



# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

## news release

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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### INTERIOR SECRETARY LUJAN ANNOUNCES NEW WETLAND PROJECTS

Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan today announced approval of more than \$8 million in funding for major projects to conserve and improve threatened wetlands in the United States, Canada and Mexico under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act.

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, composed of Congressional lawmakers and Administration officials, approved Federal funds on February 26 for 28 projects and on March 12 for 12 projects in the three countries under the 1989 law.

The money is for acquisition and enhancement of wetland habitat for migratory birds and other fish and wildlife, some with populations severely reduced by development and a decade of drought over much of the continent. The projects were recommended to the commission by the North American Wetlands Conservation Council, a public and private body set up by the Act. The Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provides staff support for the council.

"These projects are crucial to conserving this continent's remaining wetlands," said Lujan. "They will protect and enhance thousands of acres of wetlands vital to the needs of wildlife and people."

The largest sums proposed are \$675,000 for acquisition of key land parcels around the 12,600-acre Swan Lake Area Wildlife Project in Minnesota; \$664,000 for 2,425 acres of marshes, creeks, and islands in Dorchester County, Maryland; \$627,450 for an 8,000-acre refuge for waterfowl, plants, and animals at North Landing River at Virginia Beach, Virginia; and \$600,000 for 1,200 acres of wetlands and uplands to reverse the degradation of Heron Lake in southwestern Minnesota. A total of \$12 million in state and private funds has been pledged to match the Federal grants.

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Funds for the projects come from interest on Federal excise taxes on hunting equipment sales, fines from violators of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and private contributions.

Approved projects also include:

Arizona: San Carlos wetlands of the San Carlos Apache Tribe in southeastern Arizona--\$29,325.

Arkansas: Franklin Point wetlands in Monroe County--\$222,845;  
Lorance Creek on the Saline/Pulaski county line--\$54,600.

California: Upper Butte Sink Wildlife Area in Butte County--\$317,111; Traction Ranch, 30 miles west of Fresno--\$285,570.

Florida: Thomas M. Goodwin Waterfowl Management Area, Brevard County--\$100,000.

Idaho: Thousand Springs/Chilly Slough area of central Idaho--\$125,000.

Iowa: Meinking/Krummen properties in Dickinson County--\$220,425;  
Iowa Prairie Pothole in north central Iowa--\$75,000.

Louisiana: Cameron-Creole Watershed Project in Cameron Parish--\$250,000.

Michigan: Wigwam Bay Wildlife Area in Arenac County--\$50,000;  
Maple River wetlands in Gratiot County--\$35,000.

Minnesota: Thielke Lake in west central Minnesota--\$275,000;  
Upper Lightning Lake in western Minnesota--\$51,000;  
restoration of private lands in many areas--\$62,000;  
upgrading wetlands in Jackson County--\$75,000.

New Mexico: Jicarilla wetlands on the Jicarilla Apache Reservation--\$35,000.

New York: Northern Montezuma Wetlands Project in Seneca County--  
\$300,000.

North Carolina: Roanoke River wetlands in Martin County--  
\$238,750.

North Dakota: Williams and McKenzie counties wetlands  
enhancement--\$180,000; MacLean Bottom wetland in central  
North Dakota--\$133,500; Chase Lake Islands in central North  
Dakota--\$96,700.

Oregon: Warner Valley wetlands in south central Oregon--  
\$215,500.

South Dakota: Columbia Marsh in north central South Dakota--  
\$32,100; Lake Thompson in eastern South Dakota--\$68,885.

Tennessee: White Lake refuge in Dyer County--\$128,500; Horns  
Bluff wetland in Crockett and Gibson counties--\$56,223.

Texas: Mad Island Marsh in Matagorda County--\$425,000.

Five projects totalling \$1.2 million were recommended in  
Alberta, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, and Saskatchewan in Canada.

Three projects for \$137,193 were recommended in Chiapas,  
Sonora, and Tamaulipas in Mexico.