

## STAFF SUMMARY FOR AUGUST 4-5, 2015

**30. DUCK STAMP FUNDING****Today's Item**Information Action 

Approve an amendment to Fiscal Year (FY) 2015-16 expenditures from the Duck Stamp Dedicated Account.

**Summary of Previous/Future Actions**

- Approved FY 2015-16 funding and projects Jun 9, 2015; Mammoth Lakes
- **Today's request to amend funding and projects Aug 4-5, 2015; Fortuna**

**Background**

Fish and Game Code § 3702 requires FGC authorization for DFW to spend funds from the Duck Stamp Dedicated Account. DFW annually requests and reviews proposals for projects that meet 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. Exhibit 2 contains a summary of the projects approved in June by FGC for funding with Duck Stamp Dedicated Account funds in FY 2015-16; FGC authorized \$1,804,000 in expenditures.

Due to recent developments as a result of the drought, DFW is requesting FGC authorization for a one-time increase of \$1 million in expenditures from the account to increase efforts to address drought impacts on habitat for waterfowl, pending budget authority that may become available in 2015-16. The account began FY with a balance of just over \$3 million and estimated revenue for the year is expected to be approximately \$1.3 million; if the additional expenditure is authorized, total expenditures would be approximately \$2.8 million, leaving an estimated year-end fund balance of approximately \$1.5 million. The proposed additional funding will not change the projects already approved in June; the additional funding will be used for new projects to increase the amount of water available for creating waterfowl habitat. DFW is working with Central Valley Joint Venture partners to develop an action plan for the 2015-16 fall and winter periods to increase waterfowl habitat. See Exhibit 1 for more details.

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

**FGC staff:** Support DFW's recommendation.

**DFW:** Increase authorization by \$1,000,000 for DFW to expend funds from the Duck Stamp Dedicated Account for FY 2015-16.

**Exhibits**

1. [DFW memo, received Jul 20, 2015](#)
2. [Duck stamp project funding approved by FGC in Jun 2015](#)

**Motion/Direction (N/A)**

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Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ that the Commission authorizes the expenditure of an additional \$1,000,000 from the Duck Stamp Dedicated Account for Fiscal Year 2015-16.

# Memorandum

2015 JUL 20 PM 2: 20

Date: July 16, 2015

To: Sonke Mastrup  
Executive Director  
Fish and Game Commission

From: Charlton H. Bonham  
Director



**Subject: Agenda Item for the August 4-5, Fish and Game Commission Meeting – Request for Amendment to Duck Stamp expenditures for FY 2015-16**

At the June 11, 2015 Fish and Game Commission (Commission) Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) recommendations were approved for FY 2015-16 expenditures from the Duck Stamp Dedicated Account (Account) pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 3702. In the Department's recommendation, we informed the Commission that the beginning balance this fiscal year is \$3,067,000, with anticipated revenues of \$1,315,000. The Commission approved \$1,804,000 in projects consistent with the current spending authority for the Account.

Due to recent developments as a result of the drought, the Department is requesting Commission authorization per Fish and Game Code section 3702 for a one-time increase in expenditures from the Account of \$1,000,000 to increase efforts to address drought effects on habitat for waterfowl, pending budget authority which may become available in 2015-16.

The Department, in cooperation with Central Valley Joint Venture partners, is currently developing an action plan the 2015-16 fall and winter period. That plan will lead to specific actions to increase waterfowl habitat. While still under development, specific actions that may be supported by Account funds include financial support for increased pumping costs on refuges, purchasing water where available, and potentially enhancing other existing programs that encourage flooding of certain agricultural crops that provide important habitat benefits to waterfowl.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Dan Yparraguirre, Deputy Director, Wildlife and Fisheries Division at (916) 653-4673 or by email at [dan.yparraguirre@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:dan.yparraguirre@wildlife.ca.gov).

Summary of Department Recommendations  
For FY 2015-16 California Duck Stamp

Canada Habitat Project:

**Wetland and Upland Conservation – Alberta, Canada** .....\$134,377  
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.

Capital Outlay Projects – California:

**UBB Wildlife Area – Howard Slough fields 228, 230, 231, 334**.....\$113,086  
Originally approved for 2013-14 FY – capital outlay project. Create 15 and enhance 92 wetland acres by building levees, swales, potholes, islands and installing water structures.

**Gray Lodge Wildlife Area – Field 28**.....\$101,896  
Originally approved for 2013-14 FY – capital outlay project. Create 28 wetland acres and enhance 28.5 wetland and 26 upland acres by building levees, swales, islands, plantings and installing water structures.

**Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area – Central 5**.....\$82,018  
Originally approved for 2013-14 FY – capital outlay project. Enhance 162 wetland acres by building levees, swales, and islands.

Ongoing Projects – California:

**Duck Banding (pintail) – California Waterfowl Association**.....\$35,000  
This is a cooperative project to maintain sufficient banded samples of pintail to assess harvest and survival rates.

**Duck Banding (mallard)** .....\$25,000  
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.

**CA VCF Portion of Breeding Pop Survey –** .....\$25,000  
This project will continue the survey to estimate visibility correction factors for the waterfowl breeding population survey in California.

**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** .....\$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 ..... \$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..... \$63,230**  
The Department recommends this continuing funding to provide for small funding adjustments for authorized projects and to provide flexibility for emergencies (drought related or otherwise) as may occur.

**New Projects – California:**

**Butte Valley Wildlife Area – Units 11B, 11D..... \$115,555**  
Maintain 323 acres of wetlands by rebuilding swales, levees, and replacing water structures manner.

**Honey Lake Wildlife Area – Dakin Unit ..... \$111,517**  
Maintain 1,311 wetland and 300 upland acres by cleaning water delivery ditch

**Gray Lodge Wildlife Area – Field 73..... \$156,457**  
Maintain 67 wetland and 3 upland acres by replacing water structures, refurbishment of levees, swales, and islands.

**Gray Lodge Wildlife Area – Field 61 ..... \$76,635**  
Maintain 74.3 wetland acres by replacing water structures and building islands, swales, and potholes.

**Grizzly Island Wildlife Area – Pond 22 ..... \$71,639**  
Maintain 130 wetland acres by re-contouring swales and rebuilding levees.

**Yolo Wildlife Area – Parker Units ..... \$246,072**  
Enhance 271 wetland acres by installing a pump. This project is considered a capital outlay project which also requires the Department of Finance approval.

**Eden Landing Ecological Reserve – Pond E10 ..... \$113,304**  
Maintain 332 wetland acres by replacing water structures and installing riprap.

**Genetic Stock Identification for Tule greater white-fronted geese ..... \$142,793**  
The Tule goose is a recognized subspecies of greater white-fronted geese that winter predominantly in the West Sacramento Valley and the Suisun and Napa marshes. The Tule goose population is small (estimated around 10,000 birds) and is designated a Bird Species of Special Concern. The small population size and wintering area require more restrictive harvest regulations and associated monitoring. Harvest monitoring takes place at the public hunt area check stations. This project will develop a genetic stock identification system that will assist in providing reliable harvest estimates of Tule geese.