



NEW JERSEY FIELD OFFICE

FIELD NOTES

MARCH 2016



EPA releases Lower Passaic River Record of Decision By Cathy Marion

The EPA released a final Record of Decision (ROD) presenting the selected remedy for contaminated sediments found in the lower 8.3 miles of the Passaic River, a part of the Diamond Alkali Superfund Site near Newark, New Jersey. The ROD marks a major milestone in the long-anticipated cleanup of what is considered one of the most heavily contaminated rivers in the nation. Passaic River sediments contain very high concentrations of dioxin and furans, PCBs, PAHs, heavy metals, and pesticides that originated from numerous past industrial sources along the river. The \$1.38 billion remedy calls for bank-to-bank dredging (approximately 2.5 feet in depth) and the installation of a bank-to-bank engineered river bottom cap along the lower 8.3 miles of river, with deeper dredging and capping in the lower 1.7 miles to re-establish a navigational channel. The estimated 3.5 million cubic yards of dredged material removed from the system will be disposed of out-of-state. The USFWS worked cooperatively with the EPA and partner agencies over the last several decades to develop and evaluate the selected remedy with the common goal of reducing impacts to humans and natural resources.



From left to right: Judith A. Enck, EPA Region 2 Administrator, announcing the release of the Lower Passaic River ROD; Bob Martin, NJDEP Commissioner; U.S. Senator Robert Menendez, D-NJ, and U.S. Senator Cory Booker, D-NJ. Congressional District 8.



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New Jersey Stream Investigation and Design Workshop **By Cathy Marion**

New Jersey Field Office staff attended a 3-day stream restoration workshop led by Dave Derrick of River Research & Design, Inc. and hosted by the North Jersey Resource Conservation and Development, Rutgers, and the National Resources Conservation Service. The workshop focused on developing goals for stream restoration projects, implementing innovative and minimalist design approaches to channel and bank stabilization, bioengineering, and flow redirective methods. The workshop included field trips to three NJ stream restoration projects: Walnut Brook (Flemington, NJ); Capoolong Creek (Pittstown, NJ); and Lopatcong Creek (Stewartsville, NJ). Congressional District 7.



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Oyster Reef Breakwater Project By Katie Conrad

This month staff from the New Jersey Field Office, Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, The Nature Conservancy, Rutgers University, and volunteers from Stockton College helped construct several oyster reef breakwaters along the shoreline of Nantuxent Creek in Money Island, Downe Township, NJ. The project is part of a Hurricane Sandy Resiliency project funded by the Service. Installation efforts are expected to continue until the fall. Congressional Districts 2 and 4.



Photo credit: Danielle Kreeger, Partnership for the Delaware Estuary



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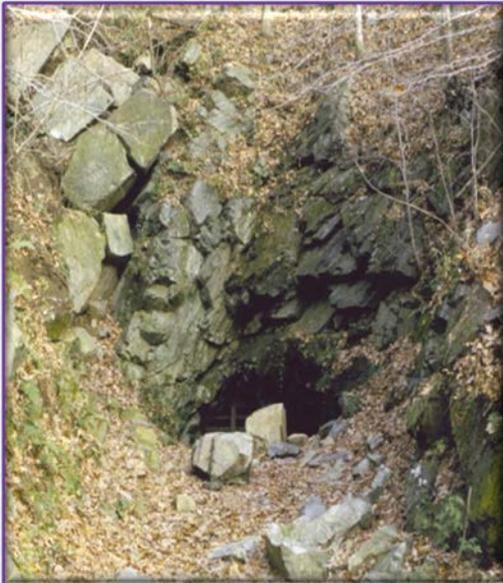
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Winter Survey at Hibernia Mine By Jeremy Markuson

The New Jersey Field Office staff participated in a winter bat survey at Hibernia Mine located in Morris County, NJ. Hibernia Mine is an important hibernaculum for the northern long-eared bat, Indiana bat, and little brown bat. Bats were located on walls and within drill holes in the mine. In total, approximately 350 bats were tallied. Only little brown bats were identified with the exception of a single northern long-eared bat. No Indiana bats were identified. Prior to white nose syndrome over 30,000 bats hibernated in Hibernia Mine. In total, 310 bats were handled. Of the 310 bats handled, 195 bats were recaptures. Congressional District 26.



Hibernia Mine



Northern long-eared bat



Little brown bats



Little brown bats