

North American Wetlands Conservation Act

The U.S. Standard Grants Program

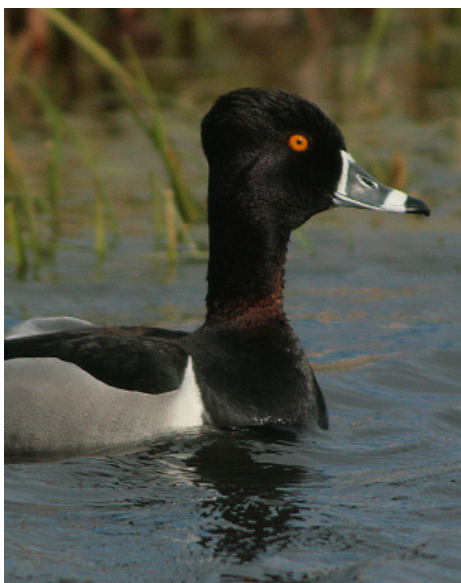
The North American Wetlands Conservation Act of 1989 provides matching grants to organizations and partnerships to carry out wetlands conservation projects in the United States, Canada, and Mexico.



Accomplishments

Since 1991, some 3,313 partners have been involved in 957 North American Wetlands Conservation Act projects through the U.S. Standard Grants program. The program provides grants over \$75,000 for conservation projects in all 50 states and several territories. Partners have matched grant funds more than two-to-one, tripling the impact on the ground. Funds support a wide range of conservation activities, including projects aiming to:

- protect, restore, or enhance wetland and associated upland migratory bird habitats throughout the country;



Ring-necked duck. Credit: Roger Baker, USFWS



American black ducks. Credit: USFWS

- promote long-term protection of acquired habitats for birds and other wetland-dependent species;
- catalyze conservation partnerships, bringing together federal, state, non-profit, and private organizations and individuals; and
- support conservation of priority migratory bird species in the U.S., including waterfowl, shorebirds, waterbirds, and landbirds.

2015 Grants

Partner Match:
\$115,602,462

Grant Funds:
\$47,684,980



Number of Projects: **47**

The Process

Applicants submit project proposals to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of Bird Habitat Conservation for either of the program's two funding cycles per year. Eligible proposals are presented to the North American Wetlands Conservation Council, which reviews, ranks, and recommends projects to the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission for final funding approval. The Division of Bird Habitat Conservation awards and administers the approved grant projects.

Program Totals since 1991

Grant Funding: \$839,078,000

Match: \$2,169,957,000

Projects: 1006

U.S. States: 50

Acres Affected: 7,057,000

Migratory Bird Conservation Commission

Honorable Sally Jewell (*Chair*),
Secretary of the Interior

Honorable Thad Cochran, Senator from
Mississippi

Honorable Mike Thompson,
Representative from California

Honorable Martin Heinrich, Senator from
New Mexico

Honorable Robert Wittman,
Representative from Virginia

Honorable Gina McCarthy, Administrator,
Environmental Protection Agency

Honorable Tom Vilsack, Secretary of
Agriculture

A. Eric Alvarez (*Secretary*), Chief, Division
of Realty, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



The Common Eider is a NAWCA high priority waterfowl species.
Credit: Amanda Boyd/USFWS

North American Wetlands Conservation Council

Terry Steinwand (*Chair*), North Dakota
Game and Fish Department

Dan Ashe, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Service

Robert Barnham, LA Department of
Wildlife and Fisheries

Jeff Hagener, MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks

David Nomsen, Pheasants Forever

Jeff Trandahl, National Fish and Wildlife
Foundation

Paul Schmidt, Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

Mark Elsbree, The Conservation Fund

Mary Pope Hutson (*Alternate*), Land Trust
Alliance

Keith Ouchley (*Ex Officio*), The Nature
Conservancy of Louisiana

Glenn Olson (*Ex Officio*), National
Audubon Society

Sue Milburn-Hopwood (*Ex Officio*),
Canadian Wildlife Service

Jorge Maksabedian de la Roquette (*Ex
Officio*), SEMARNAT-Dirección General de
Vida Silvestre, Mexico

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

Project Highlights

In 2015, approved projects will invest \$35.7 million in federal funds in 24 states, including:

- \$720,002 to protect 1,142 acres in the Great Marsh of Massachusetts through acquisitions, easements, restoration and enhancement activities. (Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife).

- \$858,227 to restore and enhance more than 3,800 acres of wetlands and forested uplands in southern Oregon and northeastern California. which supports an estimated 80% of the waterfowl along the pacific flyway. (California Waterfowl Association)

- \$1 million to conserve 2,745 acres of diverse habitat, including bottomland cypress-gum swamp, emergent wetlands and pine forest. Habitat for 10 priority or high priority waterfowl species will be protected, including canvasback, black duck and greater scaup. (North Carolina Coastal Land Trust)

- \$2 million to preserve 1,800 acres through fee acquisition and easements, and restore 400 acres in the Prairie Pothole region of Iowa. (Iowa Department of Natural Resources)

- \$997,766 to restore and enhance 2,800 acres of wetland habitat on private and public lands, providing important migration, wintering and breeding habitat for more than 304 bird species. (Ducks Unlimited).

History

Over the past 24 years, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act has provided funds to protect and restore more than 28 million acres in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. The Act was originally passed to support activities under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, an international agreement that provides a strategy for the long-term protection of wetland and associated upland habitats needed by waterfowl and other migratory birds. The Act has since expanded its scope to include the conservation of wetland-associated migratory birds listed in the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan, the North American Waterbird Conservation Plan and the Partners In Flight Conservation Plans.

More Information

Visit www.fws.gov/birds/grants/north-american-wetland-conservation-act/standard-grants/united-states.php or contact David Buie, Coordinator, 703/358-2457, David_Buie@fws.gov.

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Division of Bird Habitat Conservation
5275 Leesburg Pike, MS-MB
Falls Church, Virginia 22041
703/358 1784**

dbhc@fws.gov
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Black Tern. Credit: Ken Sturm/USFWS