

# Canaan Valley

## National Wildlife Refuge

### Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator Robert C. Byrd (D)  
Senator John D. Rockefeller IV (D)  
Rep. Alan B. Mollohan (D-1st)

### Contact

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### Purpose

The Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge was established to preserve the unique plant and wildlife communities of the nationally significant Blackwater River wetlands. The refuge was also created to perpetuate wildlife species, including migratory birds and threatened and endangered species, protected by federal law.

### Public Use Notes

- Visitor center
- Nature trails
- Hunting (subject to state and refuge regulations)
- Fishing

### Management Activities

- Protect fragile wetland plant communities and control accelerated erosion on uplands.
- Protect habitats of threatened and endangered species
- Perpetuate nesting habitat for grassland-dependent migratory birds
- Maintain early successional habitat for songbirds and American woodcock
- Control invasive species

### Highlights

The refuge contains a wetlands complex of more than 5,171 acres that has national significance.

The valley has one of the largest shrub swamps and the fourth largest bog in the eastern United states.

The climate supports a relict boreal ecosystem that includes at least 580 species of plants, 109 of which are representative of latitudes in Maine.

Canaan Valley is a regionally significant breeding ground and migratory stopover for American woodcock.

The refuge supports populations of the threatened Cheat Mountain salamander and the endangered West Virginia northern flying squirrel. In 2003 refuge staff confirmed the presence of West Virginia northern flying squirrel and will continue to survey to define its distribution.

More than 280 species of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and fish are known or expected to occur in the diverse habitats of the Canaan Valley.



Woodcock on nest

USFWS

Forty-one miles of trails are open to public uses, including 31 miles for pedestrians, 22 miles for horseback riders, 23 miles for bicyclists and 7 miles for motorized vehicles. Ten additional miles of trails are available for cross-country skiing on the refuge.

### Issues

Boundary posting continues on existing property.

Although the refuge has acquired about 66 percent of its approved boundary, two major land acquisitions are still required to ensure protection of the watershed and the biological integrity of the Canaan Valley.

The refuge will begin comprehensive conservation planning in 2006.

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**  
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January 2006

