

NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION ACT
CANADA GRANTS SUMMARIES, 2024-2 CYCLE

Project Name: PRAIRIES & BOREAL: PROTECTING WETLANDS & UPLANDS

Location: ALBERTA, MANITOBA, SASKATCHEWAN

Grantee Organization: THE NATURE CONSERVANCY OF CANADA

Project Officer: Courtney Gregg

Project Country: CA

Partner Name: AMERICAN FRIENDS OF CANADIAN NATURE (AFCN), THE NATURE CONSERVANCY OF CANADA

Date approved: 05/08/2024

Grant Award Amount: \$2,222,035.00

Proposed Match Amount \$2,222,036.00

Joint Venture: PRAIRIE HABITAT

Bird Conservation Region: BCR 11-Prairie Potholes, BCR 6-Boreal Taiga Plains

Project Description: This project will secure 1,995 acres, enhance 100 acres, and manage 190,786 acres in target priority wetland and associated upland habitat in the Prairie Habitat Joint Venture: (PHJV) program delivery areas in the Canadian provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, within the Prairies and Boreal Plain ecoregions, across the Canadian portion of Bird Conservation Regions 11 and 6. Activities will contribute to the PHJV vision of healthy and diverse prairie, parkland and boreal landscapes that support sustainable bird populations and provide ecological and economic benefits to society. The Western Boreal Forest supports millions of migratory waterbirds and waterfowl and billions of land birds, including species at risk. Permanent protection of these habitats supports high survival rates and provides quality feeding and resting, nesting cover, and brood rearing habitat needs. Securement activities will protect wetlands and associated upland habitat for waterfowl and other wetland-associated migratory birds. Enhancement activities increase breeding, feeding and resting capacity for PHJV target species. In addition to supporting migratory birds, proposed activities will store and sequester carbon and provide a buffer against the impact of droughts and floods, while providing opportunities to recreate and foster the next generation of conservation supporters.

Project Name: POTHoles PLUS PROGRAM 6

Location: ALBERTA, MANITOBA, SASKATCHEWAN

Grantee Organization: MANITOBA HABITAT HERITAGE CORPORATION

Project Officer: Roald Stander

Project Country: CA

Partner Name: DELTA WATERFOWL FOUNDATION, MANITOBA HABITAT HERITAGE CORPORATION

Date approved: 05/08/2024

Grant Award Amount: \$1,228,015.00

Proposed Match Amount \$1,228,015.00

Joint Venture: PRAIRIE HABITAT

Bird Conservation Region: BCR 11-Prairie Potholes

Project Description: The project is the first of a potential three-year programmatic Potholes Plus Program 6 grant. It will secure 1,983 acres, enhance 715 acres, and manage 157,587 acres in the prairie Habitat Joint Venture areas in southwestern Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. The primary objective of this project is to increase waterfowl productivity by ensuring ample habitat is available for waterfowl breeding and subsequent lifecycle stages in Manitoba and across the PHJV through the perpetual protection of new, and management and restoration of previously secured, habitat suitable for waterfowl production. A secondary focus directly addresses waterfowl populations through the installation and maintenance of Hen Houses, known to greatly enhance waterfowl production. In addition to the perpetual benefits that current and future waterfowl populations will see, the areas in which the NAWCA-funded work will occur also provide complementary benefits to grassland birds, waterbirds, and shorebirds. The project will have direct benefits to the important breeding habitats for priority waterfowl and land-birds, through which benefits will accrue to waterfowl populations and people throughout the Mississippi and Central Flyways.

Project Name: ONTARIO, QUEBEC & ATLANTIC: WETLAND & UPLAND HABITAT CONSERVATION, EHJV

Location: NEW BRUNSWICK, NEWFOUNDLAND, NOVA SCOTIA, ONTARIO, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, QUEBEC

Grantee Organization: THE NATURE CONSERVANCY OF CANADA

Project Officer: Courtney Gregg

Project Country: CA

Partner Name: AMERICAN FRIENDS OF CANADIAN NATURE (AFCN), THE NATURE CONSERVANCY OF CANADA

Date approved: 05/08/2024

Grant Award Amount: \$2,361,603.00

Proposed Match Amount \$2,361,603.00

Joint Venture: EASTERN HABITAT

Bird Conservation Region: BCR 12-Boreal Hardwood Transition, BCR 13-Lower Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Plain, BCR 14-Atlantic Northern Forest, BCR 8-Boreal Softwood Shield

Project Description: This project will secure 2,160 acres, manage 87,022 acres, and steward 300 acres in priority wetland and associated upland habitat in the Canadian provinces of Ontario, Québec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and Labrador, across the Eastern Habitat Joint Venture: (EHJV) and within Bird Conservation Regions 8, 12, 13 and 14. Proposed activities will focus on targeted conservation of habitat essential to EHJV priority waterfowl species, including freshwater wetlands, salt marshes, bogs and peatlands, estuaries, coastal islands, rocky shores, sandy beaches, shallow bays and intact dune systems. Securement, management, and stewardship in EHJV priority areas will prevent wetland loss, restore wetland habitat, conserve associated upland habitat, and ensure the protection of wintering, molting, breeding, and staging areas for hundreds of bird species. Twenty-one waterfowl species, including all six priority EHJV waterfowl species, will directly benefit from this project as well as at least 11 priority non-waterfowl bird species identified in the 2021-2030 EHJV Implementation Plan. Activities will benefit at least 18 coastal and wetland-dependent plant and animal species at risk. Conserved habitat provides essential ecosystem services such as coastal stabilization and flood mitigation.

Project Name: EASTERN HABITAT JOINT VENTURE: CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Location: NEW BRUNSWICK, NEWFOUNDLAND, NOVA SCOTIA, ONTARIO, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, QUEBEC

Grantee Organization: DUCKS UNLIMITED CANADA

Project Officer: David Kustersky

Project Country: CA

Partner Name: DUCKS UNLIMITED, DUCKS UNLIMITED CANADA

Date approved: 05/08/2024

Grant Award Amount: \$4,824,635.00

Proposed Match Amount \$4,824,635.00

Joint Venture: EASTERN HABITAT

Bird Conservation Region: BCR 12-Boreal Hardwood Transition, BCR 13-Lower Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Plain, BCR 14-Atlantic Northern Forest, BCR 7-Taiga Shield and Hudson Plains, BCR 8-Boreal Softwood Shield

Project Description: This project will deliver science-based habitat conservation projects to achieve North American Waterfowl Management Plan goals in the Eastern Habitat Joint Venture. It will secure, by either fee simple acquisition, conservation easement, or conservation agreement, 6,983 acres of habitat, enhance 1,006 acres, manage 1,146,497 acres of previously secured NAWCA habitat, and steward 101,900 acres. Project activities will help realize population goals for 6 EHJV priority waterfowl species: American Black Duck, Mallard, Wood Duck, Common Goldeneye, Barrow's Goldeneye and Common Eider and benefit up to 16 priority non-waterfowl bird species such as Northern Goshawk, Virginia Rail, American Woodcock, Red Knot, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Black Tern, Nelson's Sparrow, Bobolink and Rusty Blackbird. The project conservation activities will sustain and increase the overall capacity of the landscape to support waterfowl and other priority species populations. Actions will address the key population limiting factors: settling rates and duckling survival. In addition, securement activities will conserve critical staging and wintering habitat. Securement activities will ensure habitat remains intact with long-term protection through either fee simple acquisition, conservation easements, or conservation agreements.

Project Name: CANADIAN PAIRIE POTHOLE & WESTERN BOREAL HABITAT PROGRAM

Location: ALBERTA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, MANITOBA, NUNAVUT, SASKATCHEWAN, YUKON

Grantee Organization: DUCKS UNLIMITED CANADA

Project Officer: Dave Kostersky

Project Country: CA

Partner Name: CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED CANADA

Date approved: 05/08/2024

Grant Award Amount: \$21,845,301.00

Proposed Match Amount \$21,845,302.00

Joint Venture: PRAIRIE HABITAT

Bird Conservation Region: BCR 11-Prairie Potholes, BCR 6-Boreal Taiga Plains

Project Description: This is the first project in a proposed multi-year programmatic project in the Prairie Pothole and Western Boreal portions of Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Nunavut, the Yukon Territory, and the Northwest Territories of Canada. The project will advance progress on the 2021-2025 Prairie Habitat Joint Venture: Implementation Plan by securing and enhancing 47,757 and 21,565 acres, respectively, of wetlands and associated upland habitat, stewarding 15,239,534 acres through supporting programs and managing 4,485,360 acres secured through NAWCA for this and previous grant agreements. Proposed activities will benefit birds in several North American Bird Conservation Initiative plans. The project will benefit all 95 priority species identified by the PHJV, including shorebirds, waterbirds, and land birds. Of Canada's 683 federally listed species at risk, 141 occur in the Prairie Provinces, where most of the proposed activities will occur. Thirty-seven bird species at risk, including Burrowing Owl, Lark Bunting, and Bank Swallow, have ranges that overlap with Prairie Pothole Region target landscapes and will therefore likely benefit from the proposed conservation efforts. In addition to the Canadian federally listed species, three migratory bird species assessed as threatened or endangered in the U.S. (Piping Plover, Red Knot, and Whooping Crane) use habitat in the Prairie Pothole and Western Boreal regions for breeding or migration staging.

Project Name: BRITISH COLUMBIA WETLAND-ASSOCIATED MIGRATORY BIRD HABITAT CONSERVATION

Location: BRITISH COLUMBIA

Grantee Organization: THE NATURE CONSERVANCY OF CANADA

Project Officer: Courtney Gregg

Project Country: CA

Partner Name: AMERICAN FRIENDS OF CANADIAN NATURE (AFCN), THE NATURE CONSERVANCY OF CANADA

Date approved: 05/08/2024

Grant Award Amount: \$827,077.00

Proposed Match Amount \$827,078.00

Joint Venture: CANADIAN INTERMOUNTAIN, PACIFIC BIRDS HABITAT

Bird Conservation Region: BCR 10-Northern Rockies, BCR 6-Boreal Taiga Plains, BCR 9-Great Basin

Project Description: This project will secure 209.4 acres and manage 46.2 acres in the Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture: (PBHJV) and the Canadian Intermountain Joint Venture: (CIJV) located within the province of British Columbia, Canada. Focus areas for delivery include the following Natural Areas: Rocky Mountain Trench, Heritage Grasslands, West Kootenay, Fraser West, South Okanagan Similkameen, West Chilcotin, Clayoquot Sound, Haida Gwaii and Salish Sea Natural Areas. Project activities include securing wetland habitat, managing livestock grazing pressure on or near wetland and riparian areas, maintaining working ranches with high ecological value wetlands (to avoid conversion), and increasing retention of riparian forests, all activities described as priority actions in the PBHJV and CIJV Implementation plans. These activities contribute to fulfilling the CIJV and PBHJV visions of landscapes that support healthy populations of birds, maintain biodiversity, and foster sustainable resource use. The securement of wetland habitat in the CIJV will benefit priority waterfowl, including American Wigeon, Barrow's Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Green-winged Teal, Lesser Scaup, Mallard, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, and Ruddy Duck. Securement activities will also benefit priority grassland birds including Horned Lark, Bobolink, Short-eared Owl and Grasshopper Sparrow, priority forest birds including Olive-sided Flycatcher and Band-tailed Pigeon, and priority aerial insectivores including Common Nighthawk, Bank Swallow, and Barn Swallow. Management activities will focus on maintaining the carrying capacity of wetlands and associated upland habitat across both the CIJV and PBHJV.

Project Name: BRITISH COLUMBIA PBHJV & CIJV WETLAND BIRD HABITAT CONSERVATION

Location: BRITISH COLUMBIA

Grantee Organization: THE NATURE TRUST OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Project Officer: Julian Zelazny

Project Country: CA

Partner Name: AMERICAN FRIENDS OF CANADIAN CONSERVATION, THE NATURE TRUST OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Date approved: 05/08/2024

Grant Award Amount: \$835,000.00

Proposed Match Amount \$835,000.00

Joint Venture: CANADIAN INTERMOUNTAIN, PACIFIC BIRDS HABITAT

Bird Conservation Region: BCR 10-Northern Rockies, BCR 5-Northern Pacific Rainforest, BCR 9-Great Basin

Project Description: The project will secure 415 acres of habitat for priority species within the PBHJV and CIJV program areas. In the BC portion of the PBHJV, projects will target freshwater wetland and riparian forest ecosystems along the east coast of Vancouver Island that provide annual foraging habitat for significant concentrations of staging and wintering waterfowl, wetland-dependent species, and waterbirds. The BC coastal portion of the Pacific Flyway supports more than 30 migratory waterfowl species. The strategic southern coastal Location: for habitat securement described in this proposal will provide migrating and wintering habitat for priority species including Mallard, American Wigeon, Western Grebe, Barrow's Goldeneye, and Bufflehead. Within the CIJV, projects will focus on the Columbia Valley targeting freshwater wetlands, wetland associated uplands, riparian forests, and grasslands that provide important breeding habitat for up to 24 species of waterfowl and other wetland-associated birds. The Columbia Valley Wetland is a Ramsar site of international importance along the Pacific Flyway. The target areas within both BC JVs support several federally listed species at risk, such as Western Painted Turtle and Great Blue Heron, relying on wetland habitat for portions of their life cycle, along with Lewis's Woodpecker and Marbled Murrelet, using riparian and other forest ecosystems located near wetlands and watercourses, and American Badger found within wetland-associated grasslands. The proposed conservation securement projects will provide community recreational and health benefits in perpetuity. Additionally, functioning estuaries and freshwater wetlands, along with wetland-associated uplands, surrounding grasslands, and riparian forests, provide nature-based solutions to mitigate for changing environmental conditions such as drought, and erosion, as well as for maintaining water quality.

Project Name: BRITISH COLUMBIA PACIFIC BIRDS HABITAT & CANADIAN INTERMOUNTAIN CONSERVATION

Location: (County) BC-BRITISH COLUMBIA

Grantee Organization: DUCKS UNLIMITED CANADA

Project Officer: Dave Kostersky

Project Country: CA

Partner Name: DUCKS UNLIMITED, DUCKS UNLIMITED CANADA

Date approved: 05/08/2024

Grant Award Amount: \$1,704,330.00

Proposed Match Amount \$1,704,330.00

Joint Venture: CANADIAN INTERMOUNTAIN, PACIFIC BIRDS HABITAT

Bird Conservation Region: BCR 10-Northern Rockies, BCR 5-Northern Pacific Rainforest, BCR 9-Great Basin

Project Description: This project is Phase 2 in a programmatic grant. The project aims to deliver science-based habitat conservation projects to achieve North American Waterfowl Management Plan goals in the PBHJV and CIJV. Project activities support the ten-year implementation plans approved for both Joint Ventures and will continue to focus on JV waterfowl Priority Areas. DUC prioritizes investments in the CIJV because much of this JV was identified as a Priority 2 landscape in DUC's International Conservation Plan. DUC will combine securement, enhancement, management, and stewardship activities to address a range of threats, species needs, and management challenges. DUC will secure 869 acres (through acquisition, conservation easements and conservation agreements), enhance 309 rangeland acres (200 wetland and 109 upland acres), and manage 424,813 acres. DUC will also conserve habitat through 5,600 acres of stewardship by supporting waterfowl-friendly cropping and invasive Spartina control and through crown land designations. In the CIJV, proposed activities will benefit breeding, staging, migrating, and wintering waterfowl. In the BC-PBHJV area, activities will benefit wintering and migration area through improvements to foraging habitat that is critical to ensuring that survival outside of the breeding season does not limit waterfowl population growth.