

Raleigh

Ecological Services Field Office



photo: USFWS



photo: Tom Crevasse/USFWS



photo: USFWS

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Photos (top to bottom)

A fish weir was installed on the Little River to assess the effects of the Lowell Dam removal on fish migration. The Raleigh Field Office is working with partners across the state to remove dams and restore fish passage.

A fire sparked by lightning burned more than 50,000 acres in Eastern North Carolina. The photo is an aerial view of some of the damage caused by the fire on Pocosin lakes National Wildlife Refuge. The green unburned section shows an area that underwent a wetland restoration through a Partnership between the Service and the State of North Carolina.

Smooth coneflower, red-cockaded woodpecker and sea turtles are a few of the endangered and threatened species of North Carolina. North Carolina is home to more than 70 listed species.

Station Facts

- Established: 1955.
- Staff: 19.

Station Goals

- The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.
- The vision of the Raleigh Field Office is to collaboratively foster vibrant, healthy, abundant and self-sustaining Federal trust resources within the Piedmont, Sandhills, and Coastal Plain by promoting reasonable science-based conservation. These Federal trust resources include: endangered and threatened species and at-risk species, migratory birds, migratory fish, National Wildlife Refuges, and the ecosystems on which they depend.

- Recover populations of endangered and threatened species and conserve at-risk species such that their listing is unnecessary in the North Carolina Piedmont, Sandhills and Coastal Plain.
- Conserve and manage migratory birds with an emphasis on declining species in the North Carolina Piedmont, Sandhills, and Coastal Plain.
- Restore migratory and diadromous fish population abundance and range and restore and protect the aquatic habitats on which they depend in North Carolina.
- Support and assist each of the North Carolina National Wildlife Refuge's mission to conserve and protect fish and wildlife resources.

Services provided to

- Private citizens.
- Federal and State agencies.
- Local government and community groups.
- Other U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service entities.

Activity Highlights

- The Raleigh Field Office has made significant progress in assessing and refining its program focus within the Strategic Habitat Conservation framework. Through this process it has continued to strengthen its emphasis on achieving conservation delivery through cross-program and landscape level multi-partner collaborations.
- The Coastal Program in North Carolina has restored, protected or enhanced more than 36,000 acres of habitat important for rare plants and animals. Together with partners the Coastal program has restored fish access to more than 1,500 miles of river and streams through the removal of dams or the building of fish ladders.

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- The Coastal Program in North Carolina along with its partners has been instrumental in the development of techniques that restore habitat such as new seedling technology for the Atlantic white cedar a globally threatened ecosystem.
- Environmental Contaminant program in North Carolina provided technical input to State regulators with the North Carolina Department of Natural Resources Division of Waste Management (NCDWM) and others regarding inclusion of 5-mile protective buffer around National Wildlife Refuges (NWRs) in the State to prevent and mitigate potential impacts that may result from landfill siting, design, and operation.
- The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program in North Carolina is the mechanism for delivering voluntary on-the-ground habitat improvement projects on private lands for the benefit of Federal trust species. Partners for Fish and Wildlife projects may include improving habitat for species such as migratory birds, anadromous or migratory fish, endangered or threatened species, or any other declining or imperiled species. Since the program began in North Carolina in 1988, nearly 15,000 acres of upland and bottomland habitat and 30 miles of streams have been restored in over 230 projects throughout North Carolina.
- The North Carolina Sandhills sub-office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is dedicated for coordinating red-cockaded woodpecker recovery in the North Carolina Sandhills as well as implementing the North Carolina Sandhills Safe Harbor Program. In the North Carolina Sandhills we have 108 agreements with landowners participating in the Safe Harbor Program protecting over 51,028 acres. These lands are comprised of private forests, golf courses, town parks, residential areas, horse farms, school property and a private foundation. There are 59 active red-cockaded woodpecker groups located (wholly or partially) on these enrolled properties.
- This office has been involved in the eradication of beach vitex from the coastline of the Carolinas. Beach vitex is a deciduous woody plant from the Pacific Rim that was introduced to the southeastern U.S. in the mid-1980's as a landscape plant. To date this invasive plant has been found in 7 of 9 coastal counties in North Carolina. Beach vitex negatively affects habitat of federally listed species along the coastline. This office is working with and helping to oversee the North Carolina Beach Vitex Task Force which is involved in restoring degraded beach and dune habitat to natural conditions, monitoring beaches to ensure that beach vitex seedlings or plants do not reoccur and educating coastal landowners, landscapers and media about the benefits of landscaping with native plants.
- As part of the relicensing of two hydropower dams on the Yadkin and Pee Dee rivers, the Raleigh Field Office successfully negotiated a settlement agreement with Progress Energy to ensure safe, timely and effective passage of American shad and American eel over the life of the new license (approximately 40 years). Under the agreement, approximately 220 miles of riverine habitat will be re-opened for American shad spawning, and 3,489 miles of habitat will be re-opened for use by American eel.