BIENNIAL STRATEGY REVIEW SYSTEM
Chesapeake Bay Program

Logic and Action Plan: Post-Quarterly Progress Meeting

Black Duck – 2023-2024

Long-term Target: By 2025, restore, enhance, and preserve wetland habitats that support a wintering population of 100,000 black ducks, a species representative of the health of tidal marshes across the watershed.

Two-year Target: 60,508 acres

Factor	Current Efforts	Gap	Actions	Metrics	Expected Response & Application	Learn/ Adapt
What is impacting our ability to achieve our outcome?	*What current efforts are addressing this factor?*	*What further efforts or information are needed to fully address this factor?*	*What actions are essential (to help fill this gap) to achieve our outcome?*	*What will we measure or observe to determine progress in filling identified gap?*	*How and when do we expect these actions to address the identified gap? How might that affect our work going forward?*	*What did we learn from taking this action? How will this lesson impact our work?*
Climate Change: Climate impacts (SLR, flooding, marsh migration, large storms, migration shifts)	- USGS research on risks to coastal habitats by forecasting vulnerability and resiliency of coastal systems to future change. - Support actions identified in the Wetlands Action Plan in support of this outcome.	Need to implement prioritization for land protection, restoration, and enhancement to allow for habitat migration as SLR progresses.	**1.1, 2.1, 3.1**	Monitor acres of black duck habitat (tidal marsh, coastal land, etc.) protected, restored, or enhanced.	Ongoing	
Habitat Prioritization	Support actions identified in the Wetlands Action Plan in support of this outcome.	Need to implement use of prioritization tool (DST) to increase the amount of quality wetland acres being protected, restored, or enhanced for wintering black ducks. - Continue to update prioritization tool as new	**1.1, 2.1, 3.1, 4.3**	Monitor acres of black duck habitat (tidal marsh, coastal land, etc.) protected, restored, or enhanced.	Ongoing	

Factor	Current Efforts	Gap	Actions	Metrics	Expected Response & Application	Learn/ Adapt
		research findings are reported.				
Coordination with Wetland Outcome	Support actions identified in the Wetlands Action Plan.	Begin integrating the BDAT with the wetlands workgroup to increase cross-outcome coordination.	**4.1, 4.2**	Implementation of new organizational structure for Wetland Workgroup while ensuring progress is made towards both outcomes.	2024	

ACTIONS – 2023-2024					
Action #	**Description**	**Performance Target(s)**	**Responsible Party (or Parties)**	**Geographic Location**	**Expected Timeline**
Management Approach 1: Support efforts to restore degraded wetlands or vegetation in areas where black ducks have historically bred or wintered.					
1.1	Support efforts to restore tidal wetland hydrology and restore key habitat for breeding, migration routes and wintering grounds.	**a.** Support restoration efforts in known black duck areas.	USFWS, State Agencies, DU, NRCS, etc.	Tidal areas of Chesapeake Bay	Ongoing
		b. Continue to use DST to identify new priority locations for habitat restoration.			
Management Approach 2: Support efforts to enhance and manage wetlands or vegetation in areas where black ducks have historically bred or wintered.					
2.1	Support partner efforts to improve water level management on managed wetlands (replace compromised water control structures, leaking levees, etc. to improve management capability), restore SAV or converted wetlands, manage open marsh (e.g., to restore non-tidal waters back to salt marsh), restore and manage riparian buffers, etc.	**a.** Support efforts to enhance and manage priority habitats as identified by the DST (how many water control structures replaced or installed, acres of habitat made available/enhanced, etc.)	USFWS, State Agencies, DU, etc.	Bay-wide	Ongoing

ACTIONS – 2023-2024					
Action #	Description	Performance Target(s)	Responsible Party (or Parties)	Geographic Location	Expected Timeline
Management Approach 3: Support efforts to protect wetlands or vegetation in areas where black ducks have historically bred or wintered					
3.1	Support the protection of key black duck habitats via long term protection actions such as fee title acquisition, conservation easements, cooperative agreements or leases.	**a.** Support the protection of priority habitats as identified by the DST (acres of coastal marsh, forested wetlands, etc. protected).	USFWS, State Agencies, DU, etc.	Bay-wide	Ongoing
		b. Encourage funding partners to prioritize use of Decision Support Tool (DST)			Ongoing
Management Approach 4: Support other conservation actions benefitting waterfowl habitats					
4.1	Support the continuation of the newly developed tracking system.	**a**. Continually update Chesapeake Progress.	EPA, Bay Program, states, DU, etc.	Bay-wide	Ongoing
		b. Adopt and implement progress reporting/ monitoring process.			
4.2	Integrating with the Wetland Workgroup.	Begin process of integrating with the Wetland Workgroup to facilitate outcome coordination	Black Duck Action Team	Bay-wide	2 years (2024)
4.3	Support scientific research efforts to remain up to date on black duck habitat needs.	**a.** Explore including SAV habitat in development of new Outcome indicator. **b.** Support USGS research on waterbirds including: **1.** Assess the role of benthic and SAV abundance and tidal water quality in determining waterbird distribution and carrying capacity. **2.** Model potential for avian influenza transmission risk at the wild-domestic interface in the CB region. **3.** Impacts of HABs on wildlife (mainly focuses on Poplar right now) **4.** Engage stakeholders to address science needs and inform decisions.	Black Duck Action Team, USGS	Bay-wide	2025