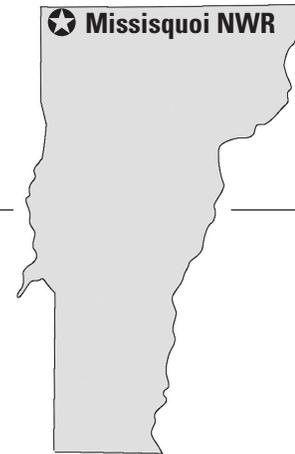


Missisquoi

National Wildlife Refuge

Fact Sheet for Members of Congress



Represented by the following Members of Congress:

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

Contact

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Profile

Established:	1943
Current acres:	6,592
Staff:	6
FY 2002 budget:	\$519,530
2002 volunteer hours:	1,496
2002 visitation:	32,460

Purpose

Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge was established to provide a resting and feeding area for migratory waterfowl, and as a general wildlife refuge pursuant to the Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 1929 as amended.

Public Use Notes

- Best viewed by canoe, boat or kayak.
- New headquarters and visitor facility opening in summer 2004.
- The Friends of Missisquoi, Inc. is growing rapidly and becoming very active in support of the refuge.

Management Activities

- Protecting and managing habitat for migratory birds
- Preserving natural diversity and abundance of plants and animals
- Providing nesting structures for a variety of wildlife
- Controlling exotic invasive species
- Enforcing federal wildlife laws and regulations
- Working with partners from all sectors to recover threatened species, protect and restore wetlands, provide habitats for migratory birds, and provide quality wildlife-oriented recreational activities for visitors

Highlights

The largest heron rookery in Vermont is located on the refuge's Shad Island, which includes up to 585 nests per year.

More than 20,000 ducks converge on the refuge each fall.

Most of Vermont's black terns (up to 99 percent) nest on the refuge.

Significant numbers of Vermont's nesting ospreys are found on the refuge.

Outstanding fishing opportunities abound in the Missisquoi River and Lake Champlain shoreline areas of the refuge.

Issues

Potential invasion of exotic plant species such as water chestnut, Eurasian milfoil and purple loofestife

Abenaki rights and claims to refuge lands

Issues related to motorist safety improvements needed and being planned for state Route 78

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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