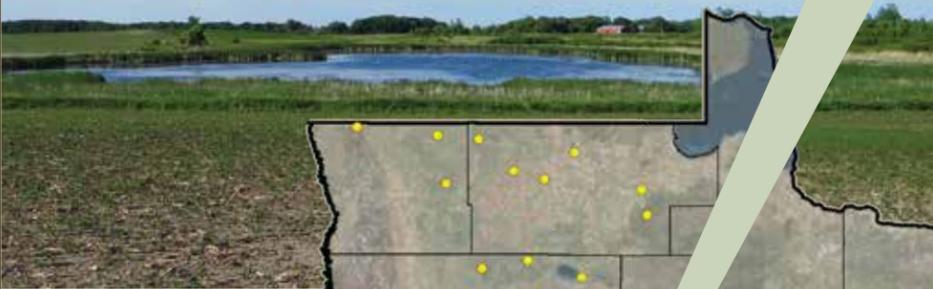


## POTHOLES, PRAIRIES TO BE RESTORED AT GOOSE PRAIRIE WMA

Goose Prairie State Wildlife Management Area is 490 acres surrounding a portion of Goose Prairie Marsh in Clay County. This public shallow lake is heavily used by migrating waterfowl and duck hunters. To help buffer the shallow lake and provide waterfowl nesting habitat nearby, Ducks Unlimited used a 2017 state Outdoor Heritage Fund appropriation recommended by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council to purchase 150 acres of cropland adjoining the south side of the management area from a willing family estate seller. Ducks Unlimited biologists and engineers are working with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to restore about 30 drained prairie potholes back to wetlands and adjacent cropland back to a diverse mix of native prairie uplands plants.

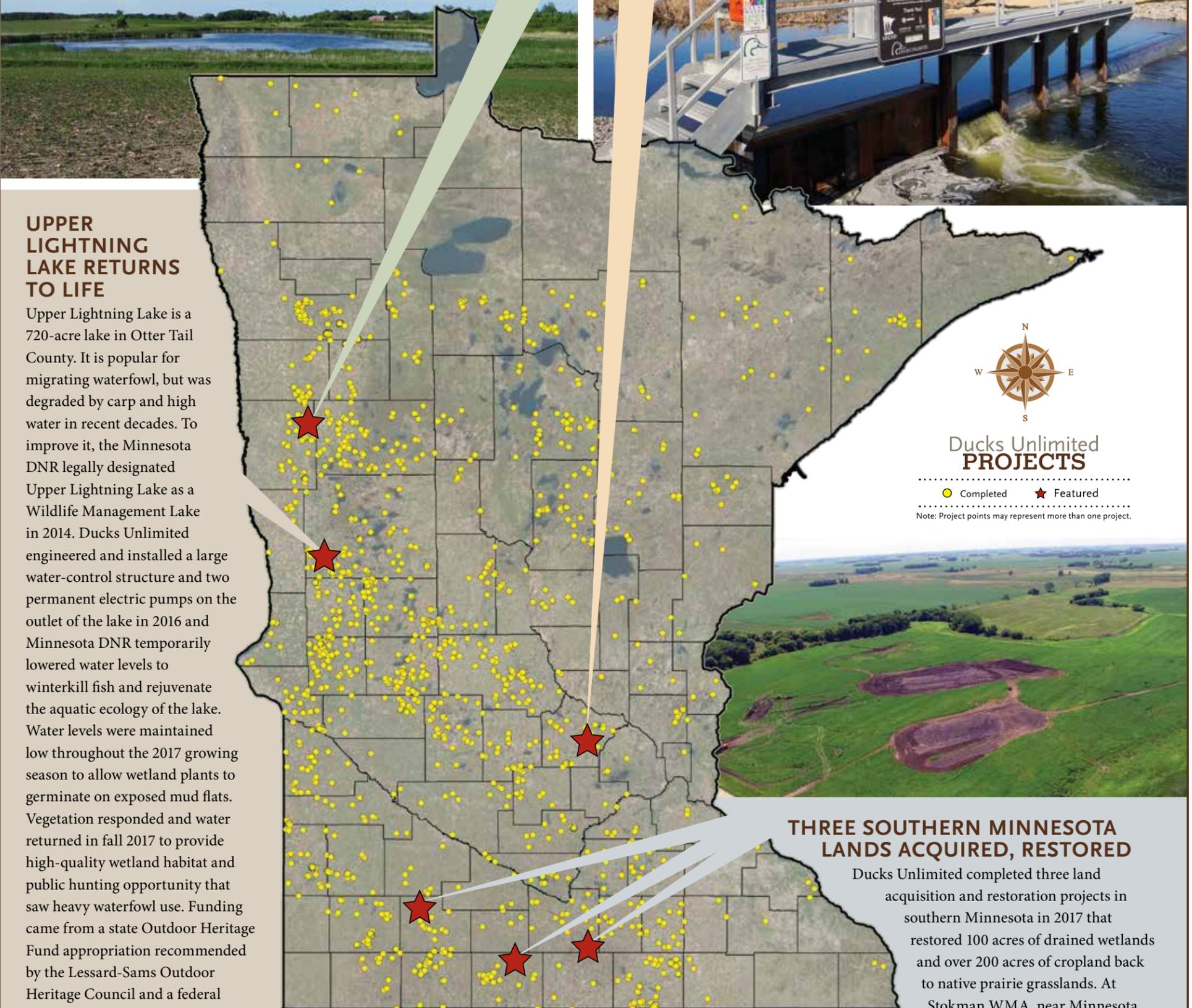


## UPPER LIGHTNING LAKE RETURNS TO LIFE

Upper Lightning Lake is a 720-acre lake in Otter Tail County. It is popular for migrating waterfowl, but was degraded by carp and high water in recent decades. To improve it, the Minnesota DNR legally designated Upper Lightning Lake as a Wildlife Management Lake in 2014. Ducks Unlimited engineered and installed a large water-control structure and two permanent electric pumps on the outlet of the lake in 2016 and Minnesota DNR temporarily lowered water levels to winterkill fish and rejuvenate the aquatic ecology of the lake. Water levels were maintained low throughout the 2017 growing season to allow wetland plants to germinate on exposed mud flats. Vegetation responded and water returned in fall 2017 to provide high-quality wetland habitat and public hunting opportunity that saw heavy waterfowl use. Funding came from a state Outdoor Heritage Fund appropriation recommended by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council and a federal NAWCA grant.

## WATER LEVELS ENHANCED AT WOODLAND WMA

Woodland Wildlife Management Area contains a 611-acre marsh in Wright County. This shallow lake degraded over time due to cattail encroachment resulting from a failing dam on the outlet of the lake that caused lower water levels in the marsh. Ducks Unlimited designed and installed a new water-control structure that allows the Minnesota DNR to hold more water in the marsh to prevent further cattail domination of the basin. Funding came from a state Outdoor Heritage Fund appropriation recommended by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council and a federal NAWCA grant.



## THREE SOUTHERN MINNESOTA LANDS ACQUIRED, RESTORED

Ducks Unlimited completed three land acquisition and restoration projects in southern Minnesota in 2017 that restored 100 acres of drained wetlands and over 200 acres of cropland back to native prairie grasslands. At Stokman WMA, near Minnesota Lake in Blue Earth County, Ducks

Unlimited acquired and restored a 59-acre parcel, including 13 acres to wetlands and 46 acres to native prairie grasslands. At Perch Creek WMA near Fairmont in Martin County, Ducks Unlimited acquired a 155-acre parcel, and restored 23 acres to wetlands and 132 acres to native prairie grasslands. At Hurricane Lake WMA, near Storden in Cottonwood County, Ducks Unlimited acquired a 95-acre parcel and restored and protected 64 acres of wetlands and 31 acres to native prairie grassland. Each project was completed in partnership with the Minnesota DNR, which now owns and manages the land for wildlife habitat and public outdoor recreational use. Funding came from a state Outdoor Heritage Fund appropriation recommended by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.



## MINNESOTA: STRONG SUPPORT FOR WATERFOWL HABITAT

One of Ducks Unlimited's most important and productive states, Minnesota shows what happens when a vibrant base of DU supporters, dedicated state conservation funding via the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment, and sound science unite for waterfowl habitat conservation.

Ducks Unlimited restored or protected nearly 5,000 acres in Minnesota in 2017 and helped the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources manage 107 wild rice lakes totaling nearly 30,000 acres.

Minnesota is crucial to the lifecycle of waterfowl. Containing a mix of prairie pothole and shallow lake habitat complexes and near-pristine wild rice wetlands in the Mississippi River headwaters, waterfowl flock to the state to breed and during migration. Those duck-friendly habitats have generated a long and storied waterfowling heritage in Minnesota. With about 45,000 Ducks Unlimited members, residents here understand and appreciate conservation.

The state is the driver of a major Ducks Unlimited conservation effort, the Living Lakes Initiative. The vision of the initiative is to enhance, restore and protect managed shallow lakes and wetlands from central Iowa through northern Minnesota to provide high-quality aquatic food and habitat resources for migrating and breeding waterfowl. The Living Lakes Initiative helps preserve our rich waterfowling heritage and augments conservation of the Prairie Pothole Region.

Private philanthropic funds donated to support the initiative are key to leveraging state Outdoor Heritage Fund appropriations and federal North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA) grants.



*Ducks Unlimited recognized a significant wetland conservation accomplishment during a dedication ceremony in July 2017 at Anderson Waterfowl Production Area.*



### A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Minnesota is vital to the goals of Duck's Unlimited's Great Lakes/Atlantic Region. The entire team in Minnesota, including our volunteers, fundraising staff and conservation staff, has developed a winning strategy that grows stronger each year.

Our 21-state region had a tremendous impact on waterfowl habitat and water quality in 2017. We used private donations and public funds to invest nearly \$22 million on conservation projects. That strong support enabled our biologists and engineers to deliver focused, effective habitat conservation on 48,111 acres of wetlands.

None of this would be possible without our volunteers, conservation partners and financial supporters. The accomplishments of Ducks Unlimited are your accomplishments. As an organization, we can trumpet our success knowing how strongly equipped we are to improve the health of wetlands across North America for the next generation.

Thank you for believing in our mission, and for helping us reach our vision of wetlands sufficient to fill the skies with waterfowl today, tomorrow and forever.

David Brakhage, GLARO Director of Operations

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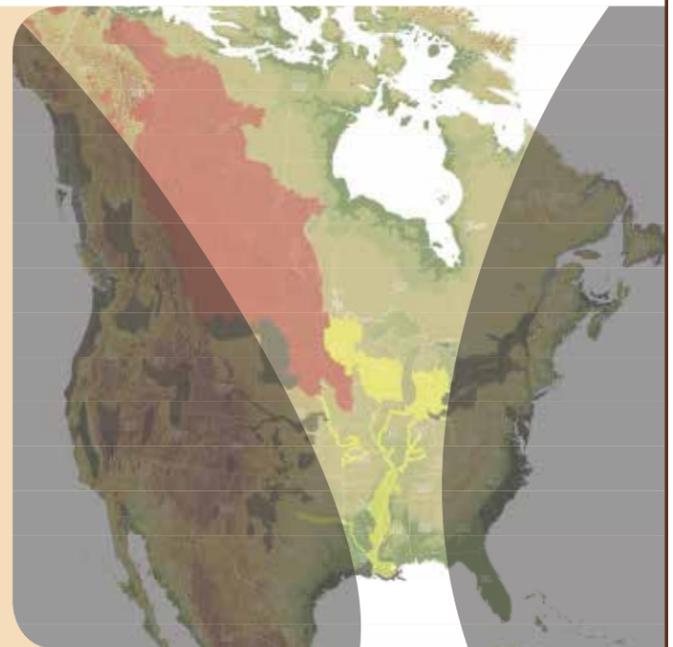
**Les Morgenstern**  
Manager of Conservation Services

**Aaron Weinandt**  
Regional Engineer

**Matt Olson**  
Construction Manager

### LOOKING AHEAD

Ducks Unlimited in Minnesota will continue to focus on wetland habitat conservation in three areas. First is the restoration of small wetlands and prairie near existing prairie/wetland complexes in western and southwest Minnesota, for breeding waterfowl and other prairie wildlife. Next will be the enhancement of shallow lakes and large wetlands throughout western and southern Minnesota to make those existing wetlands as productive as possible for both brood-rearing and migrating waterfowl. Finally, in northern Minnesota, Ducks Unlimited will continue to enhance more than 100 wild rice lakes in the forests to keep outlets free flowing and clear of beaver dams and other debris for breeding and migrating ducks.



### MINNESOTA: BY THE NUMBERS

#### 2017

- 40 wetland projects and land acquisitions
- 4,811 acres restored, enhanced or protected
- 107 wild rice lakes managed
- 29,517 acres of wild rice lakes managed

#### HISTORICAL

- 222,415 total acres conserved
- \$87,754,582 invested

For more information visit [www.ducks.org/minnesota](http://www.ducks.org/minnesota)

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/minnesota](http://www.ducks.org/minnesota)



**GREAT LAKES / ATLANTIC REGION**

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