

National Wildlife Refuge Offices

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The mission
of the
**United States
Fish and Wildlife
Service** is
“working
with others to
***conserve,
protect,
and
enhance***
fish, wildlife, and
plants and their
habitats for the
continuing
benefit of the
American people”



Introduction

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

The vast majority of fish and wildlife habitat is on non-federal lands. Partnerships with Native American tribes, state and local governments, nongovernmental organizations and private citizens are a critical part of our mission. Programs such as Partners for Fish and Wildlife, Partners in Flight, and individual partnership activities are the primary mechanisms for assisting voluntary habitat development on non-Service lands and fostering conservation practices throughout the Region.

The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System of 540 National Wildlife Refuges and thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. The Service also manages 78 ecological services field stations, 69 National Fish Hatcheries and 64 fishery resource offices.

The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, administers the Endangered Species Act, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts.

The Service also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes federal excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state wildlife agencies. This program is a cornerstone of the nation's wildlife management efforts, funding fish and wildlife restoration, boating access, hunter education, shooting ranges and related projects across America.

The Service employs approximately 7,500 people at facilities across the United States. The Service is a decentralized organization with a headquarters office in Washington, D.C., seven geographic regional offices, and nearly 700 field units.

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs and activities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is available to all individuals regardless of physical or mental disability. For more information please contact the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service strives for a work force that reflects the cultural, ethnic, and gender diversity of the Nation, including people with disabilities.

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Available in alternate formats upon request



Regional Highlights

Great Lakes - Big Rivers

Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio and Wisconsin

Regional Vision Statement

“We will work shoulder to shoulder with states, tribes and our many other partners to achieve our goal of making the Region a better place for fish and wildlife and the people who enjoy them.”

2002 Regional Facts

- Employment: 1,088 people
- Managed Acres: 1.29 million
- The Fiscal Year 2002 Budget for Regional Service activities totals \$75.7 million
- More than 126,000 school children participated in Service educational programs
- More than 7.5 million people visited Refuges throughout Region 3 to hunt, fish, participate in interpretive programs, and view wildlife
- Region 3 is the national lead coordinator for recovery efforts of the bald eagle and gray wolf

Refuge Program Facts

- 52 National Wildlife Refuges
- 15 Wetland Management Districts
- More than 280,000 acres in waterfowl production areas
- The Refuge System will celebrate “***A Century of Conservation***” on March 14, 2003

Other Regional Programs and Offices

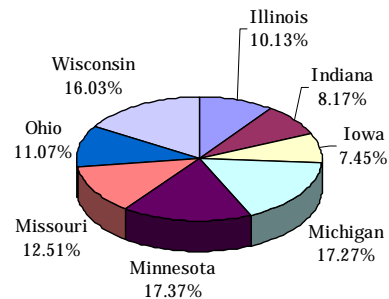
- 6 National Fish Hatcheries
- 10 Fisheries stations
- 10 Ecological Services offices
- 22 Law Enforcement offices

Federal Aid Program

In Fiscal Year 2002, the Region’s Federal Aid Office managed \$96.7 million to help strengthen sport fish and wildlife restoration programs throughout the states within Region 3.

Federal Aid Apportionments FY2002

Region 3 States’ Share of \$96.7 Million:



The Region is Committed to:

- Expanded partnerships, which offer innovative opportunities to enhance the Region’s fish and wildlife resources
- Healthy fish and wildlife trust species (migratory birds, endangered species and interjurisdictional fish) populations, and habitats that support them
- Providing the public with quality hunting, fishing, wildlife watching, and other wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities on Service lands
- A clearly defined U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service organization dedicated to employee excellence, reflecting the nation’s rich diversity and providing quality service and decision-making to the resources in our trust



Indiana

State Highlights

2002 Indiana State Facts

- The Service employs more than 30 people in Indiana
- The Fiscal Year 2002 Resource Management budget for Service activities in Indiana totals \$2.5 million

National Wildlife Refuge Facts

- Three National Wildlife Refuges in Indiana total 63,015 acres
- In 2002, more than 222,000 people visited Refuges in Indiana to hunt, fish, participate in interpretive programs and view wildlife
- In 2002, over 9,000 Indiana school children participated in Service educational programs

Federal Aid to State Fish and Wildlife Programs

- In 2002 Indiana received:
 - \$4.5 million for sport fish restoration
 - \$3.4 million for wildlife restoration and hunter education

Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge

Established in 1994, Patoka River NWR in southwest Indiana may someday encompass about 22,000 acres of bottomland hardwoods. At Patoka, the focus is on partnerships to restore habitat and clean up acid mine drainage in area waterways. The refuge works closely with the extremely effective South Fork Citizens' Committee on acid mine drainage issues in the watershed. The group works under the Clean Streams Initiative and its efforts are considered among the most effective in that arena.

Indiana Bat Conservation

Conserving the endangered Indiana bat is a high priority for the Service in Indiana. Strides are being made in cooperative efforts, including a Habitat Conservation Plan that allows expansion, development, and highway construction in and around Indianapolis International Airport in areas used by Indiana bats. The HCP calls for permanent preservation of bat habitat along with habitat restoration to ensure the species' continued survival near the airport. The state recently received a Service grant for \$587,250 to begin preliminary work on a statewide Habitat Conservation Plan for the Indiana bat on 10 state forests. The proposed HCP will be the first to address Indiana bat management concerns on actively managed forests, providing a positive model for other states and forest managers.



Indiana

Celebrating a Century of Conservation

March 14, 2003, will mark the 100th anniversary of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Established in 1903 when President Teddy Roosevelt set aside tiny Pelican Island in Florida as a refuge for birds, the National Wildlife Refuge System has evolved to encompass more than 95 million acres on 540 refuges.

There are 52 refuges in Region 3, and three in Indiana. Our nation's most-visited refuge, the Upper Mississippi National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, runs through Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois and Iowa.

The refuge system also includes Wetland Management Districts in Minnesota, Iowa, Michigan and Wisconsin, as well as in the Dakotas and Montana. These districts are home to numerous waterfowl production areas that help sustain our nation's waterfowl populations.

Beginning March 14 and continuing through the Centennial year, Refuges and Wetland Management Districts in the region will celebrate with special events, including time capsule dedications, open houses, refuge tours, new exhibits and film festivals. More than 150 events are planned in the region.

National Wildlife Refuges are unique in the public lands system in that they are the only parcels of land managed primarily for wildlife. This approach has enabled the refuge system to grow into a network of land and water that provides homes for threatened and endangered species such as whooping cranes, bald eagles and gray wolves. The refuge system also provides breeding, nesting and feeding grounds for a wide variety of migratory birds.

Refuges are also fantastic resources for educators. During the school year, thousands of students of all ages visit refuges. Rangers and outdoor educators provide on-the-ground education for students from all walks of life.

While Refuges are places where wildlife comes first, they offer unparalleled wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities. Many offer hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, environmental education and interpretation.

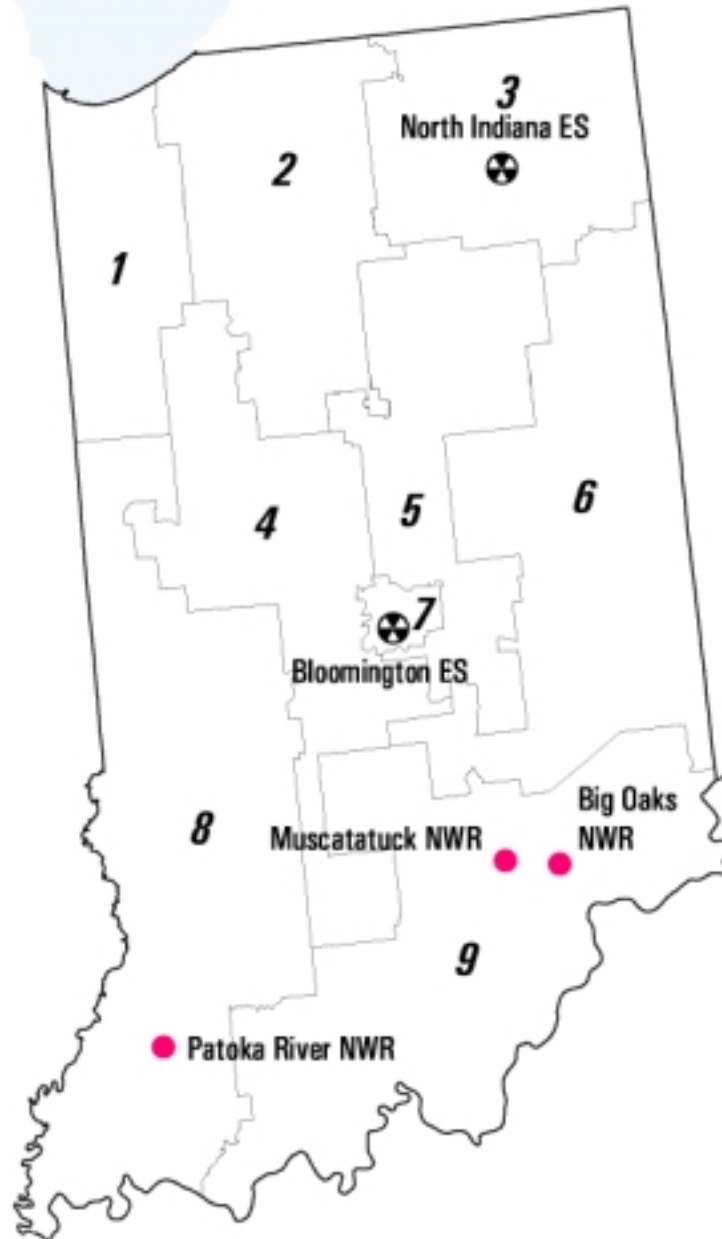
Centennial events in 2003 will be great opportunities to visit your local refuges. Each state in Region 3 has at least one major Centennial event scheduled. For information on attending a refuge event, contact your local Refuge manager.





Indiana

Congressional Delegation



Indiana Senators and Representatives

Sen. Richard Lugar (R)

Sen. Evan Bayh (D)

Representatives by District:

IN-1 Peter Visclosky (D)

IN-2 Chris Chocola (R)

IN-3 Mark Souder (R)

IN-4 Stephen Buyer (R)

IN-5 Dan Burton (R)

IN-6 Mike Pence (R)

IN-7 Julia Carson (D)

IN-8 John Hostettler

IN-9 Baron Hill (D)



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Big Oaks

National Wildlife Refuge

Contacting the refuge:

1661 West JPG Niblo Road
Madison, IN 47250
Phone: 812/273-0783
Fax: 812/273-0786
TTY: 1-800-877-8339 (Federal Relay)
<http://midwest.fws.gov/big Oaks>

Refuge Manager: Joseph R. Robb
e-mail: joe_rob主@fws.gov

*Located five miles north of Madison
on U.S. Highway 421*



Refuge Facts

- Established: 2000
- Acres: 50,000
- River otters reestablished in 1996
- Overlay refuge on former U.S. Army proving ground
- Over 30 miles of protected streams

Natural History

- Over 30,000 acres of forest
- Over 120 breeding bird species
- 46 state rare and endangered plants
- Large Henslow's sparrow breeding population

Financial Impact of Refuge

- Seven person staff
- 20,000 visitors in 2002
- FY 2002 Budget: \$850,000

Refuge Objectives

- Provide resting, nesting and feeding habitat for migratory birds
- Provide habitat for resident wildlife
- Protect endangered and threatened species
- Provide for biodiversity
- Provide public opportunities for outdoor recreation and environmental education

Management Tools

- Reforestation
- Hunting
- Prescribed burning

Public Use Opportunities

- Hunting
- Fishing
- Wildlife observation and photography
- Environmental education and interpretation

AMERICA'S NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES...
where wildlife comes naturally!





U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Muscatatuck

National Wildlife Refuge

Contacting the refuge:

12985 East U.S. Highway 50
Seymour, IN 47274
Phone: 812/522 4352
Fax: 812/522 6826
TTY: 1-800-877-8339 (Federal Relay)
<http://midwest.fws.gov>

Refuge Manager: Lee Herzberger
e-mail: lee_herzberger@fws.gov

Located three miles east of
Interstate 65 on U.S. Highway 50



Refuge Facts

- Established: 1966
- Acres: 7,802
- Otters introduced on the refuge in 1995
- Trumpeter swans introduced in 1998
- Over one million waterfowl use days

Natural History

- Sixty percent of refuge lands are converted farm lands
- Lakes, ponds, moist soil and green tree units totaling 1,500 acres have been restored on the refuge
- Archeological sites on the refuge are included on the National Register of Historic Places
- Refuge has a remnant population of the northern copperbelly water snake

Financial Impact of Refuge

- Seven person staff
- 185,000 visitors annually
- FY 2002 Budget: \$1,340,000

Refuge Objectives

- Provide resting, nesting and feeding habitat for waterfowl and other migratory birds
- Provide habitat for resident wildlife
- Protect endangered and threatened species
- Provide for biodiversity
- Provide public opportunities for outdoor recreation and environmental education

Management Tools

- Reforestation
- Outreach and education
- Water management
- Wetland restoration
- Prescribed burning
- Cooperative farming

Public Use Opportunities

- Eight hiking trails
- Hunting and fishing
- Environmental education and interpretation
- Wildlife observation and photography
- Visitor center/bookstore
- Four mile auto tour route
- Log cabin historic site

AMERICA'S NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES...
where wildlife comes naturally!





U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Patoka River

National Wildlife Refuge and Management Area

Contacting the refuge:

PO Box 217
510 1/2 West Morton Street
Oakland City, IN 47660

Phone: 812/749 3199

Fax: 812/749 3059

TTY: 1-800-877-8339 (Federal Relay)

<http://midwest.fws.gov>

Refuge Manager: Bill McCoy

e-mail: bill_mccoy@fws.gov

Located in Pike and
Gibson counties, near
Oakland City, Indiana



Refuge Facts

- Established: 1994
- Refuge acres: 5,131
- 682 acres in two outlying Wildlife Management Areas
- Acres authorized: 22,083
- The Patoka River Project will consist of 6,800 acres of National Wildlife Refuge and 15,283 acres of Wildlife Management Area; this differentiation is necessary to avoid conflicts with the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act and the area's surface coal mining industry
- The river corridor project will encompass 30 miles of the Patoka River and 19 miles of oxbows with a total of 12,700 acres of existing wetlands
- Refuge will provide some of the best wood duck production habitat in the state

Natural History

- One of the most significant bottomland hardwood forests remaining in the state
- Supports over 380 species of wildlife, including the threatened bald eagle and endangered Indiana bat

Financial Impact of Refuge

- Three person staff
- 13,943 visitors annually
- FY 2002 Budget: \$347,600

Refuge Objectives

- Provide resting, nesting and feeding habitat for waterfowl and other migratory birds
- Provide habitat for resident wildlife
- Protect endangered and threatened species
- Provide for biodiversity
- Provide public opportunities for outdoor recreation and environmental education
- Restore, protect and manage the river corridor of bottomland hardwood wetlands
- Partner with others to restore fish and wildlife habitat and improve water quality in southwest Indiana

Management Tools

- Reforestation
- Wetland Restoration
- Water Management
- Outreach and Education

Public Use Opportunities

- Hiking
- Hunting and fishing
- Environmental education
- Wildlife observation
- Canoeing





U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Bloomington

Ecological Services Field Office

Contacting the office:

620 South Walker Street
Bloomington, IN 47403-2121
Phone: 812/334 4261
Fax: 812/334 4273
TTY: 1-800-877-8339 (Federal Relay)
<http://midwest.fws.gov>

Field Supervisor: Scott Pruitt
e-mail: scott_pruitt@fws.gov



Office Facts

- Established: 1978
- FY 2002 budget: \$833,000
- Staff: 11

Office Goals

- Assist landowners and cost-share in restoration of wetlands, prairies and bottomland forests
- Review Clean Water Act permits for wastewater discharges, wetland fill and development
- Under Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, report on impacts to fish and wildlife of federal or federally funded projects
- Implement recovery programs for 21 federally listed species in Indiana
- Consult with federal agencies to ensure compliance with the Endangered Species Act

Services Provided To

- Private citizens
- Federal, state and local agencies
- Conservation organizations

Activity Highlights

- Conduct Natural Resources Damage Assessments or remediation and restoration of contaminated ecosystems
- Assist Department of Defense to protect endangered species and other resources at all military bases in the state
- Work with state and local governments on long-range planning efforts for wetlands and other water resources
- Administer the Indiana GAP Analysis Project and cooperate in statewide biodiversity planning
- Coordinate the rangewide recovery efforts for the endangered Indiana bar
- Develop biotic indicators and status of coastal wetlands within the entire Great Lakes system



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Northern Indiana

Ecological Services Sub-Office

Contacting the office:

1000 West Oakhill Road
Porter, IN 46604
Phone: 219/269 7640
Fax: 219/269 7432
TTY: 1-800-877-8339 (Federal Relay)
<http://midwest.fws.gov>

Biologist: Elizabeth McCloskey
e-mail: elizabeth_mccloskey@fws.gov



Office Facts

- Established: 1993
- FY 2000 Budget: \$67,000
- Staff: One
- Maintains a one-person suboffice in Porter, IN

Office Goals

- Report on impacts to fish and wildlife of federal or federally funded or licensed projects under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act
- Review Clean Water Act permits for wetland fills and developments in 18 Indiana counties
- Consult with federal agencies to ensure compliance with the Endangered Species Act
- Work with private landowners to develop and implement Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs)

Services Provided To

- Private citizens and corporations
- Federal, state and local agencies
- Conservation organizations

Activity Highlights

- Working with a major Indiana utility on an HCP concerning the management of power line rights-of-way for the federally endangered Karner blue butterfly
- Coordinating with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on the Little Calumet River Flood Control and Recreation Project in Lake County
- Participates with the Service Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem Team by representing the Great Lakes drainage of Indiana (Lake Michigan and Lake Erie watersheds)
- Coordinating with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on the Kankakee River basin (Illinois and Indiana) Flood Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration Project



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Indianapolis

Law Enforcement Field Office

Contacting the office:

1711 Commerce Drive, Suite D
Franklin, IN 46131
Phone: 317/346 7014
Fax: 317/346 7015
TTY: 1-800-877-8339 (Federal Relay)
<http://midwest.fws.gov>



Office Facts

- Established: 1977
- Staff: one Special Agent
- The Indianapolis Field Office is administered by the Springfield, IL Field Office

Law Enforcement Objectives

- To protect and conserve native and foreign wildlife through the enforcement of federal laws
- To promote and encourage voluntary compliance with federal wildlife laws through public education and the creation of a deterrent effect

Law Enforcement Priorities

- To investigate violations that have a significant impact on wild populations of federally protected species, such as those violations involving commercial exploitation and/or habitat destruction and modification
- To investigate violations that involve wild populations of species protected by state or foreign laws, with emphasis on interstate and foreign commercial exploitation
- To provide support and assistance to enforcement activities on Service lands, such as National Wildlife Refuges, and to other federal agencies on lands they manage
- To promote awareness of, and support for, federal wildlife laws and the role of law enforcement in protecting our wildlife resources and heritage



Laws Enforced

- Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- Duck Stamp Act
- Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act
- National Wildlife Refuge Act
- Lacey Act
- Airborne Hunting Act
- Endangered Species Act
- Marine Mammal Protection Act
- Archaeological Resource Protection Act
- African Elephant Conservation Act
- Wild Bird Conservation Act



Indiana

North American Waterfowl Management Plan

Contacting the program:

BHW Federal Building
1 Federal Drive
Ft. Snelling, MN 55111-4056
Phone: 612/713 5433
Fax: 612/713 5393
TTY: 1-800-877-8339 (Federal Relay)
<http://midwest.fws.gov>

Joint Venture Coordinator: Barbara Pardo
e-mail: barbara_pardo@fws.gov



State Contact

Ed Theroff
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
RR #2, Box 477
Mitchell, IN 47446
Phone: 812/849 4586
FAX: 812/849 6013
Email: etheroff@dnr.state.in.us

About the Plan

- An international agreement signed in 1986
- Goal: return waterfowl populations to levels of the mid 1970's
- Achieve goal by restoring and protecting wetland and grassland habitat
- Includes 13 habitat joint ventures and three species joint ventures in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico

Partner Involvement

- Private Landowners
- Nonprofit Organizations
- Corporations
- Tribal, local, state and federal government agencies

Habitat Accomplishments

- Over 24,000 acres of habitat protected, restored and enhanced
- Seeded retired cropland to native grasses
- Protected floodplain and stream habitat
- Protected coastal wetlands
- Restored bottomland hardwood forests

Indiana Projects

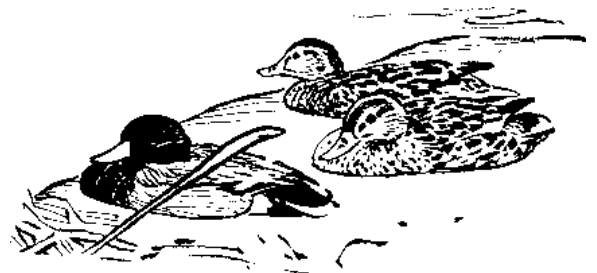
- Wetland and grassland restorations within:
- Grand Kankakee River watershed
 - Southwest Indiana Four Rivers phase III
 - Federal, state and county lands
 - Private lands statewide through voluntary participation

Financial Assistance

- Matching dollars from partners totaling over \$22.2 million
- North American Wetland Conservation Act grants; 13 grants totaling over \$7.5 million

Public Benefits

- Increased recreational opportunities
- Enhanced wildlife diversity
- Improved community relations
- Enhanced floodwater storage
- Improved water quality
- Broad coalition of partnerships supporting voluntary wetland preservation





Indiana

Federal Aid

Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration

Contacting the program:

BHW Federal Building
 1 Federal Drive
 Ft. Snelling, MN 55111-4056
 Phone: 612/713 5131
 Fax: 612/713 5290
 TTY: 1-800-877-8339 (Federal Relay)
<http://midwest.fws.gov>

Chief: Bradley Johnson
 e-mail: bradley_v_johnson@mail.fws.gov



Where the money comes from

Federal excise taxes paid by hunters, anglers, and boaters on hunting and fishing equipment, a portion of the federal fuel tax, and import duties on fishing tackle and pleasure boats.

What the money can be used for

Fish and wildlife research, habitat enhancement, technical assistance to private landowners, environmental review of public projects, land acquisition, operation and maintenance of areas and facilities, boating and angler access improvements, comprehensive planning for fish and wildlife resources, and hunter and aquatic education.

Number of participants and economic benefits to Indiana

- Fishing
 Number of anglers.....874,000
 Fishing expenditures.....\$515 million
- Hunting
 Number of hunters.....290,000
 Hunting expenditures.....\$421 million

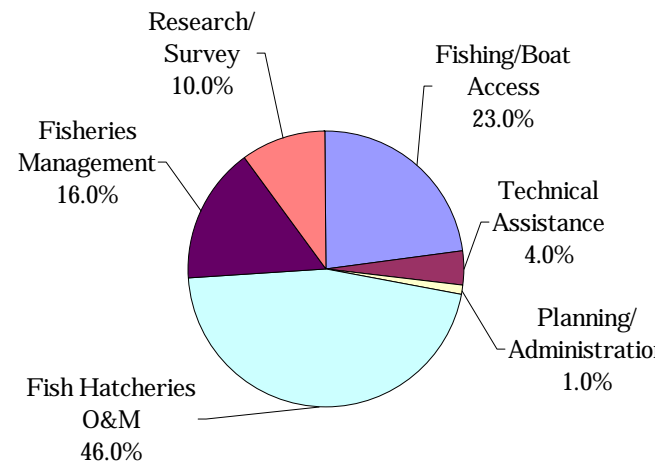
How much money is involved (2002 apportionments)

Sport Fish Restoration.....\$4.5 million
 Wildlife Restoration.....\$3.4 million

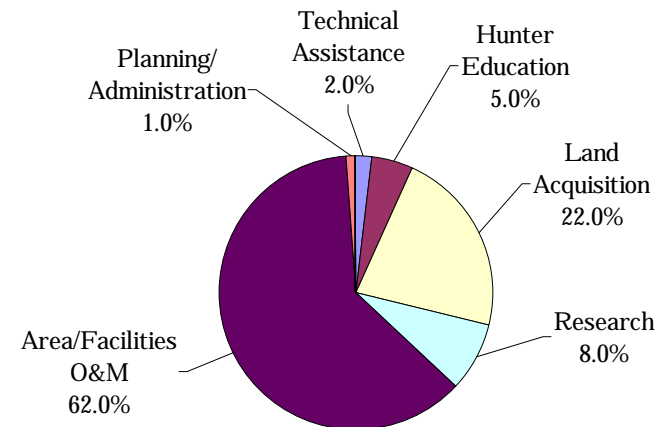


Federal dollars at work in Indiana

Use of Sport Fish Restoration Funds



Use of Wildlife Restoration Funds





Indiana

Migratory Bird Conservation

Contacting the program:

USFWS- Division of migratory birds
1 Federal Drive
Ft. Snelling, MN 55111-4056
Phone: 612/713 5480
Fax: 612/713 5393
TTY: 1-800-877-8339 (Federal Relay)
<http://midwest.fws.gov/midwestbird>

Chief: Steve Wilds
e-mail: steve_wilds@fws.gov



Inventory and Monitoring

- Woodcock Singing Ground Survey
- Mourning Dove Call Count Survey
- Mid-Winter Waterfowl Survey
- Resident Canada goose breeding population survey
- Waterfowl banding program
- Nongame bird inventories on National Wildlife Refuge System lands

Research

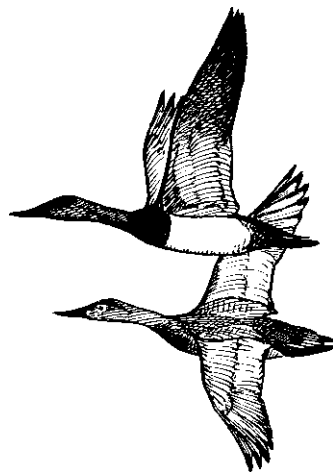
- Study of cerulean warbler population and habitat selection

Management

- Wetland and grassland protection, restoration and enhancement
- Bottomland hardwood restoration
- Hunting regulations development
- Issuance of migratory bird permits
- Integrated bird conservation planning and state and Bird Conservation Region levels

Partnerships

- Indiana Department of Natural Resources
- Ball State University
- Partners in Flights
- North American Waterfowl Management Plan
- U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan
- North American Waterbird Conservation Plan



Outreach

- International Migratory Bird Day
- Junior Duck Stamp Contest



Indiana

Partners for Fish and Wildlife

Contacting the Program:

Indiana Ecological Services Office
620 South Walker Street
Bloomington, IN 47403-2121
Phone: 812/334 4261
Fax: 812/334 4273
TTY: 1-800-877-8339 (Federal Relay)
<http://midwest.fws.gov>

State Coordinator: Jeff Kiefer
e-mail: jeffrey_kiefer@fws.gov



Local Coordinators

North Elizabeth McCloskey 219/ 983 9753
Southeast Lee Herzberger 812/522 4352
Southwest Bill McCoy 812/749 3199

Opportunities on Private Lands

Habitat Restoration

- Wetland and associated uplands
- Migratory bird habitat
- Endangered species habitat
- Watersheds of National Wildlife Refuges
- Bottomland hardwood restoration
- Native prairie restoration
- Voluntary participation
- Invasive species control

Technical Assistance

- Wetland and Conservation Reserve Programs
- Farm Bill Wetland Conservation Provisions
- Farm Service Agency
- Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

Upland Restorations (1987 - 2002)

- 283 sites
- 2,793 acres

Bottomland Hardwood Reforestation (1994-2002)

- 134 sites
- 1,321 acres

Partnerships

- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Indiana Department of Natural Resources
- Ducks Unlimited
- Local Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- The Nature Conservancy
- Pheasants Forever

2002 Funding and Special Projects

- \$205,000 for habitat restoration and technical assistance
- Upper Mississippi River/Great Lakes Region Joint Venture
- Indiana Grand Kankakee Marsh Restoration Project
- Southwest Indiana Four Rivers Project
- Natural Resource Damage Assessments
- NE Indiana Wetland/Grassland Restoration Project

Wetland Restorations (1987-2002)

- 1,075 sites
- 6,366 acres





Indiana

Division of Realty



Contacting the program:

BHW Federal Building
1 Federal Drive
Ft. Snelling, MN 55111-4056
Phone: 612/713 5410
Fax: 612/713 5290
TTY: 1-800-877-8339 (Federal Relay)
<http://midwest.fws.gov>

Chief: Pat Carroll
e-mail: pat_carroll@fws.gov

Ascertainment and Planning

- Before a new refuge is established, or the boundary of an existing refuge is significantly revised, the Service completes a detailed planning process to consider the effects of the proposed actions. A team of biologists and planners identify potential new lands to be acquired or preserved in some other way. The team works with local communities, landowners, state agencies, private conservation groups, and other interested parties to carefully plan where new lands and waters should be protected or restored for endangered species, migratory birds or other nationally important fish and wildlife conservation purposes.
- The Service is also required to prepare management plans for existing refuges. These Comprehensive Conservation Plans (CCP) detail management direction on refuges for a 15 year period. The Planning staff ensures that all planning efforts comply with National Environmental Policy Act requirements.
- Public involvement is an important component of all these planning processes.

Realty Management

- Once properties are acquired, the Realty Management staff is responsible for managing real estate records for over one million acres of Service owned lands throughout Region 3.

The Realty Management staff also:

- Works to assure that counties receive revenue sharing payments
- Processes non-funded land acquisition such as exchanges, donations, transfers and withdrawals
- Processes right-of-way permits across Service owned land
- Provides surveying capabilities for land acquisition and boundary retracement
- Produces cartographic products for Service use

Land Acquisition

- The Realty Division's staff of appraisers and realty specialists works with landowners who have indicated an interest in selling their property, or property interests, to the Service. The appraisers determine fair market value and the realty specialists make the fee-title or easement purchases from these willing landowners. Lands are acquired by using funds from:
 - The Migratory Bird Conservation Fund (received from the sale of Federal Duck Stamps)
 - The Congressionally appropriated Land and Water Conservation Fund
 - Natural Resource Damage Assessments

U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Region 3
“Great Lakes - Big Rivers”
BHW Federal Building
1 Federal Drive
Ft. Snelling, MN 55111

612/713-5360

February 2003

