



FALL FLIGHTS

Program Update

State Wildlife agencies have reaffirmed their support for breeding grounds conservation in Canada. It started with the endorsement of the Fall Flights task force at the 2021 Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) meeting last year. This past year has been a series of steps to implement the recommendations from the task force and double down on efforts to meet state goals for the program.

The AFWA Fall Flights program flew past the \$90 million cumulative state funding threshold this year with a total investment of \$4,170,501 in commitments. Many states made progress toward their annual goal with Idaho, South Carolina, Arkansas and Kansas leading the charge.

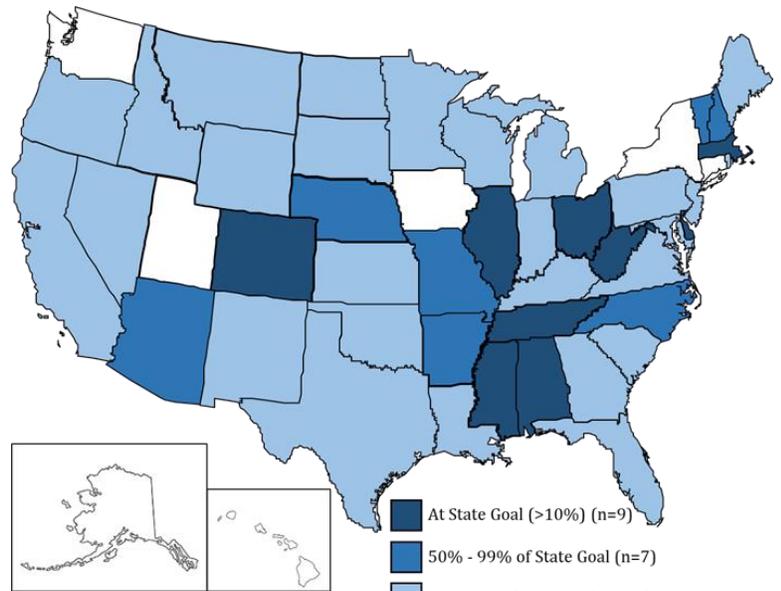
The newly formed Fall Flights Advisory committee is taking shape with a diverse membership:

Committee Position	Member Name
Advisory Comm Chair	JD Strong (OK)
Advisory Comm Past Chair	Chuck Sykes (AL)
Waterfowl Working Group Ch	Jeff Ver Steeg (CO)
Ducks Unlimited Inc.	Karen Waldrop, Chief Cons Off
Ducks Unlimited Canada	Pat Kehoe, National Dir of Cons
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	Ryan Scott (AK)
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 Kustersky
Delta Waterfowl / Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation	Roald Stander

Idaho DFG first supported Fall Flights in 1988 and has invested over \$700,000 to date. The IDFG has remained committed to breeding grounds conservation and often directs year end



waterfowl program funds to bump up their investment. This past year IDFG provided their largest contribution at \$76,000 for work in the prairie pothole habitat of Alberta. This fall IDFG commission and staff will be traveling to Alberta to see firsthand conservation projects accomplished with their funding and match.



ASSOCIATION of
FISH & WILDLIFE
AGENCIES

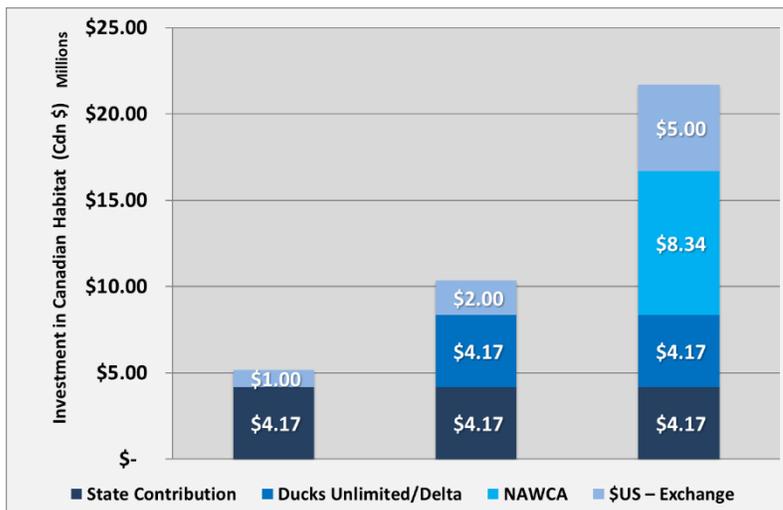
Report by AFWA - WWG
Chair - Jeff Ver Steeg (CPW)
AFWA staff liaison - Dean Smith
September 20, 2022

2021-2022 Contributions Summary

Forty-three states contributed a total of \$4,170,501 (US) dollars to Canadian waterfowl habitat projects during 2021-22. This maintains a record number of states and sets the second highest annual total commitment.

DU will match \$3.8 million of the states' investments and with the NAWCA funding, the investment will grow to \$15.2 million. Delta Waterfowl and Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation (MHHC) will invest and match the remaining \$353,345 of state funding, which will grow to \$1.41 million. At the present-day currency exchange rate, the state, DU/Delta and NAWCA funds will generate an additional \$5 million (CDN) that will be invested in Canadian habitat.

The US funds, along with Canadian funding sources will increase the investment such that the state commitment of \$4.1 million becomes a total NAWCA and match investment in Canada of approximately \$21.7 million.



Stepwise Goal of \$5 Million

The Fall Flights task force set 6 goals for the program over the next 5 years. A new goal to this effort was established to set a stepwise goal of \$5 million annually and all states to meet at least 50% of their goal by 2026. As represented in the graphic on the previous page, 32 states are currently below 50% of their AFWA goal for this program. Fall Flights program managers along with Advisory Committee members are ready to work with these states to assist in accomplishing this program goal to ensure success by 2026.

THE CONSERVATION NEED

Based on currently available information, new 5-year goals for the Canadian Habitat Joint Ventures is to conserve 4 million acres at a cost of \$1 billion (Canadian). The 20-year outlook will require the conservation of 14 million acres at an estimated cost of \$5 billion (Canadian). 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 2022-23 is optimistic with the implementation of the Fall Flights Advisory Committee with 44 states planning to invest in breeding grounds conservation!

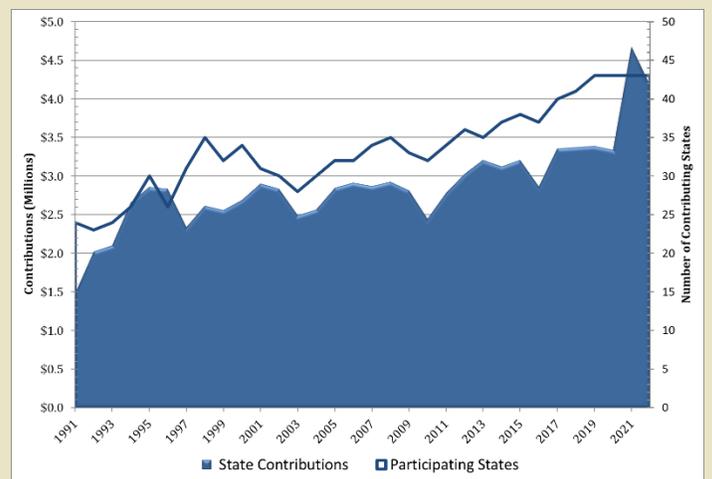
STRONG YEAR

State commitments remain strong this year totaling \$4.1 million from 43 states. Nine states meeting their AFWA goal played a significant role in reaching this record year.

These states are:

Alabama, Colorado, Delaware, Illinois, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Ohio, Tennessee and West Virginia

2020 Total: \$4,170,501



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