

DUCKS UNLIMITED



MITIGATION AND
ECOLOGICAL SERVICES



Ducks Unlimited Vermont In-Lieu Fee Program Overview

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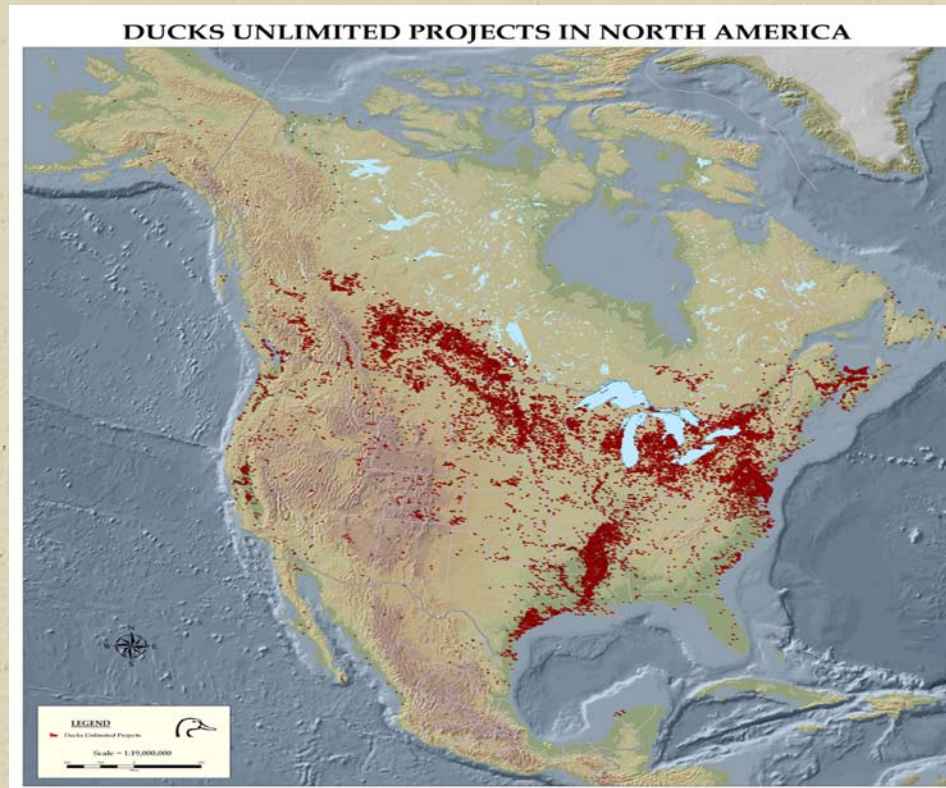
Presentation Overview

- Ducks Unlimited Overview
- Vermont ILF Program and Operation
- DU Objectives
- Benefits of ILF Program
- Questions and Discussion
- Contact Information



DU's Mission

Ducks Unlimited conserves, restores, and manages wetlands and associated habitats for North America's waterfowl. These habitats also benefit other wildlife and people.



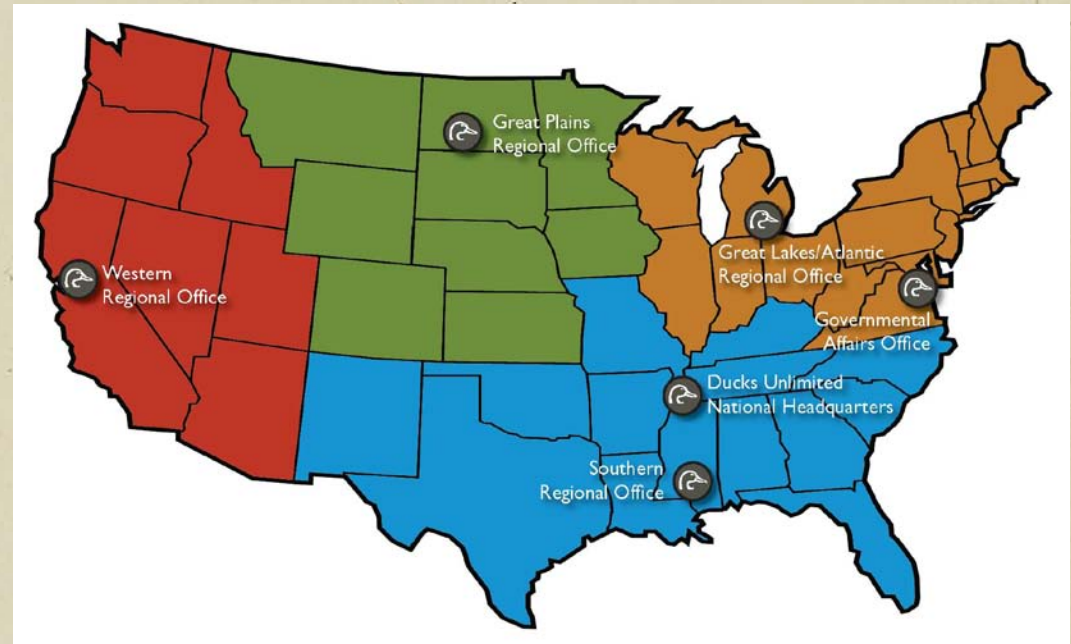
DU has restored and protected 13 million acres





Ducks Unlimited Today

- World's largest wetlands conservation organization
- Over 70 years restoring and protecting wetland habitat
- Over 20 years delivering conservation projects in New England
- 1 million supporters / 600 national staff



DU's Mitigation Experience

- Portfolio of permittee responsible projects
- In-lieu fee programs – Mississippi, Vermont, Western New York (pending)
- Turnkey mitigation services for all wetland types



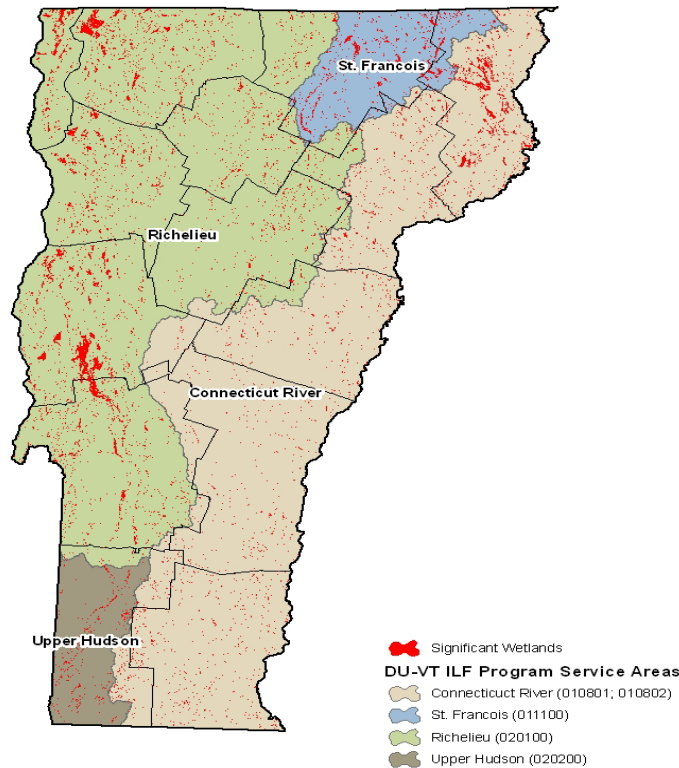
DU Provides Turnkey Services

- Phase I – Site Identification
- Phase II – Wetland Design and Mitigation Plan
- Phase III – Site Construction
- Phase IV – Land Protection
- Phase V – Monitoring and Contingency Plans





VT In-Lieu Fee / Statewide Program



- Four Service Areas:
- Connecticut River
 - St. Francois
 - Richelieu
 - Upper Hudson





DU Vermont ILF team

- Chris Theriot, Manager of Conservation Programs - Mitigation
- April Moulaert, PWS, Vermont-based DU ILF representative
- Ray Whittemore, Director of Conservation Programs
- Peter Wyckoff, PE, PWS, Engineer - Mitigation
- Great Lakes Regional Atlantic Office conservation staff
 - land specialists, GIS, engineers, biologists, legal, finance





Vermont ILF objectives

- Provide an alternative to permittee-responsible compensatory mitigation
- Incorporate watershed planning and conservation goals into project delivery
- Deliver successful wetland restoration projects within the designated service area





Program Operation

1. Applicant confirms credit availability
2. Applicant requests approval for purchase of ILF credits
3. Upon approval, Applicant provides DU with all the pertinent information prior to a credit sale
4. Applicant purchases credit and transfers funds
5. DU submits credit sale letter to USACE-New England District within 30 days of receiving payment
6. DU assumes responsibility for mitigation delivery



Project Development

- 3 year timeline for project implementation from receipt of funds
- DU identifies project in service area and seeks Interagency Review Team (IRT) approval
- DU secures land and develops mitigation plan for IRT approval and public comment
- DU designs and implements project

All projects subject to approval by the Corps and IRT





Site Identification

- Identify priority sites suited for restoration or protection
 - Coordinate with state & federal agencies and conservation organizations
 - Review existing conservation plans
 - Conduct desk review screening - GIS analysis, Web Soil Survey, USGS topographical maps
- Conduct on site property evaluation
- Initiate acquisition / protection opportunities with interested landowners



Credit Pricing

Credit pricing is based on the following factors

Project Costs	Program Costs
Site ID	Financial assurances
Land costs	Legal fees & taxes
Project construction	Endowment Fees
Wetland performance monitoring	Contingency funds for adaptive management
Site protection	Program administrative fees
Plan development	

Unspent funds remain in ILF program account for future projects



2011 Credit Fee Structure

Service Area	Per acre & per sq. ft. fee	Advanced credits
Connecticut River	\$110,031 / acre \$2.53 / sf	25
St. Francois	\$111,986 / acre \$2.57 / sf	25
Richelieu	\$131,549 / acre \$3.02 / sf	154
Upper Hudson	\$129,326 / acre \$2.97 / sf	25

Credit prices subject to change on an annual basis



Program Management

- Manage financing related to ILF program
- Obtain Corps approval for project milestones
- Submit an annual report to the Corps and IRT
- Annual report will provide program accounting, activity & program status, and lessons learned





DU Objectives

- Responsive and timely service to permittees and agencies
- Deliver high-quality projects that span all types of wetlands, streams, riparian buffer, and upland habitats
- Incorporate watershed goals and conservation priorities
- Professional & transparent management of ILF funds





Benefits of ILF program

- Relieves permittee of long-term mitigation responsibilities and future liabilities
- Ensures greater ecological benefits by aggregating projects
- Contributes to watershed-level conservation goals
- Reduces agency project oversight time demands
- Helps Ducks Unlimited achieve conservation mission





Contact information

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