



Waterfowl Working Group 2025-26 Work Plan

Subcommittee Work Plan		
Date:		
Subcommittee Name: Waterfowl Working Group		
Chair: Shaun Oldenburger, TPWD	Vice Chair: Craig LeSchack, DU	Staff: Dean Smith
Subcommittee Charge: 1. Contribute to the implementation of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) and specifically the 2024 Update to conserve priority landscapes for waterfowl habitat and to advance the human dimensions aspects of the Plan. Contribute to the current NAWMP Update theme of expanding the partnership and demonstrating the multiple benefits on wetland conservation. 2. Advance policies, legislation, and funding initiatives (NAWCA and others) in support of wetland protection and restoration, with consideration of drought, water quality, and climate change issues. 3. Provide guidance to the Fall Flights Advisory Committee on implementing the recommendations in the 2020 President's Task Force on the Fall Flights Program. 4. Initiate and support wetland and waterfowl habitat information sharing with Congress, state, federal, and NGO partners, and the public.		
Changes to the Charge:		
List Major Activities and Objectives Accomplished During the Last Year: 1. Collaborated with Flyways, NGOs, and others to monitor federal funding, staffing, and program changes that could potentially impact waterfowl and other migratory bird management, and developed a draft Resolution in support of the USGS Bird Banding Lab. 2. Communicated progress on implementing the NAWMP including reports from the numerous committees and working groups of NAWMP (e.g. HD-PET, Communications, and Integration Steering Committee). 3. Supported sharing of information from Federal, State, Provincial and Non-government wildlife and conservation organizations.		
List Activities and Objectives that Will be Accomplished in the Coming Year: 1. NAWMP Implementation a) Facilitate discussions to identify and promote ways to better understand and incorporate user / supporter desires (human dimension elements) in planning and delivering waterfowl management actions and assist in the coordination of NAWMP human dimension efforts with other BCC bird working groups, NABCI, Flyway Councils, etc.		

- b) Support efforts to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan in 2026.
- c) Support the efforts of the NAWMP to (1) implement the communications plan (e.g. USFWS grant funds received August 2025), (2) find additional resources for implementation of NAWMP (e.g. HD surveys and analysis, NSST projects, and others), (3) encourage states to include waterfowl hunting in their R3 planning, and (4) initiate development of a birdwatching R3 Plan.
- d) Identify priority actions to assist states, NGOs and others to effect waterfowl conservation at state and national levels and to achieve the NAWMP objectives.
- e) Continue to provide overviews of NAWMP implementation, including reports from IIC, HD-PET, etc. and discuss the direction and needs of the waterfowl community to advance the implementation of the new 2024 NAWMP Update.
- f) Seek ways and means to encourage increased integration of waterfowl management elements through discussions and contribute to a potential review of the efficiency of existing waterfowl management processes and structures.
- g) Encourage participation in efforts to advance NAWMP implementation.

2. Wetland Conservation / Protection

- a) Continue to help improve the marketing of the Federal Duck Stamp.
- b) Continue to support Pittman-Robertson funding that is directed to NAWCA.
- c) Continue to share policy/legislative information and strategies to support state and NGO efforts to increase NAWCA appropriations and to ensure the legislation or companion programs are re-authorized by Congress.
- d) Continue to share policy/legislative information and strategies to support state and NGO efforts related to waterfowl and wetlands conservation.
- e) Continue work with the Bird Conservation and Budget and Legislative Committees on the issue of funding for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Migratory Bird Program to ensure adequate allocation of resources to support critical programs. Monitor funding and staffing levels and allocation of these resources within the USFWS.

3. Fall Flights (State Contributions to Canada) Action Plan Implementation

- a) Continue to develop and promote the Fall Flights program to increase State investments in Canadian waterfowl breeding grounds.
- b) Work with the Fall Flights Advisory Committee, state agencies and NGOs to implement the Fall Flights Communication Plan and recommendations from the Presidential Task Force for Fall Flights.

4. Information Sharing

- i. Engage with the NAWMP HD-PET to identify opportunities to broaden support for wetland habitat conservation and wetland management by creating a greater understanding of the value and impacts of wetland conservation on human (societal) health and welfare (e.g. multiple benefits of wetland and associated upland habitat)
- ii. Inform members about wetland conservation issues affecting waterfowl, and future direction of related programs.
- iii. Inform legislative leaders (state/national) about wetland and waterfowl issues and accomplishments of state and NGO actions, using normal AFWA governance procedures (e.g. committee recommendation for action or annual resolution and approval at business).

Comments: None