



# Fact Sheet

## Background

Ducks Unlimited got its start in 1937 during the Dust Bowl when North America’s drought-plagued waterfowl populations had plunged to unprecedented lows. Determined not to sit idly by as the continent’s waterfowl dwindled beyond recovery, a small group of sportsmen joined together to form an organization that became known as Ducks Unlimited.

Its mission: *habitat conservation*

Thanks to more than 86 years of abiding by that single mission, Ducks Unlimited is now the world’s largest and most effective private, nonprofit, waterfowl and wetlands conservation organization. DU is able to deliver its work through a series of

partnerships with private individuals, landowners, agencies, scientific communities and other entities.

Waterfowl are not the only beneficiaries of DU’s habitat work. Wetlands improve the overall health of our environment by recharging and purifying groundwater, moderating floods and reducing soil erosion. Wetlands are North America’s most productive ecosystems, providing critical habitat to more than 900 wildlife species and invaluable recreation opportunities for people to enjoy. Unfortunately, the United States alone has lost more than half of its original wetlands, and tens of thousands of wetland acres continue to be lost—at an accelerating rate—each year.

## Membership

Ducks Unlimited is a grassroots, volunteer-based organization. Its members are conservationists and outdoor enthusiasts who live primarily throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico.

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, DU volunteers hosted more than 4,500 grassroots fundraising events such as member and sponsor banquets, shooting and fishing tournaments and golf outings. Event dollars represent some of DU’s most important sources of revenue. Since event dollars are typically unrestricted, DU is able to spend these funds in our highest priority areas and use them to leverage additional funds from other sources.

## Habitat Conservation Programs (As of Jan. 1, 2023)

**Our Mission** is to conserve, restore and manage wetlands and associated habitats for North America’s waterfowl. These habitats also benefit other wildlife and people

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, Ducks Unlimited Inc. had 606,597 adult members and 37,070 youth members. Ducks Unlimited de México had 1,064 members as of December 31, 2022, while Ducks Unlimited Canada ended its fiscal year March 31, 2022 with 74,000 supporters.

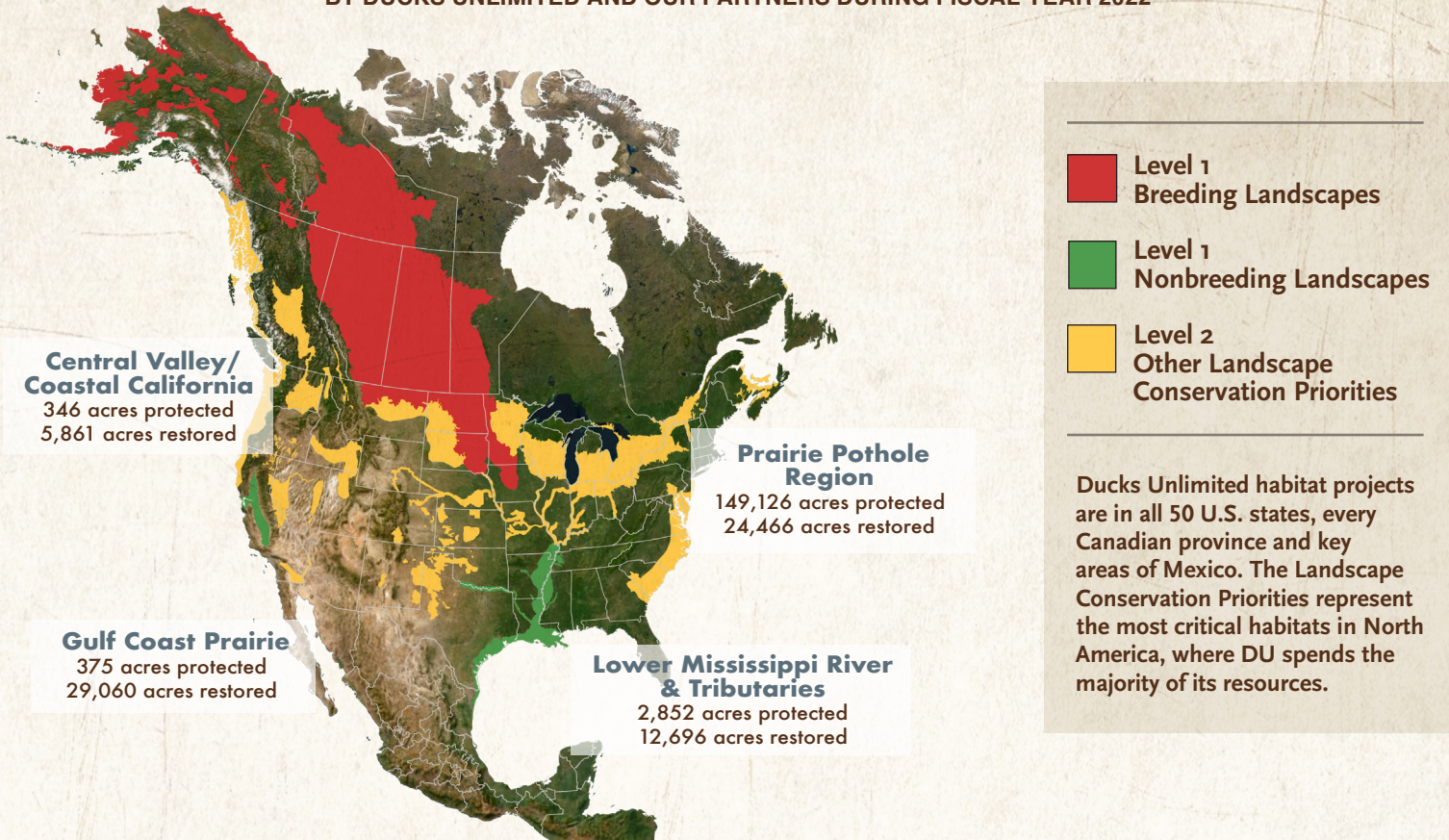
|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| Acreage conserved in Canada:                                    | 6,522,052           |
| Acreage conserved in Mexico:                                    | 2,070,640           |
| Acreage conserved in the U.S.:                                  | 7,322,633           |
| <b>Total Acreage Conserved in North America:</b>                | <b>15,915,325</b>   |
| <b>Acres Influenced in North America:</b>                       | <b>228,228,317*</b> |
| <b>Total Acreage Influenced and Conserved in North America:</b> | <b>244,143,642</b>  |

\*“Influenced Acres” are lands that DU has conserved through retention or restoration measures with agreements of <10 years (e.g. winter wheat) or that DUC has positively influenced through policy measures available under existing government programs, policies or legislation (e.g., Western Boreal Program Protected Areas Strategy).”



# Habitat Acres Conserved

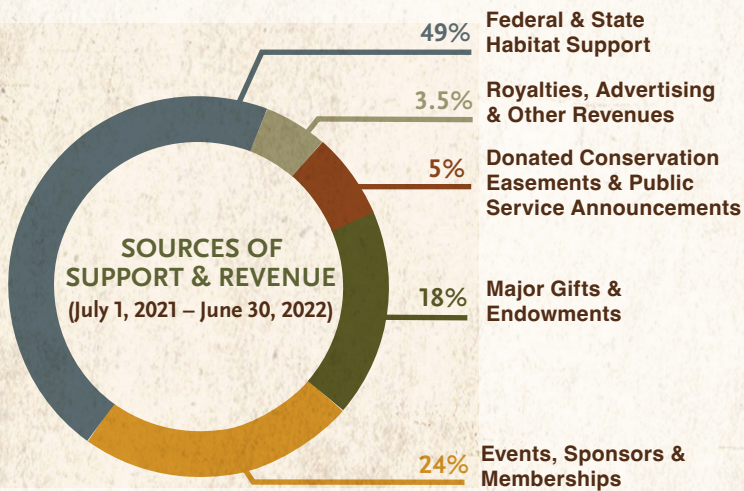
BY DUCKS UNLIMITED AND OUR PARTNERS DURING FISCAL YEAR 2022



## FUNDRAISING (U.S. ONLY) (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022)



Revenue and support in 2021-2022: \$277 million  
Revenue and support since 1937: \$6.02 billion



## WHERE THE MONEY GOES

During the past fiscal year, 84% of DU's expenditures were converted directly to conservation work vital to ducks, geese and other wetlands-dependent wildlife.

