

NORTH AMERICAN

WETLANDS

CONSERVATION ACT

project flash

Ohio 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 **Northeast Ohio Coastal Wetland and Native Grassland Project in Ohio's Trumbull County in Congressional District 14**. 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.

In December 2001, the project partners, including Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Division of Wildlife (Division), Ducks Unlimited, Inc., National Wild Turkey Federation, Grand River Partners, and Pheasants Forever, Inc., acquired a 496-acre property known as the Horvat Tract. This property was permanently protected by deeding it to the Division as part of the Mosquito Creek Wildlife Area. The current project will enhance 369 acres of palustrine emergent marsh in the Horvat Tract by installing water-control devices that will allow improved water-level management and, thus, the regeneration of wetland vegetation. Partners also will restore 52 acres of native prairie grassland. They added **\$1,275,026** to the grant amount to accomplish their project goals.

Located at the intersection of the **Mississippi and Atlantic Flyways**, the proposal area is an important midlatitude staging area for many migrating waterfowl species, including northern pintail, American black duck, mallard, lesser and greater scaups, wood duck, redhead, canvasback, ring-necked duck, American wigeon, and Southern James Bay Canada goose. More than 40 other species of migratory birds will use habitat enhanced through this project, including the bald eagle, federally listed as threatened and state-listed as endangered. Also, population surveys conducted in 2003 confirmed that the project area hosts one of the last remaining Ohio populations of the eastern massasauga rattlesnake, proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act.

Partners' efforts will complement work conducted under a previous Act-funded project in which partners restored 850 wetland acres adjacent to the current project area. Their work contributes to the habitat objectives of the Division, the North American Waterfowl Management Plan's **Upper Mississippi River & Great Lakes Joint Venture, Partners in Flight, U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan**, and **North American Waterbird Conservation Plan**.

For more information about this project, contact Steve Barry, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife, steve.barry@dnr.state.oh.us, (419) 625-8062, or Keith Morehouse, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, keith_morehouse@fws.gov, (703) 358-1784.

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