

DU SUCCESSFUL IN MISSOURI, ILLINOIS AND KENTUCKY CONSERVATION EFFORTS

Waterfowl, wildlife and people will benefit from more than 2,300 acres of Ducks Unlimited conservation projects across Missouri, Illinois and Kentucky. Ducks Unlimited and 20 partners were awarded a \$1 million North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant to conserve 2,300 acres of wetlands in the confluence of the Mississippi River and its tributaries. Work will be concentrated in southeast Missouri, southern Illinois and western Kentucky. With \$2.87 million in matching funds from DU and its partners, the total project investment will be \$3.87 million.

The 3-year effort will protect, restore or enhance wetlands on public and private land in 32 counties. Located near the Missouri-Kentucky border, three projects included in this grant target Kentucky's Doug Travis Wildlife Management Area and will enhance 45 acres and restore an additional 34 acres in the area. This project is a shining example of how DU and conservation partners need to work together across state borders while restoring the grand passages of waterfowl for future generations.



WETLAND REVIEWS INTEGRAL STEP FOR RESTORING LARGE WETLAND COMPLEXES

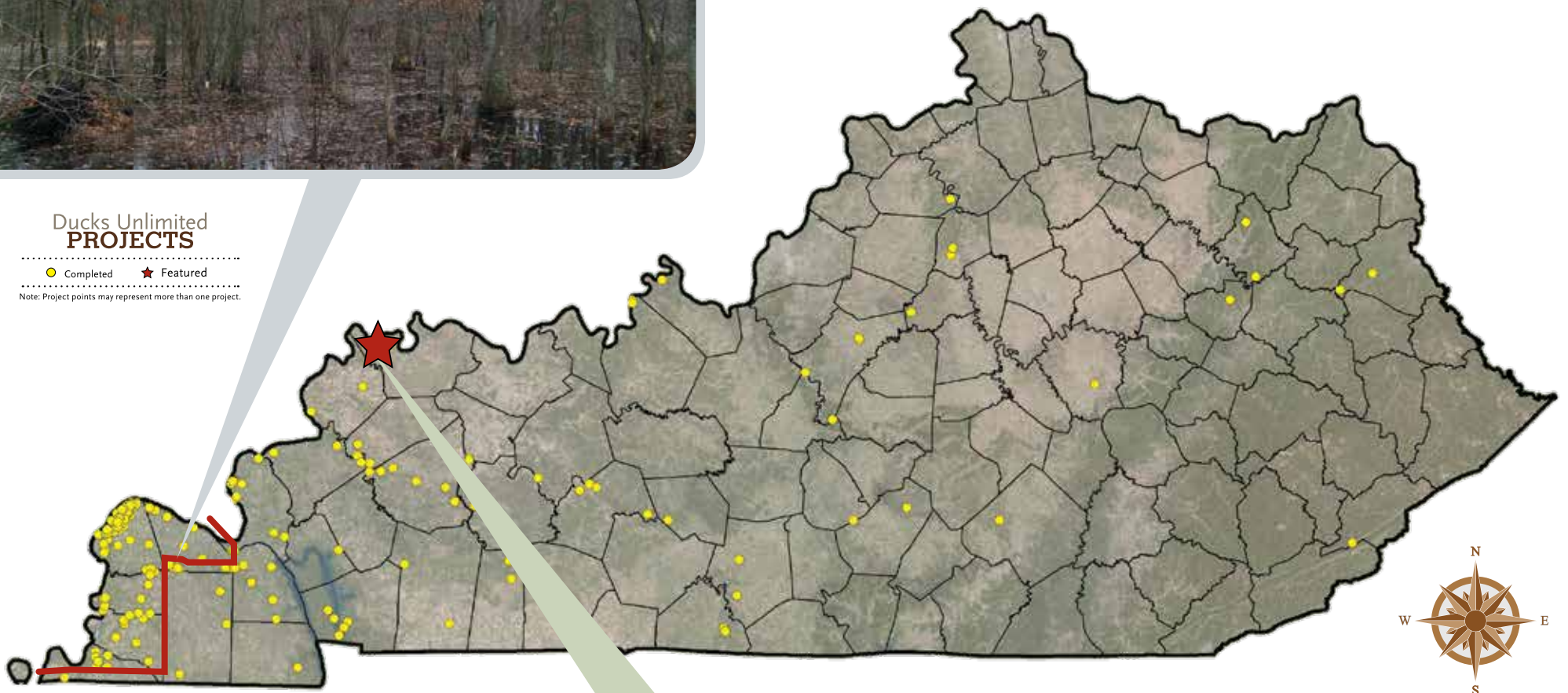
Ducks Unlimited shares its resources and expertise with many other stakeholder groups to reach our goals. An important first step in this process is a wetland review, where conservation partners discuss issues affecting wetland management, develop habitat-based goals and objectives and prepare conceptual plans for future projects. DU and the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources work jointly on a planning committee charged with developing a comprehensive wetland enhancement/restoration plan for west Kentucky public wetland complexes including Ballard, Boatwright and Doug Travis Wildlife Management Areas.



Ducks Unlimited PROJECTS

● Completed ★ Featured

Note: Project points may represent more than one project.



RESTORATION WORK COMPLETED AT SLOUGHS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Ducks Unlimited in 2016 used a North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant to improve 109 acres of Sloughs Wildlife Management Area in northwest Kentucky, some of the region's most productive habitat for the benefit of waterfowl, other migratory birds and people. The project enhanced 22 acres of existing habitat and restored seasonal water flow on another 87 acres of open land in the Crenshaw Unit of Sloughs. Sloughs WMA is an important wetland and waterfowl complex of more than 11,000 acres of Ohio River floodplain.

Sloughs and surrounding wetlands serve as a migration stopover for significant numbers of migrating birds and provide wintering habitat for about 32,000 ducks and 31,000 Canada, snow and white-fronted geese. Visitors can access Sloughs for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography.

Ducks Unlimited constructed levees, installed new water-control structures, and a new deep well along with the water delivery pipe needed to provide dependable water. The completed project will help the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources enhance migration and wintering waterfowl habitats.

The NAWCA grant provided \$75,000 for project construction. Ducks Unlimited partnered with private donors and the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources to secure additional matching funds totaling \$115,000 enabling us to achieve the total project budget of \$190,000.



A STATE CENTERED ON CONSERVATION

Kentucky is in the heart of the Mississippi Flyway and provides important habitat for waterfowl produced in the Prairie Pothole Region and Great Lakes states. Several western Kentucky counties are in the upper Mississippi Alluvial Valley, a Priority 1 waterfowl wintering landscape for Ducks Unlimited.

Large numbers of mallards and wood ducks winter in Kentucky. Since 1988, Ducks Unlimited and partners have conserved more than 12,000 acres of waterfowl habitat, which is less than one percent of the historical wetlands in the Commonwealth.

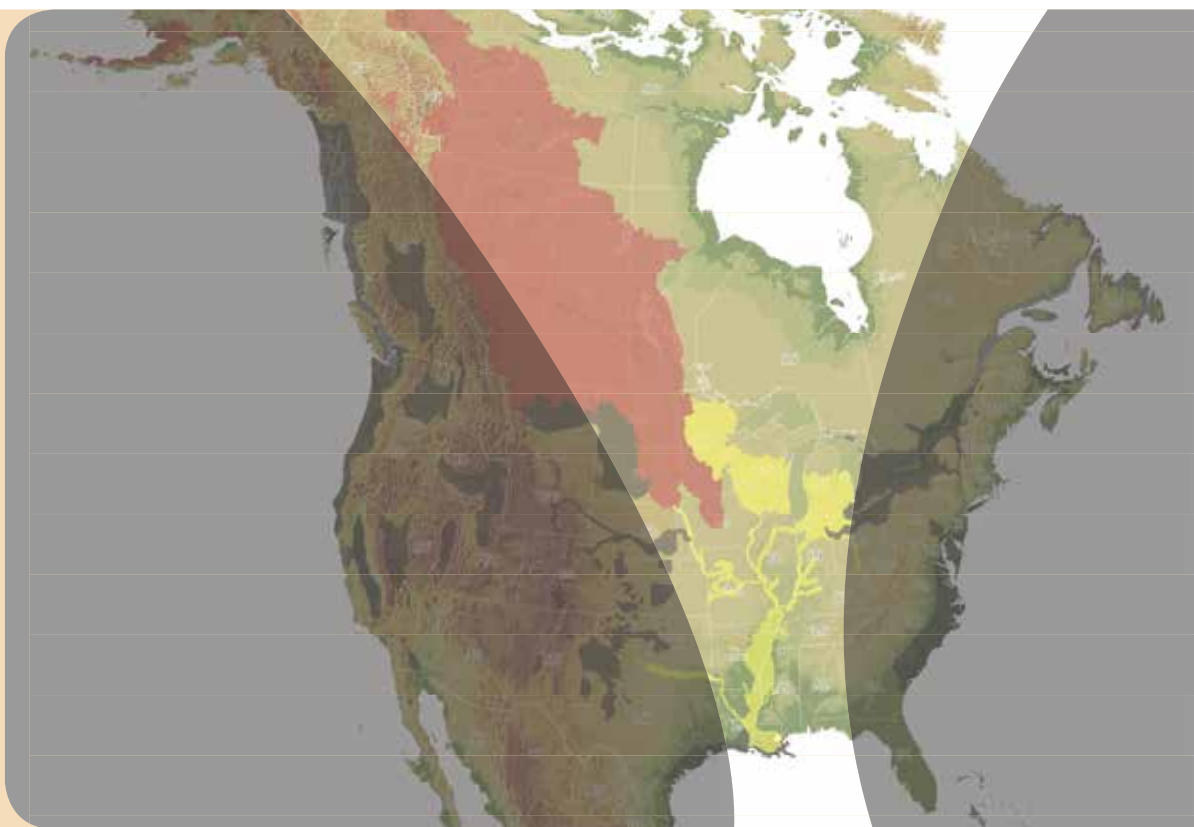
In 2016, DU and the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources continued our partnership to enhance and restore wetland habitat on public lands to benefit waterfowl and Kentucky waterfowl hunters.

Kentucky and its supporters are part of Ducks Unlimited's Big Rivers Initiative. Located in the heart of the Mississippi River and its major tributaries, the Big Rivers Initiative focuses on the restoration, enhancement, and protection of wetlands used by millions of waterfowl as they migrate between wintering and breeding grounds each year.

LOOKING AHEAD

Ducks Unlimited will continue wetland conservation efforts on several projects in Kentucky. DU will:

- Expand Sloughs WMA as DU targets projects at Highland Creek, Sauerheber Refuge and Jenny Hole. Surveying should begin by summer.
- Help the state develop a comprehensive wetland enhancement/restoration plan for west Kentucky public wetland complexes.
- Continue looking for good opportunities to work with volunteer landowners interested in placing DU conservation easements on private lands located in western Kentucky.



A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Ducks Unlimited is celebrating our 80th anniversary in 2017. As an organization, we can trumpet our accomplishments knowing how strongly equipped we are to improve the health of wetlands across North America for the next generation.

The 21-state Great Lakes/Atlantic Region is a diverse landscape of habitats ranging from prairie potholes in the upper Midwest to coastal estuaries in the Atlantic Flyway, with Great Lakes marshes and riverine wetlands in between. Our region had a tremendous impact in 2016. We used private donations and public funds to invest \$29,049,039 on conservation projects. That strong support enabled our biologists and engineers to deliver focused, effective habitat conservation on 15,616 acres of wetlands.

Kentucky is vital to the goals of our region and the country. The entire team in Kentucky, including our volunteers, fundraising staff and conservation staff, has developed a winning strategy that helps waterfowl and anyone who enjoys clean water.

The work you see in this report is a snapshot of the conservation Ducks Unlimited achieves every day. We need and appreciate your support, as we build on this success for the next 80 years.

David Brakhage, GLARO Director of Operations

KENTUCKY: BY THE NUMBERS

2016

- 1 project
- 109 acres conserved
- \$260,000 invested

HISTORICAL

- 12,816 acres conserved
- \$3,017,599 invested

For more information visit www.ducks.org/kentucky

MEET YOUR KENTUCKY CONSERVATION STAFF



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



GREAT LAKES & ATLANTIC REGION

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