enhancement projects on public lands to maintain large blocks of priority habitat in the middle of the focus area.

Project Name CREOLE MARSH II

Congressional District LA-3

Grantee Organization DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer Cassidy Lejeune

Grantee Email clejeune@ducks.org

Project Country US

Partner Name LOC-CAMERON PARISH GOVERNMENT, LOC-CAMERON PARISH GRAVITY DRAINAGE DISTRICT NO. 4, CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, STA-LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & FISHERIES

Date approved 09/13/2019

Grant Award Amount \$998,021.00

Proposed Match Amount \$3,000,000.00

Joint Venture GULF COAST

Bird Conservation Region BCR 37-Gulf Coastal Prairie

Project Description Louisiana's coastal wetlands are critical natural resources and the economic driver

of the region. However, Louisiana also has the highest coastal wetland loss rate of any state in the U.S., approximately 17 square miles/year. Since the 1930s, Louisiana has lost over 1.2 million acres of coastal wetlands and is expected to lose an additional 1.4 million acres over the next 50 years without restoration. Shoreline erosion is also a critical problem, with beach encroachment rates up to 40 feet/year. The primary objective of this project is the enhancement and protection of coastal marshes in Cameron Parish, which is within the Chenier Plain region. The work will help offset Louisiana's dramatic coastal wetland loss and provide quality habitat for numerous bird species and other wetland dependent wildlife. This project directly contributes to habitat and population goals of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) through the Gulf Coast Joint Venture (GCJV) Chenier Plain Initiative Area (CPIA). All three tracts are located in the CPIA and they are consistent with the goals and objects of the GCJV CPIA Plan. Maintenance and restoration of coastal marshes are critical objectives of the Plan. The goals of this meet conservation actions recommended in the CPIA Plan including, installing water control structures for water and salinity management, restoring hydrologic integrity, and installing nearshore breakwater structures to reduce or reverse wave erosion.

Project Name CHASE LAKE AREA WETLAND XIV

Congressional District ND-AT LARGE

Grantee Organization U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

Project Officer Scott McLeod

Grantee Email Scott_McLeod@fws.gov

Project Country US

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

Date approved 09/13/2019

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$1,522,731.00

Joint Venture PRAIRIE POTHOLE

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

Project Description One of the multi-agency planning objectives for the area is to maintain all native grasslands by acquiring perpetual grassland easements and protect wetlands by acquiring perpetual wetland easements. With matching partner and grant funds from this proposal, 1,527 acres of native grasslands and 184 acres of wetlands will be secured as perpetual conservation easements. In the more fragmented portions of the CLP area, waterfowl nest success is typically below levels necessary to maintain populations. It has been determined that in order to maintain breeding waterfowl populations, between 30-40% of the landscape must be in perennial grass cover suitable for nesting. In portions of the CLP area, it is feasible to restore enough grassland to boost nesting success above maintenance levels. In this proposal, approximately 500 acres of cropland will be seeded back to grassland habitat that will enhance 50 acres of wetlands in the CLP area. The 20 acres of wetlands being restored in this proposal will be within blocks of grasslands and/or surrounded by grassland easements providing additional wetland habitat within grassland nesting habitat. The 10,625 acres of managed grazing systems in grassland habitat will maintain and enhance upland nesting habitat that will enhance 1,179 acres of wetland habitat.

Project Name BORDER PRAIRIE WETLANDS VI

Congressional District MN-6, MN-7

Grantee Organization PHEASANTS FOREVER, INC.

Project Officer Tim Zemke

Grantee Email tzemke@pheasantsforever.org

Project Country US

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

Date approved 09/13/2019

Grant Award Amount \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$3,582,548.00

Joint Venture PRAIRIE POTHOLE

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

Project Description This project continues the ongoing partnership to build functional permanent wetland and grassland complexes through habitat protection, restoration and enhancement efforts, aimed at accelerating the protection and enhancement of prairie wetlands and associated wildlife in this portion of the Prairie Pothole Region (PPR) in Minnesota. Long-standing and new partners have come together to purchase, restore and enhance 1,655 acres of habitat crucial to waterfowl and a whole suite of additional species. Fee-title acquisitions of Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs) and Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) focus on strategic investments in habitat that build upon existing wetland complexes. The Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources Re-Invest in Minnesota (RIM) easements target drained wetlands to restore permanently in order to produce water quality and wildlife benefits for the citizens of the state. Wetland enhancements are focused on improving the quality of habitat provided to breeding and migratory waterfowl by installing long-term mechanisms to manipulate water levels for the benefit of aquatic vegetation and waterfowl. This creates the ability to manage for rough fish as well as mimic the natural drawdowns that these basins have historically experienced.

Project Name BLACK RIVER WMA WETLAND ENHANCEMENT

Congressional District AR-1, MS-2, TN-8

Grantee Organization DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer Nick Biasini

Grantee Email nbiasini@ducks.org

Project Country US

Partner Name STA-ARKANSAS GAME & FISH COMMISSION, CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S), STA-TENNESSEE WILDLIFE RESOURCES AGENCY, CON-WETLANDS AMERICA TRUST

Date approved 09/13/2019

Grant Award Amount \$999,948.00

Proposed Match Amount \$2,394,361.00

Joint Venture LOWER MISSISSIPPI VALLEY

Bird Conservation Region BCR 26-Mississippi Alluvial Valley

Project Description The Black River WMA Wetland Enhancement proposal is the initial endeavor of a multi-phase effort aimed at the protection, restoration and enhancement of critical wetland habitats on

public lands in the Mississippi Alluvial Valley by leveraging private land conservation values perpetually protected in Mississippi and Tennessee. Primary conservation programs 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 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