

STAFF SUMMARY FOR JUNE 24-25, 2020

23. DUCK STAMP PROPOSALS (CONSENT)**Today's Item**Information Action

Consider approving proposed projects for Duck Stamp Account funds in Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions (N/A)**Background**

Pursuant to Fish and Game Code sections 3702-3705, FGC must approve any projects for Duck Stamp Account expenditures; funds deposited in the account shall be used for projects or endowments to protect, preserve, restore, enhance, and develop migratory waterfowl breeding and wintering habitat, evaluate habitat projects, and conduct waterfowl resource assessments and other waterfowl related research.

DFW annually requests and reviews proposals for projects that meet the statutory goals of this dedicated account, which are reviewed by the DFW Duck Stamp Advisory Committee and then submitted to FGC as a list of recommended projects. Exhibits 1 and 2 contain an overview and summary of the proposed projects for consideration and approval for funding with Duck Stamp Account funds in FY 2020-21.

For FY 2020-21, spending authority for the fund is \$2,500,000. DFW proposes three new projects totaling \$2,040,000. A total of 10 projects are proposed, including the mandatory allocation to Canada for the purposes of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 3704.

Significant Public Comments (N/A)**Recommendation**

FGC staff: Under a motion to adopt the consent calendar, approve DFW's recommendations.

DFW: Approve the projects identified in Exhibit 2 for funding from the Duck Stamp Account in FY 2020-21.

Exhibits

1. [DFW memo](#), received Jun 11, 2020
2. [DFW summary of recommended projects for FY 2020-21 California Duck Stamp Account funding](#), received May 22, 2020

Motion/Direction

Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ that the Commission adopts the staff recommendations for items 19-23 on the consent calendar.

Memorandum

Updated memo received June 11, 2020
Signature on file

Date: May 28, 2020

To: Melissa Miller-Henson
Executive Director
Fish and Game Commission

From: Charlton H. Bonham
Director

Subject: **Agenda Item for the June 25, 2020, Fish and Game Commission Meeting Duck Stamp Proposals for Fiscal Year 2020-21**

Pursuant to Fish and Game Code § 3702-3705, the Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) submits the attached summary of proposed projects to the Fish and Game Commission (Commission) for consideration and approval for funding with the Duck Stamp Dedicated Account funds for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21. These projects were reviewed by the Department and the Duck Stamp Advisory Committee.

The Account's estimated beginning balance will be \$4,736,633 on July 1, 2020, which includes the estimated revenue of \$1,338,795 from the sale of duck stamps during FY 2019-20. The Department proposes to spend revenues to accomplish the goals established for the Duck Stamp Dedicated Account as authorized.

For FY 2020-21, spending authority for expenditures from this fund are \$2,500,000. This is an increase of \$1,000,000 for this FY only to spend down the reserve while still maintaining the required amount for economic uncertainty. After deducting the required administrative overhead costs (limited to 6% per §3701 or \$82,728), the mandated amount portioned to Canada (\$2.25 per stamp/validation per §3704 or \$139,037) a total of \$2,278,235 is available for new and ongoing projects.

The Department is proposing three new projects for funding totaling \$2,040,000. The attached list includes all projects recommended, including ongoing projects (approved in past years) for continued authorization. The new and ongoing projects in California total \$2,278,235. This figure includes contingency funding to allow for emergencies or project costs that differ slightly from the original estimates.

As always, the Department appreciates the Commission's consideration of our proposal and requests its approval for funding of the noted projects totaling \$2.5 million dollars.

Melissa Miller-Henson, Executive Director
Fish and Game Commission
May 28, 2019
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If you have any questions regarding this item, please contact Kevin Shaffer, Acting Chief, Wildlife Branch, at (916) 768-3758.

Attachment

ec: Department of Fish and Wildlife

Stafford Lehr, Deputy Director
Wildlife and Fisheries Division
Stafford.Lehr@wildlife.ca.gov

Kevin Shaffer, Acting Chief
Wildlife Branch
Kevin.Shaffer@wildlife.ca.gov

Brad Burkholder
Game Program Manager
Wildlife Branch
Brad.Burkholder@wildlife.ca.gov

Melanie Weaver
Waterfowl Program Lead
Wildlife Branch
Melanie.Weaver@wildlife.ca.gov

Tyrone Williams, Chief
Budget Branch
Tyrone.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov

FILE: D, DD-WFD

**Summary of Department Recommendations
For FY 2020-21 California Duck Stamp
(project costs rounded to nearest dollar)**

Canada Habitat Project

Wetland and Upland Conservation – Alberta/Saskatchewan, Canada.....\$139,037

Establish a conservation easement and or restore wetlands associated with key breeding uplands in Alberta for pintail. Specific project parameters are still in development with the landowner. This project will also be matched by North America Wetland Conservation Act dollars.

Ongoing Projects - California

Duck Banding (pintail and mallards) – California Waterfowl Association..... \$64,000

This is a cooperative project to maintain sufficient banded samples of pintail and mallards to assess harvest and survival rates, as well as inputs for the Western Mallard Model.

CA VCF Portion of Breeding Population Survey..... \$45,000

This project will continue the survey to estimate visibility correction factors for the California waterfowl breeding population survey.

Tule Greater White-fronted Goose Population Study..... \$7,000

This project will continue ongoing population estimation, habitat use, and distribution by purchasing and marking birds with radio transmitters.

Department of Fish and Wildlife – Internal Expenditures \$90,000

This funding provides the match for the Pittman Robertson Act funding for the Waterfowl Program in the Wildlife Branch.

Department of Fish and Wildlife – Duck Stamp Administration \$2,500

This funding provides for the delivery of physical stamps to purchasers, as required under Fish and Game Code, and other administrative charges related to ALDS.

Department of Fish and Wildlife – Contingency Fund..... \$29,735

This funding provides the ability to cover for emergencies (drought related or otherwise) and or cost overruns on new and existing projects. The Fish and Game Commission approved the expenditure of \$50,000 to contribute to an easement in conjunction with the Intermountain West Joint Venture, located in northeastern California that protects staging habitat for waterfowl from FY 2018-19. However; funds had to be diverted to cover costs of printing and distributing regulation booklets. The Department intends to contribute to the easement this fiscal year.

New Projects – California

Pintail Harvest Strategy Analysis and Review \$150,000

Contract with experienced waterfowl statistician to review and analyze revised pintail harvest strategy (in development) to ensure regulations allow for hunting opportunity commensurate with population status.

Butte Valley Wildlife Area – Solar Array Project \$890,000

Maintain 2,190 wetland acres by installing a solar array as a means for pumping water to flood the area. The array is estimated to generate \$35-40,000 in useable power credits annually. The electricity credit frees up existing budgets to expand managed wetlands including brood ponds.

Yolo Basin Wildlife Area – Green’s Lake Water Conveyance Improvement....\$1,000,000

Establish a reliable water delivery infrastructure by installing water control structures, HDPE pipe and gates, and vegetation removal.