

**APPENDIX D: BLACK DUCK JOINT VENTURE EVALUATION PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION
PLAN, 2008**

Introduction

The recently completed Continental Progress Assessment report (2007) stressed the need for Joint Ventures to employ an adaptive management framework that links planning with monitoring and evaluation in an iterative process to ensure progress towards fulfilling NAWMP goals. The BDJV has embraced the principles of adaptive management and is committed to continued evaluation of its efforts and products to ensure progress is made towards BDJV and NAWMP goals. The goal of the BDJV evaluation program is to conduct regular assessments of BDJV programs, projects, and products to continually improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the BDJV. The BDJV evaluation program consists of two parts: technical and operational evaluation.

Objectives

Technical:

- I. Review and assess the quality and effectiveness of BDJV supported monitoring, research, and communications projects;
- II. Conduct a 5-year assessment of population trends and progress towards NAWMP goals.

Operational:

- I. Annual tracking of financial expenditures;
- II. Conduct a 3-year internal assessment of BDJV programs and products.

The Evaluation Working Group (EWG), a sub-committee of the BDJV Technical Committee and Management Board, is responsible for the development and coordination of the BDJV evaluation plan. To meet the goals of the evaluation plan, the EWG will have to work cooperatively with the Management Board, Technical Committee, and other working groups. This Working Group will meet as required, but no less than once a year. The evaluation plan is to be revised every 5 years in conjunction with the revision of the BDJV strategic plan.

Technical Evaluation

The BDJV engages in and supports a variety of scientific and technical activities, including the development and implementation of monitoring programs and research studies. The EWG is

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responsible for providing on-going internal review of these projects and products. The EWG is responsible for developing the protocol and tool(s) necessary to complete these reviews. On-going assessments of the monitoring, research, and communications projects are conducted to determine if objectives are being met and to identify necessary changes where objectives are not being achieved. These reviews are to be completed within 6 months of receipt of final reports and deliverables. Reviews will be provided to the Technical Committee, but not made public (i.e., not provided in annual reports). In addition to the on-going assessments, the EWG will complete a 5-year assessment of population trends and progress towards NAWMP goals. This assessment should evaluate the trend in population growth, changes in vital rates, and assessment of population sustainability. Assessment of the black duck population will be accomplished via compiling 5-year trends in spring breeding survey cross-referenced with the mid-winter inventory and will be completed in cooperation with the PMWG.

Operational Evaluation

The EWG is responsible for completing annual and 3-year evaluation of the overall conduct and operation of the BDJV. The annual review consists of tracking financial expenditures and status of BDJV supported projects. Tracking of annual expenditures will be achieved through the National Reporting Systems in the U.S. and Canada and internal records. On-going projects will be reviewed to ensure they are on schedule and budget.

The 3-year evaluation will proceed and serve as the foundation of the revision of the BDJV strategic plan and will fulfill the requirements of the “NAWMP Triennial Reporting Procedure” recently implemented by the NAWMP Plan Committee and National Science Support Team. The 3-year evaluation should include a 3-year budget summary and completed projects. Additionally, the 3-year evaluation will include a detailed assessment of the BDJV programs (i.e., population monitoring, research, and communications). The EWG is responsible for developing the necessary protocols and tools to complete the 3-year evaluation. The BDJV is scheduled to complete their Triennial Review with the NAWMP Plan Committee in summer of 2008.

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