

Oxbow

National Wildlife Refuge

Eastern Massachusetts National Wildlife Refuge Complex

Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D)
Senator John F. Kerry (D)
Rep. Martin T. Meehan (D-5th)

Contact

Debra Kimbrell-Anderson
Refuge Manager
Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge
73 Weir Hill Road
Sudbury, MA 01776
Phone: 978/443 4661 ext. 16
Fax: 978/443 2898
TDD: 800/877 8339
E-mail: fw5rw_emnwr@fws.gov
<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/oxbow>

This unstaffed refuge is part of the Eastern Massachusetts National Wildlife Refuge Complex, which has a FY 2006 budget of about \$2 million and a staff of 15.9 people.

Purpose

Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge was established primarily for its particular value in carrying out the national migratory bird management program.

Public Use Notes

- River fishing
- Hunting of upland game birds, turkey, waterfowl, white-tailed deer and small game
- Educational and interpretive programs
- Wildlife observation and photography
- Kayak and canoe access to the Nashua River

Management Activities

- Manage upland habitat for a variety of migrating birds
- Manage sandy upland soils to enhance nesting habitat for the state-threatened Blanding's turtle
- Control invasive species; 600 acres infested
- Provide compatible wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities

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

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Vista at Oxbow

Tim Prior/USFWS

Highlights

The refuge was acquired primarily through land transfers from the U.S. Army at Fort Devens.

The refuge, which features freshwater marsh and oxbow wetlands along the Nashua River, provides habitat for waterfowl and wading birds.

The refuge's upland habitat supports migratory birds and upland game birds such as turkey and American woodcock.

Twenty state-listed species inhabit the refuge, including Blandings turtle, blue-spotted salamander, pied-billed grebe and climbing fern.

The final comprehensive conservation plan was released in January 2005.

A photoblind was built by refuge staff and volunteers in 2005. Hunting programs were expanded in 2005 to include deer and waterfowl.

A \$1.5 million project to construct a visitor contact station was included in the 2005 federal Highway reauthorization bill.

Issues

Development of the former Fort Devens property on lands owned by the Massachusetts Finance Development Agency could threaten refuge resources and habitats.

Contaminants on former Army lands next to the refuge could threaten refuge resources and habitats.

