



New York & Long Island Field Offices

<http://nyfo.fws.gov>
2009



Congressional District 28: Louise McIntosh Slaughter

"The most alarming of all man's assaults upon the environment is the contamination of air, earth, rivers, and sea with dangerous and even lethal materials."

Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring*

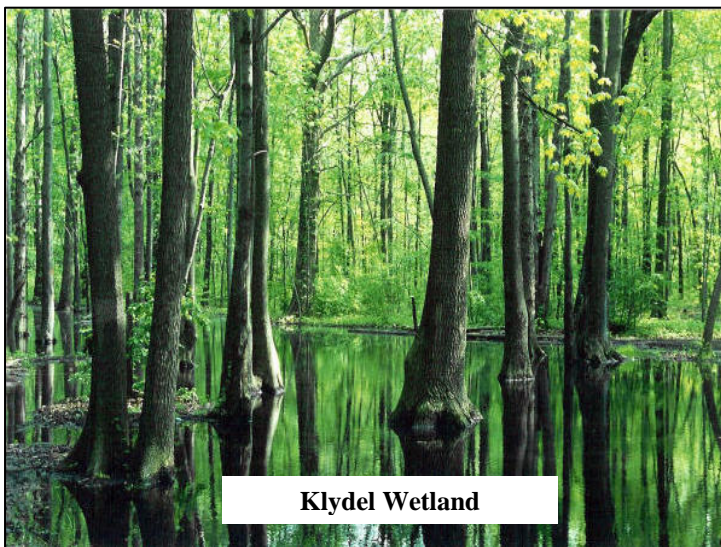
Buffalo and Niagara Rivers

The Buffalo River natural resource trustee agencies, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Tuscarora Nation, and State of New York have reviewed the contaminant information on the Buffalo River and have determined that conducting a Natural Resource Damage Assessment is warranted. The trustees are responsible for evaluating the injuries associated with contamination of the natural resources of the Buffalo River and determining appropriate actions to restore those resources. A review of the contaminant information on the Niagara River is expected to begin in 2009.



Gulls on the Niagara River above the falls

Completed Restoration Projects – Love Canal Settlement



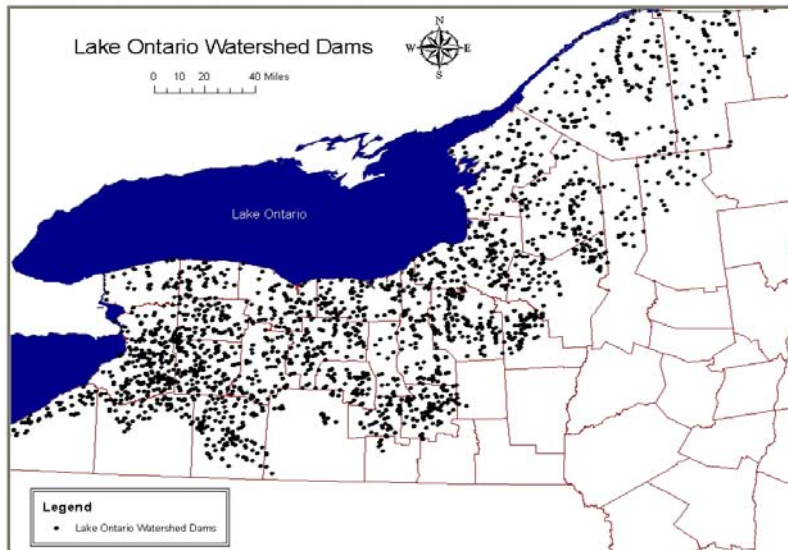
Klydel Wetland

The natural resource trustees, led by USFWS, have completed three restoration projects thus far using funds from the Love Canal, 102nd Street, and Forest Glen settlements. Two critical wetland parcels were purchased to add to the National Audubon Society's North Tonawanda (Klydel) wetland preserve. This is a wetland oasis protected as habitat within a rapidly developing area. We have also provided funding for over 100 acres of warm season grassland restoration completed by the Niagara County Soil and Water Conservation District and Tuscarora Nation. The USFWS has restored and enhanced wetland and warm season grassland habitat at Joseph Davis State

Park. Upcoming projects include walleye and common tern restoration projects in Erie County and Cayuga Creek restoration in Niagara County.

Dam Removal/Fish Passage

New York has 1.34 million anglers and an additional 1.55 million non-residents who come to New York State to fish each year. Dams impact fish passage and degrade stream ecology, resulting in a decline in fisheries. There are more than 6,000 dams in New York State. The New York Field Office (NYFO) is working to evaluate dam removals in the Lake Ontario Watershed and the Susquehanna River Basin. The USFWS has many programs to help communities fund a dam removal such as the National Fish Passage Program, Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, the National Fish Habitat Initiative, and the Wildlife Restoration Act.



Great Lakes Grant Programs - Need for Proposals from New York

New Yorkers are greatly concerned with what happens in the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River. There are more than 24 Federal grant programs to fund habitat restoration in the Great Lakes watershed available to individuals, communities, and non-profits in New York. The NYFO is assisting in matching New York based organizations to the appropriate funding programs.

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Mitigation Funds Facilitate Collaborative Conservation



A \$24 million Fish Enhancement, Mitigation, and Research Fund (FEMRF) was established in 2003 by a FERC relicensing settlement agreement for the St. Lawrence-FDR Power Project to benefit aquatic resources in the Lake Ontario/St. Lawrence River Basin. The Agreement also established the FEMRF Fisheries Advisory Committee (FAC), a collaborative conservation group comprised of Federal, State, and Canadian resource agencies, the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, the New York Power Authority, St. Lawrence County, and New York Rivers United. The FAC first convened in August 2005.

The collaboration developed a conservation strategy to benefit recovery of native fish species historically found in the St. Lawrence River. These species were impacted by the power project and are also targeted for recovery in 18 comprehensive plans developed by international conservation groups on both sides of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. In 2007 and 2008, the FEMRF contributed approximately \$1.4 million to conservation efforts. The FAC is seeking proposals from restoration ecologists, the academic community, tribes, non-profits, and other interested parties in the Lake Ontario/St. Lawrence River Basin. The USFWS anticipates that \$400k-\$1 million of the FEMRF will be awarded to collaborative conservation groups in FY2009. See <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/nyfo/fwc/femrf.htm> for more information.



Fish ladder to pass northern pike and muskellunge to spawning and rearing habitats, Delaney Bay, St. Lawrence River, Grindstone Island, New York. Ducks Unlimited, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Partners for Fish and Wildlife, and SUNY-ESF.

The USFWS anticipates that \$400k-\$1 million of the FEMRF will be awarded to collaborative conservation groups in FY2009. See <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/nyfo/fwc/femrf.htm> for more information.

Wind Energy Projects

Wind energy has generated much interest from developers due to Federal tax incentives, a State renewable portfolio standard, and the desire for diverse energy sources. These projects have been greeted with mixed reactions by local residents and public officials. We regularly respond to requests for information on projects located within Congressional District 28.

In New York State, 13 wind power projects have been constructed having a total nameplate capacity of over 1000 megawatts. We are tracking the progress of wind power projects for at least 107 sites throughout the State, 4 of which are located in Congressional District 28. Studies at most of the sites indicate low wildlife use. A few sites, however, may be of concern due to the presence of listed species or concentrations of birds. Several projects have been proposed adjacent to Lake Ontario and we are working with project sponsors to avoid areas where large numbers of birds may be migrating.



Turbines, Turbines, Everywhere Four hydrokinetic projects have been proposed on the Niagara and St. Lawrence Rivers. The three Niagara projects consist of 875 20-KW turbines (6 feet in diameter) to be located above the falls, and 54 1.3-MW and 36 2-MW turbines (30 feet in diameter) to be located below the falls, for a total of 157.5 MW. Resources of concern include migratory birds (a globally important bird area), American eel, lake sturgeon, Chinook salmon, Atlantic salmon, and steelhead. The St. Lawrence Project consists of 110 1-MW turbines (size to be determined) for a total of 110 MW. Lake sturgeon, American eel, and migratory birds are important resources on the St. Lawrence River.

