

# 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. Evan Jenkins (3rd)

### Contact

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### Profile

Established: 1975  
Staff: 7.5  
FY 2014 budget: \$568,342

### 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
- Tribal governments



*Cheat Canyon dedication.*

USFWS

### Highlights

The office has developed a highly successful partnership with West Virginia Division of Highway and a very close working relationship with the West Virginia oil and gas industry to facilitate their work while protecting listed species.

The office's Endangered Species and Partners 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 for Fish and Wildlife Program has restored 13,441 acres of habitat and 155 miles of streambank on private land by working with landowners and other partners. In 2013, the program completed its 1 millionth foot of conservation fencing.

In the last 3 years, we completed long-term cooperative efforts with state, Federal, and private partners to permanently protect iconic areas in West Virginia including 3,800 acres along Cheat Canyon, and 1,148 acres near Thunderstruck Rock and the Monongahela National Forest.

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.

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

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