



Dusky Canada Goose Chugach National Forest Ducks Unlimited Project Dedication

Ducks Unlimited is proud to honor our Major Donors for their commitment and passion for wetland and waterfowl conservation.



Dusky Canada geese are recognized as one of the smallest populations of geese in North America. Nesting predominately on Alaska's Copper River Delta, each Fall the population takes flight as they migrate to parts of Western Washington State and Oregon's Willamette Valley.

The Copper River Delta nestled within the Chugach National Forest is recognized as the largest coastal wetland on the Pacific Coast. Due in part to the ever changing tectonic environments mixed with the 1964 Alaska Earthquake, wildlife managers continue closely monitoring habitat alterations that ultimately effect dusky geese and their predators.

With the breeding population fluctuating from highs of 18,000 birds in 1992 to lows of 5,200 birds in 2009, Management objectives were established by the Pacific Flyway Council and continue to be overseen by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, Alaska Fish and Game, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

Understanding environmental alterations have implications on the dusky goose population, predation amongst breeding adults, nests and goslings via avian and mammalian predators contribute in part to the largest hurdle when over coming population growth.

In 1984 artificial nest islands were installed on The Copper River Delta to deter nest predation. Today on average, the success rate on artificial islands is twice that of natural sites. With a strong partnership between U.S. Forest Service and Ducks Unlimited, continued investments are made annually to secure the success of the Dusky Goose Nest Program and the preservation of this iconic Canada goose species of the Pacific NW.

DUCKS UNLIMITED: *Making an Impact on the Last Frontier*

CONSERVATION

Restoring, protecting, and monitoring our wetlands on public and private lands that improve habitat quality, provide ample resources for waterfowl production and benefits people.

SCIENCE

Conducting scientific research to guide our efforts and build our knowledge of water, habitat and waterfowl relationships.

POLICY

Advocating strong public policies that promote waterfowl-friendly land uses and ensure multi-benefit water use policies.

Located in The Copper River Delta the Dusky Goose Nest Program is a cooperative effort of the USFS and Ducks Unlimited, Inc., to address population declines that have occurred in part due to impacts on nesting habitat from the 1964 earthquake. With elevated regions throughout the Delta, an abundance of shrubs and trees have now established themselves making the dusky geese and their nests more susceptible to depredation. At one point population estimates recorded fewer than 10,000 individual birds. Ducks Unlimited and the U.S. Forest Service partnership has dedicated resources to maintain a viable artificial nest island program with the monitoring of over 300 floating platforms.



To recognize the Dusky Canada Goose Nesting Program, we will dedicate a plaque in honor of DU's Partners & Major Donors who help monitor this population of geese!

Alaska-Born to Fly

INITIATIVE

Alaska is home to some of the most expansive and unspoiled wetlands on earth. The state also ranks among North America's most important waterfowl production areas, supporting 15 to 20 percent of the continent's breeding ducks, geese, and swans. From the rugged southern coast to the sprawling interior to the remote tundra of the North Slope, Alaska is a vast and wild place.

Much of the state is spanned by the Western Boreal Forest, the world's largest remaining intact ecosystem. This biologically rich region encompasses more than 1.5 billion acres of forests, wetlands, lakes, rivers, and streams across the United States and Canada. Alaska's Boreal landscapes and immense tracts of wetlands in inland river deltas and on the northern tundra produce millions of ducks and geese each year.

But development is increasing in this still largely pristine state. Alaska's abundant natural resources are in high demand, and their extraction can conflict with the needs of waterfowl and other wildlife. The loss of Alaska's precious wetlands would have a serious impact on waterfowl populations, especially in the Pacific Flyway. That's why Ducks Unlimited is working to protect Alaska's wetlands while they remain productive and healthy.

Through the Born to Fly Initiative, DU is making an impact on these critical issues:

- Dusky Canada Goose Artificial Nest Program
- North Slope White Goose Population Study
- Wetland and associated upland habitat mapping
- Scientific research and public policy issues

To make a gift online, please visit:

<https://www.ducks.org/LeadersInGiving>



Act now – your support is essential to helping us to fill the skies with waterfowl today, tomorrow and forever.

Participation Options:

TO BE LISTED ON THE PLAQUE:

- Make a new Life Sponsor or upgrade commitment, payable over up to five years, including your cumulative giving.
- Make a new or upgrade planned gift commitment of \$5,000 or more
- Make a cash gift or pledge payment of \$10,000 or more

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