



2013 STATE CONSERVATION REPORT

WYOMING

CONSERVATION SUMMARY

Waterfowl habitat conservation in Wyoming remained strong in 2012 as Ducks Unlimited accepted its first land donation in the state from the Strube family in Fremont County. Gifts of land are an incredibly important and growing segment of DU's conservation planning. These lands can be protected, restored and potentially developed for revenue-generating opportunities before being sold. Wetland mitigation projects, carbon sequestration and water conservation are some examples of opportunities that help DU generate income to support our mission. The Strubes recognized the power of donating to DU to meet their goals for the property, and we hope that many more DU supporters will consider donating gifts of land.

Partnerships in Wyoming continue to be a strong asset to DU. In 2012, DU worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program to administer grants in several counties where DU does not have a strong staff presence but FWS does. DU has partnered with the FWS since establishing our on-the-ground programs in Wyoming. As public funds decline, our partnership with FWS helps stretch the DU dollar through innovative and traditional partner leveraging. The FWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife program is indispensable for conserving waterfowl habitat in Wyoming.

Other public funding agencies including the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust and North American Wetlands Conservation Act contribute greatly to conservation in the state. DU completed the Platte River Wetland Partnership Phase II grant in 2012, which conserved more than 16,000 acres in Colorado, Nebraska and Wyoming. Additional projects in Wyoming included several private land restorations, conservation easements and a water study that will help us better understand how to flood wetland projects in a dry climate. These diverse funding partners represent our stalwart friends in conservation, and we would not be successful without them.

DU ACCEPTS LAND DONATION IN FREMONT COUNTY

In December 2012, Ducks Unlimited accepted a 24-acre land donation from the Strube family. Located in Fremont County, west of Lander, the 3 Bar X Ranch is comprised mostly of wetland habitat benefiting migrating waterfowl. The donors wish to see the wetlands remain intact as a memorial for two Strube children who lost their lives to cancer. A commemorative sign has been

posted on site and DU will ensure it stays there to honor the donors' wishes.

The Strube family conducted several habitat-enhancement projects over the years to increase the permanence of wetland features on the property. Some of these improvements were

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Waterfowl using Fremont County Property

NEW INITIATIVES FOR WYOMING

In 2013, DU introduced new initiatives that will merge conservation and fundraising efforts and focus on landscapes most critical to waterfowl in North America. Wyoming has many diverse ecosystems, from the plains to high alpine parks, which contribute to the DU mission in unique ways. DU worked to capture the character of the region in two dynamic initiatives: Peaks to Prairies and Heartland Heritage and Habitat.

Over the next five years, DU will work with partners and landowners to protect targeted habitats in Wyoming, combat breeding and nesting habitat loss in the Prairie Pothole Region

and employ strategic public policy solutions that safeguard the future of wetlands and waterfowl in North America.

The prairies are the world's best waterfowl nesting grounds. The Wyoming waterfowling experience would not be the same without healthy prairie waterfowl habitat to provide the spectacle of fall migration. In turn, Wyoming's habitats provide important migration areas for thousands of ducks, geese and swans, while also providing outdoorsmen and women a variety of special places for recreation.

To learn more about the Peaks to Prairies Initiative and how you can help, contact:

Layne Krumwiede at (406) 350-0154 or lkrumwiede@ducks.org

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supported by DU in the mid-1990s. The property is used for wetland mitigation by the Wyoming Department of Transportation and has a wildlife extension agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which expires in August. DU is exploring the idea of creating more wetland mitigation credits on the site. Eventually, DU will sell the property and reinvest the proceeds into new conservation work through our Revolving Land Strategy.

The property is adjacent to a residential subdivision and less than a half-mile from Lander High School. DU's goal is to have the property remain a natural and scenic wetland for the enjoyment of the local community.

"We are grateful we could keep this area as a natural place that the community will enjoy well into the future," RaJean Strube said. "It is a perfect tribute to our family."



Howard Johnson and Don Strube at the 3 Bar X Ranch memorial for the Strube children who lost their lives to cancer

DUCKS UNLIMITED AND THE FWS PARTNERS FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE PROGRAM

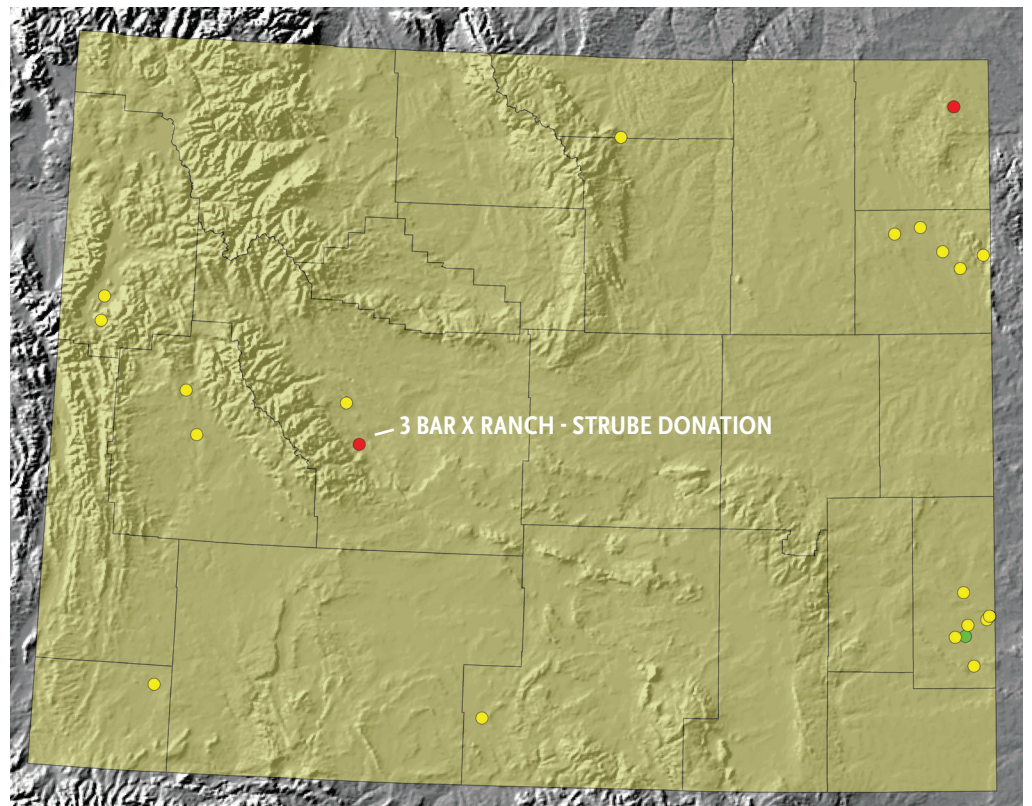
In the early days of Ducks Unlimited's efforts in the Intermountain West, we partnered with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to conserve habitat on private lands. Restoration projects on private lands are often too small to be cost-beneficial for delivery by DU staff alone. However, the FWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) program provides a cost-effective approach to accomplish conservation goals on a smaller scale. Since 1987, PFW has conserved nearly 5,500 acres of wetlands throughout Wyoming and nearly 300 miles of shorelines, riverbanks and in-stream habitat.

DU's partnership with PFW mostly contributes funds toward specific projects that conserve wetlands. However, a recent partnership provided administrative assistance that saved thousands of dollars in administrative fees that were better put toward conservation.

WYOMING PROJECT MAP 1984 - 2012

- COMPLETED PROJECT
- CONSERVATION EASEMENT
- LAND ACQUISITION

Project points may represent more than one project.



In March 2011, DU signed agreements with the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust (WWNRT) to deliver three projects in Wyoming. These projects were conceived, developed and delivered by FWS staff as part of the PFW program, with grant funds received from WWNRT. The PFW coordinator approached DU when it became clear that a large administration fee would be levied by FWS for the grant. DU was asked to administer the grant, contributing staff time to coordinate reporting efforts and work with WWNRT to ensure landowners were reimbursed for their financial contributions to the restoration effort. These projects restored 655 acres of wetlands and enhanced 1,950 acres of associated upland habitat on private lands in Lincoln, Uinta and Johnson counties, which are outside of DU's Platte River conservation focus area but are now included in the Peaks to Prairies Initiative.

MEET YOUR WY STAFF

Layne Krumwiede, director of development, went to his first Ducks Unlimited event with his dad when he was a sophomore in high school and has never looked back. In 2001, Layne joined the DU team as a regional director in Montana. In 2012, he was appointed the director of development for Wyoming and Montana. Layne is responsible for building relationships and stewardship with donors, which is critical to helping DU achieve its conservation mission.

Layne grew up close to a wildlife refuge, where he learned to respect and love the outdoors. He received a bachelor's degree in wildlife management at the University of Montana. His wife, Mari; sons, Kai and Kaelen; and daughter, Auriel, call Lewistown, Montana, home and enjoy hunting, fishing and camping. They agree there is no better place to live, work and play than Montana and Wyoming.

"I am also very fortunate to have worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a Partners for Fish and Wildlife biologist for 13 years at Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge in the prairie pothole country in northeast Montana," Layne said.

In his position with the FWS, Layne had his first interactions with staff in DU's Great Plains Region and was impressed with how the organization

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PARTNER HIGHLIGHT – Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resources Trust

The Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust (WWNRT), established by the state legislature, is funded by interest earned on a permanent account, donations and legislative appropriations. The purpose of the trust is to fund enhancement and conservation of wildlife habitat and natural resources throughout the state.

Every dollar spent by WWNRT is matched, on average, with \$6 from other sources. This ensures the investment by the state has maximum impact. WWNRT projects aim to maintain agricultural operations, conservation businesses and other job-producing enterprises, including the tourism industry.



The Earl Alps Project in Goshen County was funded in part by a WWNRT grant.

WWNRT funds a variety of project types that benefit Wyoming's wildlife and citizens. Nearly \$49 million has been allocated from WWNRT funds, supporting 446 projects in all 23 of Wyoming's counties. DU's conservation strategy in Wyoming of improving and maintaining aquatic habitats, including wetland creation or enhancement, stream restoration and water management, fits within WWNRT's funding categories.

DU has received grants from WWNRT to complete five projects in Weston and Goshen counties. These projects have conserved more than 500 acres of wetland and upland habitats important to nonbreeding, migratory bird populations found in Wyoming.

WWNRT is an independent state agency governed by a nine-member citizen board appointed by the governor. Members of the WWNRT board are from each of the state's nine judicial districts. Members reflect a broad spectrum of interests and experience, representing wildlife, agriculture, industry, sportsmen and tourism. Legislative oversight is guided by a select committee of six members, three each from the state house and senate office located in Cheyenne.

Learn more about WWNRT at <http://wwnrt.wyo.gov/>

MAKE A DIFFERENCE! BE A LEADER! BECOME A DU VOLUNTEER!

Ducks Unlimited needs your help. The best way to promote healthy waterfowl populations is by volunteering with your local DU committee. Funds raised through local events are the foundation of the organization's conservation efforts. Your support also helps DU's policy team positively influence legislation important to waterfowl.

Visit www.ducks.org/volunteer or contact your Regional Director:

Robert Hathaway (307) 221-2061 or rhathaway@ducks.org

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operated. "Being a member and a volunteer and working with volunteers for more than 37 years has given me an appreciation for the true spirit of volunteerism that is the foundation of DU," he said.

Layne can be reached at:

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**GREAT PLAINS
REGION**

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