



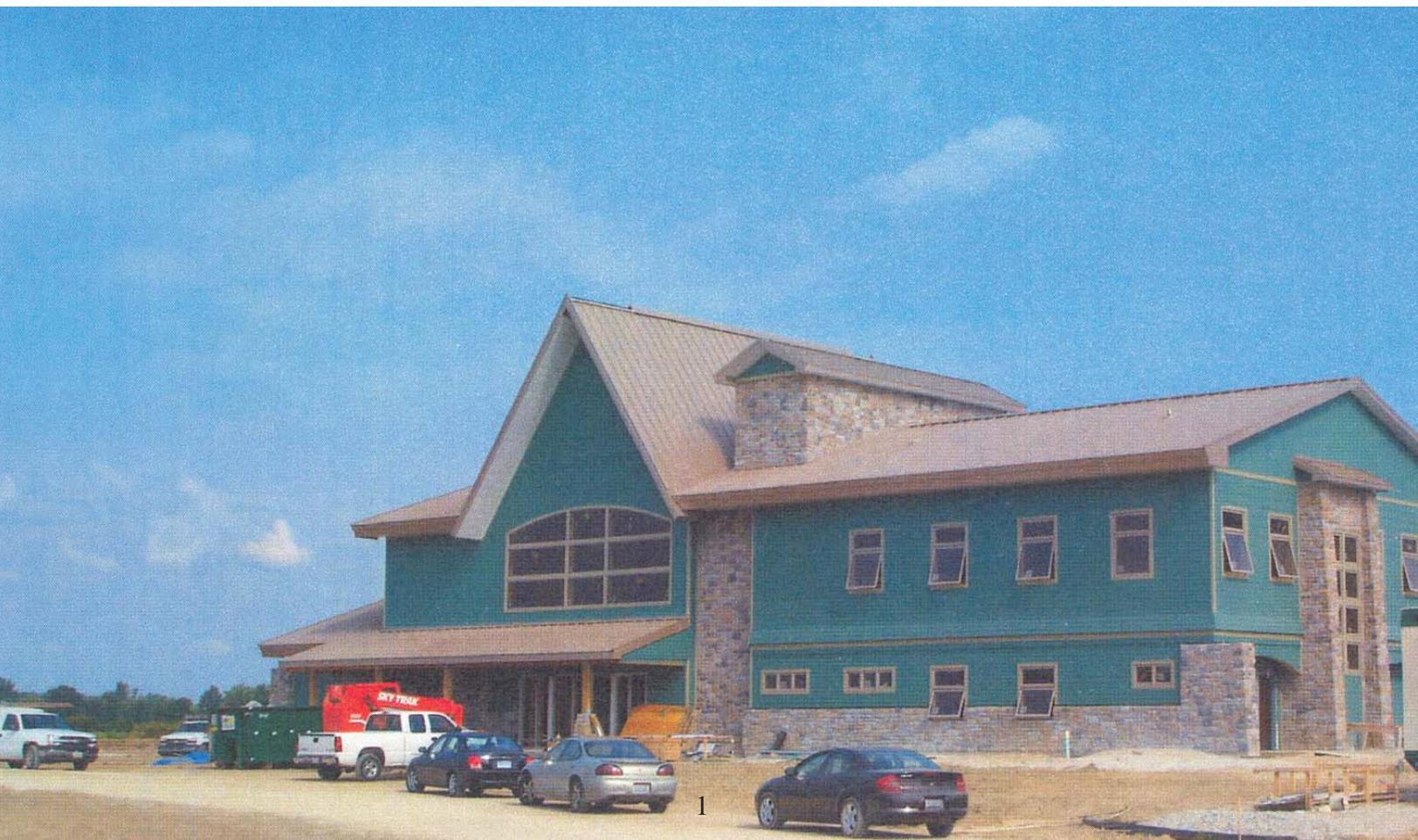
2011

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 OHIO



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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 2009
- 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.

Contact Information

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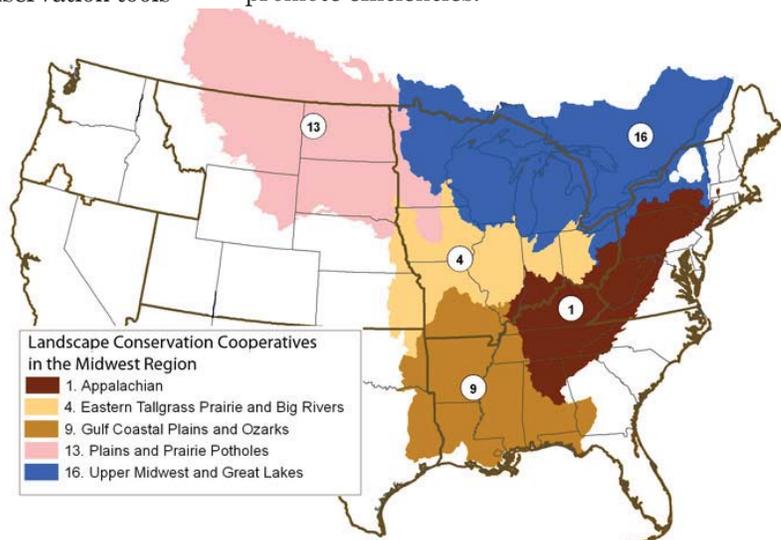
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- The PPP LCC is headquartered in Bismarck, ND (Rick Nelson, Coordinator: 701-250-4402).
- The UMGL LCC is headquartered in E. Lansing, MI (Craig Czarnecki, Coordinator: 517-351-8470).
- The ETPBR LCC is headquartered in McGregor, IA (Tim Yager, Acting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



Ohio Service Overview



Quick Facts

- The Service employs 27 people in Ohio
- The Fiscal Year 2010 Resource Management budget for Service activities in Ohio totaled \$2.8 million
- Three national wildlife refuges in Ohio total more than 9,000 acres
- In 2009, more than 176,000 people visited national wildlife refuges in Ohio to hunt, fish, participate in interpretive programs and view wildlife

Habitat Types and Ecosystems

Largely agricultural, the landscape of Ohio is also marked by forested areas and is bounded by Lake Erie to the north and the Ohio River to the east and south. Despite the presence of large cities and more than 11 million inhabitants, Ohio supports a diversity of wildlife, such as wild turkey, wetland species, white-tailed deer, shorebirds and waterfowl, bald eagles and songbirds. Ohio's landscape features five physiographic regions, each of them with its own geological profile and its distinct communities of plants and animals.

Conservation Priorities and Successes

- Recovery and protection of listed species, as well as

restoration and protection of habitat which supports trust resources and listed species is a key priority for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) in Ohio.

- Development of partnerships across the state and region to achieve Service conservation goals remains a key priority.
- Development of landscape-level tools (such as Strategic Habitat Conservation, for example) which can greatly enhance the Service's efficiency in achieving conservation goals and greatly benefit conservation for listed species range wide.
- Facilitation of partnerships with the Great Lakes National Program Office (EPA) and the Ottawa Group

(Potentially Responsible Parties) to restore the Ottawa River, remains a key priority in the state.

- Facilitation of partnerships with Rockies Express and others to develop conservation measures to conserve and restore habitat for migratory birds.
- Facilitation of partnerships with the WILDS (a non-profit conservation center) to recover the American Burying Beetle represents an important success story in the state of Ohio.

Conservation Challenges

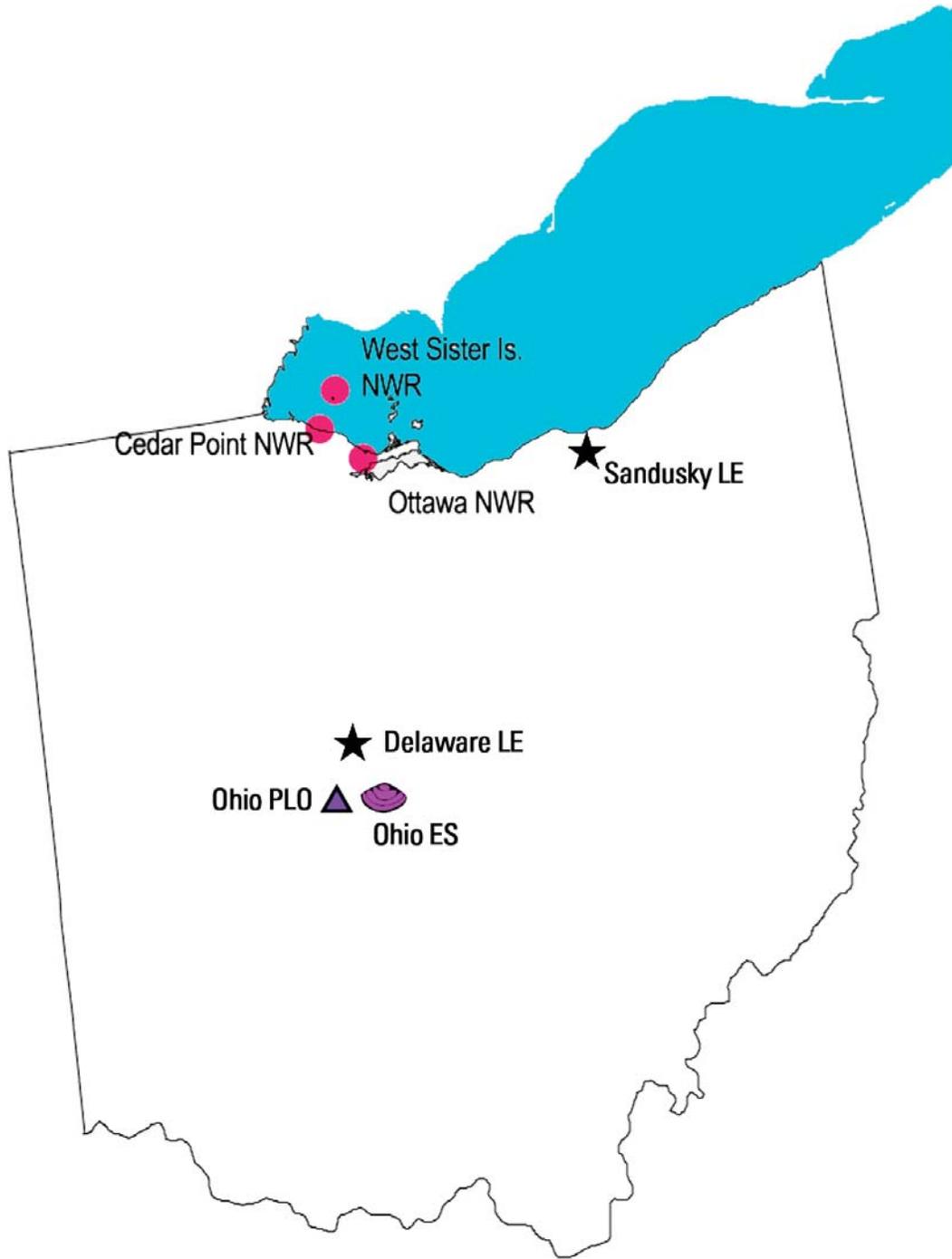
- Evaluation of PCB's, as concentrations of PCB's recorded in the Ottawa are among the highest ever found in the Great Lakes basin. Addressing this issue remains a significant challenge.

The Service will work with the wind power industry and the state to develop guidelines to protect migratory birds, waterfowl and bats at wind power sites both on land and off shore.

The Service will continue to address declining numbers of mussels and the continued need for restoration of mussel habitat. The Service is actively engaged with partners to address these serious issues.



Map of Service Facilities in Ohio



Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge



Quick Facts

- Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1961 to preserve habitat for migrating birds and currently covers 6,350 acres
- The refuge is situated within the Lake Erie Marsh Region, which has historically been important to fish, migratory waterfowl, songbirds, and shorebirds
- The refuge has eleven permanent staff
- The refuge also administers Cedar Point and West Sister Island refuges
- Including Cedar Point (2,445 acres) and West Sister Island (77 acres of designated wilderness), the refuge protects approximately 9,000 acres of habitat and some of the last remnants of the "Great Black Swamp" in the heart of the Lake Erie marshes
- Large numbers of migrating songbirds stop in the refuge and surrounding area to rest during their spring migration
- Ottawa NWR has been designated as a site of regional significance in the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network
- The refuge receives 260,000 visitors annually, many of which come to view the large numbers of migratory songbirds that rest on refuge lands during their spring migration

Refuge Objectives & Opportunities

- The primary management focus of the refuge is to provide stopover habitat for migratory birds to use during the arduous journeys between their nesting and wintering grounds.
- Refuge objectives include restoring acreage to natural floodplain condition, improving and restoring wetland habitat, and promoting biodiversity.
- Water levels are kept at various depths to provide optimal habitat for migrating birds.
- Native millet and smartweed are produced as a result of scheduled drawdowns and provide feeding and resting areas for migrating ducks, geese, and shorebirds.
- Certain areas are maintained as permanent or semi-permanent marshes to produce emergent and submergent plants for a host of wetland wildlife.
- The refuge has started a biological program to control purple loosestrife using introduced *Galerucella* beetles.
- Refuge staff and volunteers conduct regularly scheduled surveys to monitor waterfowl, shorebirds, songbirds, raptors and other resident wildlife to track population levels.

The staff also establishes population trends, thus guiding management activities on the refuge.

- Recreational opportunities include environmental education, hunting, interpretation, photography, and wildlife observation.
- Ottawa NWR's new visitor center offers exhibit areas, classroom and meeting facilities. The visitor center was constructed to meet LEED silver award energy efficiency standards.

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Directions

The refuge entrance is located 15 miles east of Toledo/Oregon and 16 miles west of Port Clinton on State Route 2. From I-80/90 westbound, take exit 91; follow State Route 53 north to State Route 523 and turn west. Proceed to State Route 19 and follow State Route 19 north to State Route 2; follow State Route 2 west 3 miles to the entrance road on the right. From I-80/90 eastbound, take exit 81; follow State Route 51 north through Elmore (turning left at light and across bridge); follow State Route 105 east to State Route 590; follow State Route 590 north to State Route 2; follow State Route 2 east 2 miles to the entrance road on the left. The half-mile entrance road is located on the north side of State Route 2.



Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs



Contact Information

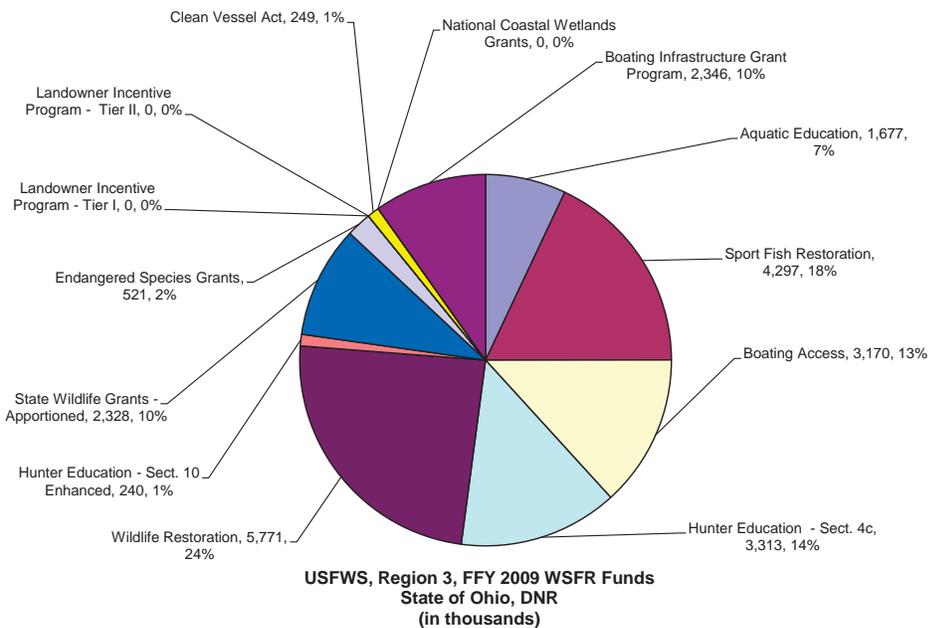
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FY 2009 Allocation - Ohio



Example Project- Vinton Furnace State Wildlife Area Acquisition

The Ohio Division of Wildlife used \$1.7 million of State Wildlife Grant funds to acquire the 3,405 acre Vinton Forest State Wildlife Area in southeastern Ohio. Also known as the Raccoon Ecological Management Area (REMA), the area is heavily forested and provides habitat for several federal and state listed species including Indiana bat, timber rattlesnake, bobcat, black bear, and species of greatest conservation need such as cerulean and Kentucky warblers.

The new State Wildlife Area is adjacent to the 12,089 acre Vinton Furnace State Experimental Forest, also purchased in 2010 by the Ohio Division of Forestry. Together, the Vinton Furnace Wildlife Area and Experimental Forest protect one of the largest blocks of contiguous forest habitat in Ohio. Acquisition of these areas was a very successful team effort involving many partners including private industry, non-profit conservation groups as well as State and Federal government agencies.

•Success – Construction of a large boat launching ramp at Huron, Ohio

using funds from the Sport Fish Restoration program boating access subaccount. This facility provides angler and boater access to the western basin of Lake Erie.

•Success – Construction of a marina on Middle Bass Island in Lake Erie Water Snake habitat and conforming to ESA Section 7 take limits.

•Success – Ohio is one of only five states nationwide which receive their Wildlife Restoration and Sport Fish Restoration funds through a Comprehensive Management System or CMS.

Ohio Private Lands Office



Quick Facts

- The Ohio Private Lands Office (PLO) has two permanent staff
- The PLO serves as the primary coordinator for the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program in Ohio
- 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 Ohio 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.
- Habitat protection and restoration on private lands.
- Maintenance of migration corridors.
- 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

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Directions

From Columbus Airport:
 I670 - I270 South, Exit
 Hwy 16 East to Newark
 (35 miles), Exit Cedar
 Street south to Main
 Street, East on Main to
 771 East Main.



Ohio Ecological Services Field Office



Quick Facts

- Established in 1945
- Six permanent staff

Goals & Services Provided

- Ohio has the highest human density in the Midwest Region and therefore the job of conserving natural resources is particularly challenging.
- Focus areas for the Ohio Ecological Services Field Office (ESFO) include investigation, remediation, and restoration of contaminant problem sites.
- The Ohio ESFO has led a binational effort to explore ways in which the effects of windpower on wildlife can be minimized.

- Work is concentrated on the Great Lakes with a particular emphasis on Lake Erie. The office has provided leadership by co-authoring a conservation framework for Great Lakes Islands.
- The Ohio ESFO has provided technical support to the energy industry, transportation agencies, and other federal agencies in an effort to streamline the agency's response to requests for assistance.
- The Ohio ESFO is developing GIS capabilities in order to support ecological modeling of endangered species habitat.

- Ohio is home to the only known population of purple cat's paw pearly mussel.
- Ohio is home to 24 federally listed endangered, threatened, or candidate species, including the Indiana bat, Lake Erie Watersnake and running buffalo clover.



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Directions

- Starting from I-270, take the Morse Road Exit.
- Head east approximately 3 miles.
- Ohio Field Office is located on the south side of Morse Road in second of 2 brick buildings in the rear.

Delaware Law Enforcement Field Office



Quick Facts

- Established in 1996
- Staff: Two Special Agents
- The Delaware Field Office is administered by the Ann Arbor, Michigan, Resident Agent in Charge Office

Goals and 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

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Directions

Take I-75 South Exit 1A Towards Dayton
Merge onto Ohio 15 E, Exit 156 toward US 23 Kenton/Columbus
Ohio 15 E becomes US 23 South
Turn Left onto Main Road/ County Road 213
End at 359 Main Road

Ohio Office Directory

Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge

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2011 State Briefing Book

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