

# Montezuma

## National Wildlife Refuge

### Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator Charles E. Schumer (D)  
Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (D)  
Rep. Sherwood L. Boehlert (R-24th)  
Rep. James T. Walsh (R-25th)

### Contact

Thomas M. Jasikoff, Refuge Manager  
Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge  
3395 Routes 5/20 East  
Seneca Falls, NY 13148-9778  
Phone: 315/568 5987  
Fax: 315/568 8835  
TDD: 800/421 1220  
E-mail: tom\_jasikoff@fws.gov

### Purpose

Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge was established as a refuge and breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife.

### Public Use Notes

- A visitor center with a sales outlet
- A radio station will soon reach the 16 million vehicles traveling through the refuge each year on the New York State Thruway
- Two viewing towers, three viewing platforms (two wheelchair-accessible) and a three-mile self-guided auto drive tour
- Boat ramp
- Active hunting and trapping program
- Wildlife hiking trails
- Wheelchair-accessible fishing pier
- Active friends group and volunteer program

### Management Activities

- Substantial acquisition and wetland restoration of old farmlands
- Restoration program of upland and wetland habitats averaging 300 acres per year
- A prescribed fire program treating an average of 200 acres per year
- A biological control program targeting purple loosestrife
- Partnering in the interagency Montezuma Wetlands Complex to restore the original 50,000-acre Montezuma Marsh and enhance community-based ecotourism

### Highlights

The first release of young wild bald eagles to re-establish the species in the Northeast Region occurred on the refuge. The refuge had two active nests in 2004.

Thousands of migratory waterfowl and shorebirds are attracted to the refuge each spring and fall.

The refuge is home to the Montezuma Wetlands Research Institute.

The Erie and Seneca barge canals bring thousands of recreational boaters near and through the refuge each year. A new boat landing area, done in partnership with New York State Canal Corporation, welcomes and orients boaters to the refuge.

We are currently restoring the wetlands around the visitor center and developing interpretive products to enhance the visitor experience.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
1 800/344 WILD  
<http://www.fws.gov>

January 2006



bald eagle eaglets

Peter Nye/NYSDEC

Funding from reauthorization of TEA-21 and partnership with New York State Thruway Authority allotted \$2.7 million to restore the refuge's dry marsh and construct a scenic pull-out from the eastbound lane of the New York State Thruway overlooking the refuge.

### Issues

Control of exotic invasive species such as purple loosestrife and common reed (*Phragmites*)

Wildlife movements near and across the New York State Thruway, which bisects the refuge

Trespass and poaching of white-tailed deer

