

*North American Waterfowl
Management Plan*



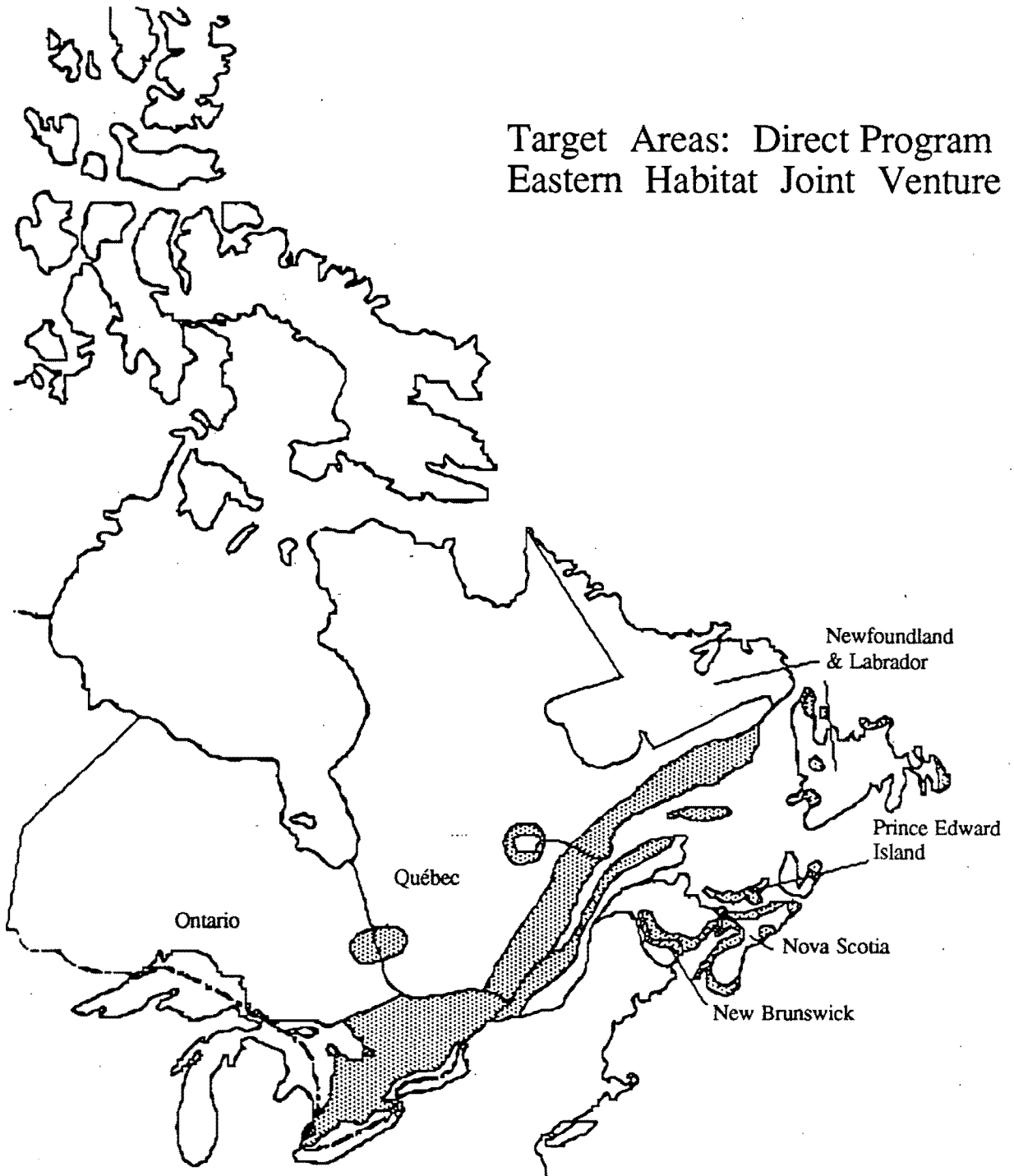
*Plan nord-américain de
gestion de la sauvagine*

A Prospectus for
Sponsors of the
Eastern Habitat
Joint Venture

The Eastern Habitat Joint Venture

A Plan to Save
1.8 Million Hectares
of Wetlands
for Waterfowl
Over the Next
15 Years

Target Areas: Direct Program
Eastern Habitat Joint Venture



Approximate Status of North American Waterfowl Habitat in NAWMP Priority Habitat Ranges

Central Valley (California)		
Protected	5%	
Unprotected	1%	
Lost	94%	
Prairie (United States)		
Protected	10%	
Unprotected	35%	
Lost	55%	
Prairie (Canada)		
Protected	6%	
Unprotected	54%	
Lost	40%	
Lower Mississippi Bottomland		
Protected	4%	
Unprotected	16%	
Lost	80%	
Mississippi Delta & Gulf Coast		
Protected	30%	
Unprotected	50%	
Lost	20%	
Lower Great Lakes/St. Lawrence		
Protected	10%	
Unprotected	25%	
Lost	65%	
Upper Atlantic Coast		
Protected	15%	
Unprotected	30%	
Lost	55%	

The North American Waterfowl Management Plan: A Continental Approach to Conservation

North America's natural heritage of wilderness and wildlife is at risk. The past forty years have witnessed an unprecedented period of economic growth and prosperity in both the United States and Canada. Among the environmental costs of this achievement has been the loss of vast areas of natural habitat to residential, industrial, and agricultural expansion.

Among the areas most critically affected by this economic boom have been wetlands: irreplaceable breeding, feeding, staging, and wintering grounds for tens of millions of waterfowl, as well as numerous other wildlife species. In many regions, more than half the original wetland habitat has already been lost to development, and much of what remains is vulnerable to future exploitation.

In recent years, however, a growing realization has emerged that productive, unspoiled wetlands are important resources in their own right. As wildlife habitat, they are essential to the survival of a wide variety of native plant and animal species. From an economic viewpoint, they generate recreational activities such as nature-related tourism, hunting, fishing, that contribute billions of dollars annually to the economies of the United States and Canada.

Furthermore, wetlands play a broad ecological role in the environmental well-being of North America. They buffer flooding and reduce soil erosion. They are natural reservoirs capable of preserving, purifying, and renewing precious water supplies. Careful monitoring of wetlands can play a crucial role in the early detection of potentially dangerous ecological imbalances.

Not only governments, but a growing number of private organizations are reacting with increasing sensitivity to the need to protect these invaluable natural systems. The existence of programs such as the Ramsar Convention for the preservation of wetlands of international importance, and the creation of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network highlight a growing determination to preserve and enhance wetland habitats around the world.

Similar considerations led to the signing, in 1986, of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, an historic agreement under which the United States and Canada have committed themselves to a long-term program of joint projects aimed at assuring the survival and increase of waterfowl populations, and the preservation of the habitats on which their survival depends. Typically, such projects combine the resources of federal and state or provincial government agencies with those of non-government conservation organizations to preserve important waterfowl habitat in a particular region.

Already, under this plan, a total of ten joint ventures have been established: seven in the United States and three in Canada. Last year, the first steps were taken to initiate a fourth in Canada: the Eastern Habitat Joint Venture. Its aim is to protect and enhance wetlands in eastern Canada which produce most of the waterfowl of the Atlantic flyway and contribute significantly to the Mississippi flyway as well.

Official launching of the Eastern Habitat Joint Venture under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan took place at a meeting of the Wildlife Ministers' Council in November, 1989.

The purpose of the present prospectus is to outline the objectives and priorities of the Eastern Habitat Joint Venture, and to invite the financial participation of the many governments and organizations that will benefit from a generous investment in the future of this environmental resource.

**USA-Canada Joint Ventures
Under the North American
Waterfowl Management Plan**

In Canada:

Black Duck
Arctic Goose
Prairie Habitat
Eastern Habitat

In the United States:

Lower Mississippi Valley
Gulf Coast
Atlantic Coast (New England)
Prairie Pothole
Central Valley
Gt. Lakes/ St. Lawrence Basin
Playa Lakes (Texas)

WHY AN EASTERN HABITAT JOINT VENTURE?

The reasons for initiating a Joint Venture in eastern Canada under the terms of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan can be summed up in two words: wetlands, and waterfowl. Key factors relating to each are summarized here.

WETLANDS

- More than 80% of eastern Canada consists of boreal terrain typified by vast areas of wetland that produce large numbers of black ducks and Canada geese.

- The remaining areas (notably southern Ontario, St. Lawrence Valley, Bay of Fundy Watershed, and coastal Prince Edward Island) also support many nesting and migrating waterfowl.

- In addition to their prolific production of waterfowl, the wetlands of eastern Canada support a wide variety of wildlife: plants, insects, fish, reptiles, amphibians, birds and mammals. They are also economically and socially important as recreational areas.

WATERFOWL

- Most North American waterfowl species occur in eastern Canada at some time of the year. Whether for breeding, feeding, or staging, the availability of wetland habitat is critical to their survival.

- Mallards and black ducks are the most abundant waterfowl species breeding in the region, producing fall flights of 3.5 and 2 million birds respectively. Because black duck populations are in decline, this species receives special attention under the NAWMP.

- Close to 75% of the Canada geese in North America are produced in eastern Canada.

The Eastern Habitat Joint Venture: Purposes

Simply stated, the purpose of the Eastern Habitat Joint Venture is to secure the waterfowl resources of eastern Canada (and thus, by extension, of the Atlantic and Mississippi Flyways) by maintaining and enhancing the abundance and quality of wetlands. This purpose will be pursued through the implementation of two concurrent programs.

The **direct program** will entail securement, enhancement, or restoration of over 240,000 hectares of important wetland in priority areas outlined in the NAWMP as well as other waterfowl habitats of high production potential.

The **indirect program** will focus on a much larger total area (about 1.55 million hectares) through a mix of public education, conservation incentives to private landowners, and inter-government agreements to develop constructive land-use policies and make wetland values an integral component in the sustainable development of the landscape.

Implementation of these programs will involve the following array of strategies:

1. Identification and securement of key wetland areas and the formulation and execution of site-specific management plans for each under appropriate partnership agreements.
2. Promotion of resource stewardship by landowners through agreements, incentives, education, demonstration projects, and technical expertise.
3. Collaboration between resource management agencies to develop compatible and complementary policies and programs for sustainable, multiple use development.
4. Support for a program of wetland habitat research by government and academic institutions.
5. Implementation of an extensive communication program to inform and educate both the general public and specific target audiences concerning the EHJV and its activities.

The Eastern Habitat Joint Venture: Objectives

Objective One:

Under the direct program, to secure, enhance, or restore over 240,000 hectares of high potential waterfowl production and staging habitat in the targeted regions of eastern Canada.

Objective Two:

Under the indirect program, to reduce degradation of wetlands, mitigate negative impacts, and enhance productivity and values of more than 240,000 hectares of high potential waterfowl habitat that corresponds with prime agricultural land in eastern Canada.

Objective Three:

To maintain the ecological integrity and vitality of more than 1.3 million hectares of estuary and saltmarsh habitat for breeding and staging waterfowl.

Objective Four:

To protect waterfowl habitat in the Canadian Shield from loss or degradation as a result of factors such as:

- acid rain and other contaminants
- hydro-electric development
- water diversion and drainage
- forest management practices
- natural resource extraction

Objective Five:

To identify and maintain the productivity and value of exceptional wetland habitat in northern, boreal, and coastal areas of eastern Canada, with emphasis on:

- boreal forests in Ontario and Quebec
- the James Bay Lowlands
- coastal river deltas, estuaries, and marshes.

Direct Program Goals

(Total area = 242,000 ha.)

	Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario
Secure ¹	10,000	17,000	62,000
Enhance ²	20,000	23,000	71,000
Restore ³	<u>2,000</u>	<u>8,000</u>	<u>29,000</u>
Regional Totals	32,000	48,000	162,000

NOTES: 1. Land secured by lease, easement, donation, or purchase.

2. Public lands or lands under free or low-cost, long term easements from private individuals or corporations.

3. Lands leased, purchased, obtained by easements or transferred at no cost, and developed for waterfowl.

Indirect Program Goals

(Total area = 1,559,000 ha.)

	Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario
Breeding	23,000	22,000	61,000
Staging	16,000	37,000	84,000
Estuaries & Saltmarsh ¹	<u>704,000</u>	<u>612,000</u>	—
Regional Totals	743,000	671,000	145,000

NOTE: 1. Estuaries and coastal saltmarshes are so vast that maintenance of this habitat must largely be influenced by indirect programs, although some development and restoration projects will be pursued in these areas.

First Step:**Projects - 1988-89**

The first initiatives of the Eastern Habitat Joint Venture were undertaken in 1988-89.

Matchedash Bay Project

Matchedash Bay, an arm of Georgian Bay, was chosen as Ontario's first project. An area of high productivity potential, and a critical staging area, it faced a high risk of permanent habitat loss. When complete, the project will include 2,200 ha., acquired and developed at a cost of \$8.2 million.

Baie-du-Febvre/Nicolet Project

Located in Quebec's Lac Saint-Pierre floodplain, well-known as a waterfowl production and staging area, this site has long been recognized as significant. The project entails acquisition of 500 hectares of land at a cost of \$700,000 in the first year, and habitat enhancement worth \$1 million over the subsequent four years.

Grand Lake Meadows Project

The marshes of this 3,547 hectare wetlands complex in the Saint John River floodplain are among the most productive in the Maritime Provinces. In the first year, some 500 hectares were acquired by the province of New Brunswick. Completion of the acquisition, development and enhancement of the site will cost about \$340,000.

Grove Pine Project

The purchase of 500 hectares of meadow, brackish marsh, beaver impoundments, and lowland forests, and the transfer of a further 262 ha., has provided a unique opportunity to assemble a sizeable wildlife management unit on Prince Edward Island. In a \$100,000 enhancement program, Ducks Unlimited Canada will construct dykes and water control structures.

Salt Marsh Project

The objective of this project is to secure 100 hectares of saltmarsh in Nova Scotia as a first step in a provincial program of marsh procurement and management. Focussing initially on critical black duck habitats for breeding, migrating and overwintering, it will cost about \$45,000 for acquisition, and \$32,000 for enhancement.

Eastern Habitat Joint Venture: Operational Principles and Plans

Over a planned duration of 15-years, the Eastern Habitat Joint Venture aims to conserve, through direct and indirect action, a total of approximately 1.8 million hectares of wetlands in eastern Canada. Complementary initiatives by federal and provincial agencies and non-government organizations such as Wildlife Habitat Canada and Ducks Unlimited Canada are expected to add significantly to the total wetland area which will benefit from improved stewardship during that time.

Throughout, the operations of the EHJV will be guided by the following principles:

1. Habitat objectives will aim to attain goals outlined in the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, but will also include additional sites of international importance to the waterfowl resources of eastern North America.
2. Implementation will focus on maintaining a healthy and diverse landscape, through integrated land use management to provide continuing benefits to waterfowl, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, etc.
3. First priority will be given to key waterfowl habitat that is under threat of development for detrimental, alternate purposes.
4. The joint venture will focus on wetlands of importance to all waterfowl, but especially to the black duck population.
5. The venture will have two concurrent thrusts:
 - a) a direct program aimed at securing and developing sites for waterfowl.
 - b) an indirect program aimed at securing sites via agreements reached on broader conservation issues with governments and the private sector.
6. Evaluation, supported by directed research, will be an integral part of the program, and the basis for adjustments to achieve maximum benefits.

7. Overall coordination of the venture will be vested in the Canadian Wildlife Service; provincial agencies will implement projects within their particular territories.

8. Funding required to achieve habitat objectives of the Eastern Habitat Joint Venture is in addition to levels in place prior to the development of the NAWMP.

9. Costs of the EHJV will be shared between Canada and the United States.

10. All agencies having major interests in waterfowl, soil, and other resources will be encouraged to participate in planning, implementing, and evaluating the venture with a view to:

- a) promoting the integration of conservation programs that share common objectives.
- b) promoting inter-agency co-operation.
- c) promoting policies that favour habitat protection and enhancement.

11. Where feasible, EHJV habitat initiatives will use existing delivery mechanisms.

12. Habitat enhancement on private lands will be an important component of the EHJV in some regions. Participation by landowners will be on a voluntary basis, using free market incentives.

13. Title or responsibility for managing habitat secured under the venture will reside with Canadian interests.

14. Public education through an ongoing communications program will be an integral component of all phases of the EHJV, in order to:

- a) increase public awareness, and
- b) demonstrate benefits of the venture to waterfowl and other wildlife, as well as to agriculture, forestry, and other interests where appropriate.

Second Step Projects

Location	Area (hectares)	Funds for 1990 (\$,000s)	Est. Cost by 1993 (\$,000s)
Newfoundland	24,700	45	495
Nova Scotia	666	396	1051
Prince Edward Island	572	274	814
New Brunswick	3,116	156	156
Québec	1,355	680	3,485
Ontario	<u>1,734</u>	<u>1,665</u>	<u>8,230**</u>
Totals	32,143	3,216	14,231

Notes: * Includes First Step Allocation

** Includes First Step Allocation and years 6 and 7

The Eastern Habitat Joint Venture: A Cooperative Endeavour

The Eastern Habitat Joint Venture will be implemented through a series of three 5-year operational plans, detailing strategies for particular locations. The first of these, now in the final stage of preparation, will cover the period from 1989-90 to 1993-94. It will entail expenditures of about \$50 million. In Atlantic Canada it will focus on securement of quality marshes; in Québec and Ontario special attention will be given to securement of quality marshes that are under immediate threat, while Ontario will also undertake a more extensive program of private wetland enhancement.

An undertaking on the scale of the Eastern Habitat Joint Venture can only succeed as a cooperative endeavour. This fact is reflected in an administrative structure which brings together representatives of the six eastern provinces of Canada (Ontario, Québec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland) as well as the Canadian Wildlife Service of Environment Canada, Ducks Unlimited Canada, and Wildlife Habitat Canada.

Of equally great importance is the financial support of a wide range of sponsors. Funds are contributed by:

- departments and agencies of the USA and Canada
- departments and agencies of the states and provinces
- corporate sponsors
- non-profit wildlife and conservation organizations
- concerned individuals

To date, support for the Eastern Habitat Joint Venture has been encouraging. However, to fulfil the current five-year commitment and to make concrete plans for completion of the entire venture within fifteen years, additional funding will be required. This prospectus constitutes an open invitation to potential sponsors, in public and private sectors alike, who recognize the importance of taking affirmative steps to assure an adequate supply of wetland habitat for the waterfowl of the Atlantic and Mississippi flyways, both now, and in the years to come.

How to Help

For further information, or to discuss how you and/or your organization or agency can contribute to the EHJV, please contact:

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