



MONTANA

2026 STATE REPORT AND FACT SHEET



DU AND ALEs

Ducks Unlimited biologists work diligently to conserve, protect, and restore acres across Montana and one popular tool that meets both the goals of the NRCS and ensures the protection and future of Montana ranches is the Agricultural Land Easement (ALE). ALEs conserve the land and allow landowners to continue with their day-to-day practices, like grazing livestock, haying, and tending to their crops, all while knowing that their land will forever be protected for future generations, never to be mined, developed, or used for purposes outside of agriculture. Thanks to ALEs and the cooperation between other agencies, Ducks Unlimited biologists have safeguarded 32,519 acres of agricultural land in 2025.



MONTANA SOIL HEALTH PROGRAM GAINS STEAM

Montana DU is proud to implement the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation's (AMBFF) \$350,000 grant to support a project that addresses pressing conservation challenges to enhance soil health and promote sustainable land-use practices, ensuring the vitality of Montana's ecosystems and agricultural landscapes well into the future. With the SHP, DU is taking an innovative approach to helping ag producers ensure the sustainability and profitability of their operations in the face of climate change, while delivering waterfowl habitat conservation. The program also provides societal benefits, including improved waterfowl production, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, enhancing carbon sequestration, improving water retention, and assessing steps needed to combat Montana's grassland loss and degradation. Montana's native grasslands are essential for biodiversity, agriculture, and the state's overall environmental health. Since a significant portion of Montana's land is privately owned it is imperative

that we continue to build relationships with agricultural producers to deliver our conservation work to fill the skies with waterfowl today, tomorrow and forever. In 2025, 23 landowner projects received funding, 7,695 total acres were impacted—of which 3,487 acres were cover crops—and over 4,200 acres of perennial grass were reseeded on crop ground.

GRASSLANDS AND WILDLIFE CORRIDORS, REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (RCPP)

In partnership with Pheasants Forever, DU is excited to announce plans for conservation efforts on 120,000 acres of working lands and wildlife habitat in Montana over the next five years. The project – Montana Grasslands and Wildlife Corridors – recently received \$25 million of funding from the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). The RCPP funding will directly support and impact Montana grassland habitat by removing or modifying 200 miles of fence to facilitate wildlife movement, seed 5,000 acres of grass, contract management improvements on 10,000 acres, and establish reliable livestock water on 100,000 acres of grasslands. Additionally, partners expect to utilize land rental contracts to address barriers to grassland restorations, leverage partnerships, and keep restoration projects intact for a minimum of 10 years on 30,000 acres. Over time, these projects will provide benefits like enhanced habitat for wildlife, increased livestock forage, improved wildlife connectivity, and carbon sequestration. The awarded RCPP wouldn't be possible without robust partnerships, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, the Bureau of Land Management, the Prairie Pothole Joint Venture, the Northern Great Plains Joint Venture, and the Ranchers Stewardship

Alliance. These partners will add significant value to the effort and bring an additional \$12 million in leveraged funding to advance work on the ground.



GREAT PLAINS REGION

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MEMBERSHIP

Grand Total: 7,882
Members: 7,587
 General Members: 6,416
 Greenwings: 462
 Legacy Greenwings: 252
 Sponsor Members: 457
Major Sponsors: 295
Feather Society Members: 77

STATE FUNDRAISING

Total event income dollars raised:
\$1,680,660
 Number of committees: **36**
 Number of fundraising events:
111
 Local chapter volunteers: **535**

FALL FLIGHTS INVESTMENTS TO CANADIAN PROJECTS

Total Contributions: **\$475,580**

Location of projects: Alberta: Pine, Buffalo, and Sullivan Lakes Landscape, Alberta PPR Target Areas

US CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Total Acres Conserved in the state (historically since FY1984): **702,399**
 Total Acres of Conservation in the state (FY2025): **70,247**
 Total amount spent on projects in the state: **\$39,079,330**
 Amount spent on projects in CEN Flyway (through FY2025): **\$747,353,027**

Primary waterfowl species: Mallard; Northern Pintail; Canada Goose; Blue-Winged Teal; Green-Winged Teal; Cinnamon Teal; Lesser Snow Goose; Gadwall and American Wigeon

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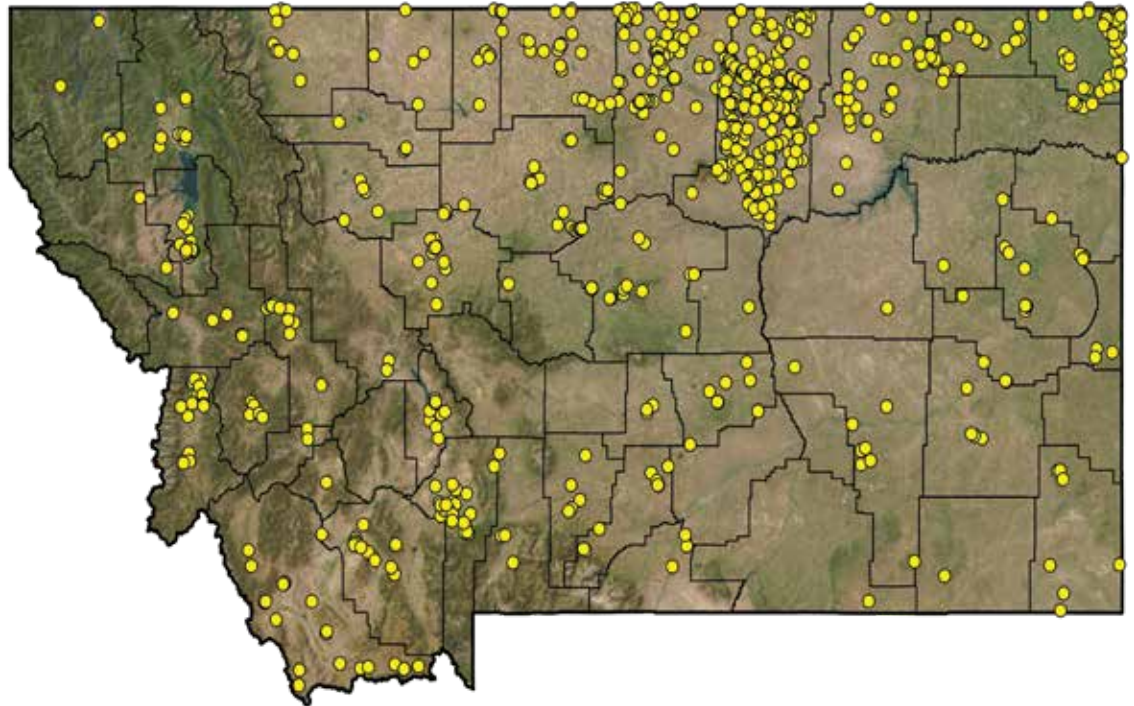
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Ducks Unlimited PROJECTS

● Completed Project(s)
 Note: Project points may represent more than one project.



GREAT PLAINS REGION

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

ducks.org/montana