

Prime Hook

National Wildlife Refuge

Fact Sheet

Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator Joseph R. Biden, Jr. (D)
Senator Thomas R. Carper (D)
Rep. Michael N. Castle (R)

Contact

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Purpose

Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge was established for use as an inviolate sanctuary, or for any other management purpose, for migratory birds, and, as suitable, for incidental fish and wildlife-oriented development, the protection of natural resources, and the conservation of endangered or threatened species.

Public Use Notes

- Interpretive visitor center and trails, including a boardwalk (4 total — 3.3 miles)
- Canoeing (7 miles)
- Crabbing
- Hunting (deer, waterfowl and upland game)
- Three fully accessible boat ramps for fishing, hunting and canoeing

Management Activities

- Providing resting and feeding habitat (moist soil management totaling 4,200 acres) for migrating shorebirds and wintering waterfowl

- Protecting and enhancing critical wooded habitat for the endangered Delmarva Peninsula fox squirrel and nesting and wintering habitat for bald eagles, ospreys and peregrine falcons
- As part of the National Fire Plan, working to eliminate the risk of wildfire to adjacent landowners and treating over 3,600 acres of marsh infested with the invasive grass *Phragmites*
- Restoring and enhancing forests and grasslands
- Providing high quality, safe and enjoyable wildlife-dependent recreational experiences

Highlights

There is one active bald eagle nest on the refuge.

The refuge is part of a designated Wetland of International Importance, a Ramsar site.

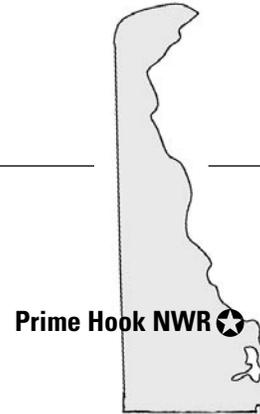
Freshwater marshes are a major wintering area for up to 85,000 ducks and 200,000 snow geese during fall and winter migrations.

Thousands of shorebirds use fresh water and salt marshes during spring and fall migrations.

The refuge provides critical habitat for the endangered Delmarva Peninsula fox squirrel.

Issues

Pesticide use, off-site development and the spread of exotic/invasive species threaten biological diversity in the refuge ecosystems.



Refuge staff are working with local landowners and Service Ecological Services staff to resolve conflicts surrounding Delmarva Peninsula fox squirrels.

The refuge begins its comprehensive conservation planning process in 2003. Public involvement will be an important part of that process.

The Service has completed clean-up of some areas of lead shot contamination. Monitoring and study of impacts continue where lead shot remains in place.

Working with The Nature Conservancy, the refuge is acquiring acres on its western boundary to protect habitat for shorebirds migrating to their Arctic nesting grounds.

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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