

Dream Tags Charitable Fund Open Request for Proposal

Cover Sheet

Organization Name: Ducks Unlimited, Inc.		Office Use Only		
Organization Type: 501(c)(3) EIN# 13-5643799 Governmental entity? Y (N)		Date received:		
Address: 3074 Gold Canal Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670		Project #		
Project Name: Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge Water Conveyance Improvement Project Is this proposal being submitted as an Emergency funding request? (Circle one) Yes / (N) No		Grant Amount:		
Amount requested: \$52,969		Website: www.ducks.org		
Project start date (mm/yyyy): 01/2020		Projected completion date (mm/yyyy): 12/2021		
This funding will be used to (complete this sentence with a max of 2 sentences): Dream Tag funding will be used to construct a pump station along a rehabilitated water delivery canal to improve flexibility in water management and enhance an additional 1,109 acres of wetland and associated uplands on Stillwater NWR.				
Key People:	Director:	Doug Schoenrock		
	Board Chair:	Rogers Hoyt, Jr.		
	Project Contact:	Name:	Amelia Raquel	
		Position:	Biologist - Intermountain West	
		Phone:	916-201-1834	
		Fax:		
Email:		araquel@ducks.org		
Organization Mission: Ducks Unlimited conserves, restores, and manages wetlands and associated habitats for North America's waterfowl. These habitats also benefit other wildlife and people.				
Project is on (check all that apply) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private land .				
Are government permits or decision documents needed for the project? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If so, are those permits and decision documents already secured? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If permits and decision documents are needed but not yet secured, in #4 of the Narrative Requirements provide a list of permits and documents needed and a schedule for securing them.				
Has your organization received other grants from the Dream Tags Fund? Yes (N) No (use additional pages to list ALL funded projects)	If yes,			
	Date awarded:			
	Project # & title:			
	Amount of Award:			
	Date awarded:			
	Project # & title:			
Amount of Award:				

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT UNDER CONSIDERATION

Indicate the description that best fits the project you are proposing. Mark no more than three categories:

_X_A. Projects that improve, protect, or restore habitat

_X_B. Projects that embrace unique opportunities for advancing the mission of wildlife conservation in Nevada

_C. Projects that address emergent needs

_D. Other projects that meet the evaluation criteria.

NARRATIVE REQUIREMENTS

1. Project Goals and Measurable Outcomes

The Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) Water Conveyance Improvement project will enhance 2,325 acres of habitat. Match funded work will enhance 1,216 acres, 1,166 acres of palustrine emergent wetlands and 50 acres of wetland-associated uplands (islands and isolated peninsulas within the seasonal and semi-permanent wetlands) through rehabilitating the Navy-Cabin Drain. Proposed grant-funded work will enhance an additional 1,109 acres, 995 acres of palustrine emergent wetlands and 114 acres of wetland-associated uplands, by constructing a propane-powered pump station to improve water delivery.

2. Project Location

The Stillwater NWR is located in the northeastern portion of the Lahontan Valley, outside of Fallon, NV (Figure 1). Stillwater NWR supports 25,000 acres of wetlands and is one of several key wetland sites in the continentally important Lahontan Valley. These wetlands are part of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) – designated *Southern Oregon Northeast California (SONEC) Wetland Basins and Carson Sink*, one of 43 areas of greatest continental significance to North American ducks, geese, and swans. Not only is Stillwater NWR important for waterfowl, but it is also designated a site of international importance by the Western Hemispheric Shorebird Reserve Network because it supports hundreds of thousands of shorebirds during migration, namely Long-billed Dowitchers, Black-necked Stilts, and American Avocets. As an oasis in the desert, Stillwater NWR also supports native wildlife such as mule deer, coyotes, squirrels, rabbits, lizards and snakes. The project focuses on enhancement work on the Navy Cabin Drain which parallels Navy Cabin Road and will benefit Lead Lake, and South Nutgrass, and Tule Lake units within the NWR (Figure 2). These units are open to public access and provide opportunities for hunting, boating, bird watching, photography, and nature study.

3. Project Description

Stillwater NWR has been purchasing surface water rights to Carson River water from willing sellers over the past number of years. This water (approximately 24,500 acre-feet) is stored in U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) Lahontan Reservoir, a component of Reclamation's Newlands Project (Project). Water is delivered to the Refuge through Project canals by the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District (TCID) to meet the Refuge's wetland management objectives.

Within the last ten years, Refuge staff filled portions of the Navy Cabin Drain when they thought the canal was no longer needed as a water drainage and conveyance mechanism on Stillwater NWR. However, since the partial filling of the canal, Refuge staff have learned that when the adjoining Stillwater Farms drains its wetlands as part of its annual habitat management, without being able to flow its tail water down the Navy Cabin Drain as it historically had done over the years, the water flows into the Refuge's Lead Lake, whether the water is desired there or not. This has resulted in the development of an extensive cattail bed in Lead Lake that provides minimal habitat value. Re-establishment of the Navy Cabin Drain will provide the Refuge with the ability to receive Stillwater Farms' water again and deliver it where desired, whether that be to Lead Lake or the South Nutgrass unit (or other associated units) at the east end of the drain, using the water for their own wetland habitat management purposes. Therefore, DU has secured North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) funds to re-establish the Navy Cabin Drain to improve the Refuge's water delivery and drainage capabilities and enhance habitat that is vital to spring migrating waterfowl, waterbirds, shorebirds, and landbirds in the Pacific Flyway as well as those which use the Refuge's wetlands for breeding, molting, and during fall migration. Wetland enhancement work includes removing a ditch plug from the Navy Cabin Drain canal and replacing it with a flashboard riser-type water control structure and culvert (collectively WCS throughout this proposal), cleaning a series of 24-inch diameter siphons, clearing emergent vegetation growth from 6,500 feet of the canal, re-establishing approximately 9,500 feet of previously filled canal with an approximately 12-foot wide by 4-foot deep canal capable of carrying flows up to 25 cubic feet per second (CFS), and installing two additional WCS in the canal to deliver water to adjacent units.

With the re-establishment of the Navy Cabin Drain, the Refuge will have a renewed water conveyance alternative to provide water for wetland management purposes, however, the topography of the drain and surrounding units requires large amounts of water to build up within the drain to be able to effectively move water through the drain and fill the units. This is time consuming and requires more water to effectively manage units across the refuge. Therefore, a pump station at the west end of the Navy Cabin Drain, which is the subject of this proposal, would pump water and divert it into an existing delivery canal providing greater flexibility and water management capability to fill the Tule Lake Unit, and associated units on the refuge. This will increase the efficiency and improve water delivery to an additional 1,109 acres further improving the Refuge's wetland management capabilities to enhance habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, and other waterbirds.

4. Permitting

As a requirement of the NAWCA funding, rehabilitation of the Navy Cabin Drain has already undergone clearance under the National Environmental Protection Act including compliance with the Section 7 of Endangered Species Act, and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

5. Future Phases

There will be no future phases of this specific project, although, there may be additional projects on Stillwater NWR that enhance wetland habitat for migratory birds for which NV Dream Tag funding may be sought.

6. Principals Involved

- Amelia Raquel, DU Regional Biologist, who will coordinate day to day project activities between Stillwater NWR and DU;
- Jesse Ross, DU Regional Engineer, who will coordinate all survey, design, and construction related activities between Stillwater NWR and DU;
- Daniel Gibbs, DU Regional Engineer, who will assist Jesse Ross to coordinate all survey, design, and construction related activities between Stillwater NWR and DU, as needed;
- Virginia Getz, DU Manager of Conservation Programs for Western Regional Office, who will provide project managerial support and oversight as needed;
- Vince Thompson, DU Senior Regional Engineer, who will provide project engineering support and oversight as needed;

7. Staff Positions Involved

Three part-time staff will be dedicated to this project as described in the principals above. Jesse Ross, Daniel Gibbs, and Amelia Raquel, will be dedicated to ensuring this project reaches completion. The proposed project will comprise a limited portion of each staff's workload; therefore, we list 3 "part-time" positions involved even though each staff position is held by a full-time permanent employee.

8. Volunteers Involved

There are no volunteers involved in this project.

9. Timeline

The portion of the project to re-establish the Navy Cabin Drain has already been surveyed and designed by DU engineers starting in January 2020. If funds are received for the pump station portion, that can be designed immediately after receipt of funds. Both portions of the project can then be constructed concurrently in the summer of 2021 for the project to be completed by December 2021.

10. Success

Stillwater NWR Navy Cabin Water Conveyance Improvement Project will be considered a success if the Navy Cabin Drain is re-established thereby enhancing 1,166 acres of palustrine emergent wetlands and 50 acres of wetland-associated uplands (islands and isolated peninsulas within the seasonal and semi-permanent wetlands) and a propane-powered pump station is constructed which improves water management capability and efficiency of 995 acres of palustrine emergent wetlands and 114 acres of wetland-associated uplands.

11. Grant Match

Grant Match				
Match amount to be provided:	\$279,481			
Match details:	Please provide the form of your matching funds. If match is made up of both cash and in-kind, fill in both sections.			
	Match is:			
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%;">Cash</td> <td>\$240,451</td> </tr> <tr> <td>In-kind</td> <td>\$ 39,030</td> </tr> </table> <p>Note: Provide an itemized breakdown of volunteer match in your budget with rationale.</p>	Cash	\$240,451	In-kind
Cash	\$240,451			
In-kind	\$ 39,030			
For the cash portion of your match, is the funding already being held by the applicant for this project? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>				
Description of matching funds/in-kind donations:	Matching cash funds have been secured from the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) to design and construct the Navy-Cabin Drain Rehabilitation Portion of the project. Matching cash has been secured from Couer Mining (CM) and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to cover a portion of the construction cost of the pump station. Matching in-kind funds are being donated by USFWS as part of the cost of construction. Matching in-kind funds are being donated by DU as eligible indirect costs incurred that are not being recovered by either NAWCA or NV Dream Tag grant funds.			

12. Project Budget

	ORIGINAL PROJECT BUDGET				REIMBURSEMENT REPORT	
Budget Item Description	DT \$	Other Funding Name	Match \$	Total	Expenditures to date DT	Expenditures to date (other sources)
Survey/Engineering Design/Project Admin - Canal Rehabilitation		NAWCA	\$37,121	\$37,121		\$22,056
Survey/Engineering Design - Pump Station		CM	\$26,140	\$26,140		
Biological Technical Support - Pump Station		DU	\$5,000	\$5,000		
Construction - Canal Rehabilitation		NAWCA	\$125,550	\$125,550		
Construction - Pump Station	\$47,294	CM	\$38,860	\$86,154		
Construction - Pump Station		USFWS	\$13,000	\$13,000		
Materials - Canal Rehabilitation		NAWCA	\$6,280	\$6,280		
Overhead on NAWCA funds (12%)		NAWCA	\$10,677	\$10,677		
Overhead on NAWCA funds (12%)		DU	\$10,677	\$10,677		
Overhead on DT funds (12%)	\$5,675	DU (5.5% on DT & CM funds)	\$6,176	\$11,851		
TOTAL	\$52,969		\$279,481	\$332,450		\$22,056

Figure 1.

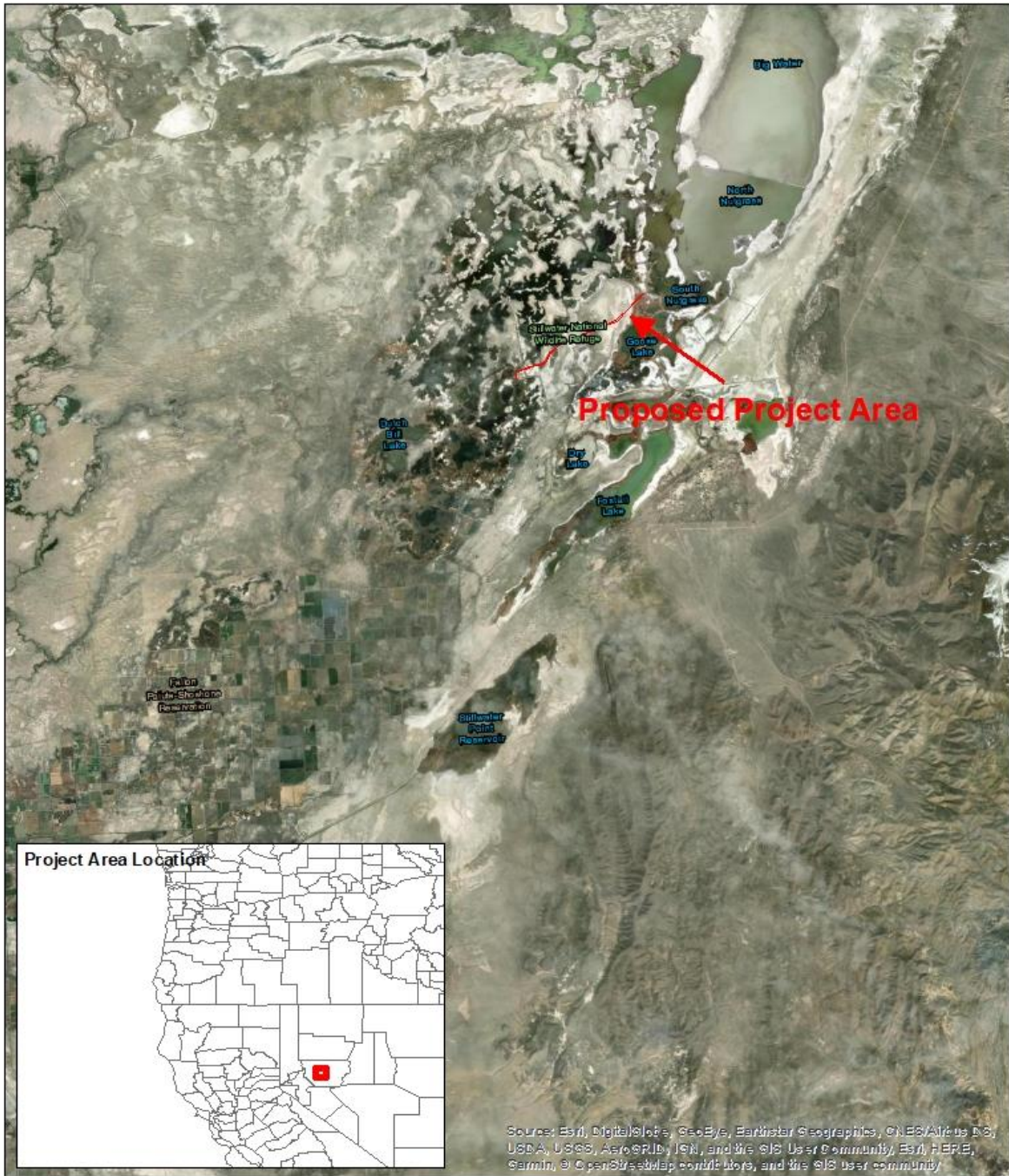


Figure 1. Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge Navy Cabin Drain Enhancement Project Area Map

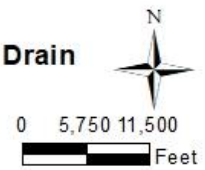





Figure 2.



Figure 2. Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge Proposed Project and Acres Benefitted

-  Proposed Dream Tag-Funded Pump Station
-  NAWCA-Funded Drain Rehabilitation
-  Acres Benefitted

