

# News Release



USFWS Northeast Region  
Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge  
Contact: Virginia Rettig  
Phone: 609-652-1665 x16  
Email: [virginia\\_rettig@fws.gov](mailto:virginia_rettig@fws.gov)

For Immediate Release: Monday, June 22, 2015

---

## Edwin B. Forsythe Refuge Announces Environmental Assessment and Public Meeting for Westecunk Creek Barrier Removal and Stream Restoration

*Eagleswood Township, NJ* – Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge has announced the availability of a draft Environmental Assessment for public review and comment regarding a proposed project on Westecunk Creek, along Silver Lake Drive in Eagleswood Township.

The Refuge proposes to remove a barrier and restore the stream banks. The purpose of the project is to restore fish passage for both migratory and year-round resident fish and to increase the resiliency of the ecosystem. Removing this barrier will restore connectivity to 13km of spawning and rearing habitat for alewife (*Alosa pseudoharengus*) and blueback herring (*Alosa aestivalis*) as well as nursery and maturation habitat for American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*).

A public meeting will be held at 7 pm on Wednesday, July 8, 2015 in the committee meeting room at the Eagleswood Township Municipal Building. The habitat restoration and management plan will be presented and will be followed by a question and answer period.

The Environmental Assessment for the project is available for review at the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge website, [http://www.fws.gov/refuge/edwin\\_b\\_forsythe/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/edwin_b_forsythe/), and at the refuge's Visitor Information Center located at 800 Great Creek Road, Oceanville, NJ. Written comments should be submitted to Rebecca Reeves, United States Fish & Wildlife Service, Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 72, Oceanville, NJ 08231 or via email to [forsythe@fws.gov](mailto:forsythe@fws.gov). The public comment period for the EA will close on July 23, 2015.

For more information, contact Refuge Manager Virginia Rettig at (609) 652-1665 or visit [http://www.fws.gov/refuge/edwin\\_b\\_forsythe/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/edwin_b_forsythe/).

*The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefits of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen in the northeast region, visit [www.fws.gov/northeast](http://www.fws.gov/northeast). Connect with our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/usfwsnortheast](http://www.facebook.com/usfwsnortheast), follow our tweets at [www.twitter.com/usfwsnortheast](http://www.twitter.com/usfwsnortheast), watch our YouTube Channel at [www.youtube.com/usfws](http://www.youtube.com/usfws) and download photos from our Flickr page at [www.flickr.com/photos/usfwsnortheast](http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwsnortheast).*

--FWS--