

# WETLANDS

## Quick Sheet

(WILDLIFE HABITAT)

### WHAT IS A WETLAND?

*“Areas that are inundated or saturated by surface water or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions, including swamps, marshes, bogs and similar areas.” ~ US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)*



In general, wetlands are identified as areas that have hydric soils, hydrophytic (water-loving) vegetation, and hydrology.

### SERVICES WETLANDS PROVIDE?

Wetlands provide important services to the natural environment and local communities, such as:

- Important fish and wildlife habitat
- Protecting and enhancing biological diversity
- Improving water quality by filtering sediments and processing nutrients
- Reducing flooding through water storage
- Recharging ground water aquifers
- Creating educational, scientific, and recreational opportunities

### PROGRAMS TO ASSIST PENNSYLVANIA LANDOWNERS INTERESTED IN RESTORING WETLANDS:

Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) – Administered by the USDA - NRCS

- Financial and technical assistance to restore, protect, and enhance wetland functions and values.
- Available statewide.

Pennsylvania Wetland Replacement Program (PWRP) – Administered by PA DEP

- Financial and technical assistance to construct wetland replacement projects.
- Available in select watershed in Pennsylvania.

Partners for Fish and Wildlife – Administered by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- Financial and technical assistance to restore, protect, and enhance wetland functions and values.
- Available statewide.

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

- Financial and technical assistance to replace wetlands impacted by PA transportation projects.
- Available in select watersheds where impacts occur.

State and Federal Grants and Foundations

- Pennsylvania Growing Greener
- North American Wetland Conservation Act
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- Chesapeake Bay Trust

*For more information about this or other types of Wildlife Habitat contact:*

