



PRESERVING HABITAT IN THE BOOTHEEL

DU and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are working with landowners in the Bootheel to utilize a suite of federal and state-funded programs to promote regenerative agriculture practices and natural resource management. Conservation consultants Dave Wissehr, Tony Jaco, Brad Pobst, and Roger Frazier are working to reduce soil erosion, conserve water, improve water quality, mitigate flooding, and protect wildlife habitat. NRCS offers financial incentives and technical assistance to landowners who qualify for the Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE), Environmental Quality Incentives (EQIP), and Conservation Stewardship (CSP) programs. The consultants identify and walk landowners through an extensive application process. When an applicant qualifies for a program, these consultants continue to guide and act as a resource for the landowner. The WRE partnership with NRCS focuses on working with historically underserved and socially disadvantaged landowners who may not be aware of the programs available or have not participated in the past. DU is also administering the Rice Stewardship Program, a partnership between farmers and conservationists that offers rice producers assistance to address water quantity, water quality and wildlife habitat on working rice lands, which provide critical habitat for migratory waterfowl.



WETLAND RESERVE EASEMENTS: A PARTNERSHIP APPROACH

Working with the NRCS and other partners, DU employs three wetland conservation biologists in Missouri. These talented team members support, educate and deliver Farm Bill conservation programs and wetland technical assistance to private landowners, including farmers and ranchers. The three positions are currently held by Dylan Horton (Jackson), Steven Romo (Chillicothe), and Daniel Naber (Warrensburg). From Feb. 2024 to Aug. 2024, the team delivered 244 work products on nearly 40,000 acres. Work products include onsite monitoring, site visits, wetland design, developing compatible use agreements, and tree planting plans. Our biologists work daily alongside committed federal, state, and non-profit partners. This collaborative model has been so successful that it is being replicated in several other midwestern states.



CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM HAS BANNER YEAR

In 2023, DU's Conservation Easement team closed its 41st and 42nd easements and expanded its focus to the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley. For 2024, the program was expanded to include priority areas along Missouri's Big Rivers, prioritizing properties on public and private wetland complexes. DU worked with private landowners to close six new conservation easements totaling nearly 2,400 acres, which will be protected in perpetuity. The program has protected 48 easements, totaling 14,511 acres. The easements also provide critical non-federal match dollars, enabling DU to safeguard additional wetland habitat in Missouri.

GRAZING AND GRASSLANDS PROGRAM UPDATE

The goal of the grazing and grasslands program is to reduce sedimentation and nutrient runoff before they enter the watershed. Ryan Lueckenhoff covers the central and northeast portions of Missouri. Ryan Diener, who held the northwest Missouri position, has moved into a program coordinator role for grazing and grasslands. John Knudsen has a part-time role as a training coordinator for native grazing in the state. The team completed 60 conservation plans for landowners in FY24, including native forage initiatives, grazing management, and prescribed burns. The work resulted in increased management of state grasslands (3,437 acres). The team also held 12 outreach events for producers, educating 238 attendees about the benefits of prescribed grazing and native forages. Knudsen's training courses promote the proper use of native forages among conservation professionals who work with Missouri landowners.





MISSOURI 2025 State Report

MEMBERSHIP

Grand Total: 17,691

Members: 17,383

General Members: 15,392

Greenwings: 952

Legacy Greenwing Members: 38

Sponsor Members: 1,001

Major Sponsors: 308

Feather Society Members: 80

STATE FUNDRAISING

Total event income dollars raised:

\$1,878,573

Number of committees: 63

Number of fundraising events: 150

Local chapter volunteers: 1,114

FY24 FALL FLIGHTS INVESTMENTS TO CANADIAN PROJECTS

Total Contributions:

\$8,479,400.00

Location of projects: Manitoba:
Brandon Key Program Area,
Manitoba Prairie Pothole Region;
Saskatchewan: Missouri Coteau

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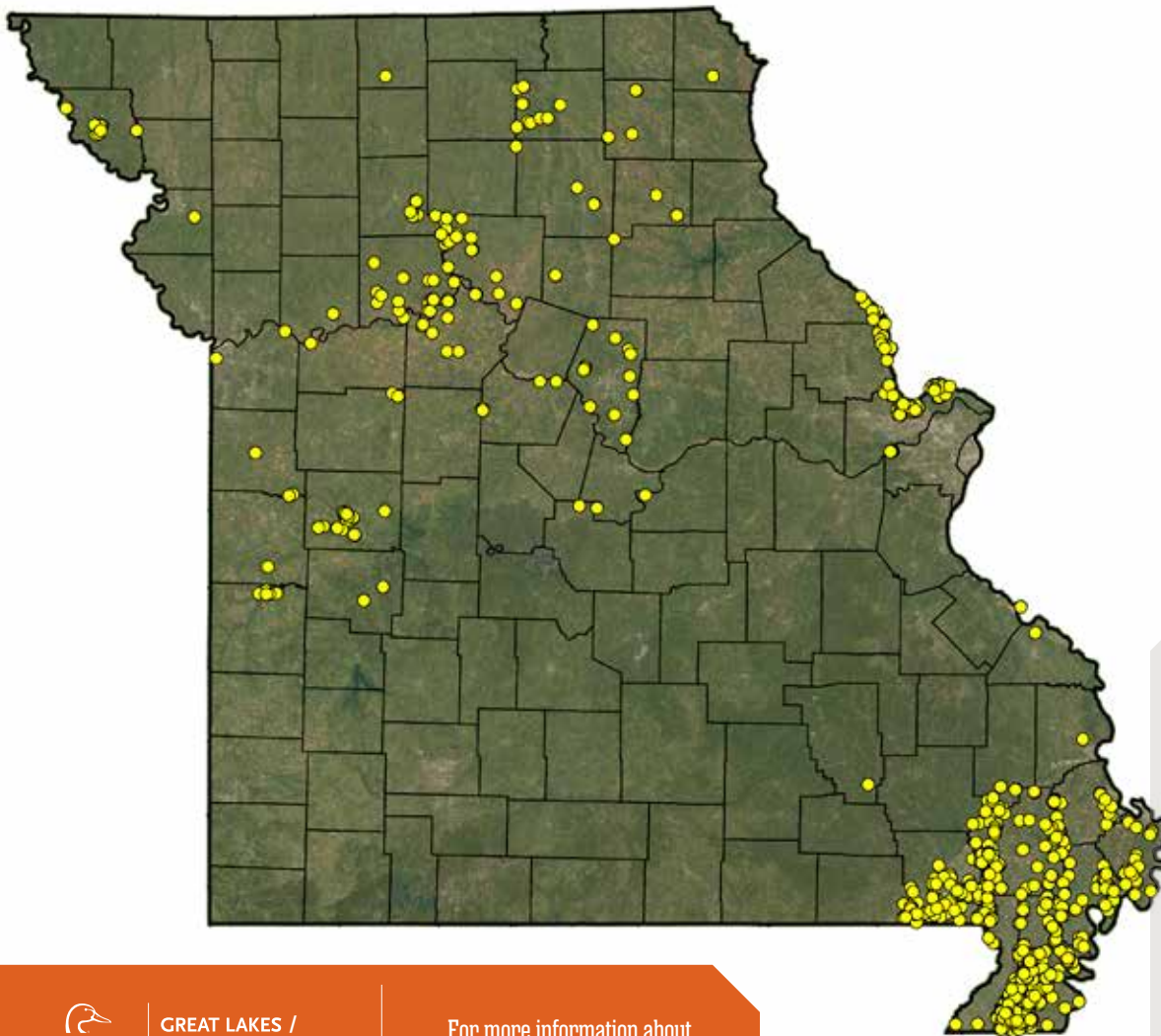
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US CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Total Acres Conserved in the
state (*historically since FY1984*):
128,402

Total Acres of Conservation in
the state (FY2024): **11,505**

Amount spent on projects in
the state: **\$26,363,777**

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



GREAT LAKES /
ATLANTIC REGION

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

ducks.org/missouri