



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Uniquely Positioned to Serve the Great Lakes Basin

Did you know...

In fiscal year 2005, the Fish and Wildlife Service:

...awarded \$2.1 million in North American Wetlands Conservation Act grants to restore, protect and enhance 3,671 acres in the Great Lakes basin.

...worked with stakeholders through its Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program to restore and enhance 863 acres of wetlands and 204 stream miles in the Great Lakes.

...through its Great Lakes Coastal Program, restored and enhanced 813 acres of coastal wetlands and 31 miles of stream shoreline.

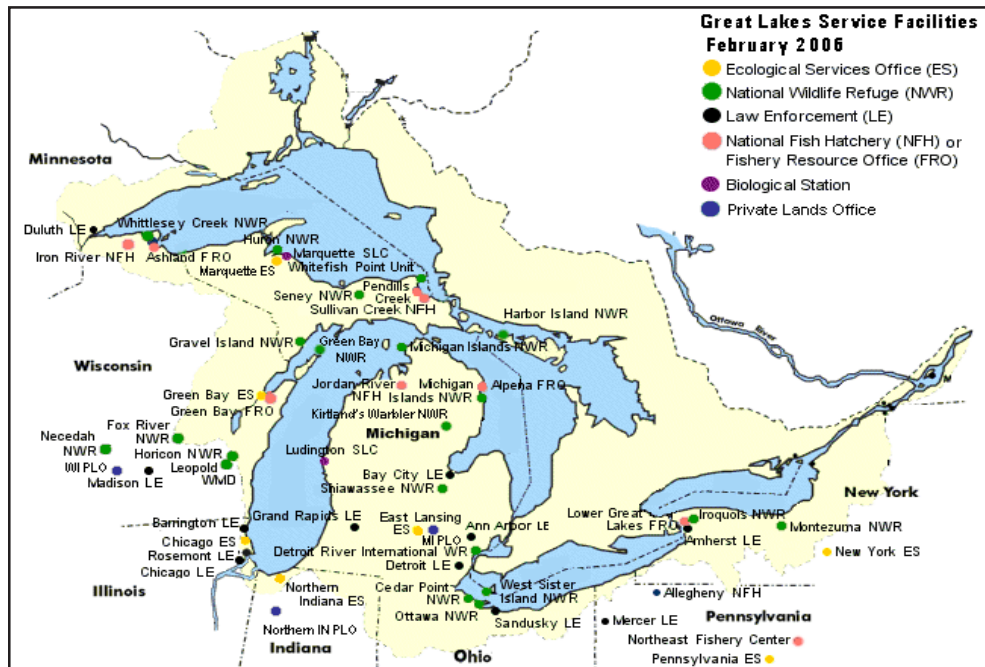
...restored and enhanced 955 acres of wetlands in the Great Lakes through settlements under its Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration program.

...awarded \$3.8 million in National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grants for partners to acquire 1,859 acres of wetlands along lakes Michigan and Superior.

...awarded a grant to the University of Minnesota to help improve the accuracy of the binational Great Lakes Colonial Waterbird Survey, conducted in partnership with the Canadian Wildlife Service and states.

Since 1998, 58 restoration projects totaling nearly \$6 million have been implemented through more than 60 partners under the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act.

Between 2000 and 2005, the Fish Passage Program worked with 45 partners to remove 34 barriers to fish passage, opening 231 miles of stream habitat.



On the landscape with the capability to deliver throughout the Great Lakes basin

In collaboration with others, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service addresses natural resource issues that affect the fish, wildlife and habitats of the Great Lakes basin, as well as the 34 million people who live there. Through its environmental, aquatic, enforcement and land management programs, the Fish and Wildlife Service works with other federal agencies, state, local and tribal governments, Canadian provinces, nongovernment organizations and private individuals.

In May 2004, the President signed Executive Order 13340 establishing a Great Lakes Collaboration of National Significance, affirming the federal government's commitment to addressing environmental and resource management issues in the Great Lakes basin. Strategy teams formed to address the Council of Great Lakes Governors' priority issues: *Habitat and Species; Sustainable Development; Indicators and Information; Coastal Health; Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxics Reduction; Non-point Source Areas of Concern Restoration/Sediments; and Aquatic Invasive Species*. The Service co-chaired the Aquatic Invasive Species Strategy Team.

As the only federal agency whose mission is to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife and their habitats, the Service is uniquely positioned to serve the natural resources of the Great Lakes basin and address the Great Lakes governors' priorities in the areas of aquatic invasive species, habitat and species, and information and indicators. Staff in 58 field stations, two regional offices and the Washington Office serve the Great Lakes basin, coordinating and facilitating projects, and developing and leveraging partners and resources.

The Service can be a leader on the Aquatic Invasive Species, Habitat and Species, and Information and Indicators strategies, and the Service's Midwest Region is working to ensure that our mission, conservation goals and priorities, and operational capabilities are put to good use as the interagency process continues.

Did you know...

National fish hatcheries have stocked more than 30 million yearling lake trout in the Great Lakes over the past 10 years and were an important factor in lake trout recovery in Lake Superior.

Using a Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act grant of more than \$600,000, the Service developed a Geographic Information System for Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat in partnership with the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, Michigan DNR, the University of Michigan and others.

Nearly 900,000 people each year come to national wildlife refuges in the Great Lakes basin to hunt, fish or watch or photograph wildlife.

The Service is working with the Canadian Wildlife Service, states, provinces, and other partners to develop a regional plan to conserve 46 waterbird species in the Great Lakes.

The Fish and Wildlife Service is working to recover the critically endangered Great Lakes population of piping plovers. A recovery plan spells out actions to be taken by federal and state agencies and private partners.

Aquatic Invasive Species

Aquatic invasive species pose a significant threat in the Great Lakes basin. The Service leads on this issue by:

- ✓ Providing leadership for the United States in the Great Lakes Fishery Commission's **Sea Lamprey Control Program**



Invasive sea lampreys attached to a native lake trout. Control efforts have achieved a 90-percent reduction of lampreys since the 1950s, helping the survival of the \$4 billion Great Lakes fisheries economy.

- ✓ Monitoring and controlling aquatic nuisance species such as Asian carp, zebra mussels, Eurasian ruffe and round goby through the **Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990**
- ✓ Leading the **Aquatic Nuisance Species Great Lakes Panel** in developing strategic actions for invasive species prevention and remediation
- ✓ Enforcing laws under authorities of the **Lacey Act** and **Migratory Bird Treaty Act** to prevent movement of invasives into the Great Lakes
- ✓ Helping develop and fund **Great Lakes Coastal Program** projects for removal, control and monitoring of invasive plants

Habitat and Species

As an agency charged with protecting wildlife and habitat, the Service leads on this issue in many ways, including:

- ✓ Protecting and restoring wildlife and habitat on **15 national wildlife refuges** covering nearly 143,000 acres
- ✓ Preventing effects from pollution to fish, wildlife and habitats, and restoring affected resources through the **Environmental Contaminants Program**



Federal, state and private partners tour coastal wetlands restored through a Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration settlement.

- ✓ Protecting and restoring coastal habitat through the non-regulatory, partnership-based **Great Lakes Coastal Program**
- ✓ Restoring migratory bird habitat in the Great Lakes through **Upper Mississippi/Great Lakes Joint Venture** partnerships

- ✓ Restoring and managing wetlands and other habitat on national wildlife refuges, wetland management districts, and, in partnership, on private lands, through **North American Wetlands Conservation Act** grants and **Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program**



Partners build an enclosure to protect endangered piping plovers in Michigan.

- ✓ Recovering threatened and endangered species through the **Endangered Species Act**
- ✓ Restoring fish passage on Great Lakes tributaries through the **Fish Passage Program**
- ✓ Restoring native lake trout, brook trout and lake sturgeon populations, and providing technical assistance to state and tribal partners in managing fisheries through our **Fish and Wildlife Management Assistance Program**

Information and Indicators

The Service has taken a leadership role on this issue by:

- ✓ Managing the National Wetland Inventory Status and Trends, funded through the **Emergency Wetlands Resources Act**
- ✓ Coordinating, through our Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem Team, several **Great Lakes Indicators** through the State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference: lake trout, lake sturgeon, island conservation and bald eagles

This is a snapshot of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's activities in the Great Lakes basin. For more information, visit us at <http://www.fws.gov/midwest> or call us at 612-713-5360.