

Great Salt Lake Watershed Enhancement Trust Wetland Protection and Restoration Grant Awards

November 7, 2023

PARTNERS

The Great Salt Lake Watershed Enhancement Trust is co-led by National Audubon Society's Saline Lakes Program and The Nature Conservancy in Utah.



ABOUT THE TRUST

The Great Salt Lake Watershed Enhancement Program Act provided that at least a quarter of the State funding to "protect and restore wetlands and habitats in the Great Salt Lake's surrounding ecosystem to benefit the hydrology of the Great Salt Lake." Utah Code Section 65A-16-301(3)(b)

For more information visit:
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Great Salt Lake Wetlands. Photo: Max Malmquist/Audubon

OVERVIEW

The Great Salt Lake Watershed Enhancement Trust (the Trust) announced the awardees of its Wetland Protection and Restoration Funding Opportunity for 2023.

These grants will help protect and promote the incomparable services that wetlands provide—wildlife habitat and food, water filtration, flood control, and recreation—while also benefiting the hydrology of Great Salt Lake and the surrounding communities.

The Trust is pleased to work with so many others in preserving Great Salt Lake and to use these funds to support this essential work, while fulfilling the goals of the Great Salt Lake Watershed Enhancement Program Act.

A [Technical Review Committee](#) comprised of Great Salt Lake ecosystem experts reviewed and scored each proposal to ensure the projects would provide hydrologic, ecosystem, and public benefits. Final award decisions were made by non-applicant members of the [Trust Advisory Council](#).

Eight projects are being awarded \$8,525,343 in funding over the next two years to protect and/or restore more than 13,000 acres of wetlands and benefit the hydrology of Great Salt Lake. Applicants and partners are providing at least \$6.5 million in matching contributions for these projects.

Blackhawk Water Control Structures

Grantee: State of Utah, Division of Wildlife

Resources

Grant Amount: \$125,625

Match: \$41,875

Total Project Amount: \$167,500

Project Description: Improve water control structures on a newly acquired property that will be managed for wetland habitat and migratory birds and recreation. This project will restore 665 acres of currently degraded wetland habitat and its hydrology, create new habitat, and eliminate water loss to invasive species and evaporative loss through mismanagement.

State Canal Dam–Burnham Dam: Farmington Bay Waterfowl Management Area

Grantee: Ducks Unlimited

Grant Amount: \$1,153,637

Match: \$297,184

Total Project Amount: \$1,450,821

Project Description: Replace the State Canal Dam and upgrade the Burnham Dam to better manage water conveyance through impoundments in Farmington Bay WMA and the New State Duck Club and eventually Farmington Bay. This project will directly benefit 5,385 acres of emergent wetlands and improve conveyance efficiency from the Jordan River to Great Salt Lake (Farmington Bay). It will also provide high-quality monitoring to accurately measure water deliveries along the lower Jordan system.

South Shore of Great Salt Lake – Wetland and Habitat Preservation and Restoration

Grantee: Salt Lake City, Department of Public Utilities

Grant Amount: \$2,226,195

Match: at least \$4,456,000

Total Project Amount: \$6,682,195

Project Description: Collaboration among a large number of partners working to protect and restore riparian areas, wetlands, and upland habitat near the south shorelines of Great Salt Lake through acquisition and conservation easements on 200 acres of property. The project will integrate the property into regional trail systems and protect flows delivered to adjacent wetlands and Great Salt Lake.

Burton Dam and Sewage Canal

Grantee: Ducks Unlimited

Grant Amount: \$683,112

Match: \$176,373

Total Project Amount: \$859,484

Project Description: Replace the Burton Dam and Sewage Canal Outflow Structure located in the New State Duck Club. These structures are currently dysfunctional and prevent wetland managers from delivering high flows from the duck club into the sewage canal that conveys water directly into Great Salt Lake's Farmington Bay. This project will directly benefit 2,200 acres of palustrine emergent wetlands and improve conveyance efficiency from the Jordan River to Farmington Bay of Great Salt Lake. It will also provide high-quality monitoring to accurately measure water deliveries along the lower Jordan River.

West Layton Marsh Restoration

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy

Grant Amount: \$789,443

Match: \$363,954

Total Project Amount: \$1,153,397

Project Description: Create and restore wetlands and open water habitats to improve aquatic vegetation and wet meadow habitats throughout the Great Salt Lake Shorelands Preserve by installing water control structures, levees, and beaver dam analogues. This project is expected to improve habitat on 250 acres (both wetland and wet meadow) as well as create 8.5 acres of open water pond habitat. Increased water control throughout the Preserve will also allow Great Salt Lake managers to better control invasive species that prevent water from entering the lake from the preserve area.

Bypass Canal: Farmington Bay Waterfowl Management Area

Grantee: Ducks Unlimited

Grant Amount: \$785,742

Match: \$420,050

Total Project Amount: \$1,205,792

Project Description: Replace and upgrade water control structures along the Bypass Canal to improve water delivery to and from managed wetland impoundments in Farmington Bay Waterfowl Management Area (WMA). This project will directly benefit 964 acres of emergent wetlands and 1,200 acres of natural wetlands north of the WMA levees. It also will improve water conveyance efficiency from the Jordan River to Great Salt Lake (Farmington Bay) and provide monitoring to accurately measure water deliveries along the lower Jordan.

Monitoring Flows from Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge to Great Salt Lake

Grantee: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge

Grant Amount: \$385,532

Match: \$186,666

Total Project Amount: \$572,199

Project Description: Expand water gauging capacity throughout Bear River Migratory Refuge to better understand inflows from Bear River into the Refuge and outflows from the Refuge into Great Salt Lake. This project will monitor and record water quantity moving through the complex system of managed wetlands and canals used by the Refuge to create wetland habitat and provide high quality data to help the state agencies and the Trust assess water deliveries to Great Salt Lake from water transactions completed along Bear River.

South Run and Unit 2 Restoration: Ogden Bay Waterfowl Management Area

Grantee: Ducks Unlimited

Grant Amount: \$2,376,057

Match: \$597,673

Total Project Amount: \$2,973,730

Project Description: Repair an aging levee along the South Run of Weber River and restore a critical wetland unit that was damaged in the 1980s floods, providing wetland managers with more water control to create high quality wetland habitat and reduce water loss from invasive species evapo-transpiration. This project will directly benefit 2,255 acres of emergent wetlands and improve conveyance efficiency from the Weber River to Ogden Bay of Great Salt Lake. It will also provide monitoring to better assess water delivery to Great Salt Lake from the Weber River.