

RESOLUTION

To provide direction in establishing clear guidelines for entities proposing waterfowl breeding habitat conservation in North America with Louisiana hunter based funding.

Adopted by the
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
June 3, 2021

- WHEREAS, according to Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes, 104:A.(1) “An amount equal to ten percent of the fees collected from the sale of hunting licenses shall be dedicated by the commission to the development and preservation of breeding grounds for migratory waterfowl, the funds to be expended for such purposes through Ducks Unlimited, Inc. or under the direction of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission (LWFC) at its discretion”; and,
- WHEREAS, the Prairie Pothole Region (PPR) of North America provides critical breeding habitat for many waterfowl species important to Louisiana and the nation’s waterfowl hunters, including over 60% of the breeding population of mallard, gadwall, blue-winged teal, northern shoveler, northern pintail, redhead, and canvasback; and,
- WHEREAS, sixty to 90 percent of the original native **grasslands** have been **lost**, and **loss** of native and restored **grassland** continues today in the PPR by conversion to row crop agriculture, with little value to breeding waterfowl; and,
- WHEREAS, fifty to 90% of wetlands in the PPR have been drained to maximize crop acreage, further reducing breeding waterfowl habitat; and
- WHEREAS, Louisiana is a full participant in the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) “Fall Flights”, a powerful partnership for state fish and wildlife agencies to fund critical migratory waterfowl conservation work on the Canadian breeding grounds; and,
- WHEREAS, permanent protection or acquisition of breeding waterfowl habitat is the most significant tool to conserve waterfowl and other wetland wildlife species, as well as maintain the ecosystem goods and services associated with wetland and associated upland nesting habitat conservation; and,
- WHEREAS, financial support for maintenance and management of waterfowl habitat resources can be acquired through other grants and resources once permanent protection is afforded; and,
- WHEREAS, Prairie Habitat (Canada) and Prairie Pothole (U.S.) Joint Venture maps of duck breeding density and band recovery data from Louisiana harvested waterfowl currently provide the most reliable information to determine priority breeding waterfowl habitats within the PPR for investment of LWFC provided funds; and,
- WHEREAS, cash originating from conservation entities (new money) creates added capacity to leverage funding through NAWCA or other sources to acquire or protect breeding waterfowl habitat; and,
- WHEREAS, indirect rates should be consistent with North American Waterfowl Conservation Act (NAWCA) funding guidelines, corresponding to the grant year of submittal; and,
- WHEREAS, performance reports on migratory waterfowl breeding grounds habitat protection and acquisition projects should reflect only the projects funded utilizing LWFC awards (including other combined associated cash contributions); so,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby requires all conservation entities seeking LWFC provided funding awards for waterfowl breeding grounds conservation purposes to provide a minimum contribution equivalent to the amount of their request, to match and further leverage LWFC provided funding awards, with such awards to be used solely to purchase through fee title or permanent conservation easement, breeding waterfowl habitat in the PPR, prioritized according to results from Prairie Habitat and Prairie Pothole Joint Venture maps of duck breeding density and Louisiana-harvested band-recovery data, until other improved methods are determined.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that indirect rates shall be consistent with NAWCA funding guidelines corresponding to the grant year of submittal, and that annual performance reports on migratory waterfowl breeding grounds habitat protection and acquisition projects should reflect only the projects funded utilizing LWFC awards (including other associated cash contributions).

Jerri G. Smitko, Chairman
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission