

St. Lawrence

Wetland and Grassland Management District

Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator Charles E. Schumer (D)
Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (D)
Rep. John M. McHugh (R-23rd)

Contact

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Purpose

St. Lawrence Wetland and Grassland Management District was established to maintain and improve the exemplary fish and wildlife resources of the St. Lawrence valley by working with local communities and private landowners to enhance fish and wildlife populations in an ecologically sound, economically feasible and socially acceptable way.

Public Use Notes

- Handicapped-accessible wildlife observation area is available

Management Activities

- Promoting voluntary partnerships with landowners and stakeholders to restore habitat for waterfowl and other migratory birds
- Provide support for fish and wildlife research
- Management of three Farmers Home Administration transfer properties as demonstration areas for habitat restoration techniques
- Management of 21 easement areas

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

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Bald eagle

Steve Hillebrand/USFWS

Highlights

The St. Lawrence valley contains extensive agricultural grasslands interspersed with abundant freshwater wetlands and tributaries. These diverse habitats are critically important to several species of migratory birds that are rare and declining elsewhere in the Northeast.

The district hosts a breeding population of 40,000 mallards, the highest breeding density in the Atlantic flyway.

The district has been working with partners and landowners in Jefferson County to release a draft environmental assessment for the protection of up to 8,000 acres of essential waterfowl habitat and potential opportunities for wildlife-oriented public recreation.

Issues

Grassland nesting birds are dependent on the extensive agricultural grasslands found throughout the valley. These grasslands are declining as farms are abandoned and as agricultural practices on the remaining farms intensify.

Due to a large hydropower plant and operation of the St. Lawrence Seaway, water level management on the St. Lawrence River has severely degraded the shoreline and associated tributary marshes.

The invasive species purple loosestrife, common reed (*Phragmites*) and zebra mussel impact the St. Lawrence valley.

