



CONSERVATION GOALS

Looking ahead in 2020

Habitat protection programs

Through conservation easements and land acquisitions for partners, DU plans to protect more than 1,000 wetland and upland acres, primarily along the Platte River and in the Rainwater Basin. Total program cost is \$4 million with DU contributing \$3.8 million, including donated easements and grant support. Philanthropic support of \$200,000 is still needed.

Restoration and enhancement programs

More than 11,000 acres of wetlands and uplands will be restored and enhanced in Nebraska. The total cost of this multi-project effort is \$2.08 million. DU is contributing \$1.98 million, raised through grant funding. Philanthropic gifts of \$100,000 are needed to fund the remainder of the costs and reach this goal.

Revolving Habitat Program

As part of the Revolving Habitat Program, DU will permanently protect 320 new acres. Projected costs are \$2.4 million, of which \$1.2 million is needed in new private gifts.

➤ 244-acre Craig tract in Lincoln County

- DU will transition this property on the Platte River to a public entity for habitat management and public use. DU needs to raise \$568,000 to complete this project.

➤ 680-acre Doug Frey Wetlands Complex in Morrill County

- DU plans to transition the remaining 198 acres from Wetlands America Trust (WAT) to Platte River Basin Environments for permanent management and public access. DU needs to raise \$331,000 from private gifts to bring this project to fruition.

Critical conservation funding opportunity announced

In 2019, DU initiated a 15-year, \$7 million fundraising effort to establish a Rainwater Basin Water Development Fund. Acting as a long-term interest-bearing account, the fund will provide annual funds and infrastructure needs to pump water in an area of Nebraska critical to migrating waterfowl. In fiscal year 2019, \$209,000 in private gifts were secured for the fund.

CELEBRATING PHILANTHROPY

Critical Conservation Club donor event held in Omaha

In April, Ducks Unlimited supporter Scott Cassels hosted a group of concerned conservationists to discuss habitat and access issues in Nebraska's Rainwater Basin (RWB). The group is called the Critical Conservation Club (CCC) and is raising money for the RWB Water Development Fund.

The club brings together community leaders, executives and outdoor enthusiasts on conservation issues with the goal to bring about healthier, sustainable environments and quality of life. Designed to be an annual event, the club will highlight a new conservation issue and address it with the expertise of the CCC members.

"Nearly \$100,000 was raised during the event, a significant contribution to our fundraising efforts," said Terry Kostinec, DU director of development for Nebraska. "We want to especially thank Scott and Karla Cassels for hosting and event chair, Tom Whiteing."

The RWB Water Development Fund will support development of new wells and infrastructure to distribute water to RWB wetlands, most of which will occur on public lands, providing more places to hunt and positive local economic impacts.



Tom Smith, Bruce Wright and John Dudley toast to the success of the evening.

Evening of Conservation event brings people together for a cause

Tom and Lisa Smith of Lincoln recently hosted an Evening of Conservation for Lincoln-area Ducks Unlimited supporters. A casual conversation about new conservation programs took place over refreshments and dinner.

"Events like this offer DU supporters the opportunity to meet with conservation staff and DU partners to ask important questions about topics that affect our landscape resources," said Terry Kostinec, director of development in Nebraska. "The Evening of Conservation format is a great way to celebrate our success, thank our most passionate supporters and discuss funding opportunities for the future."

Donelans surpass benchmark of support

The Donelans have been dedicated supporters of DU's conservation programs in Nebraska for more than 20 years.

"The Donelans recently made a new pledge to support the Rainwater Basin Water Development Fund," said Terry Kostinec, director of development for Nebraska. "By doing so, they have surpassed the Gold Legacy Level of giving."

The Rainwater Basin Water Development Fund is designed to address conservation needs in the region. DU and partners will restore 5,000 acres in the RWB during the next 12 years. The fund will support water pumping and development of new wells and infrastructure to distribute the water to wetlands in the basin primarily on public lands.



Ducks Unlimited volunteers and staff thank Dr. Jim Donelan and his wife Patty for their many years of giving and volunteering.

DU is thankful for our new 2019 donors in Nebraska

Steve & Carol Andersen
Judy & Mick Anderson, Jr.
John Belford
Don & Patricia Brockley
Brad & Christie Carson
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