

An aerial photograph showing the confluence of the Missouri and Yellowstone Rivers. The Missouri River flows from the upper left towards the center, while the Yellowstone River flows from the upper right towards the center. They meet in a large, winding loop that encloses a forested island. The surrounding landscape is a mix of green fields, brown agricultural land, and some small settlements. The text "Confluence of the Missouri and Yellowstone Rivers" is overlaid in the center of the image.

Confluence of the Missouri and Yellowstone Rivers

Confluence Site McKenzie County



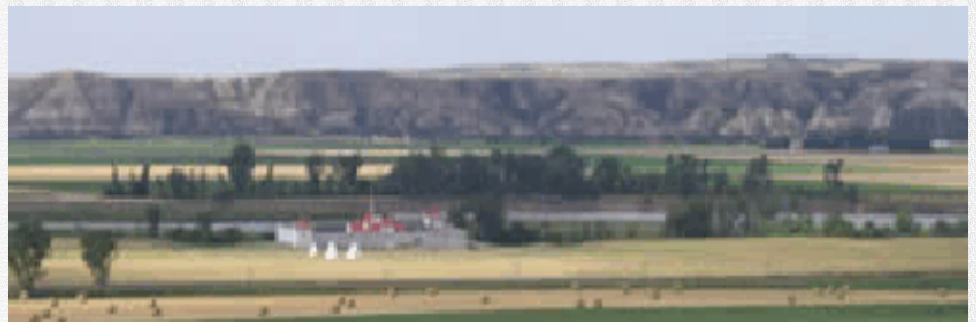
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Historic Significance

- **Site has historic values in regard to the Lewis and Clark Expedition.**
- **Early settlement of Fort Buford and Fort Union.
(Chief Sitting Bull's surrender site.)**



Abundant Wildlife Resource



Excellent Habitat

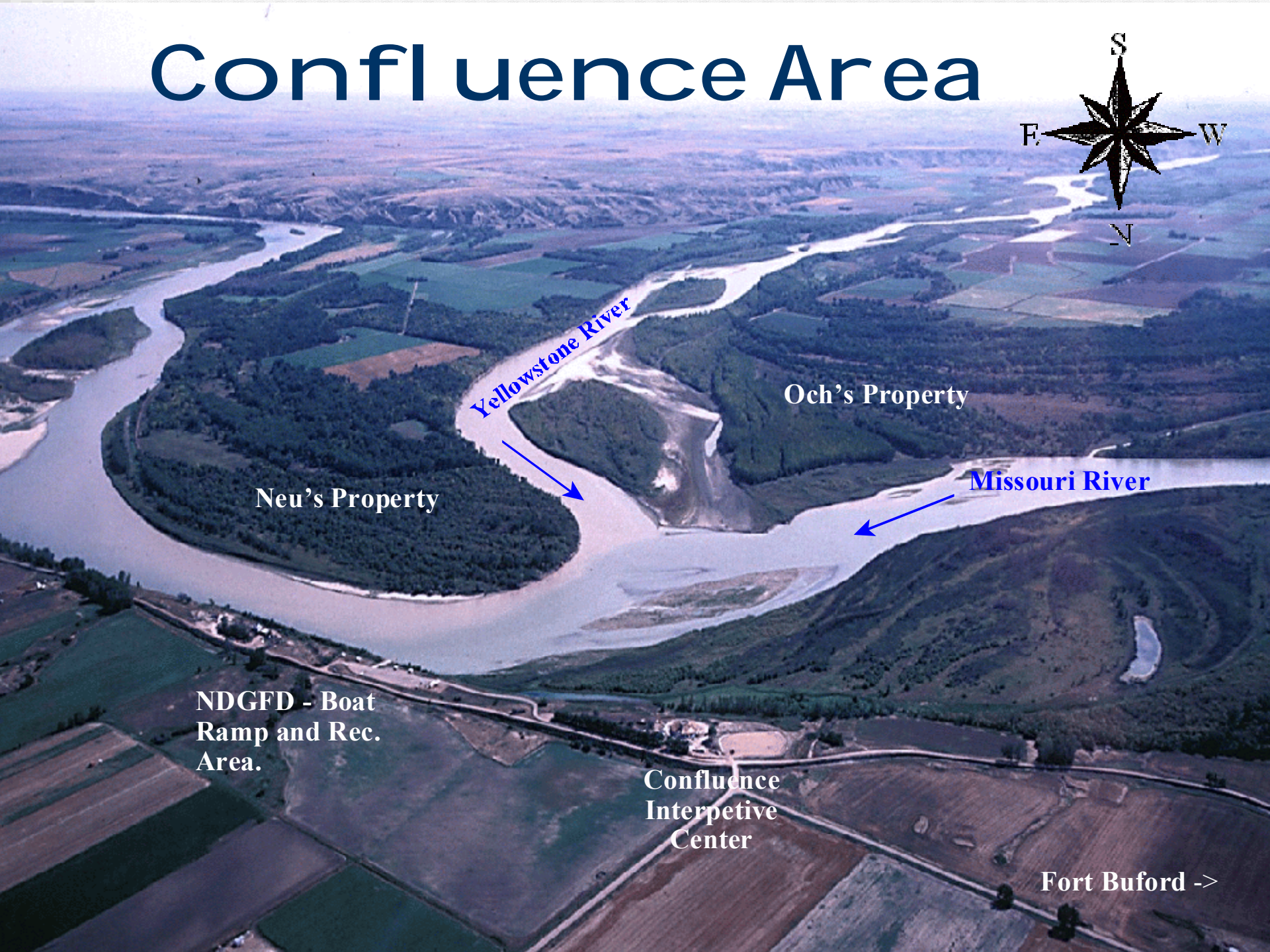


Missouri-Yellowstone confluence interpretive Center

The North Dakota State Historical Society has recently constructed a \$2 million visitor center on the north bank of the union of Yellowstone and Missouri Rivers.



Confluence Area



Yellowstone River

Neu's Property

Och's Property

Missouri River

NDGFD - Boat
Ramp and Rec.
Area.

Confluence
Interpetive
Center

Fort Buford ->

Neu's Property



Neu's Point:

Acres: 490 Total

Wetlands: 55 acres

Woodland/Grassland: 360 acres

Cropland: 75 acres

Neu Acquisition Partners

**Government
Local and State**



THE CONSERVATION FUND

United States Department of Agriculture



NRCS Natural Resources
Conservation Service



North Dakota
Game and Fish Dept.



The Conservation Fund

- ❑ Provided landowner negotiations and fronted earnest dollars.**
- ❑ Provided realty expertise to offer the landowners and conservation groups the best deal possible.**
- ❑ Worked on fund raising efforts to secure future “Ochs” property.**

Neu Acquisition Partners

**Government
Local and State**



THE CONSERVATION FUND

United States Department of Agriculture



NRCS Natural Resources
Conservation Service



North Dakota
Game and Fish Dept.



ND Natural Resources Trust

- ☐ **Provided project coordination and project monitoring.**
- ☐ **Provided funds for the earnest money, realty closing costs and survey of property boundaries.**
- ☐ **Worked on fund raising efforts to secure future “Ochs” property.**

Neu Acquisition Partners

**Government
Local and State**



THE CONSERVATION FUND

United States Department of Agriculture



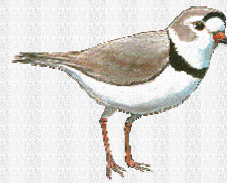
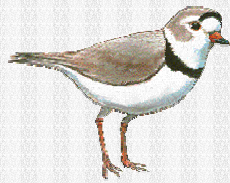
NRCS Natural Resources
Conservation Service



North Dakota
Game and Fish Dept.



US Fish & Wildlife Service



☐ **Provided Section 6 granting funds, achieving endangered species recovery land acquisition goal.**



Neu Acquisition Partners

**Government
Local and State**



THE CONSERVATION FUND



United States Department of Agriculture



North Dakota
Game and Fish Dept.



USDA - NRCS

Wetland Reserve Program

- **30-year easements in ND.**
- **Wetland and native grassland restorations.**
- **Provides 75% cost-share on restoration activities.**
- **Special allocation exclusively for confluence area (\$1 million+).**

Neu Acquisition Partners

**Government
Local and State**

AMERICAN



WILDLIFE

THE CONSERVATION FUND

United States Department of Agriculture



NRCS Natural Resources
Conservation Service



North Dakota
Game and Fish Dept.



The American Foundation for Wildlife

- ☐ **Provided project funds for the acquisition.**
- ☐ **Provided ability to hold title for the acquisition and the applicant for WRP.**
- ☐ **Accepted risk of being landowner.**



Vern Axtman and Pete Ressler

Neu Acquisition Partners

**Government
Local and State**



THE CONSERVATION FUND



United States Department of Agriculture



NRCS Natural Resources
Conservation Service



North Dakota
Game and Fish Dept.



North Dakota Game & Fish Department

- Provided nonfederal match to Sec. 6
- Will accept land in fee title
 - * Long-term land management
 - Water management
 - Vegetation management
 - * Public access
 - * Property taxes
 - * Long-term liabilities and protection

Neu Acquisition Partners

**Government
Local and State**



THE CONSERVATION FUND

United States Department of Agriculture



NRCS Natural Resources
Conservation Service



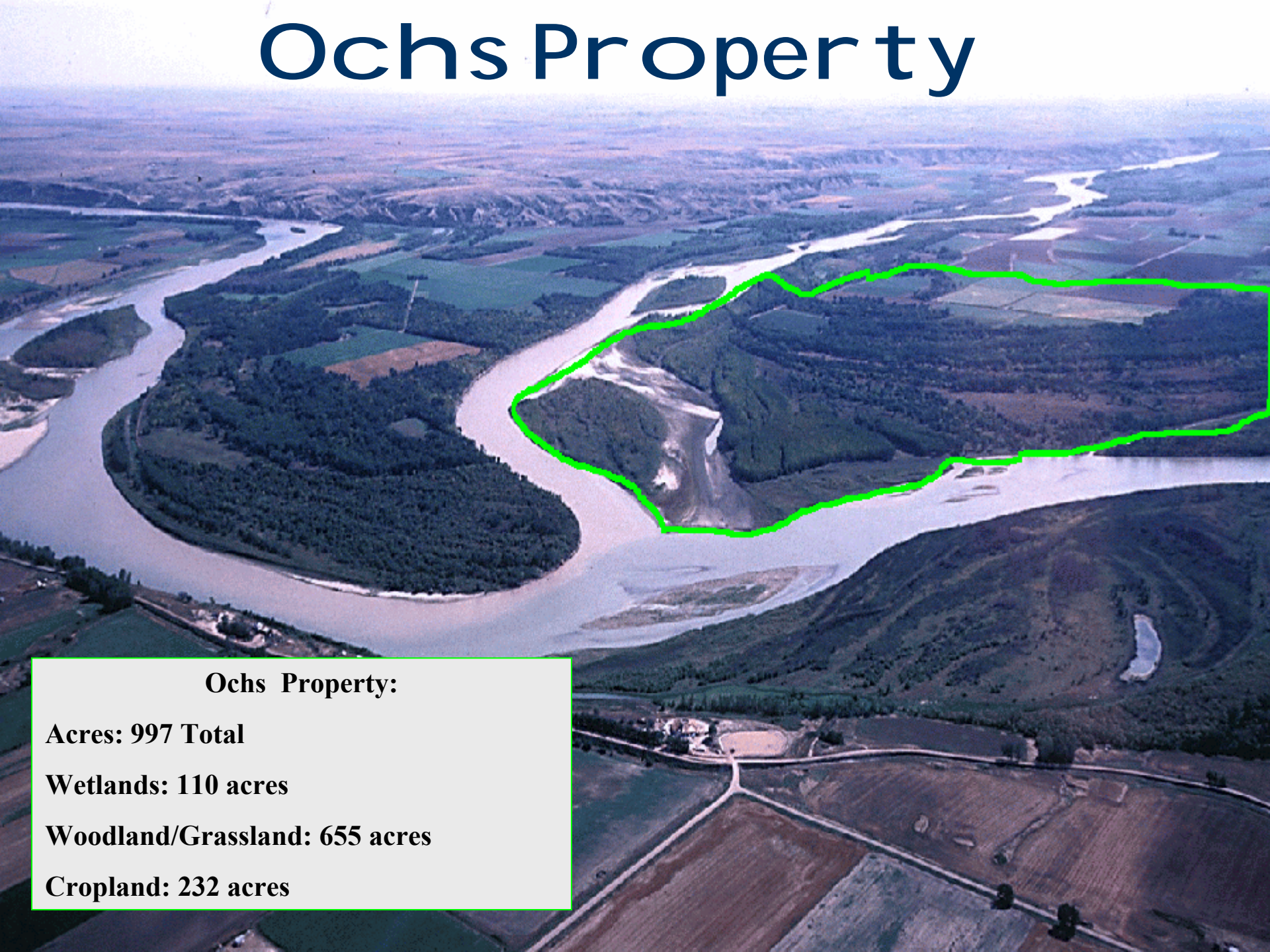
North Dakota
Game and Fish Dept.



Local and State Government

- ❑ County Water Board
- ❑ County Commissioners
- ❑ Local Legislators
- ❑ Natural Areas Acquisition Adv. Com.
- ❑ Governor

Ochs Property



Ochs Property:

Acres: 997 Total

Wetlands: 110 acres

Woodland/Grassland: 655 acres

Cropland: 232 acres

Process for Funding For Ochs Property Purchase

Negotiate fair price for Ochs brothers.

Use match from all unmatched dollars from Neu purchase.

Obtain additional partners to provide additional nonfederal dollars.

Find best granting opportunities to match fund raising effort and secure property.

North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grants Program

Best available granting opportunity was the NAWCA grant requiring 1:1 nonfederal match dollars.

Initial approval is scheduled for mid July.

Ochs Acquisition Partners

Federal:

NRCS
USFWS (Sec 6 Grant)
NAWCA (Grant)
NPS

State:

NDGFD
Governor
Historical Society of ND

Non-Profit Regional:

NDNRT	DU
AFW	Delta
NGPJV	PF
NDGWA	NDWTF

Non-Profit National:

TCF

Local:

United Sportsmen
Friends of Fort Union

Ochs Family
Neu Family

Partner Contributions

NDNRT	NAWCA grantee and project coordination.
AFW	Land purchaser and WRP applicant.
NDGFD	Accept land transfer and long-term management.
Ochs	Discount land sale.
Neu	Discount land sale.
TCF	Landowner negotiations and revolving fund.

Partner Contributions

NGPJV	Funding.
United Sportsmen	Local fund dollars and local coordination.
Friends of Ft. Union	Local fund dollars and local coordination.
DU	Funding and regional support.
ND GWA	Funding and regional support.
PF	Funding and regional support.

Partner Contributions

Delta
NDWTF

Funding and regional support.
Funding and regional support.

NRCS

WRP program and special
allocation for confluence area.

USFWS

Section 6 grant.

Summary

- ❑ **Sixteen partners (largest partnership ever).**
- ❑ **Leveraged \$2,028,048 in federal funds (*Sec 6, NAWCA, and WRP*).**
- ❑ **Protected 1,487 acres of prime riparian, wetland, and woodland habitat.**
- ❑ **Protected and preserved the rich historical and cultural values of the area.**