

NORTH AMERICAN

WETLANDS

CONSERVATION ACT

project flash

Iowa Partnership Receives \$50,000 for Wetlands Project

On June 9, 2004, the North American Wetlands Conservation Council reported to the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission that it had approved **\$50,000** in funding under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act's Small Grants Program for the **Turkey Run Wildlife Area Wetland Development Project** in Iowa's Lee County in **Congressional District 2**. The Act is nonregulatory and calls for voluntary partnerships to develop and implement wetlands and associated uplands conservation projects to benefit wildlife. Projects must meet certain biological criteria to be considered for funding, and partners must be able to match the grant request 1:1 with nonfederal funds.

The 232-acre Turkey Run Wildlife Area is situated on a steeply rolling bluff and bottomland area of the Des Moines River. Woodlands, prairie, and riparian wetlands are the habitats found here. In early 2004, the Lee County Conservation Board obtained ownership of Turkey Run. The board and its partners Pheasant Forever, Inc., Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and Dupont Community Foundation will use their grant and **\$263,000** in matching funds to restore the property's wetlands and associated uplands, complementing other such activities occurring on USDA Wetland Conservation Reserve Program projects throughout the Des Moines River corridor. The ultimate goal is to provide breeding waterfowl with quality nesting cover and brood-rearing habitat. The wetland restoration activities also will contribute to improving the river's water quality.

Partner's work will provide approximately **64 acres** of habitat for **Mississippi Flyway** mallards, northern pintails, lesser scaup, American wigeons, ring-necked ducks, American black ducks, and redheads. Henslow's, LeConte's, and grasshopper sparrows, American bittern, sedge and marsh wrens, stilt and white-rumped sandpipers, king rail, common tern, and greater yellowlegs also will take advantage of the partners' efforts. Several state-listed species such as least shrew, bobcat, copperhead snake, and Indiana bat also may benefit. The partners' work also will help to advance the conservation goals of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan's **Upper Mississippi River & Great Lakes Joint Venture**.

For more information about this project, contact James B. Wooley, Pheasants Forever, Inc., jwooley@lisco.com, (641) 774-2238, or Keith Morehouse, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, keith_morehouse@fws.gov, (703) 358-1784.

DIVISION OF BIRD HABITAT
CONSERVATION
NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS
CONSERVATION COUNCIL
4401 NORTH FAIRFAX DRIVE
MAIL STOP 4075
ARLINGTON, VA 22203
birdhabitat.fws.gov • 703/358-1784

