

North American Wetlands Conservation Act

The Mexico 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, more than 1,180 partners have been involved in 290 North American Wetlands Conservation Act projects in Mexico. Partners have matched grant funds more than two-to-one, tripling the impact on the ground. Grant and matching funds support a wide range of conservation activities in Mexico, including projects that:

- protect, restore, or enhance wetlands and other migratory bird habitats throughout the country;
- create or strengthen conservation-stewardship attitudes within many local communities through environmental education programs;



Marbled Godwit. Credit: Roger Baker/USFWS Volunteer



Redhead. Credit: Neil Mishler/USFWS

- enhance Mexican conservation professionals' capabilities in natural resource management through various technical or capacity-building training programs; and

- advance the conservation community's understanding of bird populations and habitats through monitoring and sustainable use initiatives.

The Process

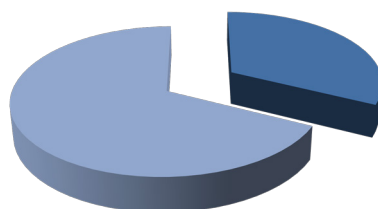
Once a year, applicants submit project proposals both to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of Bird

Habitat Conservation and Mexico's Secretariat of the Environment and Natural Resources Division of Wildlife (SEMARNAT-DGVS), the Service's counterpart in Mexico. Based on their longstanding partnership, the offices collaborate on the evaluation of each proposal. 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 grants and administers the approved projects.

2015 Grants

Partner Match:
\$5,717,032

Grant Funds:
\$2,735,833



Number of Projects: **12**

Program Totals since 1991

Grant Funding: \$50,923,575

Matching Funds: \$111,204,383

Projects: 290

Mexican States: 31

Project Highlights

In 2015, approved projects will invest more than \$2.7 million in U.S. federal funds in six Mexican states, including:

- \$239,703 to conserve habitat for 15 percent of the bird populations that arrive in Mexico each winter. This project will enhance 1,609 acres of freshwater wetlands adjacent to the Laguna Madre on the “La Reforma” ranch and implement a 35-year conservation agreement. (Ducks Unlimited of Mexico)
- \$329,218 to establish a tidal pumping system to allow for restoration of 1,729 acres of the Las Cabras Lagoon; restore 3.41 miles of natural canals, and benefit over 3,953 acres of habitat. (Pronatura Northwest)
- \$244,220 to protect 4,607 acres of the Los Corrales Ranch through a conservation agreement, as well as enhance 306 acres of freshwater wetlands, and restore 1.25 miles of the Arroyo del Tigre. (Pronatura Northeast)
- \$290,864 to protect 5,530 wetland acres and restore 321 wetland acres, as well as enhance 279 wetland acres as buffer and refuge areas. (Pronatura Mexico - Veracruz)



The Laguna Madre, critical habitat for many wintering waterfowl. Credit: P. Thorpe/USFWS

North American Wetlands Conservation Council

Chair Vacant

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

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

Robert Barham, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

David Nomsen, Pheasants Forever

Jeff Hagener, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

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

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

History

Over the past 24 years, the 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, a trilateral agreement that provides a strategy for the long-term protection of wetland and associated upland habitats needed by waterfowl and other migratory birds. Since then, the Act has 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/birds/grants/north-american-wetland-conservation-act/standard-grants/mexico.php or contact Ellen Murphy, Program Coordinator, 703/358-1937, Ellen_Murphy@fws.gov.

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