

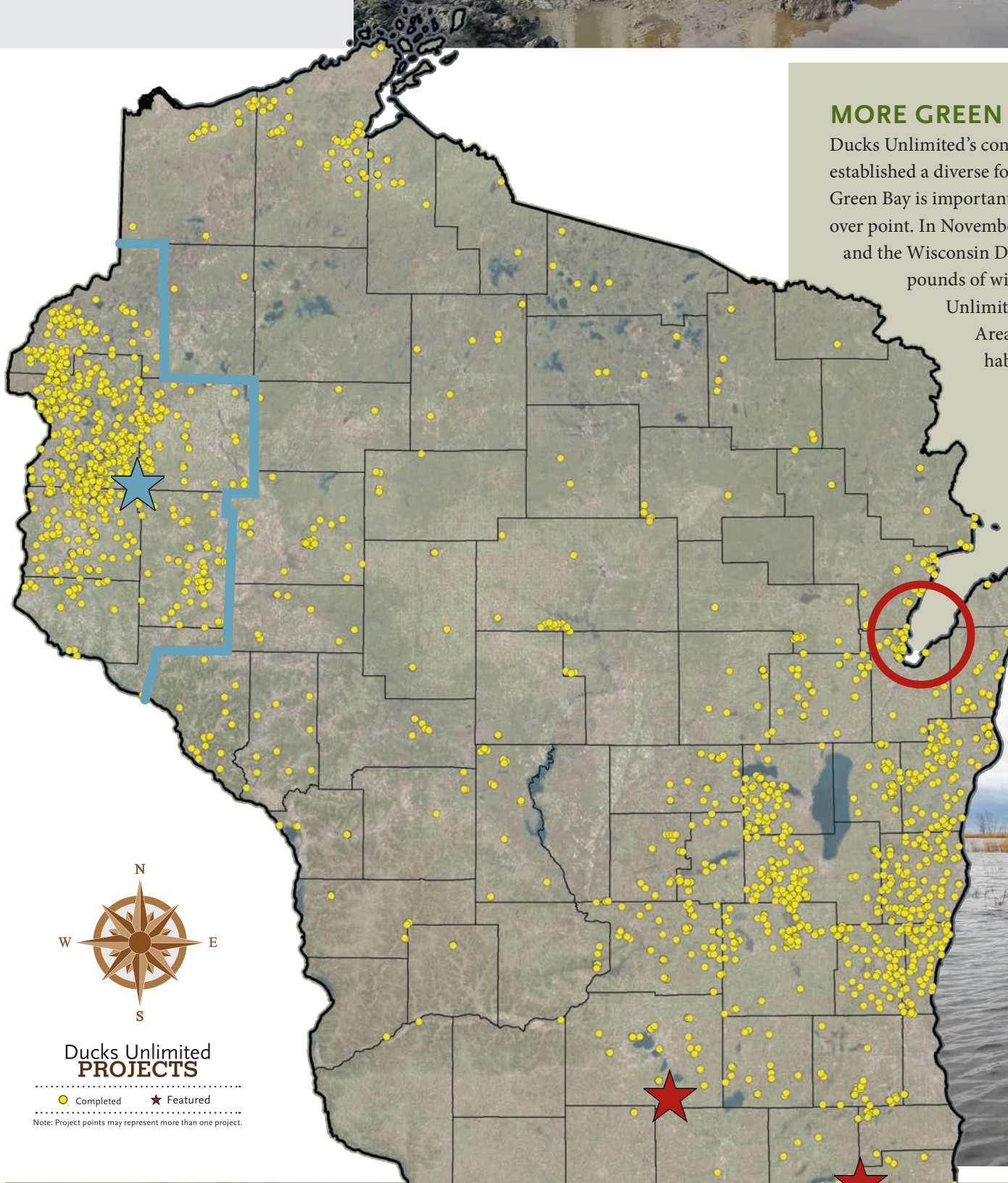
WISCONSIN

2019 STATE CONSERVATION REPORT



HARVEY'S MARSH SEES NEW WATER, PRAIRIE

Despite a very wet summer, Ducks Unlimited contractors found a way to complete a restoration at Harvey's Marsh Waterfowl Production Area in southern Dane County. This phase of the project restored a 20-acre wetland and planted native prairie on portions of a recently acquired 80-acre tract. The project was funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and state Duck Stamp dollars.



MORE GREEN BAY CONSERVATION COMING

Ducks Unlimited's conservation program around lower Green Bay has established a diverse foundation of wetland rehabilitation efforts. Lower Green Bay is important to waterfowl and is a historical migratory stop-over point. In November the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, DU and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources seeded 2,000 pounds of wild rice, a practice which began in 2015. Ducks Unlimited has enhanced the Sensiba State Wildlife Area, improving water flow and fish spawning habitat. A partnership with NEW Water restored three wetlands to improve water quality. Projects have started or will soon begin at Oconto Marsh and Rush Point Refuge, Ken Euers Nature Area and Barkhausen Waterfowl Preserve. The West Shores region contains 70% of the coastal wetlands remaining on Lake Michigan.



Photo courtesy of Marty Hackl/Friends of Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge

NEW HACKMATACK LAND DEDICATED

Ducks Unlimited and several partners dedicated 86 new acres of public land at Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge on June 5. Ducks Unlimited acquired the land and donated it to the refuge after restoring 20 acres of wetlands and planting 50 acres of prairie. Hackmatack was established in 2012 as a source of public land close to the Chicago region, and a refuge to help connect tracts of conserved land in southeast Wisconsin and northeast Illinois. Friends of Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and other partners took part in the event.

NORTHWEST WISCONSIN POTHOLES ENJOY QUARTER CENTURY OF ONGOING SUCCESS

Twenty-five years of dedicated Ducks Unlimited conservation efforts in northwest Wisconsin has improved the state's crucial – yet threatened – prairie pothole landscape critical for waterfowl breeding.

Small pothole-type wetlands created by Wisconsin's glaciation were a dominant feature of the landscape in this area for millions of years. However, these small emergent wetlands were easily altered for agriculture development.

Wisconsin has lost about half its original wetlands to development, agricultural drainage and highways. Less than one percent of native prairie grassland habitat remains in the state. Agriculture and urban development dominate the landscape and have resulted in substantial wetland and grassland loss and increased sediment and nutrient loading in area lakes, rivers and streams.

Beginning in 1994, Ducks Unlimited began the Northwest Pothole Habitat Initiative. The program is now concluding its 10th North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant to fund these projects, which has brought together dozens of conservation partners.

Nearly \$30 million in public and private funding has protected, enhanced or restored nearly 25,000 acres on public and private land in this landscape.

"The results have changed the face of the landscape," said Brian Glenzinski, Ducks Unlimited regional biologist in Wisconsin. "Wetland-dependent wildlife populations of some species have stabilized, and others have increased. Water quality benefits, although difficult to measure, have been positive."

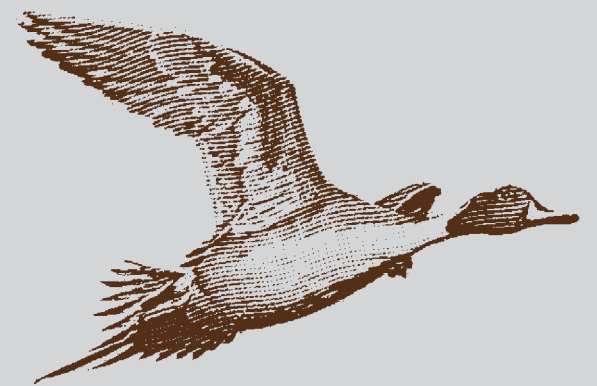
The changes have benefited the breeding habitat for mallards, blue-winged teal, wood ducks and Canada geese and improved migratory stop-over habitat for several species of shorebirds, waterfowl and waterbirds.

The program will continue, as Ducks Unlimited and its partners will seize opportunities and focus on protection projects such as at Crex Meadows Wildlife Area, where two recent small NAWCA grants will protect more than 750 acres of critical habitat.



LOOKING AHEAD

- Ducks Unlimited has expanded the engineering capacity for Wisconsin with the hiring of new Engineering Technician Mark Steinfest.
- Ducks Unlimited will expand efforts from the Mississippi River coast to the Lake Michigan coast. Ducks Unlimited is working with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to enhance Pool 4 of the Mississippi River in Bay City, and is coordinating with partners along the western shoreline of Lake Michigan to submit another NAWCA proposal in 2019.
- 2019 will be a productive year of construction with work already starting at Greenhead flowage on Horicon Marsh and multiple projects going out for bid in early 2019, including Barkhausen Waterfowl Preserve, Bergstrom Waterfowl Complex, Big Muskego Wildlife Area, Vernon Marsh and Waterloo Wildlife Area.



WISCONSIN BY THE NUMBERS

2018

- 37 projects
- 2,432 acres conserved
- \$2,367,241 invested

HISTORICAL

- 2,670 projects
- 123,220 acres conserved
- \$33.5 million invested

For more information visit www.ducks.org/wisconsin



WISCONSIN CONSERVATION STAFF

◀ **BRIAN GLENZINSKI**, Regional Biologist
Contact: bglenzinski@ducks.org • 608.221.1206

Michael Baker, Director of Engineering Services

Warren Weirich, Manager of Conservation Services

Brian Schuh, Senior Engineering Technician

Mark Steinfest, Senior Engineering Technician

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

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

7322 Newman Blvd., Building 1, Dexter, MI 48130
Phone number: 734.623.2000