



DELAWARE - MARYLAND - WEST VIRGINIA

Mid-Atlantic

2022 STATE CONSERVATION REPORT

GREAT LAKES & ATLANTIC REGION

COMPLETING THE CYCLE INITIATIVE

★ BOMBAY HOOK NWR FISHER TRACT WETLAND RESTORATION Delaware

With support from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, the Welfare Foundation, and the Crestlea Foundation, in 2021 DU partnered with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to restore 14-acres of former agricultural lands to a shallow water emergent wetland. Completed in November 2021, the USFWS intends to open this newly restored wetland for limited public hunting opportunities in future years.

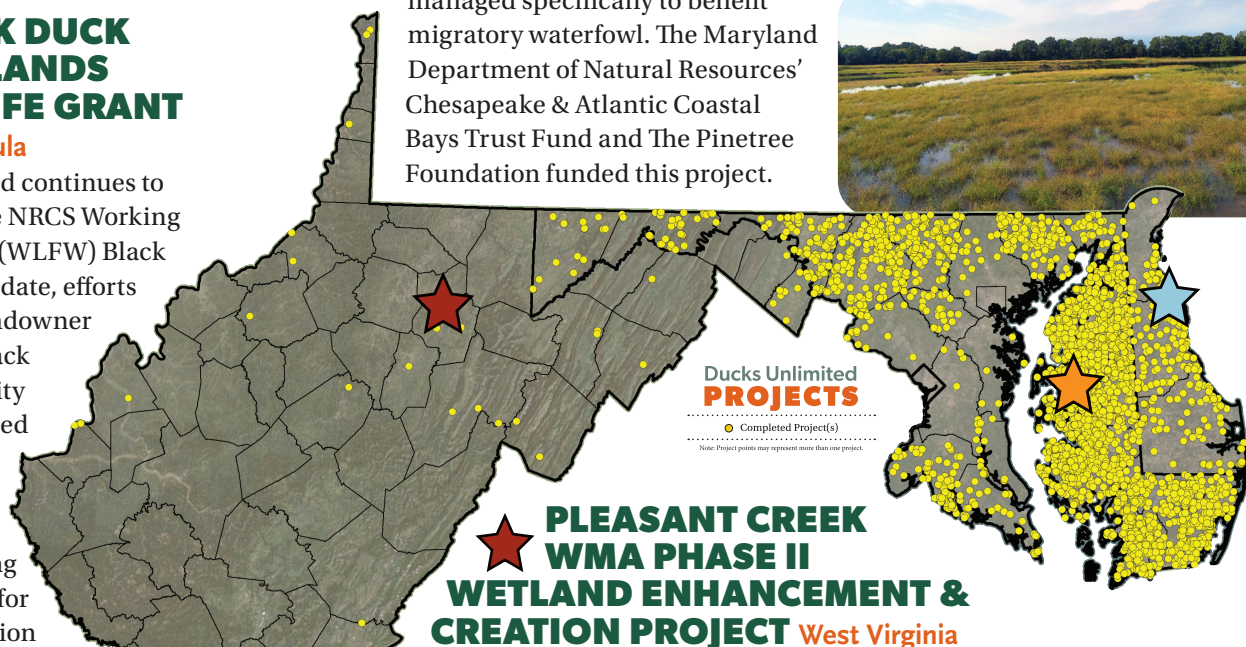
NRCS BLACK DUCK WORKING LANDS FOR WILDLIFE GRANT

Delmarva Peninsula

Ducks Unlimited continues to assist with the NRCS Working Lands for Wildlife (WLFW) Black Duck Program. To date, efforts have expanded landowner outreach in the Black Duck WLFW priority area and contributed to a significant increase in new sign-ups by landowners seeking federal cost-share for wetland conservation projects. Cumulative NRCS program sign-ups to date include 22 landowner sign-ups in Delaware, 14 in Virginia, and 13 in Maryland, totaling 49 landowners. Five sites have been restored and completed, while others are nearing construction. Delmarva landowners interested in wetland conservation on their lands can contact DU's Farm Bill Biologist, Chase Colmorgen (ccolmorgen@ducks.org), for more information.

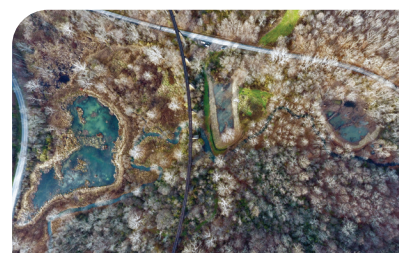
★ WYE ISLAND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AREA (NRMA) WETLAND RESTORATION PROJECT Maryland

In 2021 DU restored an additional 25 acres of wetland habitat on Maryland's Eastern Shore at Wye Island NRMA. Located just off the coast of Chesapeake Bay and owned by the Maryland Park Service, the island is managed by the Maryland Wildlife and Heritage Service, both partners on this project. DU created a series of low-lying berms and installed water-level control infrastructure to maintain the land for wildlife. More wetlands on the ground also means less agricultural run-off entering the bay and improved water quality. The restored wetland is open to the public and managed specifically to benefit migratory waterfowl. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources' Chesapeake & Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund and The Pinetree Foundation funded this project.



★ PLEASANT CREEK WMA PHASE II WETLAND ENHANCEMENT & CREATION PROJECT West Virginia

Pleasant Creek WMA is one of three premier public waterfowl hunting venues in the state. The Pleasant Creek Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Wetland Creation and Enhancement Project continues the WV Department of Natural Resources' collaborative efforts to restore important wetland habitat at the 3,030-acre WMA to support migratory birds while providing public recreational opportunities. The completed project will create two shallow-water wetlands to capture and store surface water, creating important habitat while reducing downstream flood potential. Additionally, the project will enhance half an acre of existing wetland habitat by controlling undesirable and invasive plant species (Reed Canary Grass) via herbicide application.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PROJECTS IN YOUR STATE VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.DUCKS.ORG

UPPER SHORE WETLAND RESTORATION PROJECT (USWRP) **Maryland** Restoring wetland habitat and improving the health of the Chesapeake Bay

Through competitive grants, Maryland DNR's Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund (Trust Fund) offers funding to accelerate Chesapeake Bay restoration by supporting efficient and cost-effective non-point source pollution control projects. Since the Trust Fund's establishment in 2010, DU has applied for and received several grants supporting wetland conservation efforts focused on prior converted farmlands —historic wetlands that were converted to agriculture in the past—which can be restored to wetland. Restored wetlands not only offer wildlife habitat but they are an effective means of filtering harmful excess nutrients, sediments, and contaminants from surface water, and thereby improving water quality in the Bay.

2021 marked the conclusion of DU's most recent grant from the Trust Fund. The project, entitled the Upper Shore Wetlands Restoration Program (USWRP), targeted wetland restoration projects on public and privately owned agricultural lands in Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's, Caroline, Talbot, and Dorchester Counties, MD. The grant, leveraged by DU matching funds, culminated in the restoration of nearly 140 acres of wetlands and adjacent habitats.



WHAT'S NEXT

- DU submitted a \$1M proposal to NAWCA in 2021 to support preservation and restoration of over 1,000 acres in MD, DE, and VA. Awards are announced in summer 2022.
- DU submitted a \$600,000 proposal to the state of Maryland to support wildlife habitat conservation and water quality improvements across the state including the restoration of more than 100 acres of wetlands on public and private lands on the Eastern Shore and in Southern MD.
- DU received a \$50k private gift to support a wetland restoration project in Greenbrier County, WV in partnership with WV DNR and intends to pursue the project in the coming year.
- DU submitted a proposal to the USFWS to support a tidal marsh conservation project at Bombay Hook NWR in Delaware. Awards are expected to be announced in early 2022. If funded, the project will improve marsh resilience, encourage re-establishment of previously lost marsh, and protect important wetland habitats inland of the project site.

Mid-Atlantic by the Numbers

2021

- 7 projects
- 191 acres impacted
- \$597,750 invested

HISTORICAL

- 322 projects
- 79,220 acres conserved
- \$21.75 million invested

For more information visit www.ducks.org



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Ducks Unlimited conserves, restores, and manages wetlands and associated habitats for North America's waterfowl. These habitats also benefit other wildlife and people.

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