



FALL FLIGHTS

Program Update

The North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA) was passed thirty years ago and has resulted in the greatest wetland conservation achievements on this globe.

It has provided \$1.71 billion in federal funding for habitat projects throughout North America, including 45 percent of the funds used in Canada for projects to be matched at least 1:1 with non-federal funds. In 2010, funds sourced in Canada became eligible for up to 50% of the non-federal match.

The vision and leadership of State Directors and of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) and Ducks Unlimited, Inc. (DU) grasped the opportunity for the new continental approach to waterfowl management. DU committed to match every dollar invested by State Agencies, and in turn to seek a similar amount of NAWCA funds to deliver waterfowl habitat conservation projects in Canada. Since September 1991, members of AFWA passed and reaffirmed resolutions 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.”*

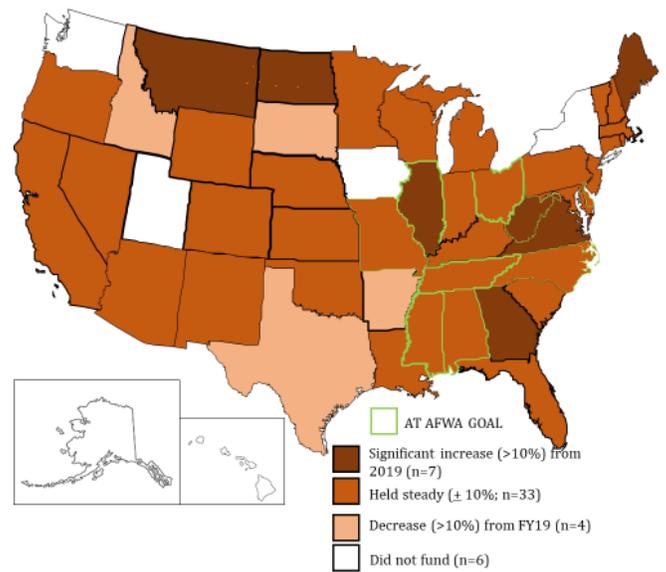
This report provides Association members with a national update on their contributions toward the AFWA goal.

Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
Tours Saskatchewan, Canada



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 Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency representatives traveled to Prairie Canada. A dedication recognizing TWRA for 30 years of partnership capped off the

trip. Seeing the waterfowl utilize the valuable habitats protected through successful NAWMP partnerships results in a strong sense of satisfaction and hope for the future of waterfowl.



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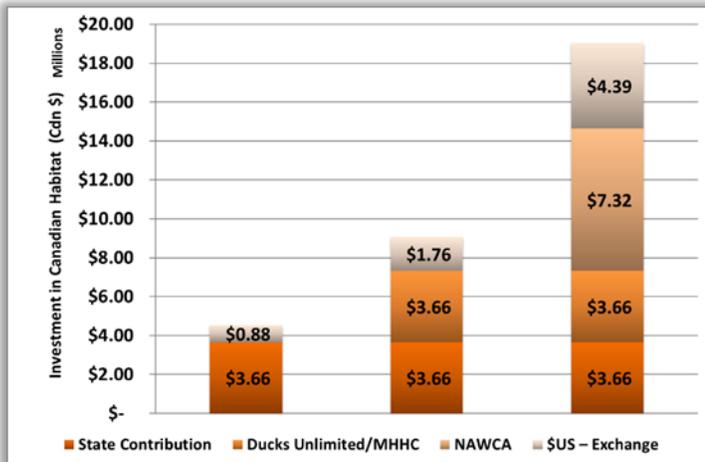
Report produced by the AFWA Waterfowl Working Group
Chair - Jeff Ver Steeg (Colorado Parks and Wildlife)
AFWA staff Liaison - Dean Smith
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2019 - 20 Contributions Summary

Forty-three states contributed a total of \$3,658,903 (US) dollars to Canadian waterfowl habitat projects during 2019-20. This is an increase to a record number of states and second highest annual total commitment.

DU will match \$3.38 million of the states' investments and with the NAWCA funding, the investment will grow to \$13.3 million. Delta Waterfowl and Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation (MHHC) will invest and match the remaining \$321,491 of state funding, which will grow to \$1.29 million. At the present-day currency exchange rate, the state, DU/Delta and NAWCA funds will generate an additional \$4.39 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 \$3.66 million becomes a total NAWCA and match investment in Canada of approximately \$19.03 million.



State PR Contributions

The first state to use PR funding for conservation work in Canada is North Carolina. North Carolina completed its first year of their three-year commitment to a conservation investment of \$116,000 US per year. These funds are matched with \$38,000 US in Canadian expenditures. As a result, North Carolina met their AFWA goal for the first time.

SHORT-TERM NEED

Canadian NAWMP partners on average have achieved 40% of long-term goals and are in the final year of current implementation plan delivery. New 5-year goals are being established and will address the habitat and funding required to make necessary progress toward the NAWMP goals.

LONG-TERM NEED

New 20-year NAWMP Joint Venture goals are being developed by partners in Canada. They seek 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.

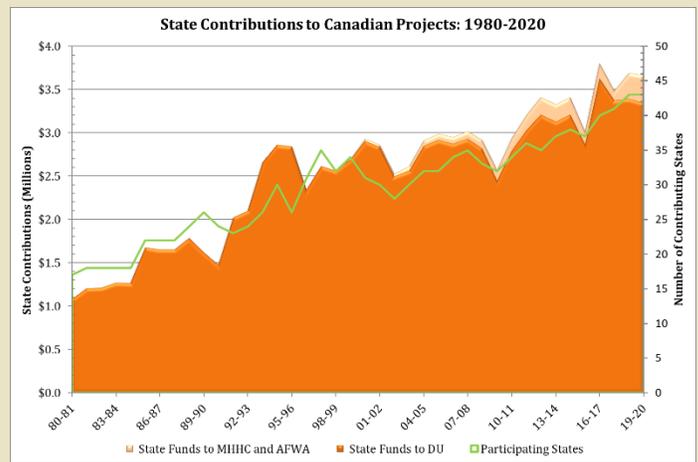
The outlook for 2020-21 is going to be unique to each state. The Covid impacts have been highly variable, however all states are committed to the partnership and breeding grounds conservation!

STRONG YEAR

State commitments remain strong this year totaling \$3,658,903 from 43 states. Nine states meeting their AFWA goal played a significant role in reaching this record year. These states are:

Alabama, Delaware, Illinois, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee and West Virginia

2020 Total: \$3,658,903



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