

**NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION ACT**  
**U.S. STANDARD GRANTS SUMMARIES, 2023-1 CYCLE**

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Project Name: SOUTHERN RED RIVER VALLEY WETLANDS IV

Location: Minnesota

Congressional District: MN-7

Grantee Organization: PHEASANTS FOREVER, INC.

Project Officer: Sabin Adams

Grantee Email: sadams@pheasantsforever.org

Project Country: US

\*Partner Name: STA-LESSARD SAMS OUTDOOR HERITAGE COUNCIL, CON-PHEASANTS FOREVER, INC., PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S)

Date approved: 09/21/2022

Grant Award Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount: \$2,152,771.00

Joint Venture: PRAIRIE POTHOLE

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

Project Description: This project builds upon the habitat protection and enhancement efforts that have already taken place to conserve wetlands and associated uplands in the Prairie Pothole Region (PPR) of Minnesota. Specifically, this project will accelerate conservation efforts in the Southern Red River Valley of Minnesota. The collective goal of Pheasants Forever, Inc. and its partners is to protect, restore, and enhance 1,794.27 acres of habitat that is crucial to waterfowl and many other migratory and resident species of wildlife. The PPR has the potential to produce millions of ducks, including mallard, blue-wing teal, gadwall, Northern pintail, American wigeon, Northern shoveler, canvasback, redhead, ruddy duck and other waterfowl and water-dependent birds.

Project Name: SOUTHERN MINNESOTA PRAIRIE WETLANDS

Location: Minnesota

Congressional Districts: MN-1, MN-2, MN-3, MN-4, MN-5, MN-6, MN-7, MN-8

Grantee Organization: PHEASANTS FOREVER, INC.

Project Officer: Sabin Adams

Grantee Email: sadams@pheasantsforever.org

Project Country: US

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

Date approved: 09/21/2022

Grant Award Amount: \$2,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount: \$4,077,462.00

Joint Venture: PRAIRIE POTHOLE, UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER-GREATLAKES

Bird Conservation Regions: BCR 11-Prairie Potholes, BCR 12-Boreal Hardwood Transition, BCR 22-Eastern Tallgrass Prairie, BCR 23-Prairie Hardwood Transition

Project Description: This project will focus on the protection and enhancement of prairie wetlands and associated upland habitats to benefit wildlife in Southern Minnesota. Long-standing and new partners have come together to purchase, restore, and enhance approximately 2,948-acres of habitat crucial to waterfowl. Fee-title acquisitions of Waterfowl Production Areas and Wildlife Management Areas focus on investments in habitat that build upon existing wetland complexes. Wetland restoration and enhancement accomplishments are focused on improving the quality of habitat provided to breeding and migratory waterfowl. Species that will benefit the most are those that are wetland and/or grassland dependent relying on open contiguous landscapes that are relatively free of trees. However, waterfowl will also benefit and some examples are blue-winged teal, mallard, and Northern pintail.

Project Name: SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA WETLANDS ACQUISITION & PROTECTION

Location: Louisiana

Congressional District: LA-1, LA-2

Grantee Organization: DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer: Cassidy Lejeune

Grantee Email: clejeune@ducks.org

Project Country: US

\*Partner Name:: PRO-BATTURE LLC, CON-CITY PARK IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, STA-COASTAL PROTECTION & RESTORATION AUTHORITY OF LOUISIANA, CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, STA-LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & FISHERIES

Date approved: 09/21/2022

Grant Award Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount: \$2,281,142.48

Joint Venture: GULF COAST

Bird Conservation Region: BCR 37-Gulf Coastal Prairie

Project Description: This project will benefit 2,625 acres of coastal wetlands that directly addresses the conservation needs of the region and help offset its dramatic coastal wetland loss. One tract, Couba Island, includes the perpetual protection of 2,585 acres of fresh and intermediate marsh in St. Charles Parish, Louisiana. This project will result in the permanent addition of Couba Island to LDWF's wildlife management area system and allow for continued public access to the property. The fee title acquisition effort will protect 2,585 acres that include a combination of fresh and intermediate marshes, numerous shallow water ponds, and woody spoil banks and ridges. Migration and wintering habitat will be protected for a variety of waterfowl species and other wetland-associated birds in the Gulf Coast Prairie that include piping plover, red knot, brown pelican, and peregrine falcon.

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Project Name: SOUTH LOUISIANA WATERFOWL HABITAT CONSERVATION III

Location: Louisiana

Congressional District: LA-1, LA-2, LA-3, LA-4, LA-5, LA-6

Grantee Organization: DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer: Cassidy Lejeune

Grantee Email: clejeune@ducks.org

Project Country: US

\*Partner Name: STA-COASTAL PROTECTION & RESTORATION AUTHORITY OF LOUISIANA, CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, STA-LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & FISHERIES, PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S)

Date approved: 09/21/2022

Grant Award Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount: \$2,210,000.00

Joint Ventures: EASTERN GULF COAST, GULF COAST, LOWER MISSISSIPPI VALLEY

Bird Conservation Regions: BCR 25-West Gulf Coastal Plain/Ouachitas, BCR 26-Mississippi Alluvial Valley, BCR 27-Southeastern Coastal Plain, BCR 37-Gulf Coastal Prairie

Project Description: This project will enhance 7,700 acres of wetlands that directly address the conservation needs within the Louisiana portion of the Gulf Coast Joint Venture's Chenier Plain Initiative Area, Mississippi River Coastal Wetlands Initiative Area, and potentially portions of the Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture. One tract in this proposal includes a 5,000-acre enhancement of coastal marsh, seasonally flooded moist-soil units, palustrine emergent wetlands and flooded timber on private lands in Louisiana. A second tract will enhance 1,700 acres of intermediate marsh at the Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge in Orleans Parish, Louisiana. This project will benefit a variety of waterfowl species but will also benefit migration habitat for piping plover, red knot, and Eastern black rail.

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Project Name: SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM WETLANDS III

Location: Florida

Congressional District: FL- 9

Grantee Organization: DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer: Emily Purcell

Grantee Email: epurcell@ducks.org

Project Country: US

\*Partner Name: CON-FISH & WILDLIFE FOUNDATION OF FLORIDA, STA-FLORIDA FISH & WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION, LOC-SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT, CON-WETLANDS AMERICA TRUST

Date approved: 09/21/2022

Grant Award Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount: \$3,049,171.00

Joint Venture: ATLANTIC COAST

Bird Conservation Region: BCR 31-Peninsular Florida

Project Description: The objective of this project is to enhance key wetlands within central peninsular Florida at the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, a crucial watershed to the Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee and the Greater Everglades. This project supports the Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge by restoring vital habitats in the watershed, maintaining, and improving existing water hydrology and quality in the Okeechobee watershed and the Everglades. This project is a partnership involving six key partners collaborating to enhance more than 3,847 acres of wetlands and 388 acres of associated uplands in the Upper Everglades Basin designated focus area of the Florida Peninsula. This project will benefit a variety of bird species including wood stork, crested caracara, roseate spoonbill, and resident species which are listed at extreme risk, black rail.

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Project Name: SHIREY BAY RAINEY BRAKE & PETIT JEAN WMAS WETLAND ENHANCEMENT

Location: Arkansas and Mississippi

Congressional Districts: AR-1, AR- 4, MS -2

Grantee Organization: DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer: Nick Biasini

Grantee Email: nbiasini@ducks.org

Project Country: US

\*Partner Name: STA-ARKANSAS GAME & FISH COMMISSION, PRO-BANK OF BRINKLEY, CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S), CON-WETLANDS AMERICA TRUST

Date approved: 09/21/2022

Grant Award Amount: \$1,999,922.00

Proposed Match Amount: \$4,020,000.00

Joint Venture: LOWER MISSISSIPPI VALLEY

Bird Conservation Regions: BCR 25-West Gulf Coastal Plain/Ouachitas, BCR 26-Mississippi Alluvial Valley

Project Description: This project is the continuation of a multi-phase effort aimed at the protection, restoration and enhancement of critical wetland habitats on public lands in the Mississippi Alluvial Valley (MAV). Overall, this project will protect and enhance more than 4,562 acres within the MAV. This project will build on past NAWCA investments in the MAV that aim to prevent further habitat degradation and ensure that the MAV continues to fulfill its historical role as one of the most important landscapes in North America for continental populations of waterfowl such as gadwall, Northern shoveler, green-winged teal, blue-winged teal, and hooded merganser.

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Project Name: SANTEE & WINYAH BASINS WILDERNESS PRESERVATION

Location: South Carolina

Congressional District: SC-7

Grantee Organization: OPEN SPACE INSTITUTE

Project Officer: Maria Whitehead

Grantee Email: mwhitehead@osiny.org

Project Country: US

\*Partner Name: CON-KNOBLOCH FAMILY FOUNDATION, CON-OPEN SPACE INSTITUTE, STA-SOUTH CAROLINA CONSERVATION BANK, STA-SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, CON-WETLANDS AMERICA TRUST

Date approved: 09/21/2022

Grant Award Amount: \$2,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount: \$4,000,000.00

Joint Venture: ATLANTIC COAST

Bird Conservation Region: BCR 27-Southeastern Coastal Plain

Project Description: This project will permanently protect 2,340 acres of strategic wetlands on the northern coast of South Carolina, specifically expansive Santee River floodplain wetlands, known as the Santee River Wilderness Corridor, in the Santee Focus Area and Carolina bay habitat, expanding the Cartwheel Bay Heritage Preserve in the Little Pee Dee/Lumber Focus Area of the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture. The wetlands conserved in this project will provide migration, wintering, and breeding habitat for a host of waterfowl including American Black Duck, American wigeon, gadwall, green-winged teal, blue-winged teal, Wood Duck, and Hooded Mergansers.

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Project Name: NORTH DAKOTA DRIFT PRAIRIE VIII

Location: North Dakota

Congressional District: ND-AT LARGE-1

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: 09/21/2022

Grant Award Amount: \$2,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount: \$2,575,549.00

Joint Venture: PRAIRIE POTHOLES

Bird Conservation Region: BCR 11-Prairie Potholes

Project Description: This project is the eighth phase of a project designed to protect, restore and enhance wetland and grassland habitats. This area encompasses more than 16.7 million acres within 22 counties in the Drift Prairie-Missouri Coteau physiographic sub-region of eastern North Dakota in the Prairie Pothole Joint Venture. This project will build on past successes and continue to protect and improve wetland and grassland habitat complexes within this highly vulnerable landscape. This project will benefit nesting habitat for Northern pintail, gadwall, blue-winged teal, Northern shoveler, and canvasback.

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Project Name: MUKWONAGO FOX RIVER FOCUS AREA III

Location: Wisconsin

Congressional District: WI-1, WI- 5

Grantee Organization: DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer: Brian Glenzinski

Grantee Email: bglenzinski@ducks.org

Project Country: US

\*Partner Name: CON-BONG NATURALIST ASSOCIATION, INC, CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, CON-GENEVA LAKES CONSERVANCY, PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S), CON-THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, CON-WAUKESHA COUNTY LAND CONSERVANCY, PRO-WE ENERGIES FOUNDATION, STA-WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Date approved: 09/21/2022

Grant Award Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount: \$2,085,450.00

Joint Venture: UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER-GREATLAKES

Bird Conservation Region: BCR 23-Prairie Hardwood Transition

Project Description: This project will protect, restore, and enhance more than 1,205 of critical wetland and riparian habitat and adjacent uplands within the Mukwonago and Fox River watersheds in Wisconsin to ensure long-term conservation of these ecosystems and their associated fish and wildlife. Protection, restoration, and enhancement of these lands will directly benefit wetland and grassland species to include: breeding habitat for waterfowl species such as American black duck, Northern pintail, and Wood Duck; foraging, nesting, and migratory stop-over habitat for many species of shorebirds, waterfowl, and waterbirds, such as American bittern, American woodcock, black tern, willow flycatcher, sedge wren, cerulean warbler; and nesting habitat for grassland bird species of concern, such as dickcissel, Eastern meadowlark, and Grasshopper Sparrow. This project also will provide potential breeding and migration habitat for Whooping Crane.

Project Name: MONTANA HI-LINE PRAIRIE WETLAND IX

Location: Montana

Congressional District: MT-AT LARGE-1

Grantee Organization: DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer: Robert Sanders

Grantee Email: rsanders@ducks.org

Project Country: US

\*Partner Name: CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, STA-MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS, PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S), CON-THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Date approved: 09/21/2022

Grant Award Amount: \$600,000.00

Proposed Match Amount: \$618,967.00

Joint Venture: PRAIRIE POTHOLE

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

Project Description: This project is within the Prairie Pothole Region (PPR) area and continues conservation efforts by many partners in north-central and northeast Montana. For 33 years, partners have been actively working with ranchers and farmers throughout the project area on conservation projects. This project will protect some of the most productive wetland and associated grassland habitat within the project area through a 3,693 acre perpetual conservation easements, and will restore or enhance approximately 3,037 acres to former cropland to wetland and grassland habitat, primarily by implementing grazing systems with benefits to waterfowl and declining grassland birds. Mallard and Northern pintail are two of the most abundant and high priority waterfowl species breeding in the project area. Many other species of waterfowl use this portion of the PPR for breeding such as redhead, canvasback, ring-necked duck, and American wigeon.

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Project Name: MID-ATLANTIC BLACKWATERS & BAYS I

Location: Virginia

Congressional District: VA-1, VA-4

Grantee Organization: DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer: Emily Purcell

Grantee Email: epurcell@ducks.org

Project Country: US

\*Partner Name: PRO-BEECHTREE GROUP LLC, CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S), STA-VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES, STA-VIRGINIA OUTDOORS FOUNDATION

Date approved: 09/21/2022

Grant Award Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount: \$1,872,500.00

Joint Venture: ATLANTIC COAST

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

Project Description: This proposal focuses on seven tracts in southeastern Virginia, one located in Caroline County and six in Southampton County. These projects will result in the perpetual protection of 1,331 wetland acres and 1,091 upland acres, as well as the enhancement of 85 acres of wetlands on Mattaponi Wetland Management Area in Bowling Green, Virginia. Benefits to waterfowl from this proposal include increased foraging capacity and protection of important habitat for pair isolation, thermal refuge, and roosting. Some waterfowl that will benefit include Southern James Bay Canada goose, tundra swan, Northern pintail, American coot, and bufflehead.

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Project Name: MAINE WETLANDS CONSERVATION INITIATIVE (MWCI) III

Location: Maine

Congressional District: ME-1, ME-2

Grantee Organization: MAINE COAST HERITAGE TRUST

Project Officer: Bob DeForrest

Grantee Email: bdeforrest@mcht.org

Project Country: US

\*Partner Name: CON-ELLIOTSVILLE FOUNDATION, INC, PRO-MAINE BEER COMPANY, CON-MAINE COAST HERITAGE TRUST, STA-MAINE DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES & WILDLIFE, PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S), CON-ROYAL RIVER CONSERVATION TRUST, CON-WESTERN FOOTHILLS LAND TRUST

Date approved: 09/21/2022

Grant Award Amount: \$1,499,725.00

Proposed Match Amount: \$3,016,000.00

Joint Venture: ATLANTIC COAST

Bird Conservation Regions: BCR 14-Atlantic Northern Forest, BCR 30-New England/Mid-Atlantic Coast

Project Description: This project will protect and restore more than 2,324 acres in the Gulf of Maine ecosystem in Northeastern Maine. For several waterfowl and associated wetland habitat species, the coast of Maine contains the highest-quality habitat and the highest densities or populations in the continental U.S., for part of their annual cycle such as Common Eider, American Black Duck, Eastern harlequin duck, and Purple Sandpiper. This project includes a large protected, 1,300 acre, tract that includes extensive freshwater wetlands in a forested landscape and coastal salt waters that includes Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge that is primarily dominated by salt marshes and estuaries along fifty miles of Maine coastline.

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Project Name: KANSAS PRAIRIE WETLANDS X

Location: Kansas

Congressional District: KS-1, KS-2, KS-3, KS- 4

Grantee Organization: DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer: Matthew Hough

Grantee Email: mhough@ducks.org

Project Country: US

\*Partner Name: CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, PRO-EVERGY, STA-KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & PARKS, PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S), CON-THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Date approved: 09/21/2022

Grant Award Amount: \$2,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount: \$2,007,740.00

Joint Venture: PLAYA LAKES, UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER-GREATLAKES

Bird Conservation Regions: BCR 18-Shortgrass Prairie, BCR 19-Central Mixed-grass Prairie, BCR 22-Eastern Tallgrass Prairie

Project Description: This project includes eight tracts that include over 2,934 acres of wetlands that will be acquired, protected, restored, and/or enhanced, as well as approximately 7,239 acres of conservation easements that will perpetually protect habitat on private lands in the Central Flyway. The engagement of eleven partners, eight of which are new, have pledged their support to combat habitat loss in Kansas. Together, this project will restore, enhance and/or protect wetland acres that will benefit a variety of species including several priority shorebird species. These projects will also protect and restore significant native prairie complexes for grassland species, including grassland dependent birds and native pollinators.

Project Name: IOWA MINNESOTA PRAIRIE POTHOLE IV

Location: Iowa, Minnesota

Congressional District: IA-1, IA-4, MN-1

Grantee Organization: PHEASANTS FOREVER, INC.

Project Officer: Sabin Adams

Grantee Email: sadams@pheasantsforever.org

Project Country: US

\*Partner Name: CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, CON-FOX LAKE CONSERVATION LEAGUE, STA-LESSARD SAMS OUTDOOR HERITAGE COUNCIL, CON-PHEASANTS FOREVER, INC., PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S)

Date approved: 09/21/2022

Grant Award Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount: \$3,655,683.00

Joint Venture: PRAIRIE POTHOLE

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

Project Description: All work in this proposal was completed on permanently protected lands held by Minnesota Department of Natural Resources as Wildlife Management Areas, USFWS as Waterfowl Production Areas, or Iowa Department of Natural Resources as Wildlife Management Areas. Partners will accelerate wetland and upland conservation by acquiring 539.95-acres in fee title, and restore and enhance 3(10) acres of wetlands and 430 acres of uplands. Breeding waterfowl habitat is the focus of this project and will directly benefit American wigeon, Northern shoveler, canvasback, redhead, ruddy duck and other waterfowl and water-dependent birds.

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Project Name: IOWA DES MOINES LOBE WETLAND INITIATIVE II

Location: Iowa

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: LOC-DICKINSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD, CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, STA-IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, CON-IOWA NATURAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION, LOC-POLK COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD, PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S)

Date approved: 09/21/2022

Grant Award Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount: \$2,515,500.00

Joint Venture: PRAIRIE POTHOLE

Bird Conservation Regions: BCR 11-Prairie Potholes, BCR 22-Eastern Tallgrass Prairie

Project Description: This project is a conservation partnership aimed at protecting, restoring, and enhancing 2,049 acres of critical wetland and migratory bird habitat throughout Iowa's Prairie Pothole Region. This project continues to build on what has been a successful and long-term partnership between the USFWS Waterfowl Production Area program and NAWCA. Through this project, improving management of large prairie marshes will be a priority to benefit migrating birds, which will provide better nesting and brood-rearing habitats for the birds that breed in the area. Such bird species include Northern pintail, mallard, American black duck, lesser and greater scaup.

Project Name: HARNEY BASIN WETLANDS

Location: Oregon

Congressional District: OR-2

Grantee Organization: DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer: Chris Colson

Grantee Email: ccolson@ducks.org

Project Country: US

\*Partner Name: CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, LOC-HARNEY COUNTY WATERSHED COUNCIL, CON-HIGH DESERT PARTNERSHIP, STA-OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

Date approved: 09/21/2022

Grant Award Amount: \$775,000.00

Proposed Match Amount: \$1,174,376.00

Joint Venture: INTERMOUNTAIN WEST

Bird Conservation Region: BCR 9-Great Basin

Project Description: This project represents the first recent NAWCA-based effort to conserve critical habitat for wetland migratory birds in the Harney Basin Project Area of Southern Oregon/Northeastern California (SONEC) region. The SONEC region supports 30% of the continental Northern Pintail population during spring migration. The project focuses on shallow, seasonal wetland habitat on private lands and public lands tract on Malheur National Wildlife Refuge that aims to initiate a self-promoting restoration of Malheur Lake through the reestablishment of emergent vegetation. The project will protect, restore, and enhance approximately 5,362 acres of seasonally flooded wetlands and irrigated meadows on three tracts by improving water distribution, efficiency, and management. This habitat has been shown to be critical to additional waterfowl and wetland dependent bird species including tule white-fronted geese, Wrangel Island snow geese, greater sandhill cranes, white-faced ibis, long-billed curlews, Virginia rails, and Northern harriers.

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Project Name: EMBAYED RIVERS INITIATIVE VII

Location: North Carolina

Congressional District: NC-1, NC-3

Grantee Organization: NORTH CAROLINA COASTAL LAND TRUST

Project Officer: Janice Allen

Grantee Email: janice@coastallandtrust.org

Project Country: US

\*Partner Name: CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, CON-NORTH CAROLINA COASTAL LAND TRUST, STA-NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION, PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S)

Date approved: 09/21/2022

Grant Award Amount: \$2,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount: \$4,006,000.00

Joint Venture: ATLANTIC COAST

Bird Conservation Region: BCR 27-Southeastern Coastal Plain

Project Description: This proposal represents the last phase of NAWCA proposals directed at the central and northeastern coast of North Carolina within the Embayed Rivers Initiative Focus Area. The objectives of this project are to permanently conserve four target tracts, including the fee title acquisition of a 2,930-acre parcel near Spencer Bay and three conservation easements along Upper Broad Creek, Chowan River and Newport River. This project will benefit habitat for waterfowl species such as mallard, American black duck, Northern pintail, and Lesser Scaup.

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Project Name: EMBAYED RIVERS INITIATIVE VI

Location: North Carolina

Congressional District: NC-1, NC-3

Grantee Organization: NORTH CAROLINA COASTAL LAND TRUST

Project Officer: Janice Allen

Grantee Email: janice@coastallandtrust.org

Project Country: US

\*Partner Name: CON-NORTH CAROLINA COASTAL LAND TRUST, STA-NORTH CAROLINA LAND & WATER FUND, PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S), CON-THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Date approved: 09/21/2022

Grant Award Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount: \$2,205,000.00

Joint Venture: ATLANTIC COAST

Bird Conservation Region: BCR 27-Southeastern Coastal Plain

Project Description: This project represents six of seven anticipated NAWCA projects directed at the central and northeastern coast of North Carolina within the Embayed Rivers Initiative Focus Area. This project will permanently conserve more than 2,130 acres within Pamlico, Northampton and Halifax Counties. There are ten wetland-dependent Species of Greatest Conservation Need that are likely to benefit from the protection of the acres. The species benefiting include black-crowned night heron, tri-colored heron, Louisiana waterthrush, glossy ibis, and Rafinesque's big-eared bat, bald eagle, spotted turtle, greater siren, Swainson's warbler, and rainbow snake. Protected habitat for four high priority waterfowl species such as mallard, American black duck, Northern pintail, and lesser scaup will be conserved.

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Project Name: EASTERN SOUTH DAKOTA WETLANDS VI

Location: South Carolina

Congressional District: SD-AT LARGE-1

Grantee Organization: DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer: Bruce Toay

Grantee Email: btoay@ducks.org

Project Country: US

\*Partner Name: OTH-CERTIFIED ANGUS BEEF, CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S), STA-SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH & PARKS, OTH-TURNER FOUNDATION

Date approved: 09/21/2022

Grant Award Amount: \$2,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount: \$2,036,601.00

Joint Venture: PRAIRIE POTHOLE

Bird Conservation Region: BCR 11-Prairie Potholes

Project Description: This project is designed to protect, restore, enhance and establish 10,602 acres of globally important wetland and grassland habitats in the Prairie Pothole Region. This project will restore 330 acres of wetlands and associated grasslands, establish 10 acres of wetlands, and enhance 5,068 acres of wetland and grassland complexes on private lands with improved grazing management. It will also restore 79 acres of grasslands and enhance 918 acres of wetland and grassland habitats on state-owned public areas. By restoring and enhancing 6,645 acres of grasslands in eastern South Dakota, we will provide nesting and migration habitat to an incredibly diverse range of wildlife and waterfowl including wood duck, redhead, canvasback, ring-necked duck, and American wigeon.

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Project Name: COASTAL PRAIRIE STRATEGIC HABITAT INITIATIVE III

Location: Texas

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

Grantee Organization: COASTAL PRAIRIE CONSERVANCY

Project Officer: Mary Anne Piacentini

Grantee Email: maryanne@coastalprairieconservancy.org

Project Country: US

\*Partner Name: OTH-HENDERSON-WESSENDORFF FOUNDATION, CON-KATY PRAIRIE CONSERVANCY, CON-KNOBLOCH FAMILY FOUNDATION, PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S), CON-TEXAS R.I.C.E.

Date approved: 09/21/2022

Grant Award Amount: \$2,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount: \$4,400,000.00

Joint Venture: GULF COAST

Bird Conservation Regions: BCR 21-Oaks and Prairies, BCR 25-West Gulf Coastal Plain/Ouachitas, BCR 37-Gulf Coastal Prairie

Project Description: This project will conserve 2,303 acres and establish 425 acres of wetland within the Texas Coastal Prairie. The project involves a conservation easement on the 2,000-acre Hawkins Ranch which is part of a 30,000-acre ranch in continuous operation since 1846. Also, 303 acres will be protected by adding to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Brazos Bend State Park. The focus of this project is the partnership between Katy Prairie Conservancy and Texas Rice Industry Coalition for the Environment through its Texas Coastal Plains Wetlands Initiative to undertake wetlands establishment on 425 acres of wetlands in primarily coastal counties. This proposal includes valuable coastal marsh, prairie wetlands, and coastal prairie located on Lake Austin's banks, which protects the coastal landscape by providing connectivity to the Big Boggy and San Bernard National Wildlife Refuges.

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Project Name: CEDED TERRITORY WILD RICE HABITAT INITIATIVE

Location: Wisconsin

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

Grantee Organization: WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Project Officer: Sara Comstock

Grantee Email: sara.comstock@wisconsin.gov

Project Country: US

\*Partner Name: LOC-BIG ROUND LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT, CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, LOC-POLK COUNTY, WI, STA-WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, CON-WISCONSIN WATERFOWL ASSOCIATION

Date approved: 09/21/2022

Grant Award Amount: \$1,000,000.00

Proposed Match Amount: \$2,040,000.00

Joint Venture: UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER-GREATLAKES

Bird Conservation Regions: BCR 12-Boreal Hardwood Transition, BCR 23-Prairie Hardwood Transition

Project Description: This project will enhance approximately 2,378 acres of critical wetland habitat with historical wild rice beds located within the Ceded Territory of Wisconsin. Northern wild rice (*Zizania palustris*) is considered to be one of the most vulnerable plant species in the Upper Midwest and critical for waterfowl to thrive within this area. This project will promote healthy and dynamic shallow and deep aquatic plant communities to improve the abundance and habitat conditions for wild rice. Such waterfowl that will benefit but not limited to include mallard, ring-necked duck, wood duck, blue-winged teal, Canada goose and trumpeter swan.

Project Name: BUTTE & COLUSA BASINS WETLANDS VII

Location: California

Congressional District: CA-1, CA-3

Grantee Organization: DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer: Virginia Getz

Grantee Email: vgetz@ducks.org

Project Country: US

\*Partner Name: STA-CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE, STA-CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD, CON-DUCKS UNLIMITED, PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S), LOC-WILLOW CREEK MUTUAL WATER COMPANY

Date approved: 09/21/2022

Grant Award Amount: \$1,165,893.00

Proposed Match Amount: \$2,485,454.00

Joint Venture: CENTRAL VALLEY

Bird Conservation Region: BCR 32-Coastal California

Project Description: This project is located within the Sacramento Valley portion of California's Central Valley. The Central Valley supports 60% of the migrating and wintering waterfowl in the Pacific Flyway. Up to three million ducks and one million geese winter in the Sacramento Valley. This project will improve water supply, delivery, reuse and distribution, as well as provide proper water management capabilities to wetlands. Improved water supply and delivery will increase the acreage of flooded wetlands that are available to waterfowl during the spring, fall, and winter, and will provide reliable wetland habitat throughout the waterfowl nesting season. Upland work will improve nesting cover for waterfowl and other ground-nesting birds such as Northern pintail, white-fronted goose, Western sandpiper, and white-faced ibis.

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Project Name: ALBEMARLE / CHOWAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION INITIATIVE III

Location: Virginia

Congressional District: VA-4

Grantee Organization: THE NATURE CONSERVANCY VIRGINIA CHAPTER

Project Officer: Brian van Eerden

Grantee Email: bvaneerden@tnc.org

Project Country: US

\*Partner Name: PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S), LOC-SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY, CON-THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, CON-TRIPLE R RANCH, STA-VIRGINIA OUTDOORS FOUNDATION

Date approved: 09/21/2022

Grant Award Amount: \$999,181.00

Proposed Match Amount: \$2,029,577.00

Joint Venture: ATLANTIC COAST

Bird Conservation Region: BCR 27-Southeastern Coastal Plain

Project Description: This project represents the third phase of a multi-year project to protect key forested wetland tracts in southeastern Virginia and northeastern North Carolina in the headwaters of the Albemarle Sound, one of the largest estuarine systems on the Eastern seaboard of the United States. This project will protect 2,600 acres that supports an abundance of diverse wetland communities that includes cypress/tupelo forest, non-riverine peatland forest, brackish marsh, vernal pools and bottomland hardwood forest. A number of high-priority waterfowl and waterbird species utilize the region's wetlands for breeding, stopover and overwintering habitat and river floodplain courses support multitudes of migratory and breeding songbirds. Marshes in the Currituck Sound portion of the project area are particularly renowned as duck hunting and sport fishing destinations along the East Coast.

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\*Explanation of partner name categories: CON – conservation organization; FED – federal organization or agency; LOC – local organization or government; NAT – native tribal organization or government; OTH – other group or organization; PRI – private organization, landowner, or group; PRO – corporation or business; SCH – school, college, or university; STA – state organization or agency; XXX – unknown.