U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Midwest Region

Minnesota Offices and Activities

Minnesota

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Service Facilities in Minnesota

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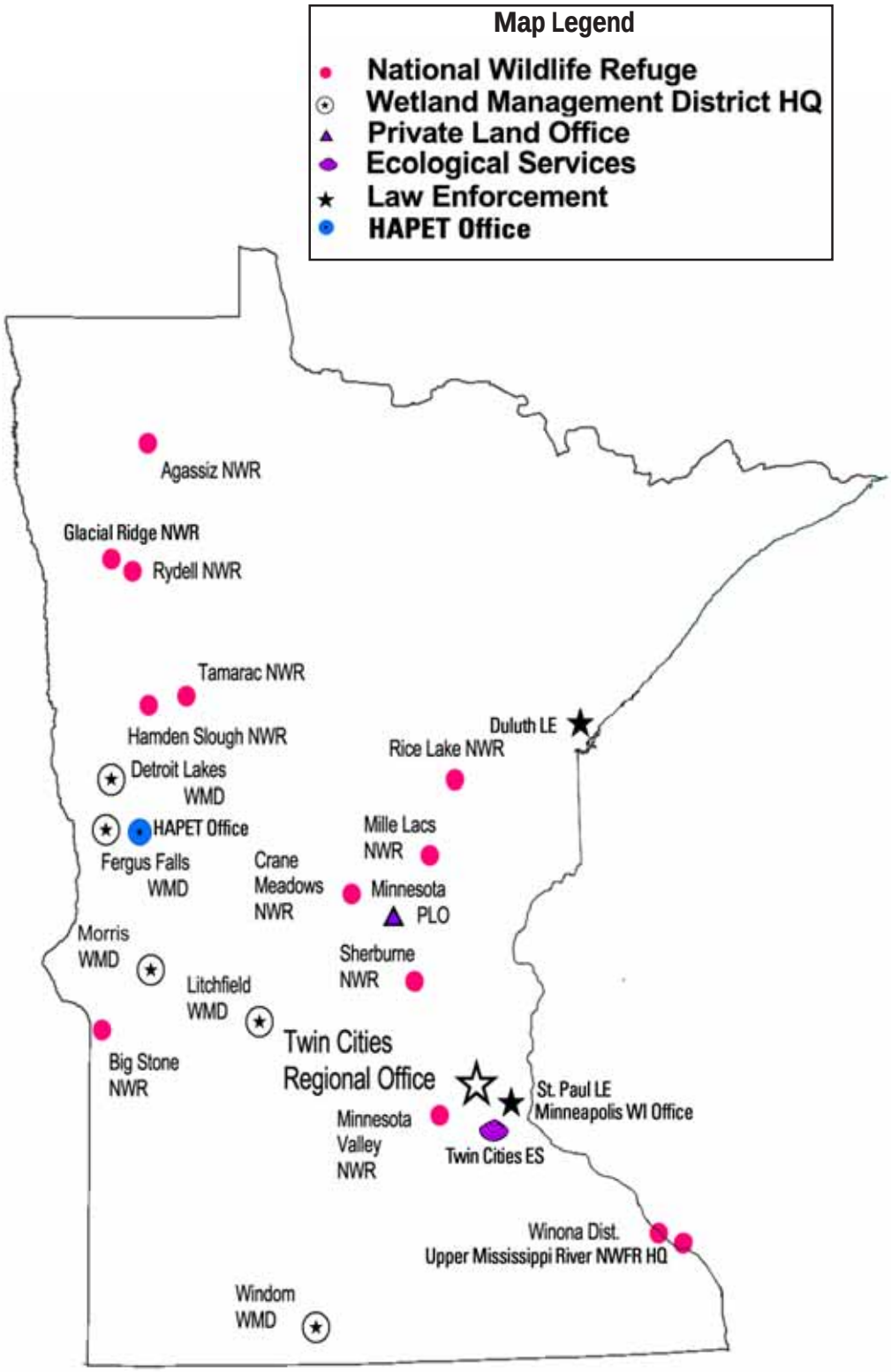


Introduction

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Quick Facts

- 545 national wildlife refuges
- 95 million acres of fish and wildlife habitat
- 81 ecological services field stations
- 69 national fish hatcheries
- 63 fish and wildlife management offices
- 7,500 employees

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 lands not owned by the federal government. Partnerships with Native American tribes, state and local governments, non-government organizations and private citizens are critical to the Service fulfilling our mission. Programs such as Partners for Fish and Wildlife, Partners in Flight, the Coastal Program, and partnership activities with individuals are the primary mechanisms for assisting in voluntary habitat restoration on non-Service lands and fostering conservation practices throughout the Region.

The Service manages the 95 million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System that consists of 545 National Wildlife Refuges and thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. The Service also carries out its mission through the 81 ecological services field stations, 69 national fish hatcheries, and 63 fish and wildlife management offices located nationwide.

The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores fish and wildlife habitat such as wetlands, administers the Endangered Species Act, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. The Service also administers a number of grant programs that promote the restoration of fish and wildlife resources and their habitat on tribal and private lands.

The Service also oversees the Federal Assistance program that distributes federal excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state natural resource 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.

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

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Midwest Regional Highlights

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

Quick Facts

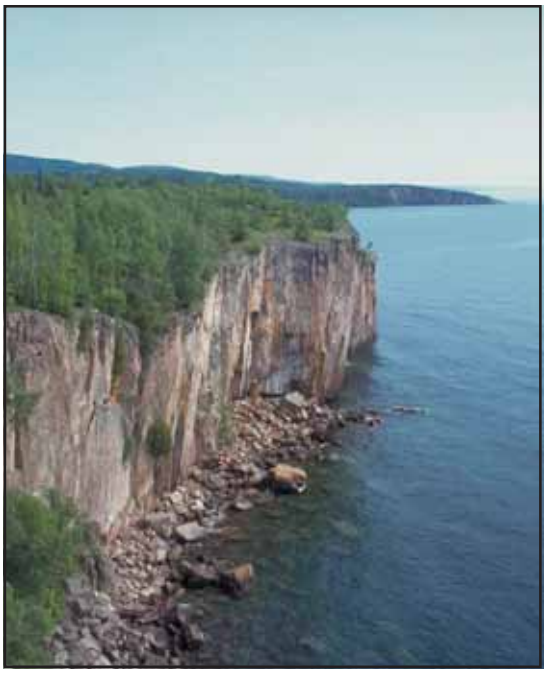
- Employment: 1,110 people
- Acres Managed: 1.29 million
- The Fiscal Year 2004 Budget for Regional Service activities totaled $80 million
- More than 7.7 million people visited Refuges throughout Region 3 to hunt, fish, participate in interpretive programs, and view wildlife
- More than 150,000 school children participated in Service educational programs
- 119,553 acres of wetlands restored
- 216 miles of streams restored
- 82,454 acres of upland habitat restored

The Region is Committed to

- Expanded partnerships offering innovative opportunities to enhance the Region's fish and wildlife resources
- Healthy fish and wildlife trust species populations and habitats to support them
- Providing the public with quality hunting, fishing, wildlife watching, and other wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities on Service lands
- An organization dedicated to employee excellence, reflecting the nation's rich diversity, and providing quality service to and decision-making for the resources for which we have trust responsibility (migratory birds, threatened and endangered species, interjurisdictional fish).

Regional Programs and Offices

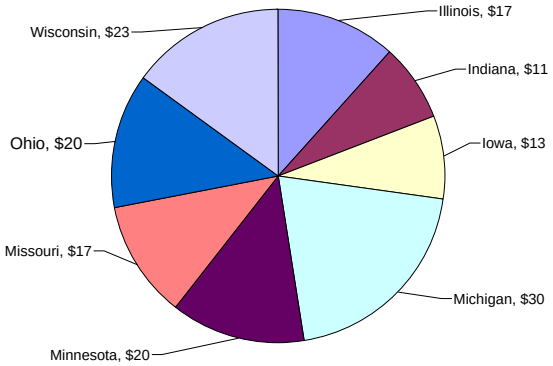
- 56 National Wildlife Refuges, including the newest – Glacial Ridge in northwest Minnesota
- 12 Wetland Management Districts
- More than 300,000 acres in waterfowl production areas
- 6 National Fish Hatcheries
- 6 Fishery Resources Offices
- 2 Sea Lamprey Control Stations
- 8 Private Lands Offices
- 9 Ecological Services offices
- 18 Law Enforcement offices



Federal Assistance Program

In Fiscal Year 2004, the Region's Federal Assistance Office managed $151 million to help strengthen sport fish and wildlife restoration programs throughout the eight-state region.

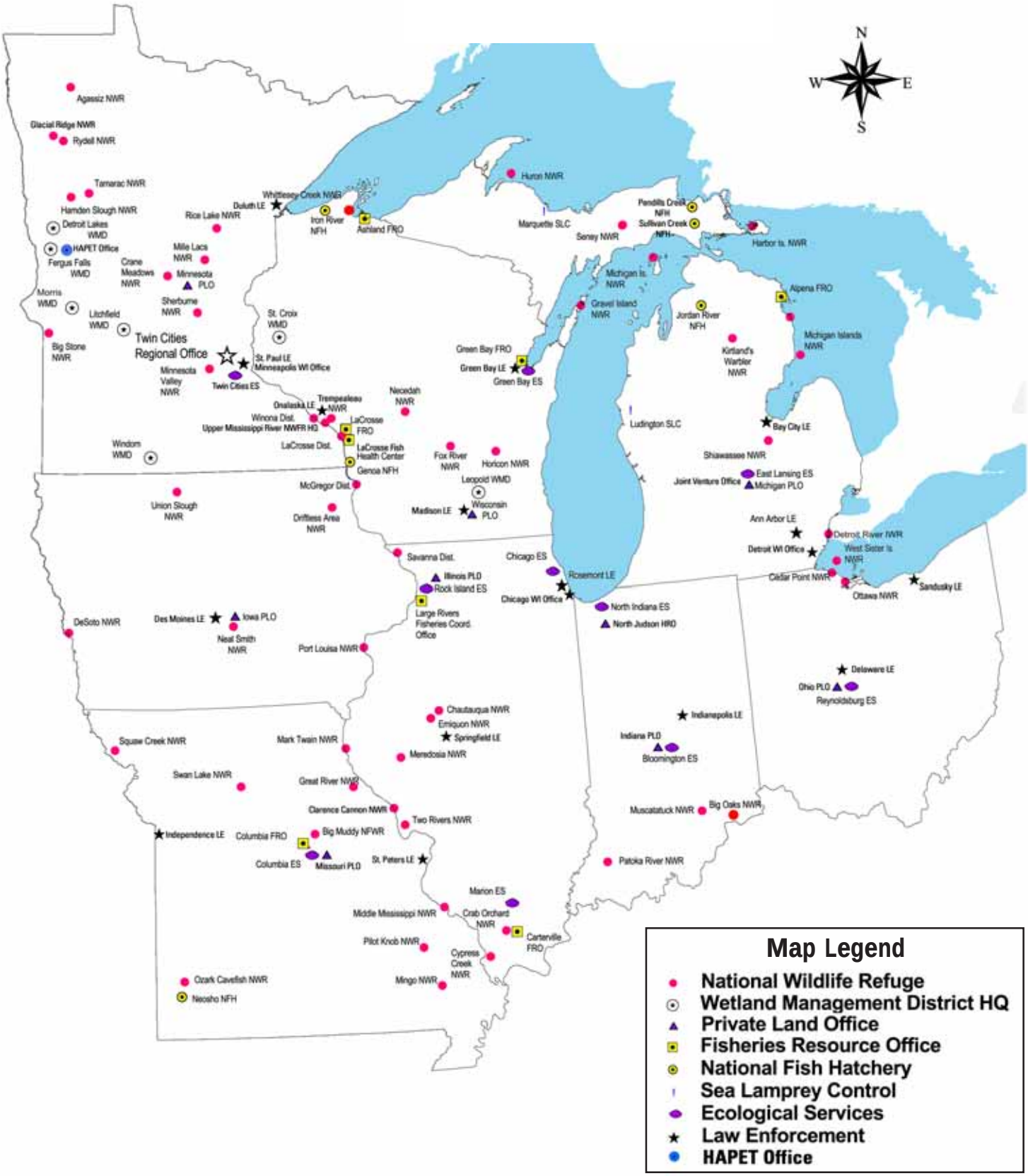
Fiscal Year 2004 Federal Assistance Program Grants by State
(In Millions)



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Midwest Regional Offices

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



Minnesota

Fish and Wildlife Service Highlights

Quick Facts

2004 Minnesota State Facts

- The Service employs more than 450 people in Minnesota, and about half of those are at the Regional Office at Ft. Snelling.
- The Fiscal Year 2004 Resource Management budget for Service activities in Minnesota totaled $30.5 million
- 13 National Wildlife Refuges totaling more than 207,000 acres
- Eight Wetland Management Districts totaling more than 332,000 acres (including easements)
- In 2004, more than 4.4 million people visited national wildlife refuges and wetland districts in Minnesota to hunt, fish, participate in interpretive programs and view wildlife

Federal Assistance to State Fish and Wildlife Programs

- In 2004 Minnesota received:
  - $11.2 million for sport fish restoration
  - $6.2 million for wildlife restoration and hunter education

Glacial Ridge National Wildlife Refuge

The nation's newest national wildlife refuge, Glacial Ridge NWR, is located in northwestern Minnesota and is an example of the Service's commitment to partnerships for on-the-ground conservation efforts. The Nature Conservancy in October 2004 transferred more than 2,300 acres of native prairie and wetlands to the Service as the first piece of the 35,000-acre Glacial Ridge NWR. The donated land is a portion of the 24,140 acres the Conservancy owns within the refuge.

Since 2000, the Conservancy and more than 30 partners have been working together to restore thousands of acres of northern tallgrass prairie and wetlands at the site. It is the largest tallgrass prairie and wetlands reconstruction project in the nation. Establishing this refuge ensures public recreational access and protects important habitat for migratory waterfowl and ground nesting birds.

Protecting Endangered Species

The Twin Cities Ecological Services Field Office works to conserve and protect the 16 federally listed endangered, threatened or candidate species in Minnesota. Actions to save these species from extinction result in improved water quality, preservation and restoration of natural areas, clean up of contaminants, and restoration of degraded rivers and streams.

The Service leads recovery work for the winged mapleleaf, an endangered species considered to be one of the rarest freshwater mussels in North America. The Twin Cities Ecological Services Field Office works with researchers from the University of Minnesota, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, USGS, the La Crosse Fishery Resource Office, and National Park Service. Recent accomplishments include identifying channel catfish and blue catfish as suitable hosts, undertaking river studies to ensure artificial propagation and reintroduction follows the mussels' natural cycle, and monitoring range expansion of invasive zebra mussels.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Agassiz

National Wildlife Refuge

Quick Facts

Refuge Facts

- Established: 1937
- Acres: 61,500 (4,000 in wilderness)
- Refuge name changed from Mud Lake Migratory Waterfowl Refuge in 1961
- Maintains a resident moose herd

Financial Impact of Refuge

- Eleven person staff
- 20,000 visitors annually
- FY 2004 Budget: $1.3 million

Refuge Location

The refuge is located 12 miles north of Thief River Falls and 11 miles east on County Road 7

Natural History

- First drainage district organized to convert the marshes into arable land in 1909
- Approximately $1 million had been spent on the drainage system by 1933
- Tax assessments forced the state legislature to absorb the drainage taxes and authorize the land to be purchased as a wildlife refuge
- The refuge lies in the bed of glacial Lake Agassiz in a transition zone between coniferous forests and the prairie pothole region
- Supports 287 species of birds and 49 species of mammals

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
- Conduct research

Highlight

The refuge is engaged in research that is unlocking the natural history secrets of American and least bitterns, moose and timber wolves

Priorities

- Construct trails, observation areas and environmental education facilities

- Acquire and interpret aerial photos and other information to expand the Geographic Information System
- Develop and implement management plans and provide protection for 5,400 acres of easements within the refuge's seven-county management district
- Repair ditch 11

Public Use Opportunities

- Wildlife observation
- Environmental education
- Auto tour route
- Hunting (big game)
- Two hiking trails
- Visitor center

Contacting the Refuge

Refuge Manager: Margaret Anderson
22996 - 290th Street Northeast
Middle River, MN 56737

Phone: 218-449-4115
Fax: 218-449-3241
TTY: 1-800-877-8339 (Federal Relay)
E-mail: margaret_anderson@fws.gov
http://midwest.fws.gov/agassiz

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Big Stone
National Wildlife Refuge and Wetland Management District

Quick Facts

Refuge Facts
- Established: 1975
- Acres: 11,521
- Part of the Big Stone-Whetstone River Project of Minnesota and South Dakota
- Land originally purchased by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and transferred to the Service

Financial Impact of Refuge
- Ten person staff
- 30,000 visitors annually
- FY 2004 Budget: $1.3 million

Refuge Location
The refuge is located three miles southeast of Ortonville, Minnesota, on Highway 7

Natural History
- Refuge consists of wetlands and grasslands located in the tallgrass prairie life zone
- Contains more than 6,000 acres of grassland, including large tracts of native prairie
- Major waterfowl production and migration area
- Maintains the only population of ball cactus in Minnesota
- Refuge serves as a wintering area for as many as 1,200 whitetail deer
- Unique features include the lichen covered granite outcrops for which the refuge was named
- Maintains a population of reintroduced river otters

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

Highlight
- The refuge is engaged in shorebird research focused on increasing our knowledge of their length of stay on fall migration sites and the value of temporary/seasonal wetlands

Priorities
- Construct a new visitor center
- Construct entrance roads, approaches, parking lots and install culverts where needed on all Waterfowl Production Areas
- Expand the biological program and the refuge's ability to restore degraded habitats

Public Use Opportunities
- Hiking
- Hunting and fishing
- Environmental education
- Wildlife observation
- Auto tour route

Contacting the Refuge
Refuge Manager: Alice Hanley
44843 County Road 19
Odessa, MN 56276

Phone: 320-273-2191
Fax: 320-273-2231
TTY: 1-800-877-8339 (Federal Relay)
E-mail: alice_hanley@fws.gov
http://midwest.fws.gov/bigstone

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Glacial Ridge

National Wildlife Refuge

Quick Facts

Refuge Facts

- Established Oct. 12, 2004
- Acres: 2,300
- Authorized 37,756 acres
- Twenty-six cooperating agencies, led by The Nature Conservancy and Polk County Commissioners, provided the catalyst for this prairie restoration project, culminating in the establishment of the 545th National Wildlife Refuge

Financial Impact of Refuge

- Currently managed with the five-person staff of Rydell NWR

Refuge Location

The refuge is located 6 miles west of Mentor, Minnesota

Natural History

- Beach ridges formed from Glacial Lake Agassiz, vegetated with true tallgrass prairie is the heart and soul of the refuge. The ultimate restoration of 8,000 acres of ridge top wetlands and 15,000 acres of prairie will complement the existing 5,000 acres of untilled native prairie.
- The return of the greater prairie chicken will be the star of success

Refuge Objectives

- Strive to maintain diversity and increase abundance of waterfowl and other migratory bird species dependent of prairie wetland and grassland habitats
- Conserve, manage, and restore the diversity and viability of native fish, wildlife and plant populations associated with tallgrass prairie and prairie wetlands
- Work in partnership with others to restore or enhance native tallgrass prairie, prairie wetlands and unique plant communities
- Restore, enhance, and protect water quality and quantity that approach natural hydrologic functions
- Provide for compatible wildlife-dependent recreational uses by the public, emphasizing increased understanding of the northern tallgrass prairie ecosystem and the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System

Public Use Opportunities

- Wildlife observation and photography highlighted by greater prairie chicken, and migrating waterfowl and sandhill cranes
- Environmental education and interpretation

Future Public Use Opportunities

- Walking, biking and cross country ski trails
- Interpretation of historic Pembina Oxcart Trail
- Observation Platforms
- Interpretive center
- Deer, migratory bird and upland game hunts for youth and persons with disabilities

Contacting the Refuge

Refuge Manager: Dave Bennett
17788 349th St. SE
Erskine, MN 56535-9253

Phone: 218-687-2229
Fax: 218-687-2225
TTY: 1-800-877-8339 (Federal Relay)
E-mail: dave_bennett@fws.gov

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Hamden Slough

National Wildlife Refuge

Quick Facts

Refuge Facts

- Established: 1989
- Acres: currently 3,170
- Authorized 5,944 acres
- Inter-agency team completing private land habitat improvements adjacent to refuge
- The refuge is the culmination of a 50-year effort to protect and restore the area

Financial Impact of Refuge

- Three-person staff
- 5,400 visitors annually
- FY 2004 Budget: $205,468

Refuge Office Location

The refuge office is located one mile northeast of Audubon, Minnesota on 210th Street

Natural History

- Refuge consists of rolling hills, grassland and small wetlands
- Located in a transitional zone between flat tallgrass prairies and rolling hardwoods
- Restoration efforts have attracted a very high concentration of waterfowl and shorebirds

Refuge Objectives

- Provide resting, nesting and feeding habitat for waterfowl and other migratory birds
- Provide habitat for resident wildlife
- Restore prairie wetland ecosystem of native grass and wetlands
- Serve as educational model for land and water stewardship
- Provide public opportunities for outdoor recreation and environmental education

Highlight

- The refuge was designated an Important Bird Area by the Minnesota Audubon Society, one of only eight sites selected in the state

Priorities

- Conduct first youth waterfowl and muzzleloader deer hunts on the refuge
- Improve prairie chicken viewing opportunities
- Improve shorebird nesting sites

Public Use Opportunities

- Hiking
- Environmental education
- Wildlife observation

Contacting the Refuge

Refuge Manager: Michael Murphy
21212 - 210th Street
Audubon, MN 56511

Phone: 218-439-6319
Fax: 218-439-6907
TTY: 1-800-877-8339 (Federal Relay)
E-mail: mike_t_murphy@fws.gov
http://midwest.fws.gov/hamdenslough

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Minnesota Valley

National Wildlife Refuge Complex

Quick Facts

Refuge Facts

- Established: 1976
- Acres: 12,000
- Planning to expand to 24,000 acres
- The refuge was established as a result of the effort of a local citizen group
- Includes a visitor/education center featuring an 8,000-square foot exhibit space, a 125-seat auditorium, two multi-purpose classrooms, a bookstore and an observation deck
- The refuge also manages a 5,400 acre wetland management district

Financial Impact of Refuge

- 24-person staff
- 200,000 visitors annually
- FY 2004 Budget: $3.2 million

Refuge Office Location

The refuge office is located near the intersection of Interstate 494 and 34th Avenue in Bloomington, Minnesota

Natural History

- The refuge is a greenbelt of large marsh areas bordered by grain terminals, highways, residential areas, office buildings and fields
- Minnesota Valley NWR and the Minnesota State Trail and Recreation Area are located along 72-miles of the Minnesota River from Ft. Snelling to Le Sueur
- Refuge lands are scattered in eight separate units
- Minnesota River Valley is a major migration corridor for waterfowl, songbirds and raptors

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

Highlight

- Nearly 11,000 inner-city schoolchildren participate in the refuge's educational programs each year

Priorities

- Install and maintain recreational and interpretive facilities for 200,000 yearly visitors
- Rehabilitate deteriorated and non-functioning interpretive exhibits
- Further develop environmental education programs

Public Use Opportunities

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

Contacting the Refuge

Refuge Manager: Vacant
3815 American Blvd. East
Bloomington, MN 55425
Phone: 952-854-5900
Fax: 612-725-3279
TTY: 1-800-877-8339 (Federal Relay)

http://midwest.fws.gov/minnesotavalley

Northern Tallgrass Prairie

National Wildlife Refuge

Quick Facts

Refuge Facts

- Established: 1998
- Authorized Acres: 77,000
- Establishing Legislation: Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956

Financial Impact of Refuge

- Units are managed by existing Service personnel located at Minnesota and Iowa field offices
- FY 2005 land acquisition budget: $500,000

Refuge Location

The refuge is located in scattered tracts across Iowa and Minnesota. The refuge is administered from the Big Stone NWR headquarters.

Natural History

- Native prairie was originally North America's largest ecosystem, but today it is one of the rarest and most fragmented
- Many believe the prairie ecosystem is functionally extinct
- More than 99.5 percent of the original tallgrass prairie in Minnesota and Iowa is gone
- Fragmentation of the prairie ecosystem has led to the reduction of numerous migratory songbirds, other wildlife, plants and insects
- 243 bird species rely on the remaining prairies of Minnesota and Iowa — 152 of these species breed within the refuge
- Estimates suggest that over 1,850 different species of insects live in one square meter of tallgrass prairie

Refuge Objectives

- Conserve, restore, manage and enhance the fragmented northern tallgrass prairie and aspen parkland ecosystems, and their associated native fish and wildlife populations in project area
- Develop partnerships with landowners, communities, educational institutions, local and state governments and non-profit groups that will permanently protect our nation's biological and cultural prairie heritage

Highlight

- In Minnesota and Iowa there were originally 25 million acres of tallgrass prairie habitat. Currently, less than one percent of this prairie remains. The refuge's goal is to permanently preserve 75,000 acres of this endangered habitat in these two states in perpetuity.

Priorities

- Restore and manage prairie landscapes in Minnesota and Iowa
- Provide advisory services to other agencies, local governments, and non-government organizations in matters relating to prairie ecology and management
- Coordinate watershed management planning

Public Use Opportunities

- Provide quality, priority wildlife-dependent recreational activities

Contacting the Refuge

Refuge Manager: Alice Hanley
44843 County Road 19
Odessa, MN 56276

Phone: 320-273-2191
Fax: 320-273-2231
TTY: 1-800-877-8339 (Federal Relay)
E-mail: alice_hanley@fws.gov
http://midwest.fws.gov/northerntallgrassprairie

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Rice Lake

National Wildlife Refuge

Quick Facts

Refuge Facts

- Established: 1935
- Acres: 18,281
- Administers Mille Lacs NWR (.5 acre) and Sandstone Unit (2,045 acres)
- Early development of the refuge was accomplished through a resident Civilian Conservation Corps Camp

Financial Impact of Refuge

- Seven person staff
- 23,000 visitors annually
- FY 2004 Budget: $570,284

Refuge Location

The refuge is located five miles south of McGregor, Minnesota, on Highway 65

Natural History

- Abundant natural food, particularly wild rice, have attracted wildlife to the area for centuries
- The refuge is noted for fall concentrations of more than 100,000 ring-necked ducks
- Refuge history centers around the 4,500-acre Rice Lake
- Native Americans continue their traditional gathering of wild rice from the lake
- Abundant songbird populations thrive in the diverse refuge habitat

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

Highlight

- 250,000 to 500,000 ring-necked ducks migrate to Rice Lake each year to feed on wild rice

Priorities

- Begin development of refuge comprehensive conservation plan
- Begin long-term white pine restoration project
- Maintenance and upkeep of interpretive kiosks, interpretive trails and public use facilities
- Establishment of an environmental education program
- Public recognition and expansion of refuge friends group

Public Use Opportunities

- Hiking and cross-country skiing
- Hunting and fishing
- Wildlife observation
- Auto tour route

Contacting the Refuge

Refuge Manager: Mary Stefanski
36289 State Highway 65
McGregor, MN 55760

Phone: 218-768-2402
Fax: 218-768-3040
TTY: 1-800-877-8339 (Federal Relay)
E-mail: mary_stefanski@fws.gov
http://midwest.fws.gov/ricelake

Rydell

National Wildlife Refuge

Quick Facts

Refuge Facts

- Established: 1992
- Acres: 2,120
- Refuge Friends group received "Group pf the Year" award from National Friends Association in 2000

Financial Impact of Refuge

- Five-person staff
- FY 2004 Budget: $406,496
- More than 7,800 visitors a year

Refuge Location

The refuge is located three miles west of Erskine on US 2, then two miles south on county 210

Natural History

- Refuge is a combination of maple/basswood/oak forest, wetlands, tallgrass prairie and bogs
- At least 19 old farmsteads make up the refuge lands. Five partial log buildings remain.
- 600 acres of prairie have been restored

Highlight

- Rydell NWR provides an annual deer hunt for people with disabilities which accommodates nearly 20 hunters

Refuge Objectives

- Provide nesting, feeding and resting habitat for waterfowl and other migratory woodland and grassland birds
- Serve as a regional destination for environmental education opportunities
- Provide woodland and prairie habitat for resident wildlife
- Provide opportunities for wildlife observation and outdoor recreation

Priorities

- Increase administrative capabilities to accommodate the refuge's rapid growth
- Continue to upgrade and improve public use facilities including parking lots, interpretive kiosks and interpretive trails
- Repair and upgrade bunkhouse

Public Use Opportunities

- Environmental education and interpretation
- Hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing
- Wildlife observation and photography
- Electric golf carts available for the disabled
- Seven miles of trails, five of those are blacktop accessible
- Visitor center with bookstore

Contacting the Refuge

Refuge Manager: Dave Bennett
17788 349th St. SE
Erskine, MN 56535-9253

Phone: 218-687-2229
Fax: 218-687-2225
TTY: 1-800-877-8339 (Federal Relay)
E-mail: dave_bennett@fws.gov
http://midwest.fws.gov/rydell

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Sherburne

National Wildlife Refuge

Quick Facts

Refuge Facts

- Established: 1965
- Acres: 30,700
- Administers Crane Meadows NWR
- Supported by a large volunteer program

Financial Impact of Refuge

- 14-person permanent staff, five seasonal
- 120,000 visitors annually
- FY 2004 Budget: $1,357,527

Refuge Location

The refuge is located five miles west of Zimmerman, Minnesota

Natural History

- Refuge lies in the transition zone of deciduous hardwood forest and tallgrass prairie
- Located in the St. Francis River Valley, which is known as one of the finest wildlife areas in the state
- Historic wetland, oak savanna habitat was degraded by settlement practices of fire suppression and farming
- Management emphasizes restoring the native habitat
- Important waterfowl area
- Bald eagles and sandhill cranes nest on the refuge

Highlight

- Visit the 7.3-mile Prairie's Edge Wildlife Drive and discover the prairie, oak savanna and wetland habitats that support an astounding array of wildlife just as it may have been 150 years ago when the first settlers came to the area

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 through oak savanna restoration
- Provide public opportunities for outdoor recreation and environmental education

Priorities

- Improve and maintain public use facilities and services to provide a quality experience to nearly 120,000 visitors a year
- Pursue the necessary funding for construction of a new visitor center
- Provide additional services directed toward wildlife observation, hunting, environmental education and nature photography

Public Use Opportunities

- Hiking and cross-country skiing
- Hunting and fishing
- Environmental education and interpretation
- Wildlife observation and photography
- Auto tour route

Contacting the Refuge

Refuge Manager: Anne Sittauer
17076 293rd Avenue
Zimmerman, MN 55398
Phone: 763-389-3323
Fax: 763-389-3493
TTY: 1-800-877-8339 (Federal Relay)
E-mail: anne_sittauer@fws.gov
http://midwest.fws.gov/sherburne

Tamarac

National Wildlife Refuge

Quick Facts

Refuge Facts

- Established: 1938
- Acres: 42,724 (2,180 wilderness acres)
- The majority of the refuge was logged of red and white pine between 1890-1922
- The north half of the refuge lies within the original White Earth Indian Reservation boundary
- White Earth Tribal members retain wild rice harvest and trapping privileges
- Early refuge development was started by a Civilian Conservation Corps Camp in the late 1930's and further enhanced in the 1960's by a Job Corps Center

Financial Impact of Refuge

- Nine person staff
- 35,000 visitors annually
- FY 2004 Budget: $1.1 million

Refuge Location

The refuge is located six miles east of Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, on Highway 34 and nine miles north on Highway 29

Natural History

- Refuge lies within the transition zone of deciduous hardwood forest, coniferous forests and tallgrass prairie
- Refuge has tremendous wildlife diversity due to the varied habitat
- Waterfowl, bald eagles, loons, bear, trumpeter swans, deer, fish and songbirds reside in the refuge
- One of two refuges in Minnesota with resident gray wolf packs
- Many refuge lakes and rivers contain large beds of wild rice

Highlight

- The refuge serves as a reintroduction and reproduction site for trumpeter swans in Minnesota. Each year the refuge raises more than 40 cygnets to flight stage.

Refuge Objectives

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

Priorities

- Develop a landscape level comprehensive wildlife habitat management plan
- Expand partnership work with federal, state, tribal and local agencies, NGOs and other interested parties to further wildlife management and outreach goals in the region

- Continue upgrading visitor facilities to promote visitation and enrich refuge experiences
- Expand biological control program to combat invasive species such as spotted knapweed and leafy spurge

Public Use Opportunities

- Hiking, hunting and fishing
- Environmental education
- Wildlife photography
- Auto tour route
- Visitor center

Contacting the Refuge

Refuge Manager: Barbara Boyle
35704 County Highway 26
Rochert, MN 56578

Phone: 218-847-2641
Fax: 218-847-9141
TTY: 1-800-877-8339 (Federal Relay)
E-mail: barbara_boyle@fws.gov
http://midwest.fws.gov/tamarac

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Upper Mississippi River

National Wildlife and Fish Refuge Headquarters

Quick Facts

Refuge Facts

- Established: 1924
- Acres: nearly 240,000
- Refuge covers 261 miles of the Mississippi River Valley from Wabasha, Minn., to Rock Island, Ill., and is divided into four districts
- The refuge includes land owned by both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 19 counties across four states

Financial Impact of Refuge

- Six-person staff at Refuge Headquarters
- 3.5 million visitors annually (refuge-wide)
- FY 2004 budget: $3.1 million (refuge-wide)
- Mississippi River annually contributes an estimated $1 billion in recreational benefits to the region

Refuge Office Location

The refuge office is located in downtown Winona, Minnesota

Natural History

- Scenic river area with broad pools, braided channels, islands and bluffs rising several hundred feet
- Critical migratory bird corridor for waterfowl, songbirds and raptors
- Hundreds of bald eagles and thousands of tundra swans are present during migration
- Over 1,200 active bald eagle nests and more than 5,000 nests in 15 heron rookeries
- Refuge and river support many fish species valuable for both commercial and recreational fishing
- National Scenic Byways on both sides of the refuge
- 50 percent of the world's canvasback ducks stop on the refuge
- 20 percent of the world's tundra swans stop on the refuge
- 40 percent of the continent's waterfowl population uses the river flyway during migration

Refuge Objectives

- Protect and preserve one of America's premier fish and wildlife areas
- Provide habitat for migratory birds, fish, plants, resident wildlife and endangered species
- Provide interpretation, environmental education and wildlife-dependent public use opportunities
- Conserve a diversity of plant life

Public Use Opportunities

- Hunting, trapping and fishing
- Environmental education
- Wildlife observation
- Boating and camping

Contacting the Refuge

Complex Manager: Don Hultman
51 East 4th Street, Room 101
Winona, MN 55987

Phone: 507-452-4232
Fax: 507-452-0851
TTY: 1-800-877-8339 (Federal Relay)
E-mail: don_hultman@fws.gov
http://midwest.fws.gov/uppermississippiriver

Upper Mississippi River

National Wildlife and Fish Refuge
Winona District

Quick Facts

District Facts

- Established: 1924
- Acres: 32,000
- The district covers 50 river miles from north of Nelson, Wis., south to Trempealeau, Wis
- District covers Navigation Pools 6, 5A, 5 and Lower Pool 4

Financial Impact of Refuge

- Eight person staff
- 3,000,000 visitors annually (refuge-wide)
- Mississippi River annually contributes an estimated $1 billion in recreational benefits to the region
- Commercial fishing industry

Refuge Office Location

The refuge office is located in downtown Winona, Minnesota

Natural History

- Scenic river area with broad pools, braided channels, islands and bluffs rising several hundred feet
- Critical migratory bird corridor for waterfowl, songbirds and raptors
- Hundreds of bald eagles and thousands of tundra swans are present during migration
- More than 16 active bald eagle nests and up to four active heron rookeries exist on or near the district
- Refuge and river support many fish species valuable for both commercial and recreational fishing

Refuge Objectives

- Protect and preserve one of America's premier fish and wildlife areas
- Provide habitat for migratory birds, fish, plants and resident wildlife
- Protect and enhance habitat for endangered species
- Provide interpretation, environmental education and wildlife-oriented recreational public use opportunities
- Conserve a diversity of plant life

Highlight

- The Winona District features the newly-completed Polander Lake habitat project located in lower Pool 5A consisting of a 75-acre island complex containing a diversity of habitats to benefit fish and wildlife including paddlefish, turtles, marsh birds and waterfowl

Priorities

- Construct maintenance shop and storage facilities
- Stabilize and restore banks along the refuge's 50-mile river corridor
- Continue to improve interpretation, environmental education and wildlife-oriented recreational public use facilities and services

Public Use Opportunities

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

Contacting the District

Complex Manager: Don Hultman
51 East 4th Street, Room 101
Winona, MN 55987

Phone: 507-452-4232
Fax: 507-452-0851
TTY: 1-800-877-8339 (Federal Relay)
E-mail: don_hultman@fws.gov
http://midwest.fws.gov/uppermississippiriver

Detroit Lakes

Wetland Management District

Quick Facts

District Facts

- Established: 1968
- Waterfowl Production Areas: 163 units totaling 40,678 acres
- Wetland Easements: 326 totaling 12,200 acres
- Counties in district: Becker, Clay, Mahnomen, Norman and Polk

Financial Impact

- 29,000 visitors annually
- FY 2004 Budget: $1.3 million
- 14 person staff

District Office Location

The district office is located two miles north of Detroit Lakes, Minn., via Hwy 59, then 1-1/2 miles east on Tower Road

Natural History

- Landscape dotted with thousands of small wetlands or "prairie potholes," created by glaciers
- Prior to settlement, this area was a paradise for waterfowl, whooping cranes, bison, wolves and other prairie wildlife
- Agriculture changes to the landscape included the loss of most native prairie and the drainage of over 80 percent of the small wetlands
- The area remains a critical waterfowl production and migration area

District Objectives

- Acquire, develop and manage habitat for waterfowl production
- Provide habitat for native plants and animals, especially prairie songbirds
- Assist private landowners with restoration of wetlands and grasslands
- Provide wildlife-dependent recreation and education

Highlight

- The District is actively involved with the water management issues of the Red River Basin. District staff members are integral participants in the multi-partner efforts to address flood damages, water quality protection and improvement, and natural resources enhancement throughout the Red River Basin.

Priorities

- Acquire and restore strategically located parcels to leverage benefits for wildlife and flood damage reduction
- Strategically manage units within their landscape context to mazimize habitat effectiveness
- Construct an office and public use facility to adequately serve the existing staff and visiting public with an emphasis on area students

Public Use Opportunities

- Trapping, hunting, and fishing
- Wildlife observation
- Interpretation
- Environmental education
- Volunteer Programs

Contacting the District

District Manager: Mark Chase
26624 North Tower Road
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501-7959

Phone: 218-847-4431
Fax: 218-847-4156
TTY: 1-800-877-8339 (Federal Relay)
E-mail: mark_chase@fws.gov
http://midwest.fws.gov/detroitlakes

Fergus Falls

Wetland Management District

Quick Facts

District Facts

- Established: 1962
- Waterfowl Production Areas: 215 units totaling 43,962 acres
- Wetland easements: 1,142 totaling 23,935 acres
- Grassland easements: 8 totaling 797 acres
- FmHA easements: 30 totaling 2,567 acres
- District also manages a 243-acre tract of the Northern Tallgrass Prairie NWR
- Counties in district: Otter Tail, Grant, Douglas, Wilkins and Wadena

Financial Impact

- 50,000 visitors annually
- FY 2004 Budget: $1.9 million
- Staff: 21 permanent; 11 temporary

District Office Location

The district office is located 3/4 mile east of Fergus Falls, Minn., on State Highway 210

Natural History

- Landscape dotted with thousands of small wetlands or "prairie potholes," created by glaciers
- Prior to settlement, this area was a paradise for waterfowl, prairie chickens, whooping cranes, bison, wolves and other prairie wildlife
- Agriculture changes to the landscape included the loss of most native prairie and the drainage of over 80 percent of the small wetlands
- The area remains a critical waterfowl production and migration area - the highest nesting density in Minnesota was recorded here (3.5 nests per acre)

District Objectives

- Acquire, develop and manage habitat for waterfowl production
- Provide habitat for native plants and animals, especially prairie songbirds
- Assist private landowners with restoration of wetlands and grasslands
- Provide wildlife-dependent recreation and education

Priorities

- Constructing a new headquarters complex
- Restoring and rehabilitating prairie wetland complexes to enhance waterfowl production and migration habitat
- Expanding the prairie science class at the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center

Public Use Opportunities

- Trapping and hunting
- Wildlife observation
- Environmental education

Prairie Wetlands Learning Center

- Built through a cooperative effort between the city of Fergus Falls, the state of Minnesota and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Promotes wetland and prairie stewardship
- Provides day and residential environmental education programs for students

Contacting the District

District Manager: Kevin Brennan
21932 State Highway 210 East
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

Phone: 218-739-2291
Fax: 218-739-9534
TTY: 1-800-877-8339 (Federal Relay)
E-mail: kevin_brennan@fws.gov
http://midwest.fws.gov/fergusfallswetland

Litchfield

Wetland Management District

Quick Facts

District Facts

- Established: 1978
- Waterfowl Production Areas: 151 units totaling 34,332 acres
- Easements: 501 totaling 11,969 acres
- Counties in district: Kandiyohi, McLeod, Meeker, Renville, Stearns, Todd and Wright

Financial Impact

- 100,000 visitors annually
- FY 2004 Budget: $1.5 million
- Staff: 14

District Office Location

The district office is located 3 miles south of Litchfield, Minn., on 615th Avenue

Natural History

- Landscape dotted with thousands of small wetlands or "prairie pot-holes," created by glaciers
- Prior to settlement, this area was a paradise for waterfowl, prairie chickens, whooping cranes, bison, wolves and other prairie wildlife
- Agriculture changes to the land-scape included the loss of most native prairie and the drainage of over 70 percent of the small wet-lands
- The area remains a critical water-fowl production and migration area

District Objectives

- Acquire, develop and manage habitat for waterfowl production and other migratory birds
- Provide habitat for native plants and animals, especially endangered species
- Assist private landowners with restoration of wetlands and grass-lands
- Provide wildlife-dependent recre-ation and education

Highlight

- The District contains diverse native habitats, from native forest in the northeast to the tallgrass prairie in the south and west, with the transition zone in between.

Priorities

- Improve and expand capability to establish and maintain high quality wildlife habitat by restoring crop-land and low quality grasslands to native grasslands
- Improve the quality of native grasslands through the increased planting of forbs and the removal of woody vegetation

Public Use Opportunities

- Trapping
- Hunting
- Wildlife observation
- Interpretation
- Environmental education
- Wildlife photography

Contacting the District

District Manager: Scott Glup
22274 615th Avenue
Litchfield, MN 55355

Phone: 320-693-2849
Fax: 320-693-7207
TTY: 1-800-877-8339 (Federal Relay)
E-mail: scott_glup@fws.gov
http://midwest.fws.gov/litchfieldwetland

Morris

Wetland Management District

Quick Facts

District Facts

- Established: 1964
- Waterfowl Production Areas: 246 units totaling 51,332 acres
- Wetland Easements: 646 totaling 21,117 acres
- Habitat Easements (wetland and upland): 52 totaling 3,965 acres
- FmHA easements: 4 totaling 243 acres
- District also manages four tracts totaling 243 acres of the Northern Tallgrass Prairie NWR
- Counties in district: Big Stone, Lac Qui Parle, Pope, Stevens, Swift, Traverse, Yellow Medicine and Chippewa

Financial Impact

- 47,000 visitors annually
- FY 2004 Budget: $1.4 million
- Staff: 16

District Office Location

The district office is located 3.3 miles east of Morris, Minnesota

Natural History

- Landscape dotted with thousands of small wetlands or "prairie potholes," created by glaciers
- Prior to settlement, this area was a paradise for waterfowl, prairie chickens, whooping cranes, bison, wolves and other prairie wildlife
- Agriculture changes to the landscape included the loss of most native prairie and the drainage of over 50 percent of the small wetlands
- The area remains a critical waterfowl production and migration area - the highest nesting density in Minnesota was recorded here (3.5 nests per acre)

District Objectives

- Acquire, develop and manage habitat for waterfowl production
- Provide habitat for native plants and animals, especially prairie songbirds
- Assist private landowners with restoration of wetlands and grasslands
- Provide wildlife-dependent recreation and education

Highlight

- In 2002, the Morris WMD, Ducks Unlimited, area landowners, Big Stone County, Ortonville Elementary and the Upper Minnesota Watershed District partnered to restore a 400-acre wetland on the Centennial WPA. The basin flooded this year, hosting thousands of migratory birds.

Priorities

- Promote greater Service identity though increased environmental education and interpretation programs
- Continue to foster growth of the Morris Friends group
- Continue involvement with the DNR, The Nature Conservancy, Minnesota Prairie Chicken Society and Pheasants Forever in an effort to re-establish a greater prairie chicken population in southwestern Minnesota

Public Use Opportunities

- Hunting
- Wildlife observation
- Interpretation
- Environmental education

Contacting the District

District Manager: Steve Delehanty
43875 230th St.
Morris, MN 56267

Phone: 320-589-1001
Fax: 320-589- 2624
TTY: 1-800-877-8339 (Federal Relay)
E-mail: steve_delehanty@fws.gov
http://midwest.fws.gov/morris

Windom

Wetland Management District

Quick Facts

District Facts

- Established: 1990
- Waterfowl Production Areas: 63 units totaling 12,863 acres
- Northern Tallgrass Prairie NWR: 740 acres
- Wetland/Habitat easements: 54 totaling 1,504 acres
- Counties in district: Cottonwood, Jackson, Faribault, Freeborn, Martin, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Watonwan, Brown, Redwood and Rock

Financial Impact

- 24,000 visitors annually
- Staff: Nine
- FY 2004 Budget: $1.0 million

District Office Location

The district office is located one mile east of Windom, Minn., on County Highway 17

Natural History

- Landscape dotted with thousands of small wetlands or "prairie potholes," created by glaciers
- Prior to settlement, this area was a paradise for waterfowl, prairie chickens, whooping cranes, bison, wolves and other prairie wildlife
- Agriculture changes to the landscape included the loss of most native prairie and the drainage of over 50 percent of the small wetlands
- The area remains a critical waterfowl production and migration area

District Objectives

- Acquire, develop and manage habitat for waterfowl production
- Provide habitat for native plants and animals, especially prairie songbirds
- Assist private landowners with restoration of wetlands and grasslands
- Provide wildlife-dependent recreation and education
- Assist the state with the Heron Lake Restoration Project

Highlight

- 800-acre Touch the Sky prairie became a reality due to the cooperative efforts of Rock County, Luverne Chamber of Commerce, The Nature Conservancy, Brandenburg Foundation and the Fish and Wildlife Service

Priorities

- Pursue funding to construct and staff shop/storage building on Wolf Lake WPA
- Continue to develop partnerships with other agencies and private landowners to improve wildlife habitat in southwestern Minnesota
- Increase protection and development of waterfowl production habitat through fee title and easement program
- Increase Service identity through education and outreach

Public Use Opportunities

- Hunting
- Wildlife observation
- Interpretation and environmental education
- Visitor Center and environmental education facility co-located with District Headquarters

Contacting the District

District Manager: Mark Vaniman
49663 County Road 17
Windom, MN 56101-3026

Phone: 507-831-2220
Fax: 507-831-5524
TTY: 1-800-877-8339 (Federal Relay)
E-mail: mark_vaniman@fws.gov
http://midwest.fws.gov/windom

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Minnesota

Private Lands Office

Quick Facts

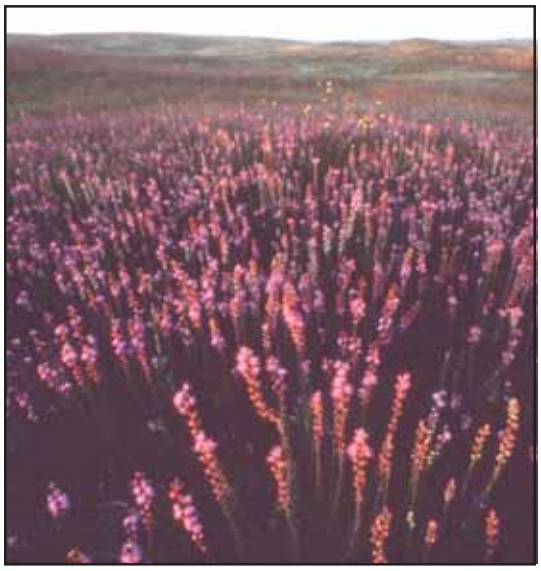
Wetland Restorations (1987-2004)
- 14,979 sites
- 60,176 acres

Upland Restorations (1987 - 2004)
- 909 sites
- 29,173 acres

Overview of the Program
- Working with others to restore and enhance fish and wildlife habitat on private lands
- Restoring habitat for migratory birds, threatened and endangered species, interjurisdictional fish and other wildlife
- Restoring habitat within the watersheds of our national wildlife refuges
- Voluntary participation

Opportunities on Private Lands
- Wetland restoration
- Native prairie restoration
- Stream restoration
- Migratory bird habitat
- Endangered species habitat
- Invasive species control

Partner Involvement
- Private landowners
- Nonprofit organizations
- Corporations
- Local, state and federal agencies
- Tribal governments



Program Benefits
- Increased wildlife abundance
- Enhanced wildlife diversity
- Improved soil, water and air quality
- Increased recreational opportunities
- Broad coalition of partnerships supporting **voluntary** habitat restoration on private lands

Contacting the Office
Sheldon Myerchin
Minnesota Private Lands Coordinator
434 Great Oak Drive
St. Cloud, MN 56387

Phone: 800-814-6290
Fax: 320-253-0710
TTY: 1-800-877-8339 (Federal Relay)
E-mail: sheldon_myerchin@fws.gov
http://midwest.fws.gov/partners

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Twin Cities, Minnesota

Ecological Services Field Office

Quick Facts

Minnesota is home to 16 federally listed threatened, endangered, or candidate species, including the gray wolf, piping plover, Topeka shiner, winged mapleleaf (mussel), and Minnesota dwarf trout lily. For more information about these and other rare and declining Minnesota species, please see our website at http://midwest.fws.gov/endangered

Highlight

Twin Cities Field Office has collaborated with the Corps of Engineers; the States of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, and Missouri; the Genoa National Fish Hatchery, and the LaCrosse Fishery Resource office to propagate, translocate, and reintroduce the endangered Higgins eye, a freshwater mussel. These activities were necessary to save the species after the devastating introduction of zebra mussels to the Upper Mississippi in the 1990's.

Our History

For over 60 years Ecological Services has protected and restored fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats. Our roots trace back to the River Basins Program that reviewed Federal water development projects. Since 1945, Ecological Services' responsibilities have expanded to include reviews of most Federal construction projects, endangered species, environmental contaminants, and a variety of conservation partnerships and grants.

Project Planning

Through early and wise planning we work to conserve fish and wildlife and their habitats by minimizing the impact of Federal construction projects. Besides traditional Corps of Engineers' projects and permits, we work on energy development projects (hydro and wind power), highway projects, and proposed activities in National Forests.

Environmental Contaminants

The Environmental Contaminants program is the only program in the Federal Government solely responsible for evaluating the impact of environmental contaminants on fish and wildlife. We work to prevent, reduce and eliminate the adverse effects of environmental contaminants.

Threatened and Endangered Species

Our responsibilities under the Endangered Species Act include conserving declining species before

listing is necessary, adding species to the list of threatened and endangered species, working to recover listed species, and working with other Federal agencies to ensure that their projects do not irreparably harm listed species.

Grants

We administer a number of Endangered Species Act grants to provide funding to States, Tribes, organizations, and individuals for listed species conservation activities.

Partnerships

We work to restore habitat on private lands through the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program. We work with others to restore Great Lakes coastal habitats through our Coastal Program.

Contacting the Field Office

Supervisor: Dan Stinnett
4101 East 80th Street
Bloomington, MN 55425
Phone: 612-725-3548
Fax: 612-725-3609
TTY: 1-800-877-8339 (Federal Relay)
E-mail: dan_stinnett@fws.gov
http://midwest.fws.gov/TwinCities

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Minnesota

Fisheries Conservation

Quick Facts

Ashland Office Facts
Office Facts

- Established: 1972
- FY 2004 Budget: $501,000
- Staff: eight permanent; one term

Geographic Area Served

- Lake Superior watershed
- Tribal lands and waters in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan
- National wildlife refuges and national parks in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan

La Crosse Office Facts

- Established: 1981
- FY 2004 Budget: $647,000
- Staff: six permanent; one student

Geographic Area Served

- Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin
- Mississippi River bordering the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge to Rock Island, Illinois
- Illinois Waterway

Providing Fisheries Services to Minnesota

Although there is no fishery office located in Minnesota, service in the state is provided by the Ashland Fishery Resources Office and the La Crosse Fishery Resources Office.

Ashland Fishery Resources Office Areas Served

- Lake Superior
- Waters included in the Treaties of 1836, 1837, 1842 and 1854
- National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges and National Forests
- Private lands in eight counties of northern Minnesota

Activity Highlights

- Conservation of native lake trout, brook trout and lake sturgeon
- Aquatic habitat and wetland restoration
- Technical assistance to 14 tribal governments and 3 treaty authorities
- Surveillance and control of Eurasian ruffe
- Upper Great Lakes Coastal Program administration

Contacting the Ashland Office

Project Leader: Mark P. Dryer
2800 Lake Shore Drive East
Ashland, WI 54806

Phone: 715-682-6185
Fax: 715-682-8899
TTY: 1-800-877-8339 (Federal Relay)
E-mail: mark_dryer@fws.gov
http://midwest.fws.gov/ashland

La Crosse Fishery Resources Office Areas Served

- Mississippi River

Activity Highlights

- Restoring fish and mussels, including lake sturgeon, Topeka shiner, winged mapleleaf mussel and Higgins eye pearlymussel
- Restoring fish habitat and fish passage
- Combating aquatic invasive species

Contacting the La Crosse Office

Project Leader: Pam Thiel
555 Lester Avenue
Onalaska, WI 54650

Phone: 608-783-8431
Fax: 608-783-8450
TTY: 1-800-877-8339 (Federal Relay)
E-mail: pam_thiel@fws.gov
http://midwest.fws.gov/lacrossefisheries

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Duluth

Law Enforcement Field Office

Quick Facts

Office Facts

- Established: 1971
- Staff: one Special Agent
- The Duluth Field Office is administered by the St. Paul, Minn., Resident Agent in Charge Office

Law Enforcement Objectives

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

Law Enforcement Priorities

- 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
- Investigate violations that involve wild populations of species protected by state or foreign laws, with emphasis on interstate and foreign commercial exploitation
- Provide support and assistance to enforcement activities on Service lands, such as National Wildlife Refuges, and to other federal agencies on lands they manage
- 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

Contacting the Office

228 Federal Building
515 West 1st Street
Duluth, MN 55802

Phone: 218-720-5357
Fax: 218-720-5358
TTY: 1-800-877-8339 (Federal Relay)
http://midwest.fws.gov

Minneapolis

Wildlife Inspection Office

Quick Facts

Office Facts

- Established: 1986
- Staff: one Wildlife Inspector
- In addition to the airport, the inspection program is responsible for seven land border ports with Canada
- The Minneapolis Wildlife Inspection program is administered by the Chicago Wildlife Inspection Office

Law Enforcement Objectives

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

Law Enforcement Briefs

- Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport is both a non-designated and border port of entry for the import and export of wildlife
- The airport is the 10th largest in the United States in terms of airline operations and the 13th largest in terms of the number of passengers using the facility
- Approximately 800,000 arriving international passengers are processed annually through the port
- The airport is a significant port of entry for United States residents returning from hunting trips into Canada

Laws Enforced

- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)
- Endangered Species Act
- African Elephant Conservation Act
- Lacey Act
- Wild Bird Conservation Act
- Marine Mammal Protection Act
- Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act

Contacting the Office

7150 Humphrey Dr. Suite 2186
Minneapolis, MN 55450

Phone: 612-726-6302
Fax: 612-726-6303
TTY: 1-800-877-8339 (Federal Relay)
http://midwest.fws.gov

St. Paul

Law Enforcement Resident Agent in Charge Office

Quick Facts

Office Facts

- Established: 1989
- Staff: three Special Agents; one LE Support Assistant
- The St. Paul RAC Office also administers the following Law Enforcement Field Offices in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa:
  - Duluth, Minnesota
  - Green Bay, Wisconsin
  - Madison, Wisconsin
  - Onalaska, Wisconsin
  - Des Moines, Iowa

Law Enforcement Objectives

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

Law Enforcement Priorities

- 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
- Investigate violations that involve wild populations of species protected by state or foreign laws, with emphasis on interstate and foreign commercial exploitation
- Provide support and assistance to enforcement activities on Service lands, such as National Wildlife Refuges, and to other federal agencies on lands they manage
- 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

Contacting the Office

Resident Agent in Charge:
Patrick C. Lund
445 Etna Street, Suite 61
St. Paul, MN 55106

Phone: 651-778-8360
Fax: 651-778-8672
TTY: 1-800-877-8339 (Federal Relay)
E-mail: pat_lund@fws.gov
http://midwest.fws.gov

Midwest Region

Regional Office

Purpose

The Regional Office provides a central headquarters to facilitate partnership, administrative, budgetary, operational, personnel and policy execution between the National Office in Washington, D.C., and field offices located throughout the region.

Organization

The Region is managed by the Regional Director with the assistance of a Deputy Regional Director, six Program Assistant Regional Directors (Budget and Administration, Ecological Services, External Affairs, Fisheries, Migratory Birds and State Programs, and the National Wildlife Refuge System), a Special Agent in Charge of Law Enforcement and a Special Assistant to the Regional Director for Partnerships.

Contacting the office

Regional Director: Robyn Thorson
E-mail: robyn_thorson@fws.gov
Deputy Regional Director: Charles Wooley
E-mail: charles_wooley@fws.gov
BHW Federal Building
1 Federal Drive
Ft. Snelling, MN 55111
Phone: 612-713-5302
Fax: 612-713-5284
TTY: 1-800-877-8339 (Federal Relay)
http://midwest.fws.gov

Quick Facts

Office Facts

- Regional Office Staff: 206
- Entire Regional Staff: 1,110
- FY 2004 Regional Budget: $80 million

Assistant Regional Directors

Administration:
Barbara Milne

Ecological Services:
Wendi Weber

External Affairs:
Brian Norris

Fisheries:
Gerry Jackson

Law Enforcement:
Mary Jane Lavin

Migratory Birds and State Programs:
John Chrisitan

National Wildlife Refuge System:
Nita Fuller

Special Assistant (Partnerships)
Theresa Woods

Offices

Administration	612-713-5306
Information Technology Management	612-713-5115
Contracting	612-713-5200
Diversity/Civil Rights	612-713-5380
Ecological Services	612-713-5350
Engineering	612-713-5250
External Affairs	612-713-5360
Federal Aid	612-713-5130
Finance	612-713-5240
Fisheries	612-713-5111
Law Enforcement	612-713-5320
Human Resources	612-713-5230
Refuges and Wildlife	612-713-5400
Safety	612-713-5236
Solicitor	612-713-7100
State Programs and Migratory Birds	612-713-5326

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Minnesota

North American Waterfowl Management Plan

Quick Facts

Habitat Accomplishments

- Over 165,000 acres of habitat protected, restored and enhanced
- Seeded retired cropland to native grasses
- Protected floodplain and stream habitat

Financial Assistance

- Matching dollars from partners totaling over $58.9 million
- North American Wetland Conservation Act grants; 44 grants totaling over $18.7 million

State Contact

Ray Norrgard
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155
Phone: 651/296 0701
Fax: 651/297 4961
Email:ray.norrgard@dnr.state.mn.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
- Local, state and federal government agencies
- Tribal governments

Minnesota Projects

Wetland and grassland restorations within:

- Northern Tallgrass Prairie, phase III
- Great River Corridor
- Centennial Pothole Venture
- Comprehensive Bird Conservation — Red River of the North Watershed
- Federal, state and county lands
- Private lands statewide through voluntary participation

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

Contacting the Program

Joint Venture Coordinator
Barbara Pardo
BHW Federal Building
1 Federal Drive
Ft. Snelling, MN 55111-4056

Phone: 612-713-5480
Fax: 612-713-5393
TTY: 1-800-877-8339 (Federal Relay)
E-mail: barbara_pardo@fws.gov
http://midwest.fws.gov/NAWMP

Quick Facts

MN Anglers and Hunters Spent

- 29 million days angling
- 1.2 billion dollars in total fishing expenditures
- 8.6 million days hunting
- Over 600 million dollars in total hunting expenditures

MN Licensed Anglers and Hunters

- Over 1.3 million licensed anglers
- 582,000 licensed hunters

United States

- Over 82 million U.S. residents 16 years old and older fished, hunted, or wildlife watched in 2001.
- Sportspersons spent a total of $70 billion in 2001—$36 billion on fishing, $21 billion on hunting, and $14 billion on items used for both hunting and fishing (the sum of expenditures totals $71 billion due to rounding).

http://fa.r9.fws.gov/surveys/surveys.html

Where Can I Find More Information

Detailed grant information is available at our public website—faims.fws.gov.

Minnesota

Federal Assistance

How the Dollars are Administered

- The goal of the Federal Assistance Program is to work with States to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, their habitats and the hunting, sportfishing, and recreational boating opportunities they provide.
- In fiscal year 2004 total grant funds in the Midwest Region exceeded $151 million. Minnesota received $20 million. These monies were distributed through programs such as: Sportfish and Wildlife Restoration, Coastal Wetlands Program, Landowner Incentive Program, Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act, Boating Infrastructure Grant Program, State Wildlife Grants and the Clean Vessel Act Program.

Where the Money Comes From

Funding for most Federal Assistance programs 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, assistance to private landowners, environmental review of public projects, land acquisition, operation and maintenance of lands and facilities, boating and angler access improvements, comprehensive planning for fish and wildlife resources, and hunter and aquatic education.

Contacting the Program

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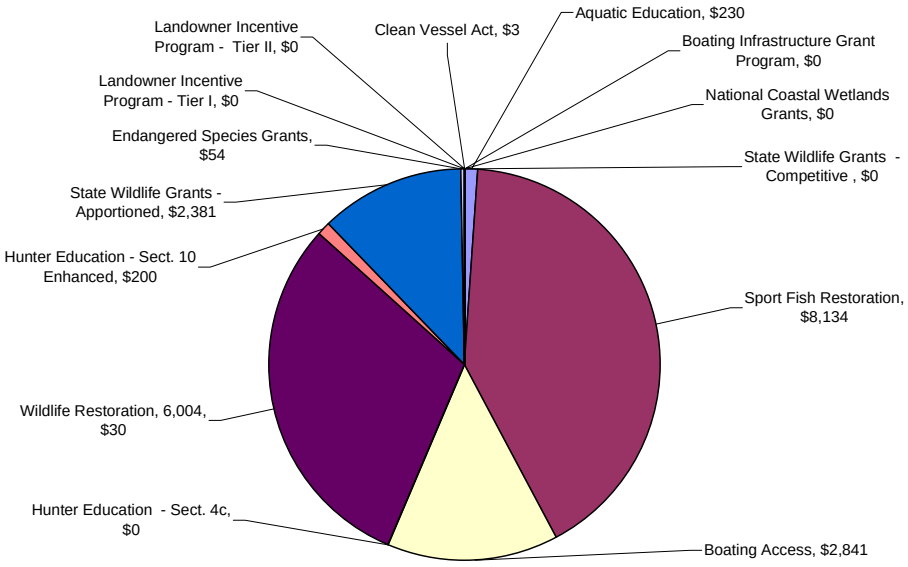
Fiscal Year 2004 Funds Granted to the State Through Federal Assistance Programs *(in thousands)*



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Minnesota

Migratory Bird Conservation

Quick Facts

- 1.4 million bird watching participants
- 140 million bird watching days
- More than 87,000 duck hunters
- More than 142,000 Federal Duck Stamps sold (2002-2003)
- One Important Bird Areas on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lands in Minnesota: Minnesota Valley NWR

Inventory and Monitoring

- Waterfowl Breeding Pair Survey
- Four Square-Mile Breeding Duck Survey
- Resident Canada goose breeding population survey
- Woodcock Singing Ground Survey
- Mourning Dove Call Count Survey
- Mid-Winter Waterfowl Survey
- Waterfowl Banding Program
- Great Lakes Colonial Waterbird Survey
- Golden-winged Warbler Atlas Project
- Marbled Godwit Survey

Research

- Study to determine length of stay of shorebirds in western Minnesota
- Study of fall mortality factors of the American woodcock
- Delineation of restorable wetlands in the prairie pothole region
- Identification of sites well suited for conservation provisions of the Farm Bill
- Study of post-fledgling habitat use of early-successional forests by songbirds

Management

- Wetland and grassland protection, restoration and enhancement
- Bottomland hardwood restoration
- Develop hunting regulations
- Issue migratory bird permits
- Integrated bird conservation planning at the state and Bird Conservation Region levels

Outreach

- International Migratory Bird Day
- Junior Duck Stamp Contest
- Prairie Wetlands Learning Center

Partnerships

- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- Minnesota Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit (U.S.G.S.)
- University of Minnesota
- Ducks Unlimited
- Partners in Flight
- North American Waterfowl Management Plan
- U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan
- North American Waterbird Conservation Plan
- Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology

Contacting the Program

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Minnesota

Division of Realty

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

Contacting the Program

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This publication is available online at: ***http://midwest.fws.gov/maps/minnesota.pdf***

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Federal Relay Number: 1 800/877-8339

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.