



KENTUCKY

2026 STATE REPORT AND FACT SHEET



NRCS ENGINEERING AGREEMENT ADVANCES WETLAND RESTORATION

Through an agreement with Kentucky NRCS, DU is working to restore or enhance 500 acres of wetland and upland habitat on existing NRCS wetland easements. An 8.5-acre wetland restoration has been completed, another project is nearing completion and 10 additional projects are underway.

The work provides needed maintenance and habitat improvements on existing easements, with additional restoration projects expected to move toward construction in the coming year.



Before



After

WMA HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS UNDERWAY

DU and the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources are advancing wetland improvements at Sloughs and Doug Travis wildlife management areas.

At Sloughs WMA, plans are complete for improvements to 27 acres within the Duncan Units. The project will replace or improve water-control structures, levees and spillways and return agricultural ground to wetland habitat. Construction is anticipated by the end of summer 2027.

At Doug Travis WMA, DU and KDFWR are planning improvements to 52 acres of the Ward Unit. Work will include upgraded water-control structures, levees and spillways and a new electric well to provide more reliable water for wetland management. Construction is anticipated in spring or summer 2027.



BIG RIVER PUMP STATION NEARS COMPLETION AT BALLARD WMA

A major rehabilitation of Ballard Wildlife Management Area is nearing completion, highlighted by construction of the new Big River Pump Station. The multimillion-dollar system will improve water delivery across the WMA and restore or enhance an estimated 3,607 acres of forested and floodplain wetlands for migrating and wintering waterfowl.

The project includes three pumps capable of moving 16,000 gallons per minute each, nearly 3,000 feet of force main, an intake from the Ohio River and new electrical infrastructure. The new system will replace an aging pump station and provide more reliable water management across the WMA. Construction is approximately 70% complete and expected to finish in October, weather permitting.



KENTUCKY WRE TEAM ACHIEVES MAJOR CONSERVATION MILESTONES

The Kentucky Wetland Easement Team continued its partnership with USDA-NRCS and Kentucky landowners to protect and restore important wetland and wildlife habitat in fiscal year 2026. The team helped close eight new ACEP-WRE easements totaling nearly 790 acres and planted more than 2,000 acres of bottomland hardwood forest. The team also completed hydrology restoration projects on multiple easements, including installing and replacing water-control structures and removing drainage infrastructure.

The team monitored approximately 60,100 acres across nearly 400 NRCS-held easements and expanded its use of drone technology for monitoring, mapping, wetland design and project documentation.



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MEMBERSHIP

Grand Total: 6,072

Members: 5,696

General Members: 4,290

Greenwings: 501

Legacy Greenwings: 147

Sponsor Members: 758

Major Sponsors: 376

Feather Society Members: 45

STATE FUNDRAISING

Total event income dollars

raised: **\$919,766**

Number of committees: **30**

Number of fundraising events:

65

Local chapter volunteers: **373**

FALL FLIGHTS INVESTMENTS TO CANADIAN PROJECTS

Total Contributions:

\$1,769,676

Location of projects:

Manitoba: Brandon Key

Program Area, Manitoba

Prairie Pothole Region;

Saskatchewan

US CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Total Acres Conserved in

the state (*historically since*

FY1984): **14,873**

Total Acres of Conservation in

the state (*FY2025*): **210**

Amount spent on projects in

the state: **\$7,467,866**

Amount spent on projects in

MS Flyway (*through FY2025*):

\$921,117,840

Primary waterfowl species:

Black Duck; Mallard; Wood

Duck; Canada Goose and

Blue-Winged Teal.

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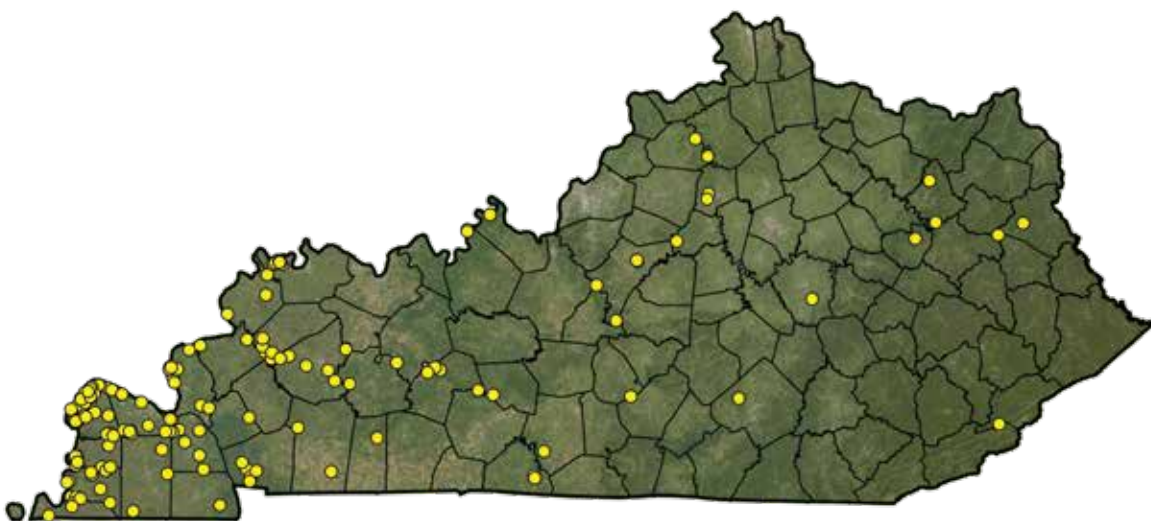
For Information on DU's Youth Engagement Programs:

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Ducks Unlimited PROJECTS

● Completed Project(s)

Note: Project points may represent more than one project.

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

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