# MANAGEMENT STRATEGY BLACK DUCK

# GOAL: Vital Habitats

# OUTCOME

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. Refine population targets through 2025 based on best available science.

# CURRENT EFFORTS

- Bay States and DC All jurisdictions in the watershed have identified the black duck as a "Species of Greatest Conservation Need" as part of their State Wildlife Action Plans
- Regional Plans— Among others, the USFWS Black Duck Joint Venture (BDJV) is involved in many facets of population monitoring and research to support black duck conservation.
   Current efforts include six research projects.
- Bird Conservation Regions Current efforts include defining geographic focus areas, estimating populations and habitat goals, identifying monitoring and research needs, building communication with partners and linking bird conservation efforts
- National Wildlife Refuge System Waterfowl Planning working with state/local partners to quantify and model relationships between prey dispersion and availability of habitat types
- Current Funding thru the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the USFWS Wetlands Conservation grant programs,
   National Coastal Wetlands Grants and others to protect and restore refuges on public and private lands.

### GAPS

- Participation of representatives of New York, West Virginia and Pennsylvania on the management strategy drafting team
- Reliable sea level rise information
- Breeding survey data analysis
- Analysis of competition from waterfowl species on food available for black ducks and implications for restoration.
- Local-level maps showing vulnerability to development, sea level rise, black duck food availability and a public lands layers.

# MANAGEMENT APPROACHES

- Habitat Restoration in historic breeding or wintering grounds.
- Habitat Enhancement and Management including improving water level management on managed wetlands, restoring SAV, open marsh management, restoring and managing riparian buffers, beaver management, etc.
- Habitat Protection such as fee title acquisition, conservation easements, cooperative agreements, leases and financial incentives
- Other Conservation Actions Benefiting Waterfowl Habitat: review regulatory legislation and enforcement, streamline regulation, mitigation, information/education, extension education on BMPs, public use management, and predator management.
- Choosing Appropriate Sites: high food availability, low risk to habitat loss due to sea level rise/land conversion.



For the full management strategy, visit: <a href="https://www.chesapeakebay.net/managementstrategies">www.chesapeakebay.net/managementstrategies</a>