

# Environmental Contaminants Division

## *The Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Program in New England*

### Introduction

When hazardous substances enter the environment, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources can be injured. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), along with other Department of the Interior, State, Tribal and Federal partners, acts as a "trustee" for these resources. The USFWS has responsibility for National Wildlife Refuges, endangered and threatened species, migratory birds, interjurisdictional fish, and other natural resources. Trustees seek to identify the natural resources injured, determine the extent of the injuries, recover damages from those responsible, and plan and carry out natural resource restoration activities. These efforts are possible under the Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Program (Restoration Program), the goal of which is to restore natural resources injured by contamination.

### Program Activities

Restoration of natural resources adversely affected from contamination in New England has focused on impacts associated with 112 hazardous waste sites on the National Priorities List, as well as impacts associated with oil spills off our coast. Since 1992, the New England Field Office has collected monetary damages or received in-kind restoration from natural resource settlements at 37 sites.

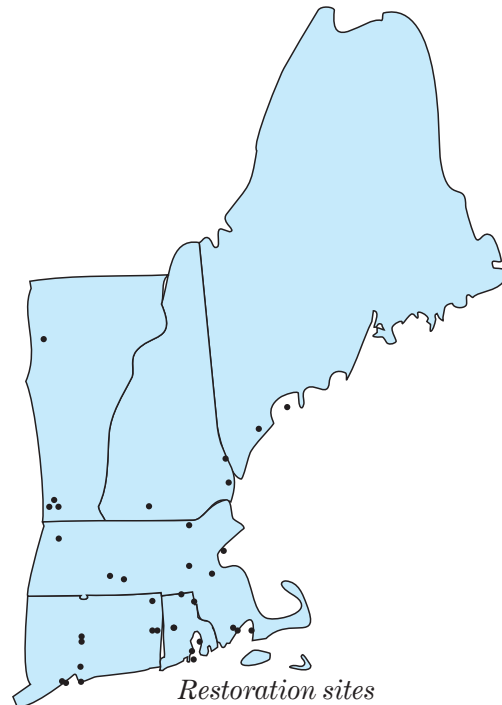
### Program Benefits

As a result of these efforts and the partnerships that they have generated, nearly 750 acres of upland and wetland habitat in New England have been permanently protected for wildlife. In addition, at least 125 pairs of common loons have been protected by conservation easements and fee purchases on nearly 1.5 million acres within the state of Maine. Nearly 350

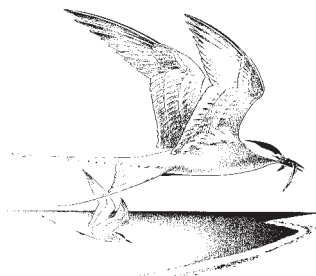
acres of degraded saltmarsh habitat have been restored, as well as 16 acres of freshwater wetlands and 13 acres of adjacent uplands. Monitoring and management programs have increased productivity of federally-listed threatened piping plovers, federally-listed endangered roseate terns, and other species. Installation of fishways has provided access to over 440 acres of spawning habitat for shad and river herring. Restoration programs for shellfish, sea ducks, eel grass, and a number of other resources have been implemented throughout New England. Recreational improvements and educational kiosks have also been developed.

### Partnerships

The successful completion of restoration projects has been the direct result of countless partnerships. Projects have been accomplished in cooperation with Responsible Parties, State, Tribal, and Federal partners (including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency), local towns, thousands of individual donors and volunteers, local corporations, universities, and dozens of private conservation organizations, such as the New England Forestry Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, and the Forest Society of Maine.



*Restoration sites*



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