



2011

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Mission

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 benefit 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 and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit <http://www.fws.gov>.

MIDWEST REGION MINNESOTA



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MIDWEST REGION

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Introduction to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Quick Facts

- 550 National Wildlife Refuges
- 37 Wetland Management Districts
- 7,000 Waterfowl Production Areas
- 150 million acres of fish and wildlife habitat
- 81 Ecological Services field stations
- 69 National Fish Hatcheries
- 63 Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices
- 7,500 employees

An Overview

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (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. Given that roughly 70% of the nation is owned and administered by state and local governments, tribes, corporations, and families, it is clear why conservation efforts on non-federal lands are of such great importance.

The Service could not achieve its mission without partnering with state and local governments, non-profit organizations, businesses, and private citizens. 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 150 million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System that consists of 550 national wildlife refuges, 7,000 waterfowl production areas, 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 conservation 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, wildlife, and their habitat on tribal and private lands.

The Service oversees the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration 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 headquarters in Washington, D.C., eight geographic regional offices, and nearly 700 field units.



Midwest Region Highlights



Quick Facts

- Employment: Roughly 1,000 permanent employees
- Acres Managed: 1.3 million
- 1.7 million acres of wildlife habitat acquired by states through the Division of Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration's federal grant program
- The Fiscal Year 2010 budget for regional Service activities totaled \$532 million (including federal grants to states and other non-federal partners)
- More than 7 million people visited refuges throughout the Midwest Region to hunt, fish, participate in interpretive programs, and view wildlife in 2010
- 50 comprehensive conservation plans (CCPs) have been completed for national wildlife refuges in the region since 1997
- The Partners Program coordinated restoration or enhancement of over 8,400 upland acres and over 5,600 acres of wetlands, removed 4 fish barriers, and carried out almost 90 miles of streambank/riparian restoration in Fiscal Year 2010
- Through 2010, 68 threatened and endangered species and 10 candidate species were identified in the Midwest Region

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service established the Midwest Region (Region 3) in 1973. The region is composed of eight states – Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin. The region is highly diverse from an ecological perspective as it encompasses tallgrass prairie and potholes, agricultural lands, northern and temperate forests, a large section of the Mississippi River drainage basin, and four of the five Great Lakes. The region is headquartered just outside of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Regional Priorities

- To promote partnerships offering innovative opportunities to enhance the Region's fish and wildlife resources
- To provide healthy fish and wildlife trust species populations and habitats to support them
- To provide the public with quality hunting, fishing, wildlife watching, and other wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities on Service lands
- To provide 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 the Service has trust responsibility (migratory birds, threatened and endangered species, interjurisdictional fish)



Regional Programs and Offices

- 54 National Wildlife Refuges
- 12 Wetland Management Districts
- More than 300,000 acres in waterfowl production areas
- 6 National Fish Hatcheries
- 6 National Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices
- 2 Biological Stations
- 8 Private Lands Offices
- 9 Ecological Services Offices
- 18 Law Enforcement Offices



Midwest Regional Office

Overview of Regional Programs



Regional Programs

- National Wildlife Refuge System
- Ecological Services
- Fisheries
- Migratory Birds
- Science Applications
- Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration
- Law Enforcement
- Budget and Administration
- External Affairs



Midwest 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, seven Program Assistant Regional Directors (Budget and Administration, Ecological Services, External Affairs, Fisheries, Migratory Birds and State Programs, Science Applications, the National Wildlife Refuge System), and a Special Agent in Charge of Law Enforcement.

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Midwest Region Map



Science and Strategic Landscape Conservation

An Overview



Quick Facts

- There are five LCCs within the Midwest Region geographic boundary and our staff are active in them all.
- The Region plays a lead role in three of the LCCs: the Plains and Prairie Potholes (PPP), Upper Midwest and Great Lakes (UMGL), and the Eastern Tallgrass Prairie and Big Rivers (ETPBR) LCCs.
- The PPP and UMGL LCCs have received funding and have established steering and technical committees and are actively collaborating across the conservation community to identify applied science needs.

Contact Information

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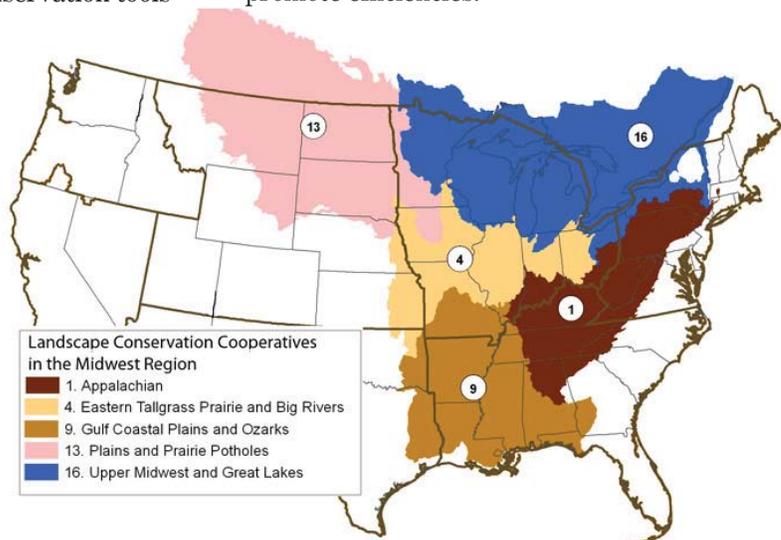
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<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/climate/LCC.cfm>

- The PPP LCC is headquartered in Bismarck, ND (Rick Nelson, Coordinator: 701-250-4402).
- The UMGL LCC is headquartered in E. Lansing, MI (Craig Czarnecki, Coordinator: 517-351-8470).
- The ETPBR LCC is headquartered in McGregor, IA (Tim Yager, Acting Coordinator: 563-873-3423 X 12)

Successes and Challenges

- Our Nation’s lands and natural resources are important to our quality of life and economy. The sustainability of native fish and wildlife depend on healthy landscapes.
- Natural resources are impacted by land use change and many threats to the sustainability of natural resources, including drought, fire, habitat fragmentation, contaminants, invasive species, and disease.
- The effects of a rapidly changing climate are compounding these stressors. The unprecedented pace and scale of these threats requires a more networked approach to conservation – holistic, collaborative, and grounded in science.
- These landscape-scale resource challenges transcend political and jurisdictional boundaries. No one individual public or private entity has all the conservation tools and capacities needed to address the suite of threats facing wildlife.
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is helping to establish Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCC) to leverage resources and increase science capacity to inform resource management decisions and actions. These LCCs are a network of self-directed partnerships working in unison to address stressors within and across landscapes.
- Each LCC operates within a specific landscape—21 geographic areas in total. Partners include Federal, State, and local governments, Tribes, universities, NGOs, landowners, and other stakeholders.
- LCCs foster efficient and coordinated use of resources. They do so by jointly identifying science and management priorities, enabling each partner to play a coordinated role and promote efficiencies.

- LCCs build upon existing science and conservation efforts - such as fish habitat partnerships, migratory bird joint ventures, and other natural and cultural resource partnerships - by providing scientific support and linkages to an expanded array of conservation partners.
- Collectively, the LCCs form a national network of land, water, wildlife, and cultural resource managers, scientists, and interested public and private organizations—within the U.S. and across our international borders—that share a common need for scientific information and interest in conservation.
- LCCs will not have new management authority; all partners in LCCs will retain their original jurisdiction, with State, Federal, tribal, and other entities continuing to manage natural resources under their current authorities.



Minnesota Service Overview



Quick Facts

- The Service employs 473 people in Minnesota, and about half of those are at the Regional Office at Ft. Snelling.
- The Fiscal Year 2010 Resource Management budget for Service activities in Minnesota totaled \$64.86 million
- 13 National Wildlife Refuges totaling more than 216,000 acres
- Eight Wetland Management Districts totaling more than 273,000 acres
- In 2010, more than 1.6 million people visited national wildlife refuges and wetland districts in Minnesota to hunt, fish, participate in interpretive programs and view wildlife

Habitat Types and Ecosystems

Minnesota is famous for its more than 10,000 lakes, and thousands of these lakes lie within deep, pristine boreal forests where wolves, moose, and Canada lynx roam their shores. Thousands more Minnesota lakes and ponds form the prairie pothole region, with its unparalleled waterfowl, prairie butterflies and birds, and the national treasure known as tallgrass prairie. Lake Superior's north shore defines rugged and wild for many Minnesotans, and Lake Itasca serves as the headwaters of the mighty Mississippi River. Other great rivers – the St. Croix, the Minnesota, and the St. Louis – enrich the state with their diversity of aquatic life, and beautiful shorelines. Minnesota is an ecological crossroads where open-country elk graze on prairie parklands, and glacial relic snails and plants cling to chilly, unglaciated slopes.

Conservation Priorities & Successes

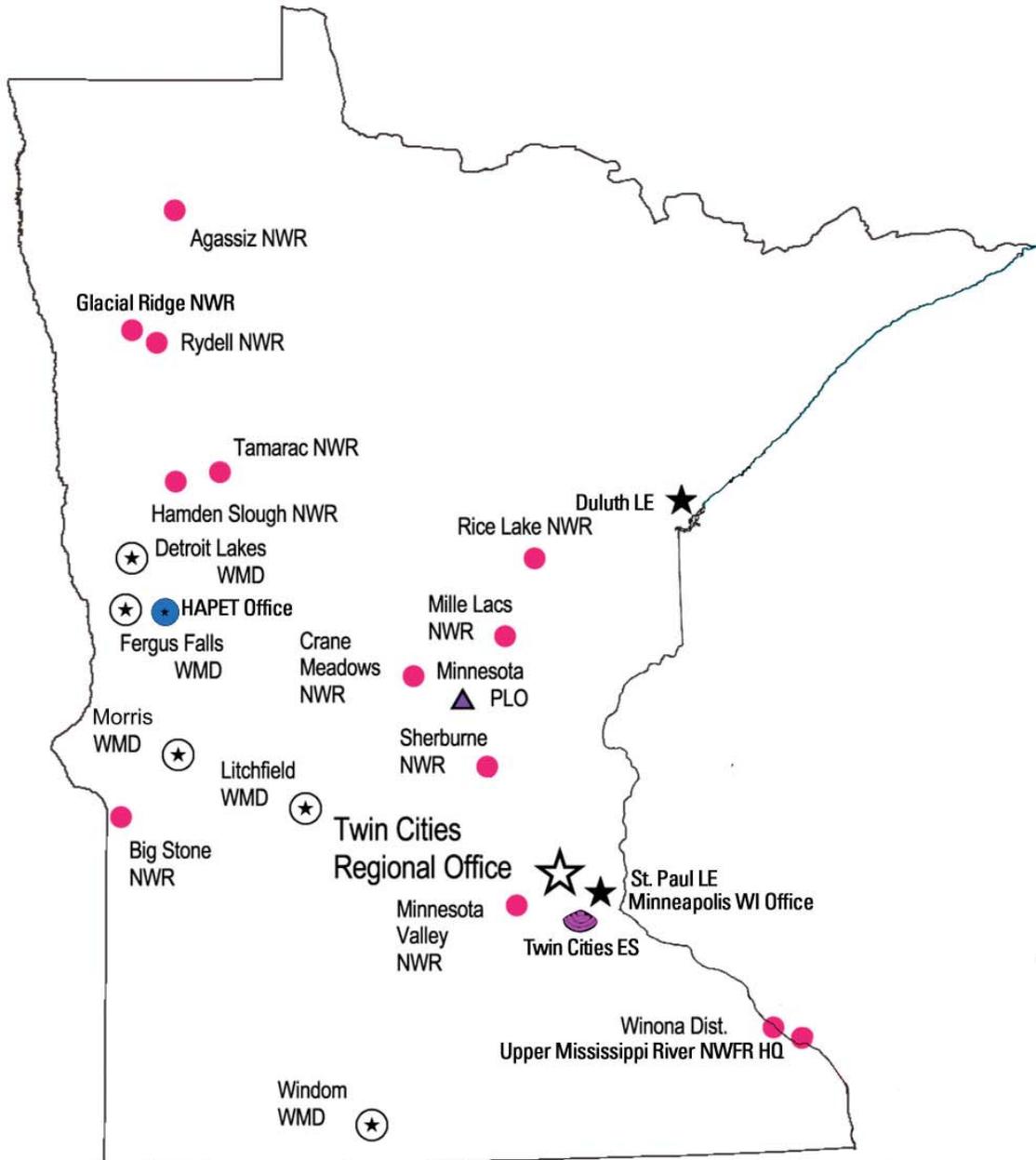
With over 1300 nesting pairs of bald eagles and over 3000 gray wolves, Minnesota is proud of its contribution to the recovery of these iconic symbols of American wildness. Preservation of the prairie potholes and native prairies remains an urgent priority, and previous successes in that region are a source of pride to the FWS. The FWS remains focused and committed to conserving our great rivers and lakes. We work daily to restore native mussels in the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers, and to restore polluted bays in the St. Louis River estuary. We work closely with developers of alternative energy sources such as ethanol, wind, or biofuel, to minimize impacts to wildlife while promoting development of renewable energies.

Conservation Challenges

As in other Midwest states, invasive species pose a significant barrier to conservation of native species. Zebra mussels encrust and kill mussels in great numbers, and degrade valuable mussel habitat. Suburbanization near large and mid-size cities in Minnesota continues to fragment natural landscapes and disrupt wildlife corridors. Minnesota continues to lose prairie and prairie wetlands to the plow, as new markets emerge for grain. Lakeshore development and forestland fragmentation continues, as large land holdings in Northern Minnesota are converted from timber production to real estate development.



Map of Service Facilities in Minnesota



Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge



Quick Facts

- Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1937 to promote waterfowl production and conservation
- Eleven permanent staff
- The refuge is composed of 61,500 acres of contiguous land and is situated in the aspen parkland region of northwest Minnesota
- Packs of wolves, moose, waterfowl, and 298 species of birds inhabit the refuge
- Each year over 20,000 visitors enjoy wildlife viewing on Agassiz Refuge's self-guided auto tour route and hiking trails



Refuge Objectives & Opportunities

- The refuge provides resting, nesting and feeding habitat for waterfowl and other migratory birds.
- The refuge provides habitat for Federally protected endangered and threatened species and supports the conservation of biodiversity.
- Except for the 4,000-acre Wilderness Area, habitats are actively managed to promote wildlife habitat.
- Refuge wetlands are managed in 26 pools,

ranging in size from 40 to 10,000 acres, through a complex system of dikes and water control structures.

- The refuge uses prescribed burns to keep targeted lands open for nesting by grassland birds and some waterfowl species.
- The refuge is actively involved in restoring wetlands on private lands and working with other agencies to monitor restored wetlands.
- Annual censuses are conducted on breeding waterfowl, secretive marshbirds, grouse, shorebirds, songbirds,

deer, moose, predatory and small mammals, and amphibians.

- Recreational activities include hunting, hiking, auto-tour, environmental education, and wildlife observation.

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Directions

The refuge headquarters is located on Marshall County Road 7. From Thief River Falls, MN, take Highway 32 North for 12 miles to the town of Holt. At Holt, turn east onto Marshall County Road 7 for 11 miles. The refuge headquarters is located on the left (north) side of the road.

Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge and Wetland Management District



Quick Facts

- Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge is part of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Big Stone Lake-Whetstone River Project of Minnesota and South Dakota
- The refuge was established in 1975 when the Corps transferred the land to the Service
- Big Stone Wetland Management District (WMD) was established in 1996
- Ten permanent staff
- The refuge contains 11,586 acres, including more than 6,000 acres of grassland
- The Wetland Management District (WMD) currently administers roughly 6,936 acres of land spread throughout 14 Waterfowl Production Areas
- Approximately 30,000 people visit the refuge annually
- The area remains a critical waterfowl breeding and migration area and offers potential for many resource protection/enhancement projects within several watersheds that empty into the Minnesota River

Refuge Objectives & Opportunities

The primary purposes of the refuge are flood control, recreation, and fish and wildlife conservation.

The refuge's principal objective is to provide optimum nesting cover for ground-nesting waterfowl and other grassland birds through restoration of native prairie.

The purpose of Big Stone WMD is to acquire and manage Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs) in Lincoln and Lyon counties through the Service's Small Wetlands Acquisition Program (SWAP).

Another key purpose of the WMD is to manage

native grasslands.

The refuge and WMD protect biodiversity and habitat for threatened and endangered species.

As WPAs are acquired, historical wetlands are restored within these areas. All uplands that were previously in crop production or consist of exotic plants are restored to native northern tallgrass prairie habitats.

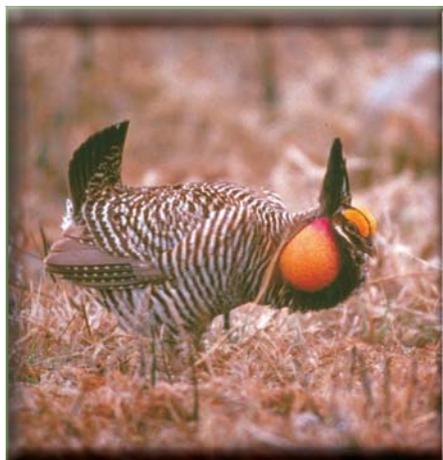
Controlled burning and limited grazing are two tools used to manage restored and native prairies. These techniques mimic historical natural fire and grazing events that occurred throughout the prairie ecosystem.

Grazing is used to maintain the health

of these native prairie habitats. Chemical, mechanical, and biological control of noxious weeds are also used each year.

Private land habitat improvements and restorations for waterfowl and other migratory birds have been enhanced through the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program in Lyon and Lincoln Counties.

Recreational activities include hunting, fishing, hiking, auto-tour, environmental education, photography, and wildlife observation.



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Directions

The Big Stone NWR office and maintenance facility are located approximately eight miles east of Ortonville, MN and one-half mile west of Odessa, MN. From Highway 7/75, turn south on Big Stone County Road #19 and drive approximately three-quarters of a mile.

Crane Meadows National Wildlife Refuge



Quick Facts

- The Refuge was established in 1992, primary emphasis to protect the Rice and Skunk Lake Wetland Complex
- The refuge is currently approximately 1,800 acres in size and the land acquisition boundary for the refuge is roughly 13,540 acres
- Habitats include native tallgrass prairie, oak savanna, and wetlands with stands of wild rice
- The refuge is located in central Minnesota and is complexed with Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge, which is headquartered in Zimmerman, MN
- The refuge serves as an important stop for many species of migrating birds, including bald eagles and sand hill cranes which nest on the refuge
- One permanent staff

Refuge Objectives & Opportunities

- The refuge has an active prescribed (planned) burn program on the refuge. Burning is an essential management activity. It rejuvenates grassland, sets back woody encroachment and reduces hazardous fuels. Each year, Refuge personnel assist the State of Minnesota in wild fire suppression activities.
- Upland areas are being restored to native vegetation and protected from future disturbances

such as soil erosion (wind and water) and exotic and invasive plant species encroachment.

- Wetland habitat is restored to provide flood retention, groundwater recharge, nutrient absorption, erosion control, and other ecological services.
- The refuge has worked closely with other resource-oriented agencies such as the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), Morrison County Soil and Water

Conservation District (SWCD), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and Camp Ripley to benefit the environment and resource.

- The refuge is initiating a cooperative effort with area schools in developing educational curriculum to help children learn more effectively about the environment using the refuge as a natural classroom.



Contact Information

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Directions

From State Highway 10 between Royalton and Little Falls turn east onto County Road 35. Travel 5 miles on County 35; the refuge entrance road is located on the north side of the road.

Glacial Ridge National Wildlife Refuge



Quick Facts

- The Glacial Ridge National Wildlife Refuge was established in October of 2004 with the transfer of 2,300 acres of land from The Nature Conservancy
- Eight permanent staff
- The refuge eventually will cover 35,000 acres, advancing the largest tallgrass prairie and wetland restoration project in U.S. history
- The refuge will restore up to 12,000 acres of drained wetland basins and approximately 20,000 acres of tallgrass prairie habitat over the course of many years

Refuge Objectives & Opportunities

- The long-term goal for the refuge is to maintain biodiversity and increase abundance of waterfowl and other migratory birds dependent of prairie wetland and grassland habitats.
- The refuge will provide critical habitat for declining grassland birds, greater prairie chickens, sandhill cranes, and many other federally protected species.
- The refuge works in partnership with others to restore and enhance native tallgrass prairie, prairie wetlands, and unique plant communities.
- The refuge is managed to improve water quality for local fisheries and to decrease downstream flooding potential.
- The refuge has established a 90-mile shorebird walking survey that will be conducted every year in early May.
- Recreational activities include hunting, hiking, environmental education, and wildlife observation.

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Directions

Glacial Ridge NWR is managed by staff from Rydell National Wildlife Refuge located approximately 7 miles to the east, along the easterly shores of Maple Lake. The office is located on Polk County Road 210, 2 ½ miles south of U.S. Highway 2, between Erskine and Mentor, MN.



Hamden Slough National Wildlife Refuge



Quick Facts

- Hamden Slough National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1989
- The refuge consists of rolling hills, grassland and small wetlands
- Managed by the staff from the Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District
- The refuge consists of roughly 3,200 acres and is authorized to expand to nearly 6,000
- The refuge receives approximately 5,400 visitors annually
- The refuge was designated as an Important Bird Area by the Minnesota Audubon Society, one of only eight sites selected in the state

Refuge Objectives & Opportunities

- Provides resting, nesting and feeding habitat for waterfowl and other migratory birds.
- Refuge staff attempt to restore prairie wetland ecosystem of native grass and wetlands.
- Grassland and wetland habitats are managed to maximize use by migratory birds and other wildlife.
- Recreational activities include hiking, environmental education, and wildlife observation.

Contact Information

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Directions

Coming from the west on Hwy-10, turn left (north) into Audubon and take CR-12 through town and one mile north. Turn right (east) on 220th Street and proceed one mile. Follow the signs for the refuge.

Coming from the east on Hwy-10, turn right (north) into Audubon and take CR-12 through town and one mile north. Turn right (east) on 220th Street and proceed one mile. Follow the signs for the refuge.



Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge



Quick Facts

- Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1976
- The refuge encompasses 14,000 acres and includes 14 management units along a 99-mile stretch of the Minnesota River
- The Refuge has a 14-county area Wetland Management District with a total of 4,200 acres within the Lower Minnesota River Valley
- Twenty permanent staff
- Habitat types found on the refuge include riverine wetlands, fens, seeps, floodplain forests, oak savannas, upland forest, and native prairie
- The Minnesota River Valley is a major migration corridor for waterfowl, songbirds and raptors
- The refuge opened a new visitor center at its Rapids Lake Unit in the fall of 2008
- 200,000 people visit the refuge annually
- Nearly 11,000 inner-city schoolchildren participate in the refuge's educational programs each year

Refuge Objectives & Opportunities

- Provide resting, nesting and feeding habitat for waterfowl and other migratory birds.
- Protect endangered and threatened species and provide for biodiversity.
- Management activities attempt to restore native species and mimic natural processes using periodic fire, flooding, and water draw-downs.
- Restoration activities are concentrated on former croplands, where natural regeneration of woody species is allowed to occur. Regeneration of cottonwoods is of particular importance as these trees will provide nesting and roosting areas for bald eagles and other birds of prey 30-50 years from now.
- Refuge staff restore previously drained wetlands and manages water levels of marshes via water control structures.
- Recreational activities include hunting, fishing, hiking, environmental education, and wildlife observation.

Contact Information

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Directions

The Refuge Office and Visitor Center are located just off of 34th Avenue in Bloomington, Minnesota, across the street from the Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport Hilton Hotel. From I-494, visitors should take the 34th Avenue exit south to American Blvd East. Turn left on American Blvd East and proceed east for 1/4 mile to the Visitor Center entrance which is on the right.



Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge



Quick Facts

- The 18,208-acre Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1935 and is located in the scenic forest and bog area of northern Minnesota
- Seven permanent staff
- The refuge is noted for fall concentrations of more than 100,000 ringnecked ducks
- Due to its high concentrations of migratory birds, the refuge has been designated as a Globally Important Bird Area; 242 species of birds have been confirmed using the refuge
- Native Americans continue their traditional gathering of wild rice from Rice Lake
- The refuge also administers Mille Lacs National Wildlife Refuge and Sandstone Unit
- Approximately 30,000 visitors annually
- Birders will find plentiful neotropical migrants in the spring and fall
- Sandstone's wildlife includes black bear, sandhill cranes, white-tailed deer and songbirds

Refuge Objectives & Opportunities

- The refuge's primary purpose is to provide resting, nesting and feeding habitat for waterfowl and other migratory birds.
- The refuge is managed to protect endangered and threatened species and maintain biodiversity.
- Refuge staff use prescribed burning to maintain open wet meadow areas to provide nesting habitat for grassland and waterbird species.
- Several biological research projects are on-going, focusing primarily on forest restoration, water quality and wild rice production.
- Recreational activities include hunting, fishing, hiking, interpretation, and wildlife observation.

Contact Information

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Directions

The refuge is located five miles south of McGregor, Minnesota, on State Highway 65. The refuge is a one-hour drive from Duluth, Brainerd and Grand Rapids, Minnesota, and a two-hour drive north of the Twin Cities Metro area.

The Sandstone Unit is located approximately two miles southeast of Sandstone, MN, or 80 miles northeast of the Twin Cities, off Interstate 35. From Sandstone, follow the signs to the Federal Correctional Facility (Hwy 123 east, across the Kettle River; to County Road 29, south to County Road 20 east) then follow the Sandstone signs (right on Nature Ave). Two parking areas are located off of Nature Ave.



Rydell National Wildlife Refuge



Quick Facts

- Rydell National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1992
- The refuge is located in the Prairie Pothole Region of Northwestern Minnesota, between the flat Red River Valley Floodplain to the west and the lake regions to the east
- Ecological communities on the refuge include northern tallgrass prairie, prairie wetlands, maple-basswood forest, oak savannah, and aspen-ironwood-ash-birch regrowth
- Six permanent staff
- The refuge receives more than 7,800 visitors annually

Refuge Objectives & Opportunities

- The refuge's primary goal is improving production of mallard, wood duck, redhead, ring-necked duck and Canada goose numbers through a diverse habitat management system.
- Refuge staff engage in grassland and wetland restoration and reforestation to benefit migratory birds and threatened and endangered species.
- One management goal is to connect existing fragments of remnant forest on the western part of the refuge to provide for larger habitat blocks for forest interior species.
- Recreational activities include hunting, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, hiking, environmental education, and wildlife observation.
- The refuge provides an annual deer hunt for people with disabilities which accommodates nearly 20 hunters.



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Directions

Rydell National Wildlife Refuge is located along U.S. Highway 2, approximately 60 miles east of East Grand Forks, between Erskine and Mentor, Minnesota. From U.S. Highway 2, turn south on Polk County Road 210 and follow for approximately 2.5 miles to the refuge gate. Various directional signs are located along the route.

Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge



Quick Facts

- Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1965 to protect and restore the habitats associated with the St. Francis River Valley
- The refuge is approximately 31,000 acres in size and lies in the transition zone of deciduous hardwood forest and tallgrass prairie
- The refuge is located in the east central region of the state, approximately 50 miles northwest of the Minneapolis/St. Paul metropolitan area
- Thirteen permanent staff
- Recognized as an important area for waterfowl and other migratory birds
- Bald eagles and sandhill cranes nest on the refuge



Refuge Objectives & Opportunities

The primary mission of the refuge is to represent a diverse biological community characteristic of the transition zone between tallgrass prairie and forest.

Resource management focuses on maintaining and restoring native habitats, including prairie openings, oak savanna, big woods, and wetlands.

Water management techniques such as drawdowns are used to benefit bald eagles,

wading and shore birds, and waterfowl.

The refuge is managed to provide nesting, feeding and resting habitat for waterfowl and other migratory woodland and grassland birds.

Provides habitat to threatened and endangered species.

Controlled burning is used to maintain fire-dependent prairie and oak savanna habitat.

Regular censuses are conducted to monitor wildlife populations and vegetation trends.

Undergraduate and graduate students use the refuge for various biological studies.

Recreational activities include hunting, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, hiking, environmental education, and wildlife observation.

The refuge offers the 7.3-mile Prairie's Edge Wildlife Drive which allows visitors to discover the prairie, oak savanna and wetland habitats.

Contact Information

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Zimmerman, MN 55398

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<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/sherburne>

Directions

From Minneapolis, take I-94 west to Highway 101 at Rogers. Go north on 101 to Highway 169 north, then follow Highway 169 north four miles past Zimmerman to County Road 9. Go west on County Road 9 four miles to the refuge entrance and one additional mile to the refuge office.

From St. Cloud, take Highway 23 north to Highway 95, then east on Highway 95 approximately 15 miles. After the sign for Sherburne Refuge, take the first right, which is Mille Lacs County Road 7. Go south on County 7 four miles to the refuge entrance then three more miles to County 9. Go east 2.5 miles on County 9 to the refuge office.

Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge



Quick Facts

- Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1938 as a refuge breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife
- Refuge topography consists of rolling forested hills interspersed with lakes, rivers, marshes, bogs and shrub swamps
- The refuge covers nearly 43,000 acres
- Ten permanent staff
- Tamarac lies within one of North America's most diverse vegetative transition zones, where northern hardwood forests, coniferous forests and tall grass prairie converge
- The refuge's habitat brings with it a wealth of woodland and prairie wildlife
- One of two refuges in Minnesota with resident gray wolf packs
- Many refuge lakes and rivers contain large beds of wild rice

Refuge Objectives & Opportunities

- The primary management objective of the refuge is to provide resting, nesting and feeding habitat for waterfowl and other migratory birds
- Tamarac Refuge is in a "near pristine" state and encompasses three river systems which provide significant wild rice production.
- Water management is aimed at sustaining healthy strands of wild rice for migrating waterfowl and waterfowl brood cover.
- Banding of mallards and wood ducks is done annually.
- Biologists survey the nesting success of trumpeter swans and other migratory birds annually.
- Prescribed burning, plantings, and occasional timber harvests are designed to enhance habitat for neotropical migrants, ruffed grouse, wild turkey and more.
- Breeding bird surveys are conducted to monitor regional populations of songbirds.
- Invasive species monitoring and control is a growing activity as the threat to the native vegetation increases.
- Recreational activities include hunting, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, hiking, environmental education, ricing, fishing, photography, and wildlife observation. The refuge offers a 6-mile self-guided interpretive drive which winds through the forests and follows the edges of lakes, marshes and bogs.



Contact Information

Project Leader: Neil Powers
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<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/tamarac>

Directions

The refuge office/visitor center is located 18 miles northeast of Detroit Lakes, MN, at the junction of County Roads 26 & 29. Leaving Detroit Lakes on County Road 21, go north approximately 9 miles to intersection of County Road 26, turn right, going east on 26 approximately 9 miles (paved road). Leaving Park Rapids, MN on Hwy 34, go west 28 miles to intersection of County Road 29, turn left going north on 29, and go approximately 9 miles (paved and gravel road).

Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge Headquarters



Quick Facts

- Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge (NWFR) was established by an Act of Congress in June 1924
- The refuge serves as sanctuary and a breeding place for migratory birds, fish, other wildlife, and plants
- Upper Mississippi River NWFR is the longest (261 miles) river refuge in the continental U.S.
- The 240,220 acre refuge lies within Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Illinois and is composed of four managed districts: Winona, La Crosse, McGregor, and Savanna
- Eight of the refuge's 37 employees work out the Winona headquarters office
- 3.7 million annual visits, which is the most of any national wildlife refuge
- Diverse wildlife: 306 bird, 119 fish, 52 mammal, and 42 mussel, 31 reptile, and 14 amphibian species
- Designated a Globally Important Bird Area
- Up to 50% of the world's canvasback ducks use the refuge as stopover habitat during fall migration
- The floodplains of the Upper Mississippi River have been designated a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance
- Visitation to refuge and adjacent counties generates \$255 million

Refuge Objectives & Opportunities

Restoring riverine habitat is the main focus of management activities.

Resource management projects include a mix of wetland management, grassland/forest management, and fish management.

Aquatic resource management projects include active water level management, island building, bank

stabilization, oxygenation of backwaters, and dredging areas for over-wintering fish.

Other programs include native prairie restoration, forest management, waterfowl banding, invertebrate sampling, vegetative monitoring; and surveys for waterfowl, heron and egret colonies, neotropical birds, eagles, marsh, and water birds.

Recreational opportunities include

environmental education, fishing, hunting, interpretation, photography, wildlife observation, and primitive camping.

The biological values include among others, more than 600 species of plants, 48,000 acres of marsh habitat, 51,000 acres of floodplain forest and 5,700 acres of grassland including rare native prairie. In addition, 40 percent of waterfowl in U.S. use the Mississippi Flyway.



Contact Information

Refuge Manager: Kevin Foerster
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Winona, MN 55987

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<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/UpperMississippiRiver/>

Directions

The headquarters and Winona District office are located in the Exchange Building at the corner of 4th and Center streets in Winona, Minnesota. From Highway 61, turn north on Huff street until it intersects with 4th Street; turn right. The Exchange Building is on the right-hand side of the road.

Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge - Winona District



Quick Facts

- Upper Mississippi National Wildlife and Fish Refuge (NWFR) was established by an Act of Congress in June 1924
- The refuge serves as sanctuary and a breeding place for migratory birds, fish, other wildlife, and plants
- The refuge is the longest (261 miles) river refuge in the continental U.S.
- The refuge lies within Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Illinois and is composed of four managed districts: Winona, La Crosse, McGregor, and Savanna
- The Winona District encompasses approximately 32,000 acres and stretches 50 miles along the Mississippi River in the state of Minnesota
- Seven permanent staff in district office.
- 3.7 million annual visits, which is the most of any national wildlife refuge
- The floodplains of the Upper Mississippi River have been designated a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance
- Designated a Globally Important Bird Area
- Up to 50% of the world's canvasback ducks use the refuge as stopover habitat during fall migration

Refuge Objectives & Opportunities

Restoring riverine habitat is the main focus of management activities.

Resource management projects include a mix of wetland management, grassland/forest management, and fish management.

Aquatic resource management projects include active water level management, island building, bank stabilization, oxygenation of backwaters, and dredging areas for over-wintering fish.

Other programs include native prairie restoration, forest management, waterfowl banding, invertebrate

sampling, vegetative monitoring; and surveys for waterfowl, heron and egret colonies, neotropical birds, eagles, marsh, and water birds.

Recreational opportunities include environmental education, fishing, hunting, interpretation, photography, wildlife observation, and primitive camping.



Contact Information

Mary Stefanski, District Manager
51 East 4th Street, Room 203
Winona, MN 55987

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<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/UpperMississippiRiver/>

Directions

The headquarters and Winona District office are located in the Exchange Building at the corner of 4th and Center streets in Winona, Minnesota. From Highway 61, turn north on Huff street until it intersects with 4th Street; turn right. The Exchange Building is on the right-hand side of the road.

Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District



Quick Facts

- Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District was established in 1962
- 15 permanent staff
- The District is located in northwest Minnesota and includes the counties of Becker, Clay, Mahnomen, Norman, and Polk - an area of approximately 6,000 square miles
- The District is divided into three general landscape areas - the Red River Valley floodplain, the glacial moraine/prairie pothole region, and the hardwood/coniferous forest
- The District currently manages over 44,000 acres of public land in 168 waterfowl production areas
- District staff are responsible for more than 340 wetland and upland easements on private property, totaling more than 12,000 acres
- Land acquisition and management efforts are focused in the Prairie Pothole Region of the District, with a goal of providing habitat for nesting waterfowl and other migratory birds
- Approximately 3,200 acres of the District's total acreage are true native prairie remnants

Objectives & Opportunities

- Habitat management activities on waterfowl production areas focus on restoration and maintenance of prairie wetland complexes for the benefit of waterfowl and other migratory birds.
- Once a parcel of land is purchased, it is seeded with native prairie plants, and any drained wetlands are restored.
- Once a native stand of vegetation becomes established, periodic controlled burns are conducted in order

to maintain the vigor of the vegetation and discourage the growth of trees and other woody vegetation.

- Other priorities include active management to prevent and limit the expansion of invasive weed species, such as leafy spurge, purple loosestrife, and crown vetch using an integrated approach to weed control.
- A variety of acquisition efforts, including the Small Wetlands Acquisition Program, which permits the Service to purchase lands for waterfowl production using money generated

from the sale of "Duck Stamps," have preserved important remnants of the tall grass prairie and prairie wetland ecosystems.

- Recreational opportunities include environmental education, fishing, hunting, interpretation, photography, and wildlife observation.



Contact Information

Project Leader: Scott Kahan
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Directions

To reach the District Headquarters from the junction of U.S. Highways 10 and 59 in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, proceed north two miles on Hwy 59 to Tower Road (County Road 139). Turn east on County road 139. You will come to a stop sign and proceed through; you are now on Tower Road. The Detroit Lakes Wetlands Office is approximately down one mile on the north side of the road.

Fergus Falls Wetland Management District



Quick Facts

- The Fergus Falls Wetland Management District (WMD) was established in 1962 with the initiation of the Accelerated Small Wetlands Acquisition Program
- The WMD includes the counties of Douglas, Grant, Otter Tail, Wadena and Wilkin and is situated on a portion of western Minnesota that was once a myriad complex of prairie grasslands and wetlands known as the Prairie Pothole Region
- 20 permanent staff
- 217 Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs) totaling more than 45,000 acres
- Protects nearly 28,000 acres of grassland and wetland habitat on private land through conservation easements

Objectives & Opportunities

- The WMD strives to restore and conserve wetland and grassland habitats throughout the five county district as well as provides opportunities for outdoor recreation and environmental education.
- Habitat management on WPAs focuses on the restoration and maintenance of grasslands and associated wetlands for the benefit of breeding and migrating waterfowl, other migratory birds and resident wildlife.
- Staff uses wetland and grassland restoration, prescribed fire, water level manipulation, tree and brush removal, waterfowl nesting structures, mowing, and haying, to achieve conservation goals.

• The district also manages the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center (center), which is the first residential environmental education center operated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The center offers experiential learning opportunities hosting the unique Prairie Science Class which integrates environmental education on prairies and wetlands with traditional classroom subjects. The center sits on the Townsend Waterfowl Production Area, located on the south side of Fergus Falls and includes 330 acres of native and restored prairie, 28 wetlands and 4 miles of trails. The center houses a 2,500 square foot exhibit area, gift shop, six classrooms and a multipurpose meeting room and dining hall. The center provides both

day use and residential environmental education and interpretation of the prairie pothole region for learners of all ages.

- The district is involved in private lands activities and has formed a wide array of partnerships to restore and enhance drained wetlands and grasslands throughout the five-county area.
- Recreational opportunities include hunting, trapping, environmental education, interpretation, photography, wildlife observation and minor amounts of fishing.



Contact Information

Project Leader: Chad Raitz (Acting)
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<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/fergusfalls>

Directions

Headquarters – Take I-94 to Otter Tail County Highway 82 (Exit 61) and travel north two and a half miles. Prairie Wetlands Learning Center – Take I-94 to State Highway 210 East (Exit 57) and travel northeast one mile.

Litchfield Wetland Management District



Quick Facts

- Litchfield Wetland Management District was established in 1978
- 13 permanent staff
- The WMD lies on the eastern edge of the Prairie Pothole Region in central Minnesota and includes Kandiyohi, McLeod, Meeker, Renville, Stearns, Todd and Wright counties
- The district owns more than 33,000 acres of land and an additional 8,000 privately owned acres are held in wetland easements
- The WMD provides exceptional marsh, prairie, transition, and woodland habitats
- District lands include northern mixed forest, eastern hardwood forest, oak savanna, and northern tallgrass prairie habitats
- The area remains a critical waterfowl production and migration area
- Since 1987, district staff have restored more than 18,000 wetland acres, roughly 3,800 of which were restored on private land through the Service's Partners for Wildlife program

Objectives & Opportunities

- The primary management goal of the district is the acquisition and improvement of wetland and prairie habitats on public and private lands.
- The district acquires and manages habitat for waterfowl and other migratory birds.
- The WMD is managed to improve, establish, and maintain high quality wildlife habitat by

restoring cropland and low quality grasslands to native grasslands.

- The WMD provides habitat for native plants and animals, especially endangered species.
- District staff assist private landowners with restoration of wetlands and grasslands.
- Planting of grasses and wildflowers as well as controlled burning are management tools used to maintain vigorous and diverse vegetation.

- Mowing, haying, grazing, biological controls (insect releases), or chemical treatments are also employed as management tools.
- Recreational opportunities include environmental education, trapping, hunting, interpretation, photography, and wildlife observation.



Contact Information

Project Leader: Scott Glup
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<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/litchfield>

Directions

The office is located three miles south of Litchfield, Minnesota, on 615th Avenue.

Turn south on Highway 22 where it intersects with US Highway 12 in downtown Litchfield. Proceed south one and one-half miles to Lake Ripley Drive. Turn right. Bear left in 0.2 miles as Lake Ripley drive joins 615th Avenue. The district office is located 2.1 miles south on 615th Avenue and is marked with entrance signs.

Morris Wetland Management District



Quick Facts

- Established in 1964
- 13 permanent staff
- Morris Wetland Management District (WMD) includes 244 waterfowl production areas, encompassing over 51,000 acres throughout an eight-county area in western Minnesota
- Waterfowl production areas provide habitat for an array of prairie species, especially grassland- and wetland- dependent species

Objectives & Opportunities

- The goal of the WMD is to restore and protect sufficient wetland and grassland habitat to meet the needs of prairie wildlife, particularly breeding waterfowl.
- District staff restore former cropland to native grassland species to benefit breeding ducks and other wildlife and, in an average year, the district seeds 300 acres of tilled land back to native grassland species and restores 40 drained wetlands.
- Grasslands are maintained using controlled burning and limited haying and grazing.
- Most wetlands function naturally, but the district uses water control structures to manipulate water levels on certain key wetlands.
- Recreational opportunities include environmental education, trapping, hunting, interpretation, photography, and wildlife observation.



Contact Information

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Morris, MN 56267

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<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/morris>

Directions

The office is located four miles east of Morris on County Road 10. The office serves as an administrative headquarters for management in all eight counties.

Windom Wetland Management District



Quick Facts

- Established in 1990
- Nine permanent staff
- Windom Wetland Management District (WMD) acquires and manages Waterfowl Production Areas, establishes and protects wetland and grassland easements on private lands, and provides conservation assistance to landowners in 12 southwestern Minnesota counties
- The landscape is dominated by intense, row-crop agriculture, which has led to the drainage of most wetlands and widespread water quality problems
- The District is an active partner in a multi-partner effort to restore Heron Lake and its 472-square-mile watershed that suffers from over-enrichment due to agricultural run-off
- Between 1990 and 2006, the District restored 690 wetlands, covering 8,433 acres on both public and private owned lands in the 12 counties it manages



Objectives & Opportunities

- The District manages 66 WPA's, primarily for waterfowl production, but these units also benefit non-game wildlife species.
- Habitat management consists of enhancing the Waterfowl Production Areas to provide for nesting and migrating waterfowl.
- Maintaining diverse, healthy grasslands adjacent to wetland complexes interspersed with emergent vegetation is the main focus of management, and this is accomplished by wetland and grassland restoration, controlled burning, and pest plant control.
- Croplands are restored to wetlands and planted to native prairie grasses and wildflowers on the WPA's and on private lands via the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program.
- Prescribed fire is used aggressively as a tool to help restore and maintain prairie and keep non-native plants from overtaking the landscape.
- Waterfowl populations are monitored on both refuge and private lands each spring by conducting "Four-square mile" breeding pair counts.
- Non-game species of grassland birds are monitored for abundance and diversity.
- The Touch the Sky Prairie unit of the Northern Tallgrass Prairie NWR, located in Rock County, is managed to conserve, restore and enhance the fragmented northern tallgrass prairie ecosystem and associated native fish and wildlife populations.
- Recreational opportunities include environmental education, trapping, hunting, interpretation, photography, and wildlife observation.
- A ¾ mile walking trail is located adjacent to the headquarters and interpretive center at the Wolf Lake WPA.

Contact Information

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Windom, MN 56101-3026

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<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/windom>

Directions

The District headquarters is located in Cottonwood County, one mile east of Windom, Minnesota, on County Road 17. Windom lies in the scenic Des Moines River valley of southwestern Minnesota, on Highway 71 a short 18 miles north of I-90. Maps to all the Waterfowl Production Areas are available for each county in the District.

Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs



Contact Information

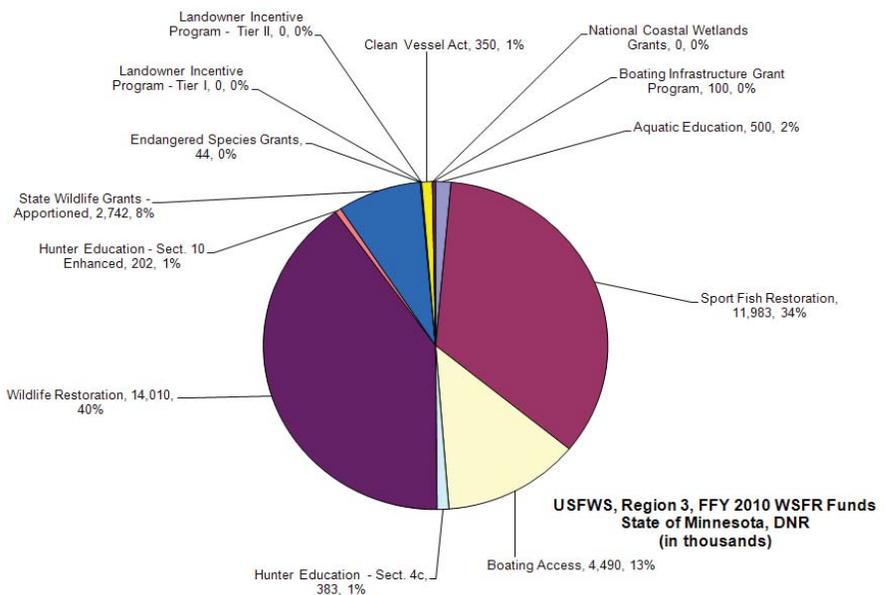
Jim Hodgson, Chief
Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration
1 Federal Drive
Ft. Snelling, MN 55111

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<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/FederalAid/>

Tom Landwehr, Commissioner
Minnesota DNR
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FY 2010 Allocation - Minnesota (\$34.8 million)



Example Project - Minnesota Statewide Fisheries Research

The Minnesota DNR uses some of its annual apportionment of the Sportfish Restoration funds for a statewide Fisheries Research Program. There are currently 23 active studies within this grant. Some of the research work focuses on: the evaluation of fisheries habitat to design a long-term monitoring program, fish use and public acceptance of shoreland restoration activities, assessment of natural channel design for stream trout habitat improvement, statewide evaluation of experimental fishing regulations, performance and contribution of stocked walleye fry in the Red Lakes, evaluation of the Mille Lacs walleye harvest, characterization

of Driftless Area brook trout populations in southeastern Minnesota, and land use effects on cisco. Much of the work in recent years has focused in on fish habitat.

One initiative in particular is called SLICE (Sustaining Lakes in a Changing Environment). SLICE is a cooperative long-term, statewide lake monitoring program led by DNR Fisheries with the support of many other partners. Partners include citizen volunteers, along with multiple units within DNR, PCA, Superior National Forest, US Geological Survey, St. Croix Watershed Research Station, and University of Minnesota and multiple local units of government. These groups are successfully working on surveys and analyses that are

exploring baseline patterns in watershed conditions, water quality, zooplankton, aquatic plants, and fish communities. The fish community portion is currently funded under the research grant.

A key outcome of SLICE is working towards a model of cooperation among entities to more efficiently accomplish mutually shared goals of aquatic resource sustainability.

Data from a human dimensions survey revealed that most people supported restricting shoreland owners from removing all shoreland vegetation and giving tax credits to shoreland owners who maintained shore vegetation.

Habitat and Population Evaluation Team (HAPET)



Quick Facts

- The Region 3 Habitat and Population Evaluation Team (HAPET) was established in 1989 to coordinate the annual FWS Waterfowl Breeding Population and Production Survey
- Five permanent staff
- HAPET is under the administration of the Division of Bird Habitat Conservation and provides biological support to FWS Wetland Management Districts and National Wildlife Refuges in the Prairie Pothole Region (PPR) of Minnesota and Iowa

Contact Information

Project Leader: Rex Johnson
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 Fergus Falls, MN 56537

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 FAX (218) 739-9534
 E-Mail: Rex_Johnson@fws.gov
<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/HAPET/>

Objectives & Opportunities

- The HAPET's mission is to improve the biological basis for migratory bird management in the Upper Midwest.
- HAPET maps the number of breeding duck pairs that could potentially nest in every 40-acre block of the PPR in Minnesota and Iowa.
- HAPET has since expanded to strategic planning and evaluation for the full range of migratory birds

occurring in the tall grass prairie of the PPR.

- Comprehensive strategic planning provides biological input into management decision processes such as where to deliver habitat conservation to maximize species benefits and how to optimize benefit-cost ratios.
- Current projects include: a track survey to determine predator distributions, developing a secretive marshbird survey design for WMDs, an assessment of the effects of tree removal on

grassland nesting birds, and assessing migrating shorebird population levels and habitat use.



Minnesota Private Lands Office



Quick Facts

- The Minnesota Private Lands Office (PLO) serves as the primary coordinator for Partners for Fish and Wildlife program in Minnesota
- The office provides technical and financial assistance to landowners and partners to restore and enhance fish and wildlife habitat on private lands
- The PLO serves as the liaison between all Service project leaders within the state and their supervisors, and the Division of Partners for Fish and Wildlife for all aspects of private lands activity
- The office reviews and recommends actions on all Service involvement with USDA “Farm Bill” legislation, and serves as the Service representative on the USDA State Technical Committee.
- The PLO is responsible for developing partnerships and joint ventures with the Minnesota DNR and other state agencies, federal agencies including the NRCS and FSA, conservation organizations, and private landowners, to benefit fish and wildlife by enhancing and restoring habitat on private lands

Program Benefits

- Increased wildlife abundance and protection of endangered species.
- Enhanced wildlife diversity.
- Invasive species control.
- Improved soil, water and air quality.
- Increased recreational opportunities.
- Broad coalition of partnerships supporting voluntary habitat restoration on private lands.

Contact Information

Project Leader: Sheldon Myerchin
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Waite Park, MN 56387

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<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/Partners/Minnesota.html>

Directions

From I-94 westbound:
Exit at MN #15, proceed north into St. Cloud, left turn on Division St., proceed west into Waite Park, right turn on 10th Ave, N., proceed north 3 ½ blocks, right turn on Great Oak Drive.

From I-94 eastbound:
Exit at MN #75, proceed east through St Joseph into Waite Park, left on 10th Ave. N, proceed north 3 ½ blocks, right turn on Great Oak Drive.



Twin Cities Ecological Services Field Office



Quick Facts

- Established in 1945
- Eight permanent full-time staff
- Minnesota is home to 16 federally listed threatened, endangered, or candidate species

Goals & Services Provided

- Prevent, reduce, and eliminate the threats posed to wildlife by environmental contaminants.
- Recover 16 threatened/endangered/candidate species in Minnesota.
- List, delist, or reclassify species pursuant to the Endangered Species Act.
- Provide Regional leadership on critical habitat revision for the Canada lynx.
- Implement post-delisting monitoring plan for the Peregrine Falcon.
- Provide conservation assistance to tribal, state, federal and private partners in Minnesota respecting gray wolf

conservation and management.

- Participate in Federal Energy Regulatory Commission proceedings to maximize conservation of fish and wildlife resources.
- Work with the Corps of Engineers and other partners to conserve fish and wildlife on the Upper Mississippi River.
- Provide conservation assistance respecting wind turbine, transmission line, transportation and other projects.
- Provide Regional leadership in the propagation, translocation, and reintroduction of endangered higgineseay and winged mapleleaf mussels.

• Review Clean Water Act dredge and fill permits to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts to wetlands, inter-jurisdictional fish, and threatened or endangered species.

- Administers Endangered Species Act and Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) grants to provide funding to States, Tribes, organizations, and individuals for conservation activities, and assists landowners with habitat restoration on their property.
- Provide technical assistance to the public concerning the protection of eagles and permits under the Bald & Golden Eagle Protection Act.



Contact Information

Project Leader: Tony Sullins
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Bloomington, MN 55425

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E-mail: Tony_Sullinsl@fws.gov
<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/TwinCities>

Directions

Starting from I-494, exit onto 34th Ave. South at the “Humphrey Terminal” Exit. Proceed South to the first stop-light (American Blvd.). Turn left (East) on American Blvd. and proceed for approximately ½ mile. Proceed past the Hilton Hotel before turning right into the Minnesota Valley Refuge lot, then follow signs to the Twin Cities Field Office.

St. Paul Law Enforcement Field Office



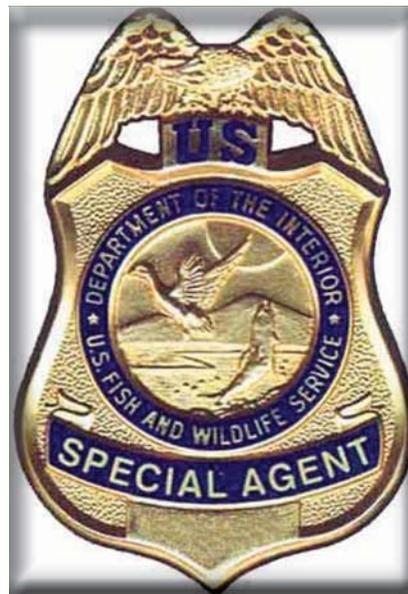
Quick Facts

- Established in 1989
- Three Special Agents and one LE Support Assistant
- The St. Paul RAC Office also administers Law Enforcement Field Offices in Duluth, MN; Greenbay, WI; Madison, WI; Onalaska, MN; & Des Moines, IA and the MN, WI Office ; and the Wildlife Inspection Office at the Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Airport

Goals & Services Provided

- 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.
- 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, Federal 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.



Contact Information

Resident Agent in Charge
445 Etna Street, Suite 45
St. Paul, MN 55106

Phone: 651-778-8360
FAX 651-778-8672
<http://midwest.fws.gov>

Directions

Take Exit 244 on I-94. Go north on Etna Street to Wilson Ave. Turn left on Wilson Ave. Turn right into the Metro 94 parking lot.

Duluth Law Enforcement Field Office



Quick Facts

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

Goals & Services Provided

- 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.
- 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, Federal 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.



Contact Information

Special Agent
228 Federal Building
Duluth, MN 55802

Phone: 218-720-5357
Fax: 218-720-5358
<http://midwest.fws.gov/>

Directions

Take Exit 256B (5th Ave W exit) on I-35
Turn left onto S. 5th Avenue W. Go north on Etna Street to Wilson Ave
Turn left onto W. 1st Street

Minneapolis Wildlife Inspection Office



Quick Facts

- Established in 1986
- Staff: One Wildlife Inspector
- The Minneapolis Wildlife Inspection program is administered by the Resident Agent in Charge office in Saint Paul, MN

Goals & Services Provided

- 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.

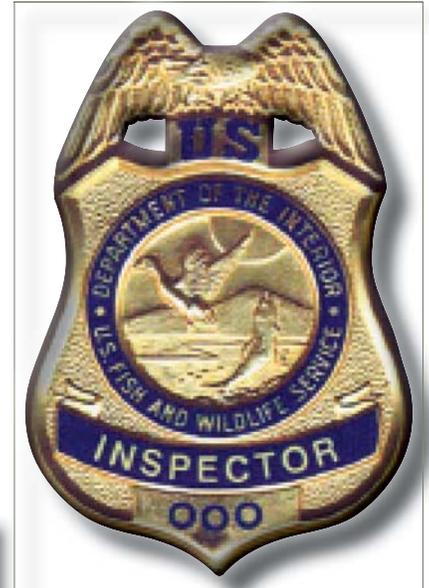
Contact Information

7150 Humphrey Drive, Suite 2186
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Directions

The office is located inside the airport with no public access.



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Crane Meadows National Wildlife Refuge

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Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge

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Rydell National Wildlife Refuge

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Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge

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Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge Headquarters

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Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge - Winona District

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Minnesota Private Lands Office

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Saint Paul Law Enforcement Field Office

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Duluth Law Enforcement Field Office

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