



DUCKS UNLIMITED
GREAT PLAINS REGION
CONSERVATION REPORT

Montana



CONSERVATION SUMMARY

Montana ranks third in duck production in the lower 48 states. For many ducks, Montana lies at the northern end of the annual migration route. Unfortunately, a little over a quarter on Montana's wetlands have been drained or filled, reducing the capacity of the region to attract and sustain breeding ducks.

An immediate threat is the continuing loss of grassland nesting habitat. Less grass means fewer nest sites that are safe from predators and a mix of

predatory mammals that are decidedly "duck-unfriendly."

Fortunately, our conservation investments are paying off. DU has restored, enhanced and protected over 38,000 acres in the state. Most of Montana's Wildlife Refuges, Waterfowl Production Areas and state Wildlife Management Areas have felt the helping hand of a DU project. DU continues to innovate with land purchases that protect critical habitats, and conservation easements that

enable our conservation partners and us to sustain habitat cost-effectively while maintaining it in private ownership.

This vital work is only possible because of your involvement with Ducks Unlimited.

Project Spotlight: Beaver Creek WPA

Ducks Unlimited recently completed two Montana wetlands that will provide for additional breeding pair habitat in an area with an abundance of upland nesting habitat.

The U.S. Fish Wildlife Service (USFWS), Pheasants Forever and Ducks Unlimited, Inc. acquired 600 acres of wetland and upland habitat in 2002. The tract of land was purchased and added to the Beaver Creek Waterfowl Production Area (WPA) and is located 15 miles east of Malta, Phillips County. The purchase allowed for the design and construction of two shallow wetlands that will enhance 219 acres of wetland habitat as well as improve 27 acres of wetland habitat on the original Beaver Creek WPA.

Water will be pumped from Beaver Creek into a water delivery channel to each of the wetlands. Each wetland can be managed as separate units due to the installation of a number of water control structures. The project will be managed by the USFWS.



PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE

FARM BILL - The 2007 Farm Bill will be vital to DU's conservation mission. DU is promoting conservation programs that benefit waterfowl habitat. DU is working hard with congress, the Administration, other conservation leaders, as well as private landowners, farmers, and ranchers to ensure that key conservation provisions are maintained in the 2007 Farm Bill. We must support programs like the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) that improve farmland and waterfowl habitat. To learn how you can help ducks in the Farm Bill go to: <http://www.ducks.org/2007FarmBill/>

Montana Conservation 2006



Grasslands for Tomorrow Initiative

Grasslands for Tomorrow targets the best-of-the-best remaining duck breeding habitat in the U.S. Prairie Pothole Region. DU has pledged to perpetually protect 2,000,000 acres of native prairie in the Dakotas and Montana. During FY05, DU protected 39,302 acres toward this goal. Perpetual protection is achieved through purchased grassland and wetland easements, land purchases, and donated conservation easements.

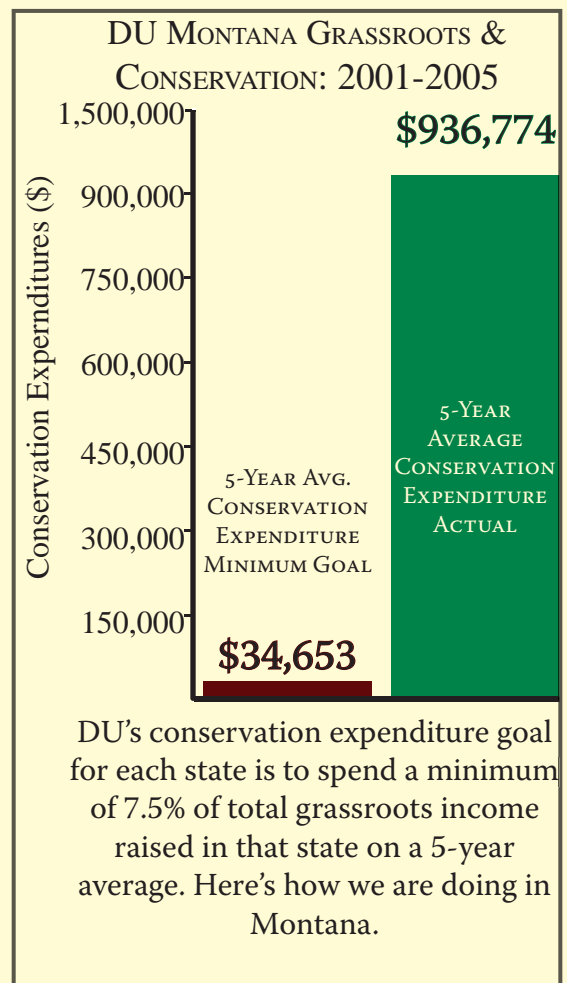
Canada's Prairie Pothole Region

Grasslands have been decimated, and changing land use has reduced the amount of duck nests hatched on fallow cropland. These losses have had dire effects on waterfowl, especially pintail. In key pintail landscapes, DU Canada is focused on protecting shallow wetlands, converting marginal cropland back to pasture, and encouraging adoption of duck-friendly crops, such as winter wheat



Important News

Avian Influenza has been in the news recently. Typically, about 5-10 percent of waterfowl may carry some strain of the Avian Influenza virus. However, the strain in the news, Asian H5N1, has not been documented in North America through monitoring efforts. For more information, please visit: www.ducks.org/birdflu



A GLOBAL LEADER IN WETLAND, WATERFOWL, AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION



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