



MISSOURI

2026 STATE REPORT AND FACT SHEET



RENOVATING SCHELL-OSAGE CONSERVATION AREA

Schell-Osage Conservation Area (SOCA) is the last of Missouri's five Golden Anniversary Wetland Initiative (GAWI) projects and will be the flagship project. This project is a large-scale renovation of SOCA aimed at restoring natural hydrology where feasible and improving infrastructure to address current flooding. There are three components to the project: Phase I, installing a new pump station; Phase II, completing a renovation of Schell Lake; and Phase III, enhancing/restoring wetland habitat and infrastructure in the wetland pools. The Schell-Osage project, when fully complete, will restore nearly 4,000 acres of wetland habitats, improve floodplain function, increase management capacity on adjacent lakes, increase waterfowl hunting opportunities and provide a high-quality waterfowl refuge.

Check out the 2025 construction in the video in the QR code.

NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION GRANT

Ducks Unlimited received a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to hire three conservation consultants to promote and implement Farm Bill and state conservation programs in Missouri, southern Illinois, western Kentucky and western Tennessee.

This project will complete Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE) inventories for 2,500 acres, develop 15 management plans and enroll an additional 250 acres in easements. There will be an additional 25 management plans for 1,950 acres of private land, to be restored or put under improved management. Complementary work will be conducted by the Missouri Department of Conservation on public lands with 2,300 acres inventoried and 2,450 acres with improved management in the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley.

Technical assistance provided under this project will help deliver federal and state programs to create and establish bottomland hardwood forests and wetlands, and to improve water quality and wildlife habitat. For agricultural landowners, technical assistance will be provided to increase program participation and adoption of practices in cost-share programs.



MISSOURI GRAZING PROGRAM

The Ducks Unlimited Missouri Grazing Program is a growing statewide initiative that integrates native warm-season grasses and prescribed grazing practices on working lands. Funded through grants and cooperative agreements with the Natural Resource Conservation Service and Missouri Department of Conservation, this program targets thousands of acres of marginal cropland and degraded pasture for conversion to diverse, native forage systems that provide economic and ecological benefit for land across northern and central Missouri, including areas in the Grand River Grasslands, Loess Hills, Missouri River corridor and Osage Plains.

The project's goals include supporting private landowners in converting non-native, underperforming forage systems to native warm-season grasses and forbs, promoting rotational grazing systems that improve livestock performance, soil health and drought resilience, restoring and enhancing grassland habitat for upland wildlife, including waterfowl, quail, and pollinators and delivering grazing management plans that benefit producers and prairie ecosystems.

Native forage systems provide valuable cover and food sources for a wide range of grassland wildlife. Improved grassland structure and plant diversity increase nesting success for ducks and upland birds, support insect pollinators and enhance habitat corridors in fragmented landscapes. Grazed native grasslands also contribute to ecosystem functions such as water infiltration and nutrient cycling near sensitive wetland and stream systems.

RICE STEWARDSHIP PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

In fiscal year 2025, the Rice Stewardship Partnership scored 60 General Fund Pool 1 applications and 16 Pool 2 applications from rice producers and landowners in Southeast Missouri for the Advancing Markets for Producers Program.

Ducks Unlimited and USA Rice Partnership staff awarded pre-approved funding to the highest-ranking applications. In Missouri, 27 Pool 1 applications and five Pool 2 applications were awarded pre-approved financing totaling \$3,697,506, allocated for the next three growing seasons to assist producers and landowners. A variety of practices will be funded, including pump automation to conserve water and reduce pumping costs and water use, pest and nutrient management and more.



GREAT LAKES / ATLANTIC REGION

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MEMBERSHIP

Grand Total: 17,817
Members: 16,853
 General Members: 14,346
 Greenwings: 910
 Legacy Greenwings: 423
 Sponsor Members: 1,174
Major Sponsors: 964
Feather Society Members: 185

STATE FUNDRAISING

Total event income dollars raised: **\$1,956,829**
 Number of committees: **66**
 Number of fundraising events: **169**
 Local chapter volunteers: **1,219**

FALL FLIGHTS INVESTMENTS TO CANADIAN PROJECTS

Total Contributions: **\$8,787,351**

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

US CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Total Acres Conserved in the state (historically since FY1984): **130,936**

Total Acres of Conservation in the state (FY2025): **12,905**

Amount spent on projects in the state: **\$31,016,893**

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

Primary waterfowl species:

Mallard; Wood Duck; Canada Goose; Northern Pintail; Gadwall; American Wigeon and Blue-Winged Teal.

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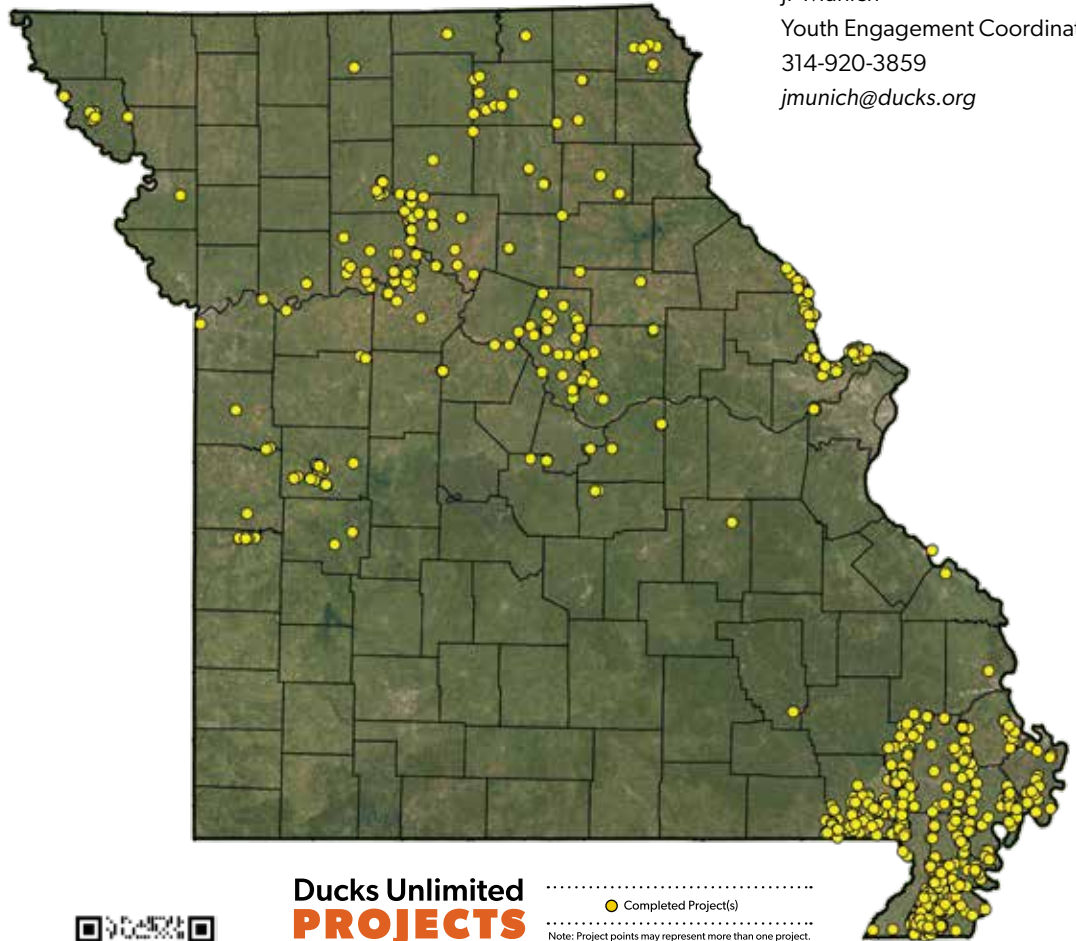
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