

Great Bay

National Wildlife Refuge



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Osprey

Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator Judd Gregg (R)
Senator John E. Sununu (R)
Rep. Jeb E. Bradley (R-1st)
Rep. Charles F. Bass (R-2nd)

Contact

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Purpose

Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge was established to encourage the natural diversity of plant, fish and wildlife species within the refuge to provide for their conservation and management; to protect species listed as endangered, threatened or candidate species; to preserve and enhance water quality of aquatic habitat within the refuge; and to fulfill international treaty obligations of the United States relating to fish and wildlife.

Public Use Notes

- Visitor contact station
- Hiking trails
- Deer hunting (November)

Management Activities

- Managing water levels in three impoundments covering 64 acres to provide feeding and resting areas for migrating birds
- Maintaining and expanding grasslands and reducing the encroachment of woody vegetation through a combination of mowing and prescribed burning
- Controlling invasive plant species to protect native species
- Continuing biological monitoring programs and procedures to document baseline information on the refuge's wildlife habitat

Highlights

The refuge maintains seven miles of undisturbed shoreline along Great Bay estuary.

The Great Bay and the refuge serve as New Hampshire's major wintering habitat for black duck, a species whose population is declining.

The Service is a member of Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership that is acting to protect additional lands around the bay and its tributaries.

The refuge is developing a cooperative agreement with a friends group for the management of Wapack National Wildlife Refuge.

The refuge is assisting the state Fish and Game nongame program and the Army National Guard in a captive rearing program for endangered Karner blue butterfly.

Issues

Demolition and removal of former weapons storage area remaining

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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from Pease Air Force Base would create a 65-acre grassland for sensitive grassland species like upland sandpiper and bobolink.

Several landfills created by military may still be releasing contaminants, with unknown effects on local flora and fauna.

The historic Margeson Estate, located in a closed portion of the refuge near wildlife resting and feeding areas, is in need of stabilization for preservation purposes.

The adjacent Pease International Airport is required by state law to maintain nesting habitat for state-listed upland sandpiper, which attracts other species of birds and increases the possibility of birds striking aircraft on takeoff or landing.

Management of pine barren habitat for endangered Karner blue butterfly around Concord Airport conflicts with FAA requirements for maintaining vegetation for safety.