

## STAFF SUMMARY FOR JUNE 16-17, 2021

**7. DUCK STAMPS (CONSENT)****Today's Item**Information Action 

Consider approving proposed projects for the Duck Stamp Dedicated Account funds in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22.

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

Pursuant to California Fish and Game Code sections 3702-3705, FGC must approve any projects funded by the Duck Stamp Account; the funds 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 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 in FY 2021-22.

For FY 2021-22, spending authority for the fund is \$1,500,000. DFW proposes funding 6 new projects totaling \$863,266. A total of 13 projects are proposed, including continued authorization for ongoing projects and the mandatory allocation to Canada for the purposes of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 3704. The new and ongoing projects in California total \$1,258,156; this figure includes contingency funding for emergencies (drought or other) or project costs that differ slightly from the original estimates.

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

**FGC staff:** Under a motion to adopt the consent calendar, approve the proposed FY 2021-22 funding from the Duck Stamp Dedicated Account as recommended by DFW.

**DFW:** Approve the projects identified in Exhibit 2 for funding from the Duck Stamp Dedicated Account in FY 2021-22.

**Exhibits**

1. [DFW memo, received Jun 1, 2021](#)
2. [DFW summary of recommendations for FY 2021-22 California duck stamp funding, received Jun 1, 2021](#)

**Motion**

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ that the Commission adopts the staff recommendations for items 3-7 on the consent calendar.

**State of California**  
**Department of Fish and Wildlife**

Received June 1, 2021.  
Original signed copy on file.

**M e m o r a n d u m**

Date: May 17, 2021

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

From: Charlton H. Bonham  
Director

Subject: **Agenda Item for the June 16, 2021, Fish and Game Commission Meeting Duck Stamp Proposals for Fiscal Year 2021-22**

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) 2021-22. These projects were reviewed by the Department and the Duck Stamp Advisory Committee.

The Account's estimated beginning balance will be \$3,778,212 on July 1, 2021, which includes the estimated revenue of \$1,389,584 from the sale of duck stamps during FY 2020-21. The Department proposes to spend revenues to accomplish the goals established for the Duck Stamp Dedicated Account as authorized.

For FY 2021-22, spending authority for expenditures from this fund are \$1,500,000. After deducting the required administrative overhead costs (limited to 6% per §3701 or \$85,268), the mandated amount portioned to Canada (\$2.25 per stamp/validation per §3704 or \$156,578) a total of \$1,258,156 is available for new and ongoing projects.

The Department is proposing six new projects for funding totaling \$863,266. 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 \$1,258,156. This figure includes contingency funding to allow for emergencies (drought or other) 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 \$1.5 million dollars.

Melissa Miller-Henson, Executive Director  
Fish and Game Commission  
May 17, 2021  
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If you have any questions regarding this item, please contact Scott Gardner, Chief, Wildlife Branch, at (916) 801-6257.

Attachment

ec: Department of Fish and Wildlife

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**Summary of Department Recommendations  
For FY 2021-22 California Duck Stamp  
(project costs rounded to nearest dollar)**

**Canada Habitat Project**

**Wetland and Upland Conservation – Alberta/Saskatchewan, Canada .....\$156,578**

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 .....\$67,000**

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; a helicopter is leased for this portion of 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 .....\$2,800**

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 .....\$83,090**

This funding provides the ability to cover for emergencies (drought related or otherwise) and or cost overruns on new and existing projects.

**Pintail Harvest Strategy Analysis and Review .....\$100,000**

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. This has been recommended for the past 2 fiscal years in anticipation of a draft strategy for consideration.

**New Projects – California**

**Ash Creek Wildlife Area – Enhancement Project .....\$132,954**

Enhance 375 wetland acres by replacing water structures, swales and other earthwork to improve drainage and movement as well as discing.

**Lower Klamath NWR-Unit 2 Pump Station .....\$216,875**

Establish a reliable water delivery infrastructure by installing a traveling screen and associated infrastructure.

**Delevan NWR-Tracts 34 and 35 .....\$185,284**

Enhance 191 wetland and 10 upland acres by conducting a topo survey, addition of new water structure, earthwork, levee improvement, prescribed burn, and native plantings.

**Island Slough WA-Units 1 and 2.....\$122,847**

Enhance 100 ac of wetlands by removing levees and water structures to create a single unit, regrading, replacement of water structure and removal of damaged lift station.

**Merced NWR-South.....\$205,306**

Enhance 1,500 wetland acres by replacing pipe and pump bowl, and water structures.