



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Daphne ES Overview Briefing



Daphne Ecological Services Field Office -- Conserving the Nature of America



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AGENDA

- US Fish and Wildlife Service Overview
- Ecosystem Definition
- Ecosystem Approach to Conservation
- Endangered Species Act
- Daphne Ecological Services Mission
- Customers We Support
- Field Office Goals
- Field Office Current Activities
- Conclusion
- Questions?



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What is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

- The principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.
- Manages the 94-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System which encompasses more than 535 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 70 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resource offices and 78 ecological services field stations.
- Enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts.



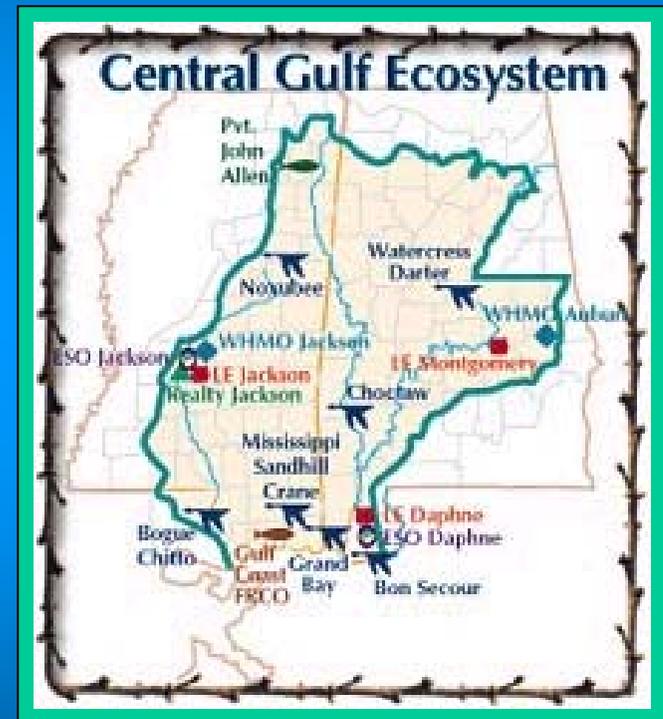


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What is an Ecosystem?

- An Ecosystem is a geographic area including all the living organisms (people, plants, animals, and microorganisms), their physical surroundings (such as soil, water, and air), and the natural cycles that sustain them.
- All of these elements are interconnected. Managing any one resource affects the others in that ecosystem. Ecosystems can be small (a single stand of aspen) or large (an entire watershed including hundreds of forest stands across many different ownership's).





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Ecosystem Approach to Conservation



- In 1994, the Service adopted the Ecosystem Approach to Fish and Wildlife Conservation where it would treat the landscape as a community rather than individual parts.
- The Ecosystem Approach achieves landscape-level conservation of fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats through cross program coordination within the Service and partnership with organizations and individuals external to the Service.
- The Service established 53 ecosystem units based on U.S. Geological Survey watersheds. The Directorate envisioned ecosystem teams as the forum for communication and cooperation among refuges, hatcheries, fisheries and Ecological Services field stations as well as other components of the Service.



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Endangered Species Act

In 1973, Congress passed the Endangered Species Act, recognizing that:

various species of fish, wildlife, and plants in the United States have been rendered extinct as a consequence of economic growth and development untempered by adequate concern and conservation,

other species of fish, wildlife and plants have been so depleted in numbers that they are in danger of or threatened with extinction, and

these species of fish, wildlife, and plants are of esthetic, ecological, educational, historical, recreational, and scientific value to the United States and its people. The intended purpose of the Act is to provide a means by which the ecosystems upon which endangered and threatened species depend may be conserved and to provide a program for the conservation of those species.





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Mission - Daphne ES

- Work with landowners, industry, and State and Federal agencies to assure a balance between environmentally sustainable development and natural resource protection.
- This includes working cooperatively with private landowners to restore and enhance sensitive habitats on private property, participating in wetlands regulation opportunities and participating in watershed and community planning efforts.





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Daphne ES Customers

We provide service to:



- Private citizens.
- Federal and state agency clientele seeking Federal or state approvals.
- State organizations, local governments, schools, other educational and community groups.
- Other Service entities.



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Daphne ES Goals

- Implement recovery, permit and Section 7 consultations for 92 federally listed endangered and threatened species in Alabama.
- Conserve, protect and enhance Service trust resources and their habitats.
- Protect and restore wetlands on public and privately owned lands.
- Investigate, prevent and remediate effects of environmental pollution to maximize quality habitat for Service trust species.
- Inform the public about fish and wildlife resource issues.





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Current Activities at the Daphne ES Field Office



- Coordinates recovery for the Alabama and Perdido Key beach mice; coordinates field level work for Section 10 (ESA) permit actions in Alabama
- Leads State Working Group for the Partners In Flight Program, Alabama.
- Reviews approximately 1,500 federally funded, licensed permitted projects annually for impacts on fish and wildlife resources.
- Represents the Fish and Wildlife Service on Habitat Focus Group for the Gulf of Mexico Program.
- Evaluates impacts of contamination and develops offsetting measures or seeks compensation under Natural Resource Damage Assessment provisions and Superfund Program.



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Conclusion

The US Fish and Wildlife Service is charged with:

- Conserving Healthy Habitats
- Restoring Declining Species
- Working with others to achieve goals
- Educating and training the public and those involved in conservation
- Setting the course for our wildlife heritage





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Questions?

