

Ducks Unlimited

In June 2021, Apex Clean Energy distributed a \$302,000 conservation grant on behalf of Lincoln Land Wind to Ducks Unlimited. The grant will help improve wildlife habitat in the lower Illinois River Valley, a region crucial to community recreation and several species of wildlife.

About the Lower Illinois River Valley

Apex partnered with Ducks Unlimited—an industry leader in wetland conservation—to restore agricultural land within the Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and existing overgrown forested islands in the Illinois River. Two Rivers NWR is a migratory bird refuge in southwestern Illinois encompassing 9,000 acres of floodplain habitat at the confluence of the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers. The restoration project has two objectives:

- restore 324 acres of flood-prone agricultural lands back to forested, emergent wetlands within the floodplain
- implement nearly 20 acres of timber stand improvements (TSIs) to boost forest quality for bats and other wildlife species

The restoration of the fields will permit refuge staff to mimic historic natural flooding conditions and provide healthy wetland forest habitat for wildlife, public recreation, and flood storage. Meanwhile, the implementation of TSIs will help preserve mature and healthy trees, retain dead trees for habitat, create quarter-acre bat foraging openings in the forest, and reforest traditional hardwood species.

Ducks Unlimited leveraged Apex’s donation to secure additional funding at a 4:1 match from the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, the Rice Family Foundation, the Dr. Scholl Foundation, Bass Pro Shops, and other major donors.

About the Apex Conservation Grant Program

As a company with a core value of sustainability, Apex Clean Energy endeavors to not only minimize our projects’ impacts, but also promote an ecological balance. Through the Apex Conservation Grant Program, each renewable energy project commercialized by Apex will contribute a sum of money, proportional to the size of the project, to support local or regional wildlife conservation, reforestation and flora restoration, protection of sensitive habitats such as grassland or wetlands, and other environmental conservation initiatives in or near project communities.

