



**ENVIRONMENTAL
COMPLIANCE
MITIGATION (ECM)**
CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES





ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE MITIGATION (ECM) GREAT PLAINS REGION

Ducks Unlimited (DU) is pleased to offer the Environmental Compliance Mitigation (ECM) Program. DU is uniquely positioned to deliver environmental compliance solutions for a wide array of project needs in the Great Plains Region.

The ECM program allows project sponsors to purchase mitigation and/or conservation measures from DU to streamline reviews and achieve regulatory compliance under various federal, state or other environmental laws and policies.

Environmental Compliance Applications include:

- *Executive Order (EO) 11990 (Protection of Wetlands)*
- *EO 13186 (Migratory Bird Conservation)*
- *Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA)*
- *Biological Assessments*
- *NEPA, including Environmental Assessments and mitigation measures to achieve Findings of no Significant Impacts (FONSI)*
- *Other specifics available upon request*

Ducks Unlimited's experience with providing Compensatory Mitigation for Aquatic Resources under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (a totally separate DU Program with its own unique regulatory requirements) lends itself well to providing mitigation for other various environmental laws and policies.

The ECM program will allocate mitigation funds directly to DU's conservation projects and programs and ensures mitigation funds are spent efficiently for "on-the-ground" conservation efforts while providing applicants and regulators with a streamlined and sound mitigation approach delivered by Ducks Unlimited, a highly reputable conservation organization.

Examples Projects Include:

- *Conservation Easements*
- *Grassland/Wetland Restorations*
- *Riparian Corridors/Streams*

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Ducks Unlimited Inc. is the world's largest nonprofit organization dedicated to conserving North America's wetlands and associated habitats. Established in 1937, DU has conserved more than 18 million acres across the continent and internally holds over 490,000 acres of conservation easements through our affiliated and fully accredited land trust company, Wetlands American Trust. In addition, DU has a land acquisition program, engineering staff, and effectively collaborates with numerous conservation partners and landowners.

DUCKS UNLIMITED PROVIDES MITIGATION SERVICES FOR A VARIETY OF INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS, INCLUDING:

- HYDROPOWER
- OIL & NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION
- WIND POWER
- TRANSPORTATION
- ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION
- SOLAR POWER



WHERE WE WORK

Depending on a project's mitigation needs and scale, Ducks Unlimited can develop project-specific ECM strategies. As is the case with so many mitigation undertakings, the most streamlined approach is to utilize current opportunities for existing conservation projects/programs with funding needs. Here are just a few Ducks Unlimited opportunities listed by state and/or area.

PRAIRIE POTHOLE REGION

Annual funding from DU to purchase perpetual conservation easements in the Prairie Pothole Region of Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota has protected over 500,000 total acres of wetlands and grasslands since 1997 in these 3 states alone. Additional funding is still needed in these crucial migratory bird nesting areas to meet current demand from landowners interested in new conservation easement enrollments.



CENTRAL MONTANA



DU funded the development of a large marsh project near the Missouri River. The project is already constructed, and the new habitat established by the project has proven very popular with migratory birds and other wildlife species. The 250+ acre site is protected by a permanent conservation easement and contains a diverse array of vegetation including uplands and several types of wetlands (emergent, scrub/shrub, deep marsh, and mud flat). In addition to the exceptional wildlife habitat

provided, the site has demonstrated benefits for flood abatement and water quality. Only a portion of the mitigation potential of the site has been utilized, and numerous additional acres are available for purchase to meet various environmental compliance needs.

**IN 2023 ALONE,
DUCKS UNLIMITED
CONSERVED OR
PROTECTED OVER
227,000 ACRES
THROUGHOUT THE
GREAT PLAINS REGION.**

CENTRAL/EASTERN NEBRASKA



Funding is needed for three primary areas in the Cornhusker State. The Platte River Corridor (throughout the state) and the Rainwater Basin Region have long been active areas for DU conservation projects, including conservation easements, fee title acquisitions, grassland/wetland restoration and water/resource management enhancements to conserve these continentally important wetlands. In the Sandhills region, DU mostly works with private ranchland stewards. The unique, often

groundwater-fed, sandhill wetlands provide important habitat for a wide diversity of wildlife species including some state and federally threatened/endangered/rare species.

WESTERN NEBRASKA



DU is currently in need of funding for additional conservation easements to protect priority tracts along the North Platte River. Habitat

types include wet meadows, grasslands, freshwater and alkaline wetlands, river channels, backwater sloughs, oxbows, sandbars, riverine islands, tributary streams, and springs. These wetland and upland plant communities host diverse populations of wildlife and need protection from increasing threats of development. Over 225 migratory bird species (including three federally listed species), an estimated two million ducks, 500,000 geese, and over 75,000 sandhill cranes annually use the North Platte River for breeding, wintering, and spring and fall migration stopover habitat. Hundreds of other species (including everything from tiger beetles, dragonflies, monarch butterflies, river otters, deer, elk, and turkey) also call these habitats home.

**OVER 225
MIGRATORY
BIRD SPECIES
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FALL MIGRATIONS.**



CENTRAL KANSAS



DU is planning a 60-acre grassland restoration project located within the overall basin footprint of Cheyenne Bottoms, which is designated as a Wetland of International Importance because it's a crucial migration point along the Central Flyway. This project will eventually be donated to The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) Cheyenne Bottoms Preserve, which is managed for biodiversity and wildlife habitat, providing a buffer of permanent protection against development in a conservation high-priority area. Restoration of the grassland tract and long-term management by TNC will provide increased ecological value to the overall Cheyenne Bottoms grassland/wetland complex and provide public access for recreational activities. It's a truly unique opportunity to fund conservation through Environmental Compliance Mitigation!

WESTERN KANSAS



DU is currently developing a wetland restoration project in the "Playa Region" of western Kansas, named after the shallow, temporary wetlands known as playa lakes. In an area that has a high water demand, restored and protected playas are increasingly important for recharging the Ogallala Aquifer.

COLORADO



DU is partnering with Colorado Parks and Wildlife for several multi-phase habitat projects at various State Wildlife Areas, through the state. The overall objectives are to improve wetland hydrology and wetland plant community composition with an emphasis towards wildlife. The projects typically achieve hydrology objectives by installing various water control structures and embankments to facilitate management and there is a need for project funding to construct the individual project phases.

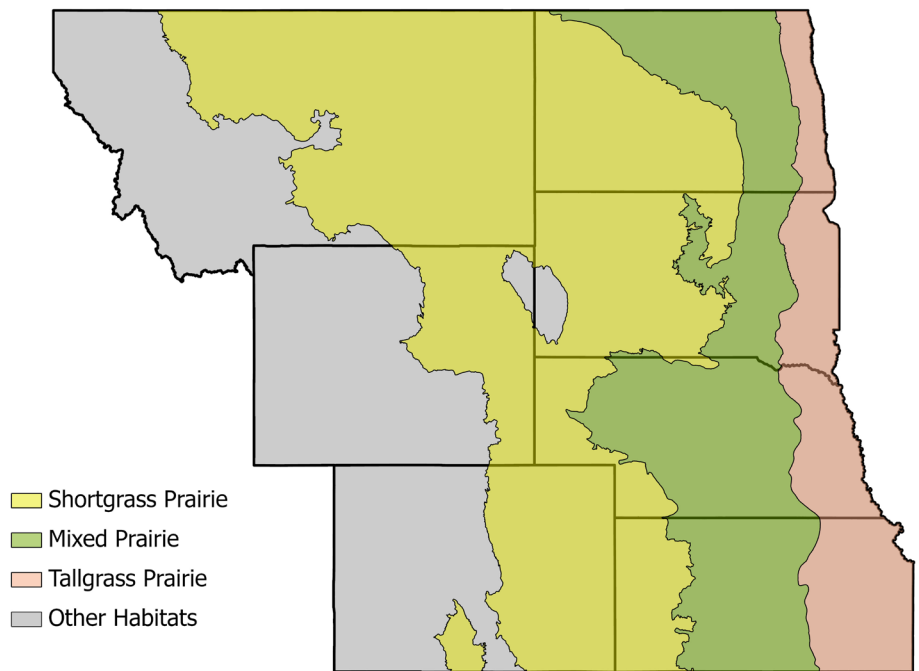




MITIGATION & ECOLOGICAL SERVICES

IN 2023 ALONE, DUCKS UNLIMITED CONSERVED OR PROTECTED OVER 227,000 ACRES THROUGHOUT THE GREAT PLAINS REGION.

Ducks Unlimited's Great Plains Region (GPR) was established in 1984 to protect and restore wetlands and grasslands in some of North America's most critical waterfowl habitat areas. Today, the GPR carries out conservation programs in the waterfowl nesting and migration states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Montana, Kansas, Colorado and Wyoming.



QUESTIONS?



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