



### ★ AFTER 100 YEARS, BUTLER LAKE RETURNS

Over the last decade, DU and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) have worked to restore 66-acre Butler Lake. The Lake was drained over 100 years ago by a subsurface tile. When the tile began to fail, Meeker County, DU, and the USFWS installed a new water control structure on the lake outlet to restore water levels. The project was completed in late winter 2024, and subsequent spring rains refilled the basin for the first time in a century. Waterfowl and other wetland-dependent wildlife started using the lake immediately. DU also restored four prairie pothole wetlands on private land surrounding the lake thanks to a group of landowners who enrolled their properties in USFWS conservation easements. Funding was provided by Minnesota's Outdoor Heritage Fund, a North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant, and DU Major Sponsors.



### ★ MORE NESTING COVER ON THE PRAIRIE

Ducks Unlimited partnered with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and completed a small wetland enhancement project at Hamden Slough National Wildlife Refuge in Becker County. Minnesota's Outdoor Heritage Fund, the Inflation Reduction Act, and DU Major Sponsors funded the project, which improved the hydrology and habitat of 32 wetlands across 20 acres. Sediment, cattails, and drainage tile were removed from the site. Ditches were filled, and berms were also constructed. Waterfowl and waterbirds have already begun to use the new wetlands. Invasive vegetation and trees were cleared on 945 acres of surrounding uplands, restoring critical spring waterfowl nesting habitat and benefiting various animal species.



### ★ GLEAM WMA EXPANDS TO 293 ACRES

Gleam WMA, located in Martin County, was transformed from a 23-acre land-locked parcel into a 293-acre oasis of prairie and wetlands. DU, the Minnesota DNR, Fox Lake Conservation League, and The Conservation Fund purchased 266 acres of marginal cropland, restoring grasslands and 51 acres of wetlands. These wetlands are embedded in the diverse native prairie, an ideal nesting cover for many waterfowl species. Funding was provided by the Outdoor Heritage Fund appropriation to DU as recommended by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, NAWCA, and DU Major Sponsors.

### WORKING LANDS UPDATE

DU's working lands team is staffed by Grazing Biologists Mae Petrehn and Sabrina Claeys, and Private Lands Biologist Liam Bonk. In 2024 they impacted 13,157 acres of habitat on private and public lands, continuing to foster relationships with Minnesota farmers, ranchers, and stakeholders through outreach events and site visits. Healthy grasslands provide prime nesting habitat for waterfowl and drought-resilient pastures for livestock. With technical assistance and financial incentives from DU's Climate-Smart Grant, 14 producers are implementing regenerative farming practices such as cover crops, reduced tilling, field buffers, and rotational grazing. These efforts result in tangible soil health and water quality directly benefit downstream rivers, lakes, and wetlands.





# MINNESOTA 2025 State Report



## MEMBERSHIP

Grand Total: 55,210  
**Members: 53,805**  
 General Members: 48,010  
 Greenwings: 2,538  
 Legacy Greenwing Members: 643  
 Sponsor Members: 2,614  
**Major Sponsors: 1,405**  
**Feather Society Members: 209**

## STATE FUNDRAISING

Total event income dollars raised:  
 \$6,222,955  
 Number of committees: 126  
 Number of fundraising events: 466  
 Local chapter volunteers: 1,890

## FY24 FALL FLIGHTS INVESTMENTS TO CANADIAN PROJECTS

Total Contributions: \$2,496,220

### Location of projects:

Saskatchewan: Connell Project,  
 Dafoe Wetland/West Stockdale;  
 Manitoba: Saskatchewan River  
 Delta

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## US CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Total Acres Conserved in  
 the state (*historically since*  
 FY1984): **248,152**

Total Acres of Conservation  
 in the state (FY2024):  
**40,564**

Amount spent on projects in  
 the state: **\$152,171,826**

Amount spent on projects in  
 MS Flyway (*through FY24*):  
**\$794,952,058**

### For Info on DU Events:

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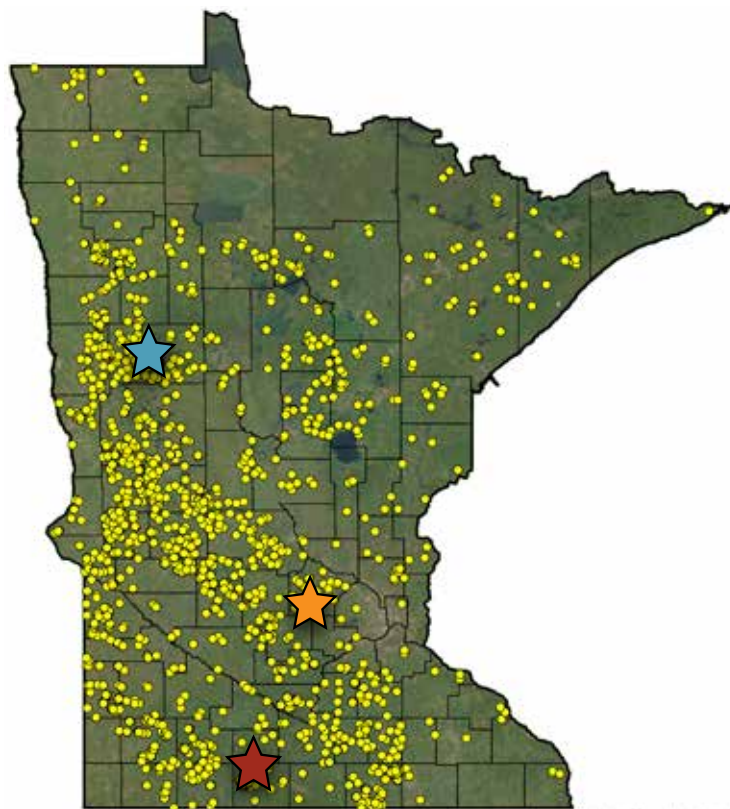
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For more information about  
 DU's work in your state visit

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