

WEST VIRGINIA MULTI-STATE PROJECTS

\$1,608,000

\$3,754,627

3

27,645

NAWCA GRANT AMOUNT

TOTAL PARTNER CONTRIBUTION

NUMBER OF PROJECTS

TOTAL ACRES

West Virginia currently has 3 multi-state projects underway. These projects have conserved a total of 27,645 acres of wildlife habitat. NAWCA funding of over \$1.6 million stimulated partner contributions of more than \$3.7 million.

CHESAPEAKE BAY INITIATIVE III

Ducks Unlimited, Inc., (DU) and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation began The Chesapeake Bay Initiative (Initiative) in 1996. Their goal: Improve wildlife habitat and water quality in the Chesapeake Bay. During phase III, 5,000 acres of wetlands, 3,300 acres of uplands, and 9,100 acres of riparian buffers (740 miles) will be restored. The partners will also protect 3,500 acres of restored wetlands and riparian buffers in perpetuity through conservation easements and Projects on public lands. A landscape conservation approach will be used to restore habitat in the Bay's headwaters and lower reaches, improving on-site and downstream water quality to expedite recovery of the Bay's ecosystem, especially its submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV). Such vegetation is the foundation of the Bay's ecosystem. It provides important food resources for migrating and resident waterfowl and other water birds, provides nursery habitat for fish and shellfish, absorbs excess nutrients from runoff, and protects shorelines from erosion. Since colonial times the Bay's SAV has declined by 90 percent and, concomitantly, waterfowl found in the Bay has declined by 70 to 80 percent.

To help guide restoration efforts, partners developed the Chesapeake Bay Conservation Planning Project (CBCP), a geographic information system-based, decision-support system that can identify degraded watersheds, determine missing habitat components, and develop restoration programs tailored to individual watersheds. Using the CBCP, four watersheds have been identified for restoration efforts: Lower Susquehanna River, Potomac River, James River, and the Lower Delmarva Peninsula. Activity will be concentrated within high-priority areas determined by CBCP outputs; importance to the North American Waterfowl Management Plan's Atlantic Coast Joint Venture; other bird conservation plans; previous Project success; current landowner interest; and opportunities for long-term protection. Projects will be conducted through DU's Habitat Stewardship and Marsh programs. Work will include restoring wetland hydrology on previously converted wetlands, farmed wetlands/pastures, and degraded tidal wetlands; restoring upland habitat; and restoring riparian areas. In restoring the Bay's ecosystem, this Project will contribute to endangered and threatened species recovery, the recovery of fish and shellfish stocks, and the enhancement of wildlife populations. Partners' efforts are expected to enhance commercial and recreational fishing and tourism and to reduce public funds needed for water treatment facilities. A cleaner environment, healthier wetlands, and improved water quality will enhance the quality of life for all residents.

PROJECT NAME	GRANT AMOUNT	PARTNER CONTRIBUTION	TOTAL FUNDS	TOTAL ACRES
1. CHESAPEAKE BAY INITIATIVE III	\$1,000,000	\$2,006,410	\$3,006,410	17,400
2. CHESAPEAKE BAY INITIATIVE II	\$533,000	\$1,532,628	\$2,065,628	9,811
3. ALLEGHENY MOUNTAIN / NORTHERN RIDGE & VALLEY	\$75,000	\$215,589	\$290,589	434
TOTAL:	\$1,608,000	\$3,754,627	\$5,362,627	27,645

For additional information please contact Ducks Unlimited, Inc.'s Governmental Affairs Office at 444 N Capitol St., NW Suite 745, Washington, D.C., 20001 or call (202) 347-1530

