

Silvio O. Conte

National Fish and Wildlife Refuge in Vermont

Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator James M. Jeffords (I)
Senator Patrick Leahy (D)
Rep. Bernard Sanders (I)

Contact

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Purpose

The Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge was established to protect the abundance and diversity of native species throughout the 7.2-million-acre Connecticut River watershed. This is accomplished through land acquisition and management, and by providing technical and financial support to partners for improved habitat management and environmental education projects.

The refuge is one of 545 that compose the National Wildlife Refuge System, and ranks nationally within the top ten priority land conservation projects for plants, fish, wildlife and people.

Public Use Notes

- Montshire Museum of Science in Norwich
- Refuge lands in the state are open to the public for wildlife observation and photography, fishing, hunting, and environmental education and interpretation

Management Activities

- Work with many public and private partners to protect rare species, native plants and animals, and important habitats
- Survey and monitor fish and wildlife species and promote research to inform management decisions on refuge and other lands in the watershed
- Develop cooperative visitor centers to educate the public about fish and wildlife resources and issues within the watershed

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Nulhegan Basin

TNC/Vermont

Highlights

Congress appropriated \$650,000 for easement and fee land acquisition in fiscal year 2006.

Forty acres acquired in the state were added to the Nulhegan Basin Division adjacent to where the headquarters and visitor contact station are under construction; the building will be operational in June 2006.

Completed construction of the Lewis Pond Overlook, which affords an impressive view of the Nulhegan Basin.

Completed a forest inventory of the 26,000-acre division and began analysis of the data.

Developed a public access concept to establish a 25-mile interpretive auto tour route with 12 stops and corresponding short accessible trails leading to overlooks and interpretive signage nested within a wide variety of habitats.

Northwoods Stewardship Center will manage the Youth Conservation Corps program.