

NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION ACT
U.S. STANDARD GRANTS SUMMARIES, 2024-1 CYCLE

Project Name: Creole Marsh III

Location: LA

Congressional District: 3

Grantee Organization: Ducks Unlimited Inc.

Project Officer: Cassidy Lejeune

Project Country: US

*Partner Name: Ducks Unlimited Inc., Cameron Parish Police Jury, Cameron Parish Gravity Drainage District #4, Chevron U.S.A. Inc., Private Landowner

Date approved: 9/13/2023

Grant Award Amount: \$1,400,000

Proposed Match Amount: \$3,865,295

Joint Venture: GULF COAST

Project Description: The primary objective of this project is the enhancement and protection of coastal marshes in Cameron Parish, Louisiana, to help offset dramatic coastal wetland loss in the Chenier Plain and provide quality habitat for numerous bird species and other wetland dependent wildlife. This project includes three tracts within Cameron Parish, Louisiana. These tracts consist of 3,315 acres of intermediate and brackish marsh, 500 acres of chenier ridge, coastal beach and marsh at Rutherford and Little Florida Beaches, and 289 acres of freshwater marsh.

Project Name: Raccourci Bay Marsh Enhancement II

Location: LA

Congressional District: 6

Grantee Organization: Ducks Unlimited Inc.

Project Officer: Cassidy Lejeune

Project Country: US

*Partner Name: Ducks Unlimited, Inc., Private Landowner, ConocoPhillips, Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority

Date approved: 9/13/2023

Grant Award Amount: \$2,000,000

Proposed Match Amount: \$4,551,689

Joint Venture: Gulf Coast

Project Description: The project areas of this project are located within the Terrebonne and Atchafalaya Basins of coastal Louisiana, with Terrebonne basin having an extremely high wetland loss rate. Since 1932, the Terrebonne Basin has lost 20% of its wetlands and is expected to lose an additional 130,000 acres in the next 20 years without restoration efforts. Over the next 50 years, St. Mary Parish could lose up to 27 square miles without restoration action. The project work will enhance or restore 3,170 acres of coastal wetlands and help offset Louisiana's dramatic coastal wetland loss within these basins and provide quality habitat for numerous bird species and other wetland-dependent wildlife.

Project Name: Resilient Carolina Wetlands & Rivers IV

Location: North and South Carolina

Congressional District: NC7, SC1, SC6, SC7

Grantee Organization: Ducks Unlimited Inc.

Project Officer: Emily Purcell

Project Country: US

*Partner Name: Charleston County Green Belt Program, Open Space Institute Land Trust, Knobloch Family Foundation, South Carolina Conservation Bank, South Carolina Parks

Date approved: 9/13/2023

Grant Award Amount: \$2,723,418

Proposed Match Amount: \$5,446,836

Joint Venture: Atlantic Coast

Project Description: This project aims to contribute to the regional conservation narrative through the acquisition and enhancement of lands destined for public use in the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture. One tract in this project, situated in the Lumber River Focus Area of coastal North Carolina and lies directly adjacent to Big Swamp, will be acquired in fee by the Open Space Institute Land Trust and passed through to the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC). This tract will be incorporated into the Game Lands Program for continued conservation protection. A second tract, adjacent to a prior NAWCA acquired property, Botany Bay, will serve as an important cultural and ecological resource to one of the most visited South Carolina Department of Natural Resources properties in the state. Additionally, South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism will acquire and incorporate a 532-acre tract into the Black River State Park. Enhancements included in this project will occur at the North Tibwin Unit within the Francis Marion National Forest and Mallard Pond at Huntington Beach State Park. This enhancement will allow land managers at these properties greater water management capacity to encourage high-quality habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife.

Project Name: Habitat Improvements of the Prairie Pothole

Location: Minnesota

Congressional District: 2, 6, 7, and 8

Grantee Organization: Pheasants Forever

Project Officer: Sabin Adams

Project Country: US

*Partner Name: Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, Inc., Fox Lake Conservation League, Outdoor Heritage Fund, MN Department of Natural Resources, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources, City of Waseca, Private Landowner

Date approved: 9/13/2023

Grant Award Amount: \$3,000,000

Proposed Match Amount: \$10,006,816.39

Joint Venture: Prairie Potholes

Project Description: The purpose of this project is to acquire through fee title and easement acquisition 1,810.39 acres, enhance 2,997 acres, and restore 1,008.9 acres of wetland and prairie upland habitats within the Prairie Pothole Region of Minnesota, which covers approximately the western half of the state. Prairie wetlands are particularly important for migratory waterfowl and the diverse groups of shorebirds, herons, rails, and other waterbirds they host during both spring and fall migration.

Project Name: Mid-Atlantic Blackwaters & Bays II

Location: North Carolina and Virginia

Congressional District: NC3, VA1, VA2

Grantee Organization: Ducks Unlimited Inc.

Project Officer: Emily Purcell

Project Country: US

*Partner Name: Ducks Unlimited, Inc., Virginia Dept. of Wildlife Resources, Hampton Roads Sanitation District, Wildlife Foundation of Virginia, Private Landowners, Virginia Outdoor Foundation, Obici Healthcare Foundation, Franklin Park Foundation

Date approved: 9/13/2023

Grant Award Amount: \$2,114,920

Proposed Match Amount: \$2,115,000

Joint Venture: Atlantic Coast

Project Description: The purpose of this project is to permanently protect 1,412 acres and enhance 947 acres of wetlands and associated uplands in Virginia and North Carolina. Protection activities include the fee-title acquisition of 372 acres of tidal marsh along the Mattaponi River and 90 acres of forested lands along the Blackwater River. Protection activities also include the acquisition of permanent conservation easements on 950 contiguous acres of forested wetlands and associated uplands along the Blackwater River. Enhancement activities include improvements to 947 acres of wetland habitat on Mattamuskeet and Back Bay National Wildlife Refuges.

Project Name: St. Lawrence River/Thousand Islands IV

Location: New York

Congressional District: 21 and 24

Grantee Organization: Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

Project Officer: Matthew Wagner

Project Country: US

*Partner Name: Ducks Unlimited, Inc., Thousand Island Land Trust, Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust, Indian River Lakes Conservancy, St. Lawrence Land Trust, Department of Defense, Save the River, Private Landowner, Audubon Great Lakes

Date approved: 9/13/2023

Grant Award Amount: \$1,957,438

Proposed Match Amount: \$3,932,256

Joint Venture: Atlantic Coast

Project Description: This project will protect, enhance, and restore 2,699.5 (12) acres, most of which is near or contiguous to other protected lands, and near important aquatic resources including bays, rivers, and streams within the St. Lawrence River Valley (SLRV). The highest bird habitat values in the SLRV are associated with Lake Ontario, the St. Lawrence River, and the Indian River Lakes region because of the quality, abundance, and diversity of wetland types (marsh, forested river corridors, vernal pools, potholes) interspersed with vital grasslands and upland forests that collectively provide critical staging areas for migratory birds and several key areas that serve as funnels for important migrating land birds utilize these wetlands year-round. All tracts will offer hiking trails and passive public recreation opportunities like birdwatching.

Project Name: Maine Lakes & Estuaries

Location: Maine

Congressional District: 1,2

Grantee Organization: Downeast Lakes Land Trust

Project Officer: David Montague

Project Country: US

*Partner Name: Downeast Lakes Land Trust, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, Maine Bureau of Parks & Lands, Meddybemps Lake Land Trust, SmallCorp, LLC, Private Individual, Elliotsville Foundation, Inc., Private Landowner

Date approved: 9/13/2023

Grant Award Amount: \$1,500,000

Proposed Match Amount: \$3,003,500

Joint Venture: Atlantic Coast

Project Description: This project will permanently protect, through fee acquisition, three inland tracts in the NAWCA Coastal Zone, including 5.5 miles of wooded lake and pond frontage on four major waterbodies providing habitat for a variety of wetland-dependent birds, including prime breeding habitat for American Black Duck. In addition, the project includes the fee acquisition of a coastal property in one of the premier waterfowl staging grounds on the Atlantic Flyway, the Kennebec River Estuary. Downeast Lakes Land Trust will own and manage two tracts, known as the Big Sand Beach and Meddybemps Lake parcels. Downeast Lakes Land Trust has worked since 2001 to protect lakeshores, improve fish and wildlife habitats, provide public recreation opportunities, offer educational programs, and is dedicated to the Downeast environment and economy.

Project Name: Eastern South Dakota Wetlands VII

Location: South Dakota

Congressional District: 1

Grantee Organization: Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

Project Officer: Bruce Toay

Project Country: US

*Partner Name: Ducks Unlimited, Inc., Private Individuals, Bass Pro Shops, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks

Date approved: 9/13/2023

Grant Award Amount: \$2,000,000

Proposed Match Amount: \$2,160,319

Joint Venture: Prairie Pothole

Project Description: This project identifies opportunities to keep those grasslands and wetlands productive and intact, by promoting grazing systems that increase profitability and increase ecological function with an agreement to retain and manage wetland and grassland habitats for ten years. At the same time, project partners develop relationships to promote longer-term instruments with conservation easements. The easements described in this project are flexible enough to allow the landowner management opportunities, but rigid enough to ensure those wetlands and grasslands remain in perpetuity. Ducks Unlimited, Inc., and partner staff have used this model for years to build relationships with landowners and have excelled at delivering productive conservation measures.

Project Name: Iowa Des Moines Lobe Wetland Initiative III

Location: Iowa

Congressional District: 1, 2, 3, and 4

Grantee Organization: Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Project Officer: Kelly Smith

Project Country: US

*Partner Name: Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Andrea Waitt-Carlton Family Foundation, Center Lake Protective Association, Dickinson County Water Quality Commission, Ducks Unlimited, Inc., East Okoboji Lakes Improvement Corporation, Humboldt County Conservation Board, Humboldt County Pheasants Forever Chapter, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Kossuth County Drainage District, Okoboji Foundation, Private Individual, Spirit Lake Protective Association, Two Rivers Timber Ghosts Chapter National Wild, Turkey Federation

Date approved: 9/13/2023

Grant Award Amount: \$2,000,000

Proposed Match Amount: \$4,207,800

Joint Venture: Prairie Potholes

Project Description: This project is a conservation partnership aimed at protecting, restoring, and enhancing 2,135 acres of critical wetland and migratory bird habitat throughout Iowa's Prairie Pothole Region. The project area is also an important part of a major migration corridor for lesser Scaup and other waterbirds moving north from the Central Mississippi River to the Prairie Pothole Region and other breeding grounds to the North and West. This project includes restoration and enhancement projects on several both large and small marshes providing important spring migration wetland habitats.

Project Name: Expanding Maine's Conserved Landscapes II

Location: Maine

Congressional District: 1 and 2

Grantee Organization: Forest Society of Maine

Project Officer: Kristin Peet

Project Country: US

*Partner Name: Forest Society of Maine, Midcoast Conservancy, Coastal Rivers Conservation Trust, Elliotsville Foundation, Inc., Private Landowner, Robbins Lumber Company

Date approved: 9/13/2023

Grant Award Amount: \$1,879,750

Proposed Match Amount: \$1,890,550

Joint Venture: Atlantic Coast

Project Description: This project includes two fee acquisitions and one conservation easement purchase totaling 5,462.1 acres of wetlands and surrounding uplands. The conservation easement purchase will protect 5,343.3 acres of the Eagle Lake Forest, featuring 860.4 acres of freshwater wetlands, more than nine miles of streams, and 21,313 feet of lake frontage on the 239-acre Eagle Lake, as well as the entire shoreline of 16-acre Little Pickerel Pond. The easement will add to 451,000 acres of adjacent conservation land. The fee purchase of 49.4 acres of the Pemaquid Pond wetlands are adjacent to an existing preserve and including 1,089 feet of shoreline on Pemaquid Pond. A second fee purchase will acquire 69.4 acres of salt marsh, mudflats, freshwater wetlands, and uplands within the Singing Cove Preserve in the Upper Sheepscot River watershed, home to federally endangered Atlantic Salmon.

Project Name: Southern Minnesota Prairie Wetlands II

Location: Minnesota

Congressional District: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8

Grantee Organization: Pheasants Forever

Project Officer: Sabin Adams

Project Country: US

*Partner Name: Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, Inc., The Nature Conservancy, Fox Lake Conservation League, Outdoor Heritage Fund, MN Department of Natural Resources, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources, Private Landowner, Blethen Berens Law Firm

Date approved: 9/13/2023

Grant Award Amount: \$2,000,000

Proposed Match Amount: \$6,553,217.42

Joint Venture: Prairie Pothole, Upper Mississippi/Great Lakes

Project Description: This project seeks to accelerate 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 in fee title and easement 1,638.44 acres, restore 305.27(6) acres, and enhance 876 acres for a total of 2,819.71 acres of habitat crucial to waterfowl and a whole suite of additional species. 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.

Project Name: Southern Red River Valley Wetlands V

Location: Minnesota

Congressional District: 7, 8

Grantee Organization: Pheasants Forever

Project Officer: Sabin Adams

Project Country: US

*Partner Name: Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, Inc., Outdoor Heritage Fund, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources, Private Individual

Date approved: 9/13/2023

Grant Award Amount: \$1,000,000

Proposed Match Amount: \$3,462,378.78

Joint Venture: Prairie Potholes

Project Description: The collective goal of Pheasants Forever and its partners is to protect, restore, and enhance 2,145.83 acres of habitat that is crucial to waterfowl and many other migratory and resident species of wildlife. Protecting and enhancing strategic habitat in the Prairie Pothole Region of Minnesota is a priority for the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and Prairie Pothole Joint Venture. Breeding waterfowl habitat along the Red River Valley corridor is the focus of this proposal, including the restoration and enhancement of palustrine emergent wetlands and associated uplands to benefit such species as American wigeon, Northern shovelers, and canvasbacks.

Project Name: Kansas Prairie Wetlands XII

Location: Colorado, Kansas & Oklahoma

Congressional District: CO4, KS1-4, OK3

Grantee Organization: Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

Project Officer: Matthew Hough

Project Country: US

*Partner Name: Ducks Unlimited, Inc., Syracuse Dairy, The Nature Conservancy, Kansas Alliance for Wetlands & Streams, Private Landowners, SAVE Farm

Date approved: 9/13/2023

Grant Award Amount: \$3,000,000

Proposed Match Amount: \$3,018,116

Joint Venture: Playa Lakes

Project Description: This project includes seven tracts that will protect, restore, and enhance 14,006 (1,489) acres of wetlands and associated grassland habitats, many of which will have perpetual benefits and some that will include public access. This project is a landmark and continues a nearly ten-year wetland conservation effort encompassing all of Kansas, working with over 70 partners and conserving tens of thousands of acres. Through this success, we have been approached about expanding this work into the Arkansas River Valley into Colorado, as well as the playas of the Oklahoma panhandle. This project will also protect and restore significant native prairie complexes for grassland species including grassland birds and pollinators.

Project Name: Central Flyway Migration Corridor V

Location: Nebraska

Congressional District: 1, 2, 3

Grantee Organization: Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

Project Officer: Ele Nugent

Project Country: US

*Partner Name: Ducks Unlimited, Inc., Private Landowners, Rainwater Basin Joint Venture, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Sandhills Task Force

Date approved: 9/13/2023

Grant Award Amount: \$2,044,739

Proposed Match Amount: \$2,055,687

Joint Venture: Playa Lakes, Rainwater Basin, Upper Mississippi/Great Lakes

Project Description: This project continues our successful efforts to conserve habitat in the bottleneck of the Central Flyway. This project contains a diverse assemblage of habitat projects across multiple landscapes that combine to form one of the most important stopover and spring staging areas in the world. These landscapes include the well-known Rainwater Basin and Platte River, in addition to the Sandhills, which is one of the largest contiguous grassland and wetland complexes remaining on the continent that doubles as both migration and nesting habitat for thousands of waterfowl. The goal of this project is to conserve over 20,000 acres of habitat, including 8,003 acres of wetland in these landscapes.

Project Name: Lake County Closed Basin VII

Location: Oregon

Congressional District: 2

Grantee Organization: Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

Project Officer: Chris Colson

Project Country: US

*Partner Name: Ducks Unlimited, Inc., Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Oregon Agricultural Trust, Private Landowners

Date approved: 9/13/2023

Grant Award Amount: \$1,300,000

Proposed Match Amount: \$2,288,259

Joint Venture: Intermountain West

Project Description: This project represents the seventh phase in a continuous effort to conserve critical habitat for wetland migratory birds in the Lake County Closed Basin Project Area of the as defined by the Intermountain West Joint Venture Implementation Plan. The Southern Oregon / Northeastern California (SONEC) region supports 30% of the continental Northern Pintail population during spring migration. 70% of all Pacific Flyway waterfowl stage in SONEC during spring, including nearly five million dabbling ducks. Spring goose populations in SONEC exceed 500,000 birds, 200,000 of which are Greater White-fronted Geese. Nearly 70,000 Tundra Swans migrate through SONEC as well.

Project Name: Russell Sage & Bodcau WMAs Wetland Enhancement

Location: Arkansas, Louisiana & Mississippi

Congressional District: AR1, LA4, LA5, MS2

Grantee Organization: Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

Project Officer: Nick Biasini

Project Country: US

*Partner Name: Ducks Unlimited, Inc., Wetlands America Trust, Inc., Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries, Private Landowner

Date approved: 9/13/2023

Grant Award Amount: \$3,000,000

Proposed Match Amount: \$6,010,000

Joint Venture: Lower Mississippi 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) by leveraging private land conservation values perpetually protected in Arkansas. 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 non-breeding period survival and subsequent breeding success of migratory birds that utilize this landscape as wintering and migration habitat. This project will protect and enhance 2,392 (448) acres on state and private lands in the MAV in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi.

Project Name: Wolf River Wetlands: Source to Confluence II

Location: Mississippi & Tennessee

Congressional District: MS1, TN8, TN9

Grantee Organization: Wolf River Conservancy

Project Officer: Ryan Hall

Project Country: US

*Partner Name: Wolf River Conservancy, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks, City of Memphis & Shelby County, TN, Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation, Private Landowners

Date approved: 9/13/2023

Grant Award Amount: \$1,308,567

Proposed Match Amount: \$2,095,142

Joint Venture: East Gulf Coastal Plain, Lower Mississippi Valley

Project Description: This project seeks to expand the conserved corridor along the Wolf River and its tributaries by protecting 1,536 acres of wetlands and adjacent uplands through fee acquisition of 685 acres, fee donation of 161 acres, and conservation easements on 699 acres. Of the total acres, 81% are wetlands along the Wolf River corridor within the far western boundary of the East Gulf Coastal Plain Joint Venture and the eastern portion of the Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture. Ten partners in four categories are building on the multi-year investments of private and public entities to protect the Wolf River floodplain and upland buffers from its headwaters to its confluence.

Project Name: Smoky Hill River Easement

Location: Kansas

Congressional District: 1

Grantee Organization: Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

Project Officer: Matthew Hough

Project Country: US

*Partner Name: Ducks Unlimited, Inc., Private Landowners, The Nature Conservancy

Date approved: 9/13/2023

Grant Award Amount: \$3,000,000

Proposed Match Amount: \$3,005,000

Joint Venture: Playa Lakes

Project Description: This project will protect and restore approximately 30 river and stream miles, 1,695 acres of wetland habitat, and 7,732 acres of native prairie in two important habitat complexes in Smoky Hill River Grassland Stronghold and the Walnut Creek Watershed of Kansas. These important complexes are oasis of habitat in a landscape dominated by intensive production. These sites provide vital habitat, including wetland habitats in a relatively arid area of the country, to a variety of birds and other wildlife.

Project Name: South Florida Ecosystem Wetlands V

Location: Florida

Congressional District: 8, 26

Grantee Organization: Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

Project Officer: Emily Purcell

Project Country: US

*Partner Name: Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection, Brevard County, Wetlands America Trust, Inc.

Date approved: 9/13/2023

Grant Award Amount: \$2,209,710

Proposed Match Amount: \$4,419,420

Joint Venture: Atlantic Coast

Project Description: This project will enhance 998 acres and permanently secure 72 acres through fee simple acquisition. The project entails enhancement of existing freshwater wetlands on a state property of critical importance to the South Florida Ecosystem and protection of an existing private impounded mangrove marsh wetland in the Indian River Lagoon (IRL) for the benefit of many wetland-dependent species. This project outlines a plan to plug and land smooth agriculture ditches and berms within historic wetlands to re-establish wetland footprint, sheet flow across the landscape and historical freshwater delivery downstream to estuarine wetlands. This project includes five partners are collaborating to protect and enhance 1,066 acres of wetlands and 4 acres of uplands in the northern IRL, and Everglades Basin designated focus area of the Florida Peninsula defined in the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture.