



CONSERVATION EASEMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN WYOMING

In 2023, Ducks Unlimited (DU) and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) protected over 1,500 acres through

conservation easements in the state of Wyoming. DU and Wetlands America Trust (WAT), DU's landholding trust, secured one conservation easement in Goshen County and DU and the RMEF teamed up to close one easement totaling over 1,200 acres. DU continues to work with and strengthen partnerships with the Jackson Hole Land Trust and Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust to expand the complexes of protected lands in Wyoming.

Securing conservation easements is a high priority for DU, WAT, and other land trust organizations since so many lands are being subdivided and further developed, leading to waterfowl and other wildlife habitat loss. The number of landowners interested in protecting habitat and their property from anthropogenic threats continues to grow and DU is always seeking new partnership opportunities with landowners and other land trust organizations within Wyoming.

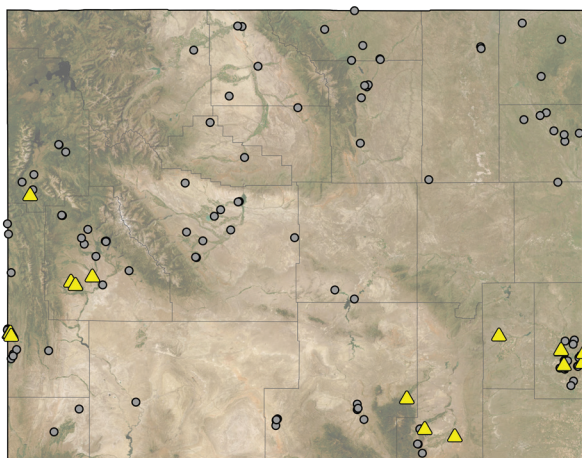
2023 WYOMING CONSERVATION SUMMARY

Ducks Unlimited is proud to be responsible for conserving 18 million acres in North America since its founding and is currently tackling its largest fundraising effort in history. The Conservation for a Continent campaign seeks to raise \$3 Billion to ensure healthy wetlands remain on the landscape across North America. Without question, it's an exciting time to be a part of the DU mission, whether a volunteer, a major donor, or a DU conservation staff member.

We are all part of a conservation team making a difference and this doesn't ring more true than in Wyoming. Grassroots fundraising is celebrating another incredible year and once again DU's Wyoming conservation team was able to continue delivering projects at a scale and pace supporters should be excited about. DU members, volunteers, and donors should be proud for once again impacting more than 1,000 acres and investing over \$1,900,000 in Wyoming—a new bar set for the state.

DU also continues to expand and strengthen its partnerships across Wyoming. In 2023, efforts included working with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program to complete four projects in the Cokeville Meadow area. Additionally, DU teamed up with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) again to perpetually protect over a thousand acres via a conservation easement held by the RMEF. Lastly, DU's partnership with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) continues to complete work at various wildlife habitat management areas (WHMA) across the state and this year was no different. DU and WGFD completed the South Park WHMA project, which has been in the works for over seven years. This project included over a dozen partners in the end and completely transformed the wetland habitat available. These are just a few of the highlights from the year and so many more incredible projects are coming down the pipeline.

There has never been a better time to be a DU supporter. The Wyoming conservation team continues to improve their skill sets and plan to keep DU's success rolling. Projects set to be delivered in 2024 include projects at Renner and Yellowtail Wildlife Habitat Management Areas, the Pathfinder National Wildlife Refuge, and numerous private land habitat protection and restoration projects across the state. As we look forward to another magnificent spring and fall migration, it's always great to look back at the success, memories, and stories we've all created being part of Wyoming's team DU.



Ducks Unlimited
PROJECTS

● Completed Project(s) ▲ Completed 2023
Note: Project points may represent more than one project.



IMPROVING WATER QUALITY AND ENHANCING WETLANDS IN JACKSON

Late last July, Ducks Unlimited staff joined the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, representatives from Jackson, Wyoming, and a congregation of supporters, donors, and partners to dedicate a wetlands enhancement project that not only restored and created new public wetlands, but also improved the water quality flowing from the town's wastewater treatment facility and into the area's free-flowing rivers.

One of the key features of the project was the installation of small levees and modernized water-control structures that improved water management. The result of the work allows managers to better control the inflow and outflow of water from the entire wildlife habitat area, provide better recreational opportunities for hikers, waterfowlers and bird watchers, and provide more habitat for migratory species like swans, which frequent the area.



While the project required a fundraising effort that generated just over \$1.5M, migratory birds and other wildlife are already exploring the new landscape, and the activity is expected to intensify in the coming years. Other species downstream will also feel the effects of the project. The inflow into the Snake River, a world-recognized trout fishery, is cleaner than it has historically been.

At the dedication ceremony, DU Director of Development Chris Hildebrandt said, "This is one of the best examples in the

entire western United States of how wetlands are being used directly to help additionally filter treated wastewater. It's just an awesome win-win project."


DUCKS UNLIMITED

conserves, restores, and manages wetlands and associated habitats for North America's waterfowl. These habitats also benefit other wildlife and people.

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WYOMING NUMBERS

2023

- 10 projects
- 2,442 acres conserved
- \$1,936,992 invested

HISTORICAL

- 122 projects
- 29,060 acres conserved
- \$9,825,394 invested


**GREAT PLAINS
REGION**

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BISMARCK, ND 58503
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FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
WWW.DUCKS.ORG/WYOMING