

# News Release



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## Grants Benefit Wetlands and Other Bird Habitat

*Pacific Region projects receive nearly \$3 million, to be exceeded by non-federal contributions*

Hundreds of species of migratory birds along the Pacific Flyway and elsewhere in the nation will benefit from grants approved recently by the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar has announced.

For the Pacific Region of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Commission approved \$2,991,930 in grants for projects in Oregon and Washington. The funds will be matched by \$3.7 million from partners. In all, more than 8,000 acres of wetlands, riparian areas and adjacent upland habitat in Oregon, southwest Washington and Idaho will be acquired, enhanced or restored.

“Our partners are critical to the success of these projects, which will benefit waterfowl, shorebirds, neotropical migrants such as warblers and hummingbirds, and birds of prey,” said Robyn Thorson, Director of the Service’s Pacific Region. “And while the primary focus of these grants is on birds, these projects also help mammals, fish, reptiles and amphibians.”

The grants are among \$33.4 million the Commission approved September 9 for 34 projects in 24 states.

The federal government has now made more than \$1 billion in grants under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) of 1989, helping to conserve or restore more than 25.4 million acres of wetlands and associated habitat across the continent over the past two decade.

The milestone marks “what is not only one of our nation’s most effective conservation laws but also one of its most effective conservation partnerships,” said Secretary Salazar, who chairs the commission.

While the federal government has made more than \$1 billion in grants, partners have contributed more than \$2 billion in matching funds to conserve, enhance and restore vital wetlands that provide critical habitat for fish and wildlife.

The following NAWCA grants were approved for Pacific Region projects:

- Living Floodplains of northwest Oregon and southwest Washington – \$1 million to Ducks Unlimited, Inc. (\$2 million match): This project will permanently protect 143 acres, restore 325 acres and enhance 664 acres of wetlands and associated uplands in Clark and Cowlitz counties in Washington and Columbia, Multnomah, Washington and Polk counties in Oregon. Tundra swans, mallards, northern

pintails and the nation's largest wintering population of greater scaup are among the species that will benefit from the work.

- Lower Columbia Ecoregion, northwest Oregon and southwest Washington – \$991,000 to Columbia Land Trust (\$1.9 million match): This project will acquire, enhance and restore 1,156 acres in Clackamas, Clatsop and Multnomah counties in Oregon and Wahkiakum, Cowlitz and Clark counties in Washington. Many species of waterfowl, bald eagles, peregrine falcons and neotropical migrants such as warblers, flycatchers and hummingbirds will benefit.
- Teton Basin in Idaho and Wyoming – \$1 million to the Teton Regional Land Trust (\$3,394,327 match): This project will acquire 1,308 acres, restore 248 acres and enhance 34 acres in Teton County, Idaho, and Teton County, Wyoming. The project will benefit long-billed curlews, sandhill cranes, trumpeter swans and waterfowl such as mallards and wigeons.
- Lake County Closed Basin Project, Oregon – \$1 million to Ducks Unlimited, Inc. (\$1.5 million match): In this project, 3,075 acres of wetlands will be restored and 1,360 acres will be enhanced, and 640 acres of streams and riparian areas will be restored. This area in southern Oregon is heavily used by spring-migrating water birds, including northern pintails, tundra swans, American wigeons, Wrangel Island snow geese, greater and lesser sandhill cranes and myriad shorebirds. The project will also support significant breeding populations of white-faced ibis, willets, Virginia rails, mallards, cinnamon teal, long-billed curlews, yellow warblers and willow flycatchers. The stream and riparian restoration is critical to the survival of unique native fish populations, such as red band trout, Goose Lake suckers, modoc suckers, Goose Lake tui chub, speckled dace and Pit roach.

Wetlands provide many ecological, economic, and social benefits. They provide habitat for fish, wildlife and a variety of plants. They serve as nurseries for many saltwater and freshwater fishes and shellfish of commercial and recreational importance. Wetlands also hold and slowly release flood waters, act as filters to cleanse water of impurities, and provide recreational and wildlife viewing opportunities for millions of people.

The NAWCA grants are funded by annual Congressional appropriations; fines, penalties and forfeitures levied under the [Migratory Bird Treaty Act](#); interest accrued on funds under the [Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act](#); and excise taxes paid on small engine fuels through the [Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Fund](#).

Passed in 1989, NAWCA provides matching grants to organizations and individuals who have developed partnerships to carry out wetlands conservation projects in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. The Act was passed in part to support activities under the [North American Waterfowl Management Plan](#), an international agreement that provides a strategy for the long-term protection of wetlands and associated upland habitats needed by waterfowl and other migratory birds in North America.

More information about the Pacific Region grants and other NAWCA grants approved by the commission can be found at <http://www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/grants/NAWCA/index.shtm>.

*The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov)*

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