

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act (Act) of 1989 provides matching grants to organizations and individuals who have developed partnerships to carry out wetlands conservation projects in the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

History

The Act was passed, in part, to support activities under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, an international agreement that provides a strategy for the long-term protection of wetlands and associated upland habitats needed by waterfowl and other migratory birds in North America. In 2006, Congress reauthorized the Act to extend through Fiscal Year (FY) 2012, with an appropriation authorization of \$75 million for each of the five years of the reauthorization.

The Grants Program



Northern shovelers/Gary Kramer, USFWS

North American Wetlands Conservation Act

Funding

The Congressional appropriation to fund the Act's Grants Program in FY 2007 is approximately \$39.4 million. Additional program funding comes from fines, penalties, and forfeitures collected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918; from Federal fuel excise taxes on small gasoline engines, as directed by amendments to the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act of 1950, to benefit coastal ecosystem projects; and from interest accrued on the fund established under the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937. Total funding from all sources for FY 2007 is \$70.4 million. The President's FY 2008 appropriation request is \$42.6 million.

The Process

Per the Act, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of Bird Habitat Conservation (Division) receives proposals up to three times per year, with submission dates and frequency varying by country. Eligible proposals are presented to the North American Wetlands Conservation Council, which reviews and recommends proposals to the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission for final funding approval. The grants for approved projects are administered by the Division.

The North American Wetlands Conservation Council

Duane Shroufe (*Chair*), Arizona Game and Fish Department

Wayne MacCallum (*Vice Chair*), Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife

Dale Hall, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Scott Henderson, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

Mary Pope Hutson, Land Trust Alliance

David Nomsen, Pheasants Forever

Terry Steinwand, North Dakota Game and Fish Department

Jeff Trandahl, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Alan Wentz, Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

Mark Elsbree (*Alternate*), The Conservation Fund

Michele Brenning (*Ex Officio*), Canadian Wildlife Service

Michael Dennis (*Ex Officio*), The Nature Conservancy

Martin Vargas Prieto (*Ex Officio*), SEMARNAT-Dirección General de Vida Silvestre, Mexico

Mike Johnson (*Council Coordinator*), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

American goldfinch/Gary Kramer, USFWS



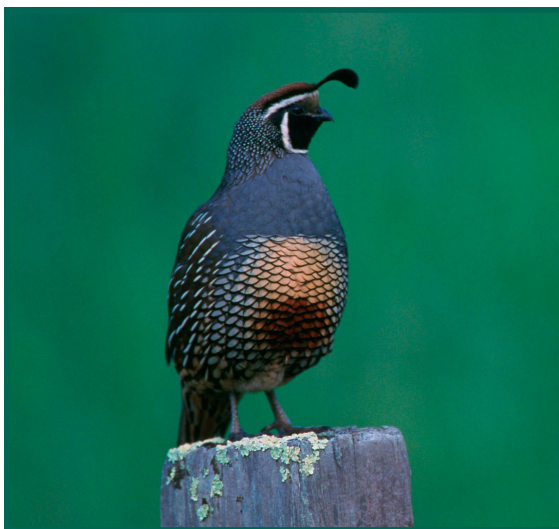
Migratory Bird Conservation Commission

- Honorable Dirk Kempthorne** (*Chair*), Secretary of the Interior
- Honorable Thad Cochran**, Senator from Mississippi
- Honorable Blanche Lincoln**, Senator from Arkansas
- Honorable John Dingell**, Representative from Michigan
- Honorable Mike Johanns**, Secretary of Agriculture
- Honorable Stephen Johnson**, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency
- A. Eric Alvarez** (*Secretary*), Chief, Division of Realty, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Accomplishments

Standard Grants Program: From September 1991 through September 2007, more than 2,790 partners have been involved in some 1,332 Act-supported projects. Canadian, U.S., and Mexican partners focus on long-term protection, restoration, and/or enhancement of critical wetland and associated upland habitats. Mexican partners also develop training, monitoring, resource

California quail/Gary Kramer, USFWS



management, and environmental education programs, and conduct studies on sustainable use. All partnerships must match the grant request at a 1-to-1 ratio.

More than \$820 million in Act grants have been invested in conservation activities across the continent. Total partner contributions have amounted to more than \$1.5 billion in matching funds and \$912.6 million in nonmatching funds. Approximately 23.7 million acres of wetlands and associated uplands have been affected.

	U.S.	Canada	Mexico
Projects	650	475	207
Partners	2,276	145	409
Grant \$	489.5 M	302.1 M	28.3 M
Match \$	1.2 B	302.5 M	42 M
Nonmatch \$	766.4 M	145 M	1.1 M
Acres	5.9 M	15.3 M	2.3 M



Ruddy turnstones/Gary Kramer, USFWS

Small Grants Program: Small Grants support the same kinds of activities in the United States that Standard Grants support, but involve fewer grant dollars. In FY 2007, a minimum of \$2 million has been allocated for Small Grants projects; grant requests may not exceed \$75,000. Projects that have a grantee or partner(s) new to the Act's Grants Program are encouraged.

From 1996, when the program began, to September 2007, some 960 partners in 359 projects have received more than \$16.3 million in grants. They have contributed another \$79.5 million in matching funds and \$33 million in nonmatching funds to their projects, helping to conserve 136,586 acres of habitat.