

Fiscal Year 2008 NAWCA Small Grants

Florida

Invasive Species Eradication & Habitat Enrichment in the Indian River Lagoon, FL

Agency or Organization: Marine Resources Council

Grant Request: \$30,674 Non-Federal Partner Contributions: \$51,975

Acres: 42 (E)

Indian River Lagoon is a significant estuary along Florida's Atlantic Coast supporting high species diversity but with mangrove wetlands and hammocks that have been lost to urbanization and degraded by many factors including invasive species. This project will control invasive Brazilian pepper and restore mangrove wetlands and hammocks at several sites in the estuary including two National Wildlife Refuges using primarily volunteer labor.

Exotic Removal, Wetland Restoration and Native Planting on Sanibel Island

Agency or Organization: Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation

Grant Request: \$50,000 Non-Federal Partner Contributions: \$1,600,000

Acres: 26 (P)

This project will protect and restore a small but important freshwater wetland site as part of a freshwater wetland complex in the middle of Sanibel Island on the Gulf Coast of Florida. These freshwater wetlands are surrounded by developed areas but are critical as foraging and nesting areas for wading birds and secretive marsh birds on Sanibel Island and complementing the extensive tidal wetlands of the Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge. The restoration would include restoring hydrology and removing invasive species including Brazilian pepper and Australian pine. The partners are providing an extremely generous match for the grant funds requested.

Caloosahatchee Creeks Preserve Wetland Restoration

Agency or Organization: Lee County Parks and Recreation

Grant Request: \$75,000 Non-Federal Partner Contributions: \$425,000

Acres: 53(R)

The Caloosahatchee Creeks Preserve is located along the northern shores of the Caloosahatchee River adjacent to the Caloosahatchee National Wildlife Refuge in southwest Florida. The project will restore hydrology and remove invasive Brazilian pepper from several management units, enhancing the value of this site for migratory birds including mottled ducks, shorebirds and waterbirds. The partnership is providing generous match to the project.

Maine

The Basin, Vinalhaven Acquisition

Agency or Organization: Vinalhaven Land Trust

Grant Request: \$75,000 Non-Federal Partner Contributions: \$3,029,000

Acres: 455 (P)

The protection efforts by the Vinalhaven Land Trust have resulted in the protection of the last remaining three parcels surrounding The Basin on Vinalhaven Island, an offshore island in the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture Downeast Focus Area. This tidal basin is ecologically significant for its diversity of tidal and freshwater wetland and adjacent upland habitats as well as its important waterfowl and wading bird areas. This offshore

project is particularly significant to sea and bay ducks including common eider, long-tailed duck and bufflehead. The local partnership, new to NAWCA, is contributing a 40:1 match for the grant funds.

South Pond Conservation Area Acquisition

Agency or Organization:, Western Foothills Land Trust

Grant Request: \$75,000 Non-Federal Partner Contributions: \$494,500

Acres: 1,279(P)

A diverse NGO, private and state partnership has provided generous match which combined with grant funds will result in the complete protection of lands around a significant wetland and pond complex with in southwestern Maine. This emergent marsh, scrub-shrub, ponds and surrounding forested wetlands are large for this part of Maine and support breeding by black duck, waterbirds such as pied-billed grebe and priority land birds such as Canada Warbler and Olive-sided Flycatcher.

Upper Saco River II: Russell Tracts

Agency or Organization:, The Nature Conservancy

Grant Request: \$75,000 Non-Federal Partner Contributions: \$150,000

Acres: 492(P)

The second phase small grant builds upon the first and the other protected lands to protect a large contiguous block of floodplain forest and other wetland habitat in southwestern Maine supporting migratory birds as well as a diversity of rare natural communities and species. The project area is in commuting distance to Portland, Maine and is under high threat from residential development.

St. George River Coastal Wetlands Acquisition Project

Agency or Organization: Georges River Land Trust

Grant Request: \$75,000 Non-Federal Partner Contributions: \$150,000

Acres: 91 (P)

This project protects two key coastal parcels including tidal flats, marsh and adjacent wet meadows and uplands threatened by development. The extensive tidal flats in the St. George River are significant as foraging areas for waterfowl, shorebirds and waterbirds. The St. George River tidal flats are adjacent to the Weskeag Marsh complex and provide habitat for shorebirds and other birds moving back and forth between the two areas. There is an increasing threat to development on these coastal parcels and the successful protection of these parcels will likely act as a catalyst for additional protection.

Hamilton Audubon Sanctuary Property Acquisition

Agency or Organization: Maine Audubon Society

Grant Request: \$75,000 Non-Federal Partner Contributions: \$450,000

Acres: 148(P)

This project allows Maine Audubon to acquire a key parcel and put the entire Hamilton Sanctuary under permanent conservation. The Sanctuary would conserve tidal flats, wetlands and adjacent uplands along Back Cove of the New Meadows River in Casco Bay. This area supports wintering black duck and scaup as well as migrating shorebirds. The sanctuary is in the West Coast ACJV waterfowl focus area. The partnership includes the Casco Bay National Estuary Program.

Cathance River: Head of Tide Project

Agency or Organization: Town of Topsham

Grant Request: \$75,000 Non-Federal Partner Contributions: \$90,000

Acres: 91 (P)

This local partnership and project will protect and restore the head of tide riparian area of the Cathance River - one of the tributaries to Merrymeeting Bay, an ACJV focus area and the most important brackish wetland complex for migrating and wintering waterbirds and waterfowl in Maine. The acquisition of this site would allow for the demolition and clean up of buildings on the site and restoration of natural habitats. The project will also result in the protection of a key marsh parcel further upriver.

The Fairchild Easement

Agency or Organization:, Kittery Land Trust

Grant Request: \$75,000 Non-Federal Partner Contributions: \$375,000

Acres: 16(P)

The Fairchild easement project is on Gerrish Island in the southernmost Maine Coast. The project will result in an easement precluding development on forest wetlands, vernal pools and shoreline as part of the larger Mt. Agamenticus to the Sea Conservation Initiative and complementing a previous NAWCA standard grant on the York River.

Maine/Massachusetts

Protection and Restoration of Tidal Wetlands - Parker River and Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuges

Agency or Organization: Ducks Unlimited

Grant Request: \$75,000 Non-Federal Partner Contributions: \$102,520

Acres: 67(P)(R)

Effective restoration of ditched salt marshes is a high priority for the joint venture throughout the Atlantic Coast, particularly in the New England - Mid Atlantic Region. This project restores several marshes at Parker River and Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuges and use these projects as demonstrations to improve integrated marsh management throughout the region. The restoration of these marshes benefits dabbling ducks, marsh birds and salt marsh sparrows in a critical part of their range. This project will also result in the protection of a key salt marsh parcel in the Great Marsh as part of Parker River NWR. The Great Marsh is one of the highest priority coastal marsh complexes for birds north of Cape Cod.

Massachusetts

Thousand Acre Swamp Conservation Project

Agency or Organization: North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership

Grant Request: \$74,800 Non-Federal Partner Contributions: \$365,500

Acres: 413 (P)

The Thousand Acre Swamp project protects a large open marsh and swamp complex in north central Massachusetts, one of the few intact wetland systems in this part of the state. The wetland complex has been identified as a priority by the state and several regional partnerships who have pledged generous match to complete this project. There is a high threat from residential development in this area.

New Hampshire

Mollidgewock Brook Conservation Project

Agency or Organization: Mollidgewock Brook Conservation Trust

Grant Request: \$75,000 Non-Federal Partner Contributions: \$384,000

Acres: 4,289 (P)

The Mollidgewock Brook Conservation Project protects two key parcels of wetlands and forests that combined with a later phase and the existing Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge and Errol Town Forest results in a continuous block of 31,000 acres of conservation land. The diverse federal, state, local, NGO partnership is contributing generous match. The project conserves a diversity of forested, shrub, emergent and riverine wetlands and forested upland buffer in the Lake Umbagog focus area of the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture that is important for breeding black ducks, mergansers and a variety of priority land bird species.

Salmon Falls Headwaters Project

Agency or Organization: Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests

Grant Request: \$75,000 Non-Federal Partner Contributions: \$745,000

Acres: 343(P)

The Salmon Falls Headwaters project protects wetland and adjacent upland buffer at the headwaters of the Salmon Falls River in Southeast New Hampshire. In addition to the bird habitat benefits on the project site, this project will provide indirect benefits to Great Bay Estuary downstream – a focus area of the ACJV and a focus of previous NAWCA grants. The Salmon Falls headwaters and riparian area have been ranked as highest priority habitat regionally in the state wildlife action plan. This part of the state is undergoing extremely high development pressure. The diverse partnership is providing generous match and hoping this project will be a catalyst for future projects along the river corridor in New Hampshire and Maine.

Kingston Tucker

Agency or Organization: Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire

Grant Request: \$75,000 Non-Federal Partner Contributions: \$150,000

Acres: 203 (P)

This project will result in the protection of a large unfragmented parcel of land in Southeast New Hampshire including a forest, early successional habitat and a diversity of wetlands. This parcel is a key parcel for a larger habitat corridor project in an area with very high development pressure.

New Jersey

Flatbrook Valley Conservation Project

Agency or Organization: The Nature Conservancy

Grant Request: \$75,000 Non-Federal Partner Contributions: \$957,000

Acres: 75(P)

This project falls within the “Kittatinny Valley Bird Habitat Conservation Area” that was identified as important for numerous priority birds (Cerulean Warbler, Golden-Winged Warbler, Acadian Flycatchers, American Black Duck, etc.) and habitats (e.g., forested wetlands) by Appalachian Mountains JV partners. The Kittatinny Ridge (and associated valleys) are also well-known for their importance during migration. The acquisition is adjacent to an existing state park and lies within a larger-scale TNC focus area (Flatbrook Valley) and the diverse Shawangunk - Kittatinny Ridge complex and is adjacent to the Delaware Water Gap. Threats to the area are very high (development) and the immediacy of need is high based on the threat, getting approval for the county

funds, and TNC's success at initiating this conservation project in the Valley.

North Carolina

Caswell Game Land

Agency or Organization:, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Grant Request: \$75,000 Non-Federal Partner Contributions: \$273,064

Acres: 340 (P)(E)

This project will result in the protection and restoration of managed wetlands, adjacent grasslands and other uplands on the Caswell Game Lands in the Piedmont of North Carolina. This project adds wetland and upland habitat to the game lands and enhance the water management capability on an existing impounded wetland for wood duck, other waterfowl as well as American Woodcock and nongame birds.

South Carolina

Restoration of Impounded Tidal Wetlands on Nemours Plantation

Agency or Organization:, Nemours Wildlife Foundation

Grant Request: \$52,000 Non-Federal Partner Contributions: \$62,188

Acres: 757(R) (E)

The Nemours Plantation is located on the Combahee River directly adjacent to the Ernest Hollings ACE Basin National Wildlife Refuge in the heart of the ACE Basin, one of the most significant focus areas for waterfowl and other wetland-associated birds in the South Atlantic Coastal Plain. This project will enhance 743 acres of managed wetlands through improvements to water control structures and restore an additional 14 acres of managed wetlands. The Nemours Wildlife Foundation manages these impoundments for a diversity of waterfowl, shorebirds and waterbirds including regular use by Wood Stork and King Rail.

Francis Marion National Forest: Acquisition and Protection of Small Strategic Small Private Inholdings

Agency or Organization: U.S. Forest Service

Grant Request: \$75,000 Non-Federal Partner Contributions: \$957,500

Acres: 181(P)

The Francis Marion National Forest is a diverse and ecologically significant forested landscape along the South Atlantic Coast in the Sewee to Santee region of South Carolina. This project will allow the National Forest to acquire and protect three small but significant inholdings in this forest allowing for better protection and management of the entire forest for wetland and forest species including the federally endangered Red-cockaded woodpecker.