

North American Wetlands Conservation Act

Protecting, Restoring, and Enhancing Habitat for Migratory Birds

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, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act has conserved an area larger than the state of Tennessee across three countries. NAWCA grants have supported protection, restoration, and enhancement of wetlands in all 50 U.S. states, 31 Mexican states, 10 Canadian provinces, and multiple territories. More than 3,900 partners have matched grant funds two-to-one, tripling the impact on the ground.

Grant and matching funds support projects aiming to protect, restore, or enhance wetland and associated upland migratory bird habitats, benefiting priority species including waterfowl, shorebirds, waterbirds, and landbirds.



The Lesser Scaup is a North American Wetlands Conservation Act high priority waterfowl species. Credit: Roger Baker/USFWS

The Process

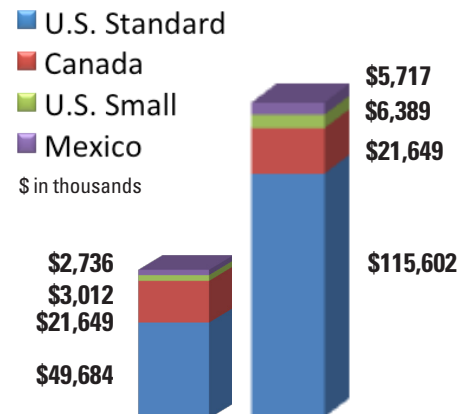
Applicants submit project proposals to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of Bird Habitat Conservation. Eligible proposals are presented to the North American Wetlands Conservation Council, which reviews, ranks, and recommends projects to the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission for final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

Bird Habitat Impacts since 1991

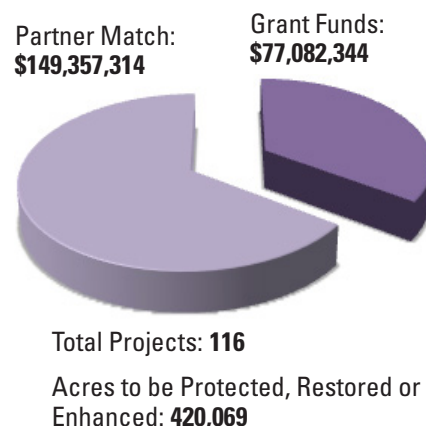
Grant Funding: \$1.4 billion
Match: \$2.9 billion
Projects: 2,537
Acres Affected: 28 million

2015 Grants

Grants by Program:

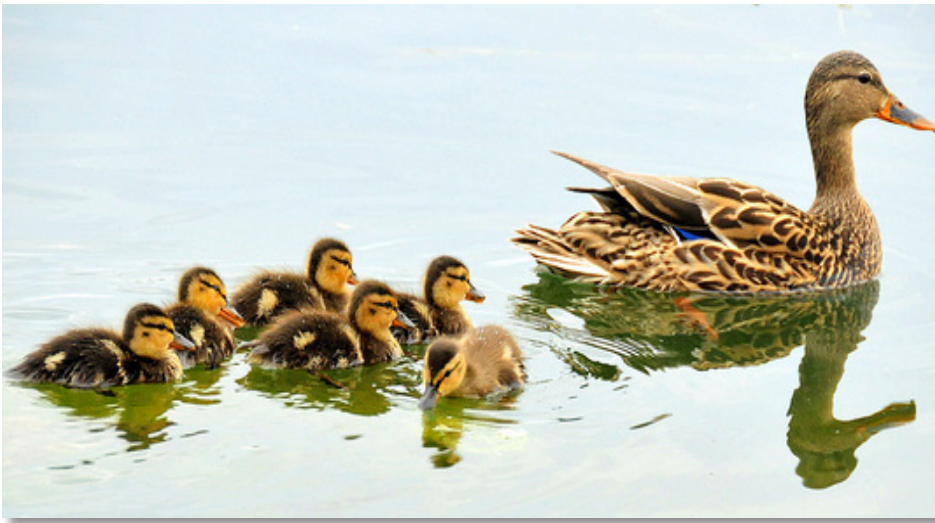


Grant and Match Totals:



NAWCA protects wetlands in the U.S., Canada and Mexico. Credit: USFWS

Grant Funds Partner Match



Mallard female with ducklings. Mallard ducks are a NAWCA high priority species
Credit: Tom Koerner/USFWS

Project Highlights

In 2015, approved projects will invest more than \$77 million in federal funds to 63 grantees throughout North America including:

U.S. Standard Grants Program

- \$1 million to conserve 2,745 acres of diverse habitat, including bottomland cypress-gum swamp, emergent wetlands and pine forest in Virginia and North Carolina (North Carolina Coastal Land Trust)

Canada Grants Program

- \$1.2 million to secure and enhance 2,774 acres of prairie and parkland habitat in the Killarney Landscape area of Manitoba. (Ducks Unlimited Canada)

Mexico Grants Program

- \$224,319 to protect, restore and enhance 4,203 acres of wetlands in the Babicora Lagoon of Chihuahua, one of the few remaining functioning wetlands in the area. (Pronatura Northeast)

U.S. Small Grants Program

- \$75,000 to acquire and permanently protect 18 acres of coastal wetlands for shorebirds, waterfowl, and other species at Sheep Island in Maine. (Downeast Coastal Conservancy)

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, Mexico, and Canada. 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/birds/grants/north-american-wetland-conservation-act.php or contact the Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, (703) 358-1784, dbhc@fws.gov.



American Black Duck is a NAWCA high priority species. Credit: Henry McLin/USFWS

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

North American Wetlands Conservation Council

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
Jeff Hagener, Montana 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

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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