

North American Wetlands Conservation Act

The U.S. Small 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 1996, more than 1,500 partners have been involved in over 700 North American Wetlands Conservation Act projects through the U.S. Small Grants program. The program provides grants up to \$75,000 for conservation projects across the country. Partners have matched grant funds nearly four-to-one, significantly multiplying the impact on the ground.

The U.S. Small Grants program encourages grantees new to NAWCA and current partners to carry out smaller-scale, long-term wetlands conservation projects that may not



The North American Wetlands Conservation Act protects nesting habitat for waterfowl like these Cackling Goose goslings. Credit: J. Kelly/USFWS

be competitive in the U.S. Standard Grants program due to their size. The U.S. Small Grants program has become an important catalyst in developing a pool of new grantees and partners for the U.S. Standard Grants.

Grant and matching funds support projects that protect, restore, or enhance wetland and associated upland migratory bird habitats throughout the country. These projects conserve priority migratory bird species in the U.S., including waterfowl, shorebirds, waterbirds, and landbirds.

The Process

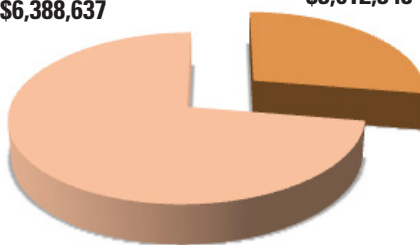
Applicants submit project proposals to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of Bird Habitat Conservation. Eligible proposals are presented to the North American Wetlands Conservation Council. The Council, which has been delegated final approval authority by the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, then selects the slate of projects to be funded and informs the Commission of its decision. The Division of Bird Habitat Conservation awards and administers the approved grant projects.



Palm Warbler. Credit: USFWS

2015 Grants

Partner Match: \$6,388,637
Grant Funds: \$3,012,348



Number of Projects: 45

Program Totals since 1996

Grant Funding: \$39,795,000

Match: \$143,057,000

Projects: 703

U.S. States: 50

Acres Affected: 335,000

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

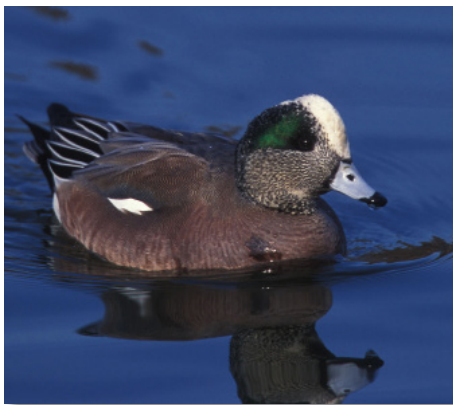
Honorable Gina McCarthy, Administrator,
Environmental Protection Agency

Honorable Tom Vilsack, Secretary of
Agriculture

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



A NAWCA small grant will protect the Eagle Reserve in Massachusetts.
Credit: John Rasku, Mt. Grace Land Conservation Trust



American Wigeon. Credit: Gary Kramer/
USFWS

North American Wetlands Conservation Council

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

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

Jeff Hagener, Montana Fish, Wildlife &
Parks

David Nomsen, Pheasants Forever

Jeff Trandahl, National Fish and Wildlife
Foundation

Robert Barnham, Louisiana Department
of Wildlife and Fisheries

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 U.S. Small Grants projects will invest more than \$3 million in federal funds, including:

- \$75,000 to permanently protect 144 acres of wetlands situated in the heavily forested landscape of north central Massachusetts and southern New Hampshire. (Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust)

- \$75,000 to acquire and permanently manage 18 acres of important habitat for Common Tern, Osprey, Red Knot, and Greater Scaup on Sheep Island in Maine. (Downeast Coastal Conservancy)

- \$60,000 for invasive species removal and wetland restoration in the Playa Lakes region of Texas. The project will benefit migrating and wintering waterfowl, including Northern Pintail and Canvasback. (Texas Parks and Wildlife Department)

- \$75,000 restore 40 acres of wetlands on a former farm in Kern County, California. High priority benefitted species include Northern Pintail. (California Waterfowl Association)

- \$75,000 enhance 261 acres of wetlands and uplands in the Bergstrom Waterfowl Complex in northeastern Wisconsin, by improving water control measures. Benefitted species include Wood Duck, Ring-necked Duck and American Wigeon. (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, 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/small-grants.php or contact Rodecia McKnight, Program Coordinator, 703/358-2266, Rodecia_McKnight@fws.gov

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