



FALL FLIGHTS

Program Update

State Wildlife agencies have stepped up!! The leadership of the Fall Flights Advisory committee along with key increases from several states mean that the program can put a check mark beside much of Task Force Recommendation #2: Interim Goal of 100% participation and \$5M annually. This past year saw all lower 48 states invest in Fall Flights and the total was \$5,158,776. This recommendation was set to be achieved by 2026.... WOW!, thanks to all states for stepping up in a big way!

The AFWA Fall Flights program passed the \$100M cumulative state funding threshold this year with a total investment of \$101,584,153 since 1991. New states reaching their goal for the first time are Nevada, Connecticut, and Montana.

Fall Flights Advisory committee leading program growth:

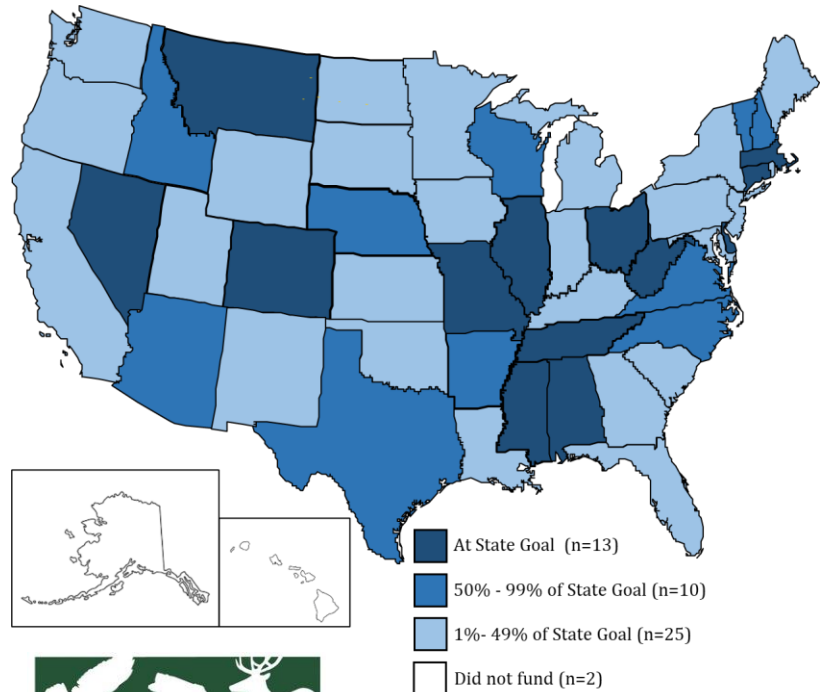
Committee Position	Member Name
Advisory Comm Chair	JD Strong (OK)
Advisory Comm Past Chair	Chuck Sykes (AL)
Waterfowl Working Group Ch	Shaun Oldenburger (TX)
Ducks Unlimited Inc.	Karen Waldrop, Chief Cons Off
Ducks Unlimited Canada	Pat Kehoe, Chief Cons. Off
Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation / Delta Waterfowl	Stephen Carlyle, CEO
WAFWA Director	Jeb Williams (ND)
MAFWA Director	Tim McCoy (NE)
SEAFWA Director	Ryan Brown (VA)
NEAFWA Director	Judy Camuso (ME)
National Flyway Council	Vacant
Canadian Provincial Director	Christy Curley (ON)
Bird Conservancy of the Rockies	Tammy VerCauteren, Exec Dir
American Bird Conservancy	EJ Williams, VP Mig Birds & Hab
Audubon	Marshall Johnson, Chief Cons Off
Support:	
NAWMP Director / Wildlife Liaison (AFWA)	Dean Smith
Fall Flights Coordinator	TBD
Ducks Unlimited Inc.	Craig LeSchack
Ducks Unlimited Canada	Dave Kostersky
Delta Waterfowl / Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation	Roald Stander

The Arkansas Game & Fish Commission (AGFC) first supported Fall Flights in 1968 and has invested over \$9.2M to date.



The AGFC has remained committed to breeding grounds conservation and often invests their AFWA goal amount each year. This past year AGFC provided their largest contribution at \$580,000 to Ducks Unlimited and \$50,000 to

Delta Waterfowl for work on the prairie pothole habitat of Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Next spring, AGFC commission and staff plan to travel to Saskatchewan to see firsthand what their funding accomplished on multiple conservation projects.



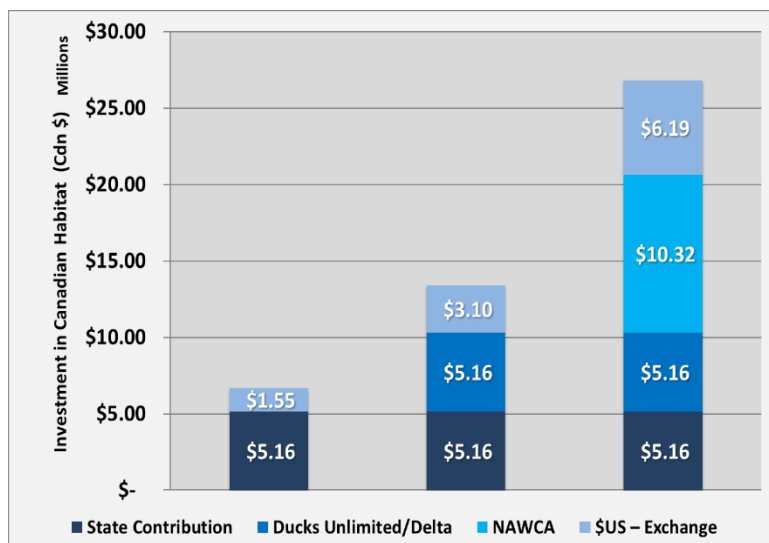
ASSOCIATION of
FISH & WILDLIFE
AGENCIES

Report by AFWA - WWG
Chair – Shaun Oldenburger (TPWD)
AFWA staff liaison - Dean Smith
September 25, 2023

2022-2023 Contributions Summary

Forty-eight states contributed a total of \$5,158,766 (US) dollars to Canadian waterfowl habitat projects during 2022-23. This is a record number of states and sets the second highest annual total commitment.

DU will match \$4,736,364 of the states' investments and with the NAWCA funding, the investment will grow to \$18.9M USD. Delta Waterfowl and Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation (MHHC) will invest and match the remaining \$422,402 of state funding, which will grow to \$1.69M USD. At the present-day currency exchange rate, the \$20.6M funds will generate an additional \$6.19M (CDN) that will be invested in Canadian habitat. Total Canadian breeding grounds investment was \$26.8M.



Interim Goal Achieved

The Fall Flights task force set an interim goal of \$5M annually with all states participating by 2026. We have achieved all lower 48 states participating and exceeded \$5M. This is an amazing accomplishment by the state agencies hitting this mark three years ahead of schedule. The remaining part of this interim goal was to get all 48 states to 50% of their AFWA goal. As represented in the graphic on the previous page, 25 states are currently below 50% of their AFWA goal. Fall Flights program managers along with Advisory Committee members are ready to work with the remaining 25 states to assist in reaching the 50% of goal milestone to ensure success by 2026.

THE CONSERVATION NEED

Based on currently available information, new 5-year habitat goals for the Canadian Joint Ventures are to conserve 4 million acres at a cost of \$1 billion CDN. The 20-year outlook will require the conservation of 14 million acres at an estimated cost of \$5 billion CDN. This seeks to conserve the national wetland base and migratory bird-valued natural areas through a thoughtful combination of *habitat securement, enhancement, and management*, promotion of sustainable land use, landowner incentives and progressive policy and regulation.

The outlook for 2023-24 is optimistic with the establishment of the Fall Flights Advisory Committee and with 48 states planning to invest in breeding grounds conservation!

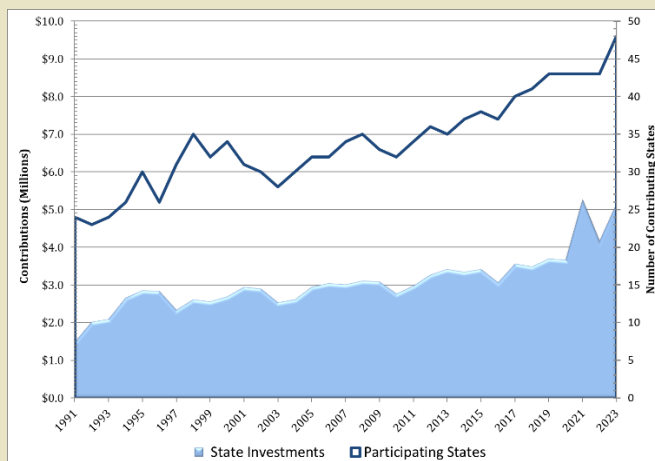
RECORD BREAKING YEAR

State commitments remain strong this year totaling \$5.1 million from 48 states. Thirteen states meeting their AFWA goal played a significant role in reaching this record year.

These states are:

Alabama, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Massachusetts, Missouri, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, Ohio, Tennessee, and West Virginia

2023 Total: \$5,158,766



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