

New England

Ecological Services Field Office

in Rhode Island

Fact Sheet for Members of Congress

Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator Jack Reed (D)
Senator Lincoln D. Chafee (R)
Rep. Patrick Kennedy (D-1st)
Rep. Jim Langevin (D-2nd)

Contact

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Profile

Established: 1957
Staff: 27*
FY 2003 budget: \$2,100,000
*Headquarters located in Concord, NH with satellites in Sunderland, MA, Old Town, ME and Charlestown, RI.

Purpose

Field office biologists work with landowners, private organizations, government agencies and other partners to conserve fish and wildlife resources in New England. Their work is guided by the following laws and other related legislative authorities:

Clean Water Act
Endangered Species Act
Federal Power Act
Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act
Food Security Act
Migratory Bird Treaty Act
National Environmental Policy Act
Emergency Wetlands Resources Act
Oil Pollution Act
CERCLA (Superfund)
Water Resources Development Act
Coastal Barrier Resources Act

Cooperative Assistance Activities

- Conduct outreach activities to inform media, legislators, interest groups and the public of Service activities.

- In partnership with other agencies and organizations, restore populations of plants and animals on the federal List of Threatened and Endangered Species.
- Provide technical assistance to the Army Corps of Engineers to avoid or minimize the environmental impacts of wetland development projects.
- With public and private partners, develop ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate harmful effects of hydropower projects.
- Assess effects of contaminants on fish and wildlife resources, obtain compensation for and restore wildlife injured by contaminants, and resolve contaminant problems on existing and proposed Service lands.
- Carry out the Department of the Interior's responsibilities on oil and chemical spill response teams.
- In partnership with other agencies and conservation organizations, restore degraded habitat and remove barriers to fish passage.

Highlights

As a trustee from the 828,000-gallon 1996 North Cape oil spill, the Service continues to use part of the awarded \$8 million to restore injured natural resources, including loons, piping plovers, shellfish and anadromous fish.

Service and state agency efforts to monitor and enhance the endangered American burying beetle habitat on Block Island confirm an upward trend in the number of beetles there.

The Service continues to work with the Roger Williams Park Zoo where American burying beetles are raised for release on Nantucket Island.

The first known nesting of federally threatened bald eagles in the state occurred in 2003 at Scituate Reservoir.



Using natural resource monetary damages from the parties responsible for the L&RR Superfund site, the Service joined the state and Army Corps of Engineers in restoring the 21-acre Lonsdale Drive-in Theater site to wildlife habitat and passive use parkland.

Issues

The Service is assessing natural resource injury and associated monetary damages for the Bouchard oil spill, and worked closely with The Nature Conservancy to document oiling of Rhode Island beaches and intensify monitoring of threatened piping plovers.

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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