

Barry Sheridan Wetland Restoration Project



Removing silt from the Sheridan Wetland.



This wetland attracted many wading birds after restoration.



Several species of ducks nested in Sheridan's wetland the summer following restoration.

The Barry and Shawn Sheridan wetland project in Clay County is part of the RWBJV Wetland Incentive Program which provides financial and technical assistance to the landowner for managing wetlands for migratory birds. This project was an attempt to restore and manage two wetland areas on the Sheridan property which contained approximately 59 acres of seasonal wetland habitat that was overrun with dense vegetation and badly silted in.

The Sheridans wanted to improve their wetland habitat for migratory waterfowl while increasing income potential through activities such as the WIP program and leasing the wetland to hunters. The Wetland Incentive Program provides a base pay of \$25/acre for 10 years and potential additional incentive payments if the landowner agrees to manage the wetland vegetation for migratory waterbirds. The Sheridans are still able to hay the surrounding meadow.

Restoration work included controlling the reed canarygrass and removing 18,500 cu yards of silt. Three ponds that had historically been interconnected as one single wetland unit were reconnected. Road ditch water was rerouted and a pit was filled in. Construction was completed in Dec. of 2002.

Many bird species have been observed using the restored areas included a variety of ducks, herons, egrets, ibises, and shorebirds. Ruddy ducks were observed nesting at the site the first summer after completion.

Partners on this project included the landowners, Barry and Shawn Sheridan, Ducks unlimited, Little Blue NRD, the National Fish and Wildlife Federation, NRCS, NGPC, Nebraska's Environmental Trust, RWBJV, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.