

# WILLARD BAY SETTLEMENT FUND



## WINGS AND WATER EDUCATION PROGRAM

*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: **Wings & Water Wetlands Education Initiative**

Agency or Business Name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Individual  Non-Profit  Govt. Agency  Academic  Commercial  Other

**1. Estimated Project Costs:\***

Labor	\$240,000
Outdoor Classroom Maintenance	\$100,000
Naturalist Guides Training	\$ 24,000
Environmental Ed. Intern Program	\$ 20,000
UBC Outreach Partnership Contract	\$ 80,000
Bus and transportation funding	\$ 20,000
Administration	\$ 20,000
Miscellaneous	\$ <u>12,000</u>
TOTAL	\$516,000

\*4 year budget, 2014-2017– see Exhibit A attached for full budget by year

Other sources of project funding already raised:

Kennecott Utah Copper	\$100,000
R.E. & J.E. Bamberger Memorial Foundation	\$ 25,000
Union Pacific Foundation	\$ 10,000
Chevron	\$ <u>5,000</u>
	\$140,000

Total project cost including other sources of funding: \$516,000

(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 not only conservation action, but conservation education.

In addition to operating the Great Salt Lake Shorelands Preserve as a wildlife preserve, the Conservancy has always seen value in providing a public experience at the preserve. The preserve is a place for people to learn about the lake's habitats, the birds who depend upon them, and the importance of conservation at the lake for wildlife as well as for people.

With the construction of a state-of-the-art visitor center in 2004, the preserve has become a major gateway to the lake for the general public, as well as a venue for teaching children about lake ecology and the importance of conservation through our Wings & Water Wetlands Education Program. This program, run in partnership with Utah State University's Botanical Center, dovetails with the State of Utah's core natural science curriculum for 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Each year, in the spring and fall, 4<sup>th</sup> graders from up to 25 participating schools are hosted at the Great Salt Lake Shorelands Preserve. They are provided with Discovery Guides designed by The Nature Conservancy and the Utah Botanical Center, and are led by volunteers trained as naturalist guides to lead fun and educational field trips. So far, the Conservancy has hosted over 10,000 students at the preserve.

Our goal is to instill a love of the lake in these young Utahns, and to improve public perception of the lake while encouraging an interest in protecting it long term.

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

This is an on-going program with a 6-week spring session, and a 6-week fall session. Field trips are hosted three times a week, with schools scheduling months in advance in order to participate.

**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:**

The Wings & Water Wetland Education Program includes a visit to the Conservancy's Great Salt Lake Shorelands Preserve visitor center, located within the preserve, at the end of 3200 West, in Layton, Utah, and also to USU's Botanical Center at 920 S. 50 W. Kaysville. 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:**

Teaching children the principles of science and wetlands, and instilling a conservation ethic in Utah's young people – who will become our future leaders and decision makers – provides a long-term benefit for all aspects of the lake ecosystem. With an understanding of and appreciation for the lake environment, tomorrow's leaders will be better able to consider lake health as part of overall management decisions at the lake. This translates to conservation of wildlife, habitat and natural vegetation.

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

Though the program is focused at the Shorelands Preserve visitor center and at USU's Botanical Center, the information these children are learning pertains to the entire lake, its bird life, and the important links between lake health, wildlife health, and community health.

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

Additional social benefits of the Wings & Water program include connecting the children's teachers and parents to the lake, connecting kids to outdoors at a time when children are spending more time indoors and inactive, and nurturing an understanding of and love for nature.

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

The Wings & Water program is a 6-week field trip-based education program running each spring from mid-April to early-June, and each fall from early September through mid-October. Tours are held each week during this timeframe on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, and last 4-5 hours. (Field trips include a visit to the preserve and then to the Utah Botanical Center in Kaysville.)

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

This is the largest education program of this kind that The Nature Conservancy has run in Utah. Our successful 10-year track record and a waiting list each year to participate in field trips, speak to the popularity of and demand for this program. This year, in response to ever increasing interest from Davis and Salt Lake County schools, we are expanding the program to include Wednesday field trips.

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

Fund raising is on-going for this program, but we are also raising funds for an endowment which will eventually provide a sustainable source of monies to keep this program operating long term.

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

<u>USU Botanical Center</u>	<u>920 S. 50 W. Kaysville, UT 84037</u>	<u>801-544-3089</u>
Name/Company	Address	Phone

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**  
**Wings and Water Wetland Education Program**  
**Four Year Budget**

<b>The Nature Conservancy in Utah</b>					
<i>Willard Bay Settlement Request</i>					
<b>Wings &amp; Water Wetlands Education Initiative</b>					
<b>Conservation Priority</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>Total</b>
<i>Support for wetlands educational initiative &amp; GSL outreach program</i>					
Volunteer Coordinator	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	240,000
Naturalist guides training	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	24,000
Environmental Ed. Intern Program	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	20,000
UBC outreach partnership contract	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	80,000
Bus and transportation fees	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	20,000
Printing/photo	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	12,000
Outdoor classroom maintenance	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	100,000
Overhead	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	20,000
<i><b>Total Education Initiative</b></i>	<b>129,000</b>	<b>129,000</b>	<b>129,000</b>	<b>129,000</b>	<b>516,000</b>
<b>Notes:</b>					
a.) Figures shown are best estimates					
b.) Wings and Waters focus = Great Salt Lake Shorelands Preserve					
c.) Educational programs have reached 10,000 4th graders so far					
d.) Key partnership is with USU Utah Botanical Center					



## 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.

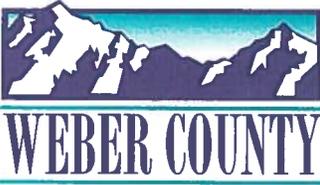
The Great Salt Lake is a tremendous asset for our community – especially the Great Salt Lake Shorelands Preserve. The Conservancy has an outstanding wetlands education program known as *Wings and Waters* which is laying the groundwork for greater wetlands appreciation lake-wide, and the organization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

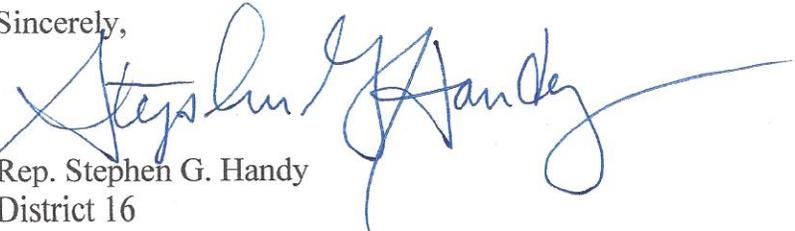
Recently, I have learned DWQ is accepting proposals for the allocation of Willard Bay Mitigation Funds. I am sure you are receiving many requests, but I hope you will consider those submitted by The Nature Conservancy.

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 30<sup>th</sup>, 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

Wings and Water Wetlands Education Initiative Map



Distance between Visitor's Center and Botanical Center

Visitor's Center Area

The Nature Conservancy 



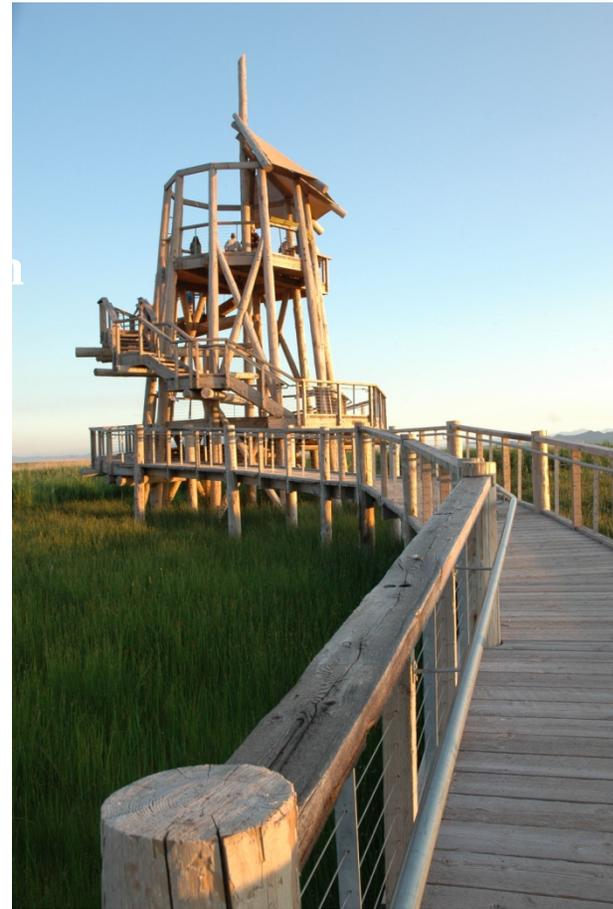
GREAT SALT LAKE  
SHORELANDS  
PRESERVE

The Nature Conservancy   
Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

GSL Shorelands Preserve Visitor Center



*Wings & Water Wetlands Education Program*



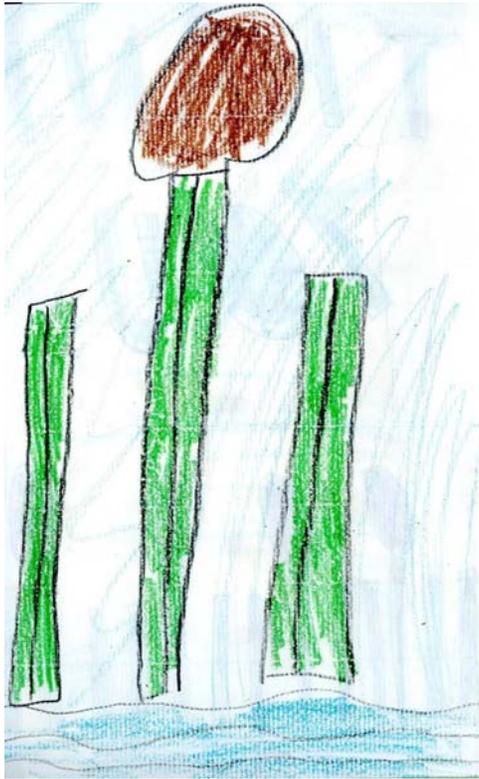
***Wings & Water Wetlands Education Program***

**25 naturalist guides**  
**15 schools**  
**Teacher workshops**  
**10,000 + visitors**  
**UBC Partnership**



## Wings & Water Wetlands Education Program





Dear Nature Conservancy  
 I really liked  
 our trip to the  
 Great Salt Lake.  
 I had a lot of  
 fun. I wished I could  
 see more animals than  
 just woolly bear  
 caterpillars. I really  
 liked the cattails  
 though, and the  
 bullrushes. Thanks again

Rachel Shubella  
 (Rachel Shubella)



Dear nature conservancy,

Thank you so much for the fun  
 field trip. I learned a lot more  
 than I expected! This is my first  
 time going. I plan to go back! I hope  
 you enjoyed it as much as we did!

From,  
 Sarah  
 F.

Dear Nature  
 Conservancy,

I really liked the  
 field trip. It was so  
 fun, I loved seeing all  
 the birds and woolly  
 bear caterpillars. I also  
 liked the tower once I  
 got to the top I saw  
 water evaporation com-  
 ing from this on place.  
 thank you!

your friend, Marisa