



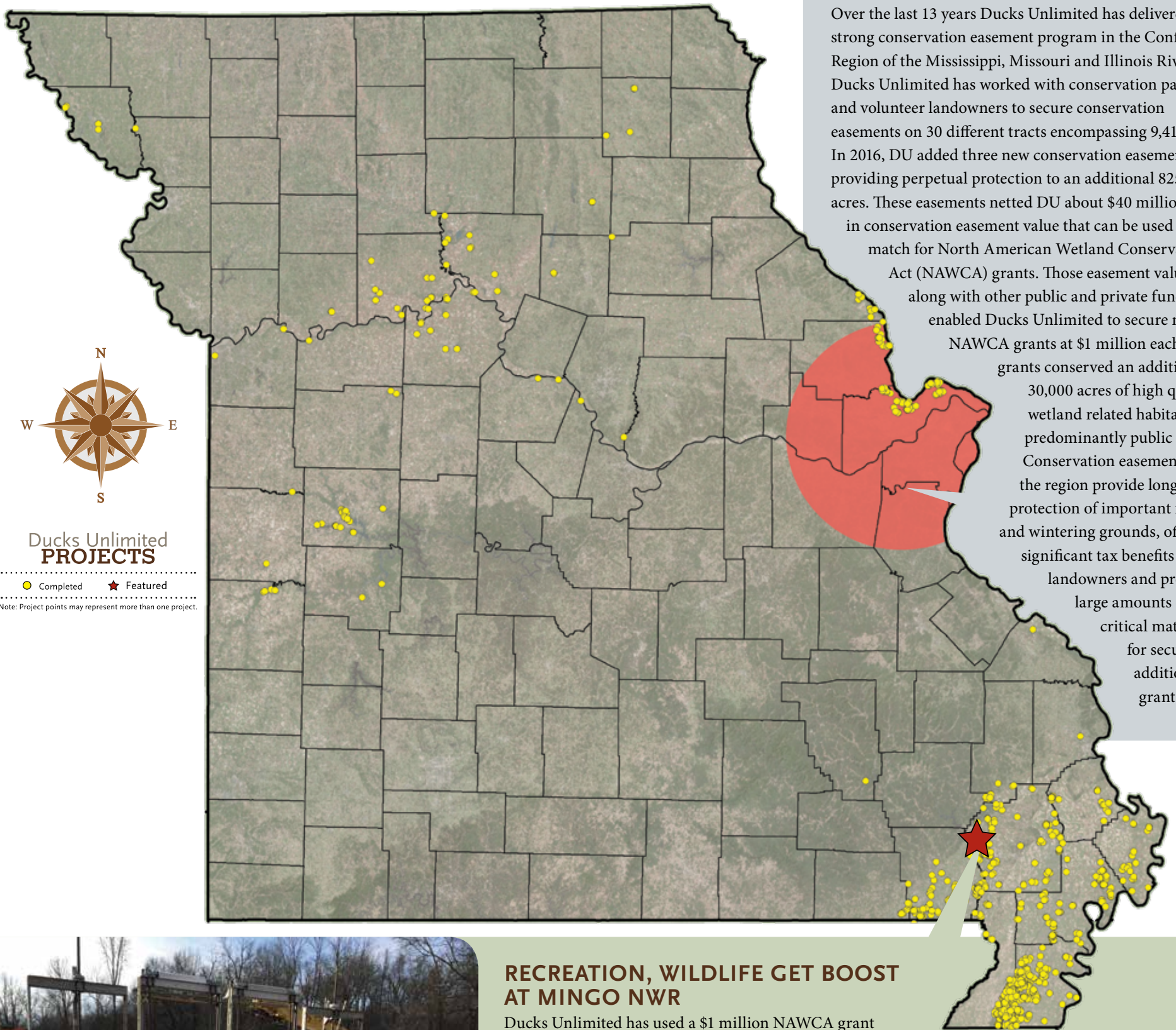
MISSOURI AGRICULTURE WETLAND INITIATIVE HAD STRONG 2016

Ducks Unlimited and several partners are working with farmers to re-establish wetlands on private land. The Missouri Agriculture Wetland Initiative was established in 2003 to integrate wetlands into agricultural operations. 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. DU and conservation partners pay up to \$20,000 per site to landowners interested in enhancing wetland habitat on their property. In 2016, four program projects totaling 274 acres were completed at a total investment of \$110,535. Six projects are scheduled for 2017.



CONFLUENCE REGION EASEMENT PROGRAM ADDS 825 ACRES

Over the last 13 years Ducks Unlimited has delivered a strong conservation easement program in the Confluence Region of the Mississippi, Missouri and Illinois Rivers. Ducks Unlimited has worked with conservation partners and volunteer landowners to secure conservation easements on 30 different tracts encompassing 9,411 acres. In 2016, DU added three new conservation easements providing perpetual protection to an additional 825 acres. These easements netted DU about \$40 million in conservation easement value that can be used as a match for North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA) grants. Those easement values, along with other public and private funds, enabled Ducks Unlimited to secure nine NAWCA grants at \$1 million each. These grants conserved an additional 30,000 acres of high quality wetland related habitats on predominantly public lands. Conservation easements in the region 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.



RECREATION, WILDLIFE GET BOOST AT MINGO NWR

Ducks Unlimited has used a \$1 million NAWCA grant to boost Mingo National Wildlife Refuge for wildlife and recreation. Mingo is in southeast Missouri, about 150 miles south of the confluence of the Mississippi, Missouri and Illinois Rivers. It's a major migration and wintering area for birds from the Mississippi and Central Flyways. DU's project replaced a major water-control and spillway structure that was undersized and failing. The 50-year-old infrastructure was causing frequent and prolonged flooding in the immediate Mingo basin floodplain. By installing a new, larger water-control structure, the project will improve habitat across more than 3,000 acres. Mingo National Wildlife Refuge provides numerous public use opportunities including hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, wildlife photography, environmental education and interpretation. These public opportunities have been enhanced with completion of this project.



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 22,000 Ducks Unlimited members, Missouri has deep conservation roots and an enthusiastic base of support.

In 2016, Ducks Unlimited continued strong waterfowl habitat enhancement, restoration and protection. From enhancing 3,000 acres on the Mingo National Wildlife Refuge to acquiring 101 acres for the Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, the Ducks Unlimited conservation team and our partners turned donor support into on-the-ground success.

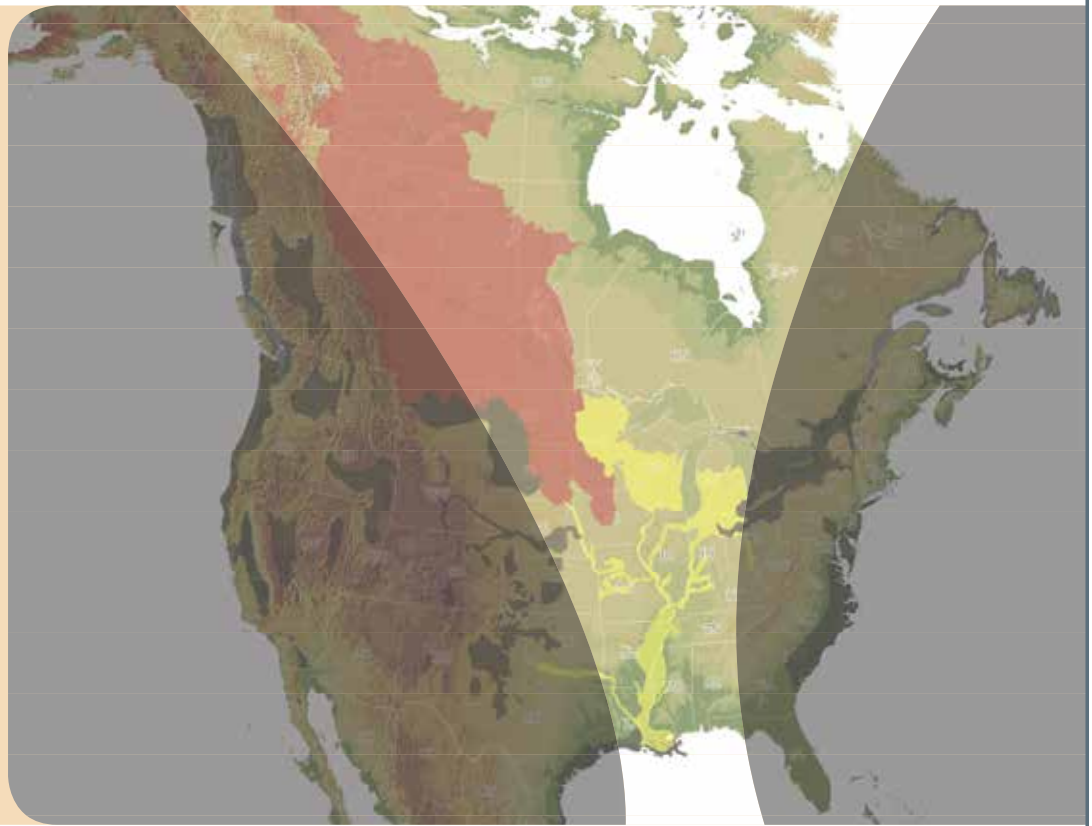
Missouri and its members are part of the Big Rivers Initiative. Located in the heart of the Mississippi River and its major tributaries, the Big Rivers Initiative focuses on the restoration, enhancement, and protection of wetlands used by millions of waterfowl as they migrate between wintering and breeding 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

Big projects affecting big acres for waterfowl are on the horizon over the next few years. In addition to continuing the Confluence Region Easement Program and Missouri Agriculture Wetland Initiative, several projects will take shape.

This year, Ducks Unlimited will use a \$1 million NAWCA grant to restore 2,424 acres of critical habitat at Missouri's Clarence Cannon National Wildlife Refuge. Another NAWCA funded project is the improvement of Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge. This project will affect 1,890 acres of habitat, including the restoration of 780 acres and the enhancement of 1,110 acres of existing wetlands.

Conceptual planning continues with the Schell Osage Conservation Area project in southwest Missouri, which includes a new pump station and large-scale wetland restoration efforts.



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.

Missouri vital to the goals of our region and the country. The entire team in Missouri, 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

MISSOURI: BY THE NUMBERS

2016

- 9 projects
- 4,200 acres conserved
- \$1,329,736 invested

HISTORICAL

- 111,721 acres conserved
- \$17,365,503 invested

For more information visit www.ducks.org/missouri

MEET YOUR MISSOURI CONSERVATION STAFF



Mark Flaspohler

Manager of Conservation Programs
Big Rivers Initiative

Contact:

573.234.2132 ext. 178
mflaspohler@ducks.org

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

1220 Eisenhower Place, Ann Arbor, MI 48108
734.623.2000 (Phone) • 734.623.2035 (Fax)