

NORTH AMERICAN

WETLANDS

CONSERVATION ACT

# project flash

## Oregon Partnership Receives \$1,000,000 for Wetlands Project

On September 8, 2004, the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, as authorized under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, approved **\$1,000,000** in funding for the **Lake County Closed Basin Project** in **Oregon's Lake County** in **Congressional District 2**. The Act is nonregulatory and calls for voluntary partnerships to develop and implement wetlands and associated uplands 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. This project's partnership exceeded the required match with **\$1,169,393** and added **\$573,775** more in nonmatching funds.

Partners will conserve vital habitats within the North American Waterfowl Management Plan's **Intermountain West Joint Venture** Closed Basin Focus Area. Closed watersheds, often containing extensive marsh habitats, are separated from adjacent closed basins by as much as 100 miles of desert and mountains. The quantity and quality of the basin's wetlands fluctuate with climatic conditions. Hundreds of thousands of **Pacific Flyway** migratory birds are dependent on these dynamic marsh systems.

Partners will restore and enhance some 5,230 acres of wetlands and associated uplands and riparian habitat on public and private lands in the Goose Lake, Summer Lake, and Warner Basins. They also will acquire a conservation easement to protect 400 acres of these habitats. Work activities include building livestock-exlosures and providing alternate livestock water sources along riparian areas, repairing stream banks and installing bank-grade stabilization structures, planting willows, and repairing and extending wetland berms.

Species passing through the project area, including northern pintails, greater white-fronted geese, wood ducks, cinnamon teal, black-crowned night-herons, and white-faced ibises, will benefit. Restored meadows will offer nesting areas for gadwalls and sandhill cranes. Work along Thomas, Drew's, and Cottonwood Creeks will significantly affect several sensitive species of Goose Lake fish needing the streams for spawning and juvenile rearing habitat.

Project partners include Ducks Unlimited, Inc., Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Bud Garrett, Mike McFarland, Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation, Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District, Oregon Hunters Association, Glender Hydro Tech Services, an anonymous foundation, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

*For more information about this project, contact Michael Shannon, Regional Biologist, Ducks Unlimited, Inc., (541) 884-3449, [mshannon@ducks.org](mailto:mshannon@ducks.org), or David Buie, Standard Grants Program Proposal Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, (301) 497-5870, [david\\_buie@fws.gov](mailto:david_buie@fws.gov).*

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