



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Ecological Services

Endangered Species and Wetlands Conservation in the Upper Midwest

Quick Fact

The Upper Midwest is home to 69 federally-listed endangered, threatened, or candidate species, including the gray wolf, Indiana bat, least tern, copperbelly water snake, white cat's paw pearlymussel, and eastern prairie fringed orchid. For more information about these and other rare and declining species, please see our website at <http://midwest.fws.gov/endangered>

Our History

For over 60 years Ecological Services has protected and restored fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats. Our roots trace back to the River Basins Program that reviewed Federal water development projects. Since 1945, Ecological Service's responsibilities have expanded to include reviews of most Federal construction projects, endangered species, environmental contaminants, and a variety of conservation partnerships and grants.

Illinois - Finding Solutions to River Issues

The Rock Island, Illinois, field office has worked closely with the Corps of Engineers and the states of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri, and Illinois over the last 10 years to find a long-term solution to the conflict between commercial navigation on the Upper Mississippi River and the river's value to millions of migratory birds, waterfowl hunting and sport fishing. The completed feasibility study for navigation and ecosystem needs on the Upper Mississippi recommends a winning solution for recreationists, commercial interests and natural resources.

Indiana - Cleaning Up the Grand Calumet River

Biologists in the Bloomington, Indiana, field office helped bring together a team of state and federal partners that worked with private parties to reach an agreement to restore natural resources degraded by decades of contamination in northwestern Indiana's Grand Calumet River. Efforts to evaluate the impacts of contaminants began in 1996 and culminated in a 2004 settlement under which eight companies agreed to pay nearly \$60 million to restore natural resources injured by releases of hazardous substances and oil in the Grand Calumet River and Indiana Harbor Canal.



Iowa - Evaluating Habitat Projects

The Rock Island office assisted in designing and evaluating the Corps of Engineers' multi-million dollar Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Projects along 260 miles of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. Projects are designed to enhance important sport, commercial and large river fish such as walleye, catfish, paddlefish, and sturgeon. Pre- and post-construction evaluations are conducted to determine the effectiveness of projects and serve as a learning tool for future projects.

Michigan - Conserving Our Coastal Habitat

The Service's Great Lakes Coastal Program seeks to conserve the Great Lakes ecosystem to benefit the people and the natural resources of the region. The East Lansing, Michigan, field office carries out a range of activities in support of the program. Among them are strategic planning with groups such as the Michigan Dune Alliance and the Michigan Sea Grant Program; restoration of Little Carp River at the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community; restoration of a portion of Bigelow Creek, a tributary to the Muskegon River; and a soft engineering demonstration project in Blue Heron Lagoon at Detroit's Belle Isle.

Minnesota – Working Together to Prevent Extinction

The Twin Cities Field Office has collaborated with the Corps of Engineers; the States of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, and Missouri; the Genoa National Fish Hatchery, and the LaCrosse Fishery Resource Office to propagate, translocate, and reintroduce the endangered Higgins eye, a freshwater mussel. These activities were necessary to save the species after the devastating introduction of zebra mussels to the Upper Mississippi in the 1990s.

Missouri – Promoting Partnerships to Foster Conservation

The Columbia Missouri Field Office achieves conservation from the Ozarks to the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers and other parts of the

state through partnerships and collaboration. Efforts include the St. Louis Urban Migratory Bird Treaty to enhance migratory birds for all its citizens, recovery of the endangered Missouri bladderpod to a threatened plant, and promoting stakeholder stakeholder collaboration on the Missouri River.

Ohio – Saving a Stream and a Species

Fish Creek has long been recognized as the most pristine of the Maumee River tributaries and may be the last place on earth that the federally endangered white cat's paw pearl mussel is found. A team made up of Service staff from offices in the Midwest Region, surveyed more than 24 miles of Fish Creek, identifying 64 mussel beds. The mussel team has found about 1,760 mussels, including three endangered clubshell mussels. Based on surveys, future projects may include extensive propagation efforts for state and federally listed species to recover populations.

Wisconsin – Bringing Back a River

The Service and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources are partnering to improve fish passage at the Prairie du Sac Hydroelectric Project. Fish entrainment protection devices and fishways will allow fish to move upstream and downstream of the dam. When up fishways are installed, aquatic species in 92 miles of the lower Wisconsin River and the Mississippi River will have access to new habitats upstream in the Wisconsin River. Among them are 18 species that are absent from the stretch of the Wisconsin River between the project dam and the next dam upstream on the river.