Nevada Department of Wildlife

Duck Stamp Program

Fiscal Year 2017 - June 2016

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Relevant Duck Stamp Nevada Revised Statutes

NRS 502.310 Duck stamps: Deposit of fees; accounting records; reimbursement of administrative costs. All money received pursuant to NRS 502.300 must be deposited with the State Treasurer for credit to the Wildlife Obligated Reserve Account in the State General Fund. The Department shall maintain separate accounting records for the receipt and expenditure of that money. An amount not to exceed 10 percent of that money may be used to reimburse the Department for the cost of administering the state duck stamp programs. This amount is in addition to compensation allowed persons authorized to issue and sell licenses.

(Added to NRS by 1971, 940; A 1979, 300, 900; 1981, 539; 1985, 1708; 1993, 1668; 2001, 976; 2003, 1542, 2548)

NRS 502.322 Duck stamps: Use of money received pursuant to NRS 502.300.

1. Before the Department may undertake any project using money received pursuant to NRS 502.300, it shall analyze the project and provide the Commission with recommendations as to the need for the project and its feasibility.

2. Money received pursuant to NRS 502.300 must be used for projects approved by the Commission for the protection and propagation of migratory game birds, and for the acquisition, development and preservation of wetlands in Nevada.

(Added to NRS by 1979, 300; A 1981, 539; 1985, 1708; 1993, 1668; 2001, 976; 2003, 1542)

NRS 502.324 Duck stamps: Reports to Legislature regarding program. The Department shall, not later than the fifth calendar day of each regular session of the Legislature, submit to the Legislature a report summarizing any projects undertaken, receipt and expenditure of money, and public benefits achieved by the program for the sale of state duck stamps.

(Added to NRS by 1979, 300; A 1985, 1353; 1993, 1668; 2003, 1543)

Progress Report on Duck Stamp Projects Funded in FY 2016

Overton WMA Farming

Approximately 130 acres of the agriculture fields at Overton WMA were sprayed with Thunder, Clethodim and Round-Up to control Russian Knapweed, Johnson grass, Field Sandburs, Yellow Star Thistle and Foxtail. This treatment improved crop production and the quality of wildlife habitat by removing undesired vegetation in the agricultural fields that are utilized by waterfowl. This project was completed by the Overton WMA's Cooperator under the terms of the current farming and agricultural lease agreement. A total of $3,499 was spent on herbicides.

Overton WMA Water Outlet and Pipe Replacement

The replacement of the current outlet structures will allow staff to effectively control water levels to improve habitat conditions in the moist soil units which benefit waterfowl and marsh birds. Pipe has been purchased and delivered to Overton WMA for the outlet structures. There have also been couplers purchased and shipped to be cast into the Flash Board risers that have been ordered. The Flash Board Risers are being built now and should be delivered to Overton WMA by the last week of May. Most of the $5,000 award amount has been spent and the outlet structures and pipe will start being installed in early June after their arrival. The work should be completed in early August.

Overton WMA Irrigation System Repair

This project will result in more efficient flow of water to the moist soil units that waterfowl and other shore birds utilize on the WMA. Irrigation pipe repair parts have been purchased for the A-series moist soil units. Thus far, the repairs have been made on a broken line adjacent to the main ditch. The other areas identified for repairs are being exposed and materials are being shipped for the repairs. Repairs to the irrigation

system will continue as the conditions allow and the parts arrive. Approximately $7,000 has been spent on this project to date.

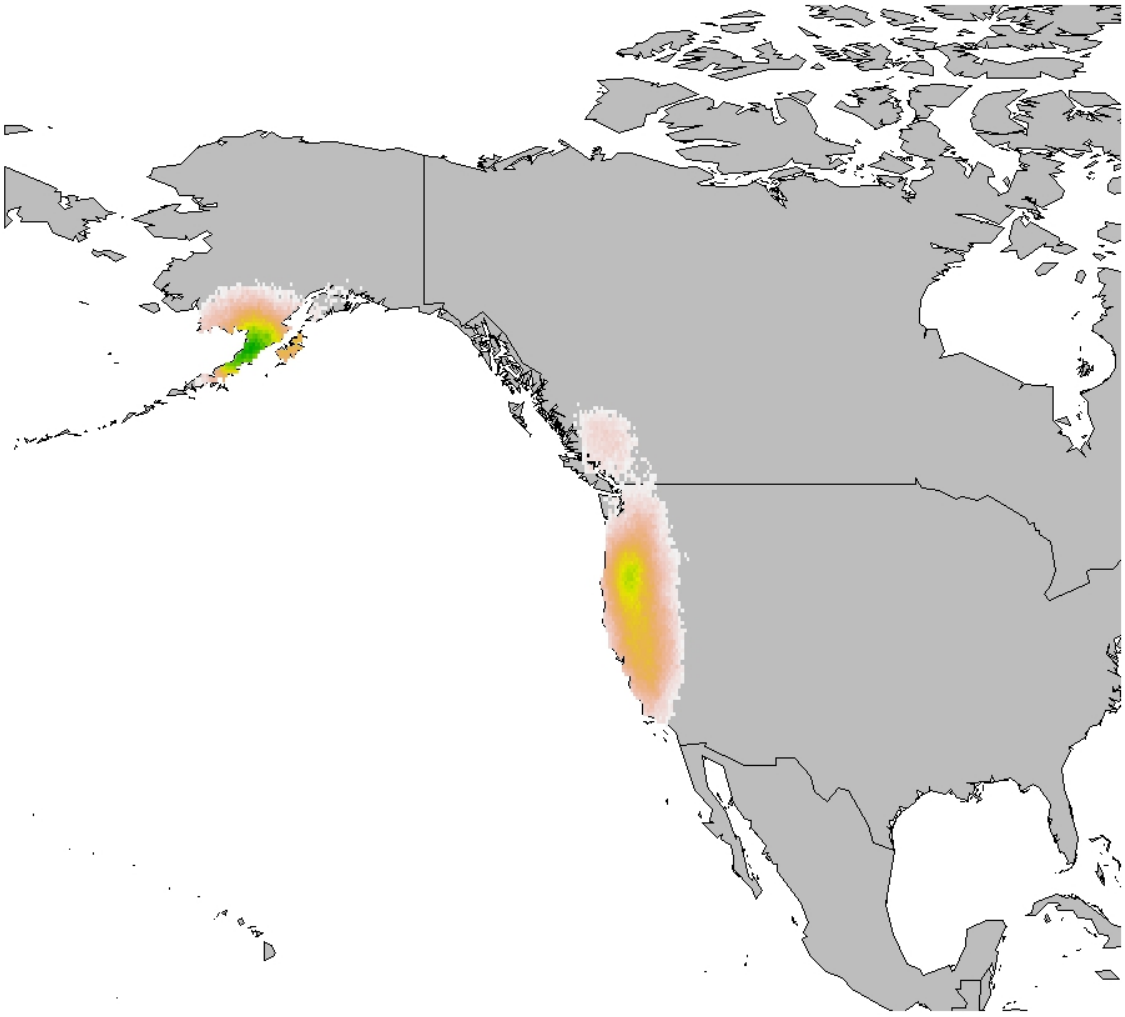
Geolocators for Waterfowl Dispersal Patterns Project

This project provides funds for the purchase of geolocators. Geolocators are a cheap alternative for following movements of individual ducks by recording daily light curves. In concert with a clock, geolocators can be used like a sailor's sextant by using midday and midnight times, along with daylight length to calculate longitude and latitude. The stored data has to be physically downloaded.

The full award amount of $22,500 was used to purchase 150 geolocators and the Nevada Waterfowl Association also provided $35,400 of funds for the project. 25 geolocators were fitted to wood ducks and 50 fitted to mallards by October 10, 2015. 30 geolocators were fitted to canvasbacks from Feb 1 through March 30, 2016. 25 geolocators, and the remaining 20 from the canvasback efforts (45 total) will be attached to wood ducks by the end of June, 2016. 45 geolocators will be attached opportunistically and are expected to be deployed by the end of June, 2016.

Canvasbacks fitted with the nasal saddle type of geolocator (leg band geolocators are also used)

The results from this study thus far were recently presented at the North American Duck Symposium and were well-received with interest from many different researchers across North America.



Map depicting where a male Canvasback (fitted with a geolocator from Nevada) traveled to during a one year period

Fallon Wood Duck Project

Field work for 2016 will continue through June 30, 2016. A technician (Catrina Terry) was supported from February 1, 2016 through June 30, 2016. A PhD student was supported (Ben Sedinger) from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. A total of 74 wood duck nests were found and monitored in 2015. In 2016, we have found 44 nests as of May 10, 2016 and expect to find additional nests through July 1, 2016. A total of 313 wood ducks were banded, 261 were recaptured, and 550 were resighted from July 1,

2015 to May 1, 2016. Ben Sedinger, Catrina Terry, and Chris Nicolai attended the 7th North American Duck Conference in Annapolis, MD in February 2016 and presented multiple presentations about the project.

Preliminary analyses have been conducted and presented by Ben Sedinger. Ben has examined how hunting mortality has influenced the annual survival rate of wood ducks and is finding very strong evidence of compensatory mortality (in other words, hunting is not playing a large role in mortalities relative to other causes of mortality). Ben is using new Bayesian approaches (a type of statistical modeling that uses new analytical techniques) which examines this relationship resulting from banding, recapture, and hunter reports of shot birds. Ben has also been using Pradel models to examine recruitment and has some preliminary results that recruitment and survival rates are extremely negatively correlated suggesting very strong density dependence in this system (he is finding that relative to habitat-related limiting factors, hunting is playing a minor role in overall population numbers). Ben is currently working on analyses and results and is hoping to turn in his dissertation in December 2016.

North American Waterfowl Management Plan Implementation Support

A total of $10,000 was donated to Ducks Unlimited to help them implement the migratory bird projects that were developed as a result of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. The projects primarily consist of wetland restoration, forage establishment and production, and the purchase of conservation easements in the prairie potholes regions of Saskatchewan and Alberta. Band return data show that these two Canadian provinces serve as the sources for a significant number of waterfowl that pass through Nevada each year.

Ducks Unlimited prepared a report for NDOW that summarizes how our donations are being used and the report is found on the pages that follow.

CONSERVATION REPORT
FY2015

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

SECURING A LEGACY OF HABITAT CONSERVATION IN ALBERTA

April 2014 to March 2015 Conservation Report

Submitted by Ducks Unlimited Canada and Ducks Unlimited Inc.

Ducks Unlimited Canada
Conserving Canada's Wetlands

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

DUCKS UNLIMITED

2 OVERVIEW

This report highlights DUC's habitat accomplishments within Alberta's Alberta's Pine Lake, Buffalo Lake, Sullivan Lake, Vermillion/Viking, Arrowwood, Milk River Ridge, Cypress Hills and Eastern Plains priority areas during the period of April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015.

INSIDE

Ducks Unlimited (DU) is the world leader in wetland conservation.

Since 1937, DU has invested over two billion dollars in waterfowl and wildlife habitat conservation in the United States, Canada and Mexico. In Canada alone, DU has completed over 9,560 habitat projects, securing 6.4 million acres and positively influencing over 116 million acres of habitat that benefit waterfowl, wildlife and people. Besides waterfowl, numerous species of wildlife, including many threatened or endangered species live and flourish on DU projects.

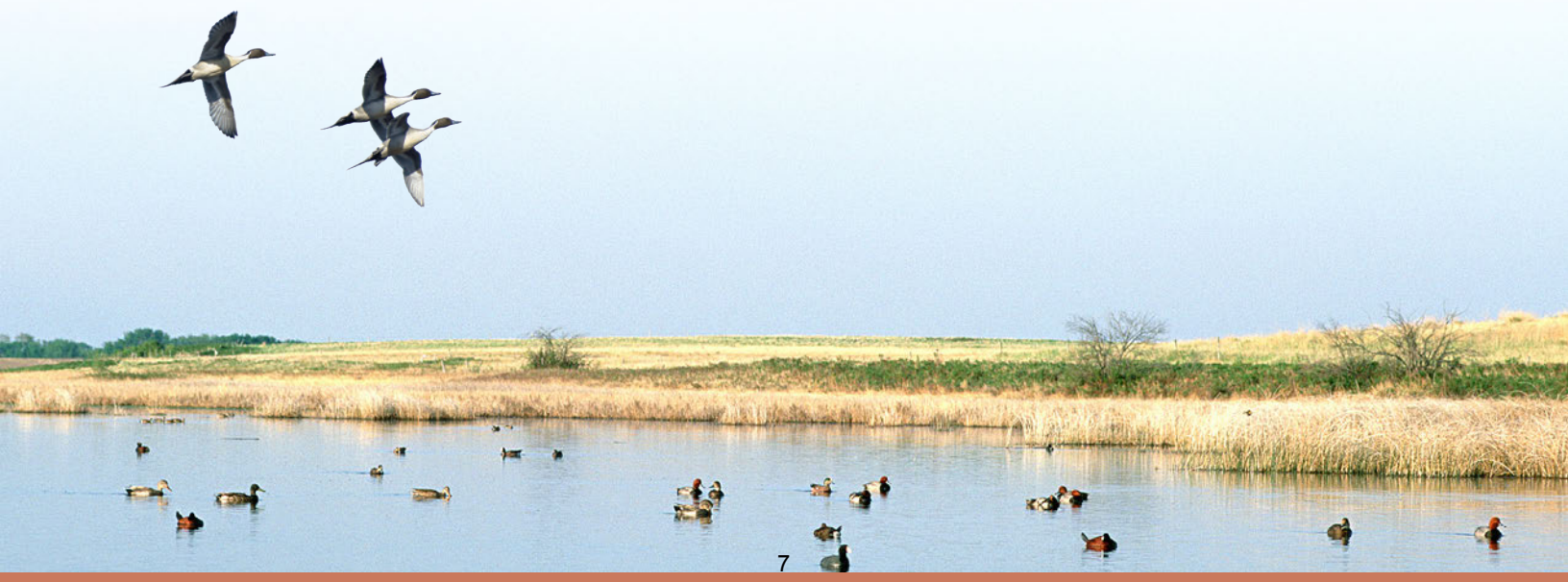
The Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDW) has contributed to waterfowl conservation on the Canadian Prairies since 1997. This partnership with DU recognizes the importance of Canadian waterfowl production to Nevada hunters.

Over the past 18 years, Nevada has contributed $130,000 to this effort.

DU requested funding from the Nevada Department of Wildlife in response to the critical waterfowl needs of the Alberta Prairie Pothole Region (PPR). This request was for $10,000 to support DUC's conservation efforts in FY 2015* on these breeding grounds.

NDW subsequently contributed $10,000 to support this important work. This report highlights NDW funding that was matched by DU, and the combined total matched by the North America Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA), and other partners, to realize **$40,000** in support of conservation efforts in the Alberta PPR priority areas and surrounding landscapes.

** April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015*



3 BASED ON SOUND SCIENCE

SOUND SCIENCE

DUC uses the best scientific research available to direct, evaluate and modify DUC's conservation programs and practices so that DUC can most effectively meet the conservation needs of waterfowl in the PPR. This union of science and conservation sets DUC apart from other non-government conservation organizations in Canada.

DUC has led the last 20 years of *waterfowl breeding as related to habitat conditions* research in the Canadian PPR. Scientists searched over 350,000 acres of habitat for nests, radio tracked 3,920 mallard hens and located and determined the nesting fate on over 10,000 nests. This data has greatly increased our understanding of nesting duck habitat selection and success.

The research supports DUC's efforts to develop strategic waterfowl habitat recovery plans that are implemented and evaluated using a *waterfowl productivity model* that relates duck production to habitat condition. Based on the model, DUC has defined waterfowl needs for its priority landscapes in the PPR and specifically, habitat actions needed to restore duck populations within these landscapes. These needs are represented in the habitat objectives set out in the ***PHJV Implementation Plan***.

DUC, Canadian government and industry partners have committed to research to better understand landscape change. Studies on wetland loss, nutrient loading, flood prediction and carbon sequestration has been a recent focus of DUC's science effort. This work has led to valuable science that is currently guiding changes to wetland protection, watershed planning and agricultural programs on the Canadian prairies.

Wetland conservation that benefits our environment, economy and future and that is based on sound science will further help to sustain North America's waterfowl populations.

YOUR SUPPORT IS KEY

NDW funding provides a significant contribution to the goals of the PHJV. Although much remains to be accomplished, this funding is critical to our joint efforts to reach these important goals.

prairie habitat joint venture

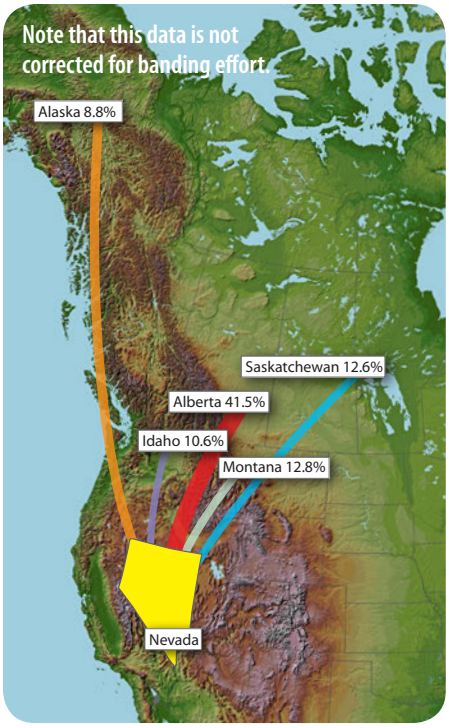
North American Waterfowl Management Plan
Plan nord-américain de gestion de la sauvagine
Plan de Manejo de Aves Acuáticas de Norteamérica

DUC is a proud partner of the NAWMP. The PHJV, a partnership led by federal and provincial governments, DUC, Nature Conservancy of Canada and Wildlife Habitat Canada, has collaborated on waterfowl conservation under NAWMP in Prairie Canada since 1986. DUC leads the delivery of conservation programs and science to support NAWMP goals on the Canadian Prairies. The success of DUC's programs in Alberta, particularly in the prairie pothole-laden target areas, are critical in supporting the NAWMP goal of achieving sustainable waterfowl production. The PHJV goal is to protect, restore and enhance an additional 15 million acres over the next 25 years of the NAWMP.

4 PRIORITY AREAS

BAND RECOVERIES

Origin of ducks harvested in Nevada from 1986-2012.



WATERFOWL BREEDING

Breeding duck density and distribution within the PPR of Alberta. Yellow and red areas represent the highest duck densities in the province. This map is based on over 50 years of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service survey data and represents average waterfowl distribution over the long term.

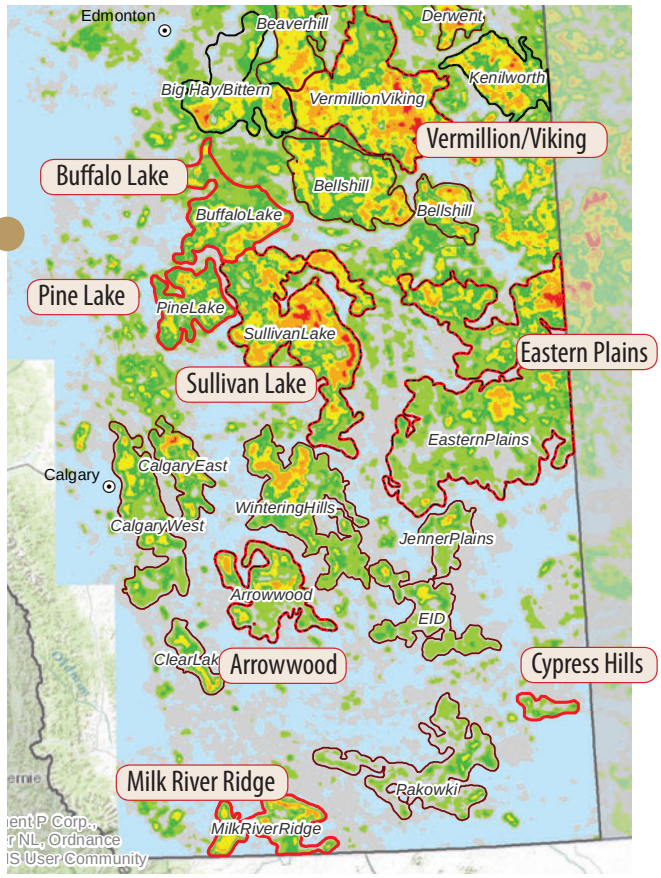
Alberta is an important source for waterfowl migrating to Nevada.

Waterfowl band recovery data has clearly established that waterfowl produced and banded in Alberta comprise a substantial proportion of the overall waterfowl population of the Pacific Flyway. Data further supports that DUC's conservation priority areas, supported by the NDW, are a primary source for waterfowl harvested in Nevada.

Efforts must strategically target the 'best of the best' of these habitats to most effectively benefit waterfowl populations.

The highest densities of breeding ducks in North America occur in the Prairie Pothole Region (PPR) of Canada. Located within the PPR are the Prairie and Aspen Parkland Eco-regions of Alberta, which are composed of a diversity of wetland and upland habitats. These habitat characteristics make this area key to waterfowl production and provide a basis to strategically deliver conservation programs. Although the value of habitats across the PPR have been degraded and continue to be at risk, based on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service survey data, the PPR and particularly these priority areas, continue to stand out as the *'best of the best'* breeding habitats in North America.

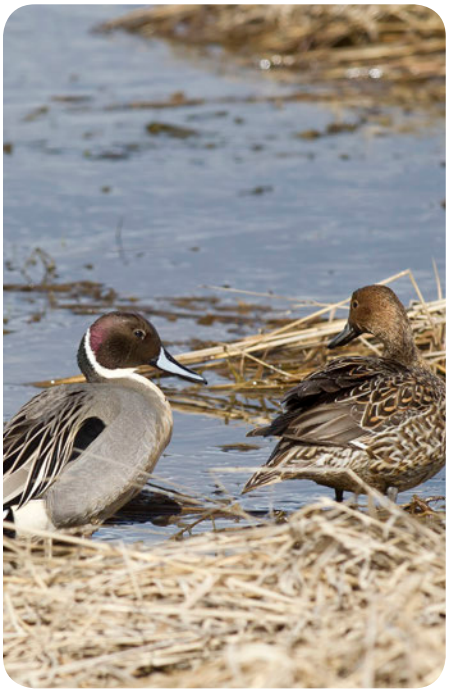
Eight priority areas within the PPR of Alberta have been selected as the focus for NDW funding - Pine Lake, Buffalo Lake, Sullivan Lake, Vermillion/Viking, Arrowwood, Milk River Ridge, Cypress Hills and Eastern Plains priority areas.



5 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

FUNDING

The NDW's contribution of **$10,000** toward the priority areas in the Alberta prairie pothole region was matched by DU, NAWCA and other partner funds totaling **$40,000**.



DU and NAWMP remain focused on the PPR of Canada and Canadian partners continue to grow their support with long term match at 50% of the total funds expended under the NAWMP in Canada.

Based on the FY2015 request, DUC has delivered the following habitat initiatives in Alberta.

Habitat Initiative	Accomplishments (acres)	Program Costs ($)
Habitat Retention	85	$22,328
Wetland Restoration	5	$5,656
Upland Restoration (Winter Wheat extension acres)	2,527*	$2,816
Habitat Asset Management	*5,919***	$9,200
Total	**2,617**	**$40,000**

* Winter Wheat extension acres are annual acres.
* Habitat Asset Management acres are not incremental and are therefore not included in the total acre goals.

Habitat Retention

Drainage of wetlands and breaking of native grass uplands continue to be the most significant activities negatively impacting waterfowl. DUC uses a variety of program tools to protect remaining habitats that are vital to the long-term waterfowl productivity of Alberta.

Conservation easements and agreements - protect habitats on private lands by offering financial incentives for varying levels of protection. All conservation easements are perpetual and are mostly done in partnership with provincial and federal government agencies. Conservation agreements are all a minimum of 10 years and many were secured for less than a $35 per acre investment by DU.

Land purchase - is the most intensive program that DU delivers and is an important tool to protect highly valued habitats at high risk. As the cost of purchasing land continues to rise, DU invests in habitat to ensure the greatest waterfowl benefits are derived.

Rangeland stewardship - are designed to positively impact the majority of existing grasslands in the priority areas under the control of private ranches. To protect these lands from loss, unique partnerships with ranchers were employed. Conservation agreements addressing the protection of existing native prairie habitats while offering incentives for environmentally sound improvements were a main focus.

Wetland rebuilds - are a re-investment into existing wetland projects that are highly productive and successful for waterfowl. These projects have met and surpassed their original design and agreement terms and require new infrastructure and agreements to ensure their productive capacity for another 30 years. DU renews agreements with the landowners on the project and constructs or repairs the required physical improvements to maximize wetland productivity and waterfowl recruitment.

WINTER WHEAT

Winter wheat, which is a fall-seeded crop, is particularly beneficial to northern pintails, a species that remains below long term populations since the late 1970s.

Wetland Restoration

Most wetland restoration work has to occur on private lands. More than 75 years of program delivery has taught us that it takes a combination of intensive and extensive programs to successfully work with producers. DUC is currently using other programs such as land purchase to initiate efforts to restore wetlands. Goals for wetland restoration increased this year due to drying conditions resulting in an increased opportunity to complete construction on a number of basins. DUC will continue to pursue wetland restoration opportunities that come available.

Upland Restoration

Duck nest success is a major influential factor for continental waterfowl populations. Improving nest success in the priority areas and surrounding PPR will require the restoration of grass to provide secure nesting habitat. DUC focused significant efforts on restoring perennial cover in the priority areas through two primary efforts:

Forage conversion programs - provide incentives to landowners to convert cultivated land to perennial cover to provide waterfowl nesting benefits and support the beef industry. For waterfowl, the increase in forage provides more nesting choices with better protection from predators.

Winter wheat programs - focus on the agronomic and economic benefits of the crop to the producer. Approaches vary from supporting research to developing new varieties that are more successful in the Canadian prairies, to working more directly with the producers through incentive or extension programs. DUC's research has confirmed that there are **24 times more ducks hatched in winter wheat** compared to spring wheat on a per acre basis because both nest success and density increase.

Habitat Asset Management

The successful delivery of conservation programs has been occurring over the past 77 years of DU's existence. This represents a substantial investment by DU and many other partners to place a valuable network of habitat projects across the PPR. In order to ensure these projects return the maximum benefit to waterfowl an annual investment of resources is required. Habitat asset management activities include annual maintenance, grassland rejuvenation, water level management and repair of damaged water level management infrastructure.

7 SECURING A LEGACY

Ducks Unlimited and the Nevada Department of Wildlife are working together to conserve the 'best of the best' waterfowl habitats in Alberta.

Only through your support can we continue these important efforts.

The ***PHJV Implementation Plan*** and DU have set habitat objectives to fully recover the Canadian Prairies and to sustain waterfowl production. Continued partnerships will be the key to success.

DU values its relationship with NDW and recognizes them as a key player in supporting NAWMP conservation efforts in Canada. However, increased support from all partners is needed if the goals of NAWMP are to be met.

The waterfowl community continues to recognize habitat programs as the primary solution to waterfowl recovery. DUC is the primary delivery agent of the NAWMP program in the PPR of Canada.

Your support and continued action on the Canadian Prairies means that critical waterfowl habitat will be protected in the top waterfowl production area of North America.

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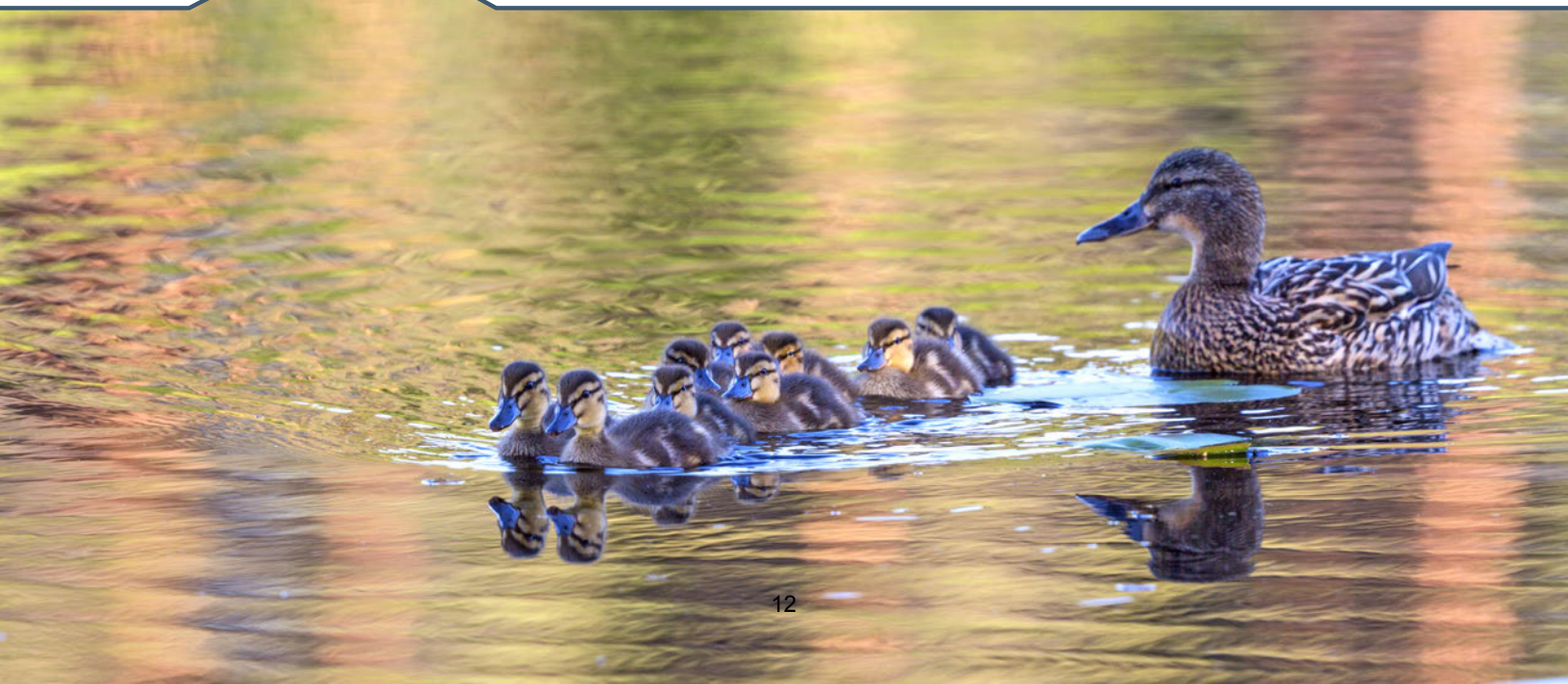

APPENDIX - Accomplishment Details

Habitat Initiative	Direct Programs	Extension Programs	FY15 Total	FY15 Costs
	(Acres) [1]	(Acres) [2]	(Acres)	
Habitat Retention				
Land Purchase	4	-	4	$4,889
Revolving Land Purchase (RLP)[3]	-	-	*7*	$2,675
Easements from RLP	18	-	18	$8,375
Lease/Conservation Agmt	63	-	63	$6,389
Sub-total	**85**	0	**85**	**$22,328**
Wetland Restoration	**5**	**0**	**5**	**$5,656**
Upland Restoration				
Winter Wheat	0	2,527	2,527	$2,369
Nesting Cover Enhancement[4]	-	-	*7*	$447
Sub-total	**0**	**2,527**	**2,527**	**$2,816**
Habitat Management[5]	**-**	**-**	*5,919*	**$9,200**
TOTAL ACRES	**90**	**2,527**	**2,617**	
Total Expenditure FY15				**$40,000**

[1] Direct programs – Programs whereby DUC directly impacts actions of producers, improves, or protects habitat.

[2] Extension/Influence – are acres impacted whereby DUC extends technical advice and influences land management decisions that are beneficial to both landowners and waterfowl habitat.

[3] Revolving Land Purchase - The acres in this category are not incremental. They are recorded as an interim step towards the conservation acres.

[4] Nesting Cover Enhancement - The acres in this category were previously secured and are not included in the total of habitat accomplishments.

[5] Habitat Management - These acres include the existing projects requiring annual management to maintain healthy habitats. The acres in this category are not included in the total of habitat accomplishments.

Mason Valley WMA Redhead Pump Station

A total of $5,600 from the Duck Stamp account was used to help pay the electrical power bill for the Redhead Pump Station. The water from this well was used to irrigate over 80 acres of moist soil units and to fill and maintain 100 acres of waterfowl nesting and hunting units located on the eastern portion of the WMA.

Mason Valley WMA Joggles Pump Station

A total of $5,800 was expended on electrical costs for pumping at the Joggles well. This pump was used to irrigate 80 acres of millets and other moist soil vegetation in the millet plots and golden eye unit. The periodically irrigation provided waterfowl and shore birds forage and cover during the migration months as well as provided waterfowl hunting and viewing opportunities to WMA users.

Carson Lake and Pasture Vegetation Management

A total of $5,843 has been spent to date as Nevada Department of Forestry staff, along with Mason Valley and Carson Lake staff, burned the Sprig Unit of the Carson Lake and Pasture wetlands. The prescribed burn removed 3,200 aces of overgrown stands of hard stem bulrush and cattails. Carson Lake and Pasture staff also began applying herbicide to perennial pepperweed the 1st of April and will continue until 130 acres of perennial pepperweed are treated.

Mason Valley WMA Prescribed Burns

$2,000 has been used thus far this fiscal year for NDF Conservation Crews to assist with a prescribed fire at Scaup, Bufflehead, Goldeneye, and Ringneck ponds within the Mason Valley WMA. A total of 250 acres of hardstem bulrush, cattail and other undesirable vegetation was burned in April of 2016.

Overton and Key Pittman WMAs Wetland Enhancement (Phase 2)

Funding was used to purchase water controls structures, HPDE pipe, and other materials that will be used in the wetland enhancement projects at Key Pittman and Overton WMAs. The future leveling of Pintail and Wilson ponds at Overton WMA will be a cut and fill balance that will result in more uniform pond bottoms that eliminate overly deep areas and spread water to areas that in the present state do not support shallow ponded conditions. The project will also improve water delivery and drainage and thus improving the ability of WMA staff to manage waterfowl habitat at the WMA. These improvements will also allow NDOW to increase production of preferred waterfowl food plants. Besides the habitat improvements, with deeper areas within the two ponds filled, less water will be required to manage the units and provide optimal habitats for both waterfowl and hunters. Approximately $10,000 was expended at Overton WMA for these materials. At Key Pittman WMA the enhancement plan is intended to provide better habitat conditions for waterfowl, better hunting opportunities for area users in the northern ponds of the WMA and would alleviate the situation under which the neighbor's pasture gets flooded. Approximately $4,500 was expended at Key Pittman WMA for these materials.

Key Pittman WMA Food Plots

Approximately 60 acres were planted in October with wheat, oats, cereal rye, barley, and hairy vetch as a winter cover crop. An additional 40 acres were planted in December with ryegrass, tall fescue, sand dropseed, and Sandberg bluegrass to enhance desirable vegetation in areas where the removal of noxious weeds left areas that were lightly vegetated or bare ground. During February, 60 acres were seeded with spring wheat, oats, barley, alsike clover, native annual sunflower, small burnett, and rocky mountain bee plant. Selected areas along the shoreline of the upper ponds will be hand seeded in June, 2016 with millet and native sunflower to increase forage production in feeding areas on the WMA and to enhance hunting opportunities.

Kirch WMA Food Plots

Forty acres of the lower dove field were planted with Siberian wheat in September. In May, 40 acres of the upper dove field were planted with a mixture of cereal grains and native sunflowers. Forty acres of the Old Place Unit will be planted in early to mid-June, 2016. The moist-soil units within the Old Place Unit will be planted with a summer seed mix composed of millets and cereal grains.

Eastern Region WMA Weed Control

Funding for this project was used on herbicide treatments at the Bruneau River WMA. Canada thistle, Scotch thistle, hoary cress and perennial pepperweed were treated on state-owned lands to restore important wetland habitat. The Stowell property which was acquired in 2012 has been the target of specific weed control efforts in FY16. It is hoped that the current effort will reduce further weed encroachment on the Bruneau River WMA and diminish the transportation of noxious weed seeds to other areas. Efforts to address weeds on the Bruneau River WMA and other unmanned WMAs within the Eastern Region are hampered by the remoteness of some of these state holdings. The hiring of another Habitat Biologist for the Eastern Region will greatly enhance efforts to manage these areas in the future. In addition, Eastern Region Habitat Staff have developed an agreement with a private contractor to facilitate weed control on a state-wide basis.

Proposed FY 2017 Duck Stamp Projects

Title of Project	**Project Manager**	**$ Requested from Duck Stamp Account**	**Other Funding Sources Contributing to the Project** (not including in-kind contributions)
Tracking Canvasbacks throughout the Great Basin	Russell Woolstenhulme	$9,510	N/A
Waterfowl Banding with an Emphasis on Cinnamon Teal	Russell Woolstenhulme	$4,625	Nevada Waterfowl Association: $315
Field Technician and Analysis Support for Waterfowl Projects	Russell Woolstenhulme	$6,300	Nevada Waterfowl Association: $10,400 NDOW's Federal Game Management Grant: $13,000
Ducks Unlimited Wetlands Conservation Support	Mike Zahradka	$10,000	N/A
Mason Valley WMA Moist-soil Food Plots	Isaac Metcalf	$5,000	N/A
Key Pittman WMA Wildlife Food Plots	Ron Mills	$2,600	Upland Game Bird Stamp: $3,900
Overton WMA Farming	Bennie Vann	$3,500	N/A
Kirch WMA Wildlife Food Plots	Adam Henriod	$1,920	Upland Game Bird Stamp: $2,880
Key Pittman WMA Wetlands Enhancement (Phase 3)	Mike Zahradka	$40,000	Habitat Conservation Fee: $40,000
Eastern Region WMAs Weed Control	Steve Foree	$7,500	Upland Game Bird Stamp: $7,500
Total		**$90,955**	

Duck Stamp Account Budget Status

Balance in the Account at Start of FY 2016	$ 411,118
Estimated Revenue Accrued During FY 2016	$ 86,622
Estimated Total FY 2016 Expenditures	$ 159,550
Estimated Administrative Costs (10% of Revenue)	$ 8,662
Estimated Balance at End of FY 2016 / Start of FY 2017	$ 329,528
Estimated Revenue to be Accrued During FY 2017	$ 86,622
Estimated Administrative Costs (10% of Revenue)	$ 8,662
Proposed New Project FY 2017 Expenditures	$ 90,955
Estimated Balance at End of FY 2017	$ 316,533

Note: The budget information in this table is preliminary and subject to change.

Fiscal Year 2017 Duck Stamp Project Proposal

Project Summary

Project Title: Tracking Canvasbacks throughout the Great Basin

Special Reserve Account(s) that Would Fund this Project: Duck Stamp

NDOW Project Manager (PM): Russell Woolstenhulme

PM Phone Number and Email Address: (775) 688-1914; russellw@ndow.org

Funds Requested from Each Special Reserve Account(s): $9,510

Total Cash to be Used from Other Funding Sources (please list by source): N/A

Total In-Kind Donations by Source (please list by source):
Trapping, analysis, and writing time provided by Chris Nicolai of the USFWS -150 hours @$51/hr = $7,650

Total Project Cost to be Funded by All Sources: $17,160

Project Proposal

I. Purpose of Project and Goals to be Achieved: 50 geolocators will be purchased and used to wrap up a 3 year effort to assess movement rates and duration stay for canvasbacks throughout the Great Basin. We applied 50 geolocators in 2015 and 30 in 2016 during spring migration. The first deployment resulted in 8 being shot and reported by hunters with 4 of those providing data and more recoveries are expected each hunting season.

II. Project Location (include a map if available): Swan Lake in Lemmon Valley, 8 miles North of Reno, Washoe County, NV.

III. Project Approach Including Tasks to be Accomplished:

1) Bait and attract ducks.
2) Capture and measure ducks.
3) Attach geolocators.
4) Communicate with hunters who report marked ducks to send them for downloading.
5) Download and archive data.
6) Data analysis.
7) Project write-up.

IV. Describe the Beneficial Effects of the Project and How they Will be Measured and Monitored:

This project, combined with prior efforts focusing on mallards and wood ducks, will provide information for wetland habitat managers and population managers. This information may include: timing and duration of use of wetlands within the great basin, population delineation or consolidation within North America, and estimates of breeding propensity.

V. Project Schedule:

January through March 2017 – Trap and mark ducks.
Hunting seasons from 2017 for ~ 5 more years – Communicate with hunters to obtain downloads from devices.

VI. Relationship to NDOW Plans, Policies and Programs:

This information will inform habitat management plans. Canvasbacks are listed in NDOW's Wildlife Action Plan as a Species of Conservation Priority. Canvasbacks are an elevated species on the USFWS' birds of management concern list.

VII. NEPA Compliance or other Activities that Need to be Accomplished Before this Project Can be Completed and their Status: None

Project Costs and Funding

VIII. Cost Summary

A breakdown of the project costs is included in the table on the next page.

IX. Is this Project Going to Continue After FY17? Yes ____ No _X____

X. If Yes, is this Going to be an Annual, Recurring Project? Yes ____ No _____

XI. If the Project is Going to Continue After FY17, Define the Total Dollars to be Spent During Each Fiscal Year: N/A

XII. Would Funds from this Program Be Used for State Matching Purposes? Yes _X_ No ____

XIII. If Yes, Which Federal Grant Would the Matching Funds be Used For?

0248-13 Migratory Game Birds

Project Cost Breakdown

Project Components	*Costs to be Paid by NDOW Special Reserve Account(s)*	*Costs to be Paid by Other Sources*
1. Land Acquisitions		
2. Personnel Costs		
A. NDOW Personnel		
B. Other Personnel		
C. Total Personnel Costs	$ -	$ -
3. Travel Costs		
A. Per Diem		
B. Mileage	$ 250.00	
C. Total Travel Costs	$ 250.00	$ -
4. Equipment		
A. 50 geolocators @ $160/each	$ 8,000.00	
B. Corn for bait 90 bags @ $14/each	$ 1,260.00	
C. Total Equipment Costs	$ 9,260.00	$ -
5. Materials		
A.		
B.		
C.		
D. Total Materials Costs	$ -	$ -
6. Miscellaneous		
A.		
B.		
C.		
D.		
F. Total Miscellaneous Costs	$ -	$ -
7. In-Kind Services		
A. USFWS staff trapping, analysis and writing		$ 7,650.00
B.		
C. Total In-Kind Services	$ -	$ 7,650.00
Subtotals	$ 9,510.00	$ 7,650.00
Total Project Costs	$	17,160.00

Fiscal Year 2017 Duck Stamp Project Proposal

Project Summary

Project Title: Waterfowl Banding with an Emphasis on Cinnamon Teal

Special Reserve Account(s) that Would Fund this Project: Duck Stamp

NDOW Project Manager (PM): Russell Woolstenhulme

PM Phone Number and Email Address: (775) 688-1914; russellw@ndow.org

Funds Requested from Each Special Reserve Account(s): $4,625

Total Cash to be Used from Other Funding Sources (please list by source):
21 rocket charges, Nevada Waterfowl Association = $315

Total In-Kind Donations by Source (please list by source):
Trapping efforts, Chris Nicolai NWA Biologist – 80 hours @ $51.00 = $4,080

Total Project Cost to be Funded by All Sources: $9,020

Project Proposal

I. **Purpose of Project and Goals to be Achieved:** Increase duck trapping materials to replace current equipment, to provide startup materials for efforts at the locations listed below, to expand trapping efforts focusing on cinnamon teal in the spring, and to facilitate night lighting efforts with a focus on banding of cinnamon teal.

II. **Project Location (include a map if available):** Swan Lake in Lemmon Valley approximately 8 miles north of Reno; Carson Lake and Pasture, Fallon, NV; Stillwater NWR, Fallon, NV; and Mason Valley WMA, Yerington, NV.

III. **Project Approach Including Tasks to be Accomplished**:
1) Purchase trapping materials.
2) Trap and band cinnamon teal in March and April.
3) Focused night lighting efforts.

IV. Describe the Beneficial Effects of the Project and How they Will be Measured and Monitored:

By providing additional materials, pre-season banding of ducks, specifically mallards, can continue and expand to other parts of Nevada. Additionally, efforts to capture and band cinnamon teal will improve population assessment capabilities.

V. Project Schedule:

Late July – Purchase trapping materials
New moon of July and August – night lighting efforts
March/April 2017 – Trapping efforts for cinnamon teal

VI. Relationship to NDOW Plans, Policies and Programs:

This information will inform habitat management plans.
Duck banding goals have been set by the USFWS to be carried out by states and federal refuges.
Cinnamon teal are included in the NDOW's Wildlife Action Plan.
Cinnamon teal are an elevated bird of management concern by USFWS.

VII. NEPA Compliance or other Activities that Need to be Accomplished Before this Project Can be Completed and their Status: None

Project Costs and Funding

VIII. Cost Summary

A breakdown of the project's costs is provided in the table on the next page.

IX. Is this Project Going to Continue After FY17? Yes ____ No _X____

X. If Yes, is this Going to be an Annual, Recurring Project? Yes ____ No _____

XI. If the Project is Going to Continue After FY17, Define the Total Dollars to be Spent During Each Fiscal Year:

XII. Would Funds from this Program Be Used for State Matching Purposes? Yes _X__ No ___

XIII. If Yes, Which Federal Grant Would the Matching Funds be Used For? 0248-13 Migratory GameBirds

Project Cost Breakdown

Project Components	*Costs to be Paid by NDOW Special Reserve Account(s)*	*Costs to be Paid by Other Sources*
1. Land Acquisitions		
2. Personnel Costs		
A. NDOW Personnel		
B. Other Personnel		$ 4,080.00
C. Total Personnel Costs	$ -	$ 4,080.00
3. Travel Costs		
A. Per Diem		
B. Mileage	$ 150.00	
C. Total Travel Costs	$ 150.00	$ -
4. Equipment		
A. 21 rocket charges		$ 315.00
B.		
C. Total Equipment Costs	$ -	$ 315.00
5. Materials		
A. Wire, netting, and poles	$ 1,000.00	
B. 2 rocket nets at $1000/each	$ 2,000.00	
C. 6 rockets	$ 600.00	
D. Total Materials Costs	$ 3,600.00	$ -
6. Miscellaneous		
A. Corn 45 bags @ $15/each	$ 675.00	
B. Fuel for nightlighting	$ 200.00	
C.		
D.		
F. Total Miscellaneous Costs	$ 875.00	$ -
7. In-Kind Services		
A.		
B.		
C. Total In-Kind Services	$ -	
Subtotals	$ 4,625.00	$ 4,395.00
Total Project Costs	$	9,020.00

Fiscal Year 2017 Duck Stamp Project Proposal

Project Summary

Project Title: Field Technician and Analysis Support for Waterfowl Projects

Special Reserve Account(s) that Would Fund this Project: Duck Stamp

NDOW Project Manager (PM): Russell Woolstenhulme

PM Phone Number and Email Address: (775) 688-1914; russellw@ndow.org

Funds Requested from Each Special Reserve Account(s): $6,300

Total Cash to be Used from Other Funding Sources (please list by source):

Nevada Waterfowl Association (NWA) - $10,400

- Graduate Student salary/ tuition and lodging

Game Division, Game Management Grant - $13,000

- Seasonal position completing pre-season duck banding

Total In-Kind Donations by Source (please list by source):

Nevada Waterfowl Association - $10,000

- Volunteer labor – 200 hrs. @ $51/hr.

Total Project Cost to be Funded by All Sources: $39,700

Project Proposal

I. Purpose of Project and Goals to be Achieved:

Provide for a Master's-level graduate student to analyze 4 years of geolocator data which is supported by NDOW. In addition, this student would be available for aerial waterfowl surveys, analysis of aerial survey data, pre-season duck banding, and other associated waterfowl projects. Typically, these other waterfowl tasks have been completed by a volunteer or a seasonal employee.

II. Project Location (include a map if available):

The analysis of data would take place at UNR, aerial surveys would be state-wide, and pre-season duck banding would primarily be in the Fallon area.

III. Project Approach Including Tasks to be Accomplished:

1) Placement, retrieval, and analysis of >300 geolocators which have been placed on 3 species of ducks in western Nevada since 2014. Final results will be documented and included in a MS thesis.
2) Conduct aerial Nevada breeding waterfowl surveys.
3) Analyze the annual Nevada breeding waterfowl surveys.
4) Lead all pre-season duck banding efforts including logistics, field work, project summary, and compilation of banding schedules.
5) Assist on other waterfowl projects as necessary.

IV. Describe the Beneficial Effects of the Project and How they Will be Measured and Monitored:

The success of the recent efforts to equip ducks with geolocators has led to a large accumulation of data. This proposal would provide for an MS-level student to complete half of an MS degree using this data. Currently, this task is too large for current cooperators to accomplish. Recent volunteers that would be used to conduct aerial waterfowl surveys may no longer be available and this position would fill that vacancy - both to conduct the survey and fully analyze the results. Additionally, since 2009, a three-month seasonal position was hired to lead field efforts for pre-season duck banding. This position would replace that position with a cost redirection of approximately $6,500.

V. Project Schedule:

February 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017 – Enrolled as MS student at UNR.
February 1, 2017 through June 30, 2017 – Field work including deployment and retrieval of geolocators.
May 2017 – Spend a week conducting aerial surveys and 2 weeks analyzing results.
July 15 through October 31, 2017 – Band waterfowl and submit banding schedules.

VI. Relationship to NDOW Plans, Policies and Programs:

This project will provide data and analysis in support of conserving waterfowl species, including species identified in NDOW's Wildlife Action Plan. This data is needed to conduct necessary components of various wildlife management-related programs.
Will also provide a crew member and lead analyst for Nevada breeding waterfowl surveys, and will provide a technician for leading pre-season duck banding efforts.

VII. NEPA Compliance or other Activities that Need to be Accomplished Before this Project Can be Completed and their Status:

None

Project Costs and Funding

VIII. Cost Summary

The project's costs are summarized in the cost table below.

IX. Is this Project Going to Continue After FY17? Yes __X__ No _____

X. If Yes, is this Going to be an Annual, Recurring Project? Yes __X__ No _____

XI. If the Project is Going to Continue After FY17, Define the Total Dollars to be Spent During Each Fiscal Year:

- **FY18 – Total $35,000**
  - Duck Stamp - $20,500
  - Game Grant - $13,000
  - NWA - $1,500
- **FY19 – Total 20,500**
  - Duck Stamp - $7,500
  - Game Grant - $13,000

XII. Would Funds from this Program Be Used for State Matching Purposes? Yes __X__ No _____

XIII. If Yes, Which Federal Grant Would the Matching Funds be Used For?
The Waterfowl Management Grant

Project Cost Breakdown

Project Components	*Costs to be Paid by NDOW Special Reserve Account(s)*	*Costs to be Paid by Other Sources*
1. Land Acquisitions		
2. Personnel Costs		
A. NDOW Personnel		$ 13,000.00
B. Other Personnel		
C. Total Personnel Costs	$ -	$ 13,000.00
3. Travel Costs		
A. Per Diem		
B. Mileage		
C. Total Travel Costs	$ -	$ -
4. Equipment		
A. Mileage	$ 2,000.00	
B.		
C. Total Equipment Costs	$ 2,000.00	$ -
5. Materials		
A. Graduate student salary, tuition, and benefits	$ 4,100.00	$ 9,400.00
B. Lodging		$ 1,000.00
C.		
D. Total Materials Costs	$ 4,100.00	$ 10,400.00
6. Miscellaneous		
A. Overhead	$ 200.00	
B.		
C.		
D.		
F. Total Miscellaneous Costs	$ 200.00	$ -
7. In-Kind Services		
A. Volunteer Labor		$ 10,000.00
B.		
C. Total In-Kind Services	$ -	$ 10,000.00
Subtotals	$ 6,300.00	$ 33,400.00
Total Project Costs	$	39,700.00

Fiscal Year 2017 Duck Stamp Project Proposal

Project Summary

Project Title: Ducks Unlimited Wetlands Conservation Support

Special Reserve Account(s) that Would Fund this Project: Duck Stamp

NDOW Project Manager (PM): Mike Zahradka

PM Phone Number and Email Address: (775) 688-1563; mzahradka@ndow.org

Funds Requested from Each Special Reserve Account(s): $10,000

Total Cash to be Used from Other Funding Sources (please list by source): N/A

Total In-Kind Donations by Source (please list by source): $0

Total Project Cost to be Funded by All Sources: $10,000

Project Proposal

I. Purpose of Project and Goals to be Achieved:
NDOW has provided funding to Ducks Unlimited since 1997 to help fund wetland conservation work on the Canadian Prairies. Waterfowl band recovery has clearly established that waterfowl produced and banded in Alberta comprise a substantial portion of the overall waterfowl population of the Pacific Flyway. The Canadian Prairies provide significant breeding and nesting habitats for waterfowl, some of which migrate through Nevada during the fall and winter and provide hunting opportunities for Nevada waterfowl hunters.

II. Project Location (include a map if available):
Funding would be provided to Ducks Unlimited who, in turn, will assure that funds provided by NDOW will be spent on wetland habitat conservation work in the Prairie Pothole Region of Canada.

III. Project Approach Including Tasks to be Accomplished:
NDOW prefers that funds be used on wetland enhancement projects in Alberta since banding data indicates that a fairly high percentage of waterfowl harvested in Nevada originate from that province.

IV. Describe the Beneficial Effects of the Project and How they Will be Measured and Monitored:

Funds donated to Ducks Unlimited are used to enhance and maintain waterfowl habitat. In addition to directly benefiting waterfowl, this also indirectly benefits Nevada hunters by increasing or maintaining waterfowl populations in Nevada.

V. Project Schedule:

This is an annual contribution made to Ducks Unlimited.

VI. Relationship to NDOW Plans, Policies and Programs:

This funding, consistent with the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and the Wetlands Conservation Act, will assist in the enhancement and maintenance of wetland habitats in Canada. These wetlands provide important habitat for migratory waterfowl, which in turn, migrate and stopover in Nevada and increase hunting opportunities. Funding this type of work is also consistent with the following portion of NDOW's mission: "To protect, preserve, manage and restore wildlife and its habitat for their aesthetic, scientific, educational, recreational and economic benefits to citizens of Nevada and the United States".

VII. NEPA Compliance or other Activities that Need to be Accomplished Before this Project Can be Completed and their Status:

None

Project Costs and Funding

VIII. Cost Summary

All of the funds awarded to this project will be used to make a donation to Ducks Unlimited.

IX. Is this Project Going to Continue After FY17? Yes _X_ No _____

X. If Yes, is this Going to be an Annual, Recurring Project? Yes _X_ No _____

XI. If the Project is Going to Continue After FY17, Define the Total Dollars to be Spent During Each Fiscal Year:

$10,000 annually

XII. Would Funds from this Program Be Used for State Matching Purposes? Yes _X_ No ___

XIII. If Yes, Which Federal Grant Would the Matching Funds be Used For?

WMA System Grant

Fiscal Year 2017 Duck Stamp Project Proposal

Project Summary

Project Title: Mason Valley WMA Moist-soil Food Plots

Special Reserve Account(s) that Would Fund this Project: Duck Stamp

NDOW Project Manager (PM): Isaac Metcalf

PM Phone Number and Email Address: (775) 463-2741; imetcalf@ndow.org

Funds Requested from Each Special Reserve Account(s): $5,000

Total Cash to be Used from Other Funding Sources (please list by source): $0

Total In-Kind Donations by Source (please list by source): $0

Total Project Cost to be Funded by All Sources: $5,000

Project Proposal

I. Purpose of Project and Goals to be Achieved:

The purpose of the Mason Valley WMA Moist-soil Project is to enhance habitat conditions for migrating waterfowl and shorebirds. The goals of the moist-soil project will be to increase the amount of available forage and cover for migrating waterfowl and shorebirds as a post prescribed burn treatment.

II. Project Location (include a map if available):

The Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area (MVWMA) is located in Mason Valley, Lyon County, Nevada. Mason Valley is within the Walker River Basin in west-central Nevada.

III. Project Approach Including Tasks to be Accomplished:

Moist-soil vegetation will be planted with seed purchased with Duck Stamp funds and following prescribed burning in the spring of waterfowl ponds. The replanting will occur in May and June of FY17. Ponds will be flooded periodically to establish germination of moist-soil vegetation and flooded in the fall. The moist-soil units will provide forage for waterfowl and shorebirds as well as provide WMA users with wildlife viewing and hunting opportunities.

IV. Describe the Beneficial Effects of the Project and How they Will be Measured and Monitored:

This project will mostly benefit waterfowl and shorebirds but other wildlife will also benefit with the increased forage availability. Non-consumptive and consumptive WMA users will also benefit with more opportunities for wildlife contact.

Bag check stations and survey cards will be used to collect data on hunter harvest and non-consumptive use. Surveys will be used to monitor waterfowl and shorebird use in the moist soil units.

V. Project Schedule:

Planting will occur following spring time prescribed burning within burn units.

VI. Relationship to NDOW Plans, Policies and Programs:

Annual vegetation control is identified in the Mason Valley WMA Conceptual Management Plan. Desired Outcome: Wildlife habitats that are in good ecological condition, capable of supporting a diverse array of wildlife species. Goal: Habitat is the key to the success of all wildlife populations. Effective habitat is an integral function of the Department of Wildlife. NDOW will preserve and protect quality habitat and enhance deficient habitats. Objective: Maintain, protect and enhance wildlife habitats on wildlife management areas (WMA's) by applying good science and best management practices through implementation of Comprehensive Management Plans on all WMA's through 2009. (Comprehensive Strategic Plan-2004-2009 page –1).

VII. NEPA Compliance or other Activities that Need to be Accomplished Before this Project Can be Completed and their Status:

None

Project Costs and Funding

VIII. Cost Summary

All of the funds awarded to this project will be used to purchase seed.

IX. Is this Project Going to Continue After FY17? Yes _X_ No _____

X. If Yes, is this Going to be an Annual, Recurring Project? Yes _X_ No _____

XI. If the Project is Going to Continue After FY17, Define the Total Dollars to be Spent During Each Fiscal Year:

$5,000

XII. Would Funds from this Program Be Used for State Matching Purposes? Yes _X_ No ___

XIII. If Yes, Which Federal Grant Would the Matching Funds be Used For?

NDOW's Wildlife Management Area System Federal Grant

Fiscal Year 2017 Duck Stamp Project Proposal

Project Summary

Project Title: Key Pittman WMA Wildlife Food Plots

Special Reserve Account(s) that Would Fund this Project: Duck Stamp

NDOW Project Manager (PM): Ron Mills

PM Phone Number and Email Address: (775) 725-3521; rmills@ndow.org

Total Funds Requested from the Wildlife Reserve Account(s): $6,500 (Project costs will be split as follows to reflect the benefits to upland game birds relative to waterfowl: 60% or $3,900 from the Upland Game Bird Stamp account and 40% or $2,600 from the Duck Stamp account)

Total Cash to be Used from Other Funding Sources (please list by source): $3,900 Upland Game Bird Stamp

Total In-Kind Donations by Source (please list by source): $0

Total Project Cost to be Funded by All Sources: $6,500

Project Proposal

I. Purpose of Project and Goals to be Achieved:

The goal of this project is a measurable increase of wildlife and public use along with increased hunter success. This will be achieved by completing annual plantings and vegetation manipulation, and enhancing existing habitat on the management area for the benefit of wildlife.

II. Project Location (include a map if available):

Key Pittman Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is near Hiko and Sunnyside, NV.

III. Project Approach Including Tasks to be Accomplished:

The food plot cycle begins October first. Following dove season the fields are mowed, disked, seed drilled (fall/winter cereal grains and legumes) and irrigated. At the same time the NW corner of the Frenchy Unit is mowed. In December and January, the grass seed is broadcast in deficient habitats mostly created by noxious weed treatments or other

mechanical disturbances. In February or March, the food plots are seeded again with additional cereal grains, forbs, legumes and sunflower. At this time the northern impoundments are drained. In June, millet and sunflower are broadcast along portions of the pond edges. In mid-July grazing begins. In mid-August the desirable native vegetation (goose foot and alkali bulrush) has matured and the northern impoundments are mowed and filled with water. During the last week of August. the food plots are strip mowed for the dove season. At the end of September, the dove season ends and the grazing lease ends and the cycle starts again. Due to the extended dove season conflicting with the waterfowl season opener, the food plots have to be mowed, disked, seeded and irrigated prior to the waterfowl opener starting around October 1st.

IV. Describe the Beneficial Effects of the Project and How they Will be Measured and Monitored:

Benefits: The food plot program incorporates forbs, grasses, nitrogen fixing plants and cereal grains to provide forage for wildlife and maintain and/or improve the soil for better production, reduce noxious and invasive weeds and eliminate the need for commercial fertilizer. Results: Increased documented use of waterfowl, quail, dove, cottontail rabbit and deer, improved harvest of game species and a reduced need for noxious and invasive weed control. Benefits to non-game species such as small mammals, raptors, song birds, reptiles and many other species is another bonus of this project. The KPWMA Food Plot program is an ongoing, yearly habitat management activity. The results of food plots in FY17 will be evaluated for their effectiveness and benefit to wildlife and sportsmen.

V. Project Schedule:

See Section III for the time line.

VI. Relationship to NDOW Plans, Policies and Programs:

Annual habitat maintenance and enhancement is identified as a management action in all of the current WMA Conceptual Management Plans. Desired Outcome: Wildlife habitats that are in good ecological condition, capable of supporting a diverse array of wildlife species. Goal: Habitat is the key to the success of all wildlife populations. NDOW will preserve and protect quality habitat and enhance deficient habitats. Objective: Maintain, protect and enhance wildlife habitats on wildlife management areas (WMA's) by applying good science and best management practices through implementation of Comprehensive Management Plans on all WMA's (Comprehensive Strategic Plan). Achieve an overall goal of no net loss of wetland area or function and the long-term goal to enhance and increase wetland quantity and quality within the WMA (Wetland Conservation Plan).

VII. NEPA Compliance or other Activities that Need to be Accomplished Before this Project Can be Completed and their Status:

None

Project Costs and Funding

VIII. Cost Summary

All of the Special Reserve Account funds awarded to this project will be used to purchase seed.

IX. Is this Project Going to Continue After FY17? Yes __X__ No _____

X. If Yes, is this Going to be an Annual, Recurring Project? Yes __X__ No _____

XI. If it is Going to Continue After FY17, Define the Total Dollars to be Spent During Each Fiscal Year:

Approximately $6,500 will be spent per fiscal year after FY17.

XII. Would Funds from this Program Be Used for State Matching Purposes? Yes _X_ No __

XIII. If Yes, Which Federal Grant Would the Matching Funds be Used For?

NDOW's WMA System Federal Grant

Fiscal Year 2017 Duck Stamp Project Proposal

Project Summary

Project Title: Overton WMA Farming

Special Reserve Account(s) that Would Fund this Project: Duck Stamp

NDOW Project Manager (PM): Bennie Vann

PM Phone Number and Email Address: (702) 397-2142; bvann@ndow.org

Funds Requested from Each Special Reserve Account(s): $3,500

Total Cash to be Used from Other Funding Sources (please list by source): $0

Total In-Kind Donations by Source (please list by source): $0

Total Project Cost to be Funded by All Sources: $3,500

Project Proposal

I. Purpose of Project and Goals to be Achieved:

This project's funds will be used to purchase seed, fertilizer, herbicides and various soil amendments. These materials will be used to help produce crops on approximately 130 acres of fields at the Overton WMA. Over the years, the WMA's farm fields have suffered from a lack of appropriate farming strategies and the soils of the fields are in dramatically degraded condition. This funding, combined with implementation of other cultural practices, will help address that situation and help restore the productivity of the fields. When the fields are in good condition and producing quality wildlife forage, they are used heavily by resident and migrating waterfowl, wild turkeys, dove, quail and a host of non-game wildlife species.

II. Project Location (include a map if available):

The Overton WMA is in the Moapa Valley of Clark County.

III. Project Approach Including Tasks to be Accomplished:

This project's funds will be used to purchase seed, fertilizer, herbicides and various soil amendments to be used in producing crops on approximately 130 acres of fields at the Overton WMA.

IV. Describe the Beneficial Effects of the Project and How they Will be Measured and Monitored:

Providing desirable habitat and quality feed in these fields will attract and hold geese, ducks and shore birds throughout the winter migration and nesting season. This project will also benefit some upland game species such as dove, turkey and quail on a yearly basis. Wildlife and hunter use will be monitored throughout the season. In subsequent years the seed mixtures could be altered to target species that should have responded better to the improvements. Planting areas where crops did not become established will be evaluated and improvements will be planned to increase planting success. The effectiveness of this project would be measured by the productivity of the fields, the subsequent usage by wildlife species and improved hunting opportunities for area users.

V. Project Schedule:

Implementing the Overton WMA's Farming Plan is an ongoing, yearly habitat management activity that typically runs from March to October.

VI. Relationship to NDOW Plans, Policies and Programs:

The farming of the area fields are identified as a goal in the Overton WMA Conceptual Management Plan. In addition, Nevada Board of Wildlife Commission Policy-66, states that primary management emphasis at the Overton WMA will be placed on the production of quality waterfowl habitat and the provisions of hunting opportunity. Improved implementation of the farming program will greatly enhance the chances of meeting the intent of that policy.

VII. NEPA Compliance or other Activities that Need to be Accomplished Before this Project Can be Completed and their Status:

None

Project Costs and Funding

VIII. Cost Summary

All of the $3,500 to be awarded to this project will be used to purchase seed, fertilizer, herbicides and soil amendments.

IX. Is this Project Going to Continue After FY17? Yes __X__ No _____

X. If Yes, is this Going to be an Annual, Recurring Project? Yes _X___ No _____

XI. If the Project is Going to Continue After FY17, Define the Total Dollars to be Spent During Each Fiscal Year:

$3,500

XII. Would Funds from this Program Be Used for State Matching Purposes? Yes _X__ No ___

XIII. If Yes, Which Federal Grant Would the Matching Funds be Used For?

NDOW's WMA System Grant

Fiscal Year 2017 Duck Stamp Project Proposal

Project Summary

Project Title: Kirch WMA Wildlife Food Plots

Special Reserve Account(s) that Would Fund this Project: Duck Stamp

NDOW Project Manager (PM): Adam Henriod

PM Phone Number and Email Address: (775) 238-0240, ahenriod@ndow.org

Funds Requested from Each Special Reserve Account(s): $4,800 (project costs will be split as follows to reflect the benefits to upland game birds relative to waterfowl: 60% or $2,880 from Upland Game Bird Stamp account and 40% or $1,920 from the Duck Stamp account).

Total Cash to be Used from Other Funding Sources (please list by source): $2,880 Upland Game Bird Stamp

Total In-Kind Donations by Source (please list by source): $0

Total Project Cost to be Funded by All Sources: $4,800

Project Proposal

I. Purpose of Project and Goals to be Achieved:

This project consists of purchasing seed to be used in the planting of 110 acres of wildlife food plots at the Kirch WMA. The purpose of this project is to enhance habitat for upland game birds, mourning dove, mule deer, and waterfowl. The upper 37 acres of the Dove Field will be planted in the spring of 2017 with a mix of cereal grains and sunflower intended to attract mourning dove, and upland game birds. The lower 33 acres of the Dove Field will be planted in the fall of 2016 with winter wheat and is intended to enhance feeding and nesting cover for upland game and provide forage for mule deer. The 40 acre Old Place unit will be planted in the summer of 2017 with a mix of Japanese millet and cereal grains. Agricultural production of farmland crops is beneficial to a wide variety of wildlife, particularly upland and migratory birds. Maximizing wildlife populations on the WMA increases sportsmen use and satisfaction.

II. Project Location (include a map if available):

This project is located at the Wayne E. Kirch WMA located in the White River Valley in northeastern Nye County. The Kirch WMA has three food plots that are planted annually: two Dove Fields are located near the KWMA headquarters and the Old Place unit is north of Adams-McGill Reservoir.

III. Project Approach Including Tasks to be Accomplished:

The lower 33 acres of the Dove Field will be planted with winter wheat in the fall of 2016. The upper 37 acre section of the Dove Field will be planted in the spring of 2017 with a mixture of browntop millet, bird magnet sorghum, foxtail millet, sesame, and hybrid oil sunflowers. Forty acres of the Old Place unit will be planted in June of 2017 with a mixture of Japanese millet, browntop millet, Bengal rice, buckwheat, sorghum, smartweed and barnyard grass.

IV. Describe the Beneficial Effects of the Project and How they Will be Measured and Monitored:

The Kirch WMA Food Plot program is an ongoing, yearly habitat management activity. The results of food plots planted in FY17 will be evaluated for their effectiveness and benefit to wildlife and sportsmen. The results of this evaluation will determine what species will be planted in subsequent years.

V. Project Schedule:

The project's schedule is included in Section III above.

VI. Relationship to NDOW Plans, Policies and Programs:

This project is consistent with the goal and related strategy stated in the Kirch WMA's Conceptual Management Plan. Goal: maintain adequate habitat for migrating and local waterfowl, doves and sandhill cranes. Strategy: evaluate the potential for creating several food plots to attract and benefit migrating sandhill cranes and provide watchable wildlife opportunities. This project also is in accordance with NDOW's mission statement and Wildlife Commission Policy 66: farming may be initiated on some areas to meet site-specific management area needs.

VII. NEPA Compliance or other Activities that Need to be Accomplished Before this Project Can be Completed and their Status:

None

Project Costs and Funding

VIII. Cost Summary

All of the Special Reserve Account funds awarded to this project will be used to purchase seed.

IX. Is this Project Going to Continue After FY17? Yes __x__ No _____

X. If Yes, is this Going to be an Annual, Recurring Project? Yes __x__ No _____

XI. If the Project is Going to Continue After FY17, Define the Total Dollars to be Spent During Each Fiscal Year:

This project would spend $4,800 per fiscal year after FY17 until the cost of seed increases.

XII. Would Funds from this Program Be Used for State Matching Purposes? Yes _x__ No ___

XIII. If Yes, Which Federal Grant Would the Matching Funds be Used For?

NDOW's WMA System Federal Grant

Fiscal Year 2017 Duck Stamp Project Proposal

Project Summary

Project Title: Key Pittman WMA Wetland Enhancement (Phase 3)

Special Reserve Account(s) that Would Fund this Project: Duck Stamp

NDOW Project Manager (PM): Mike Zahradka

PM Phone Number and Email Address: (775) 688-1563; mzahradka@ndow.org

Total Funds Requested from the Wildlife Reserve Account(s): $80,000 ($40,000 each from the Duck Stamp and Habitat Conservation Fee accounts)

Total Cash to be Used from Other Funding Sources (please list by source): $40,000 Habitat Conservation Fee

Total In-Kind Donations by Source (please list by source): $0

Total Project Cost to be Funded by All Sources: $80,000

Project Proposal

I. Purpose of Project and Goals to be Achieved:
Funds from this project will be used to level fields and ponds for the Wetland Enhancement Project at Key Pittman WMA. This project will reconstruct the north ponds and fields at Key Pittman WMA to improve waterfowl habitat and hunting conditions in those areas.

II. Project Location (include a map if available):
Key Pittman WMA is located in Lincoln County.

III. Project Approach Including Tasks to be Accomplished:
To determine how best to improve the ponds and fields at Key Pittman WMA, Ducks Unlimited has recently conducted a topographic survey and has prepared a 1-foot contour interval topographic base map. In association with NDOW, they have also developed a detailed wetland enhancement design for the ponds and fields. The design will result in more uniform pond bottoms that eliminate overly deep areas and spread water to areas that in the present state do not support shallow ponded conditions. The fields will be leveled to provide more efficient irrigation of wildlife food crops. The design will also include installing new water control

structures that, in association with proposed pond re-contouring, will improve water delivery and drainage, and an enhanced ability to manage habitat.

IV. Describe the Beneficial Effects of the Project and How they Will be Measured and Monitored: This project would level ponds and fields at the Key Pittman WMA. These efforts are intended to provide better habitat conditions for waterfowl and better hunting opportunities for area users.

V. Project Schedule:
Construction of the wetland enhancement projects is expected to take place in late FY17.

VI. Relationship to NDOW Plans, Policies and Programs:
Annual Habitat maintenance and enhancement is identified in all of the current WMA Conceptual Management Plans. Desired Outcome: Wildlife habitats that are in good ecological condition, capable of supporting a diverse array of wildlife species. Goal: Habitat is the key to the success of all wildlife populations. Effective habitat management is an integral function of the Department of Wildlife. NDOW will preserve and protect quality habitat and enhance deficient habitats. Objective: Maintain, protect and enhance wildlife habitats on wildlife management areas (WMAs) by applying good science and best management practices through implementation of Comprehensive Management Plans on all WMA's (Comprehensive Strategic Plan). Achieve an overall goal of no net loss of wetland area or function and the long-term goal of enhancing and increasing wetland quantity and quality within the WMAs (Wetland Conservation Plan).

VII. NEPA Compliance or other Activities that Need to be Accomplished Before this Project Can be Completed and their Status:
No special compliance issues are expected regarding the Key Pittman WMA enhancements.

Project Costs and Funding

VIII. Cost Summary
All of the funds awarded to this project will be used to pay a contractor to level fields and ponds.

IX. Is this Project Going to Continue After FY17? Yes ____ No __X__

X. If Yes, is this Going to be an Annual, Recurring Project? Yes ____ No ____

XI. If it is Going to Continue After FY17, Define the Total Dollars to be Spent During Each Fiscal Year: N/A

XII. Would Funds from this Program Be Used for State Matching Purposes? Yes _X_ No ___

XIII. If Yes, Which Federal Grant Would the Matching Funds be Used For?
NDOW's WMA System Grant

Fiscal Year 2017 Duck Stamp Project Proposal

Project Summary

Project Title: Eastern Region WMAs Weed Control

Special Reserve Account(s) that Would Fund this Project: Duck and Upland Game Bird Stamp

NDOW Project Manager (PM): Steve Foree

PM Phone Number and Email Address: 775-777-2306; sforee@ndow.org

Total Funds Requested from the Wildlife Reserve Account(s): $15,000 ($7,500 each from the Duck Stamp and Upland Game Bird Stamp accounts)

Total Cash to be Used from Other Funding Sources (please list by source): $7,500 from the Upland Game Bird Stamp account

Total In-Kind Donations by Source (please list by source): no in-kind donations are available

Total Project Cost to be Funded by All Sources: $15,000

Project Proposal

I. **Purpose of Project and Goals to be Achieved:**
The herbicides purchased through this project would be used to control noxious weed invasion on the unmanned Eastern Region WMAs and properties. It our hope to control the spread of weeds to maintain and enhance waterfowl values on wetland and riparian areas associated with the WMAs and properties. The invasive weed control improves appearance, public access and wildlife habitat.

II. **Project Location (include a map if available):**
Treatment locations will be spread across the Eastern Region unmanned NDOW properties including the Bruneau River WMA, Franklin Lake WMA, Birch Creek, South Fork Little Humboldt and Izzenhood NDOW properties.

III. **Project Approach Including Tasks to be Accomplished**:
Funds allocated to this project would only be used to cover the cost of purchasing the needed herbicides and surfactants to treat the state properties. Salaries for those staff doing the treatments will be covered by existing grant funding sources, or if a large enough need is identified, a future proposal for other funds could be submitted for contracted assistance.

IV. Describe the Beneficial Effects of the Project and How they will be Measured and Monitored:
Noxious and invasive weed control will improve public and NDOW personnel access to NDOW-owned lands, limit the spread of noxious and invasive plant species, improve wildlife habitat and enhance the general appearance of the properties. Sites treated with herbicides will be evaluated after their application to determine the effectiveness of the timing, method, and chemicals chosen for the treatment. Effective treatments will show a significant die-off of targeted vegetation after treatment and reduced regrowth the following growing season.

V. Project Schedule:
The herbicides purchased by this proposal will continue the Eastern Region weed treatment maintenance regime. In the past we have used the herbicides purchased with these funds to treat Canada and Bull thistle and tall whitetop on the Bruneau River WMA, hoary cress on Franklin Lake WMA and Canada and Musk thistle on the Birch Creek property. Treatments are typically done during the spring and summer months when weeds are actively growing. With the addition of a new habitat biologist in Elko with WMA responsibility, we have increased the request for funding for FY17 beyond what has traditionally been requested. We anticipate stepped up efforts to control weeds on the unmanned WMAs and other NDOW properties within the Eastern Region with the addition of personnel. The Bruneau River WMA, and in particular the Stowell component, will be the target of more aggressive weed control efforts in FY17.

VI. Relationship to NDOW Plans, Policies and Programs:
Annual vegetation control is identified as a management action in all of the current WMA Conceptual Management Plans. Desired Outcome: Wildlife habitats that are in good ecological condition, capable of supporting a diverse array of wildlife species. Goal: Habitat is the key to the success of all wildlife populations. Effective habitat management is an integral function of the Department of Wildlife. NDOW will preserve and protect quality habitat and enhance deficient habitats. Objective: Maintain, protect and enhance wildlife habitats on wildlife management areas (WMA's) by applying good science and best management practices through implementation of Comprehensive Management Plans on all WMA's(Comprehensive Strategic Plan). Achieve an overall goal of no net loss of wetland area or function and the long-term goal to enhance and increase wetland quantity and quality within the WMA (Wetland Conservation Plan).

VII. NEPA Compliance or other Activities that Need to be Accomplished Before this Project Can be Completed and their Status:
No permits are necessary to treat on NDOW lands as we are using chemicals that do not require a certified applicator license. Should such chemicals be necessary for a given species, NDOW will either have an employee obtain certification or a contracted certified applicator will be hired. Any application on adjacent public land will be covered under existing BLM/USFS decisions relative to weed control activities.

Project Costs and Funding

VIII. Cost Summary:
All of the $7,500 to be allocated to this project will be used to purchase herbicides during FY17.

IX. Is this Project Going to Continue After FY17? Yes __X__ No _____

X. If Yes, is this Going to be an Annual, Recurring Project? Yes __X__ No _____

XI. If it is Going to Continue After FY17, Define the Total Dollars to be Spent During Each Fiscal Year:
We expect the need to control weeds on Wildlife Management Areas will continue in perpetuity. We will request funding each year.

XII. Would Funds from this Program Be Used for State Matching Purposes: Yes__X__ No _____

XIII. If Yes, Which Federal Grant Would the Matching Funds be Used For?
NDOW's WMA System Federal Grant