

# Ducks Unlimited

In September 2024, Apex Clean Energy distributed a \$100,000 conservation grant on behalf of Great Kiskadee Storage to support the restoration of 200 acres of wetland within the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in Los Fresnos, Texas.

### About the Laguna Atascosa NWR Restoration

The restoration will transform the agricultural landscape of the Laguna Atascosa NWR back into its historical coastal wetland system. Ducks Unlimited (DU) and its partners will fill ditches and pits throughout the NWR, reestablishing natural hydrology and supporting the ecological health of the area. This will improve critical freshwater resources for waterfowl and migratory bird species, including the redhead duck and the endangered Aplomado falcon.

Beyond waterfowl, the project will benefit a range of species, including:

- the endangered eastern black rail and tricolored bat
- ocelots and other rare resident species
- 40 fish species
- 44 reptile species
- 45 mammal species
- 130 butterfly species



The restoration aligns with Laguna Atascosa NWR's expanded focus on conserving habitats for migratory and endangered species, preserving one of the most biologically diverse landscapes in the U.S. Wildlife Refuge System. Restoration benefits are expected to last at least 25 years by removing reliance on infrastructure prone to failure.

The Laguna Atascosa NWR is a major bird-watching destination, attracting nearly 400,000 vehicles annually and providing significant economic and recreational value to the region. The restored wetlands will enhance these opportunities, drawing bird watchers, researchers, and nature enthusiasts to enjoy the improved habitats across 60 miles of trails and iconic birding sites.

Ducks Unlimited has leveraged Apex's grant to raise a total of \$750,000 through partnerships with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Program and the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA).

### 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.