

Rachel Carson

National Wildlife Refuge

Fact Sheet

Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator Olympia J. Snowe (R)
Senator Susan M. Collins (R)
Rep. Thomas H. Allen (D-1st)

Contact

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Purpose

Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge was established on December 16, 1966, under the authority of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act, as amended, for the protection of habitat for migratory birds. Land has since been acquired for incidental fish and wildlife-oriented recreational development, the protection of natural resources, and the conservation of endangered or threatened species.

Public Use Notes

- One-mile, self-guided, accessible trail at headquarters open every day from dawn until dusk
- Two-mile trail on Cutts Island, Brave Boat Harbor Division
- Visitor contact station at refuge headquarters in Wells

Management Activities

- Restoring degraded salt marshes
- Protecting and monitoring piping plovers and least terns
- Maintaining grassland habitats
- Controlling invasive plants
- Managing grass and shrub lands using prescribed fire
- Surveying and monitoring wildlife
- Enforcing federal wildlife laws and refuge regulations

Highlights

The refuge is in the process of completing its comprehensive conservation plan, a significant planning document that will set refuge management priorities and objectives for the next 15 years.

A long-term program to restore deteriorated coastal salt marshes is in its seventh year. These projects are made possible by partnering with a local wetlands contractor, university researchers, Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve and volunteers. This refuge is the National Wildlife Refuge System's demonstration site for salt marsh management and restoration.

Issues

Impact of spreading development on southern Maine's natural resources

Loss of habitat for migratory birds

Obstructions to anadromous fish passage

Encroachment of invasive species



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