

## Duck Habitat Breeds Carbon Offsets

By Jonathan Bardelline, May 8, 2009

A waterfowl-breeding habitat in the U.S. And Canada is putting out new offspring in the form of carbon offsets. A program to protect the [Prairie Pothole Region](#) has been validated as avoiding greenhouse gas emissions, allowing offsets related to it to be sold. The Ducks Unlimited Avoided Grassland Conversion Project protects part of the region, which is also called the "Duck Factory" because its 26,000 acres is considered the most productive breeding habitat on the prairies for ducks and geese. The project, validated by [Scientific Certification Systems](#) to the [Climate, Community and Biodiversity](#) standards, is focused on the parts of the region in North Dakota and South Dakota. By protecting the grasslands, the project ensures thousands of years worth of stored carbon won't be released, keeping, on average, about 8,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere a year, and a total of about 800,000 metric tons of carbon emissions over a 99-year period. Ducks Unlimited acquired perpetual conservation easements, which will be donated to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, from landowners in the region, who will receive additional compensation from the sale of the carbon credits.