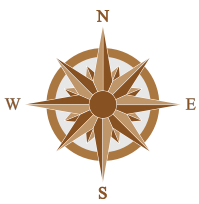


WETLAND EXPERTS GATHER TO REVIEW BALLARD COUNTY WMA CONSERVATION

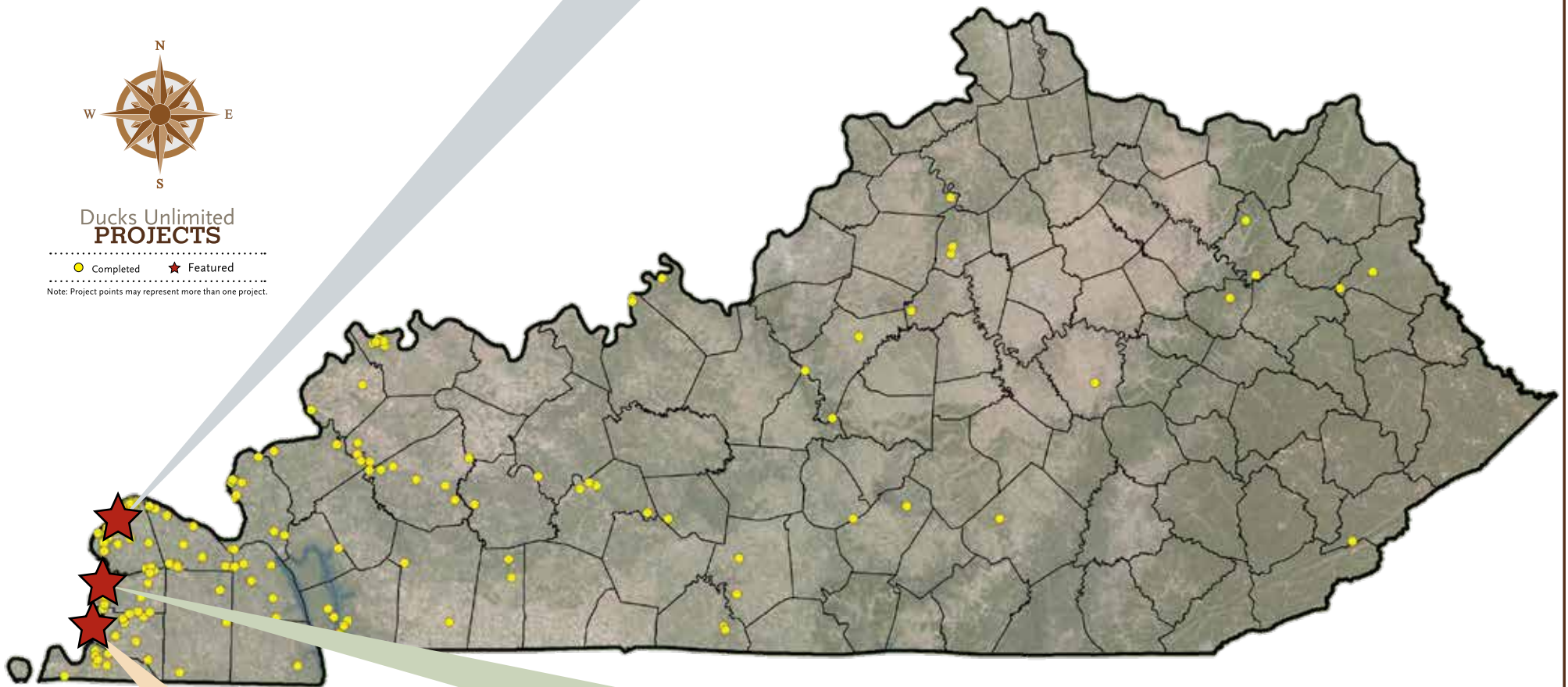
Wetland reviews are an important first step in achieving long-term conservation goals at a specific project location. Ducks Unlimited led a wetland review at Ballard County Wildlife Management Area in June 2017. About 50 people participated, including Ducks Unlimited biologists and volunteers, public wetland managers, scientists, engineers and hydrologists from Kentucky, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Missouri, Illinois and Indiana. The group spent three days evaluating the area with a focus on habitat management, hydrology and infrastructure and the Ballard WMA waterfowl hunting program. The group generated a conceptual plan that can be used by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources to help guide future efforts targeting wetland project design, replacement of failing infrastructure and waterfowl hunting program strategies, all aimed at achieving their desired goals and objectives for this large public wetland complex. These reviews present valuable opportunities for conservation partners to discuss issues affecting wetland management and develop habitat-based goals while planning for future projects.



Ducks Unlimited PROJECTS

- Completed
- ★ Featured

Note: Project points may represent more than one project.

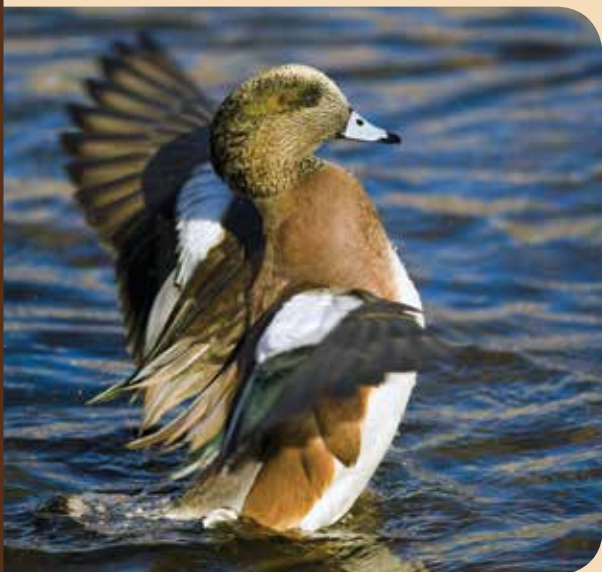


EASEMENT PROTECTS WINTERING, MIGRATING HABITAT

Ducks Unlimited helped protect a 1,276-acre tract of crucial waterfowl habitat along the Mississippi River in Hickman County. The project is a mix of natural occurring and some altered communities including forested wetlands, food plots and cultivated agricultural fields in the Mississippi Alluvial Valley, a top priority landscape for Ducks Unlimited. The land was protected with a conservation easement agreement with a willing landowner. The value associated with this tract is \$4.7 million, which Ducks Unlimited can use as a match to secure additional grants in

support of conservation work in Kentucky.

Conservation easements benefit landowners and conservation partners and help to secure the future and heritage of wetland and waterfowl conservation. They provide long-term protection of important resting and wintering grounds, offer significant tax benefits to landowners and produce large amounts of critical match for securing additional grant funds.



DOUG TRAVIS WMA WETLANDS IMPROVED FOR PEOPLE, DUCKS

Ducks Unlimited in 2017 made several improvements to the 4,200-acre Doug Travis Wildlife Management Area. The projects enhanced or restored critical wetland habitats associated with the upper Mississippi Alluvial Valley, while providing important moist soil and forested wetland habitats for migrating and wintering waterfowl and other wetland-dependent species. The improvements will enhance water quality and offer additional public recreational opportunity targeting hunting, fishing, bird watching and wildlife photography. Projects improved infrastructure originally installed in the early 1990s, and impacted nearly 80 acres across three sites. Doug Travis is among several sites funded through the \$1 million Heart of the Big Rivers North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant secured for projects in Illinois, Kentucky and Missouri. Doug Travis is owned and managed by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.



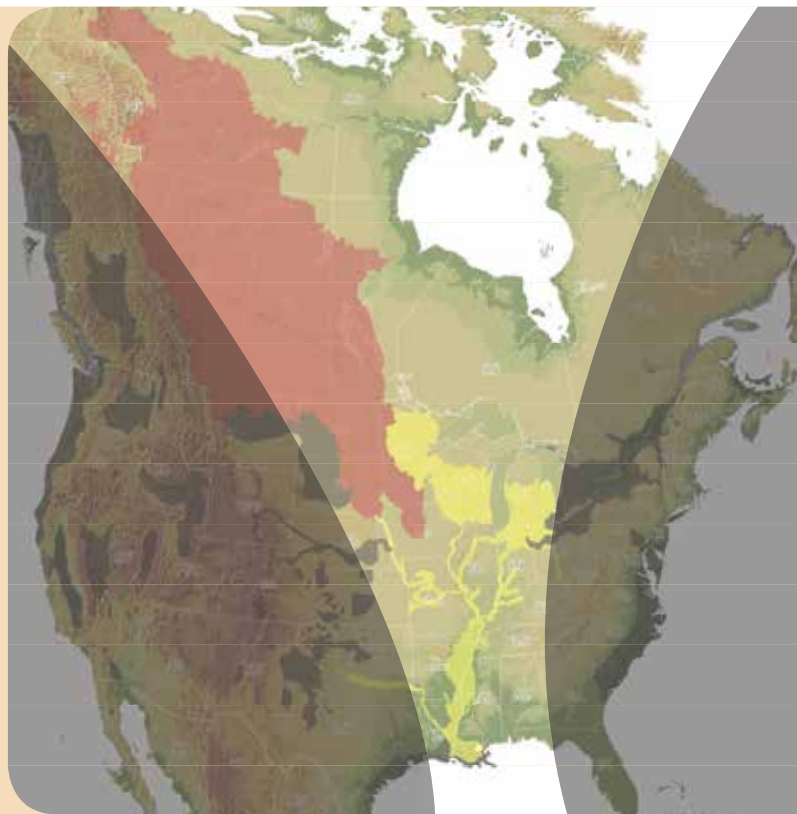
A STATE CENTERED ON CONSERVATION

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 nearly 13,000 acres of waterfowl habitat, which is less than one percent of the historical wetlands in the Commonwealth.

In 2017, 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

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and Ducks Unlimited are combining resources with private, government and non-government organizations to conserve remaining Mississippi Alluvial Valley (MAV) wetland habitats and their ecological values. Our shared conservation efforts will continue building on this strong partnership by delivering high quality wetland enhancement and restoration projects targeting key public land wetland complexes in Kentucky.

We have agreed to develop a comprehensive wetland enhancement, restoration and management plan for all large public wetland complexes located in western Kentucky. This wetland conservation plan will guide future efforts targeting the replacement of failing infrastructure, design of wetland projects and development of hunting strategies for these key public wetland areas.

The wetland review conducted on Ballard County WMA in 2017 was an important first step in the process of building upon what has already been a solid foundation of wetland enhancement, restoration and protection in the upper MAV of western Kentucky.

In addition to Ballard County WMA and all other western Kentucky public wetland complexes, Ducks Unlimited is preparing for the next phase of work at Sloughs Wildlife Management Area. Field staff plan on finishing survey work in 2018 to begin conceptual planning for future conservation work.



A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Kentucky is vital to the goals of Duck's Unlimited's Great Lakes/Atlantic Region. The entire team in Kentucky, including our volunteers, fundraising staff and conservation staff, has developed a winning strategy that grows stronger each year.

Our 21-state region had a tremendous impact on waterfowl habitat and water quality in 2017. We used private donations and public funds to invest nearly \$22 million on conservation projects. That strong support enabled our biologists and engineers to deliver focused, effective habitat conservation on 48,111 acres of wetlands.

None of this would be possible without our volunteers, conservation partners and financial supporters. The accomplishments of Ducks Unlimited are your accomplishments. As an organization, we can trumpet our success knowing how strongly equipped we are to improve the health of wetlands across North America for the next generation.

Thank you for believing in our mission, and for helping us reach our vision of wetlands sufficient to fill the skies with waterfowl today, tomorrow and forever.

David Brakhage, GLARO Director of Operations

KENTUCKY BY THE NUMBERS

2017

- 4 projects
- 1,354 acres conserved
- \$104,277 invested

HISTORICAL

- 12,925 acres conserved
- \$3.21 million invested

For more information visit www.ducks.org/kentucky

KENTUCKY CONSERVATION STAFF



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Ryan Conley, Engineer

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

Visit us online at www.ducks.org/kentucky



GREAT LAKES / ATLANTIC REGION

WE'VE MOVED! Please note our new address
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