

STAFF SUMMARY FOR JUNE 10-11, 2015

21. DUCK STAMP PROPOSALS**Today's Item****Information** **Action**

Approve Duck Stamp projects for Fiscal Year 2015-16 as proposed by DFW.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions (N/A)**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 1 contains a summary of the proposed projects for consideration and approval for funding with Duck Stamp Dedicated Account funds in Fiscal Year (FY) 2015-16.

For FY 2015-16, spending authority for expenditures from this fund is \$1,804,000. After deducting the required administrative overhead costs (limited to 6%, per Fish and Game Code §3701, or \$90,420) and the mandated amount portioned to Canada (\$2.25 per stamp or validation, per Fish and Game Code §3704, equaling \$134,377), and \$297,000 to capital outlay projects, a total of \$1,282,204 is available for new and ongoing projects.

A total of 19 projects are proposed in Exhibit 1.

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

FGC staff: Support DFW's recommendation.

Committee: (N/A)

DFW: Approve funding of \$1,804,000 from the Duck Stamp Dedicated Account in FY 2015-16 for the recommended projects.

Exhibits

1. DFW memo and summary of recommended Duck Stamp projects, dated Apr 12, 2015

Motion/Direction

Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ that the Commission authorizes the expenditure of \$1,804,000 from the Duck Stamp Dedicated Account for Fiscal Year 2015-16 for the specified projects.

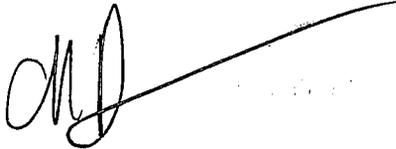
State of California

Memorandum

Date: ~~April~~
May 12, 2015

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 10 -11, 2015, Fish and Game Commission Meeting
Duck Stamp Proposals for FY 2015-2016

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) 2015-16. 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 \$3,067,469 on July 1, 2015, with estimated revenue of \$1,315,469 from the sale of duck stamps during FY 2014-15. The Department proposes to spend revenues to accomplish the goals established for the Duck Stamp Dedicated Account as authorized.

For FY 2015-16, spending authority for expenditures from this fund are \$1,804,000. After deducting the required administrative overhead costs (limited to 6% per §3701 or \$90,420), the mandated amount portioned to Canada (\$2.25 per stamp/validation per §3704 or \$134,377), and \$297,000 to capital outlay projects a total of \$1,282,203 is available for new and ongoing projects.

The Department reviewed 19 project proposals totaling nearly \$1.8 million dollars. The attached list of recommended projects includes ongoing projects (approved in past years) recommended for continued authorization. The proposals include 3 capital outlay projects that were originally approved for FY 2013-14 but required Department of Finance approval. The new and ongoing projects in California total \$1,282,203. This figure includes contingency funding to allow for emergencies (e.g. drought related) 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 \$1,804,000.

Sonke Mastrup
Executive Director
May 12, 2015
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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

ec: Department of Fish and Wildlife

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**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.