

Ohio Section 319 Success Story



Project Title: Wetland Restoration in the Sandusky Watershed

NPS Problem Addressed: The loss of wetland habitat in northern sections of the Sandusky and Toussaint watersheds is a continuing and serious problem. Wetlands provide important habitat for wildlife as well as helping to filter nonpoint source pollutants prior to discharging to the Sandusky River and ultimately Sandusky Bay and Lake Erie.

Project Highlights: This project restored more than 104 acres of wetlands on previously farmed ground in northern sections of the Sandusky and Toussaint River watersheds. Areas of historic wetland habitat in this region have been routinely drained and used for cropland. Restoration of these sites improved habitat and critical filtering capacity for NPS pollutants from surrounding agricultural operations.

Project Results: This highly successful section 319(h) funded project resulted in the following:

- Restored 104.6 acres of wetlands on six sites within northern reaches of the Sandusky and Toussaint River watersheds.
- Extensive landowner and public outreach.

Direct monitoring of the Sandusky and Toussaint Rivers is ongoing by Ohio EPA however no water quality monitoring of receiving streams was conducted as a part of this project. However, the project successfully achieved the following NPS pollutant load reductions:

TABLE 1-1
Estimated Load Reduction Derived from Model

Pollutant	Load Reductions
Nitrogen	37,322 lbs/year
Phosphorus	6,533 lbs/year
Sediment	36 tons/year

Partners & Funding: Successful completion of this project required a diverse coalition of project partners including representatives from state and local governments, the private sector, nonprofit organizations and various soil & water conservation districts. Following is a list of partners who contributed material and/or technical support for this project:

- Ducks Unlimited
- Ohio Environmental Protection Agency-Division of Surface Water
- Ohio Department of Natural Resources-Division of Wildlife
- Sandusky River Watershed Coalition
- Winnous Point Marsh Conservancy
- Sandusky Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Ottawa County SWCD
- Sandusky County SWCD
- Seneca County SWCD
- Erie County SWCD

The primary source of funding for this project was provided by a section 319(h) sub-grant totaling \$160,000 (**Project #02(h)EPA-12**) and matching funds and in-kind services provided by the sponsor and other partners.

Photos and/Tables: Following are a variety of photos of the wetland restoration sites illustrating conditions PRIOR to and FOLLOWING restoration:



Before and after photos at the 5.2-acre Kralik Restoration Site in Sandusky County.



Before and after photos at the 25-acre
Brunkhorst Restoration site in Erie County.

GRTS Project Number: #975500020-12
Sub-grant closed 5/22/06

Date Delisted: Delisting information does not appear to apply since this is a wetlands restoration project rather than a stream restoration. It is not anticipated that the Sandusky watershed will be delisted as a result of this project.

Contact Information: Primary contacts for more information about this project include:

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