



# WATERFOWL AND WETLANDS FOR TOMORROW

## ENDOWED FACULTY POSITION WILL EMPHASIZE WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT

Waterfowl are ecologically, economically and culturally valuable natural resources worldwide, especially in the Northern Hemisphere. Since the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, waterfowl science and management efforts have focused on the conservation of these resources.

Nebraska is a key player for waterfowl migration in North America. The state's Rainwater Basin, Platte River, Sandhills lakes and other wetland areas host millions of ducks and geese during the spring migration. In the fall, hunters from across the country visit these wetlands to participate in the grand tradition of waterfowl hunting.

### MANAGING WATERFOWL HABITAT

Despite ongoing conservation efforts, waterfowl habitats face increasing pressure from development. Remaining habitats must be managed effectively to maintain waterfowl populations.

Management and conservation cannot progress effectively or efficiently without trained professionals to study and steward natural resources. Published research in the early 2000s showed that university-based waterfowl programs were in decline. By 2013, more than 40% of these programs had been lost when faculty retired and their positions were not filled by waterfowl experts due to funding limitations and changes in conservation priorities.

The University of Nebraska–Lincoln School of Natural Resources (SNR) has established a goal to develop an endowed, donor-based program that will prioritize the hiring of waterfowl research faculty. It also prioritizes the training of graduate students to work in the field of waterfowl and wetland habitat management to provide critical information to managers in the future.

Establishing at least one endowed faculty position in waterfowl management is the first step toward achieving this

goal. The SNR currently does not have an endowed faculty position. An endowed chair will ensure a continued focus on research in waterfowl management at UNL while striving to develop future professionals in the field. Funding for an endowed chair in waterfowl management also will provide greater visibility for conservation and management practices that benefit hunters, landowners and nature lovers.



### HOW YOUR GIFT WILL HELP

Your consideration of a gift to help establish an endowed faculty position within the SNR is greatly appreciated. Not only will an endowed faculty position make waterfowl management an emphasis at UNL in perpetuity, it also will help provide annual support for research and help attract and retain the best waterfowl research faculty.

Through an endowed faculty position, the SNR will be taking a leadership role in conservation efforts that provide broad societal and natural benefits, including recharging groundwater, reducing flooding, sequestering carbon, improving water quality, enabling pollination of flora and crops and providing public recreational spaces.

## KEEPING TRADITIONS ALIVE

Nebraska has an immense tradition of waterfowl hunting. Preserving that tradition requires a public response to changes in waterfowl populations and their habitats. An endowed chair or professorship at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln will not only help sustain the conservation of waterfowl and their habitats, but also will ensure Nebraskans can continue to watch sunrises from the duck blind.



## THE BENEFITS OF ENDOWED POSITIONS

The merit of an educational institution is often measured by the quality of its faculty — those men and women who equip students with the skills they need to become critical thinkers in a changing world. Recruiting and retaining high-quality faculty members is imperative to strengthening these assets, both for UNL and the university system at large. Supporting endowed chairs and professorships will enhance SNR's leadership position in the teaching of conservation principles while expanding its research agenda. Endowed faculty position options are listed below.

### ENDOWED PRESIDENTIAL CHAIR — \$2 MILLION



UNL's most prestigious faculty award is the endowed presidential chair. It is a critical recruiting tool for attracting dynamic scholars who possess vision, innovation and commitment to interdisciplinary research and program development. Presidential chair candidates are scholars whose national or international reputation immediately lends prestige to the college or strategic initiative for which they are recruited. This type of endowed faculty support is playing a key role in transforming UNL.

### ENDOWED CHAIR — \$1 MILLION

Offering an endowed chair is one way to attract and retain talented and experienced faculty members. Endowed chairs help make SNR competitive with other institutions that already have endowed faculty positions that attract top talent from across the country with which potential candidates are more familiar. The availability of funding (like that offered through an endowed chair) is critical to enticing top talent to Nebraska and encouraging them to remain once they are here.



### ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP — \$500,000

An endowed professorship is a valuable tool that can aid the dean's recruiting efforts or be utilized to reward hard-working, successful faculty members by giving them additional resources that can be used to propel their research.

For more information or to make your gift, please contact:

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## THE IMPACT OF A GIFT

Thank you for considering making a gift to help establish an endowed faculty position at UNL's School of Natural Resources. The impact of an endowed faculty position will reverberate throughout UNL and the state of Nebraska. Managing wetlands to support duck populations while training future conservation professionals will allow hunters, landowners and nature lovers to enjoy waterfowl migrations in the state for generations.