



## WATER RESTORED TO KRUGER WATERFOWL PRODUCTION AREA

For nearly 80 years, two wetlands totaling 36 acres on Kruger Waterfowl Production Area in Becker

County were drained for farmland. Ducks Unlimited in 2016 engineered and restored those two wetland basins that will become an important part of a large prairie wetland complex in the Prairie Pothole Region of northwest Minnesota.

The restored land will provide excellent habitat for migrating and breeding waterfowl.

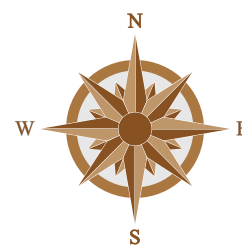
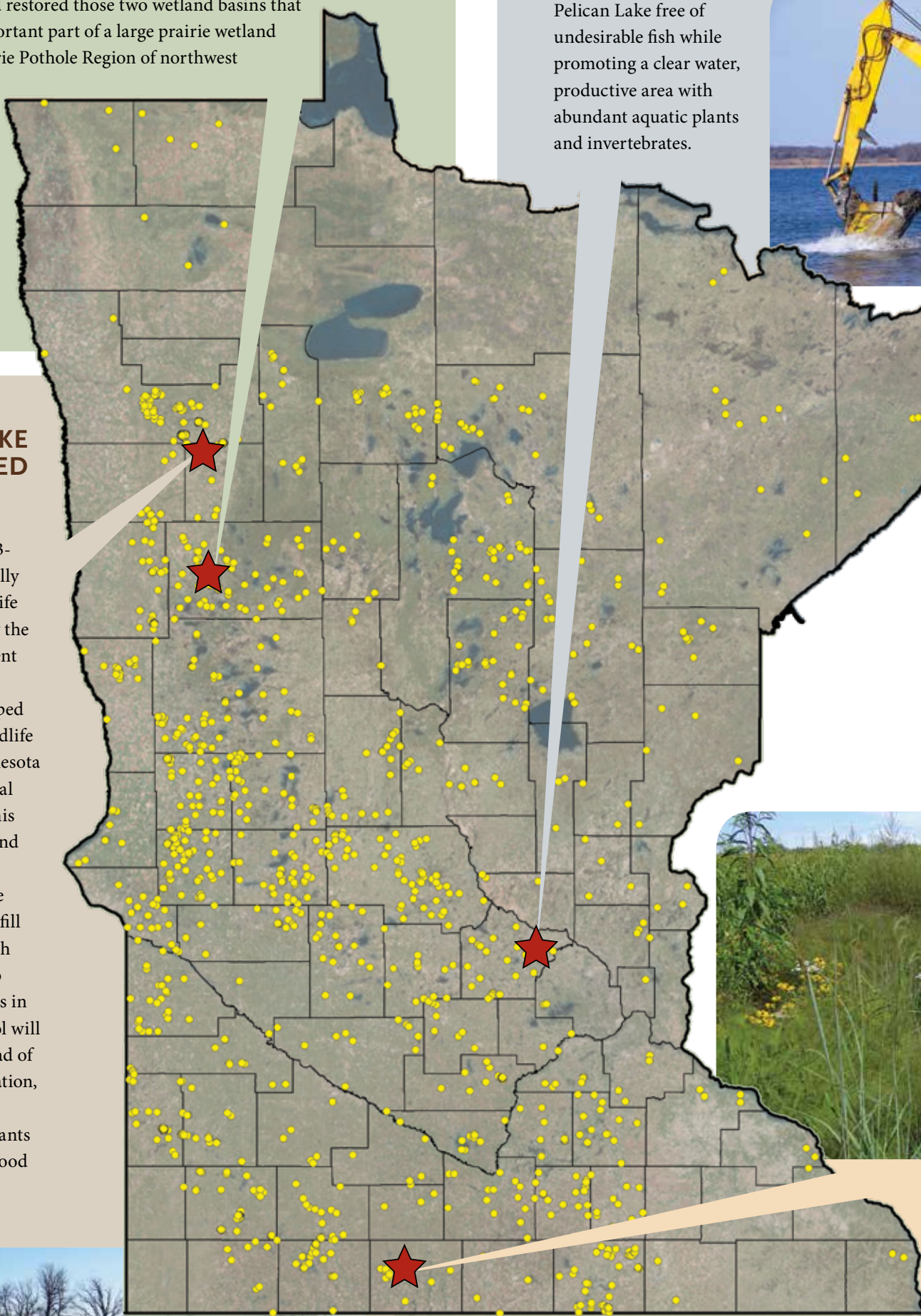
## SPRAWLING PELICAN LAKE IMPROVED FOR WATERFOWLERS

With the flip of a pump switch in August, Ducks Unlimited gave the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources the tools to create quality waterfowl habitat on the sprawling 3,765-acre Pelican Lake in east central Minnesota. Ducks Unlimited installed massive pumps, pipes and other hardware at the shallow lake in Wright County, a legally designated Wildlife Management Lake. The large shallow lake is frequented by hunters from the Twin Cities metropolitan area of Minneapolis and St. Paul. The enhancement allows the Minnesota DNR to mimic natural high- and low-water cycles, keeping Pelican Lake free of undesirable fish while promoting a clear water, productive area with abundant aquatic plants and invertebrates.



## BEAULIEU LAKE BETTER SUITED TO REPEL CATTAILS

Beaulieu Lake is a 283-acre shallow lake legally designated as a Wildlife Management Lake by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Ducks Unlimited helped the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources enhance this lake by engineering and installing water level control infrastructure to allow the lake to refill and remain full, which is now more than two feet deeper than it was in 2015. This deeper pool will help prevent the spread of invasive cattail vegetation, leaving high quality submerged aquatic plants and invertebrates as food for waterfowl.



## Ducks Unlimited PROJECTS

.....  
● Completed    ★ Featured  
 .....  
 Note: Project points may represent more than one project.



## ROONEY RUN PRAIRIES ENHANCED; WETLANDS NEXT

Ducks Unlimited purchased 280 acres on the Rooney Run

Wildlife Management Area in Martin County in

January 2016. DU then restored 200 acres of former cropland on this property back to prairie by planting a diverse mix of native grasses and forbs. The land was transferred to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for long-term management and public use. By summer 2016, the property saw numerous varieties of wildflower and was attracting many prairie wildlife species. This year DU will restore wetlands on the property to create habitat for migrating and breeding waterfowl, and resident wildlife and game animals too.



One of Ducks Unlimited’s busiest and most productive states, Minnesota shows what happens when a vibrant base of supporters, dedicated state conservation funding via the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment, and sound science unite for waterfowl habitat conservation.

Ducks Unlimited restored or protected more than 10,000 acres in Minnesota in 2016 and worked with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to manage 105 wild rice lakes totaling more than 31,000 acres.

Minnesota is crucial to the lifecycle of waterfowl. Containing a mix of prairie pothole and shallow lake habitat complexes, Mississippi River headwaters and near-pristine forested wetlands, waterfowl flock to the state for breeding and during migration. Those duck-friendly habitats have earned Minnesota a long and storied waterfowling heritage. With about 42,000 Ducks Unlimited members, residents here understand and appreciate conservation.

The state is part of a major Ducks Unlimited conservation effort, the Living Lakes Initiative.

The vision of the Living Lakes Initiative is to enhance, restore, and protect managed shallow lakes and wetlands from central Iowa through northern Minnesota to provide high-quality aquatic food and habitat resources for migrating and breeding waterfowl. Living Lakes helps preserve our rich waterfowling heritage and augments conservation of the Prairie Pothole Region.

Private philanthropic funds donated to support the Living Lakes are key to leveraging state Outdoor Heritage Fund appropriations and federal North American Wetland Conservation Act grants.



## MINNESOTA: BY THE NUMBERS 2016

- 42 projects, acquisitions
- 16,085 acres restored, enhanced or acquired
- 105 wild rice lakes managed
- 26,868 acres of wild rice lakes managed

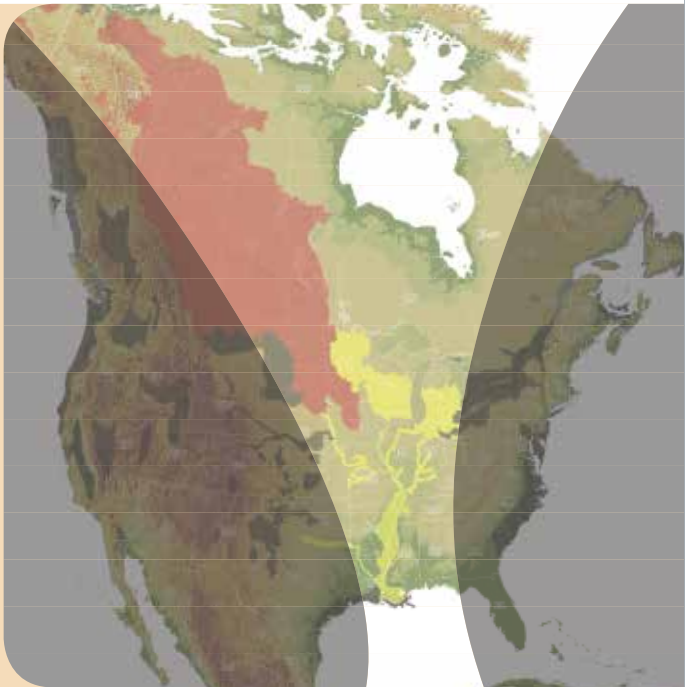
## HISTORICAL

- 201,548 total acres conserved
- \$70,214,541 invested

For more information visit [www.ducks.org/minnesota](http://www.ducks.org/minnesota)

## LOOKING AHEAD

Ducks Unlimited in Minnesota will continue to focus on wetland habitat conservation in three areas. First is the restoration of small wetlands and prairie near existing prairie/wetland complexes in western and southwest Minnesota, for breeding waterfowl and other prairie wildlife. Next will be the enhancement of shallow lakes and large wetlands throughout western and southern Minnesota to make those existing wetlands as productive as possible for both brood-rearing and migrating waterfowl. Finally, in northern Minnesota, Ducks Unlimited will continue to enhance more than 100 wild rice lakes in the forests to keep outlets free flowing and clear of beaver dams and other debris for breeding and migrating ducks.



## A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Ducks Unlimited is celebrating our 80th anniversary in 2017. As an organization, we can trumpet our accomplishments knowing how strongly equipped we are to improve the health of wetlands across North America for the next generation.

The 21-state Great Lakes/Atlantic Region is a diverse landscape of habitats ranging from prairie potholes in the upper Midwest to coastal estuaries in the Atlantic Flyway, with Great Lakes marshes and riverine wetlands in between. Our region had a tremendous impact in 2016. We used private donations and public funds to invest \$29,049,039 on conservation projects. That strong support enabled our biologists and engineers to deliver focused, effective habitat conservation on 15,616 acres of wetlands.

Minnesota is vital to the goals of our region and the country. The entire team in Minnesota, including our volunteers, fundraising staff and conservation staff, has developed a winning strategy that helps waterfowl and anyone who enjoys clean water.

The work you see in this report is a snapshot of the conservation Ducks Unlimited achieves every day. We need and appreciate your support, as we build on this success for the next 80 years.

David Brakhage, GLARO Director of Operations

## MEET YOUR MINNESOTA CONSERVATION STAFF



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



**GREAT LAKES &  
ATLANTIC REGION**

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