

NAWCA Small Grants 2010

Delaware

Great Cypress Swamp-Phase II Restoration

Grant: \$75,000 **Non-Federal Partner Contributions:** \$86,953

Acres: 1,239 (R)

Wetland habitats on the Delmarva Peninsula have extremely high value to migratory birds and the Great Cypress Swamp system has some of the most extensive and unique habitats on the peninsula. It provides important habitat for migrating, wintering and breeding birds. This proposal has tremendous value to waterfowl and birds dependent on forested wetlands.

Florida

West Loxahatchee Slough Restoration

Grant: \$75,000 **Non-Federal Partner Contributions:** \$87,825

Acres: 1,693 (R)

This project is extremely important and needed in the Peninsular Florida landscape, and this restoration will enhance almost 1,700 acres and improve habitat for many high priority species of birds, while restoring hydrology to a vast area in the northern arm of the Florida Everglades system. This is a part of a decades-long restoration project in the area, and is critical in complementing restoration efforts for the overall Everglades restoration program.

Maine

Amherst Community Forest Project

Grant: \$75,000 **Non-Federal Partner Contributions:** \$109,000

Acres: 5,200 (P)

The Amherst Community Forest Project includes matching funds for protection of a large parcel (5,000 acres) acquired with \$3.4 million in nonmatch (e.g., a Forest Legacy grant), and grant funding for a key 200-acre parcel that is an inholding in the large tract and perhaps more significantly, provides paved road frontage and access to it. The grant parcel is dominated by a valuable emergent, shrub and forested wetland complex and the stream that drains several large ponds upslope. In this area, wetlands and managed or disturbed uplands can provide high-quality nesting habitat for highest-priority wetland bird species like Canada Warbler, American Woodcock, American Black Duck, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, and Rusty Blackbird.

Dennys River Corridor Conservation Project - Wheaton Property

Grant: \$20,000 **Non-Federal Partner Contributions:** \$45,800

Acres: 51 (P)

This project is one of several key parcels in a protected corridor between the Denny's River (one of the seven "Downeast Rivers" where Atlantic salmon are federally-listed) and Meddybemps Lake. Meddybemps, just upstream of the grant parcel, is a large (~7,000 acre) inland lake with a diversity of different wetland complexes, and much of its frontage owned by Moosehorn NWR (28,000 acres in size). The Denny's River flows only 20 miles from the sea to Meddybemps Lake, and it provides important habitat for wetland birds, as well as playing a critical role in terms of protecting the water quality of Cobscook Bay, one of Maine's three most important coastal focus areas for migratory birds.

Grants Meadow III

Grant: \$75,000 **Non-Federal Partner Contributions:** \$264,467

Acres: 150 (P)

This project would result in strategic protection of a 33+ acre road-front property, which is critical to protecting 117 adjacent acres dominated by an important wetland complex that hosts a suite of rare, state-

listed species (e.g., turtles and plants). The site is within a large, unfragmented, 1,000 acre mosaic of rare wetland types, beaver meadows, and buffering uplands. This area has the highest development pressure in the state, and one of the highest rates in the region.

Mason Bay Coastal Wetlands Waterbird Conservation Project, Phase II

Grant: \$75,000 **Non-Federal Partner Contributions:** \$86,000

Acres: 63 (P)

This project would result in protection of 63 shorefront acres including intertidal mudflats, adjacent to other conservation lands, in the largely undeveloped Mason Bay building on previous NAWCA and Coastal grant funded projects. Virtually this entire Downeast bay—some 1.5 miles long and 0.5 miles wide—drains to mudflats at low tide, providing exceptional habitat for migrating and wintering waterfowl (especially American Black Duck) and migrating shorebirds. The bay is reported to support 18% of the regional Whimbrel population. Mason Bay is an important regional priority because its shoreline is almost entirely undeveloped, but it faces growing threats from residential development, blueberry farms, gravel mining, and industrial forestry. An impressive partnership of four land trusts, the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Ducks Unlimited are pooling funds and combining efforts to conserve this area's high wildlife habitat values while providing full public access.

Restoration & Enhancement of Waterbird Nesting Habitat on Maine Coast Islands

Grant: \$75,000 **Non-Federal Partner Contributions:** \$125,000

Acres: 14 (P) 6 (R), 5 (E)

This project is a high priority for the ACJV due to the opportunity for significant, measurable benefits to seabird populations. The project match includes 14 acres of protection: a 5-acre island (14 total acres, including intertidal wetlands that are legally part of the deeded acreage) that was a bargain sale to the Maine Coast Islands NWR. This island is one of 377 (out of greater than 4,600 in Maine), listed as a nationally significant for seabird nesting, wading birds, or eagles. Eastern Island was listed because greater than 1% of the state's seabird population nests there, and because three or more species of seabird nest there. Of the 377 nationally significant islands in Maine, only 12 of them have management and restoration projects underway, and those 12 islands provide nesting habitat for the entire U.S. population of several priority seabird species, including Arctic Tern, Atlantic Puffin, and Razorbill. They are also extremely important to Eastern U.S. populations of other species such as Common Murre and Roseate Tern. Their value to marine bird conservation cannot be overstated. This proposal would improve habitat conditions on five of these critical islands, by restoring vegetation to a more natural state and enhancing nesting habitat through nest structures. This habitat management is critically important, because when large numbers (e.g., 5,000 to 10,000) of colonial birds occur annually on sites ranging from one to several acres in size, the vegetation can be severely impacted by nest activity, nutrient load, etc.

Watkins Crooked River Easement Acquisition

Grant: \$75,000 **Non-Federal Partner Contributions:** \$135,000

Acres: 475 (P)

This project will protect 475 acres in a landscape with a rapidly growing network of protected lands. The landscape is Maine's most important by far in terms of public and commercial water supply, and has been designated by the Forest Service as one of the region's 20 most vulnerable. The grant parcel is adjacent to several other protected parcels, which protect an entire wetland complex, as well as considerable river frontage.

Massachusetts

Beaver Brook / Broad Brook Watershed Habitat Protection, Northampton

Grant: \$75,000 **Non-Federal Partner Contributions:** \$155,000

Acres: 96 (P)

This project would protect a strategic parcel, dominated by a diversity of wetland types. Its road frontage makes it very vulnerable to development. The grant parcel provides an important corridor connecting two large (>200 acres) undeveloped areas with a larger (>1,000 acre) unfragmented natural area. All the areas protect and buffer Beaver Brook or Broad Brook, which provide habitat for state and federally listed species of turtle and mussel, and habitat for some high priority wetland birds.

Emergent Wetland Restoration at Burrage Pond Wildlife Management Area

Grant: \$75,000 **Non-Federal Partner Contributions:** \$399,100

Acres: 271 (P), 245 (R)

This project would restore hundreds of acres of wetlands in the center of the 2,130-acre Burrage Pond WMA, an area which was previously managed for cranberry production – a unique and important opportunity in this part of the joint venture. Together with adjacent match properties and surrounding ponds and reservoirs, this area provides important wetland bird habitat in coastal Massachusetts, just inland from one of New England’s most important Waterfowl Focus Areas.

New Hampshire

Schoodac Brook – Trumbull Pond Land Protection Project

Grant: \$75,000 **Non-Federal Partner Contributions:** \$862,000

Acres: 343(P)

This project would protect an important wetland complex associated with Trumbull Pond, two-thirds of the Pond shoreline, and nearly one mile of frontage on a stream and wetland complex that is at the center of a 5,700 acre protected landscape corridor. The project has excellent benefits for breeding and migrating wetland birds, as well as several state-listed species, including two rare turtles. It is an impressive component of an exceptional landscape-scale wetland protection effort.

New York

Padanarum Preserve

Grant: \$75,000 **Non-Federal Partner Contributions:** \$359,200

Acres: 513 (P)

This project would result in protection of 513 acres that include 100 acres of open marsh and other wetlands around 100 acres of shallow open water, as well as wet upland forest that is threatened with development. The entire project area is an inholding that would connect state-owned land within the Adirondack Park. The wetland complex provides exceptional habitat to a suite of highest-priority species, and benefits from the high watershed integrity provided by surrounding protected lands.

Rhode Island

Crandall Swamp

Grant: \$75,000 **Non-Federal Partner Contributions:** \$125,000

Acres: 306 (P)

This project will protect the core of one of the largest freshwater wetland complexes in Rhode Island. It is within an ACJV Waterfowl Focus Area, and provides very important habitat to breeding, wintering, and migrating migratory birds.

South Carolina

Old Dominion Plantation Wetlands Restoration Project

Grant: \$69,500 **Non-Federal Partner Contributions:** \$85,688

Acres: 126 (E)

The 330-acre Old Dominion Plantation is another privately owned plantation in the heart of the ACE Basin Focus Area. The type of enhancement proposed in this project (as well as the Plum Hill and Rabbit Point projects) is critical to improving and maintaining the wetland bird habitat value in managed wetlands in the ACE Basin. The site's values and functions are very similar to Plum Hill Plantation and other wetlands managed by South Carolina DNR and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Virginia

Chincoteague Flats Wetland Restoration-Chincoteague NWR

Grant: \$75,000 **Non-Federal Partner Contributions:** \$77,970

Acres: 1,161 (R)

The migratory bird values of the habitats targeted for restoration in this proposal are extremely high. The project area is one of the three most important shorebird stopover sites on the entire Atlantic Coast, and is also extremely important for migrating and wintering waterfowl and waterbirds. The project area is in an ACJV waterfowl focus area and in multiple focus areas of the BCR 30 Conservation Plan.