



Cinnamon Teal

©by Wayne Nicholas

DU works with partners to restore Wyoming wetlands

Ducks Unlimited (DU) is working towards the restoration of wetlands and grasslands in Wyoming by partnering with the state's Partners for Wildlife (PFW) program.

An example of this work is the restoration of Alkali Lake in Fremont County, on the Wind River Reservation. The 2005 project restored 73 acres of wetlands, 80 acres of upland grass was fenced, and a 10-acre island was constructed. Following the restoration, the lake now has a maximum depth of four feet, which will provide good migratory and brood production habitat.

The site contains a mix of tribal and private land. "One of the landowners remembered this wetland as a kid and wanted it restored," said Mark Hogan, Partners for Wildlife coordinator for Wyoming. Last fall, a complement of waterfowl and 13 sub-adult trumpeter swans were seen using the area. DU Manager of Conservation Programs Bob Sanders praises the efforts of PFW, "This project will provide high quality habitat for a wide variety of wetland wildlife species in a very important migration corridor. Partnerships with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Wind River Tribe, private landowners, and DU are essential in furthering the mission of conserving Wyoming's wetland resource."

The site fills from surface runoff, springs, and irrigation return flows. In addition, 256-acres of water were secured through the Wind River Tribe to ensure adequate water.

Other partners on this project include the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Service and Wind River Reservation.



Pictured above, a close-up of the dike from — Alkali Lake below.



platte river

Platte River Initiative

Ducks Unlimited has launched its **Platte River Initiative**. This initiative combines a comprehensive approach of habitat protection, restoration, and management to conserve the waterfowl habitat of the river.

Early settlers portrayed the Platte as "a mile wide and an inch deep," vividly describing a wild, meandering river with abundant sand bars and backwater sloughs. However, after years of water diversions and reservoir developments, **the Platte has lost 70% of its historic flows and 80% of its channel width.** Many seasonal wetlands and backwater sloughs that were once abundant in the Platte's floodplain have been converted to other land uses. Our efforts will focus on the restoration and protection of this key waterfowl habitat.



High Country Wetlands: protecting valuable intermountain wetlands



High Country Wetlands protects and restores the valuable waterfowl habitats found in the valleys and basins of the Rocky Mountain range of Montana, Wyoming and Colorado that offer wetland habitat for those birds drawn to higher elevations. These marshes and ponds are incredibly productive for breeding waterfowl. In good years, some managed areas support 1,000 duck nests per square mile with high nest success. This translates into some of the most productive breeding habitat, acre for acre, on the continent.

Unfortunately for waterfowl, the intermountain region is also attractive to people. Burgeoning human population growth threatens wetlands and water in these arid regions, underscoring the need for Ducks Unlimited to help protect what remains and restore what has been lost.

Ducks Unlimited participates in the restoration of Winchester Ranch

Conservation groups, working together, are making great strides in improving waterfowl habitat in Wyoming. Ducks Unlimited, working with Partners for Wildlife (PFW), contributed to the restoration of eight basins, totaling 21 acres, on The Nature Conservancy's Winchester Ranch in Fremont County. Through this project, over 110 acres of adjacent upland grass will now be managed for waterfowl production.

The Winchester Ranch provides migratory and production habitat and is an important early spring staging area for waterfowl until mountain lakes and wetlands thaw.

DU 2005 habitat accomplishments with the help of our partners

County	Wetland Acres	Upland Acres
Crook	34	300
Fremont	94	149
Goshen	17.6	136
Total	145.6	585

Did you know...

...**WYOMING** currently has 5,391 members

...last year, \$.87 of every dollar raised went directly to our habitat conservation

...Ducks Unlimited has been described by the President of the U.S. as "the model by which conservation should be delivered in America"

WY state contacts...

Paul Bultsma, Regional Biologist

701.355.3528

pbultsma@ducks.org

Richard Vail, Engineer

970.484.8442

rvail@ducks.org

Dave Afton, Dir. of Development

701.355.3511

dafton@ducks.org