

NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION ACT
U.S. STANDARD GRANTS SUMMARIES, 2023-2 CYCLE

Project Name: BAYOU L'OURS MARSH TERRACING III

Location: LA

Congressional District: 1

Grantee Organization: DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer: Cassidy Lejeune

Project Country: US

*Partner Name: DUCKS UNLIMITED, LAFOURCHE PARISH GOVERNMENT, CONOCO PHILLIPS, COASTAL PROTECTION & RESTORATION AUTHORITY OF LOUISIANA

Date approved: 04/27/2023

Grant Award Amount: \$2,000,000

Proposed Match Amount: \$4,407,060

Joint Venture: GULF COAST

Project Description: This proposal area is located within the Barataria, Breton Sound, and Mississippi River Basins of coastal Louisiana, which have some of the highest wetland loss rates. The proposed conservation work will enhance and restore 3,045 acres of coastal wetlands, helping offset Louisiana's dramatic wetland loss within these basins and providing quality habitat for numerous bird species and other wetland-dependent wildlife. This proposal will provide quality foraging, resting, and nesting habitat for a variety of resident, migratory, and wintering species of waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, and colonial seabirds. The project will reduce impacts from storms and create quality marsh habitat to the benefit of numerous wetland-dependent wildlife species, fisheries, and other marine organisms. The primary public benefit of this proposal is the restoration and enhancement of coastal marshes that provide numerous functions and values including water quality improvements, flood storage, storm surge protection, uptake of nutrients, protection of coastal communities, and a host of fish and wildlife habitat related aspects which benefit Louisiana's economy and society.

Project Name: CONNECTING CONSERVATION CORRIDORS V

Location: GA, SC

Congressional District: GA 1; SC 6

Grantee Organization: DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer: Emily Purcell

Project Country: US

*Partner Name: WETLANDS AMERICA TRUST, U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE, HOPE PLANTATION, WHITE HOUSE PLANTATION OF GREEN POND LLC, GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Date approved: 04/27/2023

Grant Award Amount: \$1,000,000

Proposed Match Amount: \$3,330,631

Joint Venture: ATLANTIC COAST

Project Description: This project will be the fifth iteration of projects within the Connecting Conservation Corridors proposal series. The goals of this series of projects continue to be to aid in the permanent protection and strategic enhancement of properties in coastal Georgia and South Carolina, consisting of diverse wetland and upland habitats. This project focuses on three tracts along the Ashepoo and Edisto Rivers and the Altamaha River. The permanent protection of 1,000 acres will add to the hundreds of thousands of already protected acres in this region. This project includes the enhancement of two properties, one consisting of 231 wetland acres on Altamaha Wildlife Management Area in Coastal GA. This project will benefit six high priority and five other priority waterfowl species, including Northern Pintail, Mottled Duck, American Black Duck, Mallard, Lesser Scaup, Greater Scaup, Wood Duck, Redhead, Canvasback, Ring-necked Duck, and American Wigeon, as well as many other non-priority waterfowl species. This project will include acres open to the public for waterfowl hunting, fishing, birding, hiking, and other outdoor recreational activities.

Project Name: HORICON COASTAL CONNECTION II

Location: WI

Congressional District: 2,5,6,8

Grantee Organization: DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer: Tally Hamilton

Project Country: US

*Partner Name: DUCKS UNLIMITED, PRIVATE LANDOWNERS, GROUNDSWELL CONSERVANCY, INC, MADISON AUDUBON SOCIETY, USFWS WISCONSIN PARTNERS FOR FISH & WILDLIFE, DANE COUNTY PARKS, COVIA HOLDINGS CORPORATION, WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Date approved: 04/27/2023

Grant Award Amount: \$2,000,000

Proposed Match Amount: \$4,627,254

Joint Venture: UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER-GREATLAKES

Project Description: The overall objective of this proposal is to enhance 2,068 (821) acres of key migratory stopover habitat, while protecting 874 acres and restoring 1,509 acres to compliment these areas and provide additional breeding opportunities. A major focus of this proposal is to build on a previous phase and continue to improve key migratory stopover habitat for waterfowl and other waterbirds, while also protecting and restoring nesting habitat. Continued work on Lake Poygan focuses on preserving and enhancing what is left of quality deep water marsh and adjacent emergent wetlands to benefit thousands of Scaup that congregate seasonally. Protection, restoration, and enhancement of these lands will directly benefit wetland and grassland species to include: breeding habitat for waterfowl species such as Mallard, American Black Duck, Northern Pintail, Wood Duck, and Ring-necked Duck; foraging, nesting, and migratory stopover habitat for many species of shorebirds, waterfowl, and waterbirds such as American and Least Bittern, Black-necked Stilt, American Woodcock, Black Tern, Redhead, and Northern Pintail; and nesting habitat for grassland bird species of concern such as Sedge Wren, Dickcissel, Eastern Meadowlark, and Grasshopper Sparrow. This project will also provide potential breeding habitat for Whooping Cranes, which have been documented nesting at Horicon National Wildlife Refuge. This project will provide new public access to over 700 acres for nature based outdoor recreation, including hiking, hunting, trapping, fishing, snowshoeing, wildlife observation, canoeing, and kayaking.

Project Name: KANSAS PRAIRIE WETLANDS XI

Location: KS

Congressional District: 1-4

Grantee Organization: DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer: Matthew Hough

Project Country: US

*Partner Name: DUCKS UNLIMITED, PRIVATE LANDOWNERS, KANSAS ALLIANCE FOR WETLANDS & STREAMS, USFWS KANSAS PARTNERS FOR FISH & WILDLIFE, 3B MESSENGER RANCH, PEACE CREEK RANCH LLC, RIVER'S BEND LLC, RNJ LLC, KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & PARKS

Date approved: 04/27/2023

Grant Award Amount: \$1,469,877

Proposed Match Amount: \$1,485,877

Joint Venture: PLAYA LAKES, UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER GREAT LAKES

Project Description: This project includes three tracts that will protect, restore, and enhance 1,645 (1,341) acres of wetlands and associated grassland habitats, many of which will have perpetual benefits and some that will include public access. This project will permanently protect, restore, and enhance habitat for future generations benefiting numerous migratory species by continuing to develop wetlands across the state near important wetland complexes that are critical to maintaining migratory bird populations throughout the region. This project will also protect and restore significant native prairie complexes for grassland species, including grassland-dependent birds and native pollinators. One enhancement project within this project will improve habitat on existing public lands at Melvern Wildlife Area and Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area. Recreational opportunities on these tracts may include hunting, bird watching, hiking, photography, and other recreational activities.

Project Name: MISSOURI COTEAU WORKING WETLANDS PROJECT III

Location: ND

Congressional District: 1

Grantee Organization: DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer: Randy Renner

Project Country: US

*Partner Name: DUCKS UNLIMITED, NORTH DAKOTA NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST, PRIVATE LANDOWNERS, NORTH DAKOTA GAME & FISH DEPARTMENT

Date approved: 04/27/2023

Grant Award Amount: \$2,000,000

Proposed Match Amount: \$2,365,787.20

Joint Venture: PRAIRIE POTHOLE

Project Description: This project was specifically designed to bridge the gap between agriculture and conservation through programs that are economically profitable and sustainable for North Dakota farmers and ranchers, yet also beneficial to North American waterfowl habitat in the highest priority region of the prairies. The project area consists of the critically important Missouri Coteau of the Prairie Pothole and will include protection, enhancement, and restoration of 17,774 acres. Wetland habitats in the Missouri Coteau are diverse wetlands and are critically important migratory and breeding habitats for many waterfowl and wetland-dependent species. Protection of native prairie surrounding these critically important prairie wetland habitats will provide essential nesting habitat for waterfowl and other species, and will also minimize the influx of sediments, herbicides, and pesticides into these wetlands. There are 6,100 acres of the project enrolled in the North Dakota Game and Fish Department Habitat Private Land Open to Sportsmen program, providing open access for recreation during the hunting season.

Project Name: NORTH FLORIDA WETLAND CONNECTOR CONSERVATION PROJECT III

Location: FL

Congressional District: 3

Grantee Organization: ALACHUA CONSERVATION TRUST

Project Officer: Tom Kay

Project Country: US

*Partner Name: ALACHUA COUNTY, ALACHUA CONSERVATION TRUST

Date approved: 04/27/2023

Grant Award Amount: \$1,000,000

Proposed Match Amount: \$2,123,064.57

Joint Venture: ATLANTIC COAST

Project Description: This project is the third of a multi-phase effort to protect critical habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent species in North Central Florida through land acquisition. This phase will preserve 1,025 acres of wetlands and adjacent uplands in eastern Alachua County via fee simple acquisition, with the goal of preserving and connecting numerous small yet important wetlands throughout the region. The project site is a key component of a connected and diverse part of Florida's landscape, linking the Santa Fe River headwaters, Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park, Tusawilla Lake, Orange Lake, the Ocklawaha River basin, and the Ocala National Forest. The project sites host migratory and resident Sandhill Cranes, Wood Storks and several other state listed species. The project area also hosts numerous migratory and resident waterfowl species, including priority species such as Northern Pintail, Mottled Duck, Lesser Scaup, and Mallard. Herons, egrets, ibis and other waterbirds and wading birds utilize these wetlands year-round. All tracts will offer hiking trails and passive public recreation opportunities like birdwatching.

Project Name: PROTECTING MAINE'S FRESHWATER WETLANDS

Location: ME

Congressional District: 1,2

Grantee Organization: MAINE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION, & FORESTRY

Project Officer: Liz Petruska

Project Country: US

*Partner Name: COASTAL RIVERS CONSERVATION TRUST, ELLIOTSVILLE FOUNDATION, INC, FOREST SOCIETY OF MAINE, FRIENDS OF WILSON POND AREA, MAINE COAST HERITAGE TRUST, U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE (GULF OF MAINE COASTAL PROGRAM), PRIVATE LANDOWNER, INDIAN HILL TRADING POST, MAINE BUREAU OF PARKS & LANDS

Date approved: 04/27/2023

Grant Award Amount: \$2,000,000

Proposed Match Amount: \$2,000,000

Joint Venture: ATLANTIC COAST

Project Description: This project will permanently protect two large, wetland-rich interior properties, a coastal zone parcel, and an intertidal shorefront tract through fee and easement acquisition. Project acquisitions are in some of Maine's most unique, ecologically rich, and biodiverse areas, including Aroostook County, the Moosehead Lake Region, and the Southwest Coast. Aroostook County, known as 'the Crown of Maine', is the largest county east of the Mississippi River. This project will permanently protect habitats specifically supporting Black Rail and waterfowl species such as Black Duck, Common Eider, and Harlequin Duck. All project tracts will offer some opportunity for public recreation, including hiking, hunting, fishing, trapping, nature observation, boating, snowmobiling, and ATV riding on marked trails.

Project Name: RESILIENT CAROLINA WETLANDS & RIVERS III

Location: NC,SC

Congressional District: NC 3,9; SC 6,7

Grantee Organization: DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer: Emily Purcell

Project Country: US

*Partner Name: NORTH CAROLINA COASTAL LAND TRUST, OPEN SPACE INSTITUTE, THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, CHARLESTON COUNTY PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION, PRINCE CREEK WEST LLC, NORTH CAROLINA LAND & WATER FUND

Date approved: 04/27/2023

Grant Award Amount: \$2,000,000

Proposed Match Amount: \$6,286,265

Joint Venture: ATLANTIC COAST

Project Description: This project is the third iteration of the Resilient Carolina Wetlands and Rivers series to protect, restore, and enhance priority wetlands on both private and public land amongst the vast network of coastal rivers in North and South Carolina. The activities planned in this project will protect and/or enhance 3,812 acres of habitat across coastal North and South Carolina. This project focuses on four tracts that will serve as valuable habitat for waterfowl, waterbirds, and other wetland wildlife along the Atlantic Coast. This project includes tracts falling within the Neuse/Pamlico River, Lumber River, Cooper-Ashley-Wando-Stono Rivers Basin, and Upper Waccamaw River Focus areas in North and South Carolina. This project will benefit five High Priority migrating species, including the Northern Pintail, Mottled Duck, American Black Duck, Mallard, and Lesser Scaup. This project includes 100% publicly accessible lands, and all tracts will offer a wide range of public benefits, including access to hunting areas and other outdoor recreation, educational experiences, and opportunities for the public to become involved in conservation efforts in their communities.

Project Name: SAN JOAQUIN & KERN RIVERS WATERSHEDS IV

Location: CA

Congressional District: 10,16,21

Grantee Organization: DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer: Craig Garner

Project Country: US

*Partner Name: DUCKS UNLIMITED, U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE, GRASSLAND WATER DISTRICT, GRISSOM FAMILY LAND & CATTLE, CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE, CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Date approved: 04/27/2023

Grant Award Amount: \$2,000,000

Proposed Match Amount: \$4,508,909

Joint Venture: CENTRAL VALLEY

Project Description: This project is the last phase of a four-phase initiative to conserve wetlands and associated habitats in the southern Central Valley of California. This project will enhance 2,521 (8,770) acres of palustrine emergent wetlands and 112 acres of uplands, benefiting the San Luis National Wildlife Refuge-East Bear Creek Unit, Merced National Wildlife Refuge, and Kern National Wildlife Refuge. Wetland enhancements will increase the extent and quality of nutrient rich forage, freshwater, and cover for high priority migratory waterfowl, shorebirds, and waterbirds and will also conserve valuable water resources. All three refuges are open for public use, such as hunting, birding, and fishing.

Project Name: SONEC: HONEY LAKE SUB-BASIN WETLANDS II

Location: CA

Congressional District: 1

Grantee Organization: DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer: Craig Garner

Project Country: US

*Partner Name: DUCKS UNLIMITED, LASSEN LAND & TRAILS TRUST, U.S. BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, CITY OF SUSANVILLE, SIERRA PACIFIC LAND & TIMBER COMPANY, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES, CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE, CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD, SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

Date approved: 04/27/2023

Grant Award Amount: \$1,000,000

Proposed Match Amount: \$2,344,865

Joint Venture: INTERMOUNTAIN WEST

Project Description: This project is the second long-term comprehensive effort to conserve wetlands and wetland-dependent migratory bird populations in the Honey Lake sub-basin within the Southern Oregon Northeast California (SONEC) Wetland Basins. The project focuses on protection and enhancement of 1,601 (482) acres of palustrine emergent wetlands due to their very high value to fall and spring migrating waterfowl, waterbirds, and shorebirds in the region. Five million dabbling ducks, including 2.4 million Northern Pintails, depend on SONEC for spring migration with up to 70% of Pacific Flyway migrants staging in SONEC. All five tracts included in the project allow some level of public use including hunting, bird watching, hiking, photography, and nature study.

Project Name: SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM WETLANDS IV

Location: FL

Congressional District: 3,16,18

Grantee Organization: DUCKS UNLIMITED

Project Officer: Emily Purcell

Project Country: US

*Partner Name: WETLANDS AMERICA TRUST, SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT, FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, FLORIDA FISH & WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Date approved: 04/27/2023

Grant Award Amount: \$1,000,000

Proposed Match Amount: \$2,000,000

Joint Venture: ATLANTIC COAST

Project Description: The objectives of this project are to protect, restore and enhance key wetlands within crucial watersheds in central and south peninsular Florida, including the Orange Creek Basin, Myakka River System, Lake Okeechobee, and the Greater Everglades. This project will enhance 3,158 acres of wetlands and 2,052 acres of associated uplands, most of which are found in the Upper Everglades, and Orange Creek and Ocklawaha Basins focal areas of the Florida Peninsula.

Avian species determined to be at 'extreme risk' addressed in this project include Wood Storks, Snail Kites, Black Rails, Crested Caracaras, and Red-cockaded Woodpeckers. 'High risk' avian species include Mottled Ducks, certain Rails and Sandpipers, and Roseate Spoonbills. All three tracts are vitally important for public access and use in Florida for residents and visitors.

Project Name: WETLANDS OF THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY I

Location: CA

Congressional District: 16,23

Grantee Organization: CALIFORNIA WATERFOWL ASSOCIATION

Project Officer: Chadd Santerre

Project Country: US

*Partner Name: CALIFORNIA WATERFOWL ASSOCIATION, ARMSTRONG DUCK CLUB, FOUR PONDS INC, GILROY LAND & CATTLE, MURRIETTA LAND & DEVELOPMENT, CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE, CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Date approved: 04/27/2023

Grant Award Amount: \$1,000,000

Proposed Match Amount: \$1,502,755

Joint Venture: CENTRAL VALLEY

Project Description: This project will provide a broad landscape-based approach to habitat improvements on 1,164 (758) acres dedicated to migratory waterbirds and other wetland dependent wildlife. This project will restore 440 acres of palustrine emergent wetlands and 100 acres of palustrine forested habitats. Enhancements will provide improvements to 600 (742) acres of palustrine emergent wetlands, and 24 (16) acres of associated upland nesting cover. Project acres will be contributing directly to Central Valley Joint Venture habitat objectives by providing increased fall and spring staging, foraging, and breeding resources for waterbirds. Also, this project will improve resources utilized by four High Priority waterfowl species. These state-owned properties provide public outdoor recreation activities, such as hiking, birding, hunting, fishing, and research opportunities. One tract within this project is located on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Merced National Wildlife Refuge, and provides public outdoor recreation opportunities, such as hiking, birding, hunting, and research opportunities.