

### CONSERVATION SUMMARY

**New Mexico is part of the Central Flyway** and provides important winter habitat for waterfowl produced in the Prairie Pothole Region of Canada and the northern United States. Within the arid intermountain west, the Rio Grande Corridor in New Mexico is an important migratory, wintering and nesting corridor that supports more than 200,000 waterfowl, 18,000 greater sandhill cranes and tens of thousands of other waterbirds and shorebirds.

Conservation partners have been working diligently to ensure that waterfowl habitat in the Rio Grande Valley is abundant and healthy. DU has worked to conserve more than 4,000 acres of waterfowl habitat throughout New Mexico, including conservation projects on Bosque del Apache, Sevilleta, Bitter Lake, Bernardo and Valle de Oro national wildlife refuges and Lay Joya, Rice Park and Stewart Meadows waterfowl areas. Our goal is to perpetually secure habitat and the future of New Mexico as an important wintering area for migratory waterfowl in North America.



### BREEDING GROUND CONNECTION

Ducks Unlimited works hard for waterfowl across North America. For hunters in New Mexico, some of the most important work we do is on the breeding grounds of the Prairie Pothole Region where the majority of waterfowl are produced. Together with our conservation partners, Ducks Unlimited has conserved millions of acres of critical waterfowl habitat in this region. New Mexico major sponsors and volunteers understand the importance of our breeding ground conservation work. DU's Preserve our Prairies Initiative is designed to conserve more than 500,000 acres more by the close of Fiscal Year 2016.

In addition, DU is working with the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF) to secure their participation in the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies State Grants Program. NMDGF's contribution will be combined with other state's contributions then matched by DU Inc, DU Canada and the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, essentially providing a multiplier effect that enables us to make a much larger impact than their grant alone. This partnership mentality and leveraging ability is one of the reasons Ducks Unlimited is the world leader in wetlands conservation.

Ducks Unlimited will continue to work hard for waterfowl and waterfowlers in New Mexico and across the continent. Your support is critical to ensuring waterfowl fill the skies today, tomorrow and forever.



## DEVELOPMENT UPDATE



**New Mexico's Campaign Committee worked in 2013** to secure one new life sponsor. New Mexico sponsors understand that giving to Ducks Unlimited is the soundest investment they can make for the future of wetlands, waterfowl and waterfowl hunting. Junior and Bonnie Kerns are two such dedicated sponsors. They are Grand Slam Life Sponsors working to restart the Las Cruces Chapter. Junior is a past Arizona State Chairman and regularly attends DU events around the country. He is the head of environmental activities for the Army Corps of Engineers at White Sands Missile Test Range. Junior and Bonnie have also left a significant feather society pledge, a clear indication of their desire to leave behind a conservation legacy.

## FUNDRAISING UPDATE

**Volunteers are the heartbeat of Ducks Unlimited**, and New Mexico has some of the best. New Mexico boasts more than 1,100 members, including dedicated volunteers who hosted five events in 2013, raising \$85,886 to support DU's conservation mission. Those dollars allow DU to do conservation work not only within the state, but also on the breeding grounds that produce New Mexico's waterfowl.

The Farmington Chapter remains a shining example of the passion of DU volunteers in New Mexico. New Mexico DU's first reborn chapter in three years, the Farmington committee hosted its first event in over a decade September 2012. Brothers Jeff and Jason Clark, sons of Major Sponsor Stephen Clark, stepped up and led the charge. With the support of a dedicated committee, they were the largest event in New Mexico – both in attendance and in dollars raised – in their first and second years.

Farmington boasts an outstanding and dedicated committee that works not only on the fundraising banquets, but also with the community to clean up local wetlands and hunting locations. The group is also working with DU Conservation staff to identify potential projects. This chapter brought a strong DU presence back to northwestern New Mexico – one of the more important areas in the state for waterfowl.



“The Farmington Chapter is what I thought a DU Chapter should be before I ever joined DU - involved, dedicated, and always looking out for the ducks,” said Regional Director Jim Gregory.

## THE SOUTHERN PRAIRIES AND PLAYAS INITIATIVE

**As waterfowl wing their way through the very heart of America** As waterfowl wing their way through the very heart of America en route from northern breeding grounds to southern wintering haunts, they fly over a vast landscape of short and mixed-grass prairies dotted with playa lakes and other large, historic wetland complexes. These stopover habitats provide important rest areas where waterfowl may feed and refuel on their great migratory flights across the continent each spring and fall.

Lying in the rain shadow of the Rocky Mountains, the Southern Prairies and Playas Initiative area often receives little rainfall. But when it does, the landscape thrives as wetlands recharge and provide habitat for waterfowl and a host of other wildlife. As the primary migration corridor for waterfowl in the Central Flyway, up to 4 million ducks and 1 million geese may winter in this area. Funding derived from the Southern Prairies and Playas Initiative enables Ducks Unlimited to conserve the breeding, migration and wintering habitats important to waterfowl that migrate and winter in the region, as well as to conduct important science, public policy, and outreach efforts. Be part of the solution with your gift to DU's Southern Prairies and Playas Initiative today.

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



**SOUTHERN  
REGION**

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