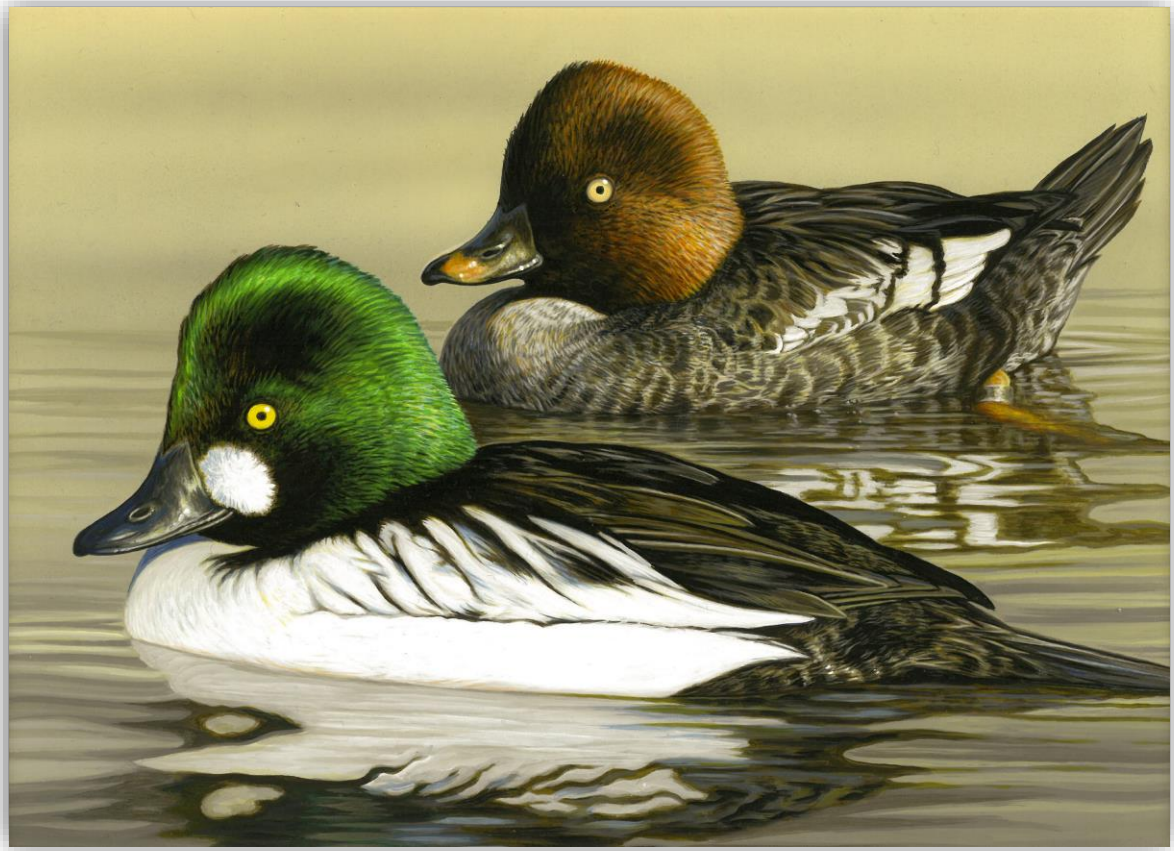
Duck Stamp Program Report

Nevada Department of Wildlife

June 2019



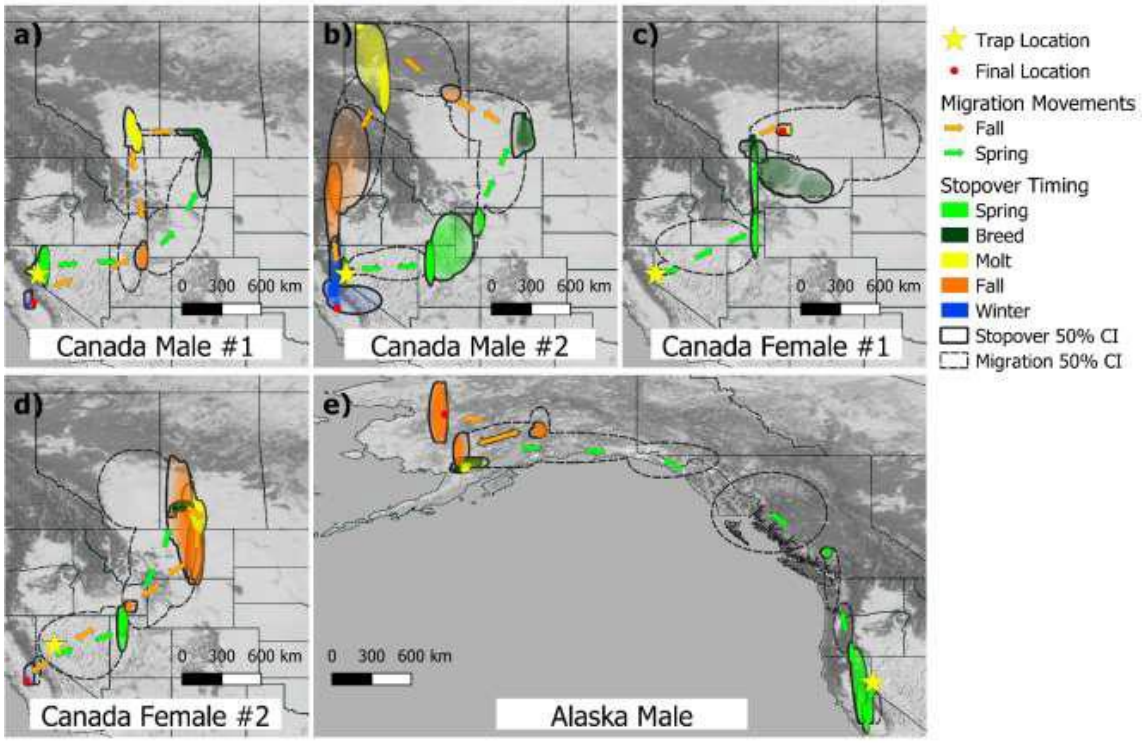
Common Golden-eye Duck Stamp art by Richard Clifton (2018)

Table of Contents

Progress Report on Duck Stamp Projects Funded in FY 2019

Technician Support for Nevada Waterfowl Projects

For the past six years, NDOW has used Duck Stamp funds to help pay for the attachment of more than 400 geolocator devices to 3 species of ducks: wood ducks, mallards, and canvasbacks. FY19 was the last fiscal year that NDOW will fund a graduate student technician for this project. The attachment and subsequent retrieval of these devices has been more successful than initially planned. Given that, NDOW funds were also used to support a graduate student at the University of Nevada, Reno to continue to retrieve these devices, analyze the data, and write-up the results. The student, Nathan Cook, began work on the project in February 2017. He retrieved numerous geolocators from wood ducks, helped install 63 geolocators on canvasbacks, conducted the 2017 spring breeding waterfowl survey, completed classroom requirements at UNR, and completed excellent progress on the analysis of these geolocator data. He defended his Masters of Science thesis in December 2018, titled "Geolocators as tools for inferring waterfowl movements and breeding phenology in the Pacific Flyway". Examples of maps produced by this project are included below. They show canvasback movements after being fitted with geolocators in western Nevada. The analysis of these tracking devices will help inform waterfowl habitat and population managers on stay duration and subsequent habitat requirements for conservation management.



Ducks Unlimited Wetlands Conservation Support

The Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) donated $10,000 to Ducks Unlimited (DU) during FY19 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 are the sources of a significant number of waterfowl that pass through Nevada each year. The prairie potholes region has the highest density of breeding ducks in all of North America.

Overton WMA Pintail and Wilson Pond Leveling

To determine how best to improve the Pintail and Wilson ponds at the Overton Wildlife Management Area (WMA), DU was hired by NDOW to conduct a topographic survey and prepared a 1-foot contour interval topographic base map. They also worked with NDOW to prepare a detailed engineering design for the two ponds during the winter of 2016. The design was a cut and fill balance that resulted in more uniform pond bottoms that eliminated overly deep areas and spread water to areas that previously did not support shallow ponded conditions. The design also improved water delivery and drainage, thus improving NDOW's overall ability to manage habitat. For example, these improvements allow NDOW staff to more readily conduct moist-soil vegetation management to increase production of preferred waterfowl food plants. The improved habitat conditions will benefit all species of waterfowl

and shore birds that frequent Overton WMA. Besides the habitat improvements, less water will be required to manage the units while still providing optimal habitats for both waterfowl and hunters. The final design included earthwork calculations that were used for preparing cost estimates for the final construction phase of the project. The design included installing new water control structures (WCS) that, in association with pond re-contouring, have improve water delivery and drainage, and the ability to manage habitat.

The project site consisted of approximately 155 acres where work was completed. There was approximately 14,500 linear feet of road base placed on top of the levees and for wildlife area staff and area users to access the area in poor weather conditions.

Construction of the project consisted, in general, of the following features and activities:

A. Conduct all contract administration, project controls, mobilization and demobilization.

B. Comply with all permit requirements.

C. Excavate pond bottoms and swales as shown on the plans.

D. Clear, grub, and strip perimeter levees in preparation for levee improvement and placement of compacted fill operations.

Pintail Pond at the Overton WMA

E. Place uncompacted fill material in pond units as shown on the plans.

F. Place compacted fill to improve levee as shown on the plans.

G. Construct islands in locations and orientation shown on plans.

H. Construct rip-rap Overflow Weirs/Spillways in locations as shown on the plans.

I. Install new WCS.

J. Place riprap erosion protection around water control structures.

This project was completed using $60,000 each from NDOW's Duck Stamp and Wildlife Heritage accounts, and an additional $360,000 from NDOW's Wildlife Restoration Funds Federal Grant.

Key Pittman WMA Wildlife Food Plots

A total of $3,900 was expended on seed from Upland Game Bird Stamp funds and $2,600 from Duck Stamp funds. Approximately 60 acres were planted in October with winter wheat, fall cereal rye, barley, alfalfa, Austrian winter pea and hairy vetch as a winter cover crop and to enhance hunter success while hunting the fields on the Key Pittman WMA. An additional 40 acres were planted in January with intermediate wheat grass, sand dropseed and sandberg bluegrass to enhance desirable vegetation in areas where the removal of noxious weeds left areas that were lightly vegetated or in areas where improved vegetation cover and variety is needed. Approximately 70 acres were over seeded in late February with spring wheat, oats, Ladak alfalfa, and native annual sunflower. The annual seeding projects are completed to increase forage production in wildlife feeding areas on the WMA and to enhance hunter opportunities. This project was completed by NDOW staff.

Eastern WMA Complex Weed Control

NDOW is mandated by state law to control listed noxious weeds found on its property. Removal of noxious and other undesirable weeds improves appearance, public access, limits the spread of these weeds to other areas and enhances wildlife habitat. The goal of this project was to remove noxious/invasive weeds found on the Steptoe Valley, Wayne E. Kirch and Key Pittman WMAs.

This project was awarded $30,000 total ($10,000 from Habitat Conservation Fee, $10,000 from Duck Stamp, $10,000 from Upland Game Bird Stamp). It also utilized funding from a Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) grant, funding from Cooperative Weed Management Areas, and funding from NDOW's WMA Federal Grant. Tri-County Weed Control was contracted to assist NDOW personnel in weed control efforts. In total over $65,000 has been spent on weed treatments on the Steptoe, Kirch, and Key Pittman WMAs so far. It is estimated that an additional $20,000 ($10,000 from NDOW's Upland Game Bird Stamp account & $10,000 from a NDA grant) will be spent this spring bringing the total project cost to just over $85,000 for this fiscal year. To date, over 800 acres have been treated. Over 1,000 acres will have been treated by the conclusion of the project. Major weeds treated include hoary cress, Canada thistle, Russian knapweed, bull thistle, and phragmites. Other weeds such as Johnson grass, Russian thistle, Scotch thistle, and puncture vine were also treated using this funding.

Steptoe Valley WMA

Carson Lake and Pasture Vegetation Management

In the fall of 2018 and spring of 2019, approximately $2,500 was spent on chemicals to control invasive plant species at the Carson Lake and Pasture property managed by NDOW. The fall treatments targeted saltcedar (also referred to as tamarisk), and emergent vegetation. In the spring of 2019, tall white top and Canada thistle were the focus of weed control efforts. By the end of FY19 a total of 400 acres of invasive and emergent plant species will have been treated.

Mason Valley WMA Saltcedar Treatment

Saltcedar (also referred to as tamarisk) has expanded into the eastern pond areas on the Mason Valley WMA. This invasive species uses large amounts of water and deposits salt in and on nearby soil, thus preventing other plants from growing. During the winter of 2019, the Mason Valley Conservation District was contracted to follow up on and re-treat 2018 saltcedar treatments and to treat new areas. The re-treatments took place on the upper and lower Gadwall units. New treatments took place on the Shoveler, Mallard, and Redhead units where saltcedar was treated using cut stump methods. A total of $15,000 was spent on the 2019 treatments.

Saltcedar (or tamarisk); photo by S. Dewey, Utah State University

Proposed Duck Stamp Projects for State Fiscal Year 2020

Title of Proposed Project	**Project Manager**	**$ Requested from Duck Stamp Account**	**Other Funding Sources** (in-kind contributions not quantified)
Assessing Avian Nest Success at Carson Lake	Russell Woolstenhulme	$45,000	USFWS providing $5,000 annually in in-kind services; NDOW's Federal Game Management Grant to pay for NDOW personnel costs
Geo-Tube Dams for Regulating Water at Carson Lake	Isaac Metcalf	$22,500	NDOW's Federal WMA Grant ($27,500) plus the grant will also pay for NDOW personnel costs
Ducks Unlimited Wetlands Conservation Support	Mike Zahradka	$10,000	N/A
Overton WMA Ponds Fence Project	Bennie Vann	$15,000	NDOW's Habitat Conservation Fee Account ($15,000); NDOW's Federal WMA Grant to pay for NDOW personnel costs
Mason Valley WMA Waterfowl Habitat Enhancement	Isaac Metcalf	$15,000	NDOW personnel costs to be covered by NDOW's Federal WMA Grant
Eastern WMA Complex Weed Control	Adam Henriod	$10,000	NDOW's Upland Game Bird Stamp Account ($10,000); NDOW's Habitat Conservation Fee Account ($10,000); Nevada Dept. of Agriculture ($25,000)
Totals		**$117,500**	**$87,500**

Duck Stamp Account Budget Status

Balance in the Account at Start of FY 2019	$ 314,558
Plus Estimated Revenue Accrued During FY 2019	$ 90,082
Less Estimated Total FY 2019 Expenditures	($ 125,000)
Less Estimated Administrative Costs (10% of Revenue)	($ 9,008)
Estimated Balance at End of FY 2019 / Start of FY 2020	$ 270,632
Plus Estimated Revenue to be Accrued During FY 2020	$ 90,082
Less Estimated Administrative Costs (10% of Revenue)	($ 9,008)
Less Proposed New Project FY 2020 Expenditures	($ 117,500)
Estimated Balance at End of FY 2020	$ 234,206

Notes: The budget information in this table is preliminary and subject to change. The amount of Duck Stamp revenue accrued during FY 2019 was not available when this report was prepared; therefore, the FY 2018 revenue number was used for both FY 2019 and 2020.

Fiscal Year 2020 Wildlife Reserve Account Project Proposal

Project Summary

Project Title: Assessing Avian Nest Success at Carson Lake

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

NDOW Project Manager (PM): Russell Woolstenhulme

Funds Requested from Each Special Reserve Account: $45,000 for FY20.
A similar amount will be requested for each of the following two fiscal years (see the note in the next section regarding the pursuit of additional funding sources).

Funds to be Used from Other Funding Sources (please itemize the amount by source):
In-kind from USFWS $5,000 annually for total of $15,000 over 3 years. Additional funding sources are being pursued for FY21 and 22, including Federal grant dollars, Suisun Marsh-related funding from California Department of Water Resources, and the Wildlife Heritage Program.

Total Project Cost Not Including In-Kind Donations: $45,000 for FY20

Total Project Cost Including In-Kind Donations (if applicable): $50,000 for FY20

Project Proposal

I. Purpose of Project and Goals to be Achieved

To determine nest success of migratory birds (waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds) at Carson Lake and Pasture (CL&P) prior to the proposed acquisition of the property by NDOW. Additionally, we will compare CL&P to other wetlands (Incline Wetlands, Douglas County) to establish a baseline for both. This work will provide base line data for wildlife values prior to being acquired and managed by NDOW.

The base line data will facilitate NDOW's post-acquisition assessments of habitat improvements at a future time. Comparison with the control wetlands will help asses if any changes are a result of habitat manipulation or are due to other environmental conditions.

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

Carson Lake and Pasture, Churchill County and Incline Wetlands, Douglas County.

III. Land Status: Private or Public?

Public

IV. If Public, Which Agency Manages the Land? (Name the District if Managed by the BLM or USFS) Currently the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and City of Incline Village.

V. UTM Coordinates if Known:

VI. Project Approach Including Tasks to be Accomplished and Target Species. Also Include Acres to be Treated or Restored or Any Other Measurable Factors:

This project will establish a monitoring program of nesting migratory waterbirds (waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds) from March through June of each project year of a three-year study. The primary goal is to establish a base line set of data for Carson Lake & Pasture to determine numbers of nesting migratory waterbirds and determine nest success rates. The Incline Village wetlands will be used as a control site so that any differences in subsequent data can be attributed to habitat related improvements and not to other environmental factors.

The work plan includes banding, nest searching, and nest monitoring. This work will be accomplished by a Master's student from University of Nevada, and two seasonal technicians with oversite from NDOW and USFWS biologists. Birds will be located through ground searches; nesting birds will be captured with standard netting techniques and banded with appropriate USGS migratory bird bands. Nest monitoring will be accomplished by both trail cameras operated on known nest sites and by nest visitation.

VII. Describe the Beneficial Effects of the Project, How they Will be Measured and Describe Your Monitoring Plan:

This project aims to provide baseline information on migratory bird nest success prior to NDOW acquisition of Carson Lake and Pasture while also comparing to a control site at the Incline Wetlands in the Carson Valley. This information will be used for comparison at some time after acquisition of Carson Lake to assess success of NDOW management of the area. This information would also be needed by the Suisun Marsh-related work being conducted in California since many of the birds nesting in the Carson Lake and Pasture area migrate to the Suisun Marsh. As noted above, NDOW and the USFWS are pursuing funding from the Suisun Marsh program.

VIII. Project Schedule (including start and end dates and major milestones):

The start date will be approximately late April 2020 through July 2021 with field work occurring in the months of April through July each year.

IX. Relationship to NDOW Plans, Policies and Programs:

This project will help inform management plans for Carson Lake and Pasture in regards to managing for nesting habitat for migratory birds.

X. NEPA Compliance, Archeological Clearances, or other Authorizations that are Needed Before this Project Can be Completed and Their Status:

None

Project Costs, Funding and Contracting

XI. Cost Summary (briefly describe the project's major types of spending):
Most of the project's cost will be to support a Master's student at UNR (i.e., to cover their stipend and tuition). Additional funding will be used to hire two technicians, and pay for travel expenses, and supplies.

XII. Is this Project Going to Continue After FY20? Yes _X___ No _____

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

XIV. If the Project is Going to Continue After FY20, Define the Total Dollars to be Spent During Each Fiscal Year of the Project's Lifespan: $49,400 for FY21, and $47,900 for FY22

XV. Would Funds from this Program Be Used as State Match for Federal Grant Funding?
Yes __X__ No ___

XVI. If Yes, Which Federal Grant Would the Matching Funds Be Used For?
The Federal Game Management Grant

XVII. If a Contract Exists, or is Needed, Define the Contract Amount, Contractor/Sub-grantee, and Start and End Dates $45,150 for FY20, $49,400 for FY21, and $47,900 for FY22, Faculty at UNR to be determined, start January 2020 and end December 2022. These numbers include a 5% indirect cost to Nevada Waterfowl Association (NWA), with whom a contract will be entered into, and do not include a $5,000 /year in-kind match from USFWS.

Project Cost Breakdown

Please provide a breakdown of the project's *total costs over the life of the project* in the table below. If your project is a multi-year project, define the total to be spent during each fiscal year in your response to question XIV on the previous page. Only include in-kind contributions under item 7 in the table below. Any NDOW personnel or travel expenses should be covered by funding sources other than the Wildlife Reserve Accounts.

Project Components	*Costs to be Paid by NDOW Wildlife Reserve Account(s)*	*Costs to be Paid by Other Sources*
1. Land Acquisitions		
2. Personnel Costs		
A. NDOW Personnel*		
B. Other Personnel (UNR grad student & 2 technicians for 3 year study)	$ 118,200.00	
C. Total Personnel Costs	$ 118,200.00	$ -
3. Travel Costs*		
A. UNR Presenting Results at Conference	$ 1,500.00	
B. Mileage		
C. Total Travel Costs	$ 1,500.00	$ -
4. Equipment		
A. Trail cameras, netting equipment and Misc	$ 19,000.00	
B.		
C. Total Equipment Costs	$ 19,000.00	$ -
5. Materials		
A.		
B.		
C.		
D. Total Materials Costs	$ -	$ -
6. Miscellaneous Costs		
A.		
B. Indirect to NWA 5%	$ 3,750.00	
C.		
D.		
F. Total Miscellaneous Costs	$ 3,750.00	$ -
7. In-Kind Contributions		
A. USFWS Personnel		$ 15,000.00
B.		
C. Total In-Kind Contributions		$ 15,000.00
Subtotals	$ 142,450.00	$ 15,000.00
Total Project Costs	$	157,450.00

* NDOW personnel and travel costs should be covered by funding sources other than the Wildlife Reserve Accounts

Wildlife Reserve Account Project Proposal

Project Summary

Project Name:	Geo-Tube Dams for Regulating Water at Carson Lake and Pasture		
Project Manager:	Isaac Metcalf	Phone: 775-463-2741 Email	imetcalf@ndow.org
Project Monitor:	Mike Zahradka	Start Date:	7/1/2019
Implementation Lead	Nevada Department of Wildlife	End Date:	6/30/2020
Partners:	Nevada Department of Wildlife		
Project Category:	Habitat Restoration		
Project Category:	Riparian, Spring or Meadow Habitat Improvement		
Project Actions:			
Priority Resource:	Small game		
Priority Species:	Waterfowl		
County Location:	Churchill		
General Location:	Carson Lake and Pasture in Churchill County		

Project Funding Request

Funding Source	Amount Requested	Existing Budget Approval	In Kind Contribution
NDOW Duck Stamp	$22,500		
USFWS Wildlife Restoration Grant	$27,500		
Project Totals:	**$50,000**		

Project Proposal

1. Brief Purpose and Goal of the Project

The purpose of this project is to stop water flowing from a levee breach and thus help prevent the shallow pond conditions that can facilitate the outbreak of botulism at one of the major ponds found at the Carson Lake property managed by NDOW. The shallow pond conditions are being created by a breach of the Sprig Unit Levee. Last summer and fall approximately 11,000 duck and shore bird mortalities were recorded at the Carson Lake ponds but the actual mortalities were likely significantly higher.

2. Project Approach and Tasks

The Sprig Unit Levee was breached during the 2017 flooding. This component of the levee repair work at Carson Lake will isolate the Sprig Unit from the Sump Unit by installing 48" Geo Tube water dams at a location that will stop the flow of water into the Sump Unit Pond. This work will supplement the repair of six breaches of the Lott Freeway Levee that is being conducted this spring and being funded separately with NDOW's Federal WMA Grant. Mason Valley WMA staff will use Geo Tube barriers to stop the flow of water from the Freeway Levee into a shallow pond. The Geo Tube dams are filled with water and serve as temporary dams until the levees can be repaired in a more permanent fashion. The sooner the levee breaches can be repaired the better because it will leave more time this summer and early fall for the shallow ponds that are receiving water from the breaches to evaporate before the botulism season begins in the fall.

3. Anticipated Beneficial Effects of the Project

By stopping the flow of water from levee breaches, NDOW can help minimize the risk of shallow pond conditions and thus reduce the chances of another large scale botulism outbreak that resulted in thousands of bird mortalities last fall and during other events in past years.

4. Project Schedule

The Sump Unit repair work will take place in July as soon as Duck Stamp funding is available for FY20. The other levee repair work at Carson Lake (the Lott Freeway Levee repair) is taking place this spring and early summer with the use of Federal WMA Grant funds.

5. Required Clearance Activities and Schedule (NEPA, other permits, authorizations)

N/A

6. Monitoring Plan

Weekly water depths will be measured along with monitoring of waterfowl and the effectiveness of the levee repair work.

7. 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 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 (NDOW'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 WMAs (NDOW's Wetland Conservation
Plan).

Special Reserve Account Project Cost Estimate Table

Name of Proposed Project: **Geo-Tube Dams for Regulating Water at Carson Lake & Pasture**
Name of Proposed Project Manager: **Isaac Metcalf**
Project ID: **465**

Please provide a breakdown of your project's costs in the table below. Only include costs for the upcoming fiscal year for which you are applying. Only include in-kind services under item 7. NDOW personnel and travel expenses may not be covered by any of our Special Reserve Accounts - you must use alternative funding sources to cover these types of costs.

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		
C. Total Travel Costs	$ -	$ -
4. Equipment		
A.		
B.		
C. Total Equipment Costs	$ -	$ -
5. Materials		
A. Geo Tube water dams, brackets, straps, & misc. supplies	$ 22,500.00	
B.		
C.		
D. Total Materials Costs	$ 22,500.00	$ -
6. Miscellaneous		
A.		
B.		
C.		
D.		
F. Total Miscellaneous Costs	$ -	$ -
7. In-Kind Services		
A.		
B.		
C. Total In-Kind Services	$ -	$ -
Subtotals	$ 22,500.00	$ -
Total Project Costs	$	22,500.00

Wildlife Reserve Account Project Proposal

Project Summary

Project Name:	Ducks Unlimited Wetlands Conservation Support		
Project Manager:	Mike Zahradka	Phone: 775-688-1563	Email mzahradka@ndow.org
Project Monitor:	Mike Zahradka	Start Date:	3/17/2020
Implementation Lead	Ducks Unlimited	End Date:	6/30/2020
Partners:	Ducks Unlimited, Nevada Department of Wildlife		
Project Category:	Habitat Protection		
Project Category:	Conservation Easement		
Project Actions:			
Priority Resource:	Small game		
Priority Species:	Waterfowl		
County Location:	Statewide		
General Location:	Alberta, Canada		

Project Funding Request

Funding Source	Amount Requested	Existing Budget Approval	In Kind Contribution
NDOW Duck Stamp	$10,000		
Project Totals:	**$10,000**		

Project Proposal

1. Brief Purpose and Goal of the Project

To help Ducks Unlimited (DU) protect, restore and enhance waterfowl habitat in the prairie potholes region of Alberta, Canada. This is very important breeding and nesting habitat for many of the waterfowl that travel to Nevada.

2. Project Approach and Tasks

DU has agreed to NDOW's request that the funds we donate 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. DU and its partners use the donations from NDOW and others to protect, restore and enhance wetlands in the prairie potholes region of Alberta. DU's partners in this region includes the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Wildlife Habitat Canada, the Alberta provincial government and the federal government of Canada. This work is part of the ongoing implementation of the North

American Waterfowl Management Plan.

3. Anticipated Beneficial Effects of the Project

Funds donated to DU are used to restore, enhance and protect waterfowl habitat in Alberta. In addition to directly benefiting waterfowl, this also indirectly benefits Nevada hunters by increasing or maintaining waterfowl populations in Nevada.

4. Project Schedule

This is an annual contribution to DU that uses the funds over the next year.

5. Required Clearance Activities and Schedule (NEPA, other permits, authorizations)

N/A

6. Monitoring Plan

DU monitors the results of their efforts to purchase conservation easements and restore wetlands. They also submit annual reports to NDOW that summarize the results of their work.

7. Relationship to NDOW Plans, Policies, and Programs

This funding, consistent with the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and the North American 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".

Wildlife Reserve Account Project Proposal

Project Summary

Project Name:	Overton WMA Ponds Fence Project		
Project Manager:	Bennie Vann	Phone: 702-397-2142 Email bvann@ndow.org	
Project Monitor:	Mike Zahradka	Start Date:	9/30/2019
Implementation Lead	Nevada Department of Wildlife	End Date:	10/18/2019
Partners:	Nevada Department of Wildlife, Nevada Division of Forestry		
Project Category:	Wildlife Population Protection or Enhancement		
Project Category:	Migration or Movement		
Project Actions:			
Priority Resource:	Small game		
Priority Species:	Waterfowl		
County Location:	Clark		
General Location:	Pintail and Wilson Ponds at the Overton WMA		

Project Funding Request

Funding Source	Amount Requested	Existing Budget Approval	In Kind Contribution
NDOW Duck Stamp	$15,000		
NDOW Habitat Conservation Fee	$15,000		
Project Totals:	**$30,000**		

Project Proposal

1. Brief Purpose and Goal of the Project

The Overton WMA spans approximately 18,500 acres and 1,500 of these acres are intensely managed. The proposed fence would encompass Pintail and Wilson ponds. In FY 2019, NDOW along with Ducks Unlimited teamed up to enhance the topography of these two ponds. Levies were improved, along with contouring of the pond bottoms to improve habitat for migrating waterfowl and shore birds. The fence would exclude trespass cattle and wild donkeys in the area. These animals make it difficult to manage habitat for the migrating waterfowl and shore birds. They graze off much of the vegetation that is beneficial to the wildlife and damage the levees and swales that were incorporated into the construction of the ponds. The cattle also pose a safety hazard to area users.

2. Project Approach and Tasks

NDOW will purchase all necessary fencing supplies and remove vegetation needed for the fence alignment. NDF Conservation Crews will be contracted for 15 days during FY20 to install approximately 12,000 feet of perimeter fencing. The entire project should take 4 weeks to complete.

3. Anticipated Beneficial Effects of the Project

Completion of this project will play a crucial role in helping the Overton WMA staff maintain and protect crucial habitats on the area. Habitats and wildlife food plots will be protected from trespass cattle and donkeys with the perimeter fence. Area users will also be safer with the trespass cows excluded. Fence line effectiveness will be measured by the number of trespass cows and donkeys present on the property as well as monitoring the adjacent sections of property they occupy.

4. Project Schedule

The fence construction will begin once funding has been secured, fence supplies are purchased, fence alignment has been cleared and a contract with NDF has been signed. The entire project is expected to take 4 weeks to finish. The work should take place starting in late September, 2019.

5. Required Clearance Activities and Schedule (NEPA, other permits, authorizations)

None

6. Monitoring Plan

WMA staff will monitor the durability and effectiveness of the new fence and make any necessary repairs over time.

7. Relationship to NDOW Plans, Policies, and Programs

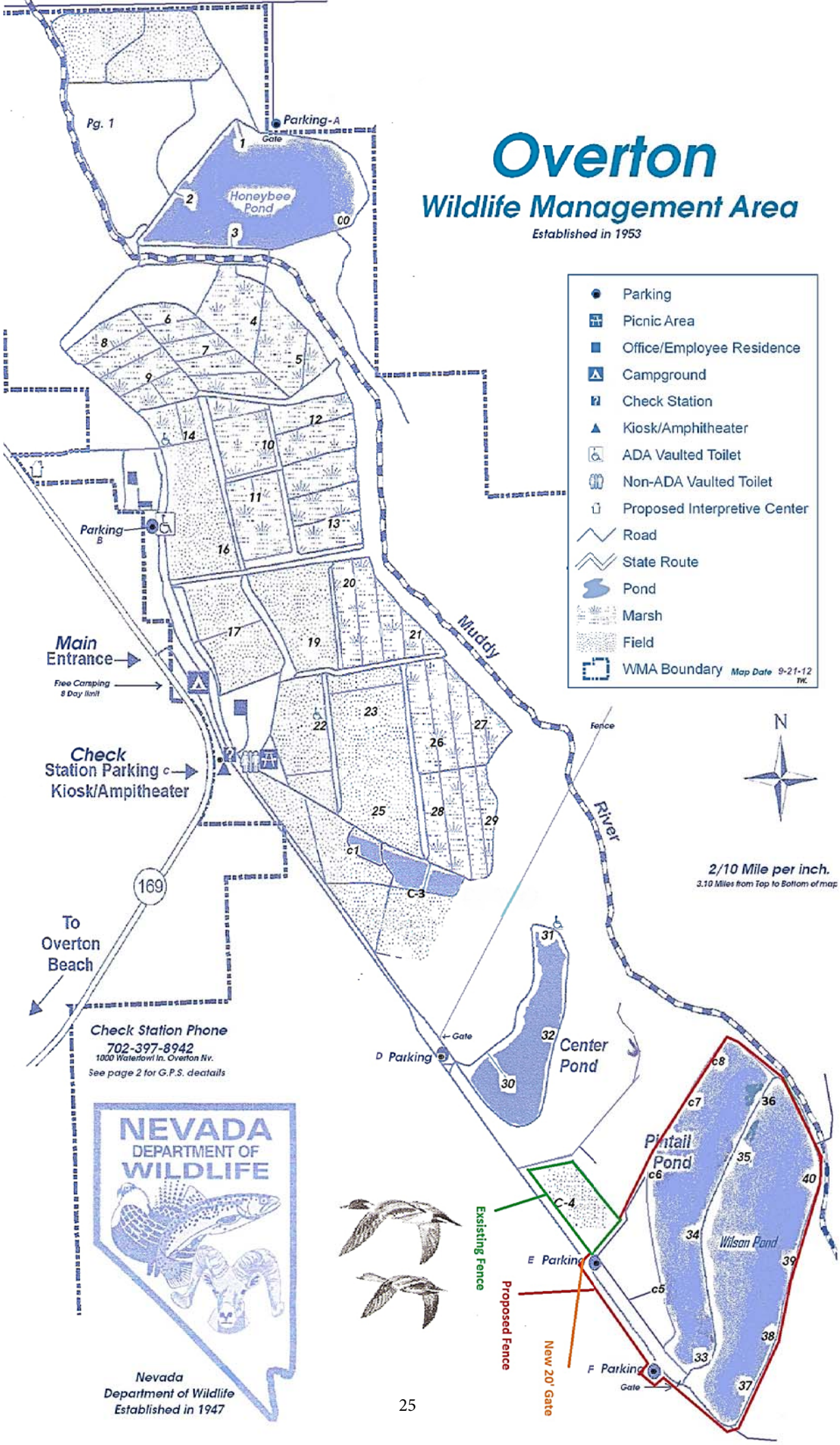
In compliance with Nevada Board of Wildlife Commission Policy 66, the primary management emphasis at the Overton WMA is the production of quality waterfowl habitat and the provision of hunting opportunities. Installation of perimeter fencing around these ponds will greatly enhance the chances of NDOW meeting the intent of that policy. This project also will help achieve the following goal from NDOW's Comprehensive Strategic Plan updated in 2014: "Protect and enhance migrating and local waterfowl and dove habitat;" as well as the following related objectives from the same document: "Provide adequate feeding and resting habitats for ducks and geese during the migration and wintering periods" and "Maintain and manage waterfowl habitats at the OWMA ponds and seasonal wetlands more efficiently, thus saving water and stretching limited water supplies as much as possible".

Wildlife Reserve Account Project Cost Estimate Table

Name of Proposed Project: **Overton WMA Ponds Fence Project**
Name of Proposed Project Manager: **Bennie Vann**
Project ID: **442**

Please provide a breakdown of your project's costs in the table below. Only include costs for the upcoming fiscal year for which you are applying. Only include in-kind services under item 7. NDOW personnel and travel expenses may not be covered by any of our Special Reserve Accounts - you must use alternative funding sources to cover these types of costs.

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 - NDF Crew	$ 15,000.00	
C. Total Personnel Costs	$ 15,000.00	$ -
3. Travel Costs		
A. Per Diem		
B. Mileage		
C. Total Travel Costs	$ -	$ -
4. Equipment		
A.		
B.		
C. Total Equipment Costs	$ -	$ -
5. Materials		
A. Fence supplies	$ 15,000.00	
B.		
C.		
D. Total Materials Costs	$ 15,000.00	$ -
6. Miscellaneous		
A.		
B.		
C.		
D.		
F. Total Miscellaneous Costs	$ -	$ -
7. In-Kind Services		
A.		
B.		
C. Total In-Kind Services	$ -	$ -
Subtotals	$ 30,000.00	$ -
Total Project Costs	$	30,000.00


Overton
Wildlife Management Area
Established in 1953
Pg. 1
Parking-A
Gate
Honeybee Pond
Parking
Picnic Area
Office/Employee Residence
Campground
Check Station
Kiosk/Amphitheater
ADA Vaulted Toilet
Non-ADA Vaulted Toilet
Proposed Interpretive Center
Road
State Route
Pond
Marsh
Field
WMA Boundary
Map Date 9-21-12
Parking B
Main Entrance
Free Camping 8 Day limit
Check Station Parking C
Kiosk/Ampitheater
Muddy River
Fence
N
2/10 Mile per inch.
3.10 Miles from Top to Bottom of map
169
To Overton Beach
Check Station Phone
702-397-8942
1000 Waterfowl In. Overton Nv.
See page 2 for G.P.S. deatails
D Parking
Gate
Center Pond
Pintail Pond
Wilson Pond
C-4
Existing Fence
Proposed Fence
New 20' Gate
E Parking
F Parking
Gate
NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF
WILDLIFE
Nevada
Department of Wildlife
Established in 1947

Wildlife Reserve Account Project Proposal

Project Summary

Project Name:	Mason Valley WMA Waterfowl Habitat Enhancement		
Project Manager:	Isaac Metcalf	Phone: 775-463-2741 Email	imetcalf@ndow.org
Project Monitor:	Mike Zahradka	Start Date:	7/1/2019
Implementation Lead	Nevada Department of Wildlife	End Date:	6/30/2020
Partners:	Nevada Department of Wildlife		
Project Category:	Habitat Restoration		
Project Category:	Riparian, Spring or Meadow Habitat Improvement		
Project Actions:	Replanting vegetation		
Priority Resource:	Small game		
Priority Species:	Waterfowl		
County Location:	Lyon		
General Location:	Waterfowl ponds on the Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area		

Project Funding Request

Funding Source	Amount Requested	Existing Budget Approval	In Kind Contribution
NDOW Duck Stamp	$15,000		
Project Totals:	**$15,000**		

Project Proposal

1. Brief Purpose and Goal of the Project

The purpose of this project is to enhance forage and cover for migrating waterfowl and shore birds. This project will increase the amount of available forage for migrating waterfowl and shorebirds after prescribed burn and mechanical treatments are completed at the Mason Valley WMA ponds.

2. Project Approach and Tasks

Once water levels recede and prescribed burning and mechanical treatments are completed, the Mason Valley crew will drill plant a wetland-specific seed mix along islands and bare ground within the ponds. The ponds will be flooded periodically throughout the summer to establish germination of moist soil vegetation. The pond will be filled in the fall for migrating waterfowl and hunter access. Funds from the Duck Stamp account will be used to purchase a seed mix appropriate for wetlands while NDOW's Federal

WMA Grant will be used to pay for NDOW staff time needed to implement the project.

3. Anticipated Beneficial Effects of the Project

Waterfowl and shore birds will be the primary beneficiaries. Mule deer and passerines will also benefit with the increased forage availability. Non-consumptive and consumptive WMA users will also benefit with more opportunities for wildlife viewing and hunting.

4. Project Schedule

This is an ongoing, annual project with pond treatments and seeding taking place in the spring and summer. The ponds are then flooded in the fall.

5. Required Clearance Activities and Schedule (NEPA, other permits, authorizations)

Not applicable

6. Monitoring Plan

Monitoring will be conducted by visual inspection of sprouting vegetation. Waterfowl use is monitored though survey cards and harvest numbers.

7. 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 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 (from NDOW's Comprehensive Strategic Plan). Achieve an overall goal of no net loss of wetland area or function and the long-term goal is to enhance and increase wetland quantity and quality within the WMAs (NDOW's Wetland Conservation Plan).

Fiscal Year 2020 Wildlife Reserve Account Project Proposal

Project Summary

Project Title: Eastern WMA Complex Weed Control

Special Reserve Account(s) that Would Fund this Project: Habitat Conservation Fee, Duck Stamp, Upland Game Bird Stamp

NDOW Project Manager (PM): Adam Henriod

Funds Requested from Each Special Reserve Account: $10,000 Habitat Conservation Fee, $10,000 Duck Stamp, $10,000 Upland Game Bird Stamp

Funds to be Used from Other Funding Sources (please itemize the amount by source):
A Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) grant awarded to Tri-County Weed Control: This grant will be used on the Steptoe Valley WMA and will match 50:50 all (in-kind included) dollars spent on weed control at Steptoe Valley WMA. It is estimated this grant will contribute close to $25,000 towards weed removal.

Total Project Cost Not Including In-Kind Donations: $55,000

Total Project Cost Including In-Kind Donations (if applicable): $55,000

Project Proposal

I. Purpose of Project and Goals to be Achieved

NDOW is mandated by state law to control listed noxious weeds found on its property. Removal of noxious and undesirable weeds improves appearance, public access, limits the spread of these weeds to other areas and enhances wildlife habitat. The goal of this project is to remove noxious/invasive weeds such as Russian knapweed, hoary cress, perennial pepperweed, phragmites and Canada thistle found on the Steptoe Valley, Wayne E. Kirch and Key Pittman WMAs. This will be accomplished through the application of herbicides to noxious and other invasive weeds in upland areas, riparian areas, parking lots and right of ways.

WMA staff has engaged heavily in efforts to eradicate invasive vegetation on these properties; however, the magnitude of weed infestations currently exceeds the staff's ability to provide the treatments needed to have a long-term impact. This project seeks reserve account funding for additional resources needed to apply herbicide on the Kirch, Key Pittman and Steptoe Valley WMAs.

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

The Steptoe Valley WMA is located in White Pine County. It is composed of 12,806 acres. Comins Lake and 13 seasonal ponds are located on the property. Wayne E. Kirch Wildlife Management Area is located in the White River Valley in northeastern Nye County. The Kirch WMA is composed of a total of 14,815 acres, including five reservoirs and five wetland impoundments. Key Pittman WMA is located in Lincoln County with two reservoirs and two wetland impoundments within the 1,332 acres managed by NDOW.

III. Land Status: Private or Public?

Public

IV. If Public, Which Agency Manages the Land? (Name the District if Managed by the BLM or USFS)

State of Nevada

V. UTM Coordinates if Known:

N/A

VI. Project Approach Including Tasks to be Accomplished and Target Species. Also Include Acres to be Treated or Restored or Any Other Measurable Factors:

Awarded funds will be used to purchase herbicides and hire contract labor to maintain and enhance current weed control efforts on NDOW-managed WMAs. In order to address increasing issues with weeds, and given the substantial duties of NDOW staff related to tasks other than fighting weeds, we are in need of additional monies to contract out additional weed spraying to improve the effectiveness of weed control efforts. Tri-County Weed Control is most likely to be contracted to conduct the spraying.

Examples of specific tasks to be accomplished by this project are provided below.

A. Perennial pepperweed (Lepidium lotifolium), and hoary cress (Cardaria draba) will be treated in the spring and summer of 2020 by applying appropriate herbicides from ATV, truck, and backpack sprayers. The chemicals chosen for control of these species will be determined by the characteristics of the site and the life stage of the plant; all chemicals are applied according to their labels.

B. Ditches, water control structures, boating access points, parking lots and rights-of-way will be treated, as needed, in the summer of 2020 by applying glyphosate herbicide from ATV, truck, and backpack sprayers. Control of undesirable vegetation in ditches and water control structures is essential for water delivery to reservoirs, wetland impoundments, and irrigation of food plots.

C. Russian knapweed (Acroptilon repens), and Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense) will be treated in the fall of 2019 and spring of 2020 by applying appropriate herbicides from ATV, truck, and backpack sprayers.

D. Vegetation on wetland impoundments and reservoirs will be treated, as needed, with aquatic-approved herbicides. Primary focus will be on phragmites (Phragmites australis) removal on the Key Pittman WMA. Treatments on reservoirs will be completed using a boat-mounted sprayer; wetland impoundments will be treated with an ATV sprayer. Treatment of emergent vegetation in these areas will improve feeding, resting, nesting, and brood-rearing habitat for waterfowl.

VII. Describe the Beneficial Effects of the Project, How They Will be Measured and Describe Your Monitoring Plan:

There will be a major reduction in noxious and other types of invasive weed species at the treated areas, thus improving the quality of wildlife habitats.

Monitoring through yearly inspections will determine the effectiveness of treatments. Treated sites will be evaluated after application of herbicides 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. The vegetation control will improve habitat values and public access.

VIII. Project Schedule (including start and end dates and major milestones):

This project is an ongoing, yearly habitat management activity. Herbicide treatments to vegetation on the WMAs will primarily occur in the late summer and fall of 2019 and the spring and summer of 2020. Please see the proposed tasks above for the timing of treatment for each type of targeted vegetation.

IX. Relationship to NDOW Plans, Policies and Programs:

This program certainly falls within NDOW's general goal of maintaining and enhancing wildlife habitats. More specifically, the Conceptual Management Plans for the WMAs all contain goals and objectives such as the following: "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 (WMAs) by applying good science and best management practices through implementation of Comprehensive Management Plans."

X. NEPA Compliance, Archeological Clearances, or other Authorizations that are Needed Before this Project Can be Completed and Their Status:
None

Project Costs, Funding and Contracting

XI. Cost Summary (briefly describe the project's major types of spending):
All funds will be used to purchase herbicide and to contract for weed spraying with Tri-County Weed Control.

XII. Is this Project Going to Continue After FY20? Yes __x__ No _____

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

XIV. If the Project is Going to Continue After FY20, Define the Total Dollars to be Spent During Each Fiscal Year of the Project's Lifespan:

This project will seek $30,000 every fiscal year until weed treatment on the Key Pittman, Wayne E. Kirch and Steptoe Valley WMAs can be adequately handled by WMA staff.

XV. Would Funds from this Program Be Used as State Match for Federal Grant Funding?
Yes _x_ No ___

XVI. If Yes, Which Federal Grant Would the Matching Funds Be Used For?
NDOW's WMA Federal Grant

XVII. Describe What Type of Contract(s) Will be Needed or Currently Exists (if any) to Complete Work Under this Project (Independent Contract, Sub-grant Agreement, Inter-local Agreement or Good of the State Contract):

Inter-local Agreement #19-06 is currently in place and will used to complete this project.

XVIII. If a Contract Exists, or is Needed, Define the Contract Amount, Contractor/Sub-grantee, and Start and End Dates

The current contract with Tri-County Weed Control was approved in October 2018 and will expire on June 30, 2020. The total cost of the contract was not to exceed $120,000. Approximately $92,000 will be available on the contract at the close of the current fiscal year.

Project Cost Breakdown

Please provide a breakdown of the project's *total costs over the life of the project* in the table below. If your project is a multi-year project, define the total to be spent during each fiscal year in your response to question XIV on the previous page. Only include in-kind contributions under item 7 in the table below. Any NDOW personnel or travel expenses should be covered by funding sources other than the Wildlife Reserve Accounts.

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		
C. Total Travel Costs	$ -	$ -
4. Equipment		
A.		
B.		
C. Total Equipment Costs	$ -	$ -
5. Materials		
A. Herbicide	$ 4,000.00	
B.		
C.		
D. Total Materials Costs	$ 4,000.00	$ -
6. Miscellaneous Costs		
A. Tri-County Weed Control contract for weed spraying	$ 26,000.00	$ 25,000.00
B.		
C.		
D.		
F. Total Miscellaneous Costs	$ 26,000.00	$ 25,000.00
7. In-Kind Contributions		
A.		
B.		
C. Total In-Kind Contributions	$ -	$ -
Subtotals	$ 30,000.00	$ 25,000.00
Total Project Costs	$	55,000.00