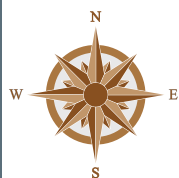


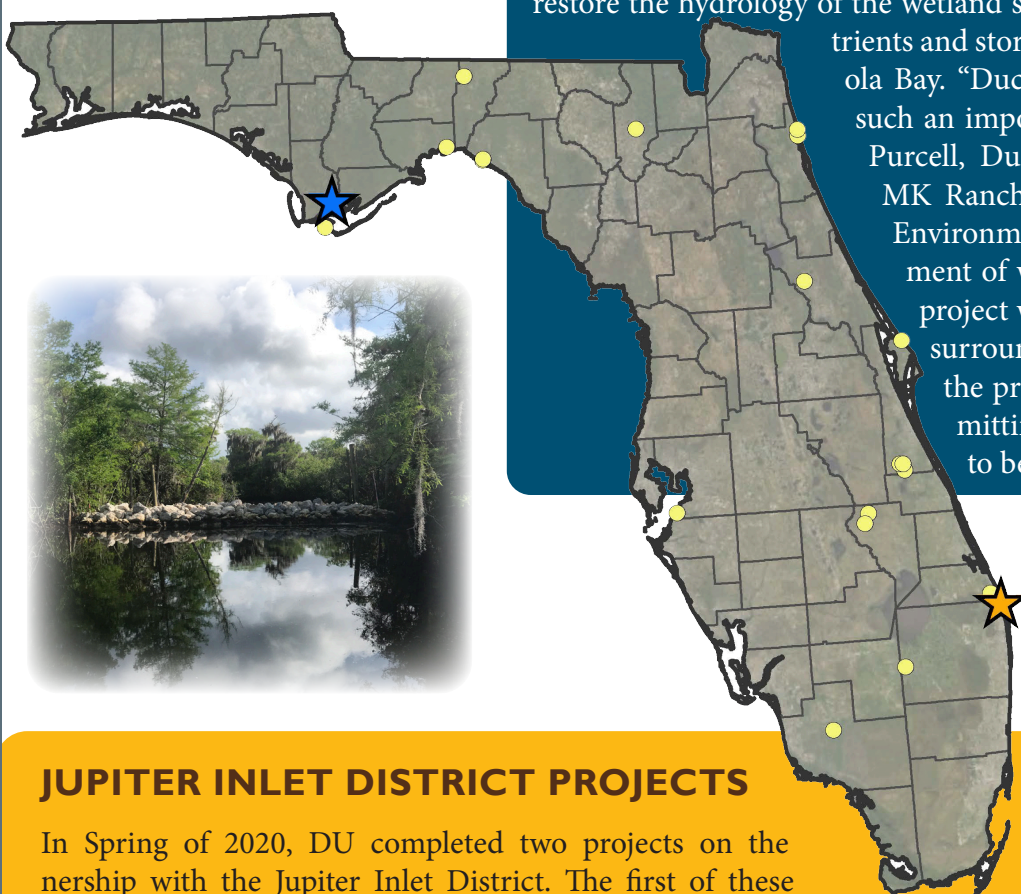
MK RANCH HYDROLOGICAL RESTORATION PROJECT

Ducks Unlimited, in partnership with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission was recently awarded nearly \$22 million in grant funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund for the MK Ranch Hydrologic Restoration Project. Over the next four years, DU will remove 49.5 miles of embankments and fill ditches to facilitate sheet flow and restore floodplain connectivity on 6,400 acres of historic tidal marsh in the lower Apalachicola River Basin. This project, located on the MK Ranch tract within the Apalachicola River Wildlife Environmental Area, will restore the hydrology of the wetland system which filters sediments and nutrients and stores water prior to it reaching Apalachicola Bay. "Ducks Unlimited is proud to help restore such an important property in Florida," said Emily Purcell, Ducks Unlimited Regional Biologist. "The MK Ranch and the Apalachicola River Wildlife Environmental Area are home to a huge assortment of waterfowl, fish and other wildlife. This project will bring new life to the ranch and the surrounding watershed." DU is currently in the process of surveying, designing and permitting the project, with construction slated to begin in 2021.



Ducks Unlimited PROJECTS

- ★ Featured Projects
- Completed Projects



JUPITER INLET DISTRICT PROJECTS

In Spring of 2020, DU completed two projects on the partnership with the Jupiter Inlet District. The first of these was an eroded red mangrove island, known as Mangrove River Central Embayment. Red mangrove habitat serves a critical role to the ecology of the Loxahatchee River estuary, providing important nursery grounds and habitat for a wide variety of vertebrates and invertebrates, including threatened and endangered species. DU constructed wave attenuation structures to prevent erosion and allow the island shoreline to rebuild and restore red mangrove vegetation. DU also completed a second project, the Moonshine Creek Oxbow Restoration Project, in partnership with the Jupiter Inlet District. This project restored a historic oxbow in the Wild and Scenic segment of the Loxahatchee River through the filling of a man-made cut in the river to reestablish the original river channel. This project will result in improved water quality and salinity distribution along the northwest fork of the Loxahatchee River.

Loxahatchee River in part-projects was focused on restoring Mangrove Island, along the Loxahatchee critical role to the ecology of grounds and habitat for a wide

MAJOR DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Dallas & Jacqueline Hempstead – Dallas and Jacqueline Hempstead of Fernandina, Florida are shining examples of what makes Ducks Unlimited such a strong organization. Dallas has helped start and has chaired the Fernandina Beach event (which is a \$50,000+ net/net event), serving as State Treasurer, currently serving as State Chair-Elect, and last fall helped secure 16 new major gift commitments through the Jacksonville Evening of Conservation. Of those 16 new commitments from the Evening of Conservation, Dallas & Jacqueline led by example by making a commitment themselves. Dallas & Jacqueline are Life Sponsors and Emerald Feather Society members. Dallas is set to take over leadership of Florida Ducks Unlimited as State Chair January 1st.



FLORIDA BY THE NUMBERS

2019

- **\$2.1 million raised**
- **87 events**
- **3,789 acres conserved FY19**

CUMULATIVE

- **33,254 acres conserved**
- **\$13,888,652 invested**

FLFC's cumulative contributions to DU for habitat conservation in Canada: **\$520,000**

(Information through 1/1/20)

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Volunteer fundraisers are the heartbeat of Ducks Unlimited, and Florida has some of the best. Florida boasts nearly 17,000 members, including more than 1,300 volunteers who hosted 87 events and raised more than \$2.1 million to support DU's conservation mission in 2019.

As part of the Atlantic Flyway, Florida provides important winter habitat for waterfowl that are produced in the prairies, Great Lakes and eastern Canada. Florida's coastal and interior wetlands provide important habitat for significant numbers of blue-winged teal, green-winged teal, ring-necked ducks, northern pintails and wood ducks. Since 1985, Florida DU volunteers have worked tirelessly to help DU to conserve habitat in an effort to secure the future of waterfowl in Florida and throughout North America.



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

Visit us online at www.ducks.org/conservation/sr



**SOUTHERN
REGION**