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## BENEFITS TO PEOPLE AND WILDLIFE

Wetlands provide many functional and recreational values that benefit wildlife and our communities:

- Over half of the threatened and endangered species in the U.S. depend on wetlands.
- More than 50% of the blue crabs in the U.S. are produced in the Bay.
- Recreational fishing is worth more than 1 billion dollars to the economies of Maryland and Virginia.
- Wetlands improve water quality by filtering pollutants, recharging groundwater supplies, and increasing flood protection during storm events.



Since its creation in 1937, Ducks Unlimited and its 650,000 supporters have conserved more than 11 million acres of habitat for waterfowl throughout North America. These habitats also benefit other wildlife and people.

To learn more about Chesapeake Bay CARE, contact:

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We cannot make a difference without your help.

# DO YOU CARE ABOUT THE CHESAPEAKE?

CONSERVATION • AGRICULTURE • RESOURCES • ENVIRONMENT

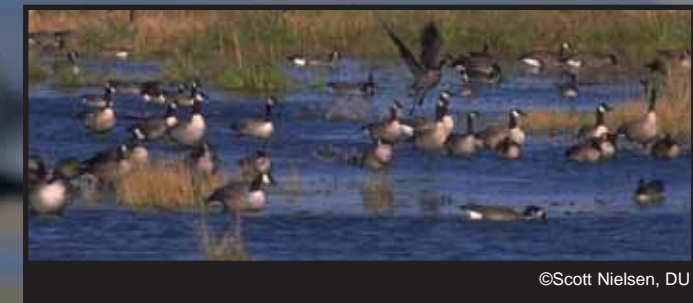


Take a look inside to learn what Ducks Unlimited is doing to conserve the Chesapeake Bay



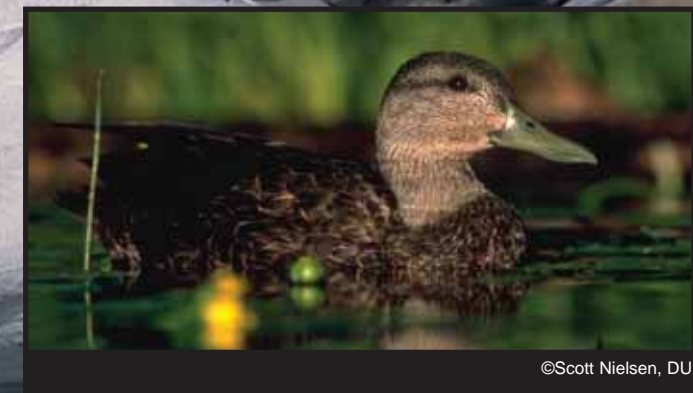
## THE NEED IN THE CHESAPEAKE BAY

Healthy Wetlands Mean a Healthy Bay



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Wetlands in the Chesapeake Bay watershed provide waterfowl and other wildlife with critical resources including food and shelter, while cleaning the Bay. For waterfowl, high-quality habitat is needed throughout the birds' annual life cycle: during the breeding season, fall migration, winter "recovery" months, and spring migration. Quality habitat in the Chesapeake Bay provides food to replenish strength for migration to and from the breeding grounds within the Bay and the Prairie Pothole Region.



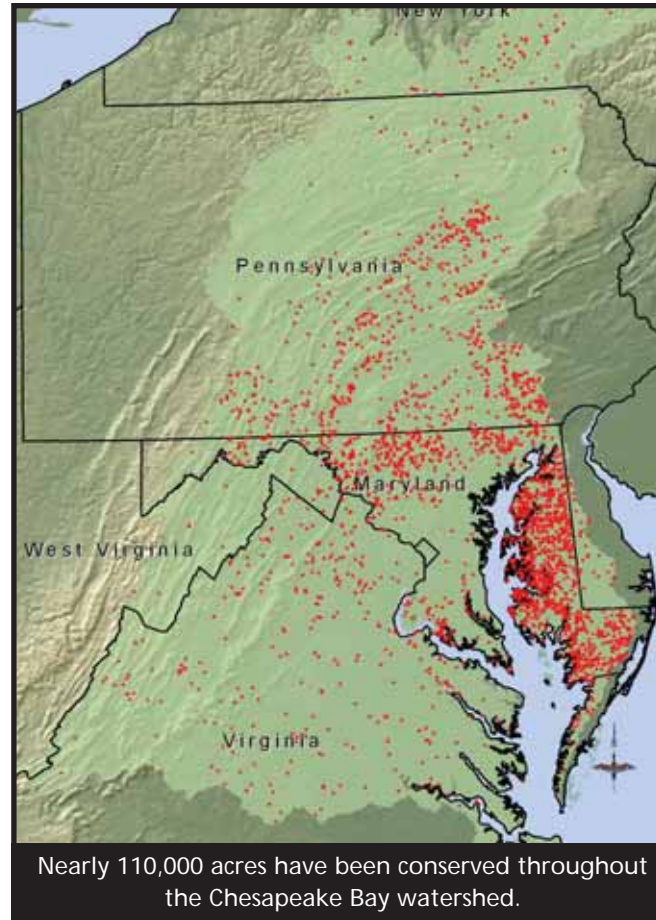
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**The Need is NOW!** Over 3,000 acres of wetlands and 100,000 acres of open space are lost annually due to development or poor agricultural practices throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

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## Ducks Unlimited in the Chesapeake Bay

In the Chesapeake Bay watershed, Ducks Unlimited has been active since 1985, conserving habitat on both private and public lands critical to waterfowl.



The four year goal of Chesapeake Bay CARE is to enhance, restore and protect habitats critical to the Chesapeake Bay waterfowl, other wetland-dependent species, and people at a cost of \$26 million.

**We need your help to achieve this goal.**

## Waterfowl Life Cycle Needs



The majority of mallards and black ducks harvested in the Chesapeake are produced locally

### Chesapeake Bay

The Chesapeake Bay is the nation's largest estuary, draining 64,000 square miles. The Bay's wetlands represent important wintering and migration grounds for waterfowl in the Atlantic Flyway such as black ducks, mallards, canvasbacks, and Canada geese. Locally breeding waterfowl depend on limited but critical habitat including isolated freshwater wetlands, high quality brackish marshes, and submerged aquatic vegetation beds. Habitat conservation for the direct benefit of waterfowl is the focus because:

- 35% of waterfowl wintering in the Atlantic Flyway are found in the Chesapeake Bay. The Bay once housed over 3 million wintering waterfowl, but now only sees 1/3 of that historic number.
- Locally nesting waterfowl include mallards, wood ducks, black ducks and Canada geese. Breeding populations of black ducks have plummeted to all time lows.

### Prairie Pothole Region (PPR)

One of the most important areas for migrating Chesapeake Bay waterfowl is the Prairie Pothole Region (PPR). In the PPR, 50-90% of the wetlands and over 56 million acres of grasslands have been lost or severely degraded. This devastation affects waterfowl in the Chesapeake Bay and throughout North America. The PPR is recognized as the most significant breeding waterfowl habitat in the world because:

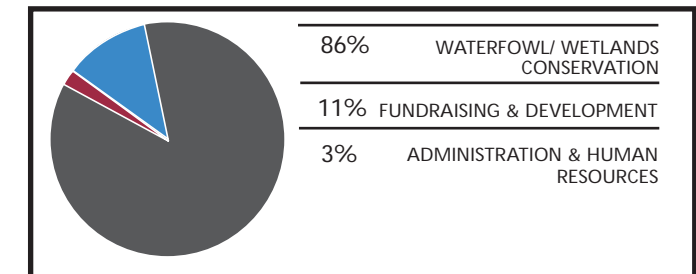
- In wet years, at least 70 % of the continents duck production originates in the PPR.
- The majority of waterfowl that winter within the Chesapeake Bay watershed are produced in the PPR.
- The PPR supports 20-30 million breeding waterfowl and is especially important to pintails, canvasbacks, and redheads that winter in the Chesapeake Bay.



Nearly all diving ducks harvested in the Chesapeake are produced in the Prairie Pothole Region

Funds raised under Chesapeake Bay CARE will benefit habitat programs in the Chesapeake and the PPR. Both regions are essential to the survival to waterfowl that inhabit the Chesapeake Bay throughout the year.

### WHERE YOUR DU DOLLAR GOES



Your financial gift will be leveraged **5:1** as Ducks Unlimited seeks matching funds by partnering with private landowners, corporations, foundations, non-profit organizations, and local, state, and federal agencies.



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