

INTERIM REPORT
National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant SC-C-F20AP00085
Grant Performance Period: 1/1/20-/12/31/22
South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
Reporting Period: 1/1/21–12/31/21

Project Title: Samworth WMA Wetlands Restoration Project

Objective: The objective of this project is the hydrological restoration of 270 acres of palustrine emergent and forested wetlands and associated maritime forest habitat through the addition of water control structures and restoration of canals, embankments and berms. The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) partnered with Ducks Unlimited (DU) to implement this restoration.

Accomplishments: This is the second interim report to document the distribution of funds and progress associated the Samworth WMA Wetlands Restoration Project. Due to Grant Solutions reporting date changes mid-project, some accomplishments from the last interim report may overlap with this report. Below is a list of activities completed to date by Ducks Unlimited:

- Contractors mobilized to site
- Construction commenced
- All four trunks have been installed
- Perimeter re-topping is 80% complete
- Berm re-establishment is 50% complete
- DU and SCDNR staff met with Audubon staff on site to assess project and meet their in-kind match obligations
- DU and SCDNR staff met with Open Space Institute staff on site to assess project and meet their in-kind match obligations
- DU anticipates project completion in Summer 2022

During the reporting period, a SCDNR News Release announcing the award was posted online 1/6/2021. See Exhibit A for the media post and DU's two progress reports from this year.

Significant deviations: None.

Estimated Federal Cost: See official 425 form.

Recommendations: Continue the grant.

Report Prepared by:

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Exhibit A

SCDNR News

SCDNR awarded \$1 million grant for wetland restoration at Georgetown County waterfowl management area

January 6, 2021



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has awarded a \$1 million National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) for wetland restoration on the Lower Middleton complex at Samworth Wildlife Management Area in Georgetown County.

The grant was completed and submitted through a partnership between Ducks Unlimited and SCDNR.

The Lower Middleton complex has been subject to extensive damage beginning with the historic flood of 2015 followed by a succession of hurricanes, which resulted in the breaching of the dikes and significant erosion damage to the already tenuous dike system.

The grant, along with \$895,215 in match funds from Ducks Unlimited, SCDNR, Open Space Institute, and Audubon South Carolina, will allow for the restoration of management capabilities on 270 acres of managed tidal wetlands.

Activities to be performed include installing four rice trunks, 13,425 linear feet of interior canal restoration, re-topping of 7,780 linear feet of dike, construction of 1,460 linear feet of interior setback dike, and enhancement of 2,560 linear feet of berm along eroded dikes.

This project will enhance waterfowl habitat and improve habitat for other game and nongame species, including wading birds, shorebirds, reptiles, and amphibians. Construction is expected to begin next month.

"The restoration of the Lower Middleton complex represents a major step forward in the restoration of total management capability of the managed wetlands at Samworth," said Emily Cope, Deputy Director of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries for SCDNR. "The project complements the restoration of the Rabbit Island unit and planned work on the adjacent Upper Middleton complex, as well as the extensive restoration and maintenance work conducted by our Upper Coastal Waterfowl Project staff at Samworth. We are grateful to Ducks Unlimited, Open Space Institute, and Audubon South Carolina for their support in making the project a reality."



Emily Purcell
Director of Conservation Programs
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March 29, 2021

To: Billy Dukes – Project Officer
Interim Report: Samworth WMA Wetlands Restoration Project (SC-66-2)
Federal Award Number: SC-C-F20AP00085
SCDNR Subrecipient Reference Number: SCDNR FY 2021-004

This is the first interim report to document the distribution of funds and progress associated the Samworth WMA Wetlands Restoration Project during the performance period January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020. Below is a list of activities completed to date:

- Planning meetings with SCDNR and USFWS staff
- Survey of project site
- Engineering design specifications
- Engineering plan drafting and completion
- Permitting
- Bid solicitation and on-site pre-bid meeting
- Bid awarded

Please let me know if you need any further information or project photos.

Thank you for your partnership on this project.

Emily Purcell



Ethan Massey
Regional Biologist
South Atlantic Field Office

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February 17, 2022

To: Billy Dukes – Project Officer
Interim Report: Samworth WMA Wetlands Restoration Project (SC-66-2)
Federal Award Number: SC-C-F20AP00085
SCDNR Subrecipient Reference Number: SCDNR FY 2021-004

This is the second interim report to document the distribution of funds and progress associated the Samworth WMA Wetlands Restoration Project during the performance period January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021. Below is a list of activities completed to date:

- Contractors mobilized to site
- Construction commenced
- All four trunks have been installed
- Perimeter retopping is 80% complete
- Berm re-establishment is 50% complete
- DU and SCDNR staff met with Audubon staff on site to assess project and meet their in-kind match obligations
- DU and SCDNR staff met with Open Space Institute staff on site to assess project and meet their in-kind match obligations
- We anticipate project completion in Summer 2022

Please let me know if you need any further information or project photos.

Thank you for your partnership on this project.

Ethan Massey