

MISSOURI

2019 STATE CONSERVATION REPORT



SWAN LAKE DUCK HABITAT BOOSTED

Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge is the core component of a wetland complex within the Lower Grand River Basin of northcentral Missouri that includes over 22,000 acres of state and federal lands and 16,000 acres of privately-owned United States Department of Agriculture Wetlands Reserve Program easement properties. Together, these wetlands and associated uplands provide vital habitat for migrating waterfowl, shorebirds and many other wetland dependent species, representing some of the most premier wetland habitat in the Midwest. Ducks Unlimited and several partners in 2018 restored 780 acres and enhanced an additional 1,110 acres of existing wetlands here, conserving some of the region's most productive habitat for the benefit of waterfowl and outdoors enthusiasts.

NEW TOOLS FOR CLARENCE CANNON NWR

Clarence Cannon National Wildlife Refuge is located along the Mississippi River, a few miles upstream from the confluence of three major rivers and 40 miles from St. Louis. Ducks Unlimited in 2018 replaced an outdated and failing refuge pump station, restored water flow to three wetland management units and installed a new water-control structure. These improvements will give refuge managers better capabilities to control water on more than 1,500 wetland acres.

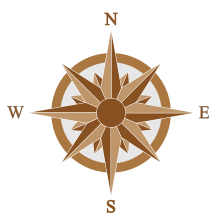


CONSERVATION SPOTLIGHT

Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge
(see back page for full article)

CONSERVATION SPOTLIGHT

Schell-Osage Conservation Area
(see back page for full article)



Ducks Unlimited
PROJECTS

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



MORE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AT MINGO BASIN NWR

Ducks Unlimited enhanced 134 acres of wetlands at Mingo Basin National Wildlife Refuge, a major migration and wintering area for birds from the Mississippi and Central Flyways. The refuge is part of the largest remaining block of bottomland hardwood forest in Missouri. The diversity and abundance of fish, amphibian, reptile, invertebrate, bird and mammal species is among the greatest of any ecosystem in North America. The project installed a new deep well, which enables refuge staff to manage 134 acres of moist soil for migrating and wintering waterfowl. Enhanced water management capabilities will also lead to more public recreational opportunity targeting hunting, fishing, bird watching and wildlife photography.



SEVERAL GROUPS PARTNER TO ENHANCE MISSOURI REFUGE

Enel Green Power North America Inc., Missouri Waterfowlers Hall of Fame, Friends of Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge, Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation, Audubon and other Ducks Unlimited major donors have teamed with Ducks Unlimited and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to enhance more than 1,000 acres within the Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge in northwest Missouri.

Loess Bluffs is a 7,000-acre refuge comprised of wetlands, grasslands and forests reserved primarily as feeding and breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife.

“With this support from Enel Green Power, Ducks Unlimited will enhance crucial habitat at an important migratory point in the Mississippi Flyway,” said Mike Shannon, Ducks Unlimited regional biologist. “This project gives refuge managers the tools necessary to properly manage water levels on a large tract of refuge, providing healthy habitat for waterfowl and wildlife, including more than 400 bald eagles that reside there.”



The groups have contributed more than \$350,000 to the project, located near the organization’s Rock Creek wind project in Atchison County, Mo. Recent droughts in the region have caused fluctuations within the wetlands at Loess Bluffs and the funds will support projects aimed at stabilizing these critical habitats.

“We are proud to support this initiative with Ducks Unlimited for improvements at Loess Bluffs, which serves as a vital wildlife habitat, as well as a cherished educational and natural resource for the local community,” said Georgios Papadimitriou, CEO of Enel Green Power North America.



SCHELL-OSAGE TO GET MAJOR UPGRADE

One of the oldest publicly managed wetland areas in Missouri will receive a major upgrade as Ducks Unlimited helps the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) give new life to a vital Mississippi Flyway stopover.

Ducks Unlimited is leading a \$4.5 million NAWCA project with 13 other conservation partners to help support enhancement and restoration efforts on Schell-Osage Conservation Area, an 8,600-acre property on the west-central side of Missouri



along the banks of the Osage River. The MDC is bringing several more million dollars to this project themselves to help complete the entire Schell Osage renovation.

Ducks Unlimited and partners will enhance 3,935 acres through several improvements. Replacing levees, updating water-control structures and widening

boat channels means healthier habitat for wildlife. The project will improve floodplain function, offer more effective water management and reduce damage from the frequent flooding that occurs along the Osage River.

More than 277 bird species, including migratory birds, waterfowl, shorebirds and songbirds visit Schell-Osage.

“Many folks have fond memories of Schell-Osage,” said Mark Flaspohler, Ducks Unlimited director of conservation programs for Missouri and DU’s Big Rivers Initiative. “The area is a well-known birding hotspot, as evidence by the large number of waterfowlers and by the enthusiastic support of multiple Audubon chapters.”

Project funding is supported by a \$1 million North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant with \$3.5 million in match dollars from the 13 partners.



MISSOURI BY THE NUMBERS

2018

- 19 projects completed
- 2,025 acres conserved
- \$249,911 invested

HISTORICAL

- 117,126 acres conserved
- \$20,835,075 invested

For more information visit www.ducks.org/missouri

MISSOURI CONSERVATION STAFF



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For more information visit us online at www.ducks.org/missouri

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



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