

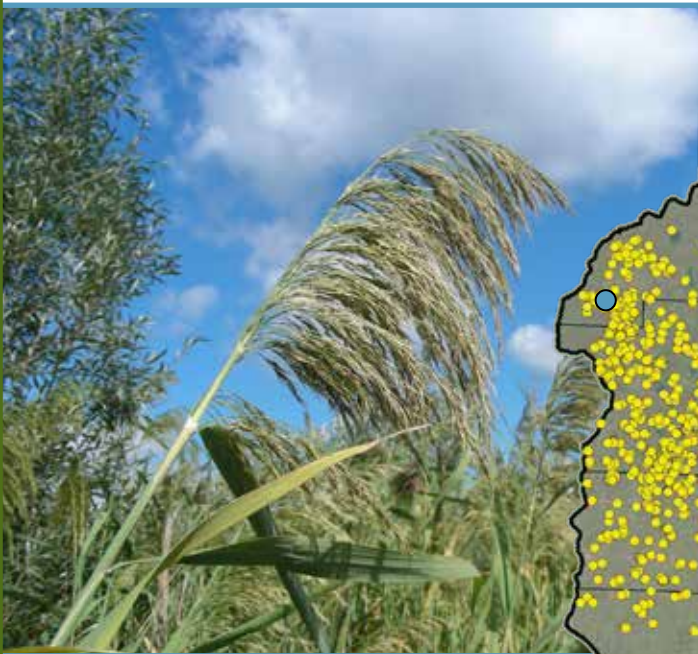


NRCS PARTNERSHIP PAYING DIVIDENDS FOR THE DUCKS

In 2018 Ducks Unlimited entered into a three-year partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service to help deliver the Wetland Reserve Easement Program across Wisconsin. In 2019, the first year of the program, 2,040 acres of habitat was conserved with an additional 5,000 acres projected for the remainder of the agreement. This effective model has already opened additional funding streams to potentially expand and extend Wetland Reserve delivery in Wisconsin.

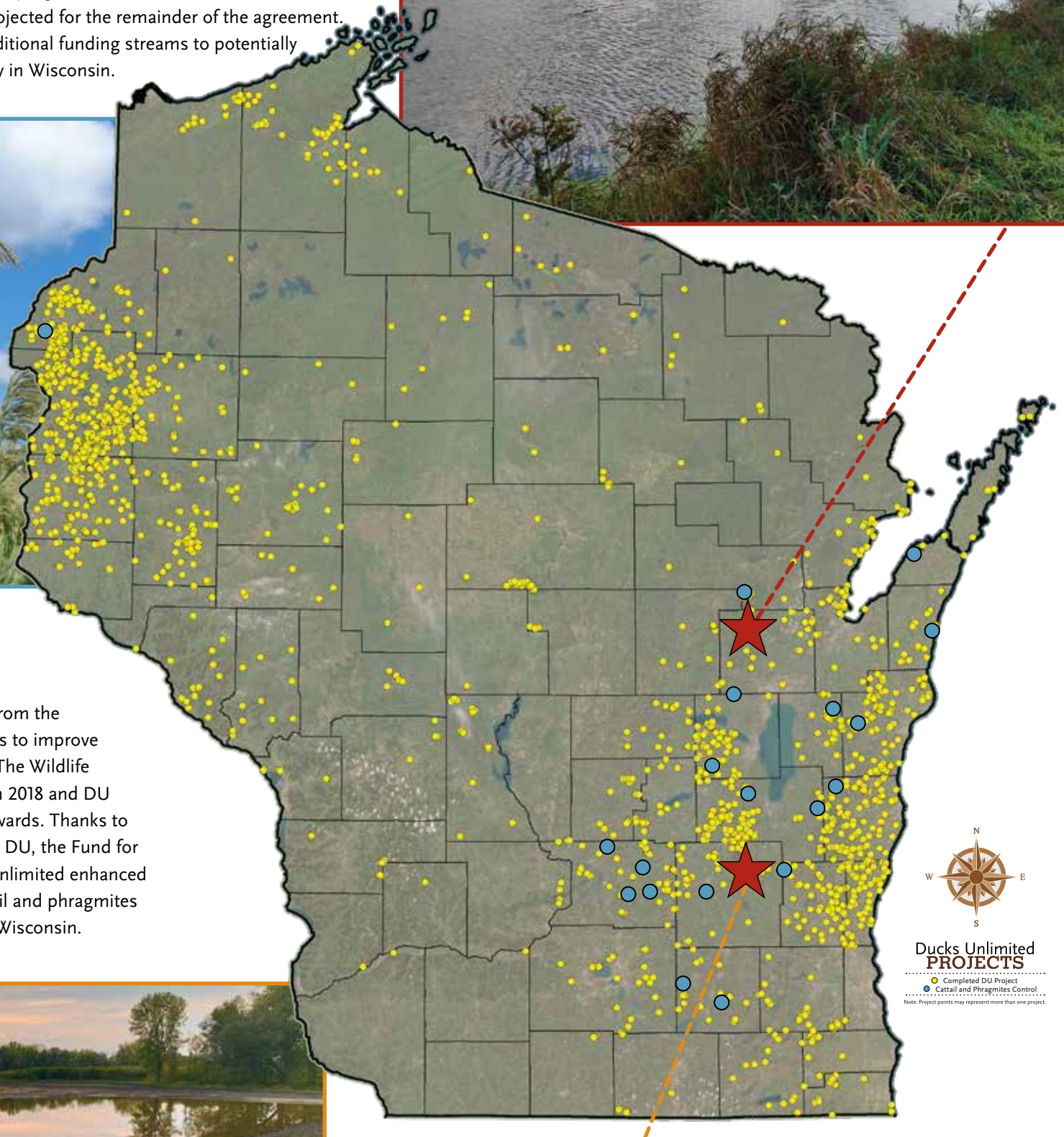
PROJECTS CONTINUE ON NUMEROUS FRONTS

Even with another very wet year, the 2019 field season was productive. With projects from the Mississippi River to Green Bay, the Ducks Unlimited conservation team completed or started several projects. These include the Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge, Barkhausen Waterfowl Complex, Ken Euers Nature Preserve, Collins Marsh Wildlife Area, Big Muskego Wildlife Area, Vernon Wildlife Area, Waterloo Wildlife Area and Bergstrom Waterfowl Complex.



WILDLIFE HABITAT PARTNERSHIP FUND IMPROVES STATE HUNTING

Ducks Unlimited has used a new program from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to improve hunting and habitat on state wildlife areas. The Wildlife Habitat Partnership Fund was announced in 2018 and DU successfully competed for one of the first awards. Thanks to the 25 percent required match coming from DU, the Fund for Lake Michigan and other partners, Ducks Unlimited enhanced 1,859 acres of habitat through invasive cattail and phragmites control on 19 different wildlife areas across Wisconsin.



HORICON MARSH UPGRADE AT GREENHEAD UNIT

The Greenhead Flowage Unit on the east side of Horicon Marsh State Wildlife Area got a significant upgrade with the installation of a new water-level management system and completely renovated dikes. This project adds acres of habitat to the Greenhead unit while reducing the miles of dike that the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources needs to maintain, making this project both highly effective and efficient. Funds from the Horicon Coastal North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grant and DU's Horicon Marsh Initiative made this project possible.

Conservation Spotlight:
HORICON MARSH

Marshes act as nature’s community centers of sorts for millions of people who live and play near them. Bogs, estuaries, swamps and shallow lakes provide the backdrop for budding photographers. New pathways for hikers. Clean water for kayakers. A cradle for waterfowlers. And a needed jolt of income for local economies.

While these bodies of water are crucial to migrating waterfowl and other wildlife, it’s the relationship between people and habitat that often illustrates why Ducks Unlimited and our partners pour millions of dollars into wetlands conservation each year.

Some communal relationships are highly visible, while others evolve in the background. Offering a good glimpse into these slices of life is the 55-square-mile Horicon Marsh in central Wisconsin. The livelihoods of residents young, and young at heart, are shaped by the cattails and open water.

Two-thirds of Horicon Marsh is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the remaining 11,000 acres by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Ducks Unlimited has an extensive conservation resumé at Horicon, having helped both agencies protect, enhance or restore more than 10,000 acres in the last 25 years.

“There’s a reason Horicon Marsh was designated as a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance, and I am proud to work alongside our partners to help enhance this tremendous resource,” said Brian Glenzinski, Ducks Unlimited regional biologist in Wisconsin.

These personal stories of Horicon occurred during a few days in fall. They tell the story of a growing urge to keep wetlands healthy for ducks and people alike.



The Horicon Marsh Bird Club meets regularly to glimpse the diverse gathering of migrating waterfowl, shorebirds, owls and birds of prey.



Longtime local Ducks Unlimited volunteers and donors George Olson, left, and Don Jago show marsh skis that the pair used to hunt in Horicon Marsh for many years.



Friends Kathy Eaton and JoAnne Neuman explore Horicon at water level from their kayaks.



Horicon Marsh is an iconic wetland complex for people and waterfowl.

LOOKING AHEAD

- Ducks Unlimited and several partners will begin a \$3.3 million effort in the Eastern Wisconsin Great Lakes Focus Area to protect, restore and enhance 3,106 acres of wetland and adjacent upland habitats from Kewaunee County south to Washington and Ozaukee Counties.
- Ducks Unlimited will continue restoration and remediation efforts of the 90-acre Dunes Lake hemi-marsh in Door County by dredging 58,000 cubic yards of accumulated sediment in a 20-acre inner basin of this wetland complex.
- DU’s lands program will continue to protect land through a \$500,000 grant from the Fox River Green Bay Natural Resource Damage Assessment and ongoing NAWCA funds.

WISCONSIN BY THE NUMBERS

2019

- 30 projects
- 11,656 acres conserved
- \$2.7 million invested

HISTORICAL

- 2,698 projects
- 134,842 acres conserved
- \$36.2 million invested

For more information visit www.ducks.org/wisconsin



WISCONSIN CONSERVATION STAFF

- ◀ **BRIAN GLENZINSKI**, Regional Biologist
Contact: bglenzinski@ducks.org • 262.347.6962
- Michael Baker**, Director of Engineering Services
- Warren Weirich**, Manager of Conservation Services
- Brian Schuh**, Senior Engineering Technician
- Mark Steinfest**, Senior Engineering Technician

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

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



GREAT LAKES & ATLANTIC REGION

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