

Missisquoi

National Wildlife Refuge

Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator Patrick J. Leahy (D)
Senator James M. Jeffords (I)
Rep. Bernard Sanders (I)

Contact

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Purpose

Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge was established to provide a resting and feeding area for migratory waterfowl, and as a general wildlife refuge pursuant to the Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 1929 as amended.

Public Use Notes

- Best viewed by canoe, boat or kayak
- The new headquarters and visitor facility opened in October 2005 and features education exhibits, a wind turbine and photovoltaic panels.
- The Friends of Missisquoi, Inc. is active in support of the refuge.

Management Activities

- Protecting and managing habitat for migratory birds
- Preserving natural diversity and abundance of plants and animals
- Providing nesting structures for a variety of wildlife

- Controlling exotic invasive species
- Enforcing federal wildlife laws and regulations
- Working with partners from all sectors to recover threatened species, protect and restore wetlands, provide habitats for migratory birds, and provide quality wildlife-oriented recreational activities for visitors

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

January 2006



Missisquoi River's Bird Foot Delta

USFWS

Highlights

The largest heron rookery in Vermont is located on the refuge's Shad Island, which includes up to 585 nests per year.

More than 20,000 ducks converge on the refuge each fall.

All of Vermont's endangered black terns nest on the refuge.

The refuge has played a major role in the recovery of Vermont's threatened osprey population by hosting as many as 30 nesting pairs in 2005.

Outstanding fishing opportunities abound in the Missisquoi River and Lake Champlain shoreline areas of the refuge.

Issues

Potential invasion of exotic plant species such as water chestnut, Eurasian milfoil and purple loosestrife

Issues related to motorist safety improvements needed and being planned for state Route 78

Invasion of double-crested cormorants into the great blue heron rookery on Shad Island

Bald eagles have become frequent and common visitors to the refuge, in part due to the recovery efforts of Senator Jeffords in Vermont.

The refuge's comprehensive conservation plan will be completed in 2006.

