Arkansas
North American Waterfowl Management Plan

photo: USFWS

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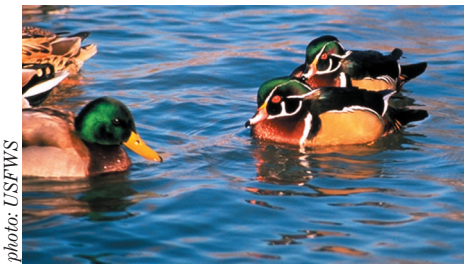
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About the "Plan"
- International Agreement between the U.S., Canada and Mexico signed in 1986.
- Goal: return waterfowl populations to levels of mid-1970's.
- Achieve population goals through the restoration, enhancement, and management of wetlands and other habitats on public and private lands.
- Includes over 17 habitat joint ventures and three species joint ventures.

Partner Involvement
- Private landowners.
- Private, state, Federal Conservation Groups.
- Corporations.

Habitat Accomplishments
Partners have improved habitat for waterfowl and other wetland-dependent wildlife on over 300,000 acres:

Wetland Protection-127,000 acres.
Wetland Restoration- 50,000 acres.
Wetland Enhancement-150,000 acres.

Arkansas Projects
- Reforestation of bottomlands.
- Falcon Bottoms.
- Red River National Wildlife Refuge.
- Cache/Lower White Rivers.
- Arkansas Partners Private Lands Project.
- Mississippi Alluvial Valley Migratory Bird Initiative.

Financial Assistance
- North American Wetlands Conservation Act grants.
- Other federal expenditures in excess of $35 million.
- Non-federal partners have spent more than $9 million.

Public Benefits
- Technical and financial assistance to private landowners.
- Coordinated management of state and Federal refuges.
- Partnerships between the agriculture and wildlife communities.
- Improved water quality.
- Broad coalition of partners supporting voluntary wetland conservation.

Questions and Answers
What is the North American Waterfowl Management Plan?
In 1985, waterfowl populations had plummeted to record lows. Historical data indicated that since the first settlers arrived more than 50 percent of the United States' original 220 million acres of wetland habitat that waterfowl depend on for survival had been destroyed. Across Canada, where a large percentage of the United States' wintering waterfowl nest, wetland losses in various areas were estimated at 29 to 71 percent since settlement.

Waterfowl are a prominent and economically important group of migratory birds of the North American continent. By 1985, approximately 3.2 million people were spending nearly $1 billion annually to hunt waterfowl. By 1985, interest in waterfowl had grown in other arenas as well. About 18.6 million people observed, photographed, and otherwise appreciated waterfowl and other wetland birds and spent $2 billion for the pleasure of doing it.

Recognizing the importance of waterfowl and wetlands to North Americans and the need for international cooperation to help in the recovery of a shared resource, the Canadian and United States governments developed a strategy to restore waterfowl populations to levels seen in the 1970's through habitat protection, restoration, and enhancement. The strategy was documented in the North American Waterfowl Management Plan signed in 1986 by the Canadian Minister of the Environment and the United States' Secretary of the Interior, the foundation partnership upon which hundreds of others would be built.