

DU
CONSERVATION REPORT
2017

(WASHINGTON)

For the waterfowl of the Pacific Flyway, the state of Washington offers habitat unique to the Pacific Northwest, filled with vital wetlands that support a remarkable biodiversity of more than 315 species of wildlife using the land as a primary feeding or breeding area. Ducks Unlimited is committed to conservation and restoration throughout the state and is engaged in dozens of habitat projects, including DU's ongoing work with the Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, a primary conservation partner, to enhance and restore wetlands on state wildlife areas.

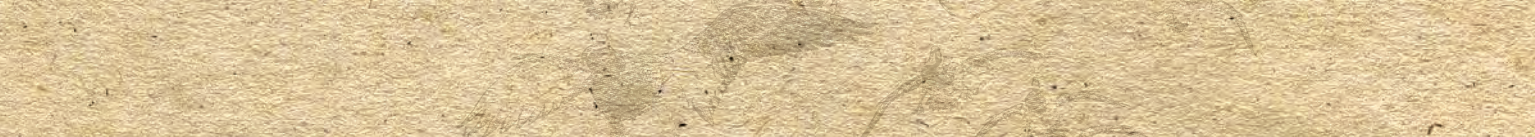
While DU has conserved thousands of acres throughout the state, some recently completed projects are particularly noteworthy: at Mesa Lake, Artesian Lake, and the Saltese Wetlands of the Channeled Scablands, Ridgefield National Wildlife Reserve in southern Washington, and the popular Samish Unit of Skagit Wildlife Area. Whether the projects are enhancement or restoration, subsidence reversal or groundwork for wildlife-friendly agriculture, all share a common spotlight for being some of DU's finest and most groundbreaking conservation efforts.

CHANNELED SCABLANDS SURVEY



It is estimated that over 70 percent of the wetlands in the Channeled Scablands of Eastern Washington are privately owned and still impacted by drainage ditches. Farmers and ranchers protect a large proportion of this landscape, which provides their livelihood, while providing valuable habitat to wildlife. However, threats exist. Wetland loss to land conversion continues, and changing land and water uses, limited water supplies, and climate change all have impacts on wetlands and wetland dependent wildlife. Ducks Unlimited and its conservation partners in Eastern Washington are working towards solutions for working landscapes to protect and enhance both

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wildlife habitat and the agricultural way of life in this region.

For the past two springs, the first-ever spring migration waterfowl surveys were performed in the Channeled Scablands. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) headed up aerial surveys, and staff from Ducks Unlimited,

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge, and volunteers from Friends of Turnbull, Eastern WA University, Gonzaga University, and Spokane Audubon Chapter performed counts along several driving routes through Lincoln, Spokane, Adams, and Whitman counties. This was the second year of a planned four-year survey.

Data is currently being analyzed and will help the Eastern Washington conservation partnership better understand how the birds use this landscape, with the ultimate goal of working more effectively with landowners to accomplish strategic habitat protection and restoration.

TAKE THE INITIATIVE – HELP DU CONSERVE HABITAT THROUGH THE WINGS & WETLANDS INITIATIVE

Washington's diverse habitat landscapes, from the Puget Sound, along the Pacific Coast to the lower reaches of the Columbia River and the channeled scablands are tremendously important to the waterfowl of the Pacific Flyway. These areas are predominately used by migrating and wintering waterfowl, often in great numbers, but are also important for breeding ducks and geese as well. DU's focus in western Washington is to provide wintering and migration habitat to waterfowl. On the eastern side of the state, projects center on improving degraded wetlands to provide exceptional breeding and migration habitat.

Your charitable support will enable Ducks Unlimited to conduct important science, public policy, and outreach efforts, as well as conserve and restore habitats important to waterfowl. DU's

research and evaluation efforts are the foundation upon which our direct conservation programs and our policy and outreach work are based. The Wings & Wetlands Initiative encompasses Oregon, Washington and Idaho and all three states enjoy a close connection with Canada that has been strengthened on the wings of waterfowl. Birds move freely across the border during spring and fall migration and during winter months, in search of an ever-shrinking food supply. Habitat loss and water use on both sides of the border mean there will be no safe havens until we conserve what remains. A gift to DU's Wings & Wetlands Initiative will support projects close to home, but also will ensure that the remaining undisturbed breeding grounds on both sides of the border will be protected before restoration is required.

For more information on DU's Wings & Wetlands Initiative:

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our mission

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