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For information on DU’s conservation programs
Martin Grenier, Manager of Conservation Programs - CO, WY
mgrenier@ducks.org • (970) 775-4416

For information on event fundraising
Nate Farley
State Chairman - CO
nate.farley@umb.com • (303) 330-2677

Erik Wettersten
Senior Regional Director - Front Range & West Slope Colorado
eattersten@ducks.org • (970) 531-1965

Josh Williams
Regional Director - East Plains Colorado
jwilliams@ducks.org • (785) 443-4486

For information on becoming a Major Sponsor
Kirk Davidson
Director of Development - CO, KS
kdavidson@ducks.org • (303) 927-1949

For information on our Colorado projects
Martin Grenier
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DU CONSERVATION REPORT
Colorado 2018

STATE CONTACTS
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972 acres conserved • $1,434,495 invested

Accomplishments (2017)

Ducks Unlimited conserves, restores, and manages wetlands and associated habitats for North America’s waterfowl. These habitats also benefit other wildlife and people.
DU WILL AUCTION
COVETED MOOSE LICENSE THIS YEAR

Since 2012, Colorado DU has been awarded a statewide moose auction license by Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Colorado Ducks Unlimited will again auction a statewide moose license in April.

Last May, DU Director of Development Kirk Davidson auctioned the Colorado tag during a Denver area DU dinner banquet. The winning bid came from Georgia businessman and retired Army veteran Tony Loop at $62,000 setting a record for this coveted license.

This license allows a hunter to hunt in any open moose unit in Colorado, including archery, rifle and muzzleloader seasons. While the Colorado moose season ends in mid-October, the holder of this license may continue to hunt until Dec. 31 with all legal methods of take. Except for these few special tags, all Colorado moose licenses are limited and awarded by random drawing.

DU’s special license was approved by the Colorado legislature with the goal of providing a small number of licenses to conservation organizations for fundraising. DU returns at least 75 percent of the proceeds from the sale of this license to Colorado Parks and Wildlife where the funds are used for moose research, management and education projects. DU retains 25 percent of the proceeds for wetland conservation efforts. Wetlands are used and enjoyed by waterfowl and moose.

This year’s license will be auctioned on Thursday, April 26, during the live auction at the Highlands Ranch DU banquet in the south Denver area. Interested bidders unable to attend may participate by phone.

Contact Kirk Davidson at 303-927-1949 or k davidson@ducks.org.

DU HELPS PARTNERS
IN SAN LUIS VALLEY

Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have asked Ducks Unlimited to assist with three projects on national wildlife refuges in the San Luis Valley. Restoration and enhancement projects are underway on Baca, Monte Vista and Alamosa national wildlife refuges. DU plans on completing these projects prior to the fall waterfowl migration.

The partnership will invest more than $655,000 to restore or enhance more than 1,700 acres of degraded habitats. The goal is to improve water management on the refuges and restore flow paths to wetlands that are important public waterfowling areas.

Restoration activities include fencing, new water-control structures and removal of dilapidated infrastructure. As a result, managers can manipulate water levels to promote and sustain desired habitat conditions for migratory birds, including waterfowl.

According to DU Manager of Conservation Programs Martin Grenier, “productivity of wetlands and infrastructure often degrades with time, due to natural processes. This results in wetlands that are less attractive to waterfowl.”

To keep wetlands productive and functioning properly, Grenier says that it is imperative to replace infrastructure and periodically disturb vegetation. This stimulates growth of desired wetland plants that waterfowl need during migration.

The San Luis Valley is an important migratory stopover for waterfowl during spring and fall migrations and part of Ducks Unlimited’s Peaks to Prairie Initiative. The area is known for high densities of breeding ducks, particularly cinnamon teal, spectacular views and great hunting opportunities.

DU’S FIRST COLORADO PROJECT
TURNS 30 AND SETS THE STAGE
FOR MORE OPPORTUNITIES

Streamflow augmentation via wetland recharge has been part of Ducks Unlimited’s conservation plan since it began working in Colorado and the Brush Prairie Ponds State Wildlife Area (SWA) project started it all. In 1988, DU partnered with the city of Brush, the Colorado Water Conservation Board, Fort Morgan Reservoir and Irrigation Company and the Colorado Division of Wildlife for the first phase of wetland creation on the SWA.

When the final phase of the Brush project was completed in 2009, DU and partners restored 650 acres of wetlands and native grass uplands. Today the SWA is a birding hotspot and a destination for waterfowl and upland bird hunters. In the first year of operation, the wetlands took in more than 1,600 acre-feet of water for recharge.

Augmentation projects receive water into wetlands during the non-irrigation season and provide critical migratory waterfowl habitat and hunting opportunities while generating augmentation credits that benefit local water users. Water diverted into the wetlands percolates into the alluvial aquifer and returns to the South Platte River. Credits generated by these projects cover municipal, industrial and agricultural depletions to the system and contribute to long-term water supply sustainability. Brush Prairie Ponds augmentation credits support the local economy and provide drinking water for the town of Brush.

Work is underway on the latest augmentation project, the Petersen Bend Farm near Ovid, Colorado. The property will bring an estimated annual recharge volume of 300 to 1,000 acre-feet to offset groundwater pumping from surrounding farms. DU’s engineers developed conceptual designs for the project to restore approximately 30 acres of shallow wetlands and associated upland habitat. When completed this year, Petersen Bend Farm will contribute to the Colorado Water Plan goal of providing an additional 400,000 acre-feet of storage by 2050.

COLORADO DU FUNDRAISING TOPS IN NATION

The Colorado Ducks Unlimited fundraising staff took top honors at DU’s Leadership Conference in Memphis in 2017. Kirk Davidson was named National Ducks Unlimited Director of Development of the Year and Erik Wettersten was awarded National Regional Director of the Year.

“Kirk and I served many years as volunteers before joining DU as full-time staff. The relationship, rapport and shared humor we’ve built through years of hunting and working together has served to help each of us in our fundraising roles,” Wettersten said.
“Being a DU regional director has allowed me the privilege of working with a fantastic group of passionate sportsmen and sportswomen volunteers,” he said. “This award is really something I share with hundreds of great volunteers because it is the energy, ideas and hard work of those volunteers that made it possible.”

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Regional Director Erik Wettersten and Director of Development Kirk Davidson

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CO PROJECTS

Completed Projects  2017 Completed Projects

Accomplishments (2017)  
572 acres conserved • $1,434,495 invested

ducks unlimited  
GREAT PLAINS REGION

2523 River Road • Bismarck, ND 58503  
701.355.3500 • 701.355.3575 (Fax)

our mission
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