



MID-ATLANTIC

2026 REPORT AND WEST VIRGINIA FACT SHEET



DELAWARE'S BOMBAY HOOK NWR

Considering the economic and ecological value of the wetlands at Delaware's Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge, it is crucial to have the ecosystems functioning at their optimal level. Brackish water and tidal flow present numerous challenges to the staff at Bombay Hook, including increased storm flows and higher-energy wave events resulting from marsh loss. In April – May 2026, with grant funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), DU will repair five failing water control structures at Money Marsh: Sheariness, Bear Swamp, Finnis (north and south), and Raymond wetland pools. The structures will undergo repairs and replacements of tidal gates, flap structures, and gate boards to maintain optimal salinity and water levels, supporting the growth of diverse freshwater plants that provide essential habitat for migrating and wintering waterfowl such as the American black duck. The repairs will also allow staff to manage these freshwater areas for shorebirds during the early spring and fall, as exposed mudflats will increase macroinvertebrate availability for foraging. Like freshwater plant communities, macroinvertebrates are also sensitive to changes in salinity levels. In its entirety, this project will restore a minimum of 270 acres.



PHRAGMITES TREATMENT

Ducks Unlimited and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service agreed to deliver upwards of 5,500 acres of invasive Phragmites herbicide treatment throughout Chesapeake Bay through 2029. The current priority areas are on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, specifically the Nanticoke and Pocomoke watersheds. However, landowners with phragmites are encouraged to contact DU if they have over 20 acres of phragmites and are within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. DU is targeting private lands for this program, and there is no cost to the landowner. As of October 2025, DU sprayed 1,113 acres of private lands overtaken by phragmites.

TRAIL CAMERA FOOTAGE WILL MAXIMIZE BLACK DUCK HABITAT

Ducks Unlimited has partnered with the University of Delaware and the Black Duck Joint Venture (BDJV) on a study evaluating the response of wintering black ducks to habitat restoration and enhancement of freshwater wetlands. The project also includes the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Working Lands for Wildlife Black Duck Program, which aids landowners who voluntarily enroll their properties in conservation easements. The study will utilize footage from dozens of strategically placed trail cameras to monitor the use of Chesapeake Bay and Delmarva Peninsula marshes by black ducks. BDJV's \$223,000 grant, along with \$28,000 and \$35,000 contributions from the University of Delaware and DU, respectively, will enable researchers to deploy 100 Bluetooth-enabled trail cameras over two years, allowing wetlands in Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and New Jersey to be monitored with minimal human disturbance. The study, which is expected to take three to four years to complete, will also incorporate ground surveys. Over the past decade, the BDJV has prioritized research on the wintering ecology of Atlantic Flyway black ducks.



GREAT LAKES / ATLANTIC REGION

ducks.org/west-virginia



WEST VIRGINIA 2026 STATE FACT SHEET



MEMBERSHIP

Grand Total: 2,277
Members: 2,247
 General Members: 2,059
 Greenwings: 116
 Legacy Greenwing Members: 5
 Sponsor Members: 67
Major Sponsors: 30
Feather Society Members: 9

STATE FUNDRAISING

Total event income dollars raised: **\$203,318**
 Number of committees: **18**
 Number of fundraising events: **43**
 Local chapter volunteers: **149**

FALL FLIGHTS INVESTMENTS TO CANADIAN PROJECTS

Total Contributions: **\$563,308**

Location of projects: Ontario, Quebec: St. Lawrence Islands, Lake Brompton

US CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Total Acres Conserved in the state (*historically since FY1984*): **1,048**

Amount spent on projects in the state: **\$288,821**

Amount spent on projects in ATL Flyway (*through FY2025*): **\$358,750,076**

Primary waterfowl species:
 Canada Goose; Green-Winged Teal; Cinnamon Teal; Mallard; Northern Pintail; Tundra and Trumpeter Swan; Redhead; Gadwall; Northern Shoveler and Canvasback.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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For Information on DU's Gift Planning Program:

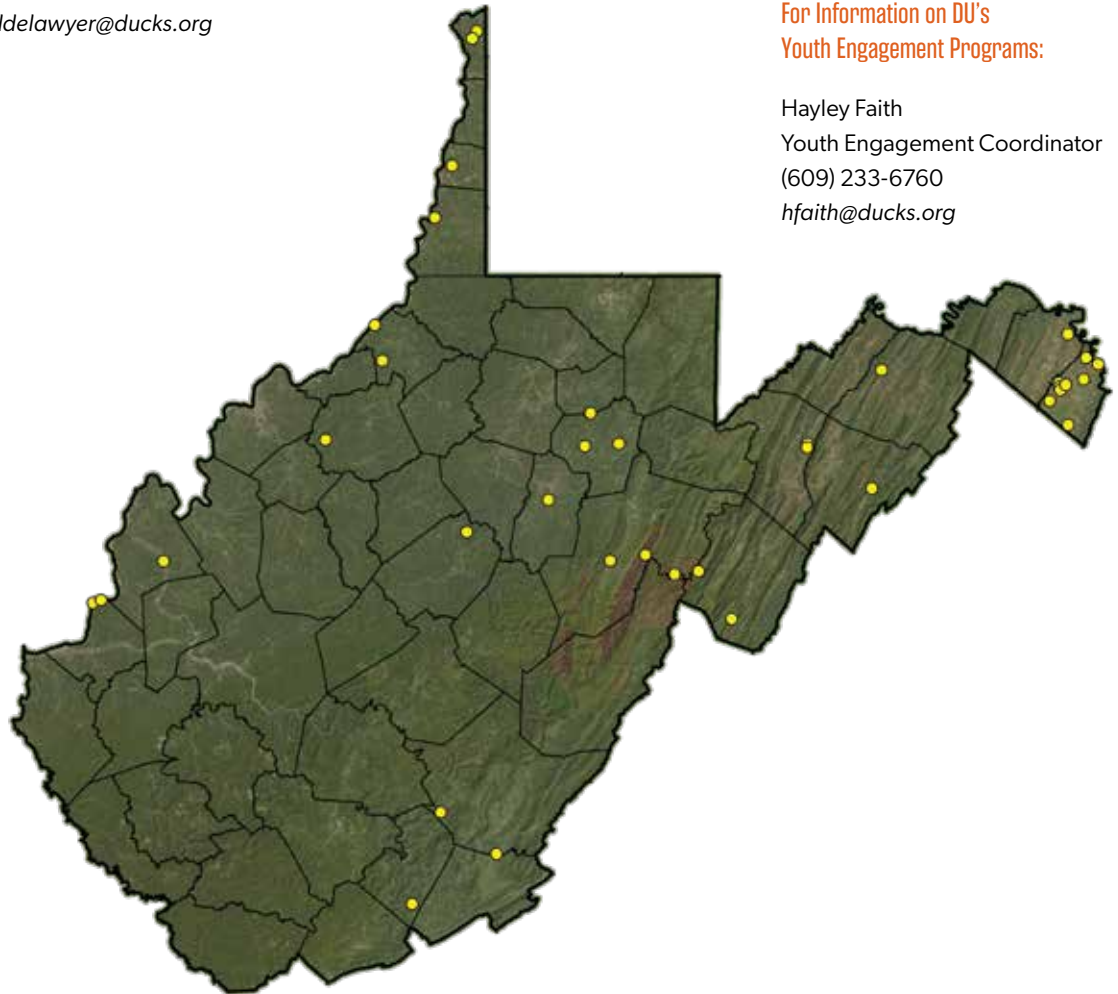
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For Info on West Virginia's Conservation Programs:

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Ducks Unlimited PROJECTS

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 ● Completed Project(s)

 Note: Project points may represent more than one project.



GREAT LAKES / ATLANTIC REGION

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For more information about DU's work in your state visit

ducks.org/west-virginia