



## SWAN LAKE CONSTRUCTION STARTS IN 2018

Ducks Unlimited will break ground this year on a large conservation project at Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge in north-central Missouri. This project will improve 1,890 acres of habitat, including the restoration of 487 acres of wetlands, 293 acres of native grasslands and the enhancement of 1,110 acres of existing

wetlands. Swan Lake is the core component of a wetland complex in the Lower Grand River Watershed that includes more than 22,000 acres of state and federal lands and 16,000 acres of privately owned wetland reserve easements. DU partnered with private donors, the Missouri Department of Conservation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to receive the \$1 million North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant. Project partners committed approximately \$2.14 million in matching funds.



## CLARENCE CANNON NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE TO GET OVERHAUL

Ducks Unlimited in 2018 will start construction on a \$1 million NAWCA grant to restore 2,424 acres of critical habitat at Missouri's Clarence Cannon National Wildlife Refuge. It's the third phase of an ongoing effort in the Confluence Region of the Illinois, Mississippi and Missouri rivers. Project partners are improving water management and restoring natural flow patterns and drainage to benefit migratory birds utilizing this extremely important migrations corridor. Clarence Cannon National Wildlife

Refuge is located along the Mississippi River, a few miles upstream from the confluence of these three major rivers and 40 miles from St. Louis. Ducks Unlimited partnered with private donors, the Missouri Department of Conservation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to receive NAWCA funds. Project partners committed approximately \$5.25 million in matching funds to the \$1 million from NAWCA.



## MISSOURI AGRICULTURE WETLAND INITIATIVE GROWS IN 2017

In Missouri, 93% of the original wetland habitat base has been lost in key landscapes. Ducks Unlimited and several partners in 2003 developed the Missouri Agriculture Wetland Initiative to work with farmers to re-establish wetlands on private land. The program is a partnership between Farm Service Agency, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Missouri Department of Conservation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ducks Unlimited, Missouri Audubon and Missouri landowners. In 2017, Ducks Unlimited has completed 10 Missouri Agriculture Wetland Initiative projects totaling 483 acres at a total investment of \$174,256. Four projects were completed in 2016.



## RICE STEWARDSHIP PARTNERSHIP GROWS IN MISSOURI

The USA Rice-DU Rice Stewardship Partnership assists landowners and rice producers across 3 million rice-growing acres located on private lands in Arkansas, California, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri and Texas. Specific to Missouri, it includes seven counties located in the Bootheel region. The partnership has assisted landowners who voluntarily implement conservation and management practices. To date, 76 Rice Stewardship projects have improved 25,750 acres in Missouri through the National Resources Conservation Service's Environmental Quality Incentives Program and Conservation Stewardship Program programs. Nestlé Purina PetCare Company is the newest corporate sponsor of the USA Rice-DU Rice Stewardship Partnership. Through a \$2-million commitment over four years, Purina will help keep working ricelands healthy, preserve wetlands and create habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife.



## A STATE CENTERED ON CONSERVATION

A major migration and wintering hub for North American waterfowl, Missouri is a crucial state in the Mississippi Flyway. Home to 21,000 Ducks Unlimited members, Missouri has deep conservation roots and an enthusiastic base of support.

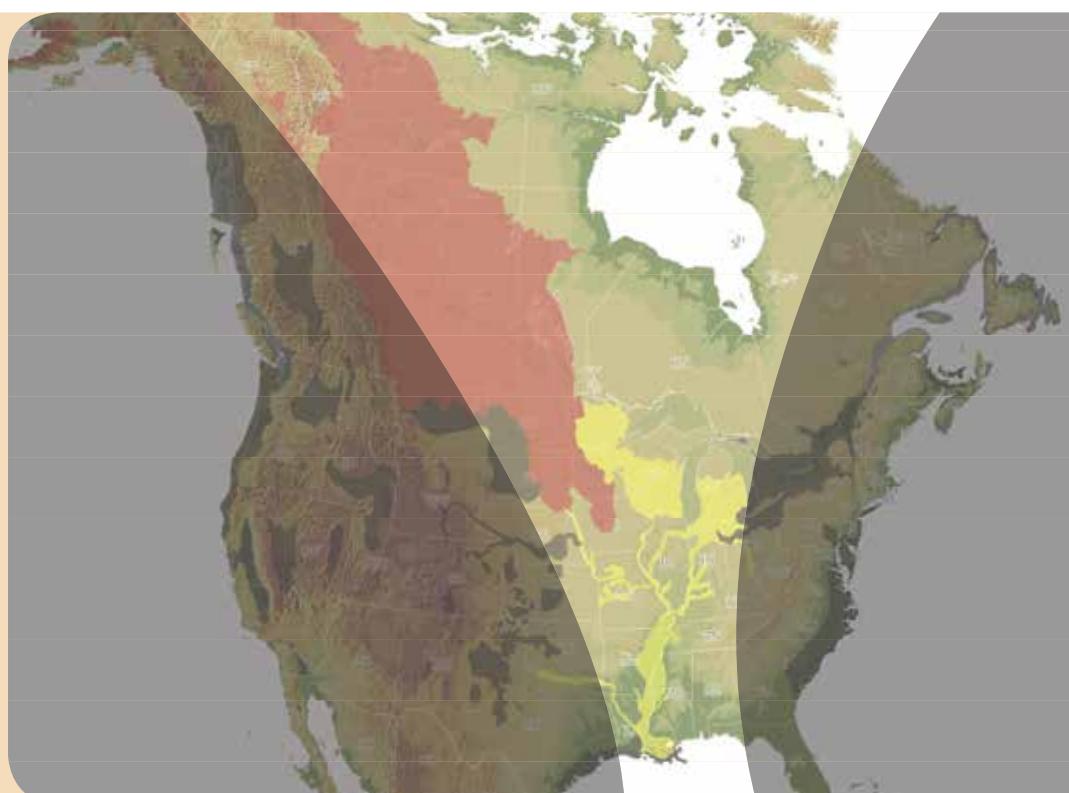
In 2017, Ducks Unlimited continued strong waterfowl habitat enhancement, restoration and protection. From enhancing public land at National Wildlife Refuges across the state to helping private landowners enhance wetland habitat, the Ducks Unlimited conservation team and our partners turned donor support into on-the-ground success.

Missouri and its members are part of the 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. This system is the lifeblood not just for waterfowl and other wildlife, but also for the people in this region.

## LOOKING AHEAD

Ducks Unlimited in 2018 and beyond will strategically continue its conservation work in Missouri.

- Major projects include continuing work at Clarence Cannon and Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuges, and determining appropriate time for project dedications.
- DU has submitted a \$1 million NAWCA funding proposal to help support enhancement and restoration work at Schell Osage Conservation Area, the last of Missouri's five Golden Anniversary Wetland Initiative projects. DU anticipates this being a multiyear project with Phase I construction getting started in 2019.
- DU will continue advancing private lands projects related to Missouri Agriculture Wetland Initiative, conservation easements and the rice program in the Missouri Boot-heel.
- New projects are being explored at Mingo National Wildlife Refuge, Loess Hills National Wildlife Refuge, Settle's Ford Conservation Area and the western reaches of the lower Grand River arm of Truman Reservoir (immediately west/southwest of Clinton).



## A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Missouri is vital to the goals of Duck's Unlimited's Great Lakes/Atlantic Region. The entire team in Missouri, 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

## MISSOURI BY THE NUMBERS

2017

- 12 projects
- 3,801 acres conserved
- \$695,971 invested

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

## HISTORICAL

- 115,522 acres conserved
- \$18.5 million invested

## MISSOURI 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.**

Visit us online at [www.ducks.org/missouri](http://www.ducks.org/missouri)



**GREAT LAKES / ATLANTIC REGION**

**WE'VE MOVED! Please note our new address**  
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