

GRAND SLAM MAJOR SPONSORS

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DUCKS UNLIMITED CANADA AND DUCKS UNLIMITED DE MÉXICO FOR THEIR
PASSIONATE GENEROSITY FOR CONSERVATION ACROSS THE ENTIRE CONTINENT.

A waterfowl’s migratory nature demands that quality habitats exist at every point throughout their journeys. The migration tells the story of how waterfowl tie the continent together...and how they tie us together. Without healthy habitat throughout their annual migration, these ties come undone. Wetlands from Canada to Mexico are mainstays for millions of migratory birds that fly across our continent.



The sun rises on a June morning over a prairie wetland in Saskatchewan, Canada where a blue-winged teal is tending her brood.



It’s a September noon in Oklahoma where the same blue-winged teal hen is resting and feeding in a shallow pond to restore her strength for the next leg of her trip southward.



A December sunset will cast its glow over the woody shrubs of a Yucatan mangrove where the same hen fed, rested and built her energy just months earlier.

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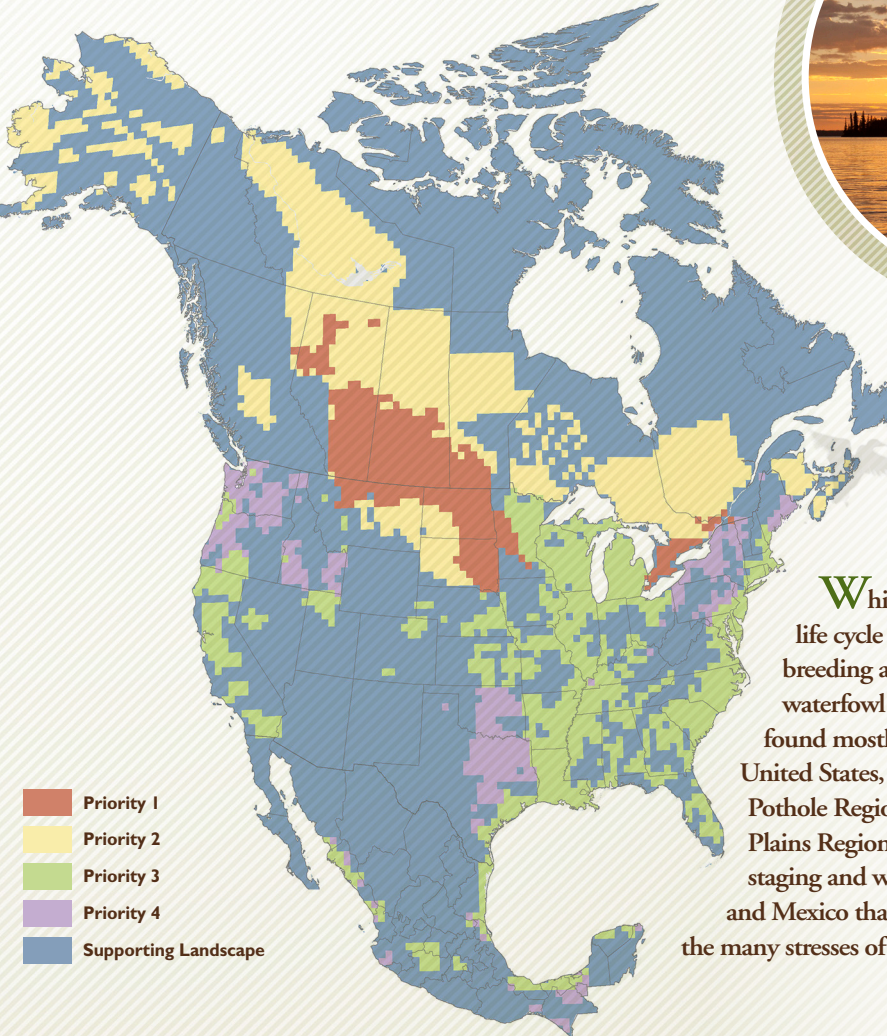
Grand Slam Major Sponsors ensure a collaborative and continental effort to conservation of wetlands and waterfowl across North America.

Ducks Unlimited's approach to continental conservation

As a Grand Slam Major Sponsor you will make the greatest positive impact on North America's waterfowl and connect people across an entire continent who benefit from the many important advantages of healthy, abundant wetlands.

Prioritizing Landscapes

The Ducks Unlimited International Conservation Plan (ICP) looks at conservation from all angles - duck abundance, habitat capacity, habitat threats and the cost of conservation. Integrating DU-led research with other front-line science and applying pragmatic business principles, Ducks Unlimited identifies the landscapes that have the greatest impact on waterfowl populations.



While all habitat is important to the life cycle of waterfowl, science shows that breeding areas have the greatest effect on waterfowl populations. These areas are found mostly in Canada and the northern United States, landscapes such as the Prairie Pothole Region, the Boreal Forest and Great Plains Region. Not far behind are the important staging and wintering areas of the United States and Mexico that fuel and protect the birds from the many stresses of migration.

What Benefits Ducks, Benefits People

Clean Water: Wetlands act as natural water filters, removing harmful pollutants and nutrients before they enter our lakes and rivers.

Habitat for Wildlife: Beyond waterfowl, wetlands provide homes for hundreds of other species including many at-risk populations such as the endangered Whooping Crane, the Monarch Butterfly, pollinators such as bees and a host of other shorebirds.

Flood and Drought Prevention: Wetlands are like giant sponges that absorb water during wet periods and slowly release it during dry periods.

Protection from Sea-level Rise: Coastal wetlands and salt marshes lower the size and speed of ocean waves and mitigate storm damage.

Climate Change Mitigation: Vast networks of wetlands scattered across the continent are storing vast amounts of carbon that, if released, would accelerate climate change.

Recreation: Wetlands are incredible places to enjoy the outdoors. They're a perfect backdrop for hunting, hiking, biking, birdwatching, canoeing and nature photography.

Applying the Best Science From All Angles

Waterfowl Abundance
Determine which areas of North America support the greatest number of birds

Habitat Capacity
Examine the ability of various landscapes to sustain waterfowl populations at ideal, healthy levels

Habitat Threats
Assess rates of habitat loss within various landscapes

Cost of Conservation
Make conservation investments that maximize the greatest positive impact on waterfowl populations



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