

West Virginia

Ecological Services Field Office

Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator Joe Manchin
Senator Shelly Moore Capito
Rep. David McKinley (1st)
Rep. Alex Mooney (2nd)
Rep. Carol Miller (3rd)

Contact

Barb Douglas, Acting Project
Leader West Virginia Field Office
694 Beverly Pike
Elkins, West Virginia 26241
Phone: 304/636 6586 x 16
Fax: 304/636 7824
TDD: 800/877 8339
E-mail: barbara_douglas@fws.gov

Profile

Established: 1975
Staff: 10.0
FY 2019 budget: \$727,031

Purpose

- Provide technical and/or financial assistance to private landowners interested in the conservation of aquatic habitats, migratory fish and birds, and federally listed species.
- Provide accurate and meaningful assistance to help other federal and state agencies and local governments fulfill their responsibilities toward federally-listed species, federal mandates, and fish and wildlife conservation.

Management Activities

- Protect and recover federally listed threatened and endangered species
- Protect wetlands, streams, and other sensitive habitats
- Serve as the federal government's expert on fish and wildlife for federally funded land and water development projects
- Develop partnerships for landscape-level habitat protection and restoration

Services Provided To

- Private citizens/companies
- State and local agencies
- Federal agencies



Removing Highland Dam, West Fork River, Harrison County

Highlights

The office has developed highly successful partnerships with the West Virginia Division of Highways and the WV Oil and Natural Gas Association to streamline project reviews. We also coordinate closely with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and energy companies on oil and natural gas pipelines.

The office's Endangered Species and Partners for Fish and Wildlife programs have been instrumental in working with state, federal and private partners to protect and restore high elevation forests of the central Appalachians for the benefit of listed and rare species. These programs also work collaboratively to protect and restore habitat of native freshwater mussels and fishes in the Ohio, Kanawha and Elk River watersheds, and recover bat species affected by the disease called white-nose syndrome.

Since 1993, the West Virginia Field Office's Partners Program has restored 17,620 acres of habitat and 214 miles of streambank on private land by working with hundreds of landowners and numerous partners.

In 2016 we completed the state's first three dam removal projects reconnecting 40 miles of the West Fork River for fish passage, water quality enhancement, and recreation. The effort removed a threat to human health, improved outdoor recreation opportunities, and contributed to the recovery of endangered species.

Working collaboratively with others our office has helped to preserve iconic places such as Cheat Canyon and Thunderstruck Rock, improved native trout fishing opportunities while also protecting endangered species and ensuring important infrastructure projects moved forward in an environmentally sensitive manner.

Working with AmeriCorps and other partners, we provide education and outreach to local citizens on endangered and non-native invasive species in West Virginia, while also providing job training for talented youth.

Issues

Wind power, oil and gas development, logging and mountaintop removal mining present many resource impact challenges. We continue to develop landscape level or programmatic approaches that will provide greater regulatory certainty and increase conservation benefits.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD
<http://www.fws.gov>

July 2019

