

North Carolina

North American Waterfowl Management Plan



photo: USFWS



photo: Forest Service

State Contact:
Carl Betsill
NC Wildlife Resources Commission
Division of Wildlife Management
512 North Salisbury Street
Raleigh, NC 27604-1188
Phone: 919/733 7291

Regional Coordinator:
Andrew Milliken
Atlantic Coast Joint Venture
Coordinator
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
300 Westgate Center Drive
Hadley, MA 01035-8459
Phone: 413/253 8269
Fax: 413/253 8480

Frank Bowers
Migratory Bird Coordinator
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1875 Century Blvd., Suite 420
Atlanta, GA 30345
Phone: 404/679 7188
Fax: 404/679 7285
E-mail: frank_bowers@fws.gov

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.
- Non-profit organizations.
- Corporations.
- Government agencies (local/state/Federal).

Habitat Accomplishments

- Protected floodplain and stream habitat.
- Partnerships with landowners.
- Protected coastal wetlands.
- Restored bottomland hardwoods.

North Carolina Projects

- Roanoke River National Wildlife Refuge.
- Tundra Swan Satellite Study.
- Mackay Island NWR.
- Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge Moist Soil.
- Private lands programs.

Financial Assistance

- Matching dollars from non-federal partners over \$400,000.
- North American Wetlands Conservation Act grants.
- Federal and private projects totaling over \$600,000.

Public Benefits

- Increased recreational opportunities.
- Enhanced wildlife diversity.

- Improved community relations.
- Enhanced floodwater storage.
- Improved water quality.
- Broad coalition of partnerships supporting voluntary wetland preservation.

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 waterbirds 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.