

South Carolina

North American Waterfowl Management Plan



photo: USFWS



photo: Forest Service

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Partner Involvement

- Private landowners.
- Non-profit organizations.
- Corporations.
- Government agencies (local/ State/Federal).

Habitat Accomplishments

- Protected floodplain and stream habitat.
- Protected coastal wetlands.
- Restored bottomland hardwoods.
- Protected Carolina Bays.

South Carolina Projects

- ACE Basin and Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuges.
- Carolina Bays Project.
- Cheehaw-Combahee and Samworth Game Management Areas.
- Jocassee Gorges Project.
- Teal seasons.

Financial Assistance

- Matching dollars from non-Federal partners over \$178,800,000.
- North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grants: 69 standard grants, 13 small grants.
- Projects totaling over \$9,000,000 with 300,000 acres conserved.

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.

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What is the South Atlantic Migratory Bird Initiative (SAMBI)?

The SAMBI is a multi-state partnership planning effort to conserve “all birds across all habitats” through “wall to wall Joint Ventures.” SAMBI includes southeastern VA, coastal NC, SC, GA and a portion of north central Florida. This initiative is the first initiative in the United States to adopt the framework of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative, which the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture Management Board adopted in March of 1999. The planning region covers the Bird Conservation Region of the Southeastern Coastal Plain.