

# Rachel Carson

## National Wildlife Refuge

### Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator Olympia J. Snowe (R)  
Senator Susan M. Collins (R)  
Rep. Thomas H. Allen (D-1st)

### Contact

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### Purpose

Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge was established on December 16, 1966, under the authority of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act, as amended, for migratory bird protection. Land has since been acquired for incidental fish and wildlife-oriented recreational development, the protection of natural resources, and the conservation of endangered or threatened species.

### Public Use Notes

- One-mile, self-guided, accessible trail at headquarters open every day from dawn until dusk
- Visitor contact station at refuge headquarters in Wells
- Brave Boat Harbor, 2 1/2-mile Cutts Island woods-to-marsh trail
- Hunting, fishing on most units; wildlife observation on all units

### Management Activities

- Restoring degraded salt marshes
- Protecting and managing piping plovers and least terns
- Controlling invasive plants

- Managing shrubland with mowing and prescribed fire for migratory birds and New England cottontail
- Surveying and monitoring wildlife and habitat
- Enforcing federal wildlife laws and refuge regulations



*Salt marsh and Little River*

### Highlights

The refuge's draft comprehensive conservation plan sets refuge management priorities and objectives for the next 15 years. The plan will call for a 5,500-acre expansion of the acquisition boundary.

The refuge is a land management research and demonstration site dedicated to facilitate developing, testing, teaching, publishing and demonstrating state-of-the-art management techniques that support critical habitat management information needs for fish, wildlife and plant conservation within the refuge system and on other lands.

### Issues

Impact of development on southern Maine's natural resources

Loss/fragmentation of habitat for migratory birds

Freshwater impacts on marsh

Encroachment of invasive species

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**

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