

**CHAPTER 64—NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS
CONSERVATION**

Sec.	
4401.	Findings and statement of purpose. (a) Findings. (b) Purpose.
4402.	Definitions.
4403.	Establishment of North American Wetlands Conservation Council. (a) Council membership. (b) Appointment and terms. (c) Ex officio Council members. (d) Chairman. (e) Quorum. (f) Meetings. (g) Coordinator.
4404.	Approval of wetlands conservation projects. (a) Consideration by Council. (b) Recommendations to Migratory Bird Conservation Commission. (c) Council procedures. (d) Council representation on Migratory Bird Conservation Commission. (e) Approval of Council recommendations by Migratory Bird Conservation Commission. (f) Notification of appropriate Commit- tees.
4405.	Conditions relating to wetlands conservation projects. (a) Projects in United States. (b) Projects in Canada or Mexico.
4406.	Amounts available to carry out this chapter. (a) Omitted. (b) Migratory bird fines, penalties, for- feitures. (c) Authorization of appropriations. (d) Availability of funds.
4407.	Allocation of amounts available to carry out this chapter. (a) Allocations. (b) Federal contribution for projects; non-Federal share. (c) Partial payments.
4408.	Restoration, management, and protection of wetlands and habitat for migratory birds on Federal lands.
4409.	Report to Congress.
4410.	Revisions to Plan.
4411.	Relationship to other authorities. (a) Acquisition of lands and waters. (b) Mitigation.
4412.	Limitation on assessments against Migratory Bird Conservation Fund.
4413.	Other agreements.
4414.	Assessment of progress in wetlands conserva- tion.

CHAPTER REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This chapter is referred to in section 3741 of this title.

§ 4401. Findings and statement of purpose

(a) Findings

The Congress finds and declares that—

(1) the maintenance of healthy populations of migratory birds in North America is dependent on the protection, restoration, and management of wetland ecosystems and other habitats in Canada, as well as in the United States and Mexico;

(2) wetland ecosystems provide essential and significant habitat for fish, shellfish, and other wildlife of commercial, recreational, scientific, and aesthetic values;

(3) almost 35 per centum of all rare, threatened, and endangered species of animals are dependent on wetland ecosystems;

(4) wetland ecosystems provide substantial flood and storm control values and can obviate the need for expensive manmade control measures;

(5) wetland ecosystems make a significant contribution to water availability and quality, recharging ground water, filtering surface runoff, and providing waste treatment;

(6) wetland ecosystems provide aquatic areas important for recreational and aesthetic purposes;

(7) more than 50 per centum of the original wetlands in the United States alone have been lost;

(8) wetlands destruction, loss of nesting cover, and degradation of migration and wintering habitat have contributed to long-term downward trends in populations of migratory bird species such as pintails, American bitterns, and black ducks;

(9) the migratory bird treaty obligations of the United States with Canada, Mexico, and other countries require protection of wetlands that are used by migratory birds for breeding, wintering, or migration and are needed to achieve and to maintain optimum population levels, distributions, and patterns of migration;

(10) the 1988 amendments to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act of 1980 require the Secretary of the Interior to identify conservation measures to assure that nongame migratory bird species do not reach the point at which measures of the Endangered Species Act [16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.] are necessary;

(11) protection of migratory birds and their habitats requires long-term planning and the close cooperation and coordination of management activities by Canada, Mexico, and the United States within the framework of the 1916 and 1936 Migratory Bird Conventions and the Convention on Nature Protection and Wildlife Preservation in the Western Hemisphere;

(12) the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, signed in 1986 by the Minister of Environment for Canada and the Secretary of the Interior for the United States, provides a framework for maintaining and restoring an adequate habitat base to ensure perpetuation of populations of North American waterfowl and other migratory bird species;

(13) a tripartite agreement signed in March 1988, by the Director General for Ecological Conservation of Natural Resources of Mexico, the Director of the Canadian Wildlife Service, and the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, provides for expanded cooperative efforts in Mexico to conserve wetlands for migratory birds that spend the winter there;

(14) the long-term conservation of migratory birds and habitat for these species will require the coordinated action of governments, private organizations, landowners, and other citizens; and

(15) the treaty obligations of the United States under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as waterfowl habitat requires promotion of conservation and wise use of wetlands.