# 2025 National Coastal Wetland Conservation Grant Project Summaries

## **Region 1**

**Pouhala Marsh Restoration**

Hawai’i Department of Land and Natural Resources proposes to expand the current wetland area inside the Pouhala Marsh State Wildlife Sanctuary by 10 acres, restoring listed waterbird habitat and improving wetland function. Pouhala Marsh is considered a “core wetland” for the recovery of Hawai’ian waterbirds and the project will support Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture’s Strategic Plan for Hawai’i Wetlands. The project will provide breeding habitat for four endangered Hawai’ian waterbirds and the endangered Hawai’ian hoary bat. Because predation by invasive species is second only to habitat loss as the leading cause of population declines and extinctions of Hawai’ian waterbirds, the project will also include installation of a predator-proof fence creating a predator free area for the listed species.

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| Federal Request | Non-Federal Cost Share |
| $688,448 | $344,224 |

**Dewatto Estuary Protection**

Washington State Department of Ecology is proposing to acquire in fee 240 acres, including 95 acres of wetlands and 1.23 shoreline miles on the eastern shore of Hood Canal in Mason County. The project aims to protect the majority of an intact large estuary that contains extensive eelgrass beds, shallow tidelands, salt marsh estuary, and more than a mile of unarmored, vegetated shoreline. The property contains estuarine salt marsh critical habitat for several species of juvenile salmon, including listed Hood Canal summer-run chum salmon and Puget Sound Chinook salmon. After the land is acquired, Great Peninsula Conservancy will maintain the site in perpetuity as a preserve with hiking and birdwatching opportunities and will conduct guided tours for school groups.

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| Federal Request | Non-Federal Cost Share |
| $1,000,000 | $420,000 |

**Double Bluff Acquisition**

Washington State Department of Ecology, in partnership with the Whidbey Camano Land Trust, is proposing to acquire and permanently protect a 257-acre property on Whidbey Island in Island County. This project will permanently protect 3,500 feet of Puget Sound shoreline and 42 acres of nearshore marine habitat, including seven acres of coastal tidelands and 35 acres of iconic feeder bluffs and beach. The property also includes 137 acres of coastal upland forest, and a 78-acre wetland complex containing a 15-acre undeveloped lake and associated stream. This stream is a tributary to Deer Lagoon, an area protected by a previous National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant. The eelgrass habitat will benefit federally and state-listed salmon, and the upland forest and lake habitats will benefit federally and state-listed species including pileated woodpecker, western toad, and peregrine falcon.

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| Federal Request | Non-Federal Cost Share |
| $1,000,000 | $500,000 |

**East Tarboo Wildlife Preserve Acquisition**

Washington State Department of Ecology (WDOE), in partnership with the Northwest Watershed Institute (NWI) as subrecipient, will acquire and permanently protect 81 acres along Tarboo Creek’s tributaries and wetlands in Jefferson County. The project will permanently preserve three acres of nationally and regionally declining freshwater forested, scrub-shrub, and emergent declining wetland types. This project represents the current phase of a long-term landscape-scale effort to protect the Tarboo Creek and Dabob Bay ecosystem that has protected 4,800 acres to date. The partnership between WDOE, NWI, and the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program goes back many years and includes completion of 11 previous projects in the Tarboo-Dabob Bay watershed.

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| Federal Request | Non-Federal Cost Share |
| $995,000 | $415,000 |

**Enetai Shoreline Protection Project**

Washington State Department of Ecology, in partnership with the Great Peninsula Conservancy as subrecipient, proposes to acquire and permanently protect 24.8 acres of wetland and riparian forest and 1,548 feet of shoreline in central Puget Sound, in Kitsap County. The project will conserve one of the best remaining potential sites for feeder bluff, shoreline, and armor-removal restoration in Central Puget Sound. The site contains approximately 1,100 feet of high-functioning feeder bluff and a 100+ year old riparian forest. Feeder bluffs are an important source of sediment for shoreline and estuarine wetlands. The site also has approximately 350 feet of low bank shoreline armoring and a beach house that will be removed in the future.

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| Federal Request | Non-Federal Cost Share |
| $1,000,000 | $420,000 |

**Little Hoko River Floodplain Restoration**

Washington State Parks, in partnership with the Lower Elwha Klallam and Makah Tribes, proposes to restore critical coastal wetlands in the Hoko River watershed in Clallam County. The project includes 2.5 miles of the Little Hoko River mainstem, floodplain, and associated buffers. The project will also restore approximately 175 acres of coastal wetlands and 20 acres of buffers along the Little Hoko River and floodplain on Washington State Park land. The Hoko watershed supports numerous species of birds and fish. The Lower Klallam Tribe will install 62 large, engineered logjams in the stream to re-establish the river process and contribute large woody debris to improve the in-stream habitat, benefitting Chinook salmon and steelhead during their annual migration.

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| Federal Request | Non-Federal Cost Share |
| $1,000,000 | $420,000 |

**Samish Island Bay and Slough Protection**

Washington State Department of Ecology, in partnership with Skagit Land Trust as subrecipient, will acquire and permanently protect 1.6 acres and 430 feet of marine shoreline along Samish Bay in northern Skagit County. The project is located on the Samish Island Isthmus, located between Padilla Bay and Samish Bay. The area was formerly estuarine marsh with a tidal slough that connected the two Bays. Acquisition of this property is key to the future restoration of the surrounding coastal wetland properties which are already under protection of Skagit Land Trust and Padilla Bay National Estuary Research Reserve. Wildlife values include salt marsh and intertidal mudflats that provide foraging habitat for numerous bird species including shorebirds, waterfowl, and raptors.

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| Federal Request | Non-Federal Cost Share |
| $457,000 | $208,200 |

**Samish River Wetlands Acquisition and Restoration**

Washington State Department of Ecology, in partnership with the Skagit Land Trust as subrecipient, proposes to acquire and permanently protect 26 acres and 1,750 feet of riverine shoreline on the Samish River in Skagit County. The project will protect and restore nationally declining palustrine forested and scrub-shrub wetlands and lowland riparian forest for the benefit of species that use the site. The project will remove a structure and outbuildings, control invasive species, and plant native vegetation. The property contains critical habitat for the state endangered and federally threatened Oregon spotted frog. The property also supports a variety of salmonid species including federally-listed steelhead and populations of coho, chum, and resident coastal cutthroat trout.

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| Federal Request | Non-Federal Cost Share |
| $479,700 | $253,500 |

**Sound View Camp Coastal Habitat Restoration**

Washington State Department of Ecology, in partnership with Nisqually Land Trust as subrecipient, will restore coastal habitat and nearshore processes at Sound View Camp, a 93-acre property on Drayton Passage in Southern Puget Sound in Pierce County. The site includes a feeder bluff-backed beach, barrier embayment with beach, lagoon, saltmarsh and tidelands, and associated forested uplands. The project will remove creosote-treated pilings, decking, railings, ramps and other pier infrastructure. It will also remove a 160-foot concrete bulkhead and 1,800 square feet of former building foundation that inhibits natural processes, remove floating debris and invasive weeds, and restore native vegetation in nearshore areas on 22 acres.

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| Federal Request | Non-Federal Cost Share |
| $1,000,000 | $425,000 |

**Twanoh Shoreline Restoration**

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, in partnership with the Wild Fish Conservancy, proposes to restore a portion of the Twanoh Creek shoreline at Twanoh State Park in Mason County. The Park hosts a rich biological community supporting salmonids, marine and shorebirds, and marine mammals. This phase of the project will remove 1,600 feet of shoreline armoring and fill, restoring and enhancing 6.79 acres of intertidal wetland. The project will restore tidal influence to a pocket lagoon allowing the creek to meander, improving sediment delivery and increasing tidal exchange. These actions will improve habitat for spawning forage fish, juvenile salmonids, and other species.

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| Federal Request | Non-Federal Cost Share |
| $1,000,000 | $418,750 |

**Woodard Bay NRCA Bayfield Wetland Complex Acquisition**

Washington State Department of Natural Resources is proposing to acquire and permanently protect a 380-acre wetland complex and restore 12 acres to native ecosystems within the Woodard Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area (NRCA) in Thurston County, which was established in 1987. The site protects an outstanding example of Washington’s native ecosystems, with more than five miles of undeveloped shoreline and hundreds of acres of wetlands and mature forest in the Henderson Inlet watershed. Project funding partners include South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group, Squaxin Island Tribe, Black Hills Audubon Society, and Taylor Shellfish Company.

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| Federal Request | Non-Federal Cost Share |
| $1,000,000 | $501,500 |

**Woodard Bay Henderson Inlet**

Washington State Department of Natural Resources proposes to acquire and permanently protect four properties totaling 87 acres, restore 35 acres of native habitat, and enhance environmental education within the Woodard Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area in Thurston County. The properties consist of nearshore, tideland, wetlands and riparian habitats, and salmonid stream habitats. In response to the deteriorating water quality in Henderson Inlet, numerous agencies, tribes, conservation organizations, and other stakeholders who recognize the vital habitat it provides have focused efforts on improving the health of the Inlet by seeking to acquire shoreline properties in fee and through conservation easements.

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| Federal Request | Non-Federal Cost Share |
| $1,000,000 | $502,000 |

## **Region 2**

**10th Addition to the Coastal Heritage Preserve – Middle Tract**

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, in partnership with the non-profit Artist Boat as subrecipient, proposes to acquire and permanently protect 164 acres of Texas coastal prairie habitat on Galveston Island. The tract would be added and managed as part of the 898-acre Coastal Heritage Preserve. This acquisition will directly benefit and protect approximately 30 acres of temporarily flooded freshwater emergent marsh, 0.13 acres of permanently flooded freshwater pond, six (6.16) acres of temporarily flooded freshwater scrub-shrub wetlands and 128 acres of upland coastal prairie. The project will conserve breeding, nesting, foraging, roosting, and wintering habitats that benefit numerous coastal-dependent and migratory bird species. When inundated, these freshwater habitats provide breeding, nursery, juvenile, and foraging habitat for resident fish species.

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| Federal Request | Non-Federal Cost Share |
| $1,000,000 | $433,334 |

**Trinity Bay Coastal Wetland Conservation**

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, in partnership with Galveston Bay Foundation, proposes to protect 1,700 acres of coastal wetlands and associated upland habitats in Trinity Bay in East Galveston Bay through the purchase of a perpetual conservation easement. This project will conserve salt and brackish marsh, freshwater wetlands, managed freshwater wetlands, and coastal prairie habitats adjacent to the Texas Chenier Plain National Wildlife Refuge Complex. The property contains important habitat for the federally threatened eastern black rail and protects coastal prairie uplands critical for marsh migration. The project supports national and local conservation initiatives. Galveston Bay Foundation will hold the conservation easement over the property.

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| Federal Request | Non-Federal Cost Share |
| $1,000,000 | $1,035,000 |

## **Region 3**

**Point au Sable Nature Preserve/Wequiock Creek Acquisition**

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, in partnership with Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust, proposes to assist in the acquisition of a 22-acre parcel of land on Point au Sable peninsula which contains the largest coastal wetland complex along the eastern shore of Green Bay on Lake Michigan. The parcel is adjacent to a 74-acre property on Wequiock Creek adjacent to Point au Sable which was purchased with the help of a 2019 National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant. The shallow, nutrient-rich waters of lower Green Bay in Lake Michigan support one of the most productive ecosystems in the Great Lakes with more than 60 species listed as endangered, threatened, or species of concern by state and federal agencies. The area supports diverse concentrations of songbirds and is a destination for fishing and waterfowl hunting.

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| Federal Request | Non-Federal Cost Share |
| $90,000 | $185,965 |

## **Region 4**

**Spooners Creek Town Park**

North Carolina Division of Coastal Management, in partnership with the Town of Morehead City and the North Carolina Coastal Federation, propose to acquire and permanently protect 23.18 acres of riparian shoreline habitat and create the Spooners Creek Wetlands and Maritime Forest Conservation Town Park. The property is slated for development into waterfront homesites, a stormwater pond, and a 63-slip marina. This project will permanently protect, enhance, and sustainably manage coastal wetlands and maritime forest habitat along the creek’s shoreline. The partners will seek additional state government grants and private donations to establish the conservation area.

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| Federal Request | Non-Federal Cost Share |
| $1,000,000 | $4,730,000 |

**Topsail Beach Partnership**

North Carolina Division of Coastal Management, in partnership with the North Carolina Coastal Land Trust and other partners, propose to acquire in fee approximately 147.5 acres of exceptional maritime forest and coastal wetland on the south end of Topsail Island, a coastal barrier island in Pender County. The Topsail tract hosts over 1.6 miles of sound-to-sea frontage along the Atlantic Ocean, Banks Channel, and New Topsail Inlet. The tract hosts pristine beach, dune, salt flats, maritime shrub, and estuarine wetlands that provide habitat for several federally listed species including seabeach amaranth, red knot, piping plover, green sea turtle, and loggerhead sea turtle. The project will connect other parcels in conservation and help protect 88.8 acres of coastal wetlands.

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| Federal Request | Non-Federal Cost Share |
| $1,000,000 | $416,734 |

**Barry Tract Acquisition-Ashley Scenic River**

The South Carolina Conservation Bank and its conservation partners propose to acquire the 67-acre Barry Tract in Dorchester County. The tract is an ecologically and culturally significant property made up of brackish marsh, freshwater forested wetlands, coastal fringe maritime forest, and mixed pine-hardwood forest, and includes 31.29 acres of nationally decreasing coastal wetlands. The project complements other land conservation efforts including the nearby Oaks Plantation acquired with a 2021 National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant. The Barry Tract lies within the 23,000-acre Ashley River Historic District and along a State Scenic River and a National Scenic Byway. Dorchester County, the subrecipient, will manage the property for habitat and as a public park for passive recreation.

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| Federal Request | Non-Federal Cost Share |
| $1,000,000 | $1,420,000 |

**Becky Work Tracts-Waites Island and Little River Neck**

The South Carolina Conservation Bank proposes to subaward to the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism to acquire and protect 115 acres of rare barrier island and maritime forest habitat in northern Horry County. The three Becky Work tracts consist of a 48.5-acre mainland parcel on Little River Neck, a 21.5-acre parcel on Waites Island, and a 45-acre marsh and dredge spoil upland on the Intracoastal Waterway. These undeveloped areas have long been a conservation priority for the state due to the increasing pressure for residential and commercial development and other coastal threats. The mainland parcels will be included as part of a new state park and the Waites Island parcel will be part of a new Heritage Preserve.

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| Federal Request | Non-Federal Cost Share |
| $1,000,000 | $420,000 |

**Olivia Boyce Tracts-Waites Island and Little River Neck**

The South Carolina Conservation Bank proposes to subaward to South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism (SCPRT) to acquire and protect 109 acres of maritime forest and salt marsh in northern Horry County. The Olivia Boyce Tracts include a 67.5-acre parcel of high bluff and tidal marsh on Little River Neck and a 41.5-acre parcel on Goat Island in the Little River Inlet made up of tidal marsh and sandy shore. The two parcels will be incorporated into a new state park and managed for habitat conservation and passive recreation. SCPRT will implement conservation actions for species of greatest conservation need and their associated coastal wetland habitats in support of the South Carolina State Wildlife Action Plan.

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| Federal Request | Non-Federal Cost Share |
| $1,000,000 | $420,000 |

## **Region 5**

**Sippican River – Buzzards Bay Wetlands Conservation**

Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation proposes to permanently protect 851 acres of high-priority coastal wetland habitat along two branches of the Sippican River, a primary tributary of Buzzards Bay, which is an Estuary of National Significance. The project area extends more than 0.03 miles along the river and contains a diversity of wetland habitat including emergent marsh, shrub swamp, and riverine and palustrine forested wetland with remnants of a coastal Atlantic white cedar swamp, an imperiled natural community in Massachusetts. Cranberry bogs on the property present a remarkable opportunity for future wetland restoration. The lands will be managed for conservation and recreation.

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| Federal Request | Non-Federal Cost Share |
| $1,000,000 | $3,333,334 |

**Weweantic River – Buzzards Bay Wetlands Conservation**

Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, in partnership with the Buzzards Bay Coalition, proposes to acquire and permanently protect 737 acres of a high-priority wetland habitat along the Weweantic River, the largest tributary of Buzzards Bay. The project area includes 0.04 miles of riverbank, a cranberry farm, a mix of emergent marsh and shrub swamp, and riverine and palustrine forested wetlands with remnants of a coastal Atlantic white cedar swamp. This large, contiguous site provides important habitat for a variety of fish, migratory birds, and other wildlife, including the federally endangered reptile, the red bellied cooter and other state-listed species.

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| Federal Request | Non-Federal Cost Share |
| $1,000,000 | $3,333,334 |

**Middle Chesapeake Sentinel Landscape Resilience**

Maryland Department of Natural Resources along with several partners propose to purchase a conservation easement on 1,119 acres of coastal wetlands and uplands in Dorchester County within the Middle Chesapeake Sentinel Landscape. Permanent protection of five properties (a total of seven parcels) located northeast of Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge will enhance resilience of the Refuge and nearby Fishing Bay Wildlife Management Area for coastal fish and wildlife. Protection of these properties will facilitate inland marsh migration in the future. The easement will secure this habitat for many priority species of migratory birds and other wildlife species of greatest concern.

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| Federal Request | Non-Federal Cost Share |
| $1,000,000 | $727,562 |

**Jordan River Coastal Restoration**

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, in partnership with Frenchman Bay Conservancy as the subrecipient, proposes to restore 5.3 acres of coastal salt marsh habitat and remove an earthen berm and 11 culverts to restore the natural hydrology and stream habitat connectivity to approximately 8,400 feet of freshwater and intertidal stream channels. Located in Hancock County near Mount Desert Island, the 216-acre project site was a former golf course that was acquired using a 2023 National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant. The site includes 2,600 feet of intertidal shoreline and 8,400 feet of freshwater and intertidal stream channels. The project will provide or support habitat for at least 39 coastal-dependent migratory bird species identified as conservation priorities and nine fish species.

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| Federal Request | Non-Federal Cost Share |
| $1,000,000 | $448,107 |

**Eastern Shore Saltmarsh Conservation Initiative**

Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources, in partnership with The Nature Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, and the Wildlife Federation of Virginia, proposes to acquire in fee and improve approximately 621.4 acres of coastal wetlands and buffering uplands in Accomack County on the Delmarva Peninsula. This project will expand a key Wildlife Management Area for coastal fish and wildlife, facilitate inland marsh migration, and enhance coastal resiliency. The project will expand wildlife-related recreational opportunities and improve habitat for many of the highest-priority species of migratory birds and other wildlife of greatest conservation need in an area of hemispheric importance. This project will also benefit Virginia’s recreational and commercial fishing and shellfishing industries.

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| Federal Request | Non-Federal Cost Share |
| $1,000,000 | $389,100 |

## **Region 8**

**Lower Eel River Wetlands Restoration**

California State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) proposes to protect 237 acres of wetlands and uplands through the fee simple purchase of a property in the Lower Eel River watershed. The property consists of cottonwood gallery forest, marsh, river channel, and associated uplands that provide critical habitat for listed species and an opportunity for public access and environmental education programs. The City of Fortuna and the Wiyot Tribe are partnering with the SCC to protect the property. The City of Fortuna will own and manage 7.2 acres of uplands and transfer the remaining 229.6 acres of wetlands to the Wiyot Tribe for ceremonial purposes, restoration, and public access.

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| Federal Request | Non-Federal Cost Share |
| $1,000,000 | $646,492 |

**San Francisco Bay Coastal Wetlands Revegetation Project Phase 3**

The California State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) proposes to continue to support the San Francisco Bay Coastal Wetlands Revegetation Project to enhance the biodiversity and climate resilience of degraded tidal marshes in the estuary. Project activities include removal of spartina, an invasive cord grass, and restoration of native tidal marsh and mudflat habitats in the Bay. Phase 3 will support invasive spartina monitoring and treatment work on 3,079 acres, native revegetation plantings on 1,806 acres, and California Ridgeway’s rail monitoring at priority sites and in adjacent areas. The SCC and California Invasive Plant Council will coordinate and share information on invasive spartina status, prevention and spread, and plans for treatment with landowners and land managers.

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| Federal Request | Non-Federal Cost Share |
| $1,000,000 | $452,000 |

**Watsonville Slough Wetlands Conservation**

The California State Coastal Conservancy, in partnership with the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County, proposes to acquire a 62-acre parcel known as Mini Ranch to protect 40 acres of declining wetland types within the Middle Watsonville Slough wetland complex in Santa Cruz County. The project will protect approximately 34 acres of palustrine emergent wetlands and 6 acres of palustrine scrub-shrub wetlands which account for three percent of all such wetland types in the County. The project will permanently protect the wetland habitat, restore historic wetland characteristics, improve the wetland habitat for migratory birds and resident native species, and improve the water quality in Watsonville Slough and the Pajaro River.

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| Federal Request | Non-Federal Cost Share |
| $1,000,000 | $537,500 |