

Montezuma

National Wildlife Refuge

Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator Charles E. Schumer (D)
Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (D)
Rep. Sherwood L. Boehlert (R-24th)
Rep. James T. Walsh (R-25th)

Contact

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Purpose

Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge was established as a refuge and breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife.

Public Use Notes

- A visitor center with a sales outlet
- A radio station will soon reach the 16 million vehicles traveling through the refuge each year on the New York State Thruway
- Two viewing towers, three viewing platforms and a three-mile self-guided auto drive tour
- Boat ramp
- Active hunting and trapping program
- Wildlife hiking trails

Management Activities

- Substantial acquisition and wetland restoration of old farmlands
- Restoration program of upland and wetland habitats averaging 300 acres per year
- A prescribed fire program treating an average of 200 acres per year
- A biological control program targeting purple loosestrife
- Partnering in the interagency Montezuma Wetlands Complex to restore the original 50,000-acre Montezuma Marsh and enhance community based ecotourism

Highlights

The first release of young wild bald eagles to re-establish the species in the Northeast Region occurred on the refuge. The refuge had two active nests in 2000.

Thousands of migratory waterfowl and shorebirds are attracted to the refuge each spring and fall.

Home of the Montezuma Wetlands Research Institute.

The Erie and Seneca Barge canals bring thousands of recreational boaters near and through the refuge each year.

Issues

Control of exotic invasive species such as purple loosestrife and common reed (Phragmites).

Wildlife movements near and across the New York State Thruway, which bisects the refuge.



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.

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