

# Stepping Down the GLRC: Restoration Strategies at the State Level

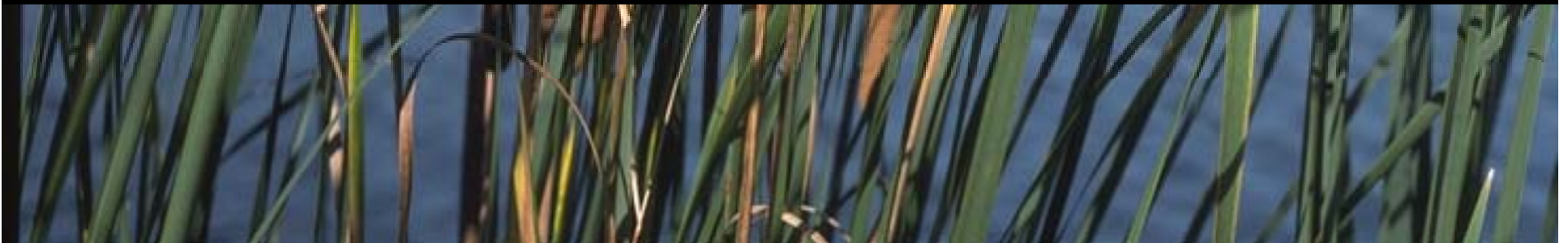
Ducks Unlimited, Inc.  
Great Lakes/Atlantic Regional Office  
Ann Arbor, Michigan



# Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy to Protect and Restore the Great Lakes

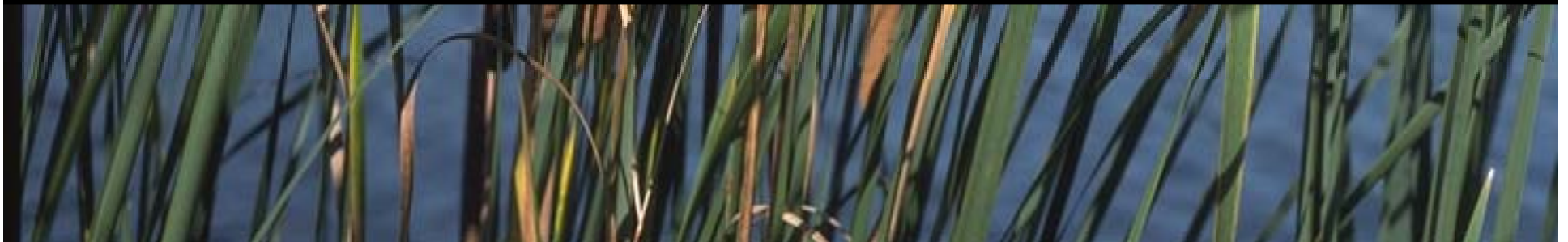
Most Comprehensive Great Lakes Restoration and Protection Plan

- Documents the most critical problems
- Recommends tangible solutions
- Identifies programs to implement those solutions
- Recommends the funding needed for those programs to succeed



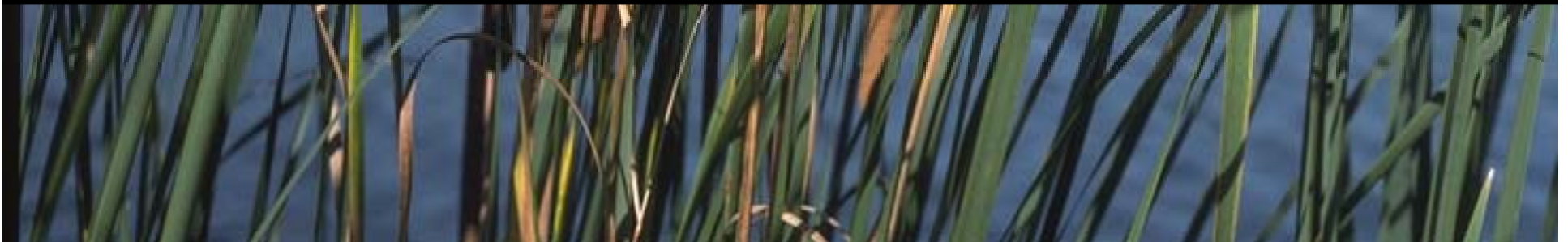
# Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Restoration Strategy

- Since December 2005
  - Substantial progress through existing programs
  - Not necessarily led by the plan
- Challenge
  - Converting the plan into on-the-ground results
- Need to accelerate the pace
  - Embrace the GLRC restoration Vision
  - Engage all stakeholders
  - Strategic implementation



# Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Restoration Strategy

- Need some organizational structure to coordinate efforts, roles, and initiatives among federal, state, and local agencies and private organizations in the basin
  - Call To Action report
  - GLRC Habitat/Species Subcommittee
- Step-down implementation of the Strategy
  - Empower local efforts
  - Many options for how this might be done
  - Consider the “Joint Venture Model”



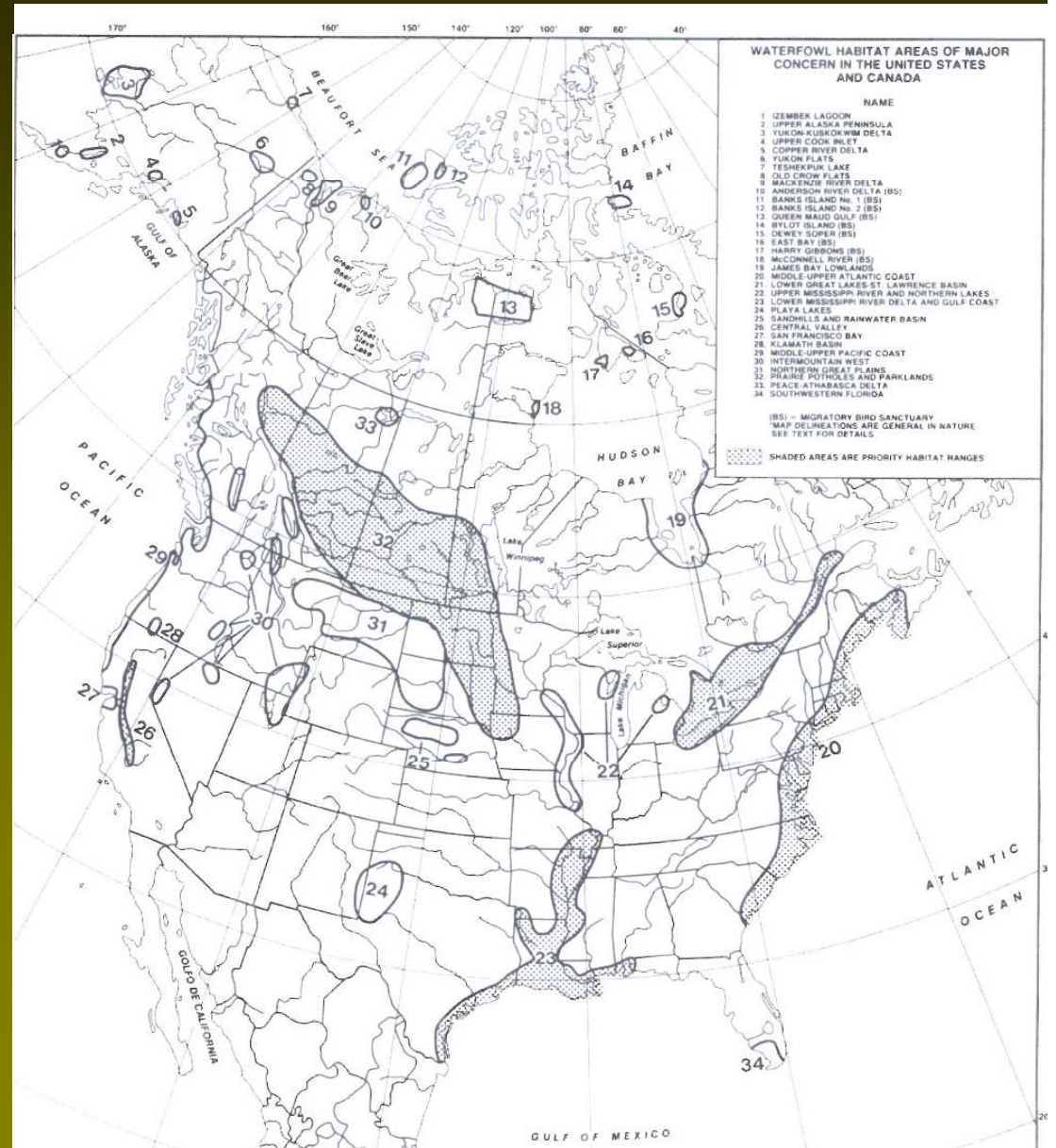
# “Joint Venture Model”



- North American Waterfowl Mgmt Plan (NAWMP)
  - International plan with broad goals and objectives
  - Identified focus areas
  - Plan Committee composed of stakeholders (USFWS)
- Joint Ventures
  - Stepped-down planning to regional focus areas
  - Guided by a Management Board composed of stakeholders
- Local implementation
  - Various self-directed efforts to achieve JV goals at the local level
  - Empowered to build partnerships, seek funding and *get things done!*

# NAWMP Success

- 23.8 million wetlands & uplands acres.
- 1,697 Projects
- 3,547 Partners
- \$4.5 Billion invested
- 3:1 match of federal dollars



# Why has NAWMP been Successful?

- Shared vision (international)
  - Rallying point for cooperation
  - Broad buy-in and support
- Step-down implementation
  - Refine and focus efforts – joint ventures
  - Control for local efforts remains local
    - So long as overall vision and objectives are addressed
    - Engages and empowers the doers to get it done
  - Basis for accountability and reporting
- Funding
  - Funding policies established to support plan objectives
  - Proposal ranking based objective criteria
  - Highest ranked proposals receive the available funding
- Synergy

# Synergy

- NAWMP Plan provides the overall vision
- Each JV Implementation Plan provides the roadmap
- Individual focus area Implementation Committees rally the local interests to organize funding and actually get the habitat on the ground
- Due to the funding policies established, the objectives and philosophy of the Plan are effectively promoted and implemented
  - Organizations are rewarded for working cooperatively
  - Competition ensures that efficient and effective proposals are the ones to receive funding support
  - Efforts and funding are focused where most needed

# NAWMP/NAWCA in Indiana

- 19 Projects
- ~35 Partner Groups
- \$9.8 Million in Federal NAWCA Funds
- \$35 Million in state/private/NGO match
- ***>36,443 wetland and upland acres conserved!!! SUCCESS!!!!***

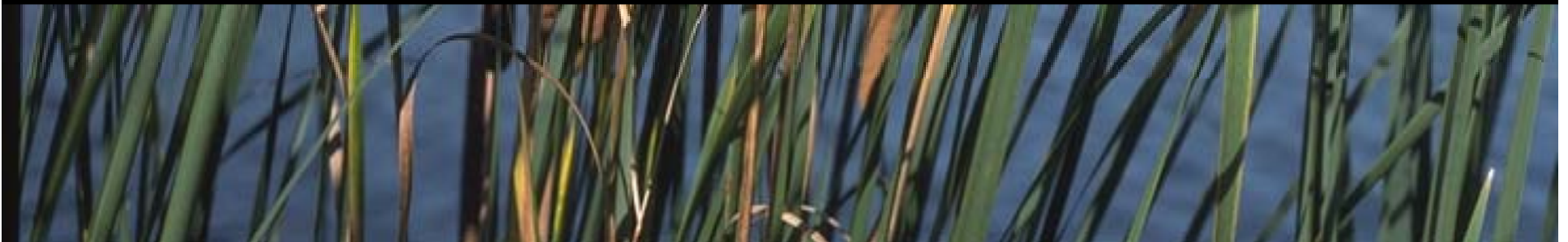
# GLRC Missing Link

- Establish a successful mechanism to step down implementation of the GLRC restoration strategy
  - Broad support and buy-in
  - Cooperation and collaboration
  - Encourage increased public and private investment
  - *RESTORE THE GREAT LAKES!!*



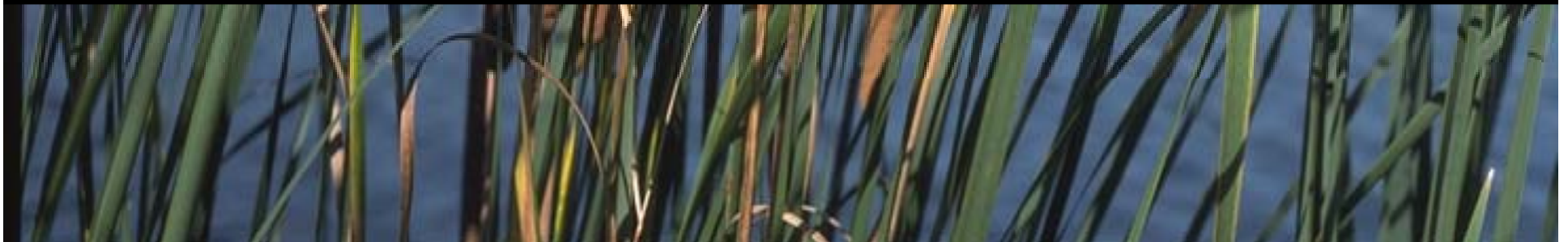
# Michigan Great Lakes Restoration and Protection Initiative

- The GLRC Strategy reflects the efforts needed throughout the Great Lakes basin
- The Michigan Initiative will provide specific direction to address the recommendations **of the GLRC in Michigan**
- The Initiative will stress the health of the Great Lakes is dependent on the health of the waters that feed the lakes and the near-shore areas that buffer the lakes



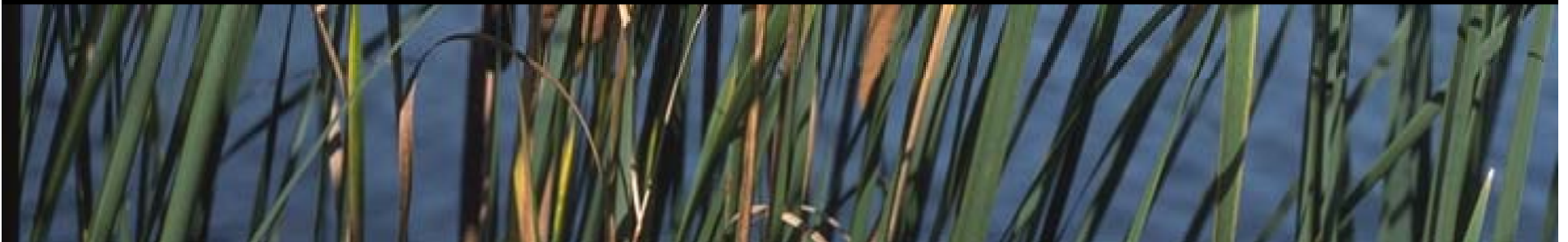
# Michigan Initiative Process

- Develop action frameworks for each of the 8 priority areas
  - Drafted by state agency personnel
- Secure public input through a series of regional workshops
  - Modify actions as appropriate
- Input incorporated into the final Michigan Plan



# Michigan Initiative Process

- Cooperative effort led by
  - MDEQ Office of the Great Lakes
  - Michigan United Conservation Clubs
- Fully supported by Lt. Governor
- Steering Committee of diverse, interested stakeholders



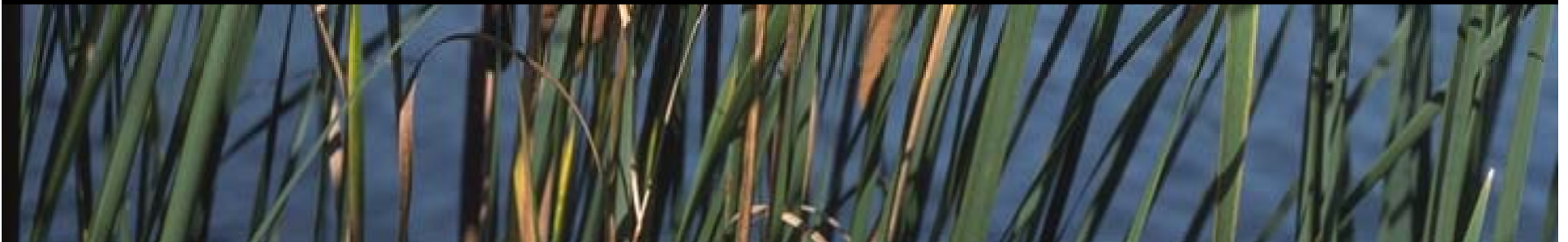
# Result

- A process where Michigan stakeholders can all work together collectively and collaboratively towards restoring and protecting the Great Lakes



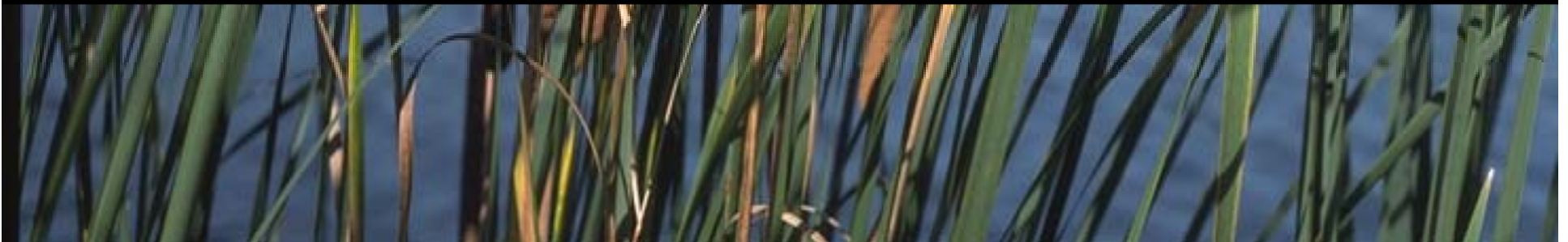
# Outcomes

- Integrated collaborative plan for moving Michigan forward toward restoring and protecting the Great Lakes
- Priority restoration and protection programs identified along with funding sources
- Action plans to encourage implementation



# Needs

- Continued emphasis on the follow-up implementation to ensure action on the ground through local efforts
- Assign accountability for end results
- Apply a comparable approach throughout the Great Lakes basin





Together we can achieve the  
Vision of a restored, sustainable  
Great Lakes ecosystem.



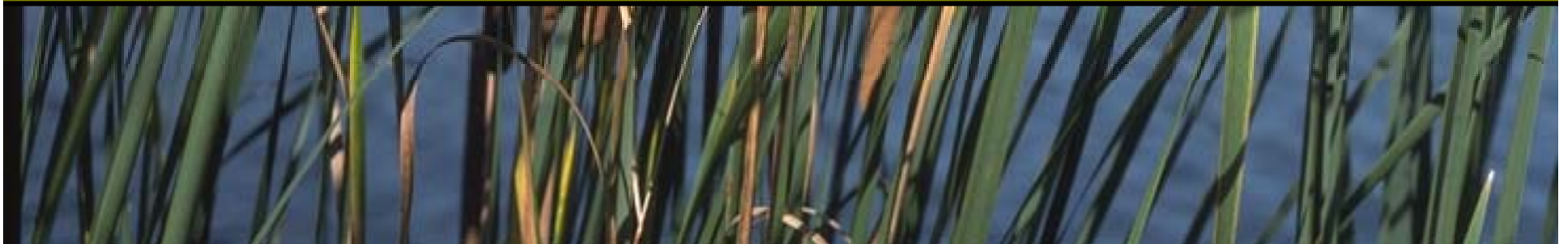
# Thank you!



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United States  
Department of the Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service



Environment  
Canada

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Canada

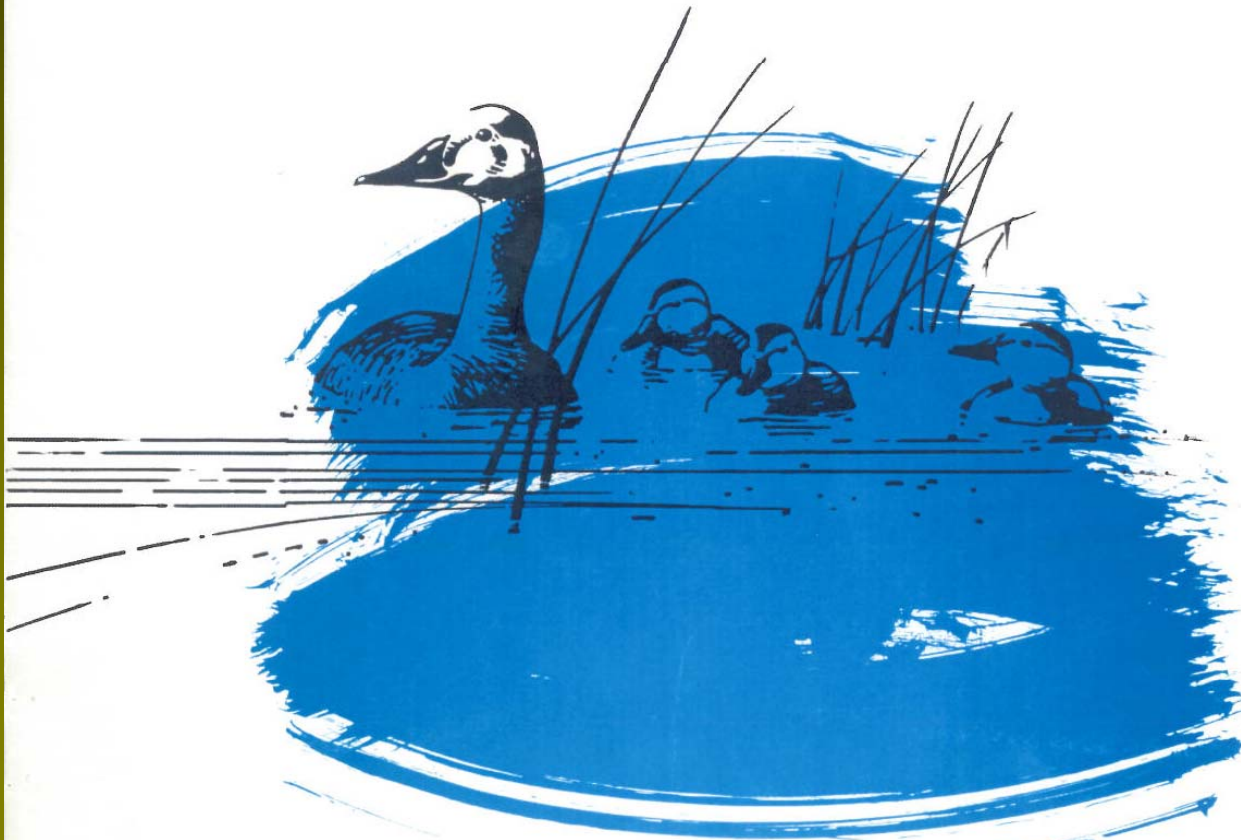
Canadian Wildlife  
Service

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# NORTH AMERICAN WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT PLAN

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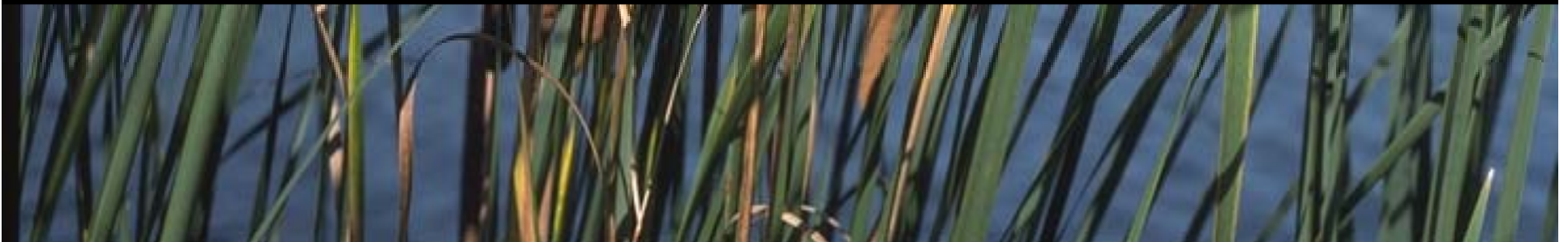


# NAWMP Success....

“The Plan is innovative because its perspective is international in scope, but its implementation functions at the regional level. Its success is dependent upon the strength of partnerships, called “joint ventures,” involving federal, state, provincial, tribal, and local governments, businesses, conservation organizations, and individual citizens.”

# WI Implementation Plan

- Has a draft restoration plan – desire to move forward – restructuring plan.
- Developed a proposed project list for each 8 chapters.
- New staff hired in OGL. Some efforts tying funding to WI strategy. No real statewide committee at this time.



## Local Example: Pickerel Creek Wildlife Area - Ohio



# How did it happen?

- NAWMP > Joint Venture > Ohio Team  
Lake Erie Wetlands Implementation Team
- Project Idea brought by DOW.
- Partners signed on: Ducks Unlimited, Erie Co. Soil & Water, Maumee Valley Audubon, Multiple sportsmens clubs,
- FWS NAWCA grant = Funding
- Exceeded DOW projections!!!!