

Silvio O. Conte

National Fish and Wildlife Refuge in Connecticut

Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator Christopher J. Dodd (D)
Senator Joseph I. Lieberman (D)
Five Congressional districts

Contact

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Purpose

The Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge was established to protect the abundance and diversity of native species throughout the 7.2-million-acre Connecticut River watershed. This is accomplished through land acquisition and management, and by providing technical and financial support to partners for improved habitat management and environmental education projects. The refuge is one of 545 that compose the National Wildlife Refuge System, and ranks nationally within the top ten priority land conservation projects for plants, fish, wildlife and people.

Public Use Notes

Plan to build an education and outreach coalition, working cooperatively with the many nature and science centers in the state

Management Activities

- Work with many public and private partners to protect rare species, native plants and animals and important habitats
- Provide leadership to partners throughout New England to control invasive species
- Develop cooperative visitor centers to educate the public about wildlife resources and issues within the watershed

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

1 800/344 WILD

<http://www.fws.gov>

January 2006



Pine Brook

Jim McHutchinson

Highlights

Congress appropriated \$650,000 for easement and fee land acquisition in fiscal year 2006.

Acquired 31 acres in the state, thus establishing the Deadman's Swamp Unit. The property, the first tract acquired for the refuge in the state, provides important habitat for the federally threatened puritan tiger beetle.

The refuge has taken steps to protect important land for plants, fish, wildlife and people in the proposed 4,085-acre Pyquag Division, located in Rocky Hill, Glastonbury and Wethersfield, and the proposed 2,550-acre Salmon River Division, located in Hadam.

The refuge is working in partnership with the University of Connecticut and the New England Wild Flower Society to produce the Invasive Plant Atlas of New England. This four-year project involves hundreds of volunteers and is being funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

From 1996 to 2001, the refuge helped Connecticut citizens by competitively awarding 49 challenge cost-share projects to support grassroots efforts to restore habitats and provide environmental education.

Issues

Rapid urbanization in the southern half of the watershed threatens the limited, high-quality habitat identified for protection.