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The mission
of the
**United States
Fish & 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

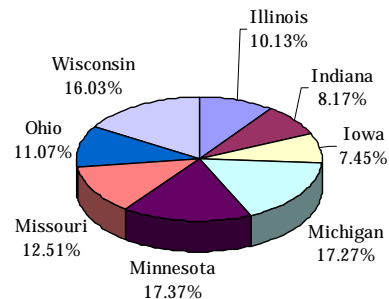
- 6 National Fish Hatcheries
- 10 Fisheries stations
- 10 Ecological Services offices
- 22 Law Enforcement offices

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



Ohio

State Highlights

2002 Ohio State Facts

- The Service employs more than 20 people in Ohio
- The Fiscal Year 2002 Resource Management budget for Service activities in Ohio totals \$1.9 million

National Wildlife Refuge Facts

- Three National Wildlife Refuges in Ohio total 8,866 acres
- In 2002, more than 127,000 people visited refuges in Ohio to hunt, fish, participate in interpretive programs and view wildlife
- 488 school children participated in Service educational programs

Federal Aid to State Fish and Wildlife Programs

In 2002 Ohio received:

- \$6.5 million for sport fish restoration
- \$4.2 million for wildlife restoration and hunter education
- Wildlife Restoration Act funds have helped the state of Ohio meet its wildlife management goals through significant land acquisitions for its Wildlife Restoration Projects. One of these acquisitions is the Tri-Valley Wildlife Area, located in Muskingum county. This 16,200-acre reclaimed strip mine was purchased for \$4.5 million and will provide increased recreational activities for the public and additional habitat for wildlife.

Threatened Snake Returns to Lake Erie Island

Researchers and biologists in 2002 confirmed that the Lake Erie water snake, a threatened species, has returned to Green Island—the first confirmed sightings for more than 20 years. Managed by the Ohio Division of Wildlife as a wildlife refuge, the 17-acre Green Island is one of the limestone islands in western Lake Erie on which water snakes were found in the 1930s and 1940s. Surveys in the 1980s and 1990s found no water snakes, but on a visit to the island this July, researchers from Northern Illinois University and Fish and Wildlife Service employees captured 10 Lake Erie water snakes and implanted them with tracking tags. They also observed nine more snakes that were not captured.

Ottawa NWR Draws Birds, Visitors, Dollars to Ohio

More than 130,000 visitors flocked to Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge in 2002, many of them to see the songbirds, waterfowl and other bird species that use the refuge and the adjacent state-owned Magee Marsh as stopovers during their long migrations. Visitors to the refuge and the marsh, who pump some \$5.6 million into the local economy each year, are rewarded with miles of hiking trails, many of them disabled accessible, and the opportunity to observe and photograph birds on a refuge that was recently named as a “birding hotspot” by Birder’s World magazine. Ottawa is slated for a new visitor center within three years.



Ohio

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 in 540 refuges.

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

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



wolves. The refuge system also provides breeding, nesting and feeding grounds for a wide variety of migratory birds.

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.



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.

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.

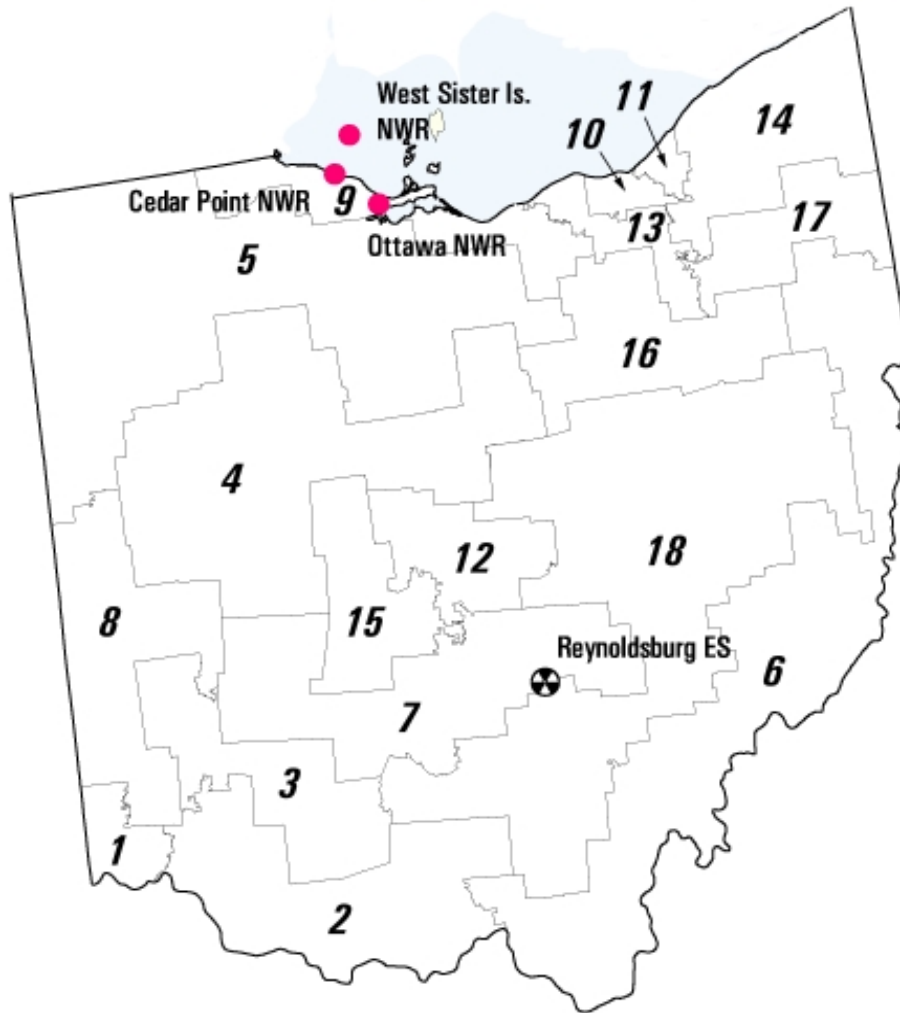
While Refuges are places where wildlife comes first, they offer unparalleled wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities. Many offer hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, environmental education and interpretation.

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.



Ohio

Congressional Delegation



Ohio Senators and Representatives

Sen. George Voinovich (R)

Sen. Mike DeWine (R)

Representatives by District:

OH-1 Steve Chabot (R)

OH-2 Rob Portman (D)

OH-3 Michael Turner (R)

OH-4 Michael Oxley (R)

OH-5 Paul Gillmor (R)

OH-6 Ted Strickland (D)

OH-7 David Hobson (R)

OH-8 John Boehner (R)

OH-9 Marcie Kaptur (D)

OH-10 Dennis Kucinich (D)

OH-11 Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D)

OH-12 Pat Tiberi (R)

OH-13 Sherrod Brown (D)

OH-14 Steven LaTourette (R)

OH-15 Deborah Pryce (R)

OH-16 Ralph Regula (R)

OH-17 Timothy Ryan (D)

OH-18 Bob Ney (R)



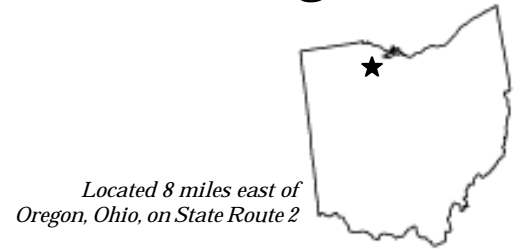
Ottawa

National Wildlife Refuge

Contacting the refuge:

14000 West State Route 2
Oak Harbor, OH 43449
Phone: 419/898 0014
Fax: 419/898 7895
TTY: 1-800-877-8339 (Federal Relay)
<http://midwest.fws.gov/ottawa>

Refuge Manager: Dan Frisk
e-mail: dan_frisk@fws.gov



Refuge Facts

- The Ottawa Refuge Complex is made up of three Refuges: Ottawa NWR, Cedar Point NWR and West Sister Island NWR
- Ottawa NWR was established in 1961 and contains three units- Ottawa, Navarre and Darby covering 6,350 acres
- Cedar Point NWR was established in 1964 and covers 2,445 acres
- West Sister Island NWR was established in 1937 and all of its 77 acres were designated as wilderness in 1975

Natural History

- Almost 98 percent of the original wetlands in northwest Ohio have been lost to development and agriculture
- The western Lake Erie basin wetlands lie at the intersection of the Mississippi and Atlantic flyways
- As much as 70 percent of the Mississippi flyway population of black ducks use Lake Erie marshes for migration
- Ottawa NWR is a major migration corridor and stopover area for migrating waterfowl and other birds

Financial Impact of Refuge

- Eleven person staff
- 120,000 visitors annually
- FY 2002 Budget: \$1,273,000

Refuge Objectives

- Restore optimum acreage to a natural floodplain condition
- Improve and restore wetland habitat
- Improve fishery and wildlife resources
- Provide for biodiversity
- Provide public opportunities for outdoor recreation and environmental education

Management Tools

- Wetland restoration
- Moist soil management
- Water management
- Cooperative farming
- Outreach and environmental education

Public Use Opportunities

- Hunting, fishing and trapping
- Environmental education
- Wildlife observation
- Hiking





U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Reynoldsburg

Ecological Services Field Office

Contacting the office:

6950 Americana Parkway, Ste. H
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068-4127
Phone: 614/469 6923
Fax: 614/469 6919
TTY: 1-800-877-8339 (Federal Relay)
<http://midwest.fws.gov/reynoldsburg>

Field Supervisor: Mary Knapp
e-mail: reynoldsburg@fws.gov



Office Facts

- Established: 1978
- FY 2002 Budget: \$686,611
- Staff: eight

Office Goals

- Emphasize work on federal trust resources, migratory birds, endangered and threatened species, interjurisdictional fish, and Service owned lands
- Protect and enhance federal trust resources under laws such as the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act; Clean Water Act; National Environmental Policy Act; Migratory Bird Treaty Act; Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act; Endangered Species Act; Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act; and Farm Bills
- Work with federal and state agencies and private organizations on federal trust resource fish and wildlife issues in Ohio

Services Provided To

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

Activity Highlights

- Participating in interagency team effort to reduce sediments entering Maumee River and Toledo Harbor
- Assisting with Ashtabula River and Mahoning River Partnership efforts to remove contaminated sediments from these rivers
- Coordinating with federal and state agencies and private consultants to avoid impacts to federal trust resource habitat and mitigate for unavoidable habitat losses
- Working with private partners, state and federal agencies to restore wetland and riparian habitats in Ohio
- Consulting with other federal agencies, and coordinating with state agencies, on 21 endangered and threatened species
- Working with federal, state and non-governmental agencies to clean up contaminated sites and restore fish and wildlife resources
- Coordinating recovery actions for the threatened Lake Erie water snake, and the endangered Indiana bat, Karner blue butterfly, American burying beetle, purple cat's paw pearl mussel and running buffalo clover
- Leading the restoration and enhancement of water quality in the Leading Creek watershed (Meigs County)



Delaware

Law Enforcement Field Office

Contacting the office:

359 Main Road

Delaware, OH 43015

Phone: 740/368 0137

Fax: 740/368 0135

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

<http://midwest.fws.gov/delaware>



Office Facts

- Established: 1996
- Staff: one Special Agent
- The Delaware Field Office is administered by the Ann Arbor, Michigan, 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



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Sandusky

Law Enforcement Field Office

Contacting the office:

6100 Columbus Avenue

Sandusky, OH 44870

Phone: 419/625 9713

Fax: 419/929 0250

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

<http://midwest.fws.gov/sandusky>



Office Facts

- Established: 1982
- Staff: one Special Agent
- The Sandusky Field Office is administered by the Ann Arbor, Michigan, 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
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Laws Enforced

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- 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



Ohio

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

Pat Ruble
Ohio Division of Wildlife
1840 Belcher Drive
Columbus, OH 43224-1329
Phone: 614/265 6329
FAX: 614/262 1143
Email: pat.ruble@dnr.state.ohio.us

About the Plan

- An international agreement signed in 1986
- Goal: return waterfowl populations to levels of the mid 1970s
- Achieve goals 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
- Local, state and federal agencies

Habitat Accomplishments

- Over 18,000 acres of habitat protected, restored and enhanced
- Seeded retired cropland to native grasses
- Protected floodplain and stream habitat
- Protected coastal wetlands

Ohio Projects

Wetland and grassland restorations within:

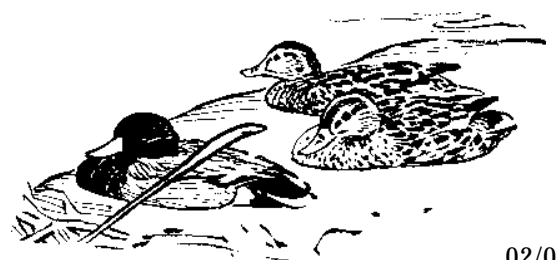
- Northwest Ohio Wetlands Initiative
- Estel Warwick Wetland and Expansion Connectivity Project
- Funk Bottoms
- Mosquito Creek/Grand River Coastal Wetlands
- Big Island
- State and federal lands
- Private lands statewide through voluntary participation

Financial Assistance

- Matching dollars from partners totaling over \$12.5 million
- North American Wetland Conservation Act grants; 12 grants totaling over \$4.3 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





Ohio

Federal Aid

Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration

Contacting the program:

BHW Federal Building
 1 Federal Drive
 Ft. Snelling, MN 55111-4056
 Phone: 612/713 5130
 Fax: 612/713 5290
 TTY: 1-800-877-8339 (Federal Relay)
<http://midwest.fws.gov>

Chief: Bradley Johnson
 e-mail: bradley_v_johnson@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 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 Ohio

- Fishing
 Number of anglers..... 1.38 million
 Fishing expenditures..... \$945 million

- Hunting
 Number of hunters..... 490,000
 Hunting expenditures..... \$951 million

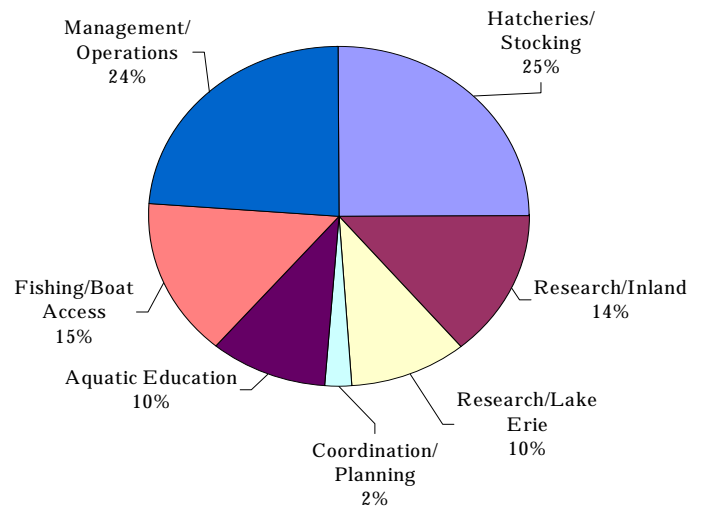
How much money is involved (2002 apportionments)

Sport Fish Restoration..... \$6.5 million
 Wildlife Restoration..... \$4.2 million

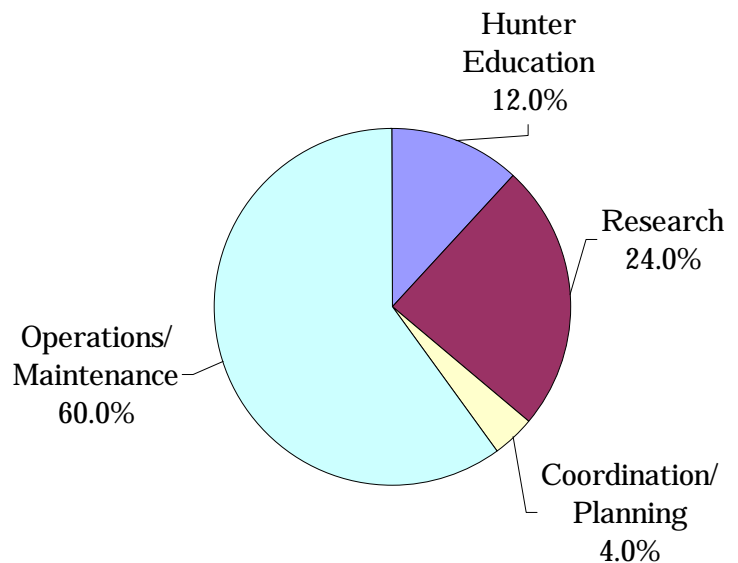


Federal dollars at work in Ohio

Use of Sport Fish Restoration Funds



Use of Wildlife Restoration Funds





Ohio

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
- Great Lakes Colonial Waterbird Survey
- Nongame bird inventories on National Wildlife Refuge System lands
- U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan
- North American Waterbird Conservation Plan

Outreach

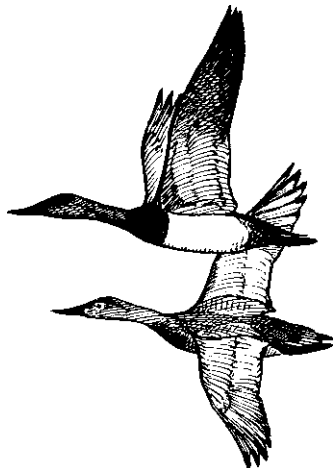
- International Migratory Bird Day
- Junior Duck Stamp Contest
- Fact sheets on double-crested cormorants
- Shorebird Sister Schools Program

Management

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

Partnerships

- Ohio Department of Natural Resources
- Partners in Flight
- North American Waterfowl Management Plan
- Black Swamp Bird Observatory





Ohio

Partners for Fish and Wildlife

Contacting the Program:

Reynoldsburg Ecological Services Office
6950-H Americana Parkway
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068
Phone: 513/529 8398
Fax: 513/529 5814
TTY: 1-800-877-8339 (Federal Relay)
<http://midwest.fws.gov>

State Coordinator: Bill Hegge
e-mail: bill_hegge@fws.gov



Local Coordination Offices

North Ottawa NWR 419/898 0014
South Reynoldsburg FO 614/469 6923

Opportunities on Private Lands

Habitat Restoration

- Wetlands and Associated Uplands
- Migratory Bird Habitat
- Watersheds of National Wildlife Refuges
- Voluntary Participation

Technical Assistance

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

Partnerships

- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Local Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- Private conservation organizations
- Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Wetland Restorations (1987 - 2002)

- 440 sites
- 2,470 acres

Upland Restorations (1987 - 2002)

- 210 sites
- 1,900 acres





Ohio

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: Patrick Carroll

e-mail: patrick_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

