

Silvio O. Conte

National Fish and Wildlife Refuge in Vermont Fact Sheet for Members of Congress

Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator James M. Jeffords (I)
Senator Patrick Leahy (D)
Rep. Bernard Sanders (I)

Contact

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Profile

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Established: | 1997 |
| Current acres: | 27,391 |
| Connecticut | 0 |
| Massachusetts | 186 |
| New Hampshire | 617 |
| Vermont | 26,534 |
| Proposed acres: | 93,395 |
| Connecticut | 28,330 |
| Massachusetts | 16,260 |
| New Hampshire | 7,945 |
| Vermont | 40,860 |
| Staff: | 9 |
| FY 2002 budget: | \$795,000 |
| 2002 volunteer hours: | 1,920 |
| 2002 visitation: | 145,800 |

Purpose

The Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge was established to protect the abundance and diversity of native species throughout the 7.2 million-acre Connecticut River watershed. This is accomplished through land acquisition and by providing technical and financial support to partners for improved habitat management and environmental education projects.

Public Use Notes

- Interpretive presence at Montshire Museum in Norwich
- Implementing the visitor service plan and constructing temporary office at the Nulhegan Basin Division.

Management Activities

- Work with many public and private partners to protect rare species, native plants and animals and important habitats
- Provide leadership to partners throughout New England to encourage the control of invasive species
- Develop cooperative visitor centers to educate the public about wildlife resources and issues within the watershed

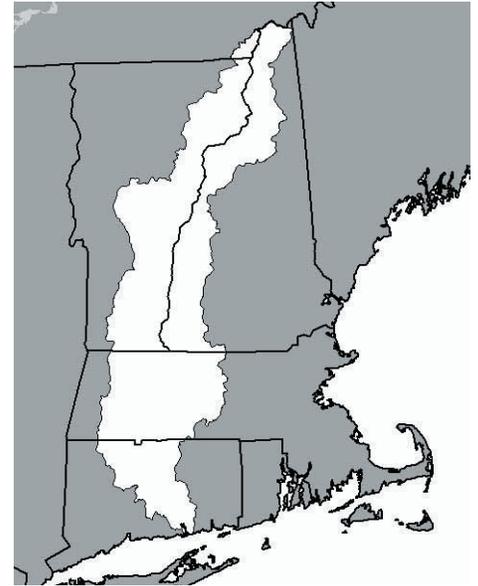
Highlights

From 1996 to 2001, the refuge helped Vermont citizens by competitively awarding 48 challenge cost-share projects to support grassroots efforts to restore habitats and provide environmental education.

The refuge is cooperating with the Montshire Museum of Science in Norwich, Vermont to provide additional facilities and watershed resource exhibits for visitors.

The refuge supported an analysis of migratory bird stop-over habitat in the watershed. The results will help guide future bird conservation priorities.

The refuge is working in partnership with the New England Wild Flower Society and University of Connecticut to produce the Invasive Plant Atlas of New England. This four-year project involves hundreds of volunteers and is being funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.



Refuges staff is working with state, local, non-profit and private-sector groups to implement public use and wildlife management plans for the former Champion International lands, which include the Nulhegan Basin Division.

Issues

The extensive spread of exotic invasive species threatens the integrity of native habitats.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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