

Lower Cohansey River Watershed CFA – Delaware Bay Region



Description of Conservation Focal Area

The Lower Cohansey River Watershed CFA is bounded by the Maurice River watershed to the east, and the boundary around the river’s mouth near Bayshore is defined by local roads running from the uplands and bisecting the marsh. The Cohansey River is characterized by the wide tidal estuary and an adjacent marsh-woodlot-agricultural habitat matrix that is exceptional habitat for nesting and wintering bald eagles, northern harriers, ospreys, waterbirds, and wintering waterfowl. Disjunct from the lower river, the CFA includes upper watershed streams that are the Cohansey’s headwaters. The habitats in the lower Cohansey River are shaped by agricultural use that has reduced structural diversity and degraded water quality. Agriculture dominates both the upper and lower portions of the watershed, covering 60% to 70% of the landscape. As a result, water quality is compromised with elevated phosphorus, bacteria, and high turbidity. Structurally, the marsh-upland ecotone is limited to a narrow woodland separating marshes from planted fields in most of the river below Bridgeton. Phragmites is found in pockets, especially upstream toward Bridgeton. This CFA encompasses 2% of the Delaware Bay Landscape Region at 5,717 hectares including 4,934 hectares of terrestrial habitats and 783 hectares of aquatic habitats.

Habitat Composition

Lower Cohansey River Watershed CFA

Habitat Categories:	Coastal Wetland	Tidal Water	Deciduous Upland Forest	Deciduous Wetland Forest	Upland Forest Mixture	Wetland Forest Mixture	Emergent Wetland	Shrub Upland	Grassland	Shrub Wetland	Coniferous Upland Forest	Water	Coniferous Wetland Forest	Urban Habitat	Beach-Dune	Non-Habitat	Disturbed Wetland	Barren
% of CFA	46.56	9.17	7.60	6.66	5.96	5.74	3.44	3.32	3.05	2.74	1.85	1.68	1.46	0.36	0.29	0.10	0.02	0.01
Ha of CFA	2,662	524	434	381	340	328	197	190	174	157	106	96	83	20	17	6	1	0

