

Key Habitat Conservation Priority
Missouri Coteau

\$75 million

THE MISSOURI COTEAU, AN INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED CRITICAL WILDLIFE HABITAT AREA, CONSISTS OF NATIVE GRASSLAND AND POTHOLE WETLANDS THAT COLLECTIVELY CONTRIBUTE TO SOME OF THE BEST WILDLIFE HABITAT IN NORTH AMERICA. DUC IS USING A THREE-PRONGED APPROACH TO ENSURE THIS PRECIOUS HABITAT IS CONSERVED IN PERPETUITY.



tunities still exist for DUC to work with landowners to advance land management practices that are compatible with waterfowl, wildlife habitat protection and agriculture.

CANADA'S PRAIRIES ARE THE breeding grounds for more than half of the continent's waterfowl flight. This number increases to up to 75 per cent when habitat conditions are ideal for nesting. Saskatchewan's Missouri Coteau lies at the heart of Canada's Prairies and is one of the most productive landforms in the Prairie Pothole region. It encompasses a

25,700 square mile area stretching from south-central Saskatchewan into South Dakota.



MUCH OF THE PRISTINE NATIVE PRAIRIE and expanses of wetlands that historically characterized the region have been replaced by cultivated uplands and drained wetlands. However, many oppor-

DUC is taking a three-pronged approach in this critical area that involves (1) protection of existing upland and wetland habitat, (2) improved ecological function to reduce the risk of native habitat loss and (3) compensation for lost habitats. Although the area is vast, intensive agriculture has dramatically altered the landscape. We will work within this agricultural environment with land-owners and governments. ✎