



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.

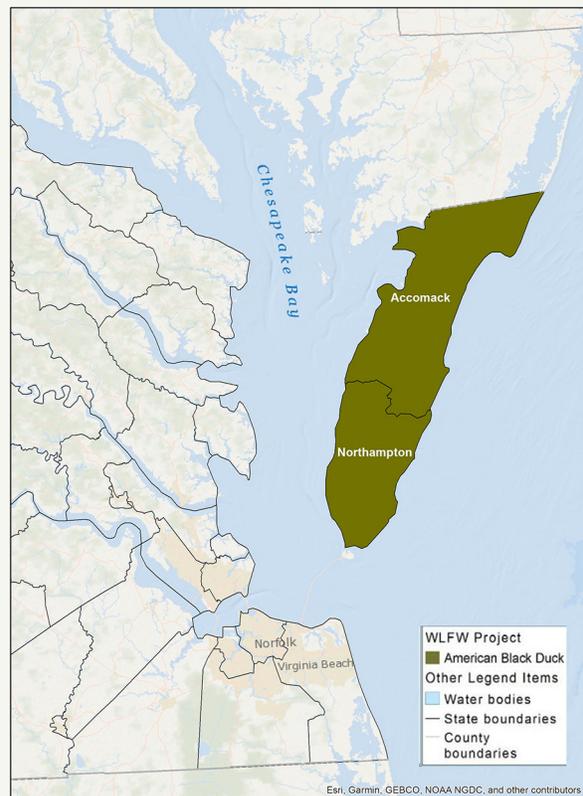
NRCS and the Black Duck

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 is providing 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 Area



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
- Critical Area Planting
- Herbaceous Weed Control
- Mulching
- Prescribed Burning
- Restoration and Management of Rare and Declining Habitats
- Riparian Forested Buffer
- Riparian Herbaceous Cover
- Shallow Water Development and Management
- Structure for Water Control
- Tree/Shrub Establishment
- Tree/Shrub Site Preparation
- Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
- Wetland Creation
- Wetland Enhancement
- 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 on Virginia's Eastern Shore should contact the Accomac Service

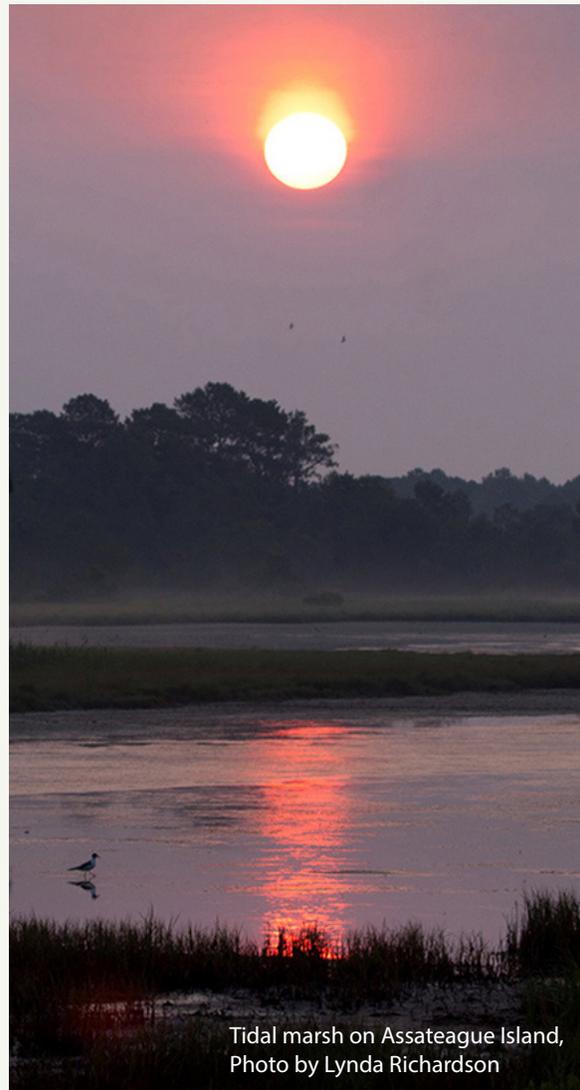
Center to learn more about opportunities available through the American Black Duck Initiative. NRCS staff will work with the applicant to develop a conservation plan that will become the basis of an EQIP contract.

Virginia Contacts:

Jane Corson-Lassiter, District Conservationist
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Learn more about working with NRCS by visiting www.nrcs.usda.gov/getstarted.



Tidal marsh on Assateague Island,
Photo by Lynda Richardson