

The Nature
Conservancy



Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

WILLARD BAY SETTLEMENT FUND



LAND & WATER PROTECTION INITIATIVE

A Proposal From The Nature Conservancy

MAY 5, 2014



The Nature Conservancy in Utah
559 East South Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84102

tel [801] 531-0999
fax [801] 531-1003
nature.org/utah

May 5, 2014

Mr. Walt Baker
Utah Division of Water Quality
P.O. Box 144870
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Re: Nature Conservancy Proposals for Willard Bay Mitigation Funding

Dear Walt:

By way of this letter and the attached proposals, The Nature Conservancy is applying to The Division of Water Quality for mitigation funding related to the March 2013 release of diesel fuel in Willard Bay State Park. We are pleased to submit the following four projects and initiatives for your consideration:

Project/Initiative	Request	Description
Land & Water Protection Initiative	2,180,000	Acquisition of wetland habitat/water rights
Wings & Water Education Program	516,000	Wetlands education for youth and the public
Stewardship and Monitoring Initiative	740,000	Habitat management and enhancement
Wetlands Cons./Ed. Endowment	1,500,000	Long-term wetlands protection/improvement
<i>Total Projects</i>	4,936,000	

We are submitting these projects as four separate proposals and are including the requisite Proposal Forms and supporting documents with each. The specific project addressed by this letter is highlighted in yellow above. A few additional notes:

- The budgets submitted with each proposal represent best estimates at this time.
- Knowing funds are limited, we acknowledge it is unlikely all four of these projects will be funded in full. However, in each case, a lesser amount than the full amount identified can still be put to good use.
- Current matching funds are indicated, but additional matching funds will likely be raised if the projects described are selected.

We appreciate you and your team considering these projects and stand ready to provide additional information for the “second round” if selected. Good luck with your deliberations, and let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Dave Livermore
Utah State Director

UTAH DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY

195 North 1950 West

PO Box 144870

Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4870

Willard Bay Project Proposal Form

NOTE: Proposal must be no longer than 6 pages. Supplemental documents such as letters of support, information to demonstrate previous project implementation and other relative supportive documents may be submitted in addition to this form.

Applicant Name: The Nature Conservancy

Co-Applicant Name(s) (if applicable): _____

Project Title: Great Salt Lake Shorelands Preserve - Land and Water Protection Initiative

Agency or Business Name (if applicable): _____

Mailing Address: 559 E. South Temple City: Salt Lake City State: UT Zip: 84102

Phone: (801) 531-0999 E-mail: hmosburg@tnc.org

Individual Non-Profit Govt. Agency Academic Commercial Other

1. Estimated Project Costs:

Labor	\$ 80,000
Land Acquisition	\$ 950,000
Water Share Acquisition	\$1,050,000
Administration	\$ <u>100,000</u>
TOTAL	\$2,180,000*

*This is a four-year budget, 2014-2017 – see Exhibit A attached for full budget

Other sources of project funding already raised:

National Fish & Wildlife Foundation	\$ 100,000
Dick and Timmy Burton Foundation	\$ 30,000
Richard K. & Shirley S. Hemingway Foundation	\$ 28,000
S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation	\$ <u>15,000</u>
Total	\$ 173,000

Total project cost including other sources of funding: \$2,180,000

(please include bids for labor, equipment, rentals, etc.)

2. Describe the purpose and need of the project:

The Great Salt Lake ecosystem is internationally recognized as a vital link for migratory birds in the Pacific and Central Flyways. It has been designated a site of hemispheric importance by the Western Hemispheric Shorebird Reserve Network and is recognized within the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service National Wetlands Priority Conservation Plan. Between four and six million birds depend upon the Great Salt Lake as their staging and foraging ground each year, some in species numbers found nowhere else on Earth. Why do they come here? With wetlands covering only 0.2%

of Utah, and primarily in northern Utah, the lake's interconnected mosaic of wetlands, riparian areas, mud flats and seasonally flooded meadows provide a much-needed, rich abundance of invertebrate and plant life. In the arid West, this oasis in the high desert provides critical feeding and resting habitat for birds. Nowhere is this more apparent than on the eastern shores of the Great Salt Lake where fresh-water runoff from the Wasatch Mountains merges with the lake's saline water. Here, for over 30 years, The Nature Conservancy has worked to protect over 4,400 acres of emergent wetlands and uplands known as the Great Salt Lake Shorelands Preserve. The scarcity of water in the West makes this habitat particularly valuable, more so when population growth, and its attendant pressures on water supplies, open space and wildlife habitat, are expected to continue at a rapid pace. This uncertain future, in combination with the lake's international role as a key flyway link for birds, accentuates the need for conservation action.

Though The Nature Conservancy has successfully purchased and protected most of the properties identified as priorities for the Shorelands Preserve, there are a few remaining parcels that, in light of the Great Salt Lake's ecological significance, and rapid growth close to the lake, we are interested in acquiring. The properties are important for the following reasons:

1. Davis County, where the Great Salt Lake Shorelands Preserve is located, is one of Utah's fastest growing counties, and residential development has now reached the edge of the preserve. The three properties we are interested in are key in-holdings within the preserve boundaries. In addition to providing upland and wetland habitat, in some cases they are also zoned for residential development and/or light industrial use. If the Conservancy's efforts are not successful, there is a high probability these properties will be subdivided and this habitat will be lost.
2. Some of the last available upland habitat for birds is located on these three properties. Protecting these properties would be a positive step in ensuring that as other areas are rapidly lost to development, these areas would be protected, and incorporated into a large network of habitats already protected at the preserve.

In addition to purchasing the properties described, we are also interested in ensuring a reliable source of water to the year round and seasonal wetlands at the preserve. The best way to do this is to purchase water shares. For years the preserve has received and relied on excess water from agriculture to supply its open ponds and wetland areas. But as Davis County has grown, agricultural areas have been converted to home sites and shopping malls. As a result, in more recent years as this transition has occurred, we have benefitted from storm water run-off from developed areas. Though helpful, this water is seasonal and/or storm-specific, and as a result is unreliable for ensuring long-term habitat health. This leaves the preserve in a tenuous position with respect to water supply, so we are now in the process of purchasing water shares to address this concern. The Conservancy currently owns a few water shares, but additional water is a critical component of the preserve's ecological health. It provides a variety of habitat types for birds, including open water, wetland and marsh areas, and ephemeral playa. With this in mind, over the last year and a half we have purchased 20 water shares, and are in negotiations for more. Funding from the Willard Bay Settlement would ensure that both upland and wetland areas will continue to have water to support bird populations that depend on this habitat.

3. Estimated time frame of the project with significant milestones (Note: Project must be completed with final reports filed by January 1, 2018):

Our application time frame is in keeping with the required time frame, 2014-2017. Please see budget for annual budgets.

4. Describe the location of the project with attached location map, including details on the total area that will be directly enhanced by the project:

- a. Water acquisition will be from the Davis and Weber Counties Canal Co. and other sources (possibly such as Kay's Creek). The area impacted by water shares is highlighted on the attached map.
- b. Properties we would like to acquire are identified on the attached map.

5. Describe how the project will specifically enhance and protect waterways affected by the Willard Bay diesel release and improve the conditions of one or more of the following: wildlife, habitat, natural vegetation, water quality or emergency response:

It is quite possible that damages similar to Willard Bay will occur to nearby sites along the eastern shore in the future, due to the many existing pipelines bordering the lake. With this in mind, it is important to protect additional lands and waters, where possible, to ensure as much habitat is available to wildlife as possible in case of future spills or other damage to habitat and water quality.

The Great Salt Lake Shorelands Preserve is a critical link in a chain of protected areas along the eastern shore of the lake, from the Bear River National Wildlife Refuge to Farmington Bay Wildlife Management Area. It is within this area that Willard Bay is located. Here, waters from Willard Bay, the Bear River, Kays Creek and other sources from the Wasatch Mountains merge, providing much needed feeding, nesting and rest areas for migratory birds. These areas operate as a matrix of habitat types; individually they hold great importance, collectively they are of even more value to bird populations, providing a diversity and scale not afforded by each individual site. When oil spills and other damages occur in one eastern shoreline wetland area, there needs to be enough protected wetland and upland habitat to provide for displaced birds of many species. The preserve is ecologically linked to Willard Bay through shared bird usage, and to Gilbert Bay through shared waters within the bay.

Our project will improve conditions for wildlife, habitat and natural vegetation by protecting bird and wildlife habitat, and providing water to sustain native plants, birds and other wildlife. These benefits will not only be realized on the preserve, but also within the broader ecosystem of the lake.

6. Describe project's connectivity to other natural areas or projects that further enhance wildlife, habitat, natural vegetation, water quality or emergency response:

As mentioned in #5 above, the eastern shore of the Great Salt Lake is linked by landscape and water, and provides ecologically important habitat to millions of birds. As such, the Great Salt Lake Shorelands Preserve is a vital component of this tapestry, with 4,400 acres of protected land and wetlands, supporting upland birds like white-faced ibis, and wetland birds ranging from migratory ducks to American avocets and black necked stilts. The Great Salt Lake Shorelands Preserve is unique in providing large areas of uplands in addition to its wetlands.

7. Describe any additional social benefits of implementing this project:

The Great Salt Lake Shorelands Preserve, first and foremost, provides upland and wetland habitat needed by birds. However it also provides benefits to people and the surrounding communities. In 2004, The Nature Conservancy opened a visitor facility at the preserve. The open-air facility includes a mile-long boardwalk, and a 30-foot viewing tower. The preserve offers a place to connect to nature, and disconnect temporarily from our busy lives, and serves as a kind of "Central Park" for Davis County. The facility is also the venue for our Wings & Water 4th-grade field trip program, which the Conservancy runs in partnership with Utah State University's Botanical Center. Property and water acquisitions made to protect and improve the overall health of the preserve enhance the visitor experience, maintaining the preserve not only for wildlife but for the children and other visitors coming to the preserve for a quality natural experience. In addition to

these benefits to the community, the preserve also contributes to ecosystem services like providing natural water filtering through its wetland system, and contributing to the overall health of the lake.

8. Project plans and details, including rights to work on specified piece of land:

The Nature Conservancy has had preliminary conversations with both Davis and Weber Counties Canal Company, and the property owners whose properties we wish to purchase. If funding is awarded to The Nature Conservancy, we would initiate more formal negotiations with the sellers in order to purchase these properties and water shares.

9. Describe your experience in implementing projects of similar scope and magnitude:

The Conservancy has a 30-year track record of working at the Great Salt Lake. We acquired our first parcels in 1984, and have since acquired over 40 individual properties, which now comprise the 4,400 acre preserve. We have also successfully purchased 20 shares of water in the recent past. In addition to establishing the preserve at the lake, we have been instrumental in protecting an additional 6,600 acres at the lake, including property that subsequently became incorporated into the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge. Lake-wide the Conservancy is a member of the Great Salt Lake Advisory Council, and was involved in helping to establish the first water quality standard (selenium) for the Great Salt Lake. In addition to conservation of lands and waters at the Great Salt Lake, we have a successful conservation track record statewide, completing projects ranging from acquisition of the 5,500-acre Dugout Ranch near Canyonlands National Park and the 894-acre Scott M. Matheson Wetlands Preserve in Moab, and working with ranching families to place conservation easements on their lands, including the 6,700-acre Selman Ranch in Cache Valley.

10. Describe how ongoing maintenance of the project will be funded and carried out:

The Nature Conservancy has made a long-term commitment at the Great Salt Lake Shorelands Preserve. We own or manage all the 4,400-acre preserve lands which are managed as habitat for upland and wetland bird species as well as other wildlife. Annually we raise funds for projects such as those listed in this proposal, but we have also raised funds – and continue to raise funds – for an endowment that will provide sustainable funds for the long-term stewardship and management needs of the preserve lands and waters, as well as the facilities.

11. List consultants or agency partners that have participated in project development (below):

Primary Partners:

<u>URMCC*</u>	<u>230 S. 500 E., SLC, UT 84102-2045</u>	<u>801-524-3146</u>
Name/Company	Address	Phone
<u>Ducks Unlimited c/o Craig Garner</u>		<u>801-803-4361</u>
Name/Company	Address	Phone

*Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission

Additional collaborative partners on our work at the lake include: Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, North American Wetlands Conservation Act, Intermountain West Joint Venture, Layton City, Davis County, Syracuse City, Friends of the Great Salt Lake, and the Great Salt Lake Alliance.



Signature _____
Applicant

Date: May 5, 2014

Exhibit A
Land and Water Protection Initiative
Four Year Budget

The Nature Conservancy in Utah					
<i>Willard Bay Settlement Request</i>					
Land and Water Protection Initiative					
Conservation Priority	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
<i>Acquisition of critical wetland & upland habitat and water rights</i>					
Additions to GSLSP	500,000	250,000	200,000		950,000
Davis and Weber Canal C. water shares	100,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	250,000
Other shares (likely Kays Creek)	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	800,000
Direct Costs (legal, appr, survey etc.)	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	100,000
Staff Time	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	80,000
<i>Total L & W Protection</i>	845,000	545,000	495,000	295,000	2,180,000
Notes:					
a.) Figures shown are best estimates					
b.) GSLSP parcels available but are not under option					
c.) Water shares are available but not under option					
d.) Costs per year can vary; \$2.18 m could be spent in 1-2 vs 4 yrs					



Davis County Commission

Commissioner John Petroff, Jr. Commissioner Louenda H. Downs Commissioner P. Bret Millburn

April 29, 2014

Mr. Walt Baker
Utah Division of Water Quality
P.O. Box 144870
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Re: Support for Nature Conservancy Proposals

Dear Walt:

I was interested to learn you and your team are in the process of administering the Chevron mitigation funds resulting from the spill in Willard Bay. Amongst other proposals you are reviewing, I am hoping you will favorably consider those submitted by The Nature Conservancy.

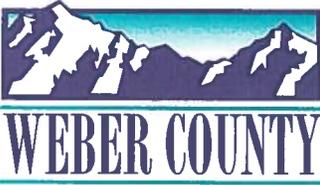
The Great Salt Lake is a tremendous asset for our community – especially the Great Salt Lake Shorelands Preserve. The Conservancy has an outstanding wetlands education program known as *Wings and Waters* which is laying the groundwork for greater wetlands appreciation lake-wide, and the organization is using sound science to assist with Lake management. The lessons learned here can help every agency involved with Great Salt Lake conservation efforts. Accordingly, in addition to helping us here in Davis County, funding the Conservancy's work has the potential to benefit the Great Salt Lake watershed as a whole.

After addressing the immediate needs of Willard Bay, I endorse the notion of the additional mitigation funds which are available being spent on programs such as the Conservancy is proposing. Thank you for considering this request and for the important work DWQ is doing to protect the waters of the Great Salt Lake.

Sincerely,

Louenda H. Downs
Commission Chair





Matthew G Bell
Commissioner
mbell@co.weber.ut.us

Kerry W. Gibson
Commissioner
kgibson@co.weber.ut.us

Jan M. Zogmaister
Commissioner
jzogmaister@co.weber.ut.us

County Commission
Weber Center
2380 Washington Blvd.
Suite 360
Ogden, UT 84401
(801) 399-8406
FAX (801) 399-8305
www.co.weber.ut.us

April 29, 2014

Mr. Walt Baker
Utah Division of Water Quality
P.O. Box 144870
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Re: Support for Nature Conservancy Proposals

Dear Walt:

I have read with interest that DWQ is in the process of accepting proposals from the public regarding the expenditure of Willard Bay Mitigation Funds. Amongst other proposals you are reviewing, I am hoping you will favorably consider those submitted by The Nature Conservancy.

The Nature Conservancy has an outstanding wetlands education program known as *Wings and Waters* which is laying the groundwork for greater wetlands appreciation lake-wide, and the organization is using sound science to assist with lake management. The lessons learned here can help every agency involved with Great Salt Lake conservation efforts. Accordingly, funding the Conservancy's work has the potential to benefit the Great Salt Lake watershed as a whole.

The needs of Willard Bay of course come first, but after these are met I endorse investing the additional mitigation funds which are available in programs such as the Conservancy is proposing. Thank you for considering this request. We appreciate the good work of DWQ in administering these funds and in so many other areas.

Sincerely,


Jan Zogmaister



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE OF UTAH

REPRESENTATIVE
STEPHEN G. HANDY
DISTRICT 16
DAVIS COUNTY



1355 E. 625 N.
LAYTON, UTAH 84040
CELL (801) 979-8711
HOME (801) 529-1287
EMAIL: stevehandy@le.utah.gov

April 29, 2014

Mr. Walt Baker
Utah Division of Water Quality
P.O. Box 144870
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Re: Support for Nature Conservancy Proposals

Dear Walt:

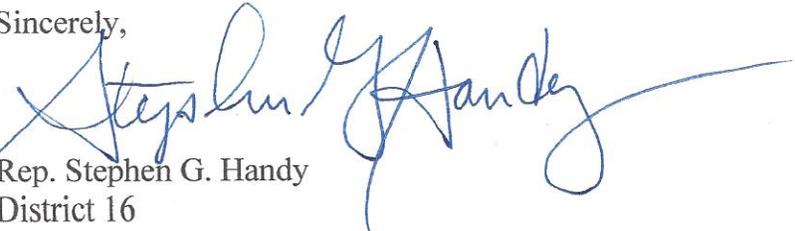
Recently, I have learned DWQ is accepting proposals for the allocation of Willard Bay Mitigation Funds. I am sure you are receiving many requests, but I hope you will consider those submitted by The Nature Conservancy.

I have been familiar with the work of the Conservancy for many years and think highly of their efforts. Specifically, the Great Salt Lake Shorelands Preserve in Layton and Davis County is a tremendous asset to our community – and to the Great Salt Lake as a whole. The lessons learned here by young people, and the science and stewardship practices being applied, have the benefit of informing all those who work to sustainably manage and care for the Great Salt Lake.

The Conservancy has submitted proposals for Stewardship, Environmental Education (its Wings and Water Program), acquiring key wetland parcels and water rights and establishing an endowment for long term Lake management. I feel all of these proposals have merit and deserve your consideration.

I wish you luck with your deliberations and I am pleased to provide this endorsement of the Conservancy's funding requests. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


Rep. Stephen G. Handy
District 16



Office of the Dean
0305 Old Main Hill
Logan, UT 84322-0305

30 April 2014

Mr. Walt Baker
Utah Division of Water Quality
P.O. Box 144870
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Re: Support for Nature Conservancy Proposals

Dear Mr. Baker:

I am writing to endorse The Nature Conservancy's application for Willard Bay Mitigation Funds now available for the Great Salt Lake.

Specifically, I believe you are now reviewing proposals for Stewardship, Environmental Education (the Conservancy's Wings and Water Program), acquiring key wetland parcels and water rights and establishing an endowment for long term Lake management. I feel all of these proposals have merit and deserve your consideration.

As you know, The Nature Conservancy is a quality organization known for delivering solid conservation results. Here at Utah State we have partnered with the Conservancy on numerous projects and programs over the years with very favorable outcomes.

I am sure you are reviewing many requests, and I realize those submitted by the Conservancy are just some of those you are considering, but if these projects are funded I know you won't be disappointed.

Thank you for the important work DWQ does to safeguard our state's water resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James A. MacMahon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

James A. MacMahon
Dean of Science and Trustee Professor of Biology

Norma W. Matheson

2253 East Hubbard Avenue Salt Lake City, Utah 84108 (801) 582-4451

April 30th, 2014

Mr. Walt Baker
Utah Division of Water Quality
P.O. Box 144870
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Re: Support for Nature Conservancy Proposals

Dear Walt:

I understand the Division of Water Quality is currently requesting proposals for mitigation funding made available as a result of last summer's Chevron oil spill in Willard Bay. I am sure you are receiving many worthy proposals, but I hope you will give those submitted by The Nature Conservancy every consideration.

As you aware, the Conservancy has been working to protect critical wetland and upland habitat on the Great Salt Lake for over 30 years. The Conservancy takes a balanced, collaborative approach while working with agencies, private landowners, scientists and other stakeholders to achieve results on the ground.

In its current work, the Conservancy is continuing to a.) Enhance critical habitat at the Great Salt Lake Shorelands Preserve, b.) Acquire key water rights and tracts of land, c.) Educate young people about the importance of the Great Salt Lake through its *Wings and Water Educational Program*, and c.) use science to help inform Lake management. In my view, all of these initiatives are worthy of Chevron mitigation funding support.

I wish you luck with your deliberations and thank you for your work on behalf of the Great Salt Lake.

Sincerely,



Norma Matheson



 Area of Impact for Davis and Weber Canal Co. Water -- 1000 acres

The Nature Conservancy 



GREAT SALT LAKE
SHORELANDS
PRESERVE

The Nature Conservancy 
Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

GSL Shorelands Preserve Visitor Center

GSL Shorelands Preserve: 46 tracts protected – 30 years

Remaining parcels
for acquisition

The Nature
Conservancy 
Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

A few key tracts still need to be purchased
to complete our Preserve design and ensure
the integrity of the resource

GSL Shorelands Preserve Water Rights Acquisitions



Dedicated water rights
from local irrigation
companies



Benefit shorebirds and
waterfowl





Protecting nature. Preserving life.

Land and water purchases have made additional wetlands possible such as these new ponds at Kay's Creek