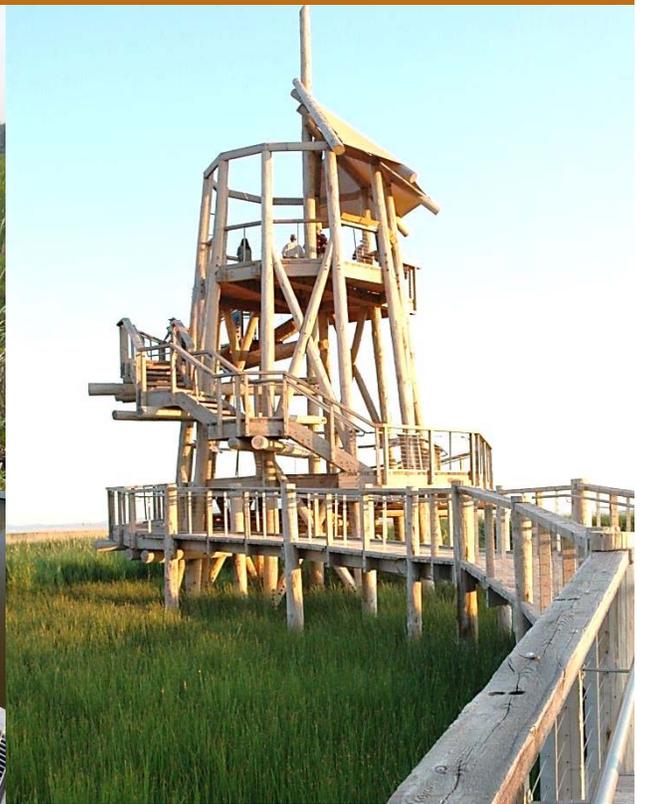


The Nature
Conservancy



Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

WILLARD BAY SETTLEMENT FUND



STEWARDSHIP AND MONITORING INITIATIVE

A Proposal From The Nature Conservancy

MAY 5, 2014

Photos: Bush Master, Steward Ruckman, TNC



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 - Stewardship and Monitoring 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	\$140,000
Heavy equipment, fuel supplies	\$280,000
Equipment shed	\$200,000
Invasive weed control	\$ 60,000
Wetlands monitoring	<u>\$ 60,000</u>
TOTAL	\$740,000*

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

Other sources of project funding already raised:

So far, \$152,000 has been raised from private sources for this project. See Exhibit B attached for more detail

Total project cost including other sources of funding: \$740,000

(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 shore 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.

Our long-term conservation goal is to manage the preserve to ensure healthy upland and wetland habitat and sustain the lake's natural ecological functions into the future. In order to maintain the ecological integrity of the preserve, we have identified several key conservation strategies, including site-specific stewardship activities. To aid in accomplishing these goals, and as the preserve has grown in size over the years, we have prioritized acquiring invasive weed control equipment and constructing a maintenance shed/workshop to protect our tools and equipment from inclement weather and vandalism. Most specifically our priorities are:

- a. Invasive Plant Control/Marsh Master - This includes our on-going efforts to remove and control the growth of invasive, non-native plants in order to maintain a healthy network of habitat types at the preserve. A primary target of our control work is phragmites, an aggressively-growing plant which is rapidly changing the lake environment by invading open water areas that are vitally important to migratory birds. This is a lake wide challenge and is a top management priority at the preserve. In order to better access and treat wet, marshy areas where phragmites thrives, we would like to purchase a Marsh Master, an amphibious vehicle specifically designed for mixed water environments. Being able to access these more difficult areas would allow us to expand our current work, and have a greater impact on controlling these unwanted plants.
- b. Maintenance Shed - For many years while we slowly acquired land to establish the Great Salt Lake Shorelands Preserve, we relied on the good will of neighboring landowners and on an old, three-walled lean-to on the preserve to house a small supply of tools and equipment. Both these arrangements were temporary, and with the purchase of additional maintenance tools and equipment as the preserve has grown in size and complexity, we realize we need a building adequate for protecting Conservancy property from inclement weather and vandalism, as well as for providing a service area for repairs. We plan to build a maintenance shed to house our track-hoe, preserve vehicle, ATV maintenance vehicle, fencing supplies, and invasives control equipment. We also plan to include a workbench and other equipment necessary to make repairs in-house, rather than paying higher prices to an outside mechanic.
- c. Monitoring & Stewardship - Lastly, on-going wetlands monitoring and maintenance activities will ensure a healthy ecosystem. Activities include, but are not limited to, on-going bird surveys, repairs to fences and other infrastructure, and maintenance of sites used during nesting season in order to provide protection from predators.

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:

Stewardship and monitoring activities will occur across the entire 4,400 acres of the preserve. Please see 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 and maintaining healthy bird and wildlife habitat, and managing water within the preserve 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 among other preserves 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 it serves as a kind of "Central Park" for Davis County. The facility is also the venue for a 4th-grade field trip program, which the Conservancy runs in partnership with Utah State University's Botanical Center. To date, our Wings and Water Program has introduced over 10,000 students to the Great Salt Lake. Stewardship and maintenance at the preserve enhance the visitor experience at the preserve – in essence maintaining the classroom 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:

Much of our stewardship and monitoring activities are on-going, but in need of funding in order to continue and/or complete. We do have specific timeframes for two items:

- a. Marsh Master: If funding were awarded, we would proceed with receiving bids and purchasing a Marsh Master by the end of 2014
- b. Shed construction: We are close to breaking ground on construction of the maintenance shed, and look forward to completion of the building by the end of 2014. We have taken out an internal loan in order to proceed on this project, and will continue to raise funds to pay back that loan.

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

The Conservancy has a 30-year track record working at the Great Salt Lake and around the State. We acquired our first parcels in 1984, and have since acquired over 40 individual properties, which now comprise the 4,400 acre Great Salt Lake Shorelands Preserve. Across Utah, the Conservancy owns and manages 16 separate natural areas, totaling more than 14,000 acres. All told, since 1984, our Utah Chapter has completed more than 140 Utah conservation projects protecting over 1.2 million acres of public and private land.

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 monitoring needs of the preserve.

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	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  _____ Date: May 5, 2014
Applicant

Exhibit A
Stewardship & Monitoring Initiative
Four Year Budget

The Nature Conservancy in Utah					
<i>Willard Bay Settlement Request</i>					
Stewardship and Monitoring Initiative					
Conservation Priority	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
<i>Support for phragmites removal, stewardship & wetlands monitoring</i>					
Marsh Master phragmites harvester	200,000				200,000
Marsh Master fuel, supplies	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	20,000
Marsh Master equipment operator	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	60,000
Equipment shed	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	200,000
Phragmites spraying materials	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	20,000
Phragmites staff time	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	40,000
Wetlands monitoring	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	60,000
Staff time	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	140,000
<i>Total Stewardship & Monitoring</i>	335,000	135,000	135,000	135,000	740,000
Notes:					
a.) Figures shown are best estimates					
b.) Marsh Master is state of art harvester					
c.) Equipment shed needed to prevent vandalism					
d.) Monitoring programs establish baselines and assist with management					

Exhibit B
Stewardship & Monitoring Initiative
Funds Received to Date

Monitoring & Stewardship Initiative Funds Received	
Source	Amount
L.T. Dee - J.T. Dee Foundation	42,500
Wallace, Kody J. Ms.	35,000
S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation	25,000
Cumming Philanthropic Organization	14,000
R. Harold Burton Foundation	10,000
Skedros, Demetrios Dr.	10,000
JoAnne L. Shrontz Family Foundation	7,500
Dick and Timmy Burton Foundation	5,000
Rocky Mountain Power Foundation	3,000
	152,000



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.

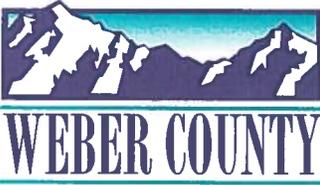
The Great Salt Lake is a tremendous asset for our community – especially the Great Salt Lake Shorelands Preserve. The Conservancy has an outstanding wetlands education program known as *Wings and Waters* which is laying the groundwork for greater wetlands appreciation lake-wide, and the organization 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
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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:

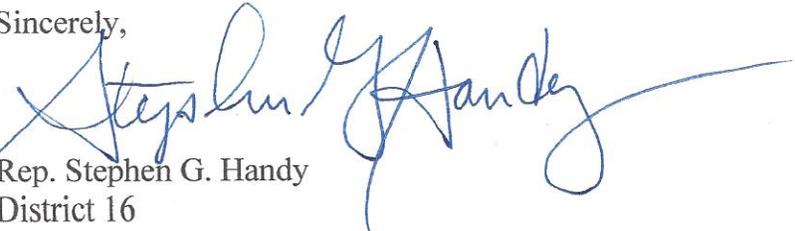
Recently, I have learned DWQ is accepting proposals for the allocation of Willard Bay Mitigation Funds. I am sure you are receiving many requests, but I hope you will consider those submitted by The Nature Conservancy.

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



*The Nature Conservancy's
Great Salt Lake Shorelands Preserve...
Ongoing Maintenance Needed*





GSL Management & Stewardship Programs

Shorelands Preserve Invasives Control

Winter view of phragmites stand



Marsh Master phragmites mower needed for effective treatment

