





# Who is Ducks Unlimited?

- World's largest non-profit wetland conservation organization
- Mission: conserve waterfowl by conserving their habitats
- Grassroots organization with paid conservation staff
- NHQ in Memphis; 4 regional offices; Gov't Affairs in D.C.
- Conserved over 14.1 million acres; Established 1937
- Partners, partners, partners!
- Not a hunting or advocacy group – **Wetlands Conservation!**



*Leader in Wetlands Conservation*  
**DUCKS UNLIMITED**

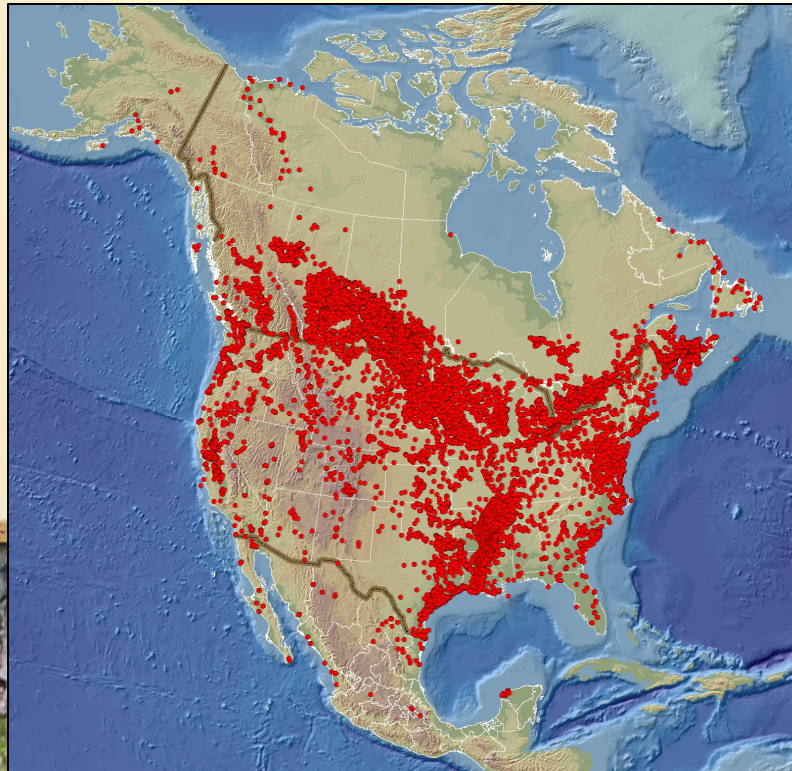






# Accomplishments in North America

Acres Conserved  
14,141,800+



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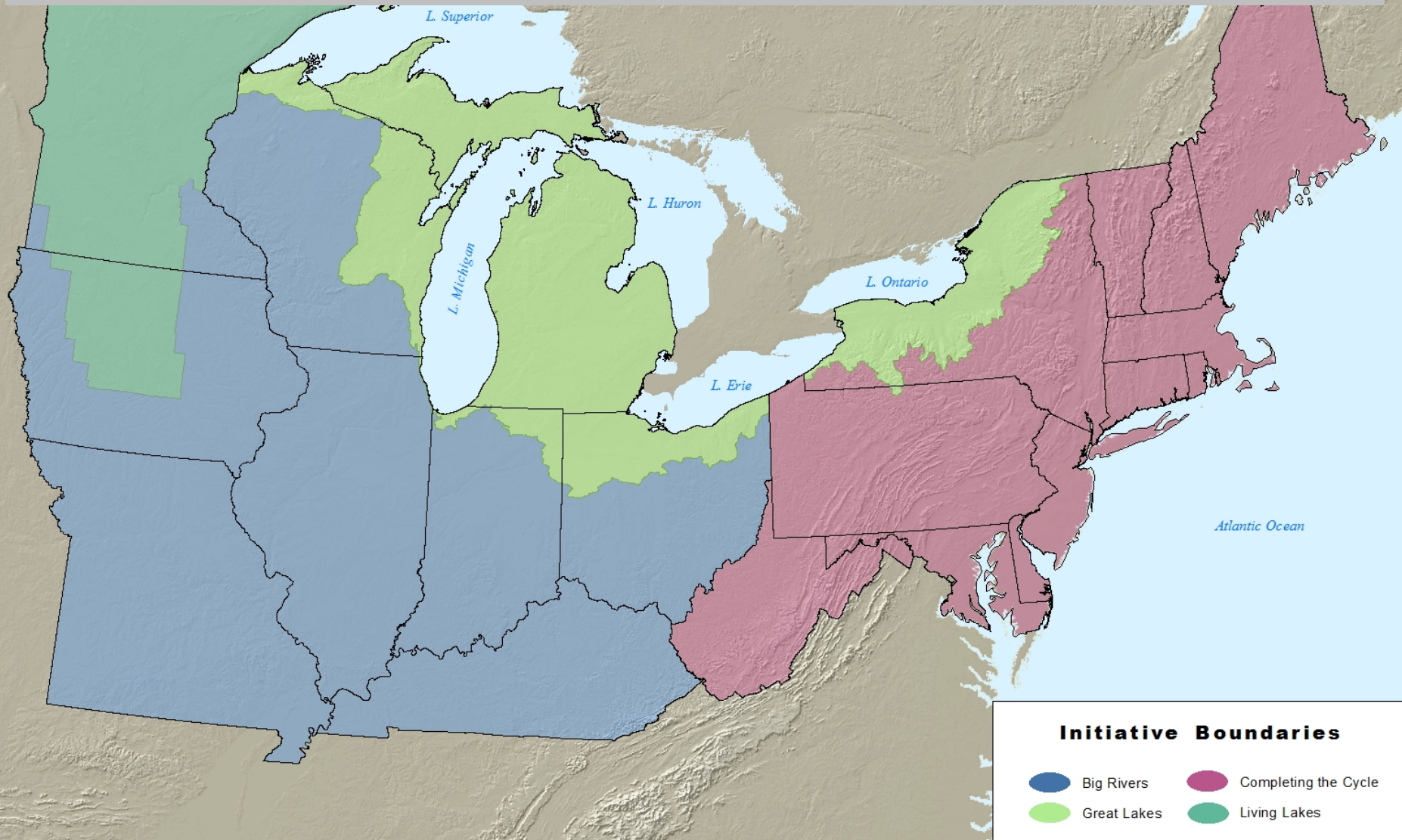
Strategic Planning...Focusing effort!





## ***The Great Lakes Initiative***

*Conserving critical Great Lakes habitats for many species of waterfowl that utilize this vast watershed throughout their life cycle*







# GLI Conservation Programs

- Restore drained wetlands - ditch plugs, tile breaks
- Restore associated uplands – prairie establishment
- Habitat management capability - water control structures, pumps, invasive species
- Land protection – facilitate acquisitions, easements

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## Great Lakes/Atlantic Regional Office

- Biologists, professional engineers, surveyors, construction managers, GIS, lands specialist, policy experts, fundraisers, contract compliance, communication, planning...**a full service shop!**
- Annually conserve >20,000 acres of wetlands and related habitats
- Develop partnerships, write/administer complex grants, engineering







# Accomplishments

Acres Conserved

83,900

Dollars Invested

Over \$43M

*Leader in Wetlands Conservation*  
**DUCKS UNLIMITED**



# MICHIGAN

GREAT LAKES / ATLANTIC REGION • 2018 STATE CONSERVATION REPORT



## STURGEON RIVER SLOUGHS

Ducks Unlimited since 2010 has worked with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to develop a long-term, cost-effective alternative to replace the 60-year-old diesel pump system at Sturgeon River Sloughs State Wildlife Management Area. In 2014, DU and its partners secured a North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant to address infrastructure needs at Sturgeon River Sloughs. Construction is underway to install a new, more efficient electric pump and water distribution system that will allow wetland managers to more effectively manage sloughs habitats, one of the Upper Peninsula's most productive wetland areas. Funding was provided through a North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Ducks Unlimited license plate funds.



## MICHIGAN DU LICENSE PLATE

Michigan's Ducks Unlimited license plate program is a tremendous funding tool for conserving wetlands and waterfowl habitat in the state. Funds generated by the license plates are leveraged more than four times over to benefit waterfowl, and now those funds are being used to benefit waterfowl hunters, too. License plate funds have been strategically invested into wetland projects open to public hunting, expanding waterfowl hunting opportunities for all and helping to preserve our rich waterfowling tradition in Michigan.

Wetlands conservation made possible with license plate funds include:

- 53-acre restoration at Pix Unit, Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge (2016)
- 162-acre enhancement at Manistee Marsh, Manistee River State Game Area (2017)
- 90-acre enhancement at Sterling State Park (2018)
- 1,205-acre enhancement at Shiawassee River State Game Area (in progress)
- 715-acre enhancement at Sturgeon River Sloughs State Wildlife Area (in progress)



## MANISTEE MARSH

The installation of a new pump in fall 2015 and a series of water-control structures in 2017 enable wetland managers to better emulate and maintain a dynamic wetland ecosystem to benefit waterfowl and waterfowl hunters. The Manistee Marsh enhancement project was completed just prior to the opening day of the 2017 waterfowl season. This project has been the impetus for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to make additional investments into improving infrastructure and expanding public access, all part of an ongoing effort to revitalize coastal wetlands at Manistee Marsh. Funding was provided through a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant through the Upper Mississippi River/Great Lakes Region Joint Venture, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Ducks Unlimited license plate funds.



## CRIPPLE POINT UNIT - POINTE MOUILLEE STATE GAME AREA

The majority of coastal wetland habitat at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area is managed using a combination of dikes, water-control structures and pumps. The wetland management infrastructure for the 28-acre Cripple Point Unit was installed decades ago and has exceeded its useful life. The inability of the dikes to hold water on this area has allowed invasive plant species such as phragmites to firmly take hold. Ducks Unlimited and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources have developed a plan to restore Cripple Point by rehabilitating dilapidated dikes, installing two water-control structures, and a ramp for a portable pump. This project will help sustain valuable coastal wetlands, improve waterfowl brood-rearing, nesting and migration habitat, and provide management capabilities to better control invasive plant species. Funding was provided through a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation - Sustain Our Great Lakes grant, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Coastal Program Great Lakes grant, Pointe Mouillee Waterfowlers Festival, Southwest Lake Erie Chapter of Waterfowl USA, Gibraltar Duck Hunters and Ducks Unlimited. The project will be complete in 2019.





# Restoration Success!

Pte. Aux Peaux Coastal Wetland Restoration  
Pre-Restoration



Pte. Aux Peaux Coastal Wetland Restoration  
Post Restoration



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## DID YOU KNOW THAT DUCKS UNLIMITED WELCOMES GIFTS OF LAND?



**EVERY YEAR, DUCKS UNLIMITED RECEIVES GIFTS OF LAND AND  
REAL ESTATE FROM GENEROUS SUPPORTERS JUST LIKE YOU.**

### **IS A GIFT OF REAL ESTATE RIGHT FOR YOU?**

People who consider giving land to DU share a common vision of seeing our skies filled with waterfowl today, tomorrow, and forever. Every land gift of commercial or residential real estate provides value to the ducks. Donations of a home,

a treasured duck club, an upland forest, or a family farm can all be tailored to meet the exact needs of your financial situation. Gifts of land may provide substantial tax benefits as well as estate planning advantages. Let DU's gift specialists find a solution that's right for you.

If you would like more information on this conservation opportunity or have questions about how you might be able to make a gift to Ducks Unlimited, please contact Jon Rich.

901.758.3763 | 800.453.8257 | [jrich@ducks.org](mailto:jrich@ducks.org) | [www.ducks.org/landgift](http://www.ducks.org/landgift)





In 2017 DU/WAT was re-accredited through the Land Trust Alliance. Accredited Land Trusts are held to the highest standards and practices to ensure the permanence of conservation efforts.



**Excellence • Trust • Permanence**



Wetlands America Trust, Inc.

DU/WAT is the **third largest** land trust in North America



DU/WAT perpetually protects over **443,412 acres** of high priority conservation lands across the United States

That is almost the size of the **Great Smoky Mountains National Park!**





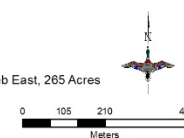
Stoneco Zeeb East  
Non-Conservation Tradeland Donation  
Washtenaw County, MI T35, R5E, S3

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 Stoneco Zeeb East, 265 Acres









## Ducks Unlimited honors Stoneco for \$2.1 million land donation

MONROE, Michigan - March 24, 2016 - Ducks Unlimited recognized Stoneco, an Oldcastle Materials company, as a Diamond Legacy Sponsor for Stoneco's \$2.1 million land donation late last year.

Ducks Unlimited celebrated Stoneco during a chapter banquet March 19, in Monroe.

Last year Stoneco donated a 265-acre former sand and gravel quarry near Ann Arbor to Ducks Unlimited to support wildlife conservation efforts. The Diamond Legacy Sponsor is for individuals or organizations that donate between \$1 million and \$4,999,999.



Ducks Unlimited protects the habitat and natural resource values of land through several means, including acquisitions, and conservation easements, bequests, and estate gifts of real land.



Property and easement donations can help protect habitat, expand public lands, or increase the financial resources to deliver our conservation mission.





*The End!*