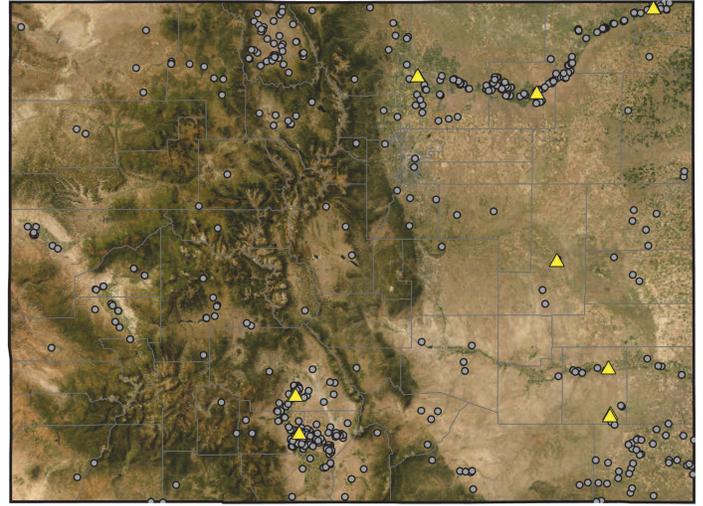




2025 COLORADO CONSERVATION SUMMARY

This year, Ducks Unlimited and our partners made tremendous progress for wetlands, wildlife, and people across Colorado. Together, we advanced eight conservation projects, protecting and enhancing more than 27,700 acres of vital habitat for waterfowl and other species that depend on healthy wetlands. These efforts included three major acquisitions and conservation easements, ensuring that key landscapes will remain protected for generations to come.

These successes demonstrate the power of partnership and the commitment of our supporters. Every acre conserved reflects not just habitat restored, but also opportunities created—for hunters, birdwatchers, landowners, and future generations of Coloradans.



- ▲ FY 2025
- Past Projects

Earthstar Geographics

KINNEY LAKE WETLAND RESTORATION

Ducks Unlimited partnered with Colorado Parks and Wildlife to restore 40 acres of wetlands and wildlife habitat at Kinney Lake State Wildlife Area in the Arkansas River Basin.



This project created four new shallow-water wetland units, designed to maximize water management efficiency and provide high-quality habitat for migrating waterfowl and other wetland-dependent species.

Construction began at the beginning of June 2024 and was completed with strong on-the-ground support from our bioengineering team. Despite heavy summer rains, Ducks Unlimited ensured the project stayed on track by overseeing construction and installing durable water-control structures that allow for flexible and sustainable water management across the site.

Beyond the ecological benefits, the improvements at Kinney Lake also enhance recreational opportunities. As a heavily used destination for waterfowl and outdoor enthusiasts, the new wetland cells are expected to enrich the overall experience and create more opportunities for people to connect with nature.

COLORADO NUMBERS

FY25

- 8 projects
- 27,723 acres conserved
- \$4,442,061 invested

HISTORICAL

- 318 projects
- 172,207 acres conserved
- \$51,389,464 invested

MEMBERSHIPS

Grand Total: 9,491
 Members: 9,060
 General Members: 8,085
 Greenwings: 365
 Legacy Greenwing Members: 87
 Sponsor Members: 523
 Major Sponsors: 431
 Feather Society Members: 75

STATE FUNDRAISING

Total Event Income Raised: \$2,190,293
 Number of Committees: 22
 # of Fundraising Events: 56
 Local Chapter Volunteers: 303

MONTE VISTA WILDLIFE REFUGE UPDATE



Ducks Unlimited is partnering with Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge in the San Luis Valley to rehabilitate critical water infrastructure and restore natural hydrology across several wetland units. DU's biologist and engineering team has worked closely with refuge staff to complete surveys, finalize design plans, and begin on-the-ground restoration.

Construction began in late 2024, with contractors removing outdated levees, rebuilding embankments, and installing new water-control structures. The first phase of work was completed in January 2025, laying the foundation for long-term restoration and improved water management. Additional phases are planned for the coming years, ensuring these wetlands continue to support both wildlife and public recreation well into the future.

DU INITIATIVES
PEAKS TO PRAIRIES INITIATIVE

Connecting Colorado's mountain wetlands with the prairie potholes that produce most of North America's waterfowl, Ducks Unlimited restores and protects critical habitat for ducks, geese, swans, and even moose. With science-driven conservation, strategic policy work, and strong partnerships with landowners, this initiative ensures that the spectacular migrations and outdoor traditions of the Rockies endure.

HHH INITIATIVE

DU's Heartland Heritage and Habitat Initiative safeguards the Platte River, Nebraska's Rainwater Basin, and key Kansas wetlands stretching into Colorado and Wyoming. In this largely arid region where water is in high demand, DU works with farmers, ranchers, industry, and public partners to restore and protect wetlands and braided prairie rivers that provide essential food and resting habitat for millions of ducks, geese, and sandhill cranes.

Donor support directly fuels wetland restoration, prairie protection, and the research that underpins these efforts, delivering one of the highest biological returns on investment in North American conservation.

NAVAJO STATE PARK - SAMBRITO

With support from the CPW Wetlands Program and generous partners, Ducks Unlimited invested more than \$766k to rehabilitate 34 acres of wetlands in the Sambrito Wetlands Complex. Crews rebuilt five embankments, installed new head-gates, agricultural drains, and over 2,000 feet of water-delivery pipe, and upgraded aging diversion and conveyance systems. These improvements give CPW



managers precise control of wetland hydrology, creating high-quality habitat for wetland-dependent species.

HEBRON SLOUGH

Hebron Wildlife Management Area's aging infrastructure and shifting water regulations placed the future of this



historic wetland complex at risk. Ducks Unlimited identified priority actions to restore hydrology and habitat function. DU's biologist and engineering team has since surveyed and cleared more than 32,000 linear feet of historic irrigation ditches, installed new water-control features, and designed future improvements that will restore efficient water movement and high-quality wetland conditions.

In the Field: Today's Restoration Efforts
GRAND VALLEY AUDUBON - ENDANGERED FISH PONDS

DU and partners are creating a specialized nursery habitat for native fish. The pond is being re-contoured and a new downstream inlet constructed to improve water flow, reduce sedimentation, and minimize erosion. A state-of-the-art water control structure with protective screening will allow managers to regulate river water entering the pond while keeping out non-native predators. These improvements will foster natural wetland vegetation and provide a secure, food-rich environment strengthening both aquatic ecosystems and long-term fisheries health.

WELLINGTON STATE WILDLIFE AREA

DU is partnering with CPW and the CDOT to deliver a multi-phase wetland restoration effort in Larimer County. This project will create more than 10 acres of high-quality wetlands and provide critical habitat for migratory birds such as Teal, Grebes, Phalaropes, and Sandhill Cranes. By installing new embankments and water-control structures, DU is restoring natural wet-dry cycles that support healthy wetland food webs and diverse plant communities.

BLANCA WETLANDS - WELL REHABILITATION

The Blanca Wetlands support 13 threatened and sensitive wildlife species and serve as a critical stopover for migratory birds. Construction is currently underway on two deep-water wells that will restore much-needed water to over 1,000 acres of wetland habitat. These wells will help offset the loss of natural water inflows, rehydrate critical wetland areas, and dramatically enhance habitat for fish, waterfowl, and other species.

Looking Ahead: Colorado's Next Chapter of Wetland Restoration

Ducks Unlimited is preparing an ambitious slate of restoration projects that will expand habitat and strengthen water systems across Colorado. Along the Colorado River, the Escalante State Wildlife Area project will enhance vital riparian wetlands. Work will also begin within the Yampa River State Wildlife Area. Along the South Platte River, upcoming efforts at Red Lion State Wildlife Area, Tamarack State Wildlife Area, Two Ponds National Wildlife Refuge, Banner State Wildlife Area, Majestic View Nature Center, and Andrick State Wildlife Area—plus the next phases of the multi-year Wellington State Wildlife Area restoration—will improve water management and wildlife habitat in key migration corridors. North Platte area will see efforts in Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge and continued work with the Hebron Wildlife Management Area. In the San Luis Valley, planned work at Alamosa National Wildlife Reserve, Baca Wildlife Refuge, and Monte Vista-Spring Creek National Wildlife Refuge will protect and revitalize high-elevation wetlands critical for nesting and migrating waterfowl. Together these projects represent Ducks Unlimited's forward-looking commitment to safeguard Colorado's wetlands and outdoor heritage.



DUCKS UNLIMITED conserves, restores, and manages wetlands and associated habitats for North America's waterfowl. These habitats also benefit other wildlife and people.

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VOLUNTEER!

Join our team of nearly 60,000 DU volunteers and become a leader in wetlands conservation!

ducks.org/volunteer



FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE VISIT

ducks.org/colorado