



MINNESOTA

2026 STATE REPORT AND FACT SHEET



\$2.6 MILLION MOORE SLOUGH RESTORATION

Moore Slough Waterfowl Production Area, located north of Spirit Lake, just over the Iowa state line in Minnesota, served as an agricultural field for nearly a century until Ducks Unlimited, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Pheasants Forever partnered to restore the property to a wetland and native prairie. Historically, the 195-acre tract flooded each spring due to snow melt and heavy rains. The standing water was pumped into nearby McClelland Slough to ensure the field was sufficiently dry for planting. McClelland Slough transported water to Spirit Lake, dumping sediment and pollutants, including phosphorus and nitrogen, into the lake. Ducks Unlimited was tasked with restoring the wetland, removing nearly three miles of drainage tiles, scraping 18,000 cubic yards of eroded sediment from the basin, and building a water-control structure at the outlet of the shallow lake.

LIVING LAKES INITIATIVE

Ducks Unlimited completed more than 50 Living Lakes Initiative conservation projects in Minnesota in 2025, protecting, restoring, and enhancing 46,901 acres. This includes 3,840 acres of prairie grasslands, 281 small pothole wetland basins totaling 842 acres, 83 managed wild rice lakes totaling 23,585 acres in Northern Minnesota, six new public land acquisitions totaling 951 acres, three conservation easements totaling 285 acres protected, and 17,398 acres enhanced on private agricultural lands. Keys to our success are strong partnerships with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, robust state grants from Minnesota's Outdoor Heritage Fund recommended by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, and federal grants from the North America Wetlands Conservation Act and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service with National Fish and Wildlife Foundation support.

MINNESOTA'S PARKLANDS

Managed by Minnesota's Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR), Caribou Wildlife Management Area is a 14,000-acre mosaic of grasslands, sedge meadows, thick brush and scattered aspen groves. It closely resembles the historic Tall Aspen Parklands that existed before American settlement, when herds of bison and wildfires shaped the landscape. Today, conservation managers use cattle and prescribed burns to maintain the health of these grasslands. MNDNR's collaboration with local ranchers is key to preserving this precious resource. It is a prime example of ranchers, state agencies and conservation groups collaborating to protect and restore native habitats. DU, The Nature Conservancy, and MNDNR are working together to maintain the robustness of the grasslands at Caribou WMA. Cattle have been grazing here for nearly 50 years. Native grasslands, when grazed properly, provide food for livestock, and cattle are an essential tool in habitat management to help regenerate the prairie. DU provides technical assistance and drafts plans for landowners and livestock operators.



U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE PARTNERSHIP

Throughout the last century, most of the Prairie Pothole Region of western Minnesota was drained and converted for agricultural use, including nearly every small wetland. To salvage remaining pothole wetlands and restore wetland/grassland habitat complexes for breeding waterfowl and other migratory birds, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) began purchasing land in fee-title as Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs) and Grassland Habitat Conservation Easements on private land using federal Migratory Bird Conservation (Duck Stamp) Fund proceeds nearly 50 years ago. These areas are part of the National Wildlife Refuge System and are managed by USFWS. Since the mid-1980s, DU has partnered with USFWS to restore wetlands and grasslands on federal public WPAs and private Easement lands to optimize wildlife habitat in Minnesota, especially as new public lands and private land easements continue to be acquired by the USFWS, and new Duck Stamp funds revenues are collected annually from waterfowl hunters. Following passage of Minnesota's Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment in 2008 and using robust state Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF) appropriations and better understanding of prairie wetland ecology and restoration techniques, DU is helping USFWS fully restore and enhance wetlands and upland grasslands on WPAs and easements to make them as productive as possible for waterfowl and other wildlife. This work typically involves removing sediment and cattails from the basin, rebuilding embankments, removing subsurface drain tile, and seeding with robust and diverse seed mixes.



GREAT LAKES / ATLANTIC REGION

ducks.org/minnesota





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MEMBERSHIP

Grand Total: 52,143
Members: 50,621
 General Members: 44,889
 Greenwings: 2,633
 Legacy Greenwings: 718
 Sponsor Members: 2,381
Major Sponsors: 1,522
Feather Society Members: 210

STATE FUNDRAISING

Total event income dollars raised: **\$6,565,470**
 Number of committees: **137**
 Number of fundraising events: **472**
 Local chapter volunteers: **2,236**

FY25 FALL FLIGHTS INVESTMENTS TO CANADIAN PROJECTS

Total Contributions:
\$2,696,220

Location of projects:

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

US CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Total Acres Conserved in the state (historically since FY1984):
253,208

Total Acres of Conservation in the state (FY2025): **46,901**

Amount spent on projects in the state: **\$171,419,423**

Amount spent on projects in MS Flyway (through FY2025):
\$921,117,840

Primary waterfowl species:

Mallard; Blue-Winged Teal; Wood Duck; Ring-Necked Duck and Canada Goose.

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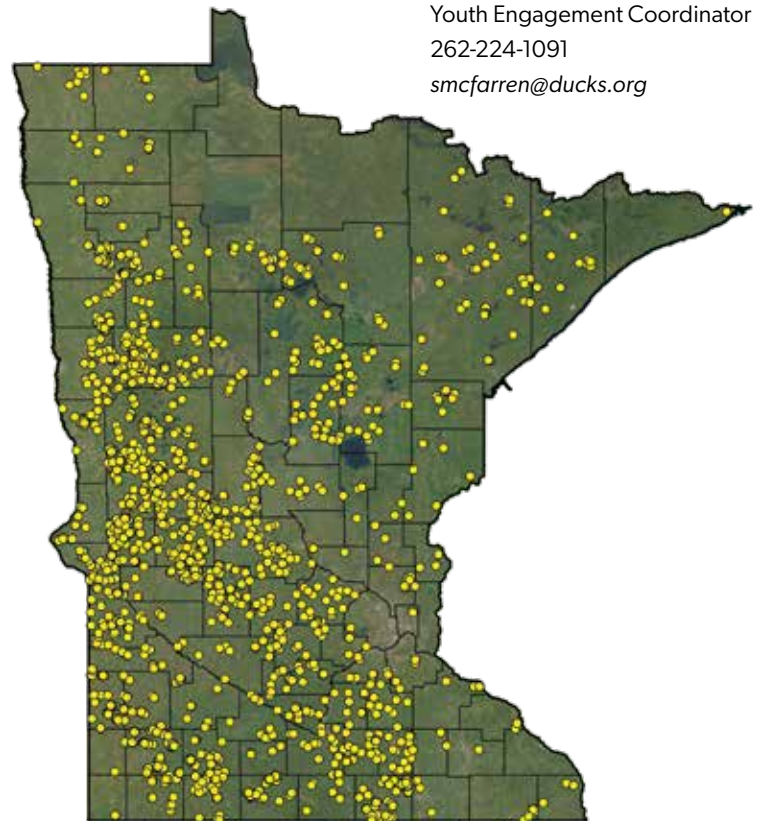
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Ducks Unlimited PROJECTS

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 ● 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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