

Rachel Dawson Biography

Rachel Dawson joined the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) in 2014. As Senior Manager, Delaware River, she manages a growing \$7 million fund for water quality and habitat restoration projects in the Delaware River watershed. She is responsible for program development and implementation, partner and collaborator coordination, and regional investment strategy and planning. Prior to joining NFWF, Ms. Dawson was the legislative representative for the water restoration team at the National Wildlife Federation where she advocated on behalf of national and regional clean water laws, policies, and programs that are critical for large-scale ecosystem restoration across the country.

Ms. Dawson was also a policy analyst at the Northeast Midwest Institute, focusing on issues in the watersheds of the northeast and mid-Atlantic, particularly the Chesapeake Bay and Delaware River Basin. She worked closely with watershed-based Congressional task forces to address water quality issues on Capitol Hill and promote improved information-sharing, ecosystem restoration planning, and stakeholder collaboration across the region. Ms. Dawson has also been a Conservation Policy Specialist for Ducks Unlimited (DU) where she worked on Clean Water Act and the Farm Bill policy initiatives. Prior to coming to Washington, Ms. Dawson worked in DU's mid-Atlantic field office where she assisted in delivering on-the-ground wetland and ecosystem restoration efforts.

Ms. Dawson espouses a conservation ethic hatched in the marshes of the Chesapeake Bay watershed—she has spent many years hunting and fishing on Maryland's Eastern Shore and across the Delmarva Peninsula where she was born and raised. She received her Master's degree in Environmental and Natural Resources Policy from the George Washington University and her Bachelor's degree in Environmental Planning from the University of Miami.