

C. Funding Sources

Conservation funding is available through multiple sources and as a multi-agency organization the SAMBI partners are in a position to vie for resources of all types. Partnerships should be used to their maximum advantage to seek out funding sources and often funding is contingent upon the existence of well-founded partnerships.

1. The North American Wetlands Conservation Act

One of the most important funding sources available for land managers today is the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA). The partners of the NAWMP played a role in the 1989 passage of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA). The NAWCA, operated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, provides matching grants to private organizations, public organizations, or individuals who have developed wetlands conservation projects that require partnerships and are within the United States, Canada, or Mexico. NAWCA allows for a secure foundation of long-term funding support for conservation projects to be implemented in the wetlands and associated uplands that many birds depend upon. It also furthers the ability for the three NAWMP signatories, United States, Canada, and Mexico, to coordinate projects on a grand scale. [NAWCA](#) is a tremendous resource and has supported over 1,300 partners.

2. [National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program](#)

The Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act (Title III of P.L. 101-646) established the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program to acquire, restore, and enhance wetlands of coastal States and the Trust Territories. Since enactment of the law in 1990, the Service has been working with the States to acquire, restore, manage, or enhance coastal wetlands through a matching grants program. To date, about \$152 million in grant monies have been awarded to 25 coastal States and one U.S. Territory and to acquire, protect or restore over 76,488ha (189,000 acres) of coastal wetland ecosystems. This program has been very effective in meeting goals of "all bird" conservation in the SAMBI planning region.

3. [Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act Grant Program](#)

Passed by the U.S. Congress in 2000, the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (Act) establishes a matching grants program to fund projects in the United States, Latin America, and the Caribbean that promote the conservation of these birds. The Act's purposes are to:

- perpetuate healthy populations of neotropical migratory birds,
- assist in the conservation of these birds by supporting conservation initiatives in the United States, Latin America, and the Caribbean, and
- provide financial resources and foster international cooperation for those initiatives.

This program is relatively new and has not been widely used in the SAMBI Planning area for implementation. However, as the program builds, this program is expected to assist in achieving the goals of SAMBI, particularly for landbirds.