

Staff Summary for June 11-12, 2025

17. Duck Stamp Expenditure Proposals for Fiscal Year 2025-26 (Consent)**Today's Item**Information ☐Action ☒

Consider approving proposed duck stamp project expenditures from the Duck Stamp Dedicated Account Fund for Fiscal Year 2025-26.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions (N/A)**Background**

Pursuant to California Fish and Game Code sections 3702-3705, the Commission must approve any projects funded by the State Duck Stamp Account in the Fish and Game Preservation Fund; the funds shall be used for projects or endowments to protect, preserve, restore, enhance, and develop migratory waterfowl breeding and wintering habitat, evaluate habitat projects, and conduct waterfowl resource assessments and other waterfowl-related research.

The Department annually requests and reviews proposals for projects that meet the statutory goals of this dedicated account, which are reviewed by the Department's Duck Stamp Advisory Committee and then submitted by the Department to the Commission as a list of recommended projects. Exhibits 1 and 2 contain an overview and summary of the proposed projects for consideration and approved for funding in FY 2025-26.

For FY 2025-26, authorized expenditures from this fund are \$1,939,000. After deducting the required administrative overhead costs (limited to 6%, per Fish and Game Code Section 3701, or \$116,340), and the mandated amount portioned to Canada (\$2.25 per stamp/validation per Section 3704 or \$145,878 calculated based on the 2025 license year duck stamp validations), a total of \$1,677,783 is available for new and ongoing projects.

The Department proposes funding seven new projects totaling \$1,283,440. A total of 14 projects are recommended, including continued authorization for ongoing projects. Combined, the new and ongoing projects in California total \$1,677,783 (Exhibit 2).

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

Commission staff: Approve this proposed FY 2025-26 funding from the Duck Stamp Account as recommended by the Department.

Department: Approve the projects identified in Exhibit 2 for funding from the Duck Stamp Account in FY 2025-26.

Exhibits

1. [Department memo, received June 6, 2025](#)
2. [Department summary of recommendations for FY 2025-26 California Duck Stamp Account expenditures.](#)

Memorandum

Date: June 5, 2025

Signed original on file
Received 6/6/2025

To: Melissa Miller-Henson
Executive Director
Fish and Game Commission

From: Charlton H. Bonham
Director

Subject: **Agenda Item for the June 11, 2025, Fish and Game Commission Meeting Duck Stamp Proposals for Fiscal Year 2025-26**

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 from the Duck Stamp Dedicated Account for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26. These projects were reviewed by the Department and the Duck Stamp Advisory Committee.

The Account's estimated beginning balance will be \$3,444,000 on July 1, 2025, which includes the estimated revenue of \$1,604,000 from the sale of duck stamp validations during FY 2024-25. The Department proposes to spend revenues to accomplish the goals established for the Duck Stamp Dedicated Account as authorized.

For FY 2025-26, expenditure authority from this fund is \$1,939,000. After deducting the maximum allowable administrative overhead cost (limited to 6% per §3701 or \$116,340), and the mandated amount portioned to Canada (\$2.25 per stamp/validation per §3704 or approximately \$145,000 calculated based on the 2024 license year duck stamp validations), a total of \$1,677,783 is available for new and ongoing projects.

The Department is proposing seven new projects for funding totaling \$1,283,440. The attached list includes all projects recommended, including ongoing projects (approved in past years) for continued authorization. The new and ongoing projects in California total \$1,677,783. This figure includes contingency funding to allow for emergencies (drought or other) or project costs that differ from the original estimates; increasing as of late because of supply chain and inflation causes.

Melissa Miller-Henson, Executive Director
Fish and Game Commission
May 30, 2025
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As always, the Department appreciates the Commission's consideration of our proposal and requests its approval for funding of the attached recommended projects. If you have any questions regarding this item, please contact Scott Gardner, Chief, Wildlife Branch, at (916) 801-6257.

Attachment

cc: Department of Fish and Wildlife

Chad Dibble, Deputy Director
Wildlife and Fisheries Division

Dan Reagan, Deputy Director
Fiscal Services Division

Scott Gardner, Chief
Wildlife Branch

Melanie Weaver
Waterfowl Program Coordinator
Wildlife Branch

Nicole Nelson, Chief
Budget Branch

FILE: D, DD-WFD

Summary of Department Recommendations
FY 2025-26 California Duck Stamp
(project costs rounded to nearest dollar)

Canada Habitat Project

Wetland and Upland Conservation – Alberta/Saskatchewan, Canada.....\$144,878

Establish a conservation easement and or restore wetlands associated with key breeding uplands in Alberta or Saskatchewan 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.

Ongoing Projects - California

Duck Banding (pintail and mallards) – California Waterfowl Association.....\$77,000

This is a cooperative project to maintain sufficient banded samples of pintail and mallards to assess harvest and survival rates, as well as inputs for the Western Mallard Model (provide adaptive regulatory approach for establishing hunting frameworks in the Pacific Flyway).

CA VCF Portion of Breeding Population Survey-Fuel.....\$20,000

This project funds the helicopter portion of the CA Breeding Population Survey; used to correct what observers miss in the fixed-wing portion of survey.

Tule Greater White-fronted Goose Population Study.....\$15,000

This project will continue population estimation, habitat use, and distribution by purchasing and marking birds with radio transmitters.

Department of Fish and Wildlife – Internal Expenditures\$123,714

This funding provides the match for the Pittman Robertson Act funding for the Waterfowl Program in the Wildlife Branch as well as region staff participating in waterfowl surveys.

Department of Fish and Wildlife – Duck Stamp Administration\$3,500

This funding provides for 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.....\$155,129

This funding provides the ability to cover emergencies (drought related or otherwise) and or cost overruns on new and existing projects caused supply shortages.

New Projects – California

Honey Lake Wildlife Area – Fleming Unit 6B2.....\$184,131

Enhance 54 acres of semi-permanent wetland habitat by refurbishing levees, grading, swales/potholes, and ditch cleaning.

Willow Creek Wildlife Area-Units 10 & 14.....\$188,097

Enhance 135 seasonal wetland acres by conducting a topographic survey for design, refurbishing levees, swales and replacing water control structures.

Gray Lodge Wildlife Area-Field 93.....	\$201,024
Restore 60 semi-permanent wetland acres by removing levees, refurbishing levees, grading/swales, islands/loafing bars and tule transplants.	
Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area-Four Risers Fields 4 & 5.....	\$263,764
Enhance 49 wetland and 42 upland acres by topographic survey, grading, swales, loafing islands, tule transplants, refurbishing levees and native grass/forb seeding.	
Grizzly Island Wildlife Area-Pond 11.....	\$170,437
Enhance 345 wetland acres by replacing water control structures, swales, refurbishing levees, and invasive species removal.	
North Grasslands Wildlife Area-China Island Unit.....	\$262,896
Enhance 168 wetland acres by grading, swales, loafing islands, repairing traveling screen including solar panel array, wiring and fencing.	
White-fronted Goose Genome Project.....	\$13,091
Provide a genome wide metric to determine genetic diversity for Pacific and Tule greater white-fronted geese.	