

# Oxbow

## 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. Martin T. Meehan (D-5th)

**Contact**

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**Purpose**

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

**Public Use Notes**

- River fishing
- Hunting of upland game birds, turkey and small game
- Educational and interpretive programs
- Wildlife observation and photography

**Management Activities**

- Manage upland habitat for a variety of migrating birds, including the American woodcock
- Manage sandy upland soils to enhance nesting habitat for the state-threatened Blanding's turtle
- Control invasive species
- Protect habitat for federal and state-listed endangered species
- Provide compatible wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities

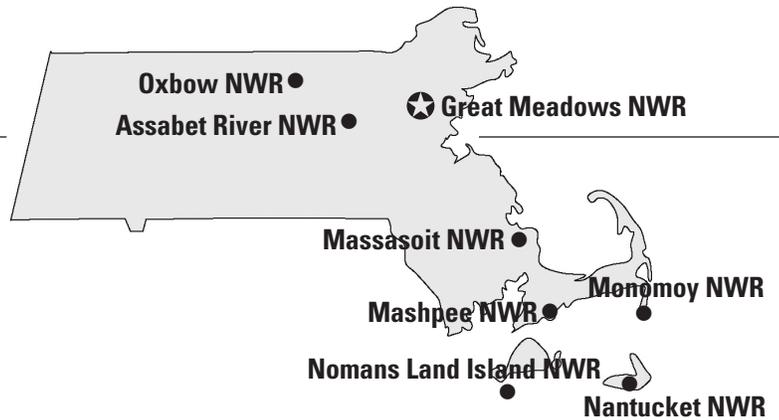
**Highlights**

The refuge was acquired through land transfers from the U.S. Army at Fort Devens and purchase of the 120-acre Watt farm in 2001.

Bald eagles and peregrine falcons use the refuge during migration.

The refuge, which features freshwater marsh and oxbow wetlands along the Nashua River, provides habitat for waterfowl and wading birds.

The refuge's upland habitat supports migratory birds and upland game birds such as turkey and American woodcock. White-tailed deer and small game mammals also use the refuge.



Twenty state-listed species inhabit the refuge, including Blandings turtle, blue-spotted salamander, pied-billed grebe and climbing fern.

A draft comprehensive conservation plan was released for public review and comment in 2003, and will be finalized in 2004.

**Issues**

A local snowmobile club's request to retain a trail on the refuge has been denied.

Many people are upset about our proposal to prohibit dogs from the refuge and to charge an entrance fee.

*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**  
**1 800/344 WILD**  
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