

National Coastal Wetland Grants

Maine

Ingallshore Conservation Project

Grant request: \$600,000

Partner share: \$400,000

Total cost: \$1,000,000

The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW), partnering with Maine Coast Heritage Trust and Ducks Unlimited, propose to permanently preserve 137 acres in Hancock County, including 63.6 acres of coastal wetlands, 7.8 acres of palustrine wetlands, 65.9 acres of upland and two miles of pristine coastal shorefront. The Ingallshore property is under threat of future development. Construction of homes on Ingallshore would have a significant negative impact on the wetlands, including Mitchell Marsh. MDIFW has designated Mitchell Marsh and Mitchell Cove Marsh as High Value habitat for Coastal Waterfowl and Wading Birds and Important Feeding and Roosting Habitat for Shorebirds. The Ingallshore property provides important habitat for 42 of 75 species of threatened, endangered, rare, or declining shorebirds and migratory birds that regularly frequent the Gulf of Maine.

Ragged Island Conservation Easement

Grant request: \$323,700

Partner share: \$160,800

Other Federal: \$30,000

Total cost: \$514,500

The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) proposes to purchase a conservation easement on Ragged Island, Harpswell, Maine. The 76.6 acre island includes 51.5 acres of maritime-influenced shrub and woodland and 25.1 acres of marine intertidal wetlands, and nearly 2.5 miles of shoreline. Ragged Island supports a large and diverse population of nesting seabirds, including common eiders, black guillemots, greater black-backed gulls, and herring gulls, migratory shorebirds and wintering waterfowl. Coastal waterbirds thrive on Ragged Island because of the high quality habitat, its remote location, and owners sympathetic to the conservation needs of the bird populations. The threat of development is high for Ragged Island due to the demand for private ownership of coastal islands in Maine. Permanent protection of Ragged Island is a high priority for the Service's Gulf of Maine Coastal Program.

Maryland

Bishopville Ecosystem Restoration Project

Grant request: \$482,000

Partner share: \$1,220,000

Other Federal: \$1,790,740

Total cost: \$3,492,740

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources in partnership with Worcester County, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA), the Maryland Coastal Bays Program, and the National Aquarium in Baltimore, request funds to restore fish passage, restore wetlands, and enhance the ecological function of 85 acres in the upper tidewater area of St. Martin River in Worcester County on the Delmarva Peninsula. This area is part of the Maryland Coastal Bays watershed, which faces threats from intense residential development, nutrients and sediments from agricultural runoff and other stresses from human activities. This project would involve dam removal, stream restoration, wetland restoration, and restoration of historical vegetative communities that have been extirpated from the Coastal Bay area, such as Atlantic white cedar swamp and associates.

Sturgis Farm and Stark Property Conservation Easements

Grant request: \$650,000

Partner share: \$701,000

Total cost: \$1,351,000

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources, working with the Service, That Natural Resources Conservation Service and Worcester County is proposing to acquire conservation easements on two parcels located along the shores of Newport and North Chincoteague Bays, in Worcester County. The properties are known as Sturgis Farm (232 acres) and the Stark property (48.5 acres). These parcels include 87 acres of wetlands and 46 acres of native coastal plain forest. They provide vital habitat for hundreds of bird species, including breeding and wintering waterfowl, stop-over habitat for migratory birds, and breeding habitat for waterbirds, shorebirds, and salt marsh associates. They also provide important spawning, nursery, and forage habitat for numerous fish species and other Service trust species. Protection of these parcels will reduce threats

to the Maryland Coastal Bays from residential development, nutrients, sediments, and other impacts associated with human activities.

Wicomico River Coastal Wetland Protection

Grant request: \$260,000

Partner share: \$266,000

Total cost: \$526,000

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), partnering with the Conservation Fund, proposes to protect 272 acres of important estuarine and palustrine wetland habitat at the mouth of the Wicomico River, a major tributary of the Chesapeake Bay, located in Wicomico and Somerset County. Because this area serves as important migrating, foraging, and breeding habitat for fish and wildlife that frequent the Bay, the State of Maryland has established several Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) in the region. This proposal requests funding to acquire three in-holdings and add to these State-protected lands and provide greater habitat connectivity in the WMAs. These parcels will be enrolled in the multi agency Coastal Wetlands Initiative that works to restore natural hydrology to salt marshes in the Chesapeake Bay. MDNR and the Service are part of this working group.

Massachusetts

Eel River Restoration and Hayden Pond Property and Hoyts Property Acquisitions

Grant request: \$1,000,000

Partner share: \$542,000

Total cost: \$1,542,000

The Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM), in partnership with the Town of Plymouth as the sub-awardee proposes to restore 39.5 acres of wetland and 6,400 feet of meandering coastal river channel, and acquire two conservation properties, (36.7 acres total) in Plymouth. One of the properties is on the Eel River and the other abuts Hoyts Pond, a Coastal Plain pond, which is a rare community type in Massachusetts. Completion of this project is an important part of a long-term effort to improve the entire 3.9 mile Eel River ecosystem by restoration of wetlands and the stream channel, removal of barriers to fish passage, and water quality improvements.

Puerto Rico

San Miguel Natural Reserve – Phase II

Grant request: \$1,000,000

Partner share: \$4,000,000

Total cost: \$5,000,000

The Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources proposes to acquire 174.5 acres of the San Miguel tract located along the Atlantic Ocean and within the watershed of the Pitahaya and Sabina Rivers on the northeastern coast. The lands will be added to the San Miguel Natural Reserve and will serve as the cornerstone of the Northeastern Ecological Corridor, a proposed 3,200 acre Natural Reserve. The San Miguel tract includes 153 acres of declining coastal wetlands including marine, estuarine, and palustrine wetlands. This project will provide permanent protection for nesting beaches for the endangered leatherback sea turtle, and for 14 other Federally listed species that depend on the project area's coastal, river, and riparian habitats. The project will also benefit various species of freshwater fish and crustaceans, migratory and resident waterfowl, shorebirds, seabirds, and land birds.