

Our Flyway, Our Challenge: The Klamath Initiative

Revitalizing Wetlands in the West's Most Important Migration Area for Waterfowl

The Crisis

- The Klamath Basin ecosystem is one of the most important wetland complexes for waterfowl on the continent.
- The Basin, primarily at Klamath National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge, once supported millions of waterfowl and other migratory birds.
- The last 15 years have seen a drastic decline in water to the refuges in a drying and high-demand system.

Solutions towards a Sustainable Future

- Ducks Unlimited has a strong presence in the Klamath Basin, representing waterfowl and habitat interests in ongoing stakeholder discussions and delivering on-the-ground conservation projects.
- We are collaborating to implement a complimentary set of wetland-based solutions.
- Over the next 10 years, we will complete innovative wetland habitat projects, provide leadership in coalition building, and deliver communications, policy and scientific support to make a significant, long-term impact in the Klamath Basin.

Our Current Actions

Klamath Basin Wetland Habitat Delivery Projects

- > **Tule Lake NWR:** In partnership with Tulelake Irrigation District and other partners, we will improve infrastructure to regularly rotate wetlands and agricultural lands to maximize wetland and agricultural productivity and explore renewable energy options for water delivery from Tule Lake over Sheepy Ridge to the Lower Klamath.
- > **Lower Klamath NWR:** We will implement a large water-use efficiency project to streamline flexibility and improve water conveyance and management.
- > **Private Agricultural Lands:** We will partner with the Intermountain West Joint Venture, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to implement a \$3.8 million Farm Bill grant to encourage waterfowl-friendly farming.
- > **Upper Klamath NWR:** We are helping to plan and implement the Upper Klamath NWR Barnes-Agency Restoration Project, a 14,000+ acre project to benefit fish, water quality, and waterfowl.
- > **Klamath Basin Refuge Complex:** We will provide capital support for airboats, critical to Refuge banding and botulism-response efforts, and manage and administer the “duck hospital” to respond to potential botulism outbreaks.

Our Vision:

A Klamath Basin capable of supporting thriving waterfowl populations, productive farmland, abundant fisheries, and the cultural values of each.



Leadership and Coalition Building

- DU will continue to help lead the Klamath Communities Coalition to develop Basin-wide solutions to water challenges.
- DU will continue to collaborate with stakeholders and partners to facilitate the Tule Lake – Lower Klamath Lake Working Group and implement actions that benefit the Refuges and their neighboring agricultural lands.

Communication, Public Policy and Science

- DU will raise public awareness of the critical importance of the Basin's wetlands for waterfowl and other migratory birds.
- DU will actively work with state and federal officials on specific actions that will improve conditions for wetlands and waterfowl in the Basin.
- DU will continue to provide important science documenting the value of wetlands to support waterfowl, other wildlife, and people.

Investment in the Future of the Klamath Basin

- Water use disputes have plagued this region for decades, but Ducks Unlimited has immediate solutions to improve the health of the Klamath Basin.
- To ensure optimal habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife, DU is committed to securing \$10 million in private philanthropic funding over the next five years (FY2022 - FY2026) for the Klamath Basin Initiative, a top priority in California and the Pacific Flyway.
- We will leverage your support with up to \$50 million of state and federal funds.
- It will take more than water to solve the complex problems in the Basin. Our experienced and professional staff, along with our committed volunteer leaders, are up to the challenge and are already making steady progress toward longer-term solutions.
- *The time to act is now, and together, we can make a difference.*

***This is our flyway and our challenge.
We are ready. Join us!***



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