

North American Wetlands Conservation Act

The Canada Program

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



Accomplishments

Since 1991, 143 partners have been involved in 526 North American Wetlands Conservation Act projects in Canada. Partners have matched grant funds one-to-one, doubling the impact on the ground. Grant and matching funds support a wide range of conservation activities in Canada, including projects aiming to:

- protect, restore, or enhance wetlands and other migratory bird habitats throughout the country;
- permanently secure habitat for birds and other wetland-dependent species, particularly high priority waterfowl;
- manage wetland ecosystems and conduct complementary conservation



Canada Goose with goslings. Credit: Laura Hubers/USFWS

activities such as stewardship, evaluation, and communications;

- encourage partnerships among public agencies and other organizations as valuable mechanisms for wetland conservation; and
- promote sustainable use of wetlands, waterfowl, and other wetland-dependent species.

The Process

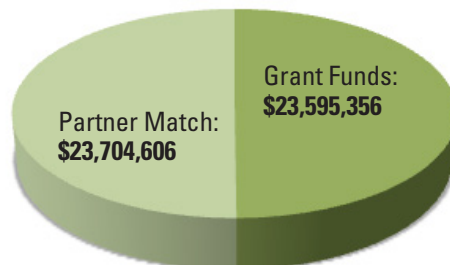
Applicants submit project proposals to the appropriate North American Waterfowl Management Plan Provincial

Steering Committee, which forwards eligible proposals to the appropriate Joint Venture Management Board, the Secretariat to the NABCI/NAWCC Canada Council, and finally the Canada Council for review and endorsement. Projects are presented to the North American Wetlands Conservation Council in the United States, which reviews and recommends them to the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission for final funding approval. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of Bird Habitat Conservation awards and administers the approved grant projects.



Lesser Yellowlegs. Credit: USFWS

2014 Grants



Number of Projects: 14

Program Totals since 1991

- Grant Funding:** \$462,963,000
- Matching Funds:** \$463,838,000
- Projects:** 526
- Provinces & Territories:** 13
- Acres Affected:** 16,266,000

Project Highlights

In 2014, approved projects will invest more than \$20 million in federal funds in 13 Canadian provinces and territories, including:

- \$2,756,922 to secure 1,008 acres of habitat and enhance 2,190 acres that have already been protected in the six eastern Canadian provinces. (Ducks Unlimited Canada)
- \$967,625 to protect 2,060 acres of wetlands and uplands, as well as support stewardship activities and voluntary conservation agreements. (The Nature Conservancy of Canada)
- \$11,926,699 to secure 9,918 acres of waterfowl wintering and breeding habitat in the Canadian Prairie, Parkland and Western Boreal Forest regions. (Ducks Unlimited Canada)
- \$982,428 to secure 2,396 acres of habitat to benefit at risk species of ducks and geese in the Canadian Prairie and Pothole Region. (Nature Conservancy of Canada)

North American Wetlands Conservation Council

Wayne MacCallum (*Chair*), Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
Terry Steinwand (*Vice Chair*), North Dakota Game and Fish Department
Dan Ashe, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Mary Pope Hutson, Land Trust Alliance
David Nomsen, Pheasants Forever
Jeff Trandahl, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Keith Ouchley (*Alternate*), The Nature Conservancy of Louisiana
Mark Elsbree (*Ex Officio*), The Conservation Fund
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
Cyndi Perry (*Council Coordinator*), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Migratory Bird Conservation Commission

Honorable Sally Jewell (*Chair*), Secretary of the Interior
Honorable Thad Cochran, Senator from Mississippi
Honorable John Dingell, Representative from Michigan
Honorable Mark Pryor, Senator from Arkansas
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

History

Over the past 23 years, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act has provided funds to protect and restore more than 27 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

Please visit www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/Grants/NAWCA/Standard/Canada/ or contact Christina Ryder, Program Coordinator in the United States, (703) 358-1848, Christina_Ryder@fws.gov.

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March 2014



Mallard flock. Credit: Matt Filsinger/USFWS