

Florida

North American Waterfowl Management Plan



photo: USFWS



photo: Forest Service



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About the "Plan"

- International agreement (1986-ongoing).
- Goal: return waterfowl population to levels of mid-1970's.
- Achieve population and habitat goals by restoring, enhancing, and protecting wetlands and other habitats.
- Includes over 17 habitat joint ventures and three species joint ventures in the U.S. and Mexico. Florida is in the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture.

Partner Involvement

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

Florida Projects

- Kissimmee Prairie Ecosystem.
- Scaup Research.
- Impoundments management.
- Indian River Lagoon.

Finance Assistance

- North American Wetlands Conservation Act grants.

Public Benefits

- Increased recreational opportunities.
- Improve water quality.
- Benefits to numerous wetlands wildlife including fishery resources.
- Voluntary habitat 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 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.