

STATE CONTRIBUTIONS TO CANADIAN NAWMP/NAWCA PROJECTS

– September 2016 –

State Contributions to Canada Program

The signing of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) in 1986 by Canada and the United States began one of the most successful conservation partnerships in the world. Mexico joined the partnership by signing NAWMP in 1994. The NAWMP was a grand “plan” and it was catapulted into action when the North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA) was passed in 1991.

NAWCA established a critical funding mechanism for the NAWMP and continental waterfowl management. It provided federal funding for habitat projects throughout North America, but required that at least 50 percent of the funds used for projects outside the U.S. be matched at least 1:1 with non-federal funds originating in the U.S. In 2010, funds sourced in Canada became eligible for up to 50% of the non-federal match.

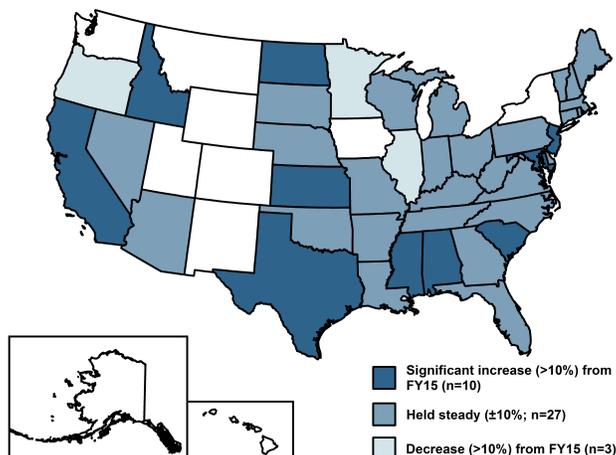
The leadership of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) and Ducks Unlimited, Inc. (DU) grasped the opportunity to be trailblazers for the new continental approach to waterfowl management. DU committed to match every dollar contributed by State Agencies, and in turn to seek a similar amount of NAWCA funds to deliver waterfowl habitat conservation projects in Canada. At the Association’s annual meeting in September 1991, members of AFWA passed a resolution stating, in part; “the states shall strive to maximize state support in the range of \$10 million per year from the states as U.S. matching funds for NAWMP projects in Canada and ... that the [Association] ... shall continue to explore, through the flyway councils and other appropriate avenues, ways and means of achieving this goal.”

The Association re-affirmed its commitment to waterfowl habitat conservation and to the \$10 million per year goal in both 2005 and 2011. This report provides Association members with a national update on their contributions toward the AFWA goal.



Virginia DGIF tours southern Quebec

State visits to Canada for the purpose of seeing firsthand the conservation program delivery and meeting with conservation partners has been an important step in validating the return on investment for conservation funding. This past year Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and Oregon Department of Fish and Game representatives traveled to Quebec, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia, respectively. The tours covered the expanse from the St. Lawrence Lowlands, the prairie pothole region to the inter-mountain west ecoregion seeing abundant numbers of black ducks, mallards, blue-winged teal, lesser scaup and cinnamon teal (among other species). Seeing the waterfowl utilize the valuable habitats protected through successful NAWMP partnerships results in a strong sense of satisfaction and hope for the future of waterfowl. On two of the trips visiting state staff added over 80 species to their annual birds lists demonstrating the all bird conservation value of our collective efforts.



ASSOCIATION of
FISH & WILDLIFE
AGENCIES

2015-16 Contributions Summary

Thirty-seven states contributed a total of \$3,063,140 (US) dollars to Canadian waterfowl habitat projects during 2015-16. This is a slight decline due to administrative challenges in a couple states however it is overshadowed by increases from a number of other states.

Ducks Unlimited will match \$2.863 million of the states' investments and the NAWCA funding will bring the investment to \$11.5 million. At the present-day currency exchange rate, the state, DU and NAWCA funds will generate an additional \$3.7 million that will be invested in Canadian habitat. The US funds, along with Canadian sources will increase the investment such that the state commitment of \$3.063 million becomes a total investment in waterfowl habitat in Canada of approximately \$15 million.

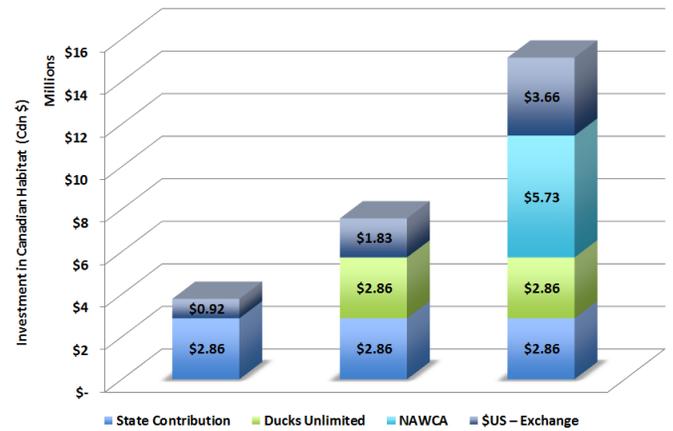
Ten states (Alabama, California, Idaho, Kansas, Maryland, Mississippi, New Jersey, North Dakota, South Carolina and Texas) increased their individual contributions by more than 10 percent. Most other states held their contributions at current levels or increased them by less than 10 percent. Discussions are underway with a number of states that were not able to contribute in 2015-16 or, due to administrative processes, simply were not able to contribute before the June 30, 2016 cut-off. The outlook for 2016-17 is favorable and it is anticipated that more states will contribute to the waterfowl habitat programs in Canada.

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SHORT-TERM NEED

Between now and 2020, Canadian NAWMP partners will **conserve 2.6 million acres** and **manage nearly 12.6 million acres** currently under conservation, requiring an investment in excess of \$700 M.

LONG-TERM NEED

Over the next 20 years NAWMP partners in Canada seek to conserve the National wetland base and migratory bird-valued natural areas through a thoughtful combination of habitat securement, enhancement, and management, promotion of sustainable land use, landowner incentives and progressive policy and regulation. The successful outcome of these investments will ensure continental conservation success of abundant and resilient waterfowl populations, as defined in the 2012 NAWMP Revision.

ANOTHER GOOD YEAR

State contributions dipped slightly this year totaling \$3,063,140 from 37 states. Due to administrative challenges in Illinois the duck stamp funds could not be appropriated. Illinois remains committed to supporting conservation in the breeding grounds and we look forward to a strong investment this coming year.

