



North American Wetlands Conservation Act

Background:

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) was established in 1989 to conserve, restore, and manage wetlands across North America to benefit people, migratory birds, and other wildlife. The North American Wetlands Conservation Act authorizes four grant programs: the U.S. Standard Grant Program, the U.S. Small Grant Program, the Mexico Program, and the Canada Program. The projects that receive funding through these grants must be consistent with the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, an agreement and strategy between the United States, Mexico, and Canada, that protects wetlands to support migratory birds and waterfowl.

NAWCA also established the North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Council) and the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission (MBCC). The Council reviews proposals and can approve Small Grants and recommends Standard Grant projects to the MBCC. The MBCC is made up of seven members: The Secretary of the Interior, four members of Congress, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. Senators Heinrich and Boozman and Representatives Thompson and Wittman currently serve on the MBCC.

Summary of the Legislation:

This legislation would reauthorize the North American Wetlands Conservation Act through 2028 and increase the annual authorization for the program from \$60 million to \$65 million.