



American Black Duck

Status: Declining



The American black duck's (*Anas rubripes*) stronghold is in the coastal estuaries and tidal waters of the mid-Atlantic region, from New York to Virginia. Populations declined by more than 50 percent between the 1950s and 1980s due to loss of coastal habitats.

NRCS is now working with local, state and federal partners to reverse this decline by reducing threats to critical habitat.

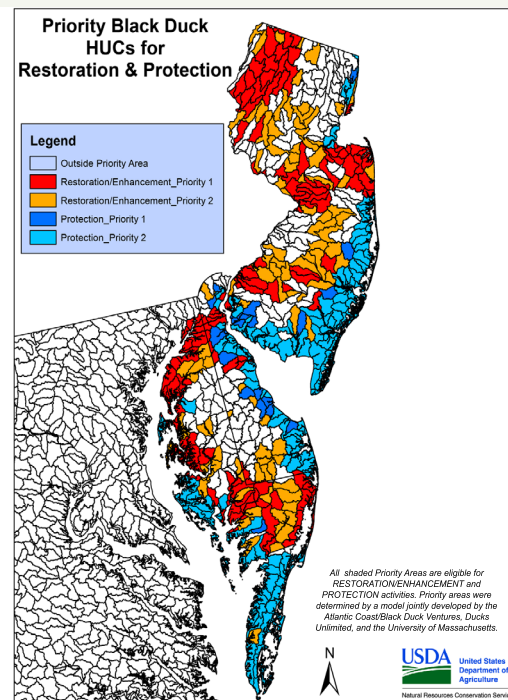
NRCS and the Black Duck

The black duck is a state-identified target species of the Working Lands for Wildlife (WLFW) partnership, a collaborative approach to conserve habitat on working lands. NRCS will provide technical and financial assistance through a new WLFW project launched in fiscal year 2017.

Eligible agricultural producers in Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and New Jersey can receive help with implementing a variety of conservation practices to restore black duck wintering habitat in the mid-Atlantic region's Delaware Bay and Chesapeake Bay watersheds.

Black duck habitat will be restored and enhanced through installation of conservation practices and protection of habitat through easements. Participating states will focus on developing habitat and controlling invasive species. Available practices aim to protect,

Focus Areas



*All shaded priority areas are eligible for RESTORATION/ENHANCEMENT and PROTECTION activities. Priority areas were determined by a model jointly developed by the Atlantic Coast/Black Duck Ventures, Ducks Unlimited, and the University of Massachusetts.

restore and create emergent wetland and forested wetland habitat, manage invasive plants, and combat habitat loss because of development, pollution and wetland conversion.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

Actions

- Protect, maintain, and restore habitat.
- Restore converted wetlands in cropland and woodland.
- Restore the natural flow of streams and floodplain.
- Restore and manage riparian buffers.
- Restore native wetland vegetation.
- Control invasive plant species.
- Restore tidal marsh hydrology.

Available Practices

- Brush Management
- Conservation Cover
- Dike Installation
- Critical Area Planting
- Herbaceous Weed Control
- Mulching
- Riparian Forested Buffer
- Riparian Herbaceous Cover
- Shallow Water Development/ Management
- Structure for Water Control
- Tree/ Shrub Establishment
- Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
- Wetland Restoration
- Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management

Outcomes and Impacts

Landowners will use conservation practices to restore habitat for the black duck in coastal estuaries and tidal waters. Anticipated outcomes of WLFW efforts include healthy coastal habitats, increased food availability in the mid-Atlantic region, and the stabilization or recovery of black duck populations.

These efforts will also directly or indirectly benefit the northern pintail, wood duck, redhead, green-winged teal, hooded merganser, canvasback, and more than 25 other species.

How to Apply

Interested landowners should contact their local NRCS Office to learn more about opportunities available through the American Black Duck Initiative.

NRCS staff will work with the applicant to develop a conservation plan that will

become the basis of an EQIP contract.

Learn more about working with NRCS by visiting www.nrcs.usda.gov/getstarted.

Delaware Contacts

| Office | Service Area |
|--|-------------------|
| New Castle County Agricultural Center 2430 Old County Road Newark, Delaware 19702 Phone: 302-832-3100 x3 | New Castle County |
| Kent County Agricultural Center 800 Bay Road, Suite #2 Dover, Delaware 19901-4667 Phone: 302-741-2600 x3 | Kent County |
| Sussex County Agricultural Center 21315 Berlin Road, Unit #3 Georgetown, Delaware 19947 Phone: 302-856-3990 x3 | Sussex County |



Restoring wetlands can help provide vital habitat for black duck and many other species.