



Missouri

2022 STATE CONSERVATION REPORT

GREAT LAKES/ATLANTIC REGION

BIG RIVERS INITIATIVE

★ LOESS BLUFFS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE (NWR) ENHANCEMENT/RESTORATION

The 7,440-acre Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1935 to protect and restore resting, breeding and foraging habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife. The refuge holds approximately 3,800 acres of managed wetlands, including a diverse mix of open water wetlands, semi-permanent cattail marshes, seasonally flooded moist-soil units, and expansive wet prairies. Loess Bluffs NWR is the largest tract of wet prairie habitat remaining in Missouri. In 2021 DU, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and partners installed three deep wells and pumps to help bring a consistent water supply to portions of Loess Bluffs NWR, benefitting migratory birds and other wildlife. The next phase is to construct a berm across the north side of Eagle Pool.



★ SCHELL OSAGE CONSERVATION AREA RENOVATION

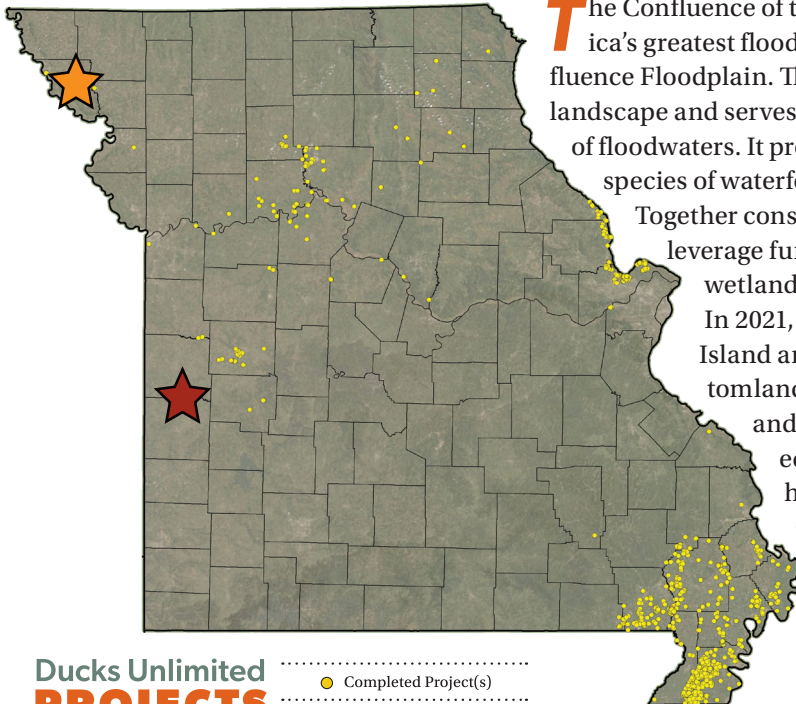
Ducks Unlimited partnered with the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) to design a three-phase restoration project for the Schell Osage Conservation Area (CA). When complete, the project will improve wetland habitat for resting and feeding waterfowl and other wetland species. Habitats support a variety of waterfowl and 289 bird species, making the area popular for both waterfowl hunters and

birders. MDC, Bass Pro Shops & Cabela's Outdoor Funds, and numerous other major donors have been critical in keeping this project moving forward.

CONFLUENCE REGION CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM

The Confluence of the Mississippi, Illinois, and Missouri Rivers is North America's greatest floodplain forming a unique wetland system known as the Confluence Floodplain. This region carries waters from over half of the United States landscape and serves vital ecological functions such as storage and purification of floodwaters. It provides a critically important migration habitat to over 250 species of waterfowl, wading birds and neo-tropical migrant songbirds.

Together conservation partners have discovered various unique ways to leverage funds and ultimately enhance, restore, and protect floodplain wetlands and associated habitats through conservation easements. In 2021, DU closed on two new conservation easements (Steamboat Island and Golden Eagle Hunt Club), protecting 447 acres of bottomland floodplain and associated wetland habitats in the Confluence Region of eastern Missouri.



Ducks Unlimited
PROJECTS

..... Completed Project(s)
Note: Project points may represent more than one project.



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.DUCKS.ORG/MISSOURI

SUSTAINING THE FUTURE OF RICE – MISSOURI BOOTHEEL RICE PROGRAM

In February 2013, USA Rice and Ducks Unlimited, Inc. (DU) came together to weld a fundamental partnership. They envision conserving three critical natural resources in North America, rice lands, water, and wetland wildlife.

The 2014 Farm Bill provided the vehicle by which this untraditional partnership would bring its ambitious goals to reality. In the 2014 Farm Bill, the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) introduced a new program, the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). With the RCPP, eligible partners identify resource needs within their region, propose a project to address those needs and then compete for funds that NRCS awards.

USA Rice and DU, backed by over 40 agriculture and conservation partners, were awarded \$10 million in RCPP funds that have come to be known as the Rice Stewardship RCPP. Funds for conservation practices are made available to rice producers on a competitive basis through the

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) cost-share programs of NRCS.

Practices approved in the most recent CSP signup address irrigation water management, nutrient management and reflooding harvested rice fields. Closing drainage structures allows rainfall to collect not only provides fall, winter and early spring wetland habitat but also improves water quality and promotes water conservation.

From 2018 through 2020, Missouri has had 21 EQIP contracts with shallow water flooding on 7,283 acres which paid out \$486,049.00.

Missouri now has two ongoing CSP contracts. The Mid-South RCPP, which is specific to the Mississippi Alluvial Valley, has 24 contracts on 25,681.38 acres and an obligation of \$2,505,002.00 throughout the 5-year contract. In 2020 alone, \$481,164.00 was paid on 52,686 acres. In 2021 DU staff worked directly with local NRCS staff and four new landowners in Southeast MO, where we enrolled 4,673 additional acres in DUs Rice program in the MO Bootheel.



Missouri by the Numbers

2021

- 9 projects completed
- 6,495 acres conserved
- \$740,094 invested

HISTORICAL

- 119,084 acres conserved
- \$21.3 million invested

For more information visit www.ducks.org/missouri

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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.

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GREAT LAKES & ATLANTIC REGION

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