

# STATE CONTRIBUTIONS TO CANADIAN NAWMP/NAWCA PROJECTS

– September 2015 –



ASSOCIATION *of*  
FISH & WILDLIFE  
AGENCIES

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## State Contributions to Canada Program

The signing of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) in 1986 by Canada and the United States began one of the most successful conservation partnerships in the world. Mexico joined the partnership by signing NAWMP in 1994. The NAWMP was a grand “plan” and it was catapulted into action when the North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA) was passed in 1991.

NAWCA established a critical funding mechanism for the NAWMP and continental waterfowl management. It provided federal funding for habitat projects throughout North America, but required that at least 50 percent of the funds used for projects outside the U.S. be matched at least 1:1 with non-federal funds originating in the U.S. In 2010, funds sourced in Canada became eligible for up to 50% of the non-federal match.

The leadership of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) and Ducks Unlimited, Inc. (DU) grasped the opportunity to be trailblazers for the new continental approach to waterfowl management. DU committed to match every dollar contributed by State Agencies, and in turn to seek a similar amount of NAWCA funds to deliver waterfowl habitat conservation projects in Canada. At the Association’s annual meeting in September 1991, members of AFWA passed a resolution stating, in part; “the states shall strive to maximize state support in the range of \$10 million per year from the states as U.S. matching funds for NAWMP projects in Canada and ... that the [Association] ... shall continue to explore, through the flyway councils and other appropriate avenues, ways and means of achieving this goal.”

The Association re-affirmed its commitment to waterfowl habitat conservation and to the \$10 million per year goal in both 2005 and 2011. This report provides Association members with a national update on their contributions toward the AFWA goal.



### SHORT-TERM NEED

Between now and 2020, Canadian NAWMP partners will **conserve 2.2 million acres** and **manage nearly 6.2 million acres** currently under conservation <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> requiring an investment in excess of \$700 M<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Draft (to be confirmed in 2016) - based on current JV Implementation Plans

### LONG-TERM NEED

A **minimum of \$2 billion is required** to conserve 20 million acres in Canada between 2012 and 2032.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup>2012 interim projection based on JV Implementation Plans

# 2014-15 Contributions Summary

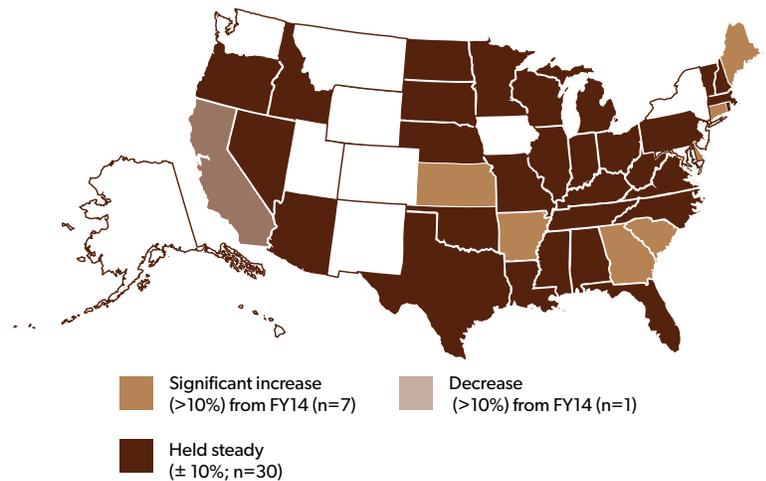
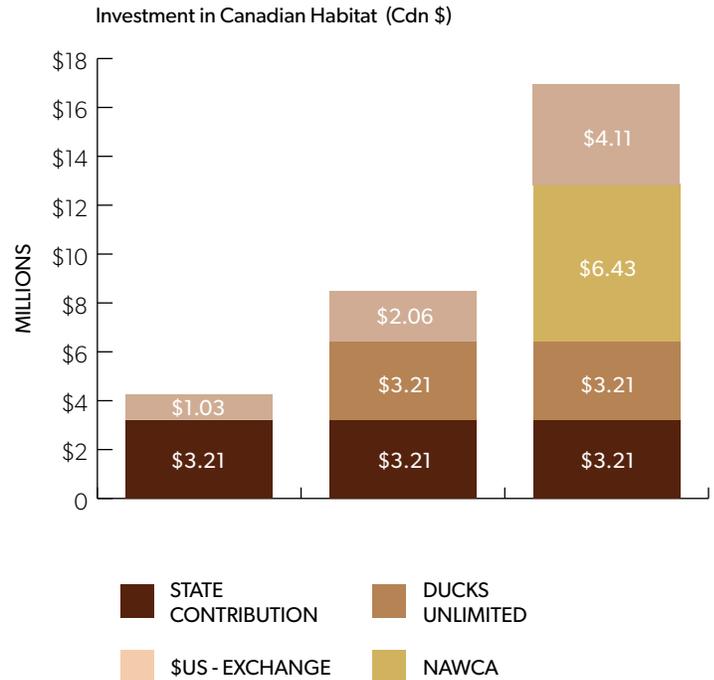
Thirty-eight states contributed a total of \$3,426,416 (US) dollars to Canadian waterfowl habitat projects during 2014-15. This exceeds the record set last year for the number of states contributing to the initiative. It is also the highest level of investment in Canadian habitat in a single year by State Agencies.

Ducks Unlimited will match \$3.214 million<sup>1</sup> of the states' investments and the NAWCA funding will bring the investment to \$12 million. At the present-day currency exchange rate, the state, DU and NAWCA funds will generate an additional \$4 million that will be invested in Canadian habitat. The US funds, along with Canadian sources will increase the investment such that the state commitment of \$3.426 million becomes a total investment in waterfowl habitat in Canada of approximately \$17 million.

Seven states (Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Kansas, Maine, and South Carolina) increased their individual contributions by more than 10 percent. Most other states held their contributions at current levels or increased them by less than 10 percent. Discussions are underway with a number of states that were not able to contribute in 2014-15 or, due to administrative processes, simply were not able to contribute before the June 30, 2015 cut-off. The outlook for 2015-16 is favorable and it is anticipated that more states will contribute to the waterfowl habitat programs in Canada.

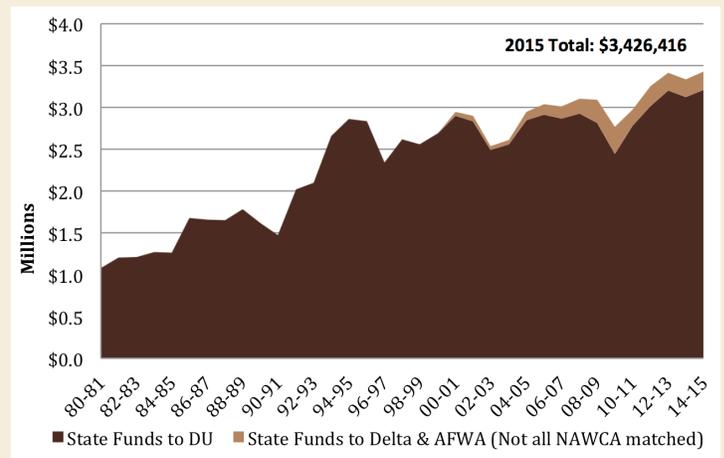
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## RECORD SETTING YEAR

State contributions reached a new record investment of \$3,426,416. Thirty-eight (38) states – also a new record – contributed to wetland and upland projects in Canada in 2015.



<sup>1</sup>Delta Waterfowl received \$212,000 from state agencies; not all of which may be matched by NAWCA.

## Visits to Canadian Breeding Grounds

State visits to Canada for the purpose of seeing firsthand the conservation program delivery and meeting with conservation partners has been an important step in validating the return on investment for conservation funding. This past year Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation representatives traveled to Saskatchewan and into the parkland eco-region to see where some of their mallards, blue-winged teal and redheads (among other species) breed and recruit their young. In eastern Canada, the state of Delaware made the trip to the Atlantic Provinces to see firsthand conservation accomplishments they have been supporting for 34 years.



## State Contributions to Canadian NAWMP Projects Total \$76.3 Million

Over the past 30 years NAWMP partners have conserved over 19.9 million acres through direct programs and positively influenced the conservation of over 138.8 million more acres. The total program investment, including private funds, has been \$2.12 billion. But the benefits of this work have been realized. Waterfowl are now at historic high population levels.

State fish and wildlife agencies have been contributing to Canadian waterfowl habitat projects for 50 years. Since NAWMP was signed in 1986, State agencies have invested more than \$76.3 million in Canadian breeding ground projects, or 15.6 percent of all U.S. non-federal funding.

However, habitat continues to be lost or altered to meet the demands of a growing human population. Canada loses an estimated 80 acres of wetlands every day. Governments, industries and communities around the world are realizing the importance and value of the 'Natural Capital' supported by our wetlands. The economic cost of wetland loss is real to society; in terms of lost ability to buffer floods, sequester carbon, provide food and habitat for non-game species, purify water, and support recreational pursuits.

Given the ongoing loss of wetlands in Canada, and the importance of these resources to society, NAWMP is as relevant today as it was in 1986. The regional habitat joint ventures in Canada have recently completed new 5-year implementation plans. Continued support of NAWMP activities in Canada will ensure that North Americans continue to enjoy the benefits that wetland resources provide throughout our flyways.