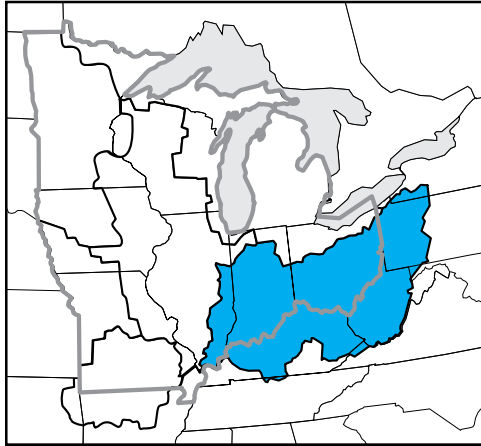




Ohio River Valley Ecosystem



USFWS Field Stations

Fifteen field stations are located in this ecosystem: 7 National Wildlife Refuges, 5 Ecological Services Field Office, 1 National Fish Hatchery, 1 Law Enforcement Office, and 1 Fishery Resources Office. This ecosystem is located in three U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service regions.

Partners

West Virginia Department of Natural Resources, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Kentucky Waterways Alliance

Ecosystem Description

The Ohio River Basin drains a total area of approximately 141,000 square miles and includes portions of Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. The Ohio, the ecosystem's primary river, is formed by the confluence of the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Major tributaries flowing into the Ohio, from upstream to downstream, include the Muskingum, Kanawha, Guyandotte, Big Sandy, Scioto, Licking, Great Miami, Kentucky, Green, and Wabash rivers. The Ohio flows 981 miles in a southwesterly direction, joining the Mississippi River at Cairo, Illinois.

Numerous Service trust resources are in the ecosystem, including many federally listed plants, mussels, fish, birds and mammals, waterfowl, other migratory water birds, and neotropical migratory land birds. Much of the region's economic activity (agriculture, lumbering, mining, and recreation) is based on the watershed's natural resources. Resources of the area are threatened by land conversion, poor landuse, physical alteration of the area's rivers and streams, mountain-top removal, acid mine drainage, destruction of wetland habitats, and discharges of pollutants.

Landscape Priorities

- *Restore native mollusks*
Reverse the decline of native aquatic mollusks focusing on listed and candidate species and species of concern.
- *Restore migratory landbirds*
Reverse the decline of migratory landbirds and other bird species of concern and achieve stable viable populations.
- *Restore native fishes*
Reverse the decline of native fishes focusing on interjurisdictional, listed, and candidate species and species of concern.
- *Protect karst and cave habitat*
Protect and restore karst and cave habitat supporting listed and candidate species and species of concern.
- *Protect wetland, riverine, and riparian habitat*
Protect and restore wetland, riverine, and riparian habitat for the protection and enhancement of migratory waterbirds and other wetland-dependent species of concern.
- *Protect imperiled species*
Reduce the decline and promote the recovery of rare resources identified as threatened and endangered species, candidate species, and species of concern.

Contacts

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