



PRESERVE OUR PRAIRIES

INITIATIVE REPORT

2024





2024



For the Preserve our Prairies (POP) conservation teams across North Dakota, South Dakota, and Montana, 2022 and 2023 proved to be banner years for land protection, the restoration and enhancement of habitat, diversifying funding streams, and growing on-the-ground staff capacity, which accelerated conservation delivery in this high-priority landscape.

Perpetual protection is a key conservation tool in the prairies because it maximizes the efficiency and effectiveness of every dollar allocated to the prairies through both private philanthropy and federal/state partnerships. For example, thanks to our partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Ducks Unlimited (DU) protected a record 168,183 acres in perpetuity across the landscape in FY22 and FY23. It's a true testament to the continued passion shared by our major supporters, conservation partners, and DU delivery staff.

Leveraging donated dollars and expanding the footprint of private gifts through public grant opportunities, DU has been able to continue to fund the high-priority easement program, while also diversifying program options to landowners. Not all landowners are interested in perpetual conservation, but many are interested in short-term programs that improve their operations, while benefiting waterfowl habitat at the same time. DU is working with hundreds of landowners to restore and enhance nesting cover in wetland dense areas with native grass plantings, wetland restorations, soil health practices, and rotational grazing systems that benefit ducks and grassland health.

In FY22 and FY23 alone, DU nearly doubled the number of landowners participating in conservation programs while enhancing and/or restoring nearly 172,000 acres of habitat. Reaching a broader audience through working-lands programs also continued to introduce new landowners to easement programs.

In late 2021, the NRCS announced a new \$8.7 million award to DU for the *Scaling Soil Health in the Prairie Pothole Region* project in all three prairie states. The new Alternative Funding Arrangement framework to deliver NRCS practices allows increased flexibility to combine land management practices and rental activities into a single contract. With agreements now in place, DU is accepting applications that prioritize grass restorations, soil health practices, and grazing infrastructure that cover tens of thousands of acres over the next five years. These efforts are a prime example of how non-traditional funding dedicated to ecosystem services directly impacts waterfowl habitat in a priority landscape.

In FY22 alone, DU nearly doubled the number of landowners participating in conservation programs while enhancing and/or restoring over 70,000 acres of habitat. In FY23, DU completed a record high 290 projects in the Great Plains Region, enhancing, protecting, or conserving 289,589 acres.

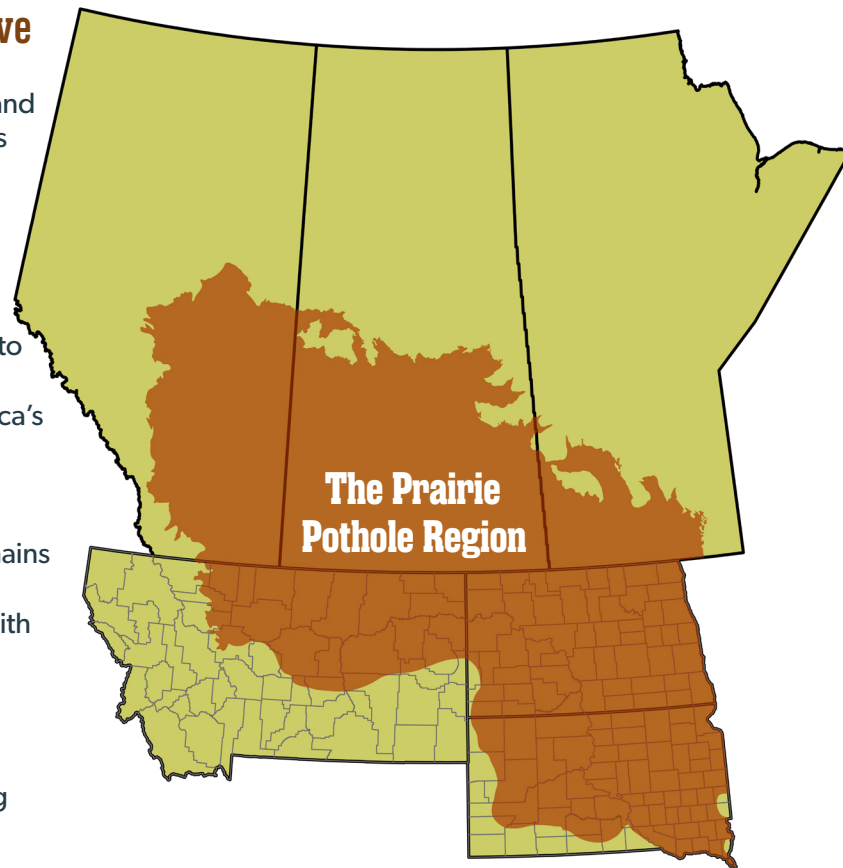
Preserve Our Prairies Initiative

The Prairie Pothole Region (PPR) is a lush and productive ecosystem of wetlands and grasslands that evolved after the glaciers retreated 10,000 years ago, leaving the world's best waterfowl nesting habitat that produces fall flights of ducks unrivaled anywhere on Earth.

Tragically, these vital wetlands continue to be drained and degraded. The ongoing losses make the PPR one of North America's most threatened waterfowl habitats.

The PPR has always been a focus of DU's conservation work, and that priority remains strong today through the Preserve Our Prairies (POP) Initiative. To fill the skies with ducks, DU must continue to safeguard prairie wetlands and grasslands.

We must work together to overcome challenges and protect our waterfowling legacy.



Habitat Program Protects Nests in Montana

Montana's Hi-line is cowboy country, where stock trailers outnumber SUVs at local cafes. Part of the Prairie Pothole Region, it boasts some of the highest wetland densities and lowest human population centers in the state. It's also the country's third largest waterfowl producer, so DU is concerned about escalating grassland conversion.



That's why DU is working with landowners to protect the area's best habitat, while maintaining its ranching heritage. DU's Revolving Habitat Program (RHP) is helping protect land at risk of conversion by purchasing land, restoring and permanently protecting it, then selling it to a conservation buyer, typically a local rancher. Using RHP, DU protected the 1,760-acre Pintail Flat property in Phillips County, and worked with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks to ensure perpetual grassland management and public access for hunting. After protection, DU sold the property to a local rancher who honors traditional land uses. The parcel, dominated by grassland and seasonal wetlands, is next to waterfowl production areas, refuges and other major wetland complexes. Nesting waterfowl, especially northern pintails, are attracted to the seasonal wetlands on this property.

A New Partnership to Advance Working Lands Conservation in North Dakota

The Prairie Pothole Region of North Dakota is the core of what was once the largest expanse of grassland in the world, and it still supports significant populations of breeding waterfowl. In FY22, DU established a new \$150,000 partnership with Tractor Supply Company (TSC) to impact prairie habitat over the next three years with on-the-ground conservation projects on working lands in North Dakota and Texas. Because TSC originated in Minot, North Dakota, it wanted to support its farming and ranching customers, while also enhancing the landscape they depend on.



The project will encompass 30,000 acres of private, working land in North Dakota and focus on programs that reduce tillage, plant diverse cover crops, and manage grazing practices. These practices help ground-nesting birds, produce cleaner water, and help landscapes resist drought, while also keeping land productive and profitable for farmers and ranchers. By helping landowners more effectively manage their resources, their herd, crops, soils, and water, the program will assist farmers and ranchers become more efficient with operational goals and facilitate grassland and wetland habitat conservation.

Certified Angus Beef and DU are Protecting Working Grasslands and Supporting the Ranching Community

Grass and water—these are the essential elements in beef production. The same resources are vital to healthy waterfowl populations. Productive agriculture and conservation go hand-in-hand. That's why Certified Angus Beef (CAB) announced a collaboration with DU at the 2021 Angus Convention in Fort Worth, Texas. Together, the two organizations assembled half a million dollars to launch the Working Grasslands Conservation Initiative, which helped unlock an additional \$2.5 million in grants to fund the initiative's work over the next three years. Supporting economic and environmental stewardship, this project allows Angus livestock producers to lean on the technical expertise of DU's personnel through voluntary, cost-sharing programs focused on preserving and restoring grasslands important to ranching, duck populations, and our climate. The three-year initiative includes financial and technical assistance to interested landowners across the prairie landscape of the Dakotas and Montana. Both organizations understand maintaining grasslands requires sustained ranching. The Working Grasslands Conservation Initiative is a unique partnership for a unique time, meeting the call of consumers while supporting family ranchers.



FY22/23 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Montana

- ♦ 23 projects completed
- ♦ 132,449 acres conserved
- ♦ \$2,462,268 invested

North Dakota

- ♦ 176 projects completed
- ♦ 165,164 acres conserved
- ♦ \$20,209,630 invested

South Dakota

- ♦ 118 projects completed
- ♦ 213,285 acres conserved
- ♦ \$16,359,955 invested



DU Landowner Partners Receive National Awards



DU continues to work with the Sand County Foundation to celebrate landowner partners who receive the annual Leopold Award in recognition of voluntary conservation achievements. The Sand Ranch in North Dakota received the 2021 award and the Bien Ranch in South Dakota was recognized in 2022. Both ranches opened their property to the public to demonstrate the practices they've implemented and the results they're seeing.

Brad Sand is a rancher and a longtime partner of DU. Tanner Gue, DU's manager of conservation programs in North Dakota, has worked with Sand to restore former cropland to native grass that will be used for grazing. Sand is also restoring a wetland on his ranch with help from DU's engineering team and the North Dakota Natural Resources Trust.

Neil Bien values the wetlands on his South Dakota property. He has preserved 100 natural wetlands and restored 15 wetland basins across his ranch. DU and other partners helped the Bien family establish cross-fences and develop water resources for cattle to transition the operation from season-long grazing to a rotational grazing system that benefits the land, livestock, and waterfowl.

DU agronomists and biologists have helped these two families and countless others create habitat and integrate conservation into their operations.

Construction Begins at the Clairmont Family Conservation Park

Construction work at the Clairmont Family Conservation Park in Bismarck, ND began late last summer, and crews finished shaping the new wetland areas of the park, replete with water control structures and gently graded embankments, late last fall.

Despite some intermittent precipitation, workers used heavy machinery to excavate and build the two wetlands and install the pipework needed to prevent flooding or overflow issues.

After the dirt work wrapped up, DU staff broadcast seeded annual and winter cover crops on bare soil areas. The hope is it germinates quickly and provides good ground cover to compete against weeds and help catch snow for next season's native grass planting. Ideally, this spring, a separate planting of native grasses and forbs will replace the winter mix.

Completed, the park will feature 117 acres of wetlands, trails, and informative displays that will educate visitors on the important role conservation plays for the landscape and wildlife. Named after the property's original owners, the Clairmont family, the park will be managed by the Bismarck Parks & Recreation District as a year-round public outlet for activities like hiking, biking, wildlife viewing, and winter fun.



1 Million Acre Milestones in North & South Dakota

In FY22, thanks to help from volunteers, donors, sponsors, and partners, the Mount Rushmore State eclipsed one million overall acres conserved since 1985. In the last 38 years, the project delivery rate in South Dakota has grown exponentially. In that first year of conservation work alone, DU delivered seven projects that impacted 449 acres of habitat. With a steady rate of growth, DU's delivered 51 projects impacting 100,786 acres of South Dakota habitat in FY22, and 67 projects impacting 112,499 acres in FY23. Cumulatively, DU has conserved 1,221,235 acres of waterfowl habitat in South Dakota alone.



The accolade mirrors similar achievements made in South Dakota's neighboring state to the North. In November, 2021, DU, the USFWS and other partners protected the one-millionth acre of wetlands in North Dakota with a perpetual conservation easement. This milestone in the Prairie Pothole Region is a testament to the successful collaboration between conservation partners, public funding and private philanthropy. This popular, landowner-friendly conservation program ensures those wetlands will remain on the landscape not only for breeding waterfowl, but also for future generations to experience and benefit from the many ecosystem and recreational services wetlands provide.

Ducks Unlimited and NRCS Complete Prairie Pothole Working Lands Partnership

In 2017, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) awarded DU \$4.2 million to create the Prairie Pothole Working Lands Partnership under the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). The primary goals of the project were to incentivize a suite of short- and long-term voluntary conservation practices on working lands in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Montana. The program focused on restoring marginally productive cropland back to perennial native grasses, improving soil health on farmlands by reducing tillage and integrating cover crops, and providing infrastructure to improve livestock rotational grazing capacity to both grassland and farmland production systems. DU worked with a variety of other conservation partners and federal agencies like the NRCS and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, state agencies like the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, numerous county conservation districts, non-government organizations like The Nature Conservancy and over 100 different farmers and ranchers. Collectively, the Prairie Pothole Working Lands Partnership spent just over \$10 million over the four-year period and benefited over 127,000 acres of grasslands, farmlands, and wetlands.



DU Partners with Trust In Food on \$40M Climate-Change Grant

Ducks Unlimited has partnered with Trust In Food, the sustainability division of *Farm Journal*, to help producers in the prairie Midwest improve their climate resiliency while maintaining profitable farming operations.

Trust In Food was awarded a \$40 million USDA Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities grant for its Climate-Smart Connected Ag Project. The project focuses on supporting farmers and ranchers with the information they need to be competitive in a climate-smart marketplace, including access to personalized support services, data coaches and direct payments for eligible participants.

The Connected Ag Project will help close the digitized farm data gap and share the findings with row crop, livestock, specialty crop and integrated farms and ranches. Organizations collaborating to deliver the project will provide producers with products, services and other benefits, including on-farm data management tools, technical support to implement climate-smart practices and a virtual help desk. Ducks Unlimited is one of several grant partners and will emphasize outreach to row-crop and livestock producers in North Dakota and South Dakota.

“DU will provide technical assistance in the Prairie Pothole region to help producers implement climate-smart practices related to livestock fencing for the grazing of cover crops and water management to avoid the conversion of lands that would release greenhouse gases contained in soil,” said Jonas Davis, DU’s director of conservation programs in the prairies. “This is a tremendous opportunity for farmers to connect with experts to improve their sustainability while maintaining an economically strong operation.”

“Production and management data is the key to unlocking the potential of climate-smart agriculture for producers,” says Amy Skoczlas Cole, executive vice president of Trust In Food. “Yet we know there are many real and perceived obstacles to the transition to digitally connected operations. We’re honored to put the nearly 150-year history of *Farm Journals’* service to agriculture to work by helping producers through this next big revolution in agriculture.”



The Soil Factor

As DU’s Soil Health Program continues to expand, DU and other conservation partners are taking extra steps to quantify the benefits of these conservation practices. With the new RCPP project in the Dakotas, DU is measuring environmental, economic, and social outcomes. By analyzing soils for organic matter, infiltration rates, carbon sequestration, and nutrient availability, we’re able to track crop budgets to measure net profitability and provide a “before and after” scenario that allows us to make measurements on the front- and back-end of a five-year management plan.

DU is also working with other partners like the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Ecdysis Foundation to explore how soil health practices specifically impact prairie pothole habitats. The PPR is known for its dense, shallow wetlands and the large number of wildlife species that depend on the area for breeding habitat. Management of these habitats will impact their overall health and increase the opportunities for nesting and brood-rearing waterfowl and many other species. The dynamics of these ecosystems include hydrology, biodiversity, and invertebrate abundance and diversity. DU and its partners are evaluating duck nest survival, hydrology, nutrient flow, and the invertebrate diversity effects of various regenerative practices to recommend the best management practices in the Great Plains—DU’s highest priority area.

DU Major Sponsor Highlight—Craig & Shelley Larson

Longtime Ducks Unlimited supporters and volunteers Craig, a long-time successful businessman and community leader from Valley City, North Dakota, and his wife Shelley, recently received the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) 2023 Lifetime Achievement Legacy Giving Award for their continued philanthropic support of conservation-based organizations.



Nominated by Eric Lindstrom, DU’s Managing Director of Development in the Great Plains, the Larsons were honored by the AFP’s Northern Plains Chapter on National Philanthropy Day (November 16th, 2023) during a special luncheon at Bismarck State College, and recognized for their generous philanthropic support, community leadership, and charitable engagement with organizations across North Dakota.

As lifelong residents of North Dakota, Craig and Shelley have been staunch conservation champions and supported several NGO conservation groups working to enhance, conserve, and protect natural and wild resources within the Peace Garden State—groups like Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, the National Audubon Society, and the North Dakota Natural Resources Trust, to name a few.

“We’re blessed to live in North Dakota, a state so rich in natural habitats and opportunities for outdoor activities,” says Craig Larson. “Shelley and I appreciate the opportunity to support organizations like Ducks Unlimited that invest in the preservation of our environment and the wildlife that inhabit them.”

Craig is an avid outdoorsman and staunch conservationist whose passion for archery hunting and big-game animals has led him across the Western U.S., and into Alaska and remote corners of Canada in search of adventure. When he isn’t hunting, he invests in farm and ranch properties with the intent of restoring the landscapes back to native prairie habitat.

Professionally, Craig joined Starion Bank in 1985 and has since helped the business expand to 16 locations in North Dakota and Wisconsin. During his career, he served as Starion’s Chief Operating Officer, President, Chief Executive Officer, and his current role of Chairman of the Board. More recently, in addition to being a devoted DU Prairie Champion, Craig accepted a role on DU’s Wetland America Trust board.



Left to Right: DU’s Senior Managing Director of Development, Eric Lindstrom, Shelley Larson, Craig Larson

Shelley is a talented artist who, like Craig, is an ardent conservationist and philanthropist, working closely with organizations throughout the Bismarck/Mandan community like the United Way, Ministry on the Margins, and other grassroots organizations.

“I’ve always enjoyed spending time in the countryside and incorporating landscapes into my art. Whenever I spend time outdoors, I feel happier and more at ease,” says Shelley Larson. “I’m grateful for the work Ducks Unlimited does in preserving our unique North Dakota environment for everyone to enjoy.”

Craig and Shelley also enjoy birdwatching, hiking, biking and traveling across the country to spend time with their two daughters.

DU is proud of its relationship with the Larsons and congratulates them again on their award and continued commitment to restoring and protecting wetlands and landscapes for wildlife and future generations of North Dakotans.



A Record Year for the DU/USFWS Easement Partnership

DU's partnership with the USFWS Small Wetland Acquisition Program had a record fiscal year in 2022 by protecting 101,531 acres of grassland and wetland habitat in the Prairie Pothole Region of Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota. The total acres include 82,872 acres of grassland and 18,659 acres of wetland in some of the best duck-breeding areas in North America. The partnership has also perpetually protected nearly two million acres of waterfowl habitat since the USFWS partnership began in 1998.

DU spent \$7.66 million of philanthropic funds and \$2.23 million of North American Wetlands Conservation Act funds to protect 3,736 acres of wetlands and 20,130 acres of grasslands. The USFWS acquired the remaining acres using over \$78 million in federal funds. The bulk of the \$65.6 million in federal funding came from the Migratory Bird Fund (duck stamps), and the remainder came from: the Pittman/Robertson Act (\$5.9 million); Land and Water Conservation Fund (\$3.8 million); and North American Wetlands Funds (\$2.9 million). FY22 saw a large increase in the available Migratory Bird Funds thanks to deposits from import fees on guns and ammunition purchased by sportsmen and women.

Department of the Interior Invests \$23M in Prairie Pothole Region

Last March, the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI) announced it would dedicate \$23 million from the Inflation Reduction Act to landscape conservation and restoration in the Prairie Pothole States of North and South Dakota, Montana, Minnesota, and Iowa.

"These projects will increase the resilience of habitats and infrastructure to withstand severe and unanticipated weather events, furthering our work to restore America's natural infrastructure through nature-based solutions," said Interior Secretary Deb Haaland.

While wildlife managers are still working to identify specific projects to receive the funding, waterfowlers are optimistic as some of the focus areas include planting native grasses, administering controlled burns, and restructuring wetlands to operate as Mother Nature intended.

"If we lose wetlands and grasslands, it's not just going to impact South Dakota and North Dakota. It's going to impact all of North America's waterfowl," DU's South Dakota manager of conservation programs Bruce Toay told a South Dakota Searchlight reporter. "Ten, one-acre wetlands will create three times as many ducks as one 10-acre wetland. Those temporary, seasonal basins are the most productive during the breeding season."

But waterfowlers won't be the only ones to benefit from improvements.

"I think one thing many people don't often realize is that when we have investments like this to make improvements, they can benefit everyone, not just bird hunters," said Ben Romans, communications coordinator for DU's Great Plains Region. "A lot of these sites offer additional recreational opportunities. People can get out and hike and bike and kayak a lot of the places DU preserves. So, it will mean a lot in the long run."



DU Major Sponsor Highlight—Hammer Family Tradition

For Bryan Hammer and his son, Reagan, supporting DU is a family tradition. Both Bryan and Reagan have long been active in DU fundraising efforts in Sioux Falls. Among Bryan’s efforts is serving as host of the “Evening of Conservation” event, which provides supporters an in-depth and personal look at DU’s conservation impacts. Reagan Hammer is actively involved with the Sioux Falls dinner event as the chapter chairman. Both gentlemen also happen to be DU major donors, supporting conservation work in South Dakota and beyond. Bryan completed his Diamond Life Sponsor commitment by supporting DU’s work in South Dakota. Reagan and his wife, Heide, completed their Life Sponsor commitment to DU Mexico and developed estate plans to support DU as Feather Society members.



DU Major Sponsor Highlight—President’s Council Giving

Rusty and Brenda Fiegen were presented with their Life Sponsor plaque at the South Dakota Ducks Unlimited State Convention held January 28, 2022, in Watertown. The Fiegens provided a President’s Council gift to DU in support of the Preserve our Prairies programs. DU will match the gift from the couple at least 4 to 1 with public and private funding. DU thanks Rusty and Brenda for leaving a legacy and passing on a healthier landscape for wildlife and people. Formed in 2005, DU’s President’s Council (annual cash gift of \$10,000 or more) is comprised of nearly 600 members and is considered one of the most important and prestigious supporter groups within DU.



Virtually Invisible: Using New Technology to Manage Healthy Prairie

Grazing animals, like cattle, are the gardeners of prairie ecosystems. Each step increases the odds that seeds from the previous year will be pressed into the soil and hoof-sized depressions across the landscape will hold water when it rains. The inevitable natural flow of fertilizer (manure and urine) provides nutrients for the seeds to grow. That’s why wildlife managers and biologists are working with livestock producers to bring diversity back to the grasslands with rotational grazing techniques.



Kevin Thompson, a local rancher, partnered with the Northern Great Plains Joint Venture (NGPJV), Ducks Unlimited, Audubon Great Plains, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Audubon Wetland Management District to enhance grazing infrastructure on the Stewart Lake National Wildlife Refuge and his adjacent private land. The project began with a Ducks Unlimited grant—the “Grasslands Enhancement Project Phase II” funded by the North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund—and established a water well, solar system, water tanks, and rotational grazing system. Audubon Great Plains assisted Thompson with water infrastructure improvements, native grass planting, and initial perimeter fencing on his land through the Conservation Forage Program and the Outdoor Heritage Fund. Both projects set the stage for enhanced grassland management, and Thompson has already seen a significant reduction in the time his cattle spend at natural water sources.

“This has been and will continue to be an exciting project to enhance our grasslands,” Thompson said.

Through a Northern Grassland Restoration Incentive Program (N-GRIP) agreement with the NGPJV, Thompson is now making his cross-fencing invisible. A once-dreamed-about idea by many ranchers has recently become a reality. The N-GRIP project’s assistance with virtual livestock collars, native grass seed, and boundary



fencing provided the opportunity to implement virtual fence technology through Corral Technologies’ virtual fence collar system. According to Thompson, “The virtual fence will make a new wave of rotational grazing possible without intense fence movement, and we look forward to its full implementation in 2024.”

The collars operate based on animal behavioral responses to sound and sensation to establish a range of deterrence. Virtual fence boundaries are created on a phone or computer and provide the flexibility to keep livestock in or out of a specified area without physically moving fences. Frequent updates to collared livestock’s location, notifications when cattle are outside a perimeter, grazing heat maps to correlate vegetative response to grazing pressure, and the technological appeal to the next generation of ranchers are just some of the opportunities that lie ahead.

Cell service is required to upload information from the collars to a phone, but service is not required for the collars to operate. Corral Technologies’ system can effectively segment large pastures down to 50 acres, and built-in solar panels lengthen collar battery life.

Thompson concluded, “This project would not have been possible without the vision and focus of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ducks Unlimited, NGPJV, Audubon Great Plains, and the North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund all cooperating.”



DU, Phillips 66, and ZooMontana Open the Foster Waterfowl Refuge

On Wednesday, July 19th, 2023, Ducks Unlimited, Phillips 66, and a host of other partners, sponsors, supporters, and donors assembled at Billings' ZooMontana for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to open the \$1.5M Foster Waterfowl Refuge—one of the largest projects in the zoo's history, and the first of its kind in the Big Sky State.

Thanks to the help of DU personnel like Montana's Manager of Conservation Programs—USDA Partners Abby Rokosch and Kaylan Kemink, DU's Great Plains Region's Director of Conservation Science and Planning, visitors now have an up-close and personal view of various waterfowl species making a pit-stop on their migration routes.

There are several educational kiosks throughout the display that highlight facts about the types of birds that possibly visit the refuge, how other wildlife species benefit from wetlands, and how visitors can pledge to do more to help conserve and protect the landscape's resources. There's also a raised observation deck, underwater viewing windows, and boardwalks to help visitors get up close and personal with the wetlands.

"This project has been something that I've been thinking of since I started at the zoo 12 years ago," said Zoo Montana director Jeff Ewelt. "It's the largest project the zoo has taken on in the current administration. To see what this landscape has transformed into today has been an absolutely amazing experience. I want to thank everyone that worked and supported the project for believing that we could make this happen."

The refuge design intends to host migrating waterfowl as they move through the urban area, exposing zoo visitors to DU's conservation work across the continent. At the end of the tour, visitors are asked to fill out a postcard with a pledge to support conservation within six months of their visit. People who take the pledge will be challenged to help clean up a local wetland, join a wetland conservation organization, or buy a federal duck stamp.

"With more than 100,000 guests visiting ZooMontana annually, this is a great opportunity to illustrate the value of wetlands to a broad and diverse audience," said Kemink. "We have designed a research project that will help us learn if a call to action will increase positive environmental behaviors when coupled with a visit to the zoo's exhibit."

Future Event. . . Prairie Experience 2024

See the Duck Factory with your own eyes. Past Prairie Experience attendees have called it a life-changing experience. The next event in Bismarck, North Dakota, **June 6 - 9, 2024**, will provide a unique educational and hands-on field experience to help DU major sponsors see, touch and learn more about the prairies. The Prairie Experience is for people who have a passion for waterfowl and are looking to learn more about how their personal investment can help conserve this irreplaceable landscape.



For three days, guests from across the U.S. and Canada will learn more about the conservation challenges and opportunities facing DU, our cutting-edge science and innovative programs, and the critical role major sponsors play in ensuring a healthy future for waterfowl. Attendees are responsible for their transportation and lodging. All other expenses are covered.



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POP FUNDRAISING CONTACTS

Your gift to DU is invaluable, and it is truly the greatest contribution you can make to secure the future of wetlands and waterfowl. Every dollar you give to DU is leveraged multiple times to create a conservation impact far beyond your initial gift. In addition, we invest at least 80 cents of every dollar received in our conservation mission. Start making a difference right now for waterfowl, outdoorsmen and women, and future generations of wildlife and people by making your gift to DU's Preserve Our Prairies Initiative.

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