

Department of the Interior  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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# News Release



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## Secretary Kempthorne Announced Grants Will Protect Thousands of Acres of Coastal Wetlands in Eleven States, Puerto Rico

Department of the Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne announced today that twenty-nine conservation projects encompassing nearly 10,000 acres of coastal wetlands will be funded with \$20.5 million from 2008 National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grants.

The grants will be used to acquire, restore or enhance coastal wetlands to provide long-term conservation benefits to fish, wildlife and habitat. States receiving funds include California, Hawaii, Oregon, Washington, Texas, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Maine, Maryland, and Massachusetts, along with the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. These federal grants will be matched by nearly \$46 million in partner contributions from state and local governments, private landowners and conservation groups.

"By tapping into the power of partnership through these grants, we are joining with states, local governments, conservation organizations and other partners across the country to conserve and restore our vitally important coastal wetlands," Kempthorne said. "The projects offer enormous benefits. Coastal wetlands filter pollution, reduce storm surge from hurricanes, protect coastlines from erosion, provide habitat for many species of fish and wildlife, and offer recreational opportunities for millions of Americans."

The program is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and funded under provisions of the 1990 Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act, drawing from Sport Fish Restoration Act revenue – money generated from an excise tax on fishing equipment and motorboat and small engine fuels.

"The number of plant and animal species that rely on coastal wetlands for their health and well-being is remarkable, and I include people among that group," said U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director H. Dale Hall. "This coastal grant program continues to provide valued funds for a valued resource, and we have the angling and boating industries – and the anglers and boaters themselves – to thank for their financial support."

Including the 2008 grants, the Service has awarded more than \$200 million to coastal states and territories since the program began in 1992. When the 2008 projects are complete, 244,000 acres of habitat will have been protected, restored or enhanced.

Projects funded by the 2008 grant program include:

California	Conservation Acreage	Grant Amount
East Sweet Springs Acquisition Project	5 acres	\$500,000
Eden Landing Salt Ponds Tidal Wetland Restoration Project	730 acres	\$1,000,000
Malibu Lagoon Restoration and Enhancement Project	35 acres	\$1,000,000
Sears Point Wetlands and Watershed Restoration Project	2,320 acres	\$1,000,000

Hawaii	Conservation Acreage	Grant Amount
Conserving and Restoring the Biodiversity of the NW Hawaiian Islands – Kure Atoll	299 acres	\$400,000

Illinois	Conservation Acreage	Grant Amount
Hegewisch Marsh restoration Project	18.08 acres	\$399,750

Maine	Conservation Acreage	Grant Amount
Ingallshore Conservation Project	137 acres	\$600,000
Ragged Island Conservation Easement	76.6 acres	\$323,700

Maryland	Conservation Acreage	Grant Amount
Bishopville Ecosystem Restoration Project	85 acres	\$482,000
Conservation Easements on Sturgis Farm and Stark property in the MD Coastal Bays	280.5 acres	\$650,000
Wicomico River Coastal Wetland Protectio	272 acres	\$260,000

Massachusetts	Conservation Acreage	Grant Amount
Eel River Headwaters Restoring and Hayden Pond and Hoyts Pond Property Acquisitions	76.2 acres	\$1,000,000

Michigan	Conservation Acreage	Grant Amount
Great Lakes Marsh Restoration – Controlling the Spread of Phragmites within the Lake St  Clair Watershed	800 acres	\$379,192

Negwegon Coastal Wetlands Acquisition	390.8 acres	\$825,000
Saint Mary's River Coastal Wetland Acquisition	217 acres	\$366,667
Wildfowl Bay Coastal Wetland Acquisition	322 acres	\$930,000

Oregon	Conservation Acreage	Grant Amount
Alsea River Estuarine Wetlands Acquisition Project	235 acres	\$997,350
Lint Slough Estuary Restoration: Phase II and II	130 acres	\$310,000
Lower Salmon River Estuary Restoration Completion	71 acres	\$754,860
Yaquina River Estuarine Wetlands Acquisition Project	61.35 acres	\$95,725

Puerto Rico	Conservation Acreage	Grant Amount
San Miguel Natural Reserve Acquisition Project – Phase II	174 acres	\$1,000,000

Texas	Conservation Acreage	Grant Amount
Protection and Restoration of the Moses Lake Shoreline at the Texas City Prairie Preserve	150 acres	\$300,000

Washington	Conservation Acreage	Grant Amount
Deadwater Slough, Ebey Island, Snohomish River Delta Acquisition and Restoration Project, Phase I	820 acres	\$1,000,000
Glen Cove Shoreline Acquisition Project	89 acres	\$1,000,000
Lower Queets River Conservation	523 acres	\$1,000,000
Pilot Point Fee Acquisition	34.5 acres	\$1,000,000
Tarboo – Dabob Bay Acquisition and Restoration, Phase I	150 acres	\$1,000,000

Wisconsin	Conservation Acreage	Grant Amount
Lake Michigan Ridge & Swale Coastal Wetlands Protection – Kellner Fen and Sturgeon Bay Canal	440 acres	\$1,000,000
Washington & Detroit Island Land	195 acres	\$1,000,000

Totals for Funded Grant Proposals	9,137	\$20,574,244
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For more information, contact the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22203, or Division of Federal Assistance, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22203, or visit the program's home page.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 97-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 548 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resources offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign and Native American tribal governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance program, which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.