

North American Waterfowl Management Plan



A World-Class Opportunity to Help Conserve Today's Natural Resources for Tomorrow



Northern Pintail. William Majoros

“Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is a process; working together is success.”

~Henry Ford

What is the North American Waterfowl Management Plan?

The North American Waterfowl Management Plan is an international strategy for conserving migratory waterfowl and their habitats throughout the continent. It is one of the most successful wildlife conservation initiatives in the world.

Since 1986, the Plan has been a catalyst for sustaining abundant waterfowl populations by conserving landscapes through public-private partnerships guided by sound science.

Plan programs and projects are international in scope. Twenty-five Migratory Bird Joint Venture partnerships implement these efforts at regional and local levels. This work contributes to the conservation of wetlands habitat and wildlife species across the North American landscape.

Responding to a Critical Need

In 1985, North American waterfowl populations had plummeted to record lows. Recognizing the need for international cooperation to help recover these shared resources, the U.S. and Canadian governments developed a strategy to restore waterfowl populations through habitat protection, restoration, and enhancement.

The U.S. and Canada signed the Plan in 1986 and Mexico in 1994. Because it is an evolving document that is updated periodically with engagement of the waterfowl conservation community, the Plan remains a leading model for other international conservation initiatives.

Green-winged Teal. Tim Harding





Mottled Duck. Kenneth Cole Schneider



Hunting. Tina Shaw/USFWS



Northern Shoveler. USFWS

The 2012 NAWMP revision provides the template for a more coherent waterfowl management system, enabling us to focus on what matters most to achieving our conservation goals. Developed after extensive consultations with diverse communities with an interest in waterfowl and habitat conservation, the revised Plan advocates for an integrated waterfowl management system, proposes new population and

habitat conservation goals, and acknowledges the strong linkages among these goals. For the first time, the Plan also includes specific objectives recognizing the key role played by hunters, conservationists and other citizens who are connected to the outdoors and committed to conserving the ecosystems and species they value.

Why Conserve Wetlands?

Wetlands not only provide critical habitat for waterfowl and a rich diversity of other wildlife species, they also have important societal benefits. Wetlands help remove bacteria, phosphorous, and nitrates from the waters that flow into our rivers and lakes. Wetlands conservation contributes significantly to drinking water quality, and they slow water flows and reduce the potential for damaging floods.

Dynamic Partnership

The North American Waterfowl Plan has pioneered a successful collaborative approach, forging strong alliances to achieve healthy and sustainable landscapes.

It relies on conservation organizations joining forces with federal, provincial, and state governments, industry, private companies, individuals, and private landowners.

Why Become a Partner with the Plan?

The Plan articulates a clear vision to move forward with a comprehensive, science-driven approach to waterfowl conservation that coordinates and integrates efforts across North America.

By participating in the Plan, you work with a dynamic group of government agencies, world-renowned conservation organizations, and thousands of individuals across North America to implement high priority conservation projects accruing perpetual benefits to waterfowl, wetlands, and society. Opportunities to participate are many and include helping to conceive and implement habitat restoration and protection projects, becoming involved in strategic planning and landscape design efforts, and investing conservation dollars in support of the work of plan partners.

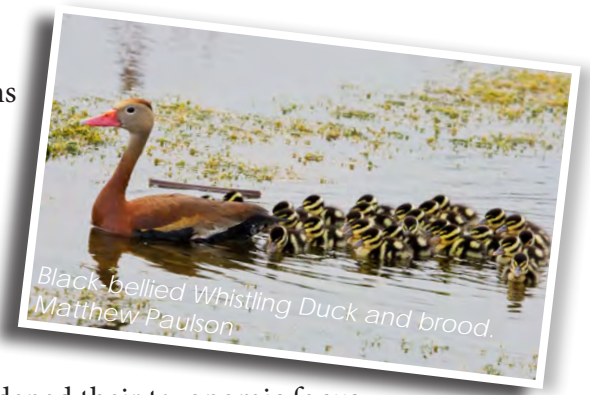
One of the Plan's greatest strengths is the ability of its partners to quickly pool and leverage conservation funding from a variety of sources. This expands the Plan's conservation reach and supports strategically targeted local, regional, and international habitat conservation projects.



Marsh Restoration. US Army Environmental Command

Key Achievements

- ☆ Waterfowl numbers have rebounded, and many waterfowl populations are now substantially larger than they were in 1986.
- ☆ To date, NAWMP partners have leveraged more than \$5 billion to implement thousands of projects conserving more than 20 million acres.
- ☆ The Plan spawned the creation of 25 Joint Ventures - encompassing much of North America - that have expanded in geography and broadened their taxonomic focus to include all birds.
- ☆ NAWMP partners play a major role in shaping wetland and wildlife friendly government policy.
- ☆ Our science-based biological planning, conservation delivery, and adaptive management approach remains a cornerstone of NAWMP activities.



The Continuing Importance of the Plan

Although NAWMP's efforts have significantly helped waterfowl populations and habitat, vast North American landscapes that are critical to waterfowl are under increasing pressures.

New challenges include:

- Conserving the vast boreal forest of Canada and Alaska. This region contains 35 percent of the world's wetlands and is home to 12 to 14 million breeding ducks – nearly a quarter of the continental breeding waterfowl population.
- Working with resource-based industries, communities and the public to emphasize environmental stewardship.
- Accommodating increasing demands from growing human populations for fresh water, food, fiber, energy, and living space. These pressures contribute to continued loss and degradation of wetlands and uplands.
- Assessing the effects of climate change and alternative energy sources like wind power and ethanol fuel crop conversion. These can affect waterfowl habitat quality and population viability.
- Emphasizing the value of our continent's "natural capital" and the tremendous goods and services we derive from it.

North American Waterfowl Management Plan partners are well positioned with strategies, plans programs, and projects already in place to address these challenges . We have a history of success in conserving waterfowl populations and habitats. Combined with our knowledge base, it makes the Plan partners respected leaders in addressing the challenges ahead.

Organizational Structure

The success of the NAWMP depends on effective partnerships among everyone with an interest and desire to conserve wetlands for waterfowl and the many other species that depend on them.

Joint Venture partners with a range of biological and conservation planning expertise develop science-based conservation plans, implement habitat projects, and undertake applied research.

The “Value Proposition” to Partners

The North American Waterfowl Management Plan needs you. We have opportunities for individuals and organizations to become involved.

As a partner, you’ll invest in a proven continental-scale conservation strategy that effectively leverages public and private dollars targeting conservation of critically important lands and waters.

Society’s interest in issues around biodiversity, ecosystem health, water quality, climate change, energy development, sustainable communities, ecological goods and services, and conserving species at risk shows the high value of partnering with NAWMP as we have projects that address all of these interests.

A host of activities directly or indirectly affects waterfowl and wetlands: outdoor recreation, agriculture, government projects, transportation, manufacturing and resource extraction. Organizations or industries that are involved in any of these activities may see significant benefits by becoming a project partner or supporter.

The NAWMP’s conservation science expertise can help the agricultural, forestry and energy industries, as well as other conservation initiatives, cities and municipalities, and government policy makers advance their respective conservation objectives and achieve meaningful environmental outcomes in their programs and activities.

For more information about the NAWMP, go to <https://www.fws.gov/birds/management/bird-management-plans/north-american-waterfowl-management-plan.php>.

New challenges, common interests, and common needs with a broader spectrum of desired outcomes like clean air, clean water, and sustainable food, fiber and energy foretell the benefits of saying YES to a NAWMP partnership.

American Black Duck. Fyn Kynd Photography



Marsh restoration. Louisiana GOHSEP



Mallard. Tom Koerner/USFWS

