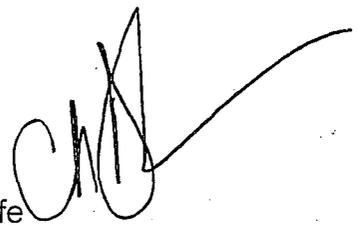


State of California
M e m o r a n d u m

Date: May ⁷/₂, 2014

To: Sonke Mastrup
Executive Director
Fish and Game Commission

From: Charlton H. Bonham
Director
Department of Fish and Wildlife



Subject: Agenda Item for the June 4, 2014, Fish and Game Commission Meeting
Duck Stamp Proposals for FY 2014-2015

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 Duck Stamp Dedicated Account funds in Fiscal Year (FY) 2014-15. These projects were reviewed by the Department and the Duck Stamp Advisory Committee.

As in past years, the Duck Stamp Dedicated Account carries a surplus balance. This surplus is the result of projects not completed due to permitting issues, contract development issues, or cost savings. It is estimated the Account's beginning balance will be \$3,121,000 on July 1, 2014, with estimated revenue of \$1,102,402 from the sale of duck stamps during FY 2014-15 (potential drought effects were factored into the projection). The Department proposes to spend revenues to accomplish the goals established for the Duck Stamp Dedicated Account as authorized under the current spending authority.

For FY 2014-15, spending authority for expenditures from this fund is anticipated to be \$1,513,000. After deducting the required administrative overhead costs (limited to 6% per §3701 or \$90,780) and the mandated amount portioned to Canada (\$2.25 per stamp or validation per §3704 or \$134,377), a total of \$1,287,843 is available for new and ongoing projects.

The Department reviewed 37 project proposals totaling nearly \$2.7 million dollars. The attached list of recommended projects includes ongoing projects approved in past years and recommended for continued authorization, as well as new projects for FY 2014-15. The new and ongoing projects in California total \$1,287,830. This figure includes contingency funding to allow for small 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 \$1,512,987.

Sonke Mastrup, Executive Director
May 2, 2014
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If you have any questions regarding this item, please contact Dr. Eric Loft, Chief, Wildlife Branch, at (916) 445-3555.

Attachment

cc: Department of Fish and Wildlife

Eric Loft, Chief
Wildlife Branch

Craig Stowers, Game Program Manager
Wildlife Branch

Melanie Weaver, Senior Environmental Scientist
Wildlife Branch

Valinda Roberts, Chief
Budget Branch

**Summary of Department Recommendations
For 2014-2015 California Duck Stamp**

Ongoing Projects - California

Duck Banding – California Waterfowl Association	\$30,000
This is a cooperative project to maintain sufficient banded samples of pintail to assess harvest rates.	
Duck Banding	\$20,000
Mallard banding is used for the Western Mallard Model. The model is used to establish the duck hunting frameworks for most ducks in the Pacific Flyway.	
Tule Greater White-fronted Goose Population Study	\$7,000
This project will continue ongoing population estimation, habitat use, and distribution of these special status geese by purchasing and marking birds with radio transmitters.	
Department of Fish and Wildlife – Internal Expenditures	\$85,000
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	\$3,000
The Department recommends these funds to complete 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	\$30,000
The Department recommends this continuing funding to provide for small funding adjustments for authorized projects and to provide flexibility for emergencies as may occur.	

New Projects - Canada

Bulls Trail, Alberta.....	\$134,377
Bulls Trail is in the Cypress landscape which is a pintail priority area and in close proximity to several other California funded projects including Weiss Ranch, East & West Ranch, Hogg CE, Flaig CE and Bullshead Ranch. The property includes 40 acres of wetlands and 489 acres of native grass and riparian areas.	

New Projects – California

Willow Creek Valley Wildlife Area – Field 17.....	\$99,604
Maintain 376 upland and 340 wetland acres by retro-fitting a ditch with new pipe so management of units can continue in an efficient manner.	
Ash Creek Wildlife Area.....	\$122,567
Enhance 112 wetland acres by replacing water structures, rebuilding levees, swales, and potholes.	
Modoc National Wildlife Refuge – West Hansen Meadow	\$69,044
Enhance 55 upland and 25 wetland acres by replacing water structures and earth moving.	

Gray Lodge Wildlife Area – Field 47 W & 48	\$145,979
Maintain 107 wetland and 12 upland acres by replacing water structures, refurbishment of levees, swales, and islands.	
Gray Lodge Wildlife Area – Field 82	\$107,521
Maintain 105 wetland and 19.5 upland acres by refurbishing levees, swales, islands, tules, and replacement of water structures.	
Colusa National Wildlife Refuge – T27.4 phase II.....	\$67,198
Maintain 105 wetland and 20 upland acres by re-contouring swales, check removal, seeding and water structures.	
Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge – P8.2	\$18,410
Maintain 49 wetland acres by earthwork, levees and replacing water structures.	
Napa-Sonoma Wildlife Area – P2	\$95,283
Maintain 844 tidal wetland acres by earthwork and replacing water structures.	
Grizzly Island Wildlife Area – P20	\$149,954
Maintain 230 wetland acres by earthwork, levees, and islands.	
Mendota Wildlife Area – Field 25.....	\$115,646
Maintain 145 wetland acres by earthwork, rebuilding of levees, islands, and seeding.	
Morro Bay Eelgrass Restoration.....	\$49,980
Restore eelgrass on approximately 2 acres in Morro Bay because of the rapid decline in eelgrass beds. Eel grass is essential forage for wintering brant and other water birds.	
Molting Mallard Study	\$33,150
Determine molt locations during years of drought for CA mallards that breed in the Sacramento Valley by marking 9 hens with GPS transmitters. This is a pilot year study to determine the feasibility of following hen mallards during their annual cycle. Expected results will allow managers to identify key molting areas during drought years and provide a great understanding of connectivity among different habitat types. This could also aid in water allocation based on temporal and spatial needs of CA breeding ducks.	