



# Sustaining and Improving Waterfowl Conservation in Canada

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FINAL SUMMARY



SEPTEMBER 2020







McGraw Center for Conservation Leadership

# Sustaining and Improving Waterfowl Conservation in Canada

This document is the culmination of more than two years' work by the McGraw Waterfowl Working Group, an assembly of conservation leaders who came together to address perceived challenges to the continued success of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act and its Prairie Habitat Joint Venture in particular.

It would not have been possible without the diligence and active support of staff members from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Delta Waterfowl Foundation, Ducks Unlimited and Ducks Unlimited Canada, and we thank them for their cooperation.



# Summary of findings

In February 2018, a group of distinguished conservation leaders including some of North America's most experienced and respected waterfowl managers gathered at the Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation in Dundee, Illinois. Worried about the future of waterfowl and the wetlands that sustain them, they wanted to ensure that the North American Wetlands Conservation Act and the Canadian-based Prairie Habitat Joint Venture could be promoted as outstanding examples of economic, program and communications success.

It was the group's hope that in a time when wetlands were disappearing and government spending was under the microscope, NAWCA and the PHJV could maintain and even increase the funding needed to sustain waterfowl populations.

Concurrently, the McGraw Center for Conservation Leadership filed a request under the Freedom of Information Act seeking final reports and other information regarding grants awarded under the auspices of the PHJV. The goal was to secure as much data as possible, allowing researchers from The Ohio State University to analyze the expenditures. Without comprehensive data, the researchers could not report back with confidence in their findings, which were critical in developing the working group's final recommendations.

These parallel efforts resulted in *A White Paper for Sustaining and Improving Waterfowl Conservation in Canada*, released by McGraw in October 2018. Reviewed and endorsed by Delta Waterfowl, Ducks Unlimited and Ducks Unlimited Canada, the white paper offered these major findings:

- The North American Waterfowl Management Plan, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act and the Prairie Habitat Joint Venture have done a great deal to advance waterfowl conservation on the Canadian breeding grounds.
- Reporting of accomplishments, monitoring and accountability have improved dramatically in recent years, though there is room to improve communications and public perception.
- Transparency remains a challenge. Public data is hard to access, and much of the information is difficult to understand and explain to someone without a background in waterfowl and wetland science.
- The North American Waterfowl Management Plan, Prairie Habitat Joint Venture and the North American Wetlands Conservation Act need a professional communications strategy to improve transparency and generate additional support for these vital conservation programs.

The paper also included the following recommendations for improving transparency, accountability and communications:

1. Embrace solid business principles, including a professional communications strategy, to promote the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, and the joint ventures that deliver waterfowl conservation. We specifically recommend partnering with the private sector to achieve higher standards of communication with hunters and other interested parties.
2. The Prairie Habitat Joint Venture's website should become a source of simpler, more understandable explanations of program activities and administrative activities related to the PHJV's mission, goals and objectives.
3. The Prairie Habitat Joint Venture should take a fresh look at the "Revised Objectives — Addendum to the NAWMP" and the Primary Conclusions and Recommendation on pages 65–73 of the 2007 Continental Progress Assessment.
4. The Prairie Habitat Joint Venture should address the issue of overhead for project delivery in Canada on its website, clearly explaining the grant guidelines and the actual realized overhead for past work.
5. The Prairie Habitat Joint Venture should continue to focus on efficient and effective project placement centered upon the use of thunderstorm mapping to identify the most productive waterfowl habitats in terms of duck pairs per square mile/hectare. This concept must be better defined, explained and promoted on the website.
6. The Prairie Pothole and Prairie Habitat Joint Ventures should offer an annual menu of projects for consideration. This should resemble a business prospectus and include reasons why conservation investors would want to be primary supporters of specific waterfowl conservation projects under their purviews.
7. Review the grant-application system in the Prairie Habitat Joint Venture to streamline the process where possible and ensure all entities and proposals are given fair and open access to participation. Consider a small-grant program as a means to improve nesting success on lands already under protection.
8. Fully embrace the opportunities presented by Manitoba's \$100 million conservation trust fund.
9. In the interest of improving efficiency, accountability and communication, find innovative ways to finance work in this area.





These recommendations remain, and we are gratified to know that most of them were received in the spirit in which they were intended: To improve NAWCA and insulate it from any potential threat.

In April 2019, a representative of the working group met with the chairman of the North America Wetlands Conservation Council and leaders of Ducks Unlimited and Delta Waterfowl in Bismarck, North Dakota. The purpose was to review the white paper and its recommendations to determine if there would be any unintended consequences to their implementation.

The discussion identified three issues:

1. Additional funding for staff and materials would be needed to properly implement the recommendation for improved communication strategies;
2. The recommendation to adopt a grant scoring and ranking process for the PHJV would be extremely difficult to adopt because the PHJV simply does not have the necessary organizational structure, staff or funding;
3. The Freedom of Information request is a legal and reasonable way to access the necessary records, but it placed a heavy burden on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, given staffing and time constraints. In addition, the current methods of recordkeeping probably should be reviewed and upgraded to make records more accessible and useful.

The McGraw Waterfowl Working Group passed on these concerns while presenting the white paper and its recommendations at the December 2019 meeting of the North American Wetlands Conservation Council.

There have been several heartening developments since the completion of the original white paper in late 2018. The Prairie Habitat Joint Venture has updated and added useful material on its website, <http://www.phjv.ca/>, including more explanation of management strategy and accomplishments. Additional improvements are likely to require alternative funding as NAWCA does not provide money for administrative public outreach.

In addition, Ducks Unlimited Canada has developed and embraced new targeting tools that allow comparisons of various programs and calculate a return on investment in terms of incremental hatched nests. This is a critical development to assess program efficiency and should be promoted.

Other recommendations, including the ultimate philosophy and goals of the website and other communications strategy, should be addressed as part of a comprehensive communications plan developed by a public/private partnership, as we have urged elsewhere in this summary.

The white paper also was the impetus for another development that holds the potential for generating new levels of support for conservation: A communications campaign led by the private sector highlighting wetlands and the success of NAWCA. This idea grew from a gathering of some of the most distinguished leaders in waterfowl conservation, held at McGraw in June 2018 to review the initial draft of the white paper.

The initial effort of this unprecedented campaign is “Wings Over Water,” an IMAX 3D movie scheduled for release in the spring of 2021. The film will call attention to the dwindling wetlands in the Prairie Pothole Region of the United States and Canada, and will be an effective tool to drive more investment in protecting this critical landscape. McGraw is the coordinating entity behind the film, which has the support of Delta Waterfowl, Ducks Unlimited, Ducks Unlimited Canada and many other conservation groups.

By this point, McGraw had hoped that the Ohio State researchers would have received final reports from all relevant grants covered by its Freedom of Information request. Despite earnest efforts by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employees working on the request, the researchers did not receive reports covering \$61.3 million in expenditures.

This is unfortunate on many levels. The reports released under the Freedom of Information Act suggested that NAWCA and the PHJV are even greater success stories than originally believed, with far more habitat protected than reported. Thus the researchers believe that the missing reports would only further illustrate the Joint Venture’s accomplishments.



The fact that the reports could not be recovered despite the best efforts of many professionals underscores the Working Group’s concerns about the communication efforts related to the public’s concern for transparency and accountability. It is vital that NAWCA and its Joint Ventures examine communication efforts to ensure that all stakeholders — especially the citizens who are dedicated to conservation and provide funding — can access data that is easily understood and digested, allowing them to know that their money and support has been invested wisely.

A summary of the FOIA request and the final analysis of the data it generated are included in appendixes to this report.



If the McGraw Waterfowl Working Group were to sum up its findings in one sentence, it would be this:

“NAWCA and the PHJV have a great story to tell, but it needs to be told in better ways.”

The forthcoming IMAX 3D movie “Wings Over Water” is a bold step in that direction. What is more, the film may be able to help raise the funding needed to address a problem we encountered repeatedly during our investigations: Significantly more effort and support is needed to communicate the success of NAWCA and the PHJV.

Historically understaffed, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and its Division of Bird Habitat Conservation are tasked with processing the grants, monitoring and reporting on implementation and managing all records. This shortage of personnel undoubtedly lengthened the response time to McGraw’s FOIA request, filed in January 2017 and not completed until the fall of 2019. Without more support, these dedicated professionals will be hard pressed to produce the sorts of clear and readily accessible reports recommended in the white paper.

During the creation of the white paper and this follow-up report, the Working Group has used and referred to the North American Waterfowl Management Plans, Revisions and Strategic Priorities to shape and focus comments, recommendations and conclusions. The working group strongly supports the 2018 update that includes several goals and objectives to enhance internal and external communications in North America and other nations that harbor North American waterfowl.

Many of those goals and objectives are directly in line with the white paper and its recommendations. Specifically, we note the establishment of a communications

committee to help improve and expand communication efforts inside and outside the traditional waterfowl community. This would be followed by the creation of a communication network using partners to better promote NAWMP and conservation in general to a more diverse audience.

Another priority is to call on nongovernmental organizations, other partners and opinion leaders to drive additional funding in support of the plan.

Before any of that takes place, it is crucial to reassure private and government investors that the current administrative and implementation programs are meeting objectives, the goals are achievable and the accomplishments are cost effective and well documented.

The McGraw Center for Conservation Leadership and its Waterfowl Working Group are committed to an open, responsive and collaborative process to help achieve this goal so that, collectively, we can advance the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, wetlands conservation and waterfowl hunting.

## CONCLUSIONS

1. The McGraw Waterfowl Working Group has completed its report, convinced that the North American Wetlands Conservation Act and the Prairie Habitat Joint Venture have been a grand success in protecting wetland habitat in prairie Canada.
2. This assertion is supported by the final report from The Ohio State University, which concludes that if anything, NAWCA's accomplishments in the PHJV are significantly underreported.
3. To date, we have not been able to obtain final reports for some \$61.3 million in PHJV grants. Many of the grants covered a period of great accomplishment in the PHJV and likely would further complement its success story.
4. The private sector should lead the way in driving support for NAWCA, including efforts calling attention to wetlands conservation and providing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies with the support needed to better report on and communicate their successes.







# Acknowledgements

The McGraw Center for Conservation Leadership and its Waterfowl Working Group would like to thank the following for their support and counsel in preparing this report.

## **North American Wetlands Conservation Council-U.S.**

Terry Steinwand, chairman

## **North American Wetlands Conservation Council-Canada**

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**Ducks Unlimited Canada**

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Dr. Scott Stephens, director of prairie regional operations  
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Dr. Mike Anderson, emeritus scientist

**Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation**

Tim Sopuck, chief executive officer

**The Ohio State University**

Dr. Charlotte R. Milling, postdoctoral researcher; McGraw postdoctoral fellow  
Dr. Stan Gehrt, professor; chair of the McGraw Center for Wildlife Research

**Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies**

Dean Smith, NAWMP director/wildlife liaison

**U.S. Geological Survey**

Dr. Jennifer Malpass, associate wildlife biologist



# Members of the McGraw Waterfowl Working Group

**JOHN COOPER** retired from his position as cabinet secretary of the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks in January 2007 after 12 years of service as secretary under two governors.

From January 2007 until July 2008 he served as Governor Mike Rounds' senior policy advisor on Missouri River Issues, which also included serving as the first chairman of the Missouri River Association of States and Tribes. John also was a senior policy advisor to the Bipartisan Policy Center on climate change and wildlife management issues from 2007 until his retirement in 2010.

Before his appointment as Game, Fish & Parks secretary in 1995, John served 22 years with the Law Enforcement Division of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He was the senior resident agent for North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska, supervising six special agents who enforced federal, state and tribal wildlife laws.

In addition to his professional career, John served as field editor for Dakota Outdoors magazine. He has had feature articles published in *Sports Afield*, *In-Fisherman*, *Western Outdoor News* and *Bassmaster* magazine.

John also served as president of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (2005-06); chairman of the National Fish Habitat Initiative Board (2005-07); and vice chairman of the North American Wetlands Conservation Council (1996-2006).

His professional awards include the 1982 and 2006 South Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society Wildlife Professional of the Year Award, the 1995 Guy Bradley Law Enforcement Professional Award, the 1991 and 2006 South Dakota Wildlife Federation Conservationist of the Year Award, the 1998 U.S. Forest Service Chief's Award for Conservation Leadership, the 2006 Wildlife Professional of the Year Award from the Western Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, the 2006 Ducks Unlimited Conservation Achievement Award, the Outdoor Life Conservation Award for 2006 and the 2008 Seth Gordon Award for Lifetime Excellence in Conservation from the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies.

In 2009, John received the National Governors Association Award for Distinguished Service to State Government. In 2010, he received the George Bird Grinnell Memorial Award for Distinguished Lifetime Conservation Service from the Wildlife Management

Institute. He served two years as chairman of the South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks Commission.

In light of these achievements as well as his work with the McGraw Waterfowl Working Group, John received the 2019 National Blue-Winged Teal Award from the North American Waterfowl Management Plan Committee.

He enjoys fishing, camping, hunting and spending time with his wife and family (especially his four grandsons).

**KEN HADDAD** retired in 2009 as executive director of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. The commission is a Florida constitutional agency of more than 2,500 employees with responsibility for rule-making, management, enforcement and science relative to fish and wildlife resources statewide.

As executive director, Ken was responsible for wildlife management, fisheries management, game management, endangered and threatened species management, wildlife law enforcement and boating throughout Florida. He has served as a member of the state lands Acquisition and Restoration Council, was chairman of the Science Coordinating Group of the Everglades Restoration Task Force, was a member of the Executive Committee of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, and was president of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

He is a former commissioner of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and former council member of the South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council.

Ken is a board member of the Wildlife Foundation of Florida, a trustee of Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy Inc., and on the boards of Equine Land Conservation Resource, Florida Ocean Alliance and the Future of Hunting in Florida Inc. He serves part-time as a marine advisor to the American Sportfishing Association, a trade association of tackle and related manufacturers, retailers and associated industries.

He holds a B.S. in biology from Presbyterian College and an M.S. in marine science from the University of South Florida. He is an avid outdoorsman focusing on fishing, hunting and mounted foxhunting.

**WILLIAM F. “BILL” HARTWIG** is a senior advisor at Dawson & Associates. He served more than 33 years with the federal government, including 30 years within the Department of the Interior.

He served five years with the Office of the Secretary as staff director to the Federal Lands Planning Group and oversaw the annual expenditure of funds from the Land

and Water Conservation Fund by the National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service. His next position was chief of realty for the Fish and Wildlife Service and secretary to the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission before becoming assistant director of Refuges and Wildlife.

Bill was the Fish and Wildlife Service's Midwest regional director for eight years before returning to Washington as assistant director of the Fish and Wildlife Service and chief of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

He served three years on active duty in the U.S. Army as a field artillery officer and Ranger advisor to the Vietnamese Army. He worked five years for Montgomery County, Maryland before joining the Department of the Interior.

He holds a B.S. from West Virginia University and an M.S. in public administration from George Washington University.

**LLOYD JONES** has 30 years of resource management experience with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of National Wildlife Refuges. He has served in positions as wetland manager, project leader and refuge coordinator. Lloyd has twice received the Service's Most Outstanding Employee award. He has extensive experience in waterfowl management and conservation efforts in the Prairie Pothole Region.

He has also served as director of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department and vice president of the Delta Waterfowl Foundation. He has the unique conservation background and experience in private, state and federal leadership positions.

Lloyd holds a B.S. in wildlife management and biology from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

**BRENT MANNING** served from 1991 to 2003 as the top natural resources official in Illinois, first as director of the Department of Conservation and then as the first director of the Department of Natural Resources, a new umbrella agency that merged Conservation with two state agencies and parts of two more.

Brent oversaw the acquisition of more than 100,000 acres for conservation and worked with state and federal officials to convert thousands of acres at closed military bases to recreational use. He won legislative approval for programs and initiatives that generated millions of dollars for conservation efforts. He later served as Executive Director of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, Illinois.



Among Brent's many honors: The Ducks Unlimited Wetland Conservation Award, Eastern Illinois University's Distinguished Alumnus Award; the American Greenways DuPont Award, and the National Leadership Award from the National Association of State Outdoor Recreation Liaison Officers. He was named to the Illinois Outdoor Hall of Fame in 2005.

**BOB MARSHALL** is a journalist whose reporting on Louisiana coastal issues at *The Times-Picayune* and *The Lens* has been recognized by two Pulitzer Prizes; the John H. Oakes Prize for Distinguished Environmental Reporting from Columbia University; the Keck Award for best science reporting from The National Academies of Sciences, a national Edward Murrow Award from the Radio, Television and Digital News Association, Gannett Award for Innovative Watchdog Journalism from the Investigative Reporters and Editors Association, The National Headliners Award and many others.

In April 2017, Bob returned to *The Times-Picayune* to begin a regular opinion column on environmental issues.

In previous lives, Bob was a sportswriter whose work led to his induction into the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame, while his achievements as an outdoors writer resulted in selection for the Circle of Chiefs, the highest award for conservation writing from the Outdoors Writers Association of America. He has been conservation editor-at-large for Field & Stream for decades.

Bob lives in his native New Orleans with his wife, Marie Gould, founder of Louisiana Lost Lands Environmental Tours.



The McGraw Waterfowl Working Group would like to thank David E. Nomsen, vice president of government affairs for Pheasants Forever, and Ollie Torgerson, certified wildlife biologist, for their insights and contributions.

## **APPENDIX I**

# Freedom of Information Act request summary



The McGraw Center for Conservation Leadership filed a request under the Freedom of Information Act with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on January 6, 2017. The request sought the legal descriptions and locations of land parcels purchased, placed under easement (permanent or term), or otherwise impacted (i.e. habitat restoration, enhancement, or management) by funds secured under the North American Wetland Conservation Act in prairie Canada.

The request remained active through October 10, 2019, when the USFWS provided the final records covering 1991 to 2015 with the following exceptions:

1. There are 191 reports that fall under the scope of the request, and 139 of them were provided — thus, we received slightly less than three-quarters of the requested reports.
2. Many of the unrecovered final reports cover 2002-2006, a period of high conservation accomplishment in the Prairie Habitat Joint Venture. Therefore, it is probable that these particular unrecovered reports totaling \$51.9 million in grant funding would further document the PHJV's enviable record of exceeding its on-the-ground goals.
3. McGraw did not receive an explanation as to why these reports were not recovered. We cannot determine whether the grants are missing, never were filed, or simply not provided under the FOIA request.
4. In addition, USFWS did not explain why its team did not review redactions in the first three interim releases of data, even though evidence was supplied to demonstrate that the redactions were often more conservative than required, and USFWS employees agreed to perform such a review in July, 2018. This limited the utility of a number of the supplied final reports.

Part of the reason for the long period between filing the initial request and its completion undoubtedly was due to a shortage of staff dedicated to fulfilling FOIA requests. The USFWS employees who worked on the request were unfailingly professional and courteous and we thank them for their work.

Dr. Charlotte R. Milling, a postdoctoral researcher at The Ohio State University, analyzed the data. Her final report follows this appendix. In addition, the data and other information fueled the creation of two peer-reviewed publications by Dr. Milling and others. They are:

Milling, C.R. 2019. Three decades protecting wetlands: The North American Wetland Conservation Act turns 30. *The Wildlife Professional* 13(6): 43-45.



Milling, C.R., S.D. Gehrt, D.W. Howerter. 2019. From crisis to collaboration: The North American Waterfowl Management Plan continues to evolve. *The Wildlife Professional* 13(3): 39-43.

## **GENERAL COMMENTS**

Although the North American Wetlands Conservation Councils report accomplishments every two years, and these figures are publicly accessible, actual final project accomplishments and their associated costs are much harder to ascertain.

Since the goal was to be as accurate as possible in reaching conclusions and developing recommendations, the information covered by the FOIA request was essential. We wanted to gather comprehensive information as to the costs, benefits and accomplishments of individual grants. We believed the FOIA request would be the most efficient way to ensure the release of all relevant information.

To the best of our knowledge, and with the exceptions noted above, we received that information. We do not believe any relevant information was withheld because it was not covered under the scope of our request.

This in sum gives us great confidence that the conclusions drawn in Appendix II are accurate, timely and as detailed as possible, given the missing grant information and redactions required for confidentiality.

The FOIA request was a fundamental part of the McGraw Center for Conservation Leadership's landmark report, *A White Paper for Sustaining and Improving Waterfowl Conservation in Canada*. It was not an attempt to embarrass or find fault with the existing system of delivering wetlands conservation; rather, it was an attempt to independently quantify and describe the system's accomplishments.

Even lacking the final \$61.3 million in grant reports, we have great confidence in the following positive conclusions.

- 1.** Approximately twice as many acres have been secured as were originally proposed in the applications for NAWCA grants and that have been reported in the NAWCA Biennial Progress Reports.
- 2.** Assuming all these acres remained in conservation status for the duration of the agreement, this is a far better story than existing records in the public domain would indicate.

3. The unrecovered records correspond to years of high accomplishment in the PHJV and probably would represent a significant part of its success story.
4. The conservation community should explore opportunities to facilitate better, clearer reporting of accomplishments in a way that does not compromise landowners' right to privacy and does not represent additional staff time or financial burdens for relevant partners and agencies.



## **APPENDIX II**

# North American Wetlands Conservation Act expenditures in the Prairie Habitat Joint Venture: 1991-2015 FINAL REPORT







# THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

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**North American Wetlands Conservation Act Expenditures in the  
Prairie Habitat Joint Venture: 1991-2015  
Final Report**

Prepared for the McGraw Center for Conservation Leadership by:

Charlotte R. Milling, PhD  
Postdoctoral Scholar  
The Ohio State University  
20 February 2020



## Executive Summary

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act of 1989 (NAWCA) provides federal financial support for the long-term conservation of wetland habitat and wetland-dependent fish and wildlife species in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. NAWCA funds can be used to secure, manage, enhance, and restore wetland and associated-upland habitat with long-term significance to waterfowl, migratory birds, and other wetland-dependent fish and wildlife. Although proposed accomplishments are reported by the North American Wetlands Conservation Council biennially, and these figures are publicly accessible, final project accomplishments and costs are more difficult to ascertain.

Our objective was to investigate proposed and actual accomplishments associated with NAWCA-funded conservation projects in the Prairie Habitat Joint Venture (PHJV). This joint venture was selected because of the region's biological significance to mid-continent waterfowl populations and because it receives the majority of Canada's NAWCA funding. Our investigation is limited to NAWCA Canadian Standard Grants awarded to the PHJV in Alberta, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and the British Columbia Peace Parklands, and we restricted the timeframe of our assessment to the period from 1991 to 2015. Final reports for all relevant grants were requested from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and were reviewed to determine the number of acres secured (permanently and temporarily) and enhanced, final project costs, discrepancies between proposed and actual outcomes, and general geographic location of management actions.

The USFWS provided the final records in response to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request on October 10, 2019. We received the final reports for 139 NAWCA-funded projects out of 191 that fall within our defined scope (73%), representing all six grantees in the PHJV. Cumulatively, these projects received \$238,411,515 in NAWCA grants (exclusive of match) and secured 4,817,854 acres of wetland and upland habitat in Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan. Of these, 1,033,686.2 acres are permanently protected (337,179.8 acres wetlands; 696,506.4 acres uplands). Actual accomplishments often exceeded those proposed; on the whole, securement goals were exceeded by 99%, and enhancement goals were exceeded by 117%. Projects were carried out throughout the prairies and appeared to be predominantly on PHJV Target Landscapes.

Even though a complete (i.e., 100%) recovery of final reports for NAWCA grants awarded in the PHJV was not accomplished, we still identified meaningful patterns in the information received. Partners typically met or exceeded securement and enhancement goals despite rapidly increasing land values in the prairies. Additionally, identifying and securing suitable property in the prairies is constrained to some extent by the desires of private landowners since most of the landscape is privately held. Finally, these final reports, when complete, provide a wealth of information that improves the spatial and temporal resolution of accounting of activities in the PHJV. Opportunities for facilitating reporting of accomplishments at a meaningful resolution for managers and the public, that does not compromise landowners' right to privacy, and does not represent a time or finance burden for relevant partners and agencies should be explored.



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## Background

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA, or the Act; Public Law 101-233) was approved in 1989 to provide financial resources for partnerships of public and private entities to “protect, enhance, restore, and manage an appropriate distribution and diversity of wetland ecosystems” and associated habitats to provide for the long-term conservation of waterfowl, migratory birds, and wetland-dependent fish and wildlife (PL 101-233, Sec. 2 (b) (1)). The Act serves as a funding mechanism for the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP), the North American Waterbird Conservation Plan, the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan, and the Partners in Flight Conservation Plan. Sources of federal funding to carry out NAWCA include the interest generated on the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration (Pittman-Robinson Act) account, federal appropriations as decided by Congress, coastal funds, and fines and penalties levied under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

The framework for NAWCA-funded conservation is unique in that federal money is awarded as grants to organizations that operate under self-directed partnerships known as joint ventures, which can be habitat or species focused. Habitat joint ventures can consist of public agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), tribes, and individuals that work together to advance habitat and migratory bird conservation at regional scales, and the network of joint ventures spans throughout most of North America. The unique public-private structure of the joint venture system permits expenditure of U.S. federal dollars on conservation actions in Mexico and Canada as well as the United States. Between 30 and 60% of annual NAWCA funding is allocated by law to conservation projects carried out in Mexico and Canada, and the balance is used to fund wetland conservation in the United States. U.S. federal funding must be no less than equally matched by non-federal contributions. Examples of monetary match include state contributions (MacCallum and Melinchuk 2011); individual, aggregated, and charitable trust donations; provincial and non-U.S. federal agency contributions; and private industry contributions. Fair market value of fee simple donations and donated conservation easements, fair market value of loaned equipment, and dedicated easement stewardship and endowment costs can also be leveraged as match contributions (NAWCC 2017, NAWCC 2018). Although projects carried out in Mexico and Canada can use non-U.S. sources of funding as match, Canadian funding sources can only contribute up to 50% of the non-federal share of project costs in that country (NAWCC 2018).

NAWCA grants and match funding can only be spent on projects that contribute to the long-term conservation of wetlands and associated habitats, and eligible activities vary by country. Securement (temporary or permanent), restoration, enhancement, and management of habitat are all NAWCA-eligible activities in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Stewardship and extension activities are NAWCA-eligible for Canadian Standard Grants, as are evaluation, site reconnaissance and design, and communications in certain circumstances (NAWCC 2018). In Mexico only, NAWCA grant and match funding also can be used for technical training, education, and other social programming necessary to improve the country’s capacity for wetland conservation and management (USFWS 2018). Activities ineligible for NAWCA or match funding include wetland mitigation (directly or indirectly through contribution of credits to mitigation banks), short-term activities such as predator management or removal, travel expenses of U.S. government employees, and acquisition expenditures in excess of fair market value (NAWCC 2017, NAWCC 2018). Ineligible activities can be implemented as part of a NAWCA-funded project, but it must be explicitly demonstrated in all reports that other contributions (i.e., not grant or match) were used to fund such activities.



Section 10 of NAWCA requires that the Secretary of the Interior report biennially the estimated acreage of wetland habitat that was protected or improved for migratory birds throughout North America under the law, but an amendment to the Act in 1994 expanded this requirement to include an assessment of the cost, mechanism, location, and duration of all management actions funded by NAWCA in the form of the NAWCA Biennial Progress Report (NBPR). The proposed accomplishments and costs for awarded grants are aggregated, such that secured, restored, and enhanced acreage is reported for each project in each state or province in which it will occur. However, NAWCA grant periods can last up to three years, so the proposed acreage and costs in the NBPR might not reflect the actual outcome at the time the grant is closed. Recipients of NAWCA grants are required to report progress towards the goals of their grant annually and at the conclusion of the grant period. Final reports must include: 1) a comparison of the proposed and actual accomplishments in terms of acreage by activity or mechanism and habitat type (wetland or upland); 2) proposed and actual partner contributions; 3) an explanation of differences between proposed and actual accomplishments and costs; 4) a table listing the legal description of all properties, the activities accomplished on those properties, and the acreage of wetland and upland habitats occurring therein; 5) a shapefile that contains the polygons of affected properties; and 6) real property acquisition documentation (NAWCC 2018). This information is used to monitor compliance with the agreed upon objectives of the funded grant proposal and any approved variances, as well as serve as final documentation of NAWCA-funded accomplishments. Although the information collected for completed NAWCA projects is extensive, an accounting of the accomplishments at high spatial and temporal resolutions is not publicly accessible for all JVs.

Our objective was to investigate proposed and actual accomplishments associated with NAWCA-funded conservation projects in the Prairie Habitat Joint Venture (PHJV). This joint venture was selected for a number of reasons. First, the Canadian extent of the Prairie Pothole Region (PPR) is critical breeding habitat for approximately half of North America's mid-continent waterfowl (Prairie Habitat Joint Venture 2014), and the prairies have been designated as a NAWMP priority landscape since the inception of NAWMP. The PHJV encompasses the extent of the PPR in Canada. Second, wetland and upland habitat conservation in the prairie provinces is largely accomplished through NAWMP, and approximately 25% of the financial support for NAWMP in Canada comes from federal U.S. contributions (Prairie Habitat Joint Venture 2014). Approximately 70% of the NAWCA funding received in Canada is allotted to conservation in the PHJV (NAWCC - Canada 2010). Third, the PHJV has only had six grantees during the entire life of NAWCA. Several of the partners in the PHJV collaborate closely to share the effort of decision support, site reconnaissance and design, and evaluation. Accurately quantifying accomplishments was expected to be easier to achieve in the PHJV because communication and cooperation among a small number of partners might confer some consistency in the structure and content of final reports. Fourth, assessing the transparency of actions supported by U.S. taxpayer dollars outside the U.S. demonstrates due diligence towards critically evaluating the efficiency and effectiveness of a federal conservation program with international reach to ensure it remains vital and productive.

### Scope

This summary is limited to NAWCA Canadian Standard Grants awarded to the PHJV in Alberta, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and the British Columbia Peace Parklands. We restricted the timeframe for our assessment to the period from 1991 to 2015. Grants awarded during this period



are either complete or nearing completion, and a final report for those grants was expected be on record with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

## **Methods**

We used the Division of Bird Habitat Conservation (DBHC) query application for all years and the NBPRs from 1998 to 2015 to quantify proposed accomplishments in the PHJV using NAWCA funding. We queried the DBHC by year, grant category, and joint venture, and recorded the project name, grantee, partner organizations, province, award amount, match amounts, and award date for each result. We then cross-referenced each project by the NBPR to ensure the award and match values were correct and to record the proposed acreage and duration of management actions by mechanism (agreement, fee title, enhancement, easement acquired, or lease). If there were discrepancies in the match amount between the DBHC and NBPR, we recorded the match from the NBPR. This process was performed independently by two individuals, and the results were compared to ensure that all projects under the agreed upon scope were identified.

To quantify the actual accomplishments in the PHJV using NAWCA funding, we reviewed the final reports submitted by the grantee at the completion of the grant period. The final reports, though part of the public record, are not readily accessible as they contain personally identifiable information of cooperating landowners. Kerry Luft, Director of the McGraw Center for Conservation Leadership, submitted a request to the USFWS in January 2017 for the following information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA): the legal description of land parcels that were purchased, protected by easement, or otherwise affected using NAWCA funds in Waterfowl Breeding Population and Habitat Survey strata 20, 24, 26, 27, 30, 31, 32, 34, 35, 39, and 40; the NAWCA project and grantee associated with those parcels; the dates they were acquired; the habitat types on each parcel; and the duration of protection for non-permanently secured parcels. Upon receiving the records, Mr. Luft forwarded them to us for inspection and summary.

We reviewed each record to compile the actual accomplishments of individual projects in the PHJV. Records were initially reviewed for completeness, which we defined as containing the proposed and actual budgets (award and match, in US\$ or CA\$ with a contemporary exchange rate); proposed and actual accomplishments, in acres, by mechanism, duration, and habitat type (wetland or upland); the general geographic region where the funds were expended; and justification for variances between proposed and actual accomplishments. Although more information is required by USFWS as part of the final report, shapefiles, legal descriptions, and legal documentation pertaining to the securement or enhancement of land parcels were either not included with or were redacted from the records to protect the privacy of participating landowners. For each project for which records were sufficiently complete, we compared the actual accomplishments and costs to those proposed, and we summarized the reasons for discrepancies.

## **Results**

Over a period of three years, the USFWS delivered 61 files in six releases in response to the FOIA request, amounting to 1,621 pages of information (an additional 1,038 pages were withheld under Exemption 6; Appendix A). Of these, the final reports related to 139 (73%) NAWCA-funded projects in the PHJV contained in 50 separate files were reviewed (Table 1). Final reports were generally complete for all but two projects. These files appear to be an



incomplete scan of information rather than an incomplete submission on the part of the grantee. Several files, though complete, were so heavily redacted that we could not summarize the information in them with the same level of detail as other reports (e.g., geographic location, habitat type, or acreage totals); however, we were still able to glean considerably more information than is provided in the DBHC or the NBPR. Eight additional records received in response to the FOIA are duplicates, and seven records are either final reports for projects implemented outside the PHJV or grant agreements and are not relevant to the present study.

Table 1. Number of final reports received in response to the Freedom of Information Act request and number of North American Wetlands Conservation Act grants awarded to grantees in the Prairie Habitat Joint Venture.

Grantee	Received	Awarded	% Received
Delta Waterfowl	10	15	67
Ducks Unlimited – Canada	94	133	71
Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation	5	9	56
Nature Conservancy of Canada	17	20	85
Saskatchewan Watershed Authority	6	6	100
Wildlife Habitat Canada	7	8	88
<b>Total</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>73</b>

Cumulatively, these 139 projects have permanently secured, through fee title or conservation easements, 1,033,686.2 acres (337,179.8 acres wetlands and 696,506.4 acres upland), and an additional 3,784,167.6 acres (1,497,596.2 acres wetlands and 2,286,571.4 acres upland) have been temporarily secured (10 – 99 years) throughout the PHJV (Table 2). These projects were awarded \$238,411,515 in NAWCA grants, or approximately 67% of all U.S.-federal monies awarded in the PHJV from 1991 to 2015. For those projects for which we received a complete final report (including final costs in US\$), actual expenditures were 6% under the proposed budget (Table 3), but much of this shortfall is attributable to a single multi-grant contract. The median actual expenditure was equal to the proposed budget.

Table 2. Permanently and temporarily (>10 years) secured wetland and upland acres by province.

Province	Permanent <sup>a</sup>		Temporary <sup>b</sup>		Total Provincial Acreage Secured
	Wetland	Upland	Wetland	Upland	
Alberta	209,934.7	290,124	508,170.8	473,086.1	1,481,315.6
British Columbia <sup>c</sup>	0	0	154	0	154
Manitoba	54,818.6	96,016.4	409,096.6	680,103.7	1,240,034.2
Saskatchewan	61,672.5	279,289	264,236.9	647,441.6	1,279,640
Unknown <sup>d</sup>	10,754	31,077	315,938	458,941	816,710
<b>Total PHJV Acreage Secured</b>	<b>337,179.8</b>	<b>696,506.4</b>	<b>1,497,596.2</b>	<b>2,286,571.4</b>	<b>4,817,853.8</b>



<sup>a</sup> – Permanent acreage values are conservative. For many reports, only purchased acres are reported separately from other securement mechanisms. Acres secured through permanent Crown land transfers or other permanent mechanisms might therefore be incorrectly classified as temporary.

<sup>b</sup> – Two projects that protected 618 acres of wetlands and 2,083 acres of uplands for a period of 5 years are not included in these figures because property must be in conservation status for a minimum of 10 years to be considered “secured.”

<sup>c</sup> – A portion of the Peace Parklands ecoregion, which is considered a part of the PHJV, overlaps the British Columbia and Alberta border. Though not typically considered a prairie province, a small portion of the PHJV is in British Columbia.

<sup>d</sup> – Province could not be determined due to redactions in final reports.

Partners were more successful than not at achieving the proposed securement and enhancement goals of their grants. According to the final reports, actual acreage protected is double the amount credited to the projects in the NBPR, and partners enhanced more than twice as many acres as originally proposed through the creation and restoration of wetlands, installation of hen houses, and removal of non-native or nuisance vegetation (Table 3). Grantees exceeded their securement goals on 92 of the 139 projects for which we received a final report, and 16 additional projects were within 90% of their proposed securement goal. Twenty-nine projects failed (< 90%) to achieve their goal for secured acreage. Reasons for failing to achieve securement goals include lack of support among landowners or opportunities for securement in the target region, budget reallocations to other conservation activities (e.g., enhancement or management), and rapid increases in land values (e.g., as a result of oil exploration in the target region).

Table 3. Proposed and actual budget and accomplishments for North American Wetlands Conservation Act-funded projects in the Prairie Habitat Joint Venture (PHJV) for those projects for which we have received a complete final report (number of projects used to calculate figures is indicated in parenthesis).

	Proposed	Actual	Difference (%)
Budget <sup>a</sup> – Grant + Match (n=73)	\$422,441,793	\$396,597,215	-\$25,844,578 (-6%)
Protected Acreage <sup>b,c</sup> (n=125)	1,768,530	3,515,058	1,746,528 (+99%)
Enhanced Acreage <sup>c,d</sup> (n=125)	1,414,773	3,074,740.5	1,659,968 (+117%)
Managed Acreage <sup>c</sup> (n=125)	1,893,697	5,975,937	4,082,240 (+216%)

<sup>a</sup> – Projects for which final costs were not reported due to incomplete records are not included in this table, nor are projects for which final costs were only reported in CAD\$ without mention of contemporary exchange rate.

<sup>b</sup> – Includes all acreages placed into conservation status (duration: 5 years – permanent)

<sup>c</sup> – Thirteen projects captured by two multi-phase contracts that secured and enhanced 1.3 million and 1.08 million acres respectively were deemed outliers (see explanation in the text of the original Appendix B [2018 Interim Report]) and have not been included in these figures.

<sup>d</sup> – The figure for actual enhanced acreage is conservative and represents a minimum. Acreages for restored or created wetlands are quantified in the final reports, but installation and maintenance of hen houses is not recorded as acres impacted. Therefore, the true figure is higher than reported here.

The records pertaining to a quarter of all grants awarded in the PHJV were not recovered as part of this FOIA request (Appendix B). The USFWS informed us that grants awarded in 2012 or more recently might still be a part of active contracts, and therefore final reports would be unavailable. Of the grants for which the final report was outstanding, \$51.8 million (Fig. 1) was awarded to 23 grants (Fig. 2) from 2002 to 2006. The proposals associated with these grants projected securing 278,569 acres and enhancing 437,043 acres in Alberta, Manitoba, and



Saskatchewan. Although it is impossible to know what was accomplished with these grants without the final reports, these years correspond to a period of a high rate of conservation in the prairies (Fig. 3). According to the Canadian NAWMP Tracking System, 2.7 million acres of habitat were secured from 2002 to 2006 under NAWMP (K. Duffy, *pers. comm.*). U.S.-federal contributions as a percentage of all NAWMP funding to the PHJV during 2003-2006 were similar to the long-term (1986-2006) percentage of U.S. contributions (NAWCC-Canada 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007). Thus, a shift in the distribution of funding sources does not seem a reasonable explanation for the high rate of conservation during this time period, although attributing any of the conservation gains to the unaccounted-for grants beyond the proposed acreages would be conjecture alone.

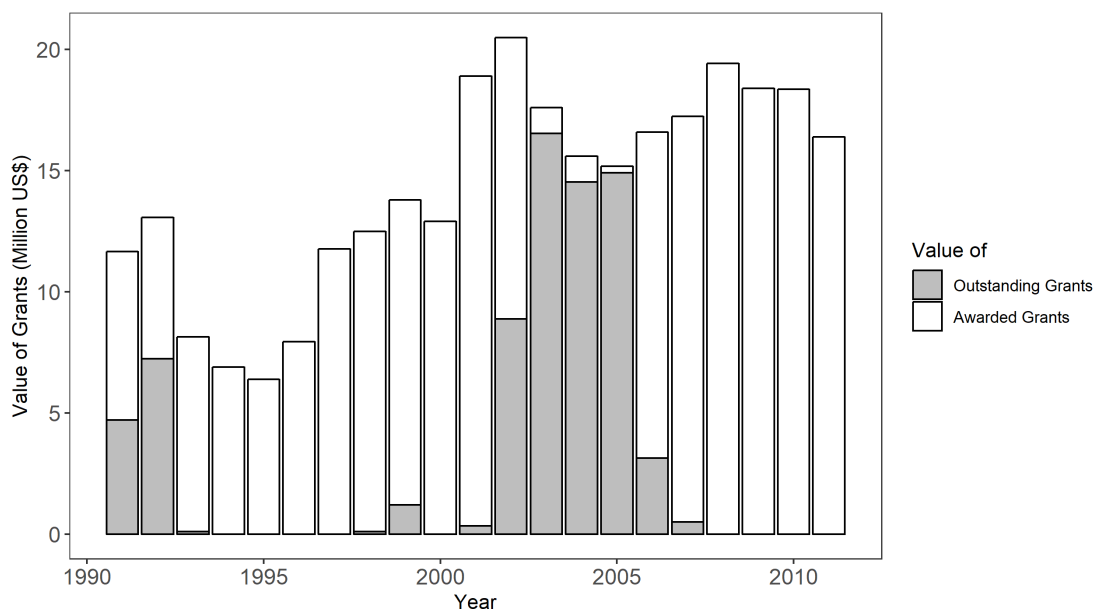


Figure 1. The value of North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grants awarded each year (hollow bars) in the Prairie Habitat Joint Venture, and the value of NAWCA grants by award year for which a final report was not recovered during the process of fulfilling the Freedom of Information Act request (grey bars). The total value of grants awarded prior to 2012 for which a final report was not recovered was approximately \$61.3 million; of that, roughly \$52 million was awarded to 23 grants from 2002 to 2006.

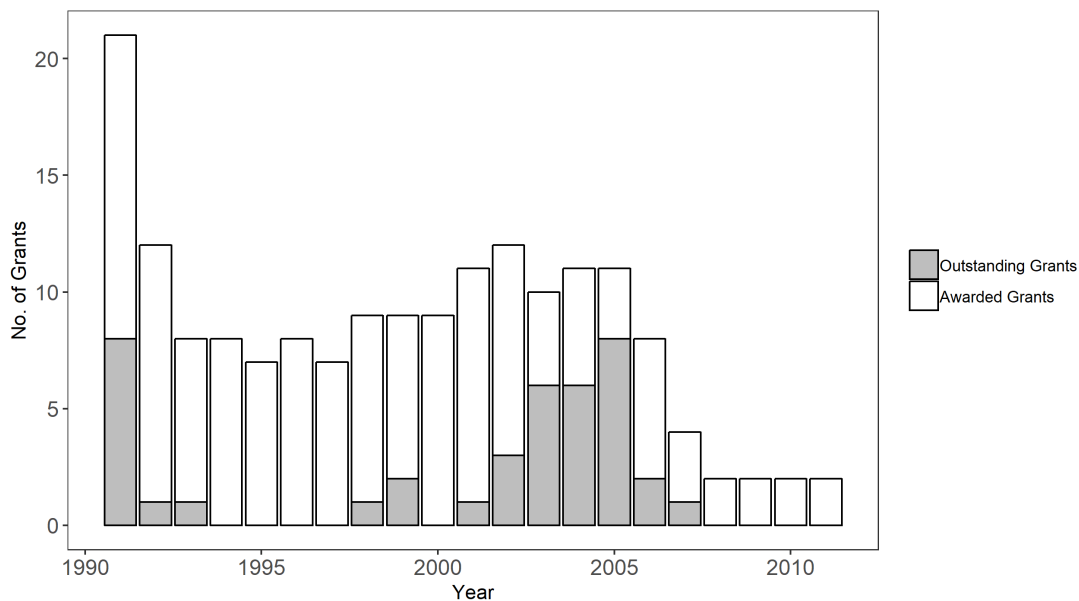


Figure 2. The number of North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grants awarded each year (hollow bars) in the Prairie Habitat Joint Venture, and the number of NAWCA grants by award year for which a final report was not recovered during the process of fulfilling the Freedom of Information Act request (grey bars).

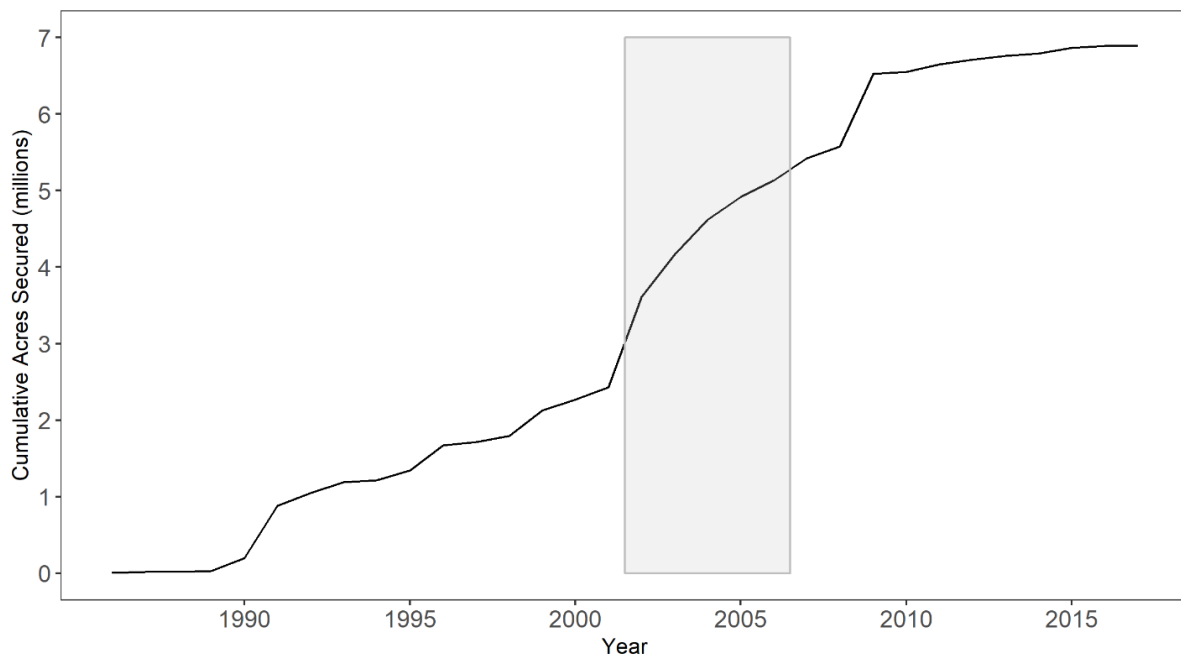


Figure 3. Cumulative acres secured in the Prairie Habitat Joint Venture (PHJV) Prairie Parklands under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, 1986-2017. The period from 2002 to 2006 (highlighted in grey) was associated with considerable conservation gains in the PHJV, with nearly 3 million acres secured across the prairie provinces. These accomplishments do not include acres secured in the Western Boreal Forest extent of the PHJV.



## Conclusion

Even though a complete (i.e., 100%) recovery of final reports for NAWCA grants awarded in the PHJV was not accomplished, we still identified meaningful patterns in the information received. First, partners typically accomplish more in terms of secured acreage, enhancement, and management than is proposed. Twice as many acres were secured throughout the PHJV as were originally proposed in the grant applications and reported in the NBPR. Assuming all of those acres were maintained in conservation status for the duration of the agreement, U.S.-federal funds were leveraged to greater effect in the prairies than the records in the public domain would lead one to believe. This is meaningful because the value of agricultural land in the prairie provinces has increased exponentially over the last 30 years (Stats Canada 2020), but NAWCA funding to the PHJV has not increased at a similar rate. Furthermore, despite dedicated conservation efforts, wetlands continue to be lost in the Canadian extent of the PPR at a rate of 0.31% annually, primarily to be replaced by annual crops (Watmough et al. 2017).

Second, partners in the PHJV reported collaborating closely for decision support, site reconnaissance and design, and evaluation. In at least one reported instance, doing so freed up considerable resources that were instead invested in permanent securement of habitat (Nature Conservancy of Canada, *unpubl. report*<sup>1</sup>). The decision-support tool used to identify target landscapes and properties that are a high priority for conservation (i.e., high value, high risk) was developed by Ducks Unlimited Canada biologists (PHJV 2014). In a small number of final reports, partners stated the tool's estimate of waterfowl productivity for secured parcels to demonstrate the habitat value of the acquired property, although this is not a required reportable element according to the current grant standards (NAWCC 2018). Partners have also worked together to influence policy; for example, in Saskatchewan, the Nature Conservancy of Canada and others worked to shape a policy that made easier the process of purchasing agricultural land for conservation (Nature Conservancy of Canada, *unpubl. reports*<sup>1</sup>).

Third, project implementation is constrained to some extent by the desires of private landowners. Land in prairie Canada is predominately privately-owned agricultural land, and successful acquisition and enhancement of productive or at-risk habitat is therefore contingent on the cooperation of landowners. Landowner attitudes are influenced by factors beyond the purview of the waterfowl community, such as commodities prices, provincial wetland retention policy, and economic factors that affect land values (PHJV 2014). Moreover, there are social perspectives that might limit participation in conservation programs in some communities throughout the PHJV. Yu and Belcher (2011) found that landowners in the PPR of Saskatchewan were more likely to consider conserving wetlands if they perceived a positive personal impact of doing so, but benefits to the public did not increase willingness, and providing habitat for wildlife was associated with a decreased willingness to conserve wetlands. Indeed, several partners reported difficulties in achieving securement goals because of a lack of opportunity or support from landowners in the delivery regions (Ducks Unlimited Canada, *unpubl. report*<sup>2,3,4</sup>; Nature Conservancy of Canada, *unpubl. report*<sup>5</sup>). Conversely, at least three projects exceeded securement objectives because of an abundance of opportunities to acquire high value habitat under favorable circumstances (e.g., via fee title [Nature Conservancy of Canada, *unpubl. report*<sup>6</sup>] or more economically than expected [Ducks Unlimited Canada, *unpubl. report*<sup>7,8</sup>]).

Finally, these final reports, when complete, provide a wealth of information that improves the spatial and temporal resolution of accounting for NAWCA-funded activities in the PHJV. However, these records were acquired over a period of nearly three years because of the level of effort required by the responding agency to identify appropriate records and redact personally





identifiable information. Opportunities for facilitating reporting of accomplishments at a meaningful resolution for managers and the public, that does not compromise landowners' right to privacy and does not represent a time or finance burden for relevant partners and agencies should be explored.



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Appendix A. Records releases received in response to McGraw's Freedom of Information Act Request.

Date of release	No. of files	No. of pages released	No. of pages withheld
2/21/2017 <sup>a</sup>	7	93	34
6/14/2017	5	74	37
7/21/2017	9	148	78
2/22/2018	7	93	34
5/2/2018	31	586	511
10/25/2018	1	483	332
10/10/2019	1	144	12
Total	61	1,621	1,038

<sup>a</sup> – Files released on 2/21/2017 were part of a first response communication from USFWS to McGraw that provided a sample of the types of records that could be expected in response to the FOIA request.



Appendix B. North American Wetlands Conservation Act-funded projects carried out in the Prairie Habitat Joint Venture, 1991-2015. An “x” in the fourth column indicates the final report was received in response to McGraw’s Freedom of Information Act request.

USFWS Project Number	Year	Project Name	Grantee	Final Report Received
3	1991	Allan/Tiger/Minichinas Hills	DUC	x
1	1991	Aspen Parkland Biome	DUC	x
5	1991	Cutknife Uplands	DUC	x
10	1991	Killarney	DUC	x
8	1991	Minnedosa	DUC	x
2	1991	Quill Lake/Touchwood/Beaver Hills	DUC	x
7	1991	Shoal Lake	DUC	x
4	1991	Thickwood Hills	DUC	x
6	1991	Thunder Creek Marshes	DUC	x
9	1991	Virden	DUC	x
22	1991	Peace Parkland Biome	DUC	x
21	1991	Prairie Biome	DUC	x
23	1991	Sucker Lake	DUC	x
55	1991	Allan/Tiger/Minichinas Hills	DUC	
59	1991	Aspen Parkland Biome	DUC	
82	1991	Heritage Marshlands	DUC	
58	1991	Missouri Coteau	DUC	
56	1991	Moose Mountain Uplands	DUC	
57	1991	Pheasant Hills	DUC	
53	1991	Quill Lake/Touchwood/Beaver Hills	DUC	
54	1991	Thunder Creek Marshes	DUC	
30	1992	Allan/Tiger/Minichinas Hills	DUC	x
27	1992	Aspen Parkland Biome	DUC	
31	1992	Cutknife Uplands	DUC	x
32	1992	Killarney	DUC	x
35	1992	Minnedosa	DUC	x
28	1992	Prairie Biome	DUC	x
29	1992	Quill Lake/Touchwood/Beaver Hills	DUC	x
33	1992	Shoal Lake	DUC	x
34	1992	Virden	DUC	x
86	1992	Adopt a Pothole	Delta Waterfowl Foundation	x
84	1992	Peace Parkland Biome	DUC	x
111	1992	Thickwood Hills	DUC	x
129	1993	Alberta Habitat	DUC	x
138	1993	Manitoba Prairie Parkland	DUC	x



132	1993	Saskatchewan Habitat	DUC	x
143	1993	Saskatchewan Habitat Diversity	DUC	x
147	1993	Adopt a Pothole	Delta Waterfowl Foundation	
148	1993	Alberta Habitat	DUC	x
151	1993	Manitoba Prairie Parkland	DUC	x
154	1993	Saskatchewan Habitat	DUC	x
162	1994	Alberta Habitat	DUC	x
166	1994	Manitoba Prairie Parkland	DUC	x
168	1994	Saskatchewan Habitat	DUC	x
173	1994	Alberta Habitat	DUC	x
176	1994	Manitoba Adopt a Pothole	Delta Waterfowl Foundation	x
184	1994	Manitoba Prairie Parkland	DUC	x
177	1994	Saskatchewan Habitat	DUC	x
185	1994	Saskatchewan Prairie Shores	Wildlife Habitat Canada	x
195	1995	Alberta Habitat	DUC	x
201	1995	Manitoba Prairie Parkland	DUC	x
197	1995	Saskatchewan Habitat	DUC	x
206	1995	Alberta Habitat Project	DUC	x
205	1995	Manitoba Adopt a Pothole	Delta Waterfowl Foundation	x
208	1995	Manitoba Prairie Parkland	DUC	x
210	1995	Saskatchewan Habitat	DUC	x
218	1996	Alberta Habitat	DUC	x
221	1996	Manitoba Prairie Parkland	DUC	x
224	1996	Saskatchewan Habitat	DUC	x
230	1996	Adopt a Pothole	Delta Waterfowl Foundation	x
231	1996	Alberta Habitat	DUC	x
238	1996	Manitoba Prairie Parkland	DUC	x
234	1996	Saskatchewan Habitat	DUC	x
217	1996	Saskatchewan Prairie Shores Project	Wildlife Habitat Canada	x
243	1997	Alberta Habitat	DUC	x
245	1997	Saskatchewan Habitat	DUC	x
251	1997	Saskatchewan Prairie Shores	Wildlife Habitat Canada	x
257	1997	Alberta Habitat Project	DUC	x
265	1997	Manitoba Adopt a Pothole	Delta Waterfowl Foundation	x
261	1997	Manitoba Prairie Parkland	DUC	x





259	1997	Saskatchewan Habitat Project	DUC	x
269	1998	Alberta Habitat	DUC	x
249	1998	Manitoba Prairie Parkland	DUC	x
271	1998	Saskatchewan Habitat	DUC	x
275	1998	Saskatchewan Prairie Shores Program	Wildlife Habitat Canada	
1448	1998	Alberta Habitat Project	DUC	x
1460	1998	Manitoba Potholes Plus	Delta Waterfowl Foundation	x
1455	1998	Manitoba Prairie Parkland Project	DUC	x
1451	1998	Saskatchewan Habitat Programs	DUC	x
1457	1998	Saskatchewan Prairie Shores Project	Wildlife Habitat Canada	x
1474	1999	Alberta Habitat Project	DUC	x
1480	1999	Manitoba Prairie Parkland Project	DUC	x
1476	1999	Saskatchewan Habitat Programs	DUC	x
1482	1999	Saskatchewan Prairie Shores Project	Wildlife Habitat Canada	x
1462	1999	Alberta Habitat Project	DUC	x
279	1999	Manitoba Potholes Plus	Delta Waterfowl Foundation	
1465	1999	Manitoba Prairie Parkland Project	DUC	
1473	1999	Saskatchewan Habitat Programs	DUC	x
1472	1999	Saskatchewan Prairie Shores Program	Wildlife Habitat Canada	x
1505	2000	Alberta Habitat Project	DUC	x
1510	2000	Manitoba Prairie Parkland Project	DUC	x
1507	2000	Saskatchewan Habitat Programs	DUC	x
1513	2000	Saskatchewan Prairie Shores Project	Wildlife Habitat Canada	x
1517	2000	Alberta Habitat Project	DUC	x
1523	2000	Manitoba Potholes Plus	Delta Waterfowl Foundation	x
1521	2000	Manitoba Prairie Parkland Project	DUC	x
1515	2000	Saskatchewan Habitat Programs	DUC	x
1525	2000	Saskatchewan Prairie Shores Project	Saskatchewan Watershed Authority	x
1535	2001	Alberta Habitat Project	DUC	x
1539	2001	Manitoba Prairie Parkland Program	DUC	x
1533	2001	Saskatchewan Habitat Programs	DUC	x
1543	2001	Saskatchewan Prairie Shores	Saskatchewan Watershed Authority	x



1593	2001	Prairie Canada Critical Wetland and Upland Habitat	The Nature Conservancy of Canada	x
1698	2001	Alberta Habitat Program	DUC	x
1703	2001	Manitoba Prairie Parkland Project	DUC	x
1704	2001	Potholes Plus Project	Delta Waterfowl Foundation	
1711	2001	Prairie Canada Critical Wetland and Upland Habitat	The Nature Conservancy of Canada	x
1700	2001	Saskatchewan Habitat Program	DUC	x
	2001	Western Boreal Forest Program	DUC	x
1777	2002	Alberta Habitat Program	DUC	x
1781	2002	Manitoba Prairie Parkland Program	DUC	x
1775	2002	Saskatchewan Habitat Program	DUC	x
1787	2002	Saskatchewan Prairie Shores Project	Saskatchewan Watershed Authority	x
1950	2002	Alberta Critical Wetland and Upland Habitat	The Nature Conservancy of Canada	x
1937	2002	Alberta Habitat Program	DUC	
1953	2002	Manitoba Critical Upland and Wetland Habitat	The Nature Conservancy of Canada	x
1939	2002	Manitoba Prairie Parkland Program	DUC	
1944	2002	Potholes Plus Project	Delta Waterfowl Foundation	x
1946	2002	Saskatchewan Critical Wetland and Upland Habitat	The Nature Conservancy of Canada	x
1941	2002	Saskatchewan Habitat Program	DUC	
	2002	Western Boreal Forest Program	DUC	x
2303	2003	Alberta Habitat Program	DUC	
2309	2003	Manitoba Prairie Parkland Program	DUC	
2305	2003	Saskatchewan Habitat Program	DUC	
2313	2003	Saskatchewan Prairie Shores Project	Saskatchewan Watershed Authority	x
2488	2003	Alberta Critical Wetland and Upland Habitat	The Nature Conservancy of Canada	x
2479	2003	Alberta Habitat Program	DUC	
2485	2003	Manitoba Prairie Parkland Program	DUC	



2483	2003	Potholes Plus Project	Delta Waterfowl Foundation	x
2477	2003	Saskatchewan Habitat Program	DUC	
	2003	Western Boreal Forest Program	DUC	x
2691	2004	Alberta Habitat Program	DUC	
2697	2004	Manitoba Prairie Parkland Program	DUC	
2693	2004	Saskatchewan Habitat Program	DUC	
2699	2004	Saskatchewan Prairie Shores Project	Saskatchewan Watershed Authority	x
2875	2004	Alberta Critical Wetland and Upland Habitat	The Nature Conservancy of Canada	x
2866	2004	Alberta Habitat Program	DUC	
2880	2004	Manitoba Critical Wetland and Upland Habitat	The Nature Conservancy of Canada	x
2869	2004	Manitoba Prairie Parkland Program	DUC	
2864	2004	Saskatchewan Habitat Program	DUC	
2878	2004	Saskatchewan Prairie Wetlands and Uplands	The Nature Conservancy of Canada	x
	2004	Western Boreal Forest Program	DUC	x
3060	2005	Alberta Habitat Program	DUC	
3066	2005	Manitoba Prairie Parkland Program	DUC	
3072	2005	Potholes Plus Project	Delta Waterfowl Foundation	
3062	2005	Saskatchewan Habitat Program	DUC	
3068	2005	Saskatchewan Prairie Shores Project	Saskatchewan Watershed Authority	x
3331	2005	Alberta Critical Wetland and Upland Habitat	The Nature Conservancy of Canada	x
3323	2005	Alberta Habitat Program	DUC	
3327	2005	Manitoba Prairie Parkland Program	DUC	
3330	2005	Potholes Plus Project	Delta Waterfowl Foundation	
3325	2005	Saskatchewan Habitat Program	DUC	
	2005	Western Boreal Forest Program	DUC	x
3379	2006	Alberta Habitat Program	DUC	
3390	2006	Critical Wetland and Upland Habitat - Alberta	The Nature Conservancy of Canada	x



3383	2006	Manitoba Critical Wetland and Upland Habitat	The Nature Conservancy of Canada	x
3385	2006	Potholes Plus Project	Delta Waterfowl Foundation	x
3375	2006	Saskatchewan Habitat Program	DUC	
3388	2006	Saskatchewan Wetlands and Uplands	The Nature Conservancy of Canada	x
3640	2006	Prairie - Western Boreal Region Habitat Program	DUC	x
3643	2006	Prairie Canada Wetlands and Uplands 2006-3	The Nature Conservancy of Canada	x
3680	2007	Prairie - Western Boreal Region Habitat Program	DUC	x
3933	2007	Potholes Plus Project	Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation	
3927	2007	Prairie - Western Boreal Region Habitat Program	DUC	x
3930	2007	Prairie Canada Wetlands and Uplands	The Nature Conservancy of Canada	x
3964	2008	Prairie - Western Boreal Habitat Program	DUC	x
4243	2008	Candian Prairie/Parkland and Western Boreal Habitat Program	DUC	x
4577	2009	DUC Canadian Prairie/Parkland and Western Boreal Habitat Program	DUC	x
4576	2009	Potholes Plus Project	Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation	x
4852	2010	Candian Prairie/Parkland and Western Boreal Habitat Program	DUC	x
4853	2010	Potholes Plus Project	Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation	x
5155	2011	Candian Prairie/Parkland and Western Boreal Habitat Program 2011-3	DUC	x
5159	2011	Potholes Plus Project	Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation	x
5388	2012	PHJV Canadian Prairie Parkland and Western Boreal Habitat Program	DUC	



5391	2012	Potholes Plus Program	Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation	
5392	2012	Prairie Canada Wetlands and Uplands	The Nature Conservancy of Canada	x
5624	2013	Canadian Prairie/Parkland and Western Boreal Habitat Program 2013-3	DUC	
5630	2013	NCC Prairies: Protecting Wetlands and Uplands 2013-3	The Nature Conservancy of Canada	x
5629	2013	Potholes Plus Project 2013-3	Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation	
5890	2014	Canadian Prairie/Parkland and Western Boreal Habitat Program 2014-3	DUC	
5883	2014	DUC - Allan/Dana Hills Landscape 2014-3	DUC	x
5884	2014	DUC - Virden/Lightning Landscape 2014-3	DUC	x
5885	2014	Manitoba Prairie Parkland Macondo Oil Spill Mitigation Project	Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation	x
5894	2014	NCC - Prairies: Protecting Wetlands and Uplands 2014-3	The Nature Conservancy of Canada	
5896	2014	Potholes Plus Project 2014-3	Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation	
5988	2015	Canadian Prairie/Parkland and Western Boreal Habitat Program 2015-2	DUC	
5989	2015	DUC - Killarney Landscape 2015-2	DUC	
5992	2015	DUC - Touchwood Hills/Conjuring Creek Landscape 2015-2	DUC	
5994	2015	NCC Missouri Coteau, SK: Protecting Wetland and Upland Habitat 2015-2	The Nature Conservancy of Canada	
5995	2015	NCC Prairies: Protecting Wetlands and Uplands 2015-2	The Nature Conservancy of Canada	
5998	2015	Potholes Plus Project 2015-2	Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation	







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