

FY 2010 Approved NAWCA Projects

Delaware

Delaware Bayshores Land Protection and Climate Change Adaptation

Grant: \$900,000 **Non-Federal Partner Contributions:** \$2,505,553

Acres: (P) 676

This project will provide critical bird habitat in an ACJV priority focus area in the mid-Atlantic region. The two properties proposed by the project are under imminent danger of development and at the same time are located in a geographic region identified as a focus area for shorebirds, waterbirds, waterfowl, and landbirds, as well as a Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network Site of Hemispheric Importance (the highest ranking), a globally Important Bird Area, and a RAMSAR Wetland of International Importance. The properties to be acquired are within the most important focus area in Delaware, support tidal marsh, forested wetland, estuarine wetland and forested upland habitats, and lie adjacent to Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge. The proposed project would provide protected breeding, wintering and migration stopover habitat for a large number of priority migratory birds, from the Milford Neck Wildlife Area to Lewes, Delaware. When completed, the project would help meet the conservation objectives of the BCR 30 Bird Conservation Region Plan as well as Delaware's State Wildlife Action Plan.

Maine

Acadia Archipelago

Grant: \$1,000,000 **Non-Federal Partner Contributions:** \$4,450,000

Acres: 1,103 (P)

The Acadia Archipelago is a group of near and offshore islands, dominated by Mount Desert Island (MDI) which includes Acadia National Park (which has 47,000 acres of protected land in the project area). This project would protect the largest wetland complex (and the largest unprotected parcel) remaining on MDI, connecting 515 acres of private lands to existing conservation lands. Grant funds would also go towards a large (424 ac) offshore island, one of five entire islands protected by this project. Offshore islands provide extremely high quality nesting habitat for Common Eiders and other priority species, as well as important staging and wintering habitat for Purple Sandpiper, various high priority waterbirds and shorebirds, and >100 landbird species. The project area's extensive tidal flats, coastal wetlands, and adjacent uplands are also critical for wintering American Black Duck

North Carolina

Carteret County, North Carolina Coastal Initiative

Grant: \$1,000,000 **Non-Federal Partner Contributions:** \$2,028,000

Acres: 1,105(P)

This proposal involves the acquisition of a diverse mix of declining wetland community types including estuarine marsh, cypress-gum swamp and bottomland hardwoods and important upland communities including maritime forest on three separate tracts in coastal Carteret County. The primary partners involved; N.C. Coastal Land Trust, N.C. Clean Water Management Trust Fund and the Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, Department of the Navy, have been working together over the past several years to conserve key tracts with conservation and military significance around Cherry Point's outlying field, the Piney Island Bombing Range (considered to be the military's premier bombing range on the East Coast) which also lies in close proximity to the Cedar Island National Wildlife Refuge in Carteret County. The Carteret County, N.C. Coastal Initiative will conserve 70 acres of maritime forest, estuarine marsh and bottomland hardwood sloughs on Brown's Island; 600 acres of estuarine marsh, small forested wetlands and maritime forest at the Jarrett's Bay/Baker Tract and 435-acres of estuarine marsh, tidal swamp forest, mesic mixed hardwoods and wet pine flatwoods at the Turnagain Bay/Henry tracts.

South Carolina

Winyah Bay Protection Project: Phase I

Grant: \$1,000,000 **Non-Federal Partner Contributions:** \$12,305,078

Acres: 2,190 (957 MCP)(P)

This proposal represents the third of a four-phase project to permanently protect strategic tracts,

consisting of palustrine and estuarine wetlands and associated uplands, including long-leaf pine woodlands, in the Winyah Bay system which is comprised of the Waccamaw, Little Pee Dee, Great Pee Dee, Black, and Sampit Rivers. The project is located in The North American Waterfowl Management Plan's Winyah Bay and Little Pee Dee-Lumber River Waterfowl Focus Areas and significantly contributes to the goals of the South Atlantic Coastal Plain Partners in Flight Bird Conservation Plan. Phase III will protect five tracts totaling 2,190 acres, including 1,313 wetland acres and 877 acres of associated uplands to benefit breeding, migrating, and wintering birds in accordance with the recommendations of the ACJV SAMBI. Grant funds will be used to acquire one tract in the Black River watershed, which is strategically located along 3.7 miles of the scenic Black River corridor and serves to connect over 9,000 acres of privately protected land and protects threatened Swallow-tailed Kite habitat. The grant tract, RMS Black River Tract, is dominated by mature palustrine forested wetlands. This project benefits large numbers of high priority waterfowl, shorebirds, waterbirds, and landbirds, as well as providing habitat for a wide variety of endangered species. The grant acquisition tract will be included in the boundaries of TNC's Black River Swamp Preserve, specifically to preserve nesting habitat for the state-endangered Swallow-tailed Kite within the Black River watershed

Florida

St. Johns River Headwater Project – Phase II

Grant: \$1,000,000 **Non-Federal Partner Contributions:** \$2,005,000

Acres: 350 (P)

This proposal is part of an effort to protect hundreds of thousands of acres for wetlands-dependent migratory birds within the vast system of wetlands which form the headwaters of the St. Johns River. This proposal will protect 350 acres along Blue Cypress Lake through a conservation easement on the Pressley Tract. At more than 6,500 acres, Blue Cypress Lake is a prominent feature in the landscape of the Upper Basin. The lake is part of the Blue Cypress Conservation Area, a 61,574-acre area containing a mosaic of wetland communities dominated by maidencane, sawgrass, willows, and buttonbush, and including open water systems and floodplain marsh, with scattered tree islands and sawgrass marsh. According to the Blue Cypress Conservation Area Management Plan, it is the most undisturbed area in the Upper Basin and contains the largest remnant marsh of its type in the region. The majority of the area immediately around the lake is owned by the St. Johns River Water Management District, one of five such districts charged by the State of Florida with preserving and managing the state's water resources. The proposal area benefits a wide variety of wildlife, including listed species, such as wood stork, snail kite, crested caracara, reintroduced whooping cranes, and Florida panther.