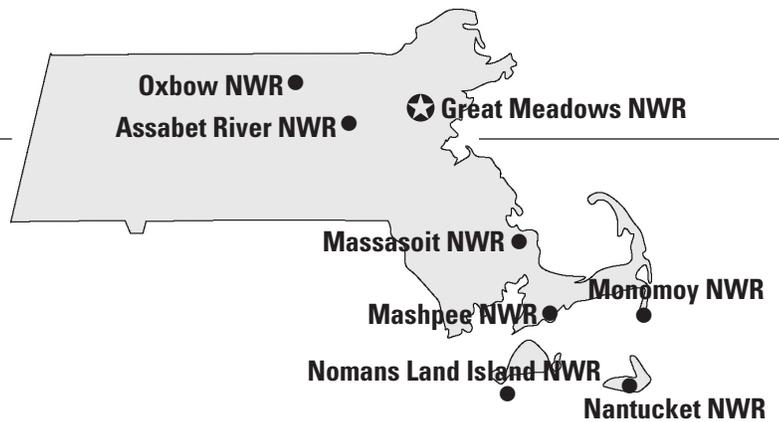


Nantucket

National Wildlife Refuge

Eastern Massachusetts National Wildlife Refuge Complex

Fact Sheet



Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D)
Senator John F. Kerry (D)
Rep. William D. Delahunt (D-10th)

Contact

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Purpose

Nantucket National Wildlife Refuge was established for its particular value in carrying out the national migratory bird management program.

Public Use Notes

- Surf fishing
- Summer interpretive programs
- Wildlife observation and photography

Management Activities

- Provide piping plover and tern nesting habitat
- Provide feeding, resting and nesting habitat for shorebirds and other migratory birds

Highlights

The refuge's barrier beach provides habitat for the federally listed piping plover and state-listed least tern.

Gray and harbor seals use the refuge in the winter months.

The refuge is a popular destination for surf fishermen.

The refuge is part of the larger Cuskata-Coatue Wildlife Refuge which includes lands held by the Service, the Nantucket Conservation Foundation and The Trustees of Reservations (TTOR). The lands are managed cooperatively by TTOR through a Memorandum of Understanding.

The Great Point Coast Guard lighthouse is located within the refuge boundary and maintained by TTOR.

Issues

TTOR charges a fee for vehicles traveling over sand within the Cuskata-Coatue Refuge. Fees collected exceed \$300,000 annually.

The refuge's popularity as a fishing destination has resulted in numerous oversand visits. At times during the summer, the refuge is used mainly as a parking lot.

The impact of sunbathing and swimming on wildlife is unknown.

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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