

**OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
STAFF REPORT**

**MEETING DATE:** June 18, 2012

**AGENDA ITEM NUMBER:** 3F

**STAFF:** Juan F. Guzman, Open Space Manager



**REQUEST:** For possible action to recommend to the Board of Supervisors to authorize staff to pursue a North American Wetlands Conservation grant with Ducks Unlimited for wetland related improvements at Buzzy's Ranch, located at Carson River Road.

**GENERAL DISCUSSION:**

Ducks Unlimited found out about our efforts for land acquisitions along the Carson River through a publication from the Nevada Land Conservancy, our partners in the acquisition of the former Serpa property located in the Carson River Canyon. Representatives from Ducks Unlimited contacted staff in order to discuss the potential of Carson City's participation as part of their nomination of different areas within the Carson River for wetlands enhancement through the North American Wetlands Conservation grant. Ducks Unlimited has engaged into an effort to improve wetlands at a regional scale in the Lahontan Valley and Western Nevada.

In one of our initial meetings, staff from Ducks Unlimited explained that the goals of increasing habitat for wildlife and waterfowl with preference to waterfowl is compatible with the goals of enhancing wetlands which is the reason for the North American Wetlands Conservation Act. It became clear to staff that specific improvements on the ground that were to be necessary for enhancing wetlands were also significant and appropriate for the betterment of the lands we presently manage. We toured our acquired wetlands, including the Fulstone Wetlands and acquisitions along the Carson River.

The staff from Ducks Unlimited explained that non-federal source monies expended towards the acquisition of the former Bently and Serpa property could be used as a match for the wetlands enhancement grant. The use of those non-federal monies expended towards the purchase of those properties would then leverage the monies requested in the grant in such a manner that there will not be a requirement for additional cash to design or construct the improvements from the Open Space accounts. It was also discussed that Ducks Unlimited was prepared to advance the funding necessary for the preliminary engineering and studies needed to conceptualize the projects and be able to formulate a more complete nomination. It was decided to concentrate on Buzzy's Ranch as an area with a great potential for enhancements of wetlands and our need to improve the infrastructure for irrigating those lands. Ducks Unlimited visited the site with a team of their biologists and engineers who studied further the potential and a preliminary design concept.

We held meetings with Mickey Anderson and Chris McKenzie, representing James Jarrard, in order to ascertain that they were willing to cooperate with this effort. It must be noted that both Mickey Anderson and James Jarrard had maintained a reservation of use as part of the sale and purchase agreement whereby Carson City acquired those two properties. The reservation of use in very general terms provides that the sellers can continue to use the land for agricultural pursuits as long as they maintain and use their water rights to irrigate those lands as long as those water rights are available. Upon the sale of water rights, Carson City has committed to provide irrigation for a period up to four years which is deemed the time needed for the sellers to relocate their agricultural businesses into other areas if that is what they desire. These accommodations are in keeping with the provisions of the Uniform Relocation Act and are deemed beneficial to Carson City for several reasons. One reason is that we will have additional time by which to formulate a manner to continue for the irrigation of those lands through City water rights and also will allow the land to be managed by the past operator without Carson City having to incur additional expenses to hire a farm manager.

Mickey Anderson had some reservations; however, in general terms he is in agreement provided that the amount of land that is presently used for pasture does not get significantly reduced and that the improvements are in agreement with other discussions that he has had with the Natural Resources Conservation Service about potential future grants to enhance areas of the ranch and a management plan for the ranch. Chris McKenzie requested from Ducks Unlimited more detailed information to discuss with his client. Ducks Unlimited, as of this writing, has not finalized that step but continues to work towards that effort. In addition, staff from Ducks Unlimited and Carson City will meet with NRCS office in Minden in order to ascertain that the efforts proposed by Ducks Unlimited and being carried out through the management plan for the ranch are compatible.

Due to short time frames and the present policies adopted by the Board of Supervisors towards departments seeking grants, it was necessary to proceed with an agenda item for the Board of Supervisors meeting of June 21, 2012, asking for permission to proceed with the nomination of this grant. If the Open Space Advisory Committee were to recommend that staff does not pursue the grant any further, that item already scheduled for the Board of Supervisors in the consent agenda will be removed and the Board will be updated as to the recommendation of the Committee.

It is staff's opinion that there is a unique opportunity to provide for specific irrigation improvements on Buzzy's Ranch and at the same time enhance our wetlands. The enhancements include ability to manage the wetted surface and diversifying the wetland vegetation currently present while continuing to provide for the present agriculture operations in compliance with our purchase agreement commitment. Additional details about the Ducks Unlimited grant and what is proposed for Buzzy's Ranch are attached in the staff report prepared for the Board of Supervisors meeting to be held on June 21. It is also important to explain that the most detailed scope of work and design is to be developed as part of the grant and therefore the proposal is general in nature at this point. However, it contains enough details that we should proceed with this opportunity to advance all of our goals for Buzzy's Ranch.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

I move to recommend to the Board of Supervisors to authorize staff to pursue a North American Wetlands Conservation grant with Ducks Unlimited for wetland related improvements at Buzzy's Ranch, located at Carson River Road.

**City of Carson City  
Agenda Report**

**Date Submitted:** June 12, 2012

**Agenda Date Requested:** June 21, 2012  
**Time Requested:** Consent

**To:** Mayor and Supervisors

**From:** Parks and Recreation Department - Open Space Division

**Subject Title:** For possible action to authorize staff to execute documents to support a grant by Ducks Unlimited in order to improve wetlands and irrigation infrastructure at Buzzy's Ranch. (Juan F. Guzman)

**Staff Summary:** Ducks Unlimited proposed to apply for a North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant for multiple areas on the Carson River. Within Carson City they propose to improve irrigation and the enhancement of wetlands located within Buzzy's Ranch.

**Type of Action Requested:** (check one)

Resolution                       Ordinance  
 Formal Action/Motion    Other (Specify)

**Does This Action Require A Business Impact Statement:**    Yes    No

**Recommended Board Action:** I move to authorize staff to execute documents to support a grant by Ducks Unlimited in order to improve wetlands and irrigation infrastructure at Buzzy's Ranch.

**Explanation for Recommended Board Action:** This is a great opportunity to improve and enhance irrigation infrastructure and the wetlands within Buzzy's Ranch. Staff has consulted with Mickey Andersen and the Jarrard family's attorney, Chris McKenzie, in order to ascertain compliance with the prior agreements/conditions of sale.

**Applicable Statute, Code, Policy, Rule or Regulation:** North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant regulations.

**Fiscal Impact:** Minimal, consisting of staff time and utilization of prior expenditures as a match. No cash is needed for this grant.

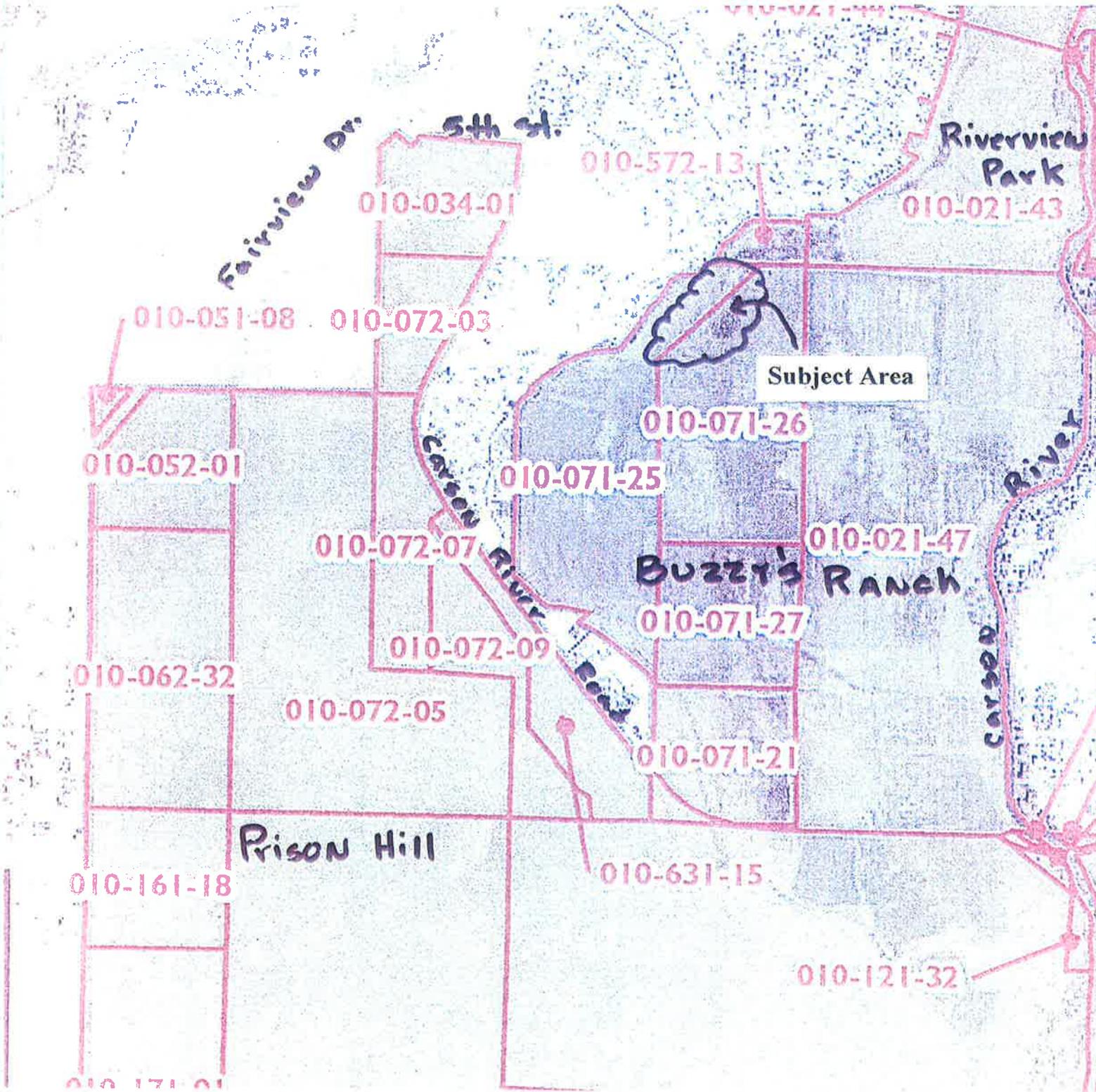
**Explanation of Impact:** Non-federal monies, utilized for the acquisition of the former Serpa and Bently properties, may be used to match the NAWCA grant. The prior expenditures are capable of leveraging approximately \$260,000 of grant monies toward improvements at Buzzy's Ranch.

**Funding Source:** Open Space Program accounts

**Alternatives:** No to approve

**Supporting Material:**

Map of project area  
Draft partner contribution statement  
Grant and program overview



Fairview Dr

5th St.

Riverview Park

Subject Area

BUZZY'S RANCH

Prison Hill

Carson River

010-034-01

010-572-13

010-021-43

010-051-08 010-072-03

010-052-01

010-071-26

010-071-25

010-072-07

010-021-47

010-062-32

010-072-09

010-071-27

010-072-05

010-071-21

010-161-18

010-631-15

010-121-32

010-171-01

**NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION ACT PROPOSAL  
PARTNER CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT**

**What is the title of the proposal that you are contributing to?**

Lahontan Valley – Western Nevada Wetlands – Phase I Project

**What is the name of your organization (private landowners indicate “Private”)?**

Carson City Department of Parks and Recreation

**When will you make the contribution?**

Our contribution (\$2,952,273) was made during 2011 and 2012.

**What is the value of your contribution and how did you determine the value?**

The total value of the Carson City Department of Parks and Recreation’s contribution to the proposed project is \$2,952,273 and consists of cash that was expended on the purchase of two parcels of land along the Carson River corridor at the eastern edge of Carson City.

**Does the contribution have a non-federal origin?**

Yes. These funds are non-federal in origin, have not been used to match any other federal funding program, and are eligible to be used as match for the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant funds for the project. Our contribution is derived from the Carson City’s Question 18 Quality of Life Initiative Grants Program, with program funds administered by the Carson City Department of Parks and Recreation.

**If this is based on a fund-raising event or other future action, if that future action fails, will you still provide the contribution amount?**

Carson City Department of Parks and Recreation has already made this contribution. Therefore, the contribution is not dependent on other future actions.

**What long-term migratory bird and wetlands conservation work will the contribution cover?**

Carson City Department of Parks and Recreation’s contribution will be applied as follows:

- \$2,078,604 in cash from Carson City Question 18 revenue that was expended in 2011, and pooled with Nevada Division of State Lands funds provided through a grant to Nevada Land Conservancy, to purchase the 419-acre Serpa Property – Deer Run tract; and
- \$873,669 in cash from Carson City Question 18 revenue that was expended in 2012, and pooled with funds from Nevada Commission for the Reconstruction of the V & T Railway, Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act, and Bently Family Limited Partnership, to purchase the 497-acre Bently Carson River Canyon tract.

The acquisitions of these two contiguous parcels, immediately east of Carson City, permanently protect over 5.5 miles of river frontage along the Carson River corridor along with its associated

cottonwood gallery riparian forest and adjacent Great Basin habitats within the river canyon. The fee-title acquisitions permanently protect the properties, allowing them to continue to provide habitat for neotropical migratory songbirds including species such as ash-throated flycatcher, Bullock's oriole, Lazuli bunting, and song sparrow which nest there along with species that utilize the riparian habitat during migration such as willow flycatcher, yellow-billed cuckoo, and yellow warbler; waterfowl including mallard, wood duck, and common merganser; shorebirds including spotted sandpiper and killdeer; and many other wildlife species. Our \$2,952,273 contribution provides much needed match that will be leveraged to accomplish restoration and enhancement efforts in the Lahontan Valley and western Nevada region that will result in improved habitat quality for migratory and breeding birds and other wildlife.

**Does the proposal correctly describe your contribution, especially the amount?**

Yes

**If applicable to the proposal, is your organization competent to hold title to, and manage, land acquired with grant funds and are you willing to apply a Notice of Grant Agreement or other recordable document to the property?**

Yes

**Do you have any additional comments?**

The Lahontan Valley – Western Nevada region is very important for a variety of wildlife including waterfowl, shorebirds, waterbirds, and neotropical migratory songbirds. High-quality wetland and riparian habitats are extremely limited in this arid region however, and habitat continues to be lost. The Lahontan Valley – Western Nevada Wetlands – Phase I Project brings together a diverse partnership to protect, restore, and enhance substantial habitat on both public and private lands in the region. Carson City Department of Parks and Recreation is proud to partner with Ducks Unlimited in this important regional conservation effort, and is pleased to be a 10% partner in a project that will aid in meeting the objectives of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan (Intermountain West Regional Shorebird Plan), North American Waterbird Conservation Plan (Intermountain West Waterbird Conservation Plan – U.S. Portion), Partners in Flight's North American Landbird Conservation Plan, and other wetland conservation strategies. Carson City Department of Parks and Recreation puts this contribution forward to complement other federal, as well as non-federal, grant dollars to meet the objectives of NAWCA. This letter is less than 1 year old and has been signed at the most appropriate fiscal level in our agency.

**Signature:**

**Juan Guzman, Open Space Manager  
Carson City Department of Parks and Recreation**

**Date Signed:**

**NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION ACT PROPOSAL  
PARTNER CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT**

DRAFT

**What is the title of the proposal that you are contributing to?**

Lahontan Valley – Western Nevada Wetlands – Phase I Project

**What is the name of your organization (private landowners indicate “Private”)?**

Bently Family Limited Partnership

**When will you make the contribution?**

Our contribution was made during 2012.

**What is the value of your contribution and how did you determine the value? Does the contribution have a non-federal origin? If this is based on a fund-raising event or other future action, if that future action fails, will you still provide the contribution amount?**

The total value of our contribution to the proposed project is \$200,000 by way of bargain sale and thus is of non-federal origin. We partnered with the Nevada Commission for the Reconstruction of the V & T Railway, Carson City Department of Parks and Recreation, and Bureau of Land Management through its Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act land acquisition program on the fee title acquisition of our 497-acre Bently Carson River Canyon tract located in Carson City, Nevada. An appraisal of our property determined the value to be \$1.8 million dollars. The funding partners were able to provide \$1.6 million towards purchase of the property. Although below appraised value, we accepted that price to complete the deal. Thus our contribution to the proposed project does not represent an actual cash transaction but donation of \$200,000 of unrealized cash value. Because our contribution has already been made, it is not dependent on other future actions.

**What long-term migratory bird and wetlands conservation work will the contribution cover?**

This acquisition, immediately east of Carson City, includes 2.5 miles of river frontage along the Carson River corridor along with its associated cottonwood gallery riparian forest and adjacent Great Basin habitats within the river canyon. The fee-title acquisition permanently protects the property, allowing it to continue to provide habitat for neotropical migratory songbirds including species such as ash-throated flycatcher, Bullock’s oriole, Lazuli bunting, and song sparrow which nest there along with species that utilize the riparian habitat during migration such as willow flycatcher, yellow-billed cuckoo, and yellow warbler; waterfowl including mallard, wood duck, and common merganser; shorebirds including spotted sandpiper and killdeer; and many other wildlife species. Our \$200,000 contribution provides much needed match that will be leveraged to accomplish restoration and enhancement efforts in the Lahontan Valley and western Nevada region that will result in improved habitat quality for migratory and breeding birds and other wildlife.

**Does the proposal correctly describe your contribution, especially the amount?**

Yes

**If applicable to the proposal, is your organization competent to hold title to, and manage, land acquired with grant funds and are you willing to apply a Notice of Grant Agreement or other recordable document to the property?**

Not Applicable

DRAFT

**Do you have any additional comments?**

The Lahontan Valley – Western Nevada region is very important for a variety of wildlife including waterfowl, shorebirds, waterbirds, and neotropical migratory songbirds. High-quality wetland and riparian habitats are extremely limited in this arid region however, and habitat continues to be lost. The Lahontan Valley – Western Nevada Wetlands – Phase I Project brings together a diverse partnership to protect, restore, and enhance substantial habitat on both public and private lands in the region. Bently Family Limited Partnership is proud to partner with Ducks Unlimited in this important regional conservation effort, and is pleased to be a 10% partner in a project that will aid in meeting the objectives of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan (Intermountain West Regional Shorebird Plan), North American Waterbird Conservation Plan (Intermountain West Waterbird Conservation Plan – U.S. Portion), Partners in Flight’s North American Landbird Conservation Plan, and other wetland conservation strategies. Bently Family Limited Partnership puts this contribution forward to complement other federal and state grant funds as well as private dollars to meet the objectives of NAWCA.

**Signature:**

**Donald Bently  
Bently Family Limited Partnership  
Date Signed:**

**NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION ACT PROPOSAL  
PARTNER CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT**

DRAFT

**What is the title of the proposal that you are contributing to?**  
Lahontan Valley – Western Nevada Wetlands – Phase I Project

**What is the name of your organization (private landowners indicate “Private”)?**  
Nevada Land Conservancy

**When will you make the contribution?**  
Our contribution was made during 2011.

**What is the value of your contribution and how did you determine the value?**  
The total value of the Nevada Land Conservancy contribution to the proposed project is \$1,070,000 cash. Our contribution was combined with \$2,078,604 of funding from Carson City Department of Parks and Recreation to purchase the 419-acre Serpa Property – Deer Run tract.

**Does the contribution have a non-federal origin?**  
Yes. These funds are non-federal in origin, have not been used to match any other federal funding program, and are eligible to be used as match for the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant funds for the project. Our contribution is derived from the Nevada Division of State Lands Conservation and Resource Protection Grant Program (also known as “Question 1”), with program funds administered by the Nevada Division of State Lands.

**If this is based on a fund-raising event or other future action, if that future action fails, will you still provide the contribution amount?**  
Nevada Land Conservancy has already made this contribution. Therefore, the contribution is not dependent on other future actions.

**What long-term migratory bird and wetlands conservation work will the contribution cover?**  
This acquisition, immediately east of Carson City, includes 3.5 miles of river frontage along the Carson River corridor along with its associated cottonwood gallery riparian forest and adjacent Great Basin habitats within the river canyon. The fee-title acquisition permanently protects the property, allowing it to continue to provide habitat for neotropical migratory songbirds including species such as ash-throated flycatcher, Bullock’s oriole, Lazuli bunting, and song sparrow which nest there along with species that utilize the riparian habitat during migration such as willow flycatcher, yellow-billed cuckoo, and yellow warbler; waterfowl including mallard, wood duck, and common merganser; shorebirds including spotted sandpiper and killdeer; and many other wildlife species. Our \$1,070,000 contribution provides much needed match that will be leveraged to accomplish restoration and enhancement efforts in the Lahontan Valley and western Nevada region that will result in improved habitat quality for migratory and breeding birds and other wildlife.

**Does the proposal correctly describe your contribution, especially the amount?**

Yes

**If applicable to the proposal, is your organization competent to hold title to, and manage, land acquired with grant funds and are you willing to apply a Notice of Grant Agreement or other recordable document to the property?**

Not Applicable

**Do you have any additional comments?**

The Lahontan Valley – Western Nevada region is very important for a variety of wildlife including waterfowl, shorebirds, waterbirds, and neotropical migratory songbirds. High-quality wetland and riparian habitats are extremely limited in this arid region area however, and habitat continues to be lost. The Lahontan Valley – Western Nevada Wetlands – Phase I Project brings together a diverse partnership to protect, restore, and enhance substantial habitat on both public and private lands in the region. Nevada Land Conservancy is proud to partner with Ducks Unlimited in this important regional conservation effort, and is pleased to be a 10% partner in a project that will aid in meeting the objectives of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan (Intermountain West Regional Shorebird Plan), North American Waterbird Conservation Plan (Intermountain West Waterbird Conservation Plan – U.S. Portion), Partners in Flight’s North American Landbird Conservation Plan, and other wetland conservation strategies. Nevada Land Conservancy puts this contribution forward to complement other federal, as well as non-federal, grant dollars to meet the objectives of NAWCA.

**Signature:**

**Charles P. Pope, Chief Executive Officer  
Nevada Land Conservancy**

**Date Signed:**



# Division of Bird Habitat Conservation

FWS >> birdhabitat >> Grants >> NAWCA >> North American Wetlands Conservation Act

## Canadian Grants Approved, U.S. Small Grants Announced

On June 7, 2012, the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission approved more than \$22.3 million for North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) in Canada. The commission also heard a presentation summarizing 44 projects previously approved for funding under the NAWCA U.S. Small Grants Program.

U.S. Canadian and Mexican Standard Grants

### Deadlines

U.S. Small Grants

U.S. Standard Grants Deadlines: March 2, 2012 and July 27, 2012.

Canadian Standard Grants Deadline: January 6, 2012.

Mexican Standard Grants Deadline: June 1, 2012.

U.S. Small Grants Deadlines: October 25, 2012.

Council

### Purpose and Scope

NAWCA Legislation

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act (Act, or NAWCA) of 1989 provides matching grants to organizations and individuals who have developed partnerships to carry out wetlands conservation projects in the United States, Canada, and Mexico for the benefit of wetlands-associated migratory birds and other wildlife.

Programatic Evaluation

There is a Standard and a Small Grants Program. Both are competitive grants programs and require that grant requests be matched by partner contributions at no less than a 1-to-1 ratio. Funds from U.S. Federal sources may contribute towards a project, but are not eligible as match.

The Standard Grants Program supports projects in Canada, the United States, and Mexico that involve long-term protection, restoration, and/or enhancement of wetlands and associated uplands habitats. In Mexico, partners may also conduct projects involving technical training, environmental education and outreach, organizational infrastructure development, and sustainable-use studies.

The Small Grants Program operates only in the United States; it supports the same type of projects and adheres to the same selection criteria and administrative guidelines as the U.S. Standard Grants Program. However, project activities are usually smaller in scope and involve fewer project dollars. Grant requests may not exceed \$75,000, and funding priority is given to grantees or partners new to the Act's Grants Program.

### History

The Act was passed, in part, to support activities under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, an international agreement that provides a strategy for the long-term protection of wetlands and associated uplands habitats needed by waterfowl and other migratory birds in North America. In December 2002, Congress reauthorized the Act and expanded its scope to include the conservation of all habitats and birds associated with wetlands ecosystems. In 2006, Congress reauthorized the Act to extend its appropriation authorization of up to \$75 million per year to 2012.

### Current Funding

The Congressional appropriation to fund the Act's Grants Program in FY 2010 is \$47,647,000. Additional program funding comes from fines, penalties, and forfeitures collected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918; from Federal fuel excise taxes on small gasoline engines, as directed by amendments to the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act of 1950, to benefit coastal ecosystem projects; and from interest accrued on the fund established under the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937. In FY2010 these other sources provided almost \$42 million in additional grant funds.

### The Process

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of Bird Habitat Conservation (Division) is responsible for facilitating the Act's Grants Program.

*Standard Grants Program:* The process for receiving and preliminarily reviewing project proposals is handled slightly differently for each country and enjoys the active participation of each federal government.

Once a slate of eligible proposals has been determined per each country-program's process, the proposals are further reviewed and ranked by the North American Wetlands Conservation Council, a nine-member council established by the Act. The Council then recommends projects to the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, a seven-member commission authorized by the Act to give final funding approval to projects. The Division administers the grants for all approved Standard Grants Program projects.

*Small Grants Program:* The process follows that of the U.S. Standard Grants Program, except for the timing of the final funding approval. Each year, the Commission pre-approves the total amount of funding to be distributed to projects in the next fiscal year. Final project-selection authority is delegated to the Council, which then reports its selections back to the Commission. The Division administers the grants for all approved Small Grants Program projects.

### Accomplishments

From September 1990 through March 2011, some 4,500 partners in 2,067 projects have received more than \$1.1 billion in grants. They have contributed another \$2.32 billion in matching funds to affect 26.5 million acres of habitat and \$1.21 billion in nonmatching funds to affect 234,820 acres of habitat.

### Contacts

For general information about the Act's Grants Program, contact: Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, (703) 358-1784, [dbhc@fws.gov](mailto:dbhc@fws.gov).

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Last updated: June 7, 2012