



INVESTING IN FALL FLIGHTS



Why invest in critical waterfowl habitat in Canada?

THIS IS WHY



Fall Flights is AFWA's powerful **partnership program** for state fish and wildlife agencies and advances important local and international conservation goals by making a long-term investment in critical waterfowl habitat conservation work in Canada.

SUSTAINING THE WONDER OF FALL MIGRATIONS REQUIRES INVESTMENTS IN CANADA

- Two-thirds of North America's duck population nest in Canada.
- Nest success, duckling survival, and adult hen survival during the breeding season are the main drivers of population growth in waterfowl populations.
- To achieve North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) goals, Canadian Joint Ventures estimate from 2021-2041 it will require protecting almost 14 million acres of waterfowl habitat at a cost of \$5 billion Canadian dollars (\$US 3.85 billion with today's exchange rate).

BASED ON THE "USER PAYS" PRINCIPLE OF THE NORTH AMERICAN MODEL OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND THE MODEL'S RECOGNITION THAT WILDLIFE IS AN INTERNATIONAL RESOURCE, IT IS REASONABLE TO EXPECT THE U.S. TO INVEST IN WATERFOWL HABITAT IN CANADA TO SUPPORT FALL FLIGHTS INTO THE UNITED STATES (U.S.)

- Nine out of 10 waterfowl hunters in North America are from the U.S.
- Based on banding data, roughly 70% of waterfowl harvested in the U.S. come from Canada.

BIRD MIGRATIONS PROVIDE AN IMPORTANT WAY TO CONNECT PEOPLE TO NATURE

- Even in states with significant breeding waterfowl populations, hunters look to the north for new arrivals as the hunting season progresses.
- In the U.S., wetlands are one of the most popular places for wildlife and bird watching. People flock to wetlands during spring and fall bird migrations.

ENJOYING THE MAGIC OF MIGRATION AT WETLANDS PROVIDES A GATEWAY TO CONSERVATION

- Waterfowl hunters are nearly five times more likely to participate in wetland conservation activities than those who do not waterfowl hunt.
- Wildlife watchers who visit wetlands are more than three times more likely to engage in wetland conservation than those who do not visit wetlands to watch wildlife.

FALL FLIGHTS INVESTMENTS BENEFIT MANY OTHER SPECIES OF MIGRATORY BIRDS, ESPECIALLY SHOREBIRDS

CONTACT US

Andrew Raedieke, andrew.raedeke@fallflights.com

www.fishwildlife.org/afwa-inspires/fallflights

INVESTING IN FALL FLIGHTS: Why invest in critical waterfowl habitat in Canada?

INVESTING IN FALL FLIGHTS WILL HELP YOU GAIN A LARGER RETURN ON INVESTMENTS MADE IN WETLAND WORK IN YOUR STATE

- States “set the table” each year by providing the best wetland habitat possible for waterfowl. Fall Flights investments will help ensure you have “dinner guests.”

INVESTMENTS IN CANADA WILL MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR STATE AGENCY’S DOLLARS

- Every state dollar results in at least four dollars of waterfowl conservation through match by partners and the North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA)
- Favorable currency exchange rates can increase investments by more than 30% during some years.

STATES CAN BE ASSURED THAT THEIR INVESTMENTS ARE BEING PUT TO WORK BY THE BEST IN THE BUSINESS FOR CONSERVATION DELIVERY

- Ducks Unlimited Canada has an 86-year history of conserving waterfowl habitat through protection, management, and restoration. They have conserved 9.1 million acres, influenced 222.9 million acres, and enhanced 454,000 acres.
- Delta Waterfowl Foundation has been researching waterfowl and waterfowl conservation tools for over 100 years. By working with the Manitoba Habitat Conservancy, they are continuing to deliver private land conservation for the benefit of waterfowl and waterfowl hunters in Canada and the United States.

FALL FLIGHTS IS GUIDED BY SCIENCE

- Migratory Bird Joint Ventures in Canada work with a wide range of partners to identify priority areas for conservation and the most efficient and effective ways to provide the best habitat possible for waterfowl.

AN INVESTMENT IN FALL FLIGHTS WILL HELP YOUR STATE’S ECONOMY GROW

- Hunters and wildlife viewers in the U.S. spent over \$16.1 billion in 2022 to experience waterfowl that originated in Canada.
- Hunter and viewer expenditures supported over 183,000 jobs, nearly \$11.6 billion in salaries and wages, over \$19.6 billion in Gross Domestic Product, and nearly \$38 billion in total economic activity.

IF WE EACH DO A LITTLE, WE CAN ACCOMPLISH A LOT TOGETHER

- In 2023-24, 48 states worked together to invest a total of more than \$5.5 million (U.S.) that when combined with match yielded nearly \$29 million (Canadian) in waterfowl habitat protection.
- Since Fall Flights’ formalization in 1991, states have invested a total of \$107,136,861 resulting in more than \$500 million in conservation actions.



CONTACT US

Andrew Raedieke, andrew.raedeke@fallflights.com

www.fishwildlife.org/afwa-inspires/fallflights

