



FLORIDA

2026 STATE REPORT AND FACT SHEET



FAKAHATCHEE STRAND PRESERVE STATE PARK

Working in partnership with South Florida Water Management District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Florida State Parks, DU has completed Phase I of the wetland restoration project at Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park.



The Dan House Prairie Restoration Project is a critical milestone in reversing nearly a century of ecological damage. Building on the completion of infrastructure improvements and spoil berm removal across 998 acres, this Phase I project also features planting of native species across 17 acres of degraded marl prairie landscape. This specialized ecosystem is a lifeline for some of Florida's most vulnerable wildlife. The project's impact extends far beyond conservation. Florida's outdoor recreation economy generates \$58 billion annually, with state parks like Fakahatchee serving as economic anchors for their communities.

The project leverages substantial funding from federal sources, including the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, demonstrating how local investment can attract significant additional resources. The Collier County Community Foundation has generously supported this effort, including funding for the purchase of 16,000 plants installed by volunteers from DU and Florida Parks.

ROLLING MEADOWS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Rolling Meadows Wildlife Management Area, along Lake Hatchineha in Polk County, is owned and managed by South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) to provide water quality benefits to the lake and quality wildlife habitat and public recreational opportunities year-round. This project is part of a larger, concerted effort by the partners to enhance and restore critical migratory bird habitat in priority areas such as Kissimmee Chain of Lakes region, which has seen a decrease in productive habitat. The Rolling Meadows WMA wetland enhancement project enhanced 185 acres of critically important palustrine emergent wetland habitat located in the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture's (ACJV) Upper Everglades Basin Waterfowl Priority Area. Palustrine emergent wetlands were restored and created in the 1500-acre WMA when the site was converted from a sod farm to its current state as a managed impounded wetland for water storage and filtration as well as moist soil habitat to benefit wildlife and user groups such as hunters. The project benefits waterfowl and other wetland-dependent species at the 185-acre northern WMA section which had a reduced hydroperiod due to water bypassing the area through the perimeter ditch. Partners include

USFWS through NAWCA, SFWMD, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and the Fish and Wildlife Foundation of Florida.



SOUTHERN REGION

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MEMBERSHIP

Grand Total: 15,569

Members: 14,793

General Members: 12,896

Greenwings: 680

Legacy Greenwings: 109

Sponsor Members: 1,108

Major Sponsors: 776

Feather Society Members: 145

STATE FUNDRAISING

Total event income dollars raised: **\$3,285,795**

Number of committees: **60**

Number of fundraising events: **103**

Local chapter volunteers: **680**

FY25 FALL FLIGHTS INVESTMENTS TO CANADIAN PROJECTS

Total Contributions: **\$770,000**

Location of projects: Manitoba Prairie Parkland-Brandon KPA, Manitoba Prairie Pothole Region

US CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Total Acres Conserved in the state (historically since FY1984): **72,214**

Total Acres of Conservation in the state (FY2025): **1,380**

Amount spent on projects in the state: **\$42,058,413**

Amount spent on projects in ATL Flyway (through FY2025): **\$358,750,076**

Primary waterfowl species:

Wood Duck; Black Duck; Mallard; Gadwall; Northern Pintail; American Wigeon; Canvasback; Scaup; Ring-Necked Duck; Blue-Winged Teal; Green-Winged Teal; Redhead and Mottled Duck.

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Ducks Unlimited PROJECTS

● Completed Project(s)

Note: Project points may represent more than one project.



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SOUTHERN REGION

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