

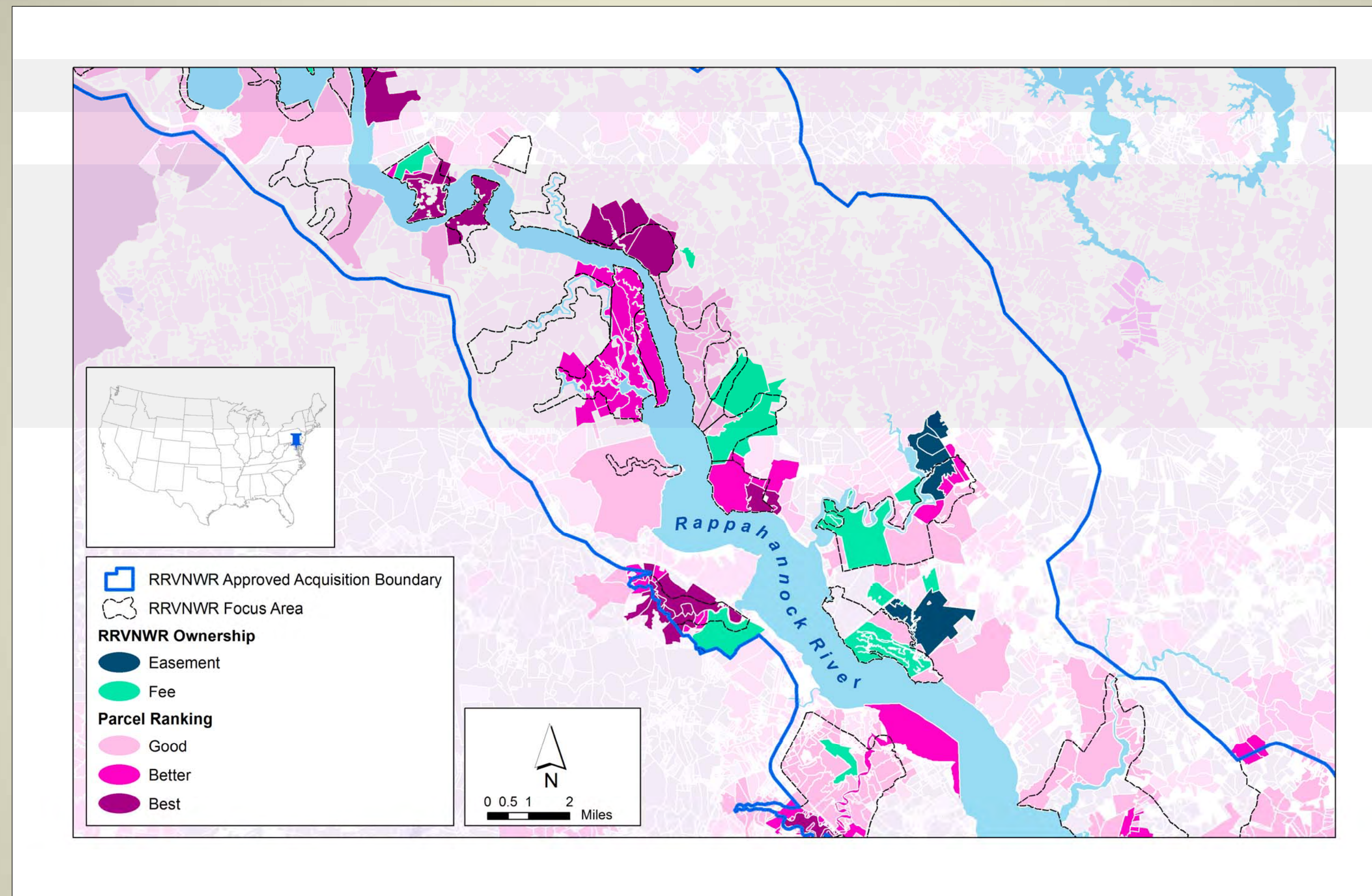
Prioritizing Land Conservation for Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge (RRVNWR) using Goals Identified in the Refuge's Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP)

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- RRVNWR CCP Conservation Goals -

- Maintain riparian habitats along the Rappahannock River for bald eagles and other migratory birds
- Maintain and enhance the biological diversity and environmental health of tidal and non-tidal wetlands to benefit Federal listed species, waterfowl, other migratory birds, fish and shellfish, reptiles, and amphibians
- Promote enjoyment and stewardship of our Nation's natural resources by providing high-quality, wildlife-dependent recreational and educational opportunities on refuge lands and waters
- Communicate and collaborate with local communities, Federal and state agencies, and conservation organizations throughout the lower Rappahannock River watershed to promote natural resource conservation and the mission of the Refuge System



Rappahannock River Valley - Refuge Stats -

- The RRVNWR approved acquisition boundary allows acquiring up to 20,000 acres within a boundary of more than 260,000 acres
- 37 focus areas have been defined within the boundary based upon the CCP goals
- The refuge currently consists of 8,720 acres
- RRVNWR supports the largest winter and summer concentrations of migrant bald eagles in eastern North America

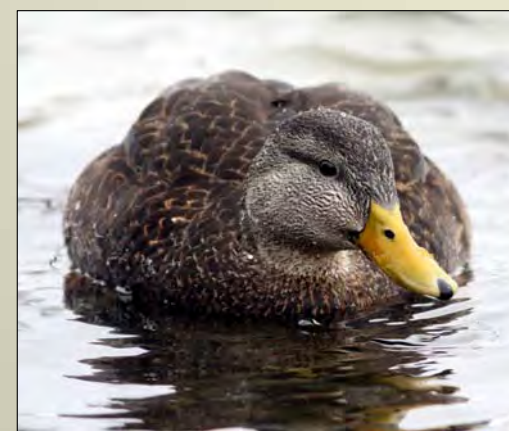
- Geographic Information Systems Analysis -

- Primary Datasets used -
 - Virginia Wetlands Catalog (2014) - Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
 - Refuge resource concentration complexes & focus areas
 - County parcel data
- Modeling incorporates the following datasets -
 - Wetlands
 - Streams
 - 100-yr floodplains
 - Hydric and likely hydric soils
- Weighted layers for Conservation Prioritization
 - Plant and animal biodiversity
- Intact ecological cores and landscape corridors
 - Proximity to conserved lands
- Drinking water sources protection zones
- Species of greatest conservation need
 - "Relatively" clean watersheds
- Planning Products produced for the Refuge -
 - Large plot county maps depicting top three tier properties for conservation to meet CCP goals
 - Spreadsheet of landowner addresses for these properties for outreach
 - Geodatabase of all GIS data layers used in parcel prioritizations

Under federal law, all national wildlife refuges in the lower 48 states must have a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) which sets a framework for management decisions on a refuge for a 10- to 15-year period.



Sensitive joint-wetzel - photo by Valeri Crawford



American black duck - photo credit Fyn Kynd Photography



Wood duck pair - Junior Duck Stamp Winner 2015 - Artist: Andrew Kneeland

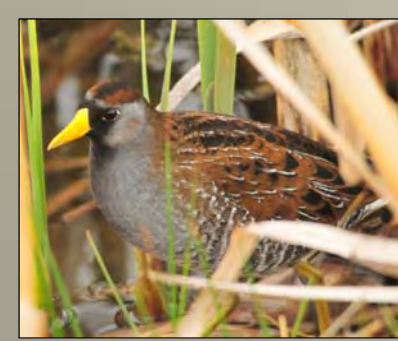


Atlantic sturgeon - photo credit - lookseek.com



Bald eagle - photo credit USFWS

Florida's Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge was the first wildlife refuge in 1903, the System has grown to over **562 national wildlife refuges** and 38 wetland management districts encompassing more than 150,000,000 acres.



Sora rail - photo credit USFWS

There is at least one national wildlife refuge in every state and territory and within an hour's drive of most major metropolitan areas.



Prothonotary warbler - photo credit USFWS

The "Big Six" wildlife-dependent recreation on refuges:

- Hunting and Fishing
- Wildlife Observation and Photography
- Environmental Education and Interpretation



Marsh wren - photo credit USFWS

Find Your Refuge!
<https://www.fws.gov/refuges/>



Louisiana waterthrush - photo credit Melanie Underwood

The Mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.