

NATIONAL FISH HABITAT ACTION PLAN

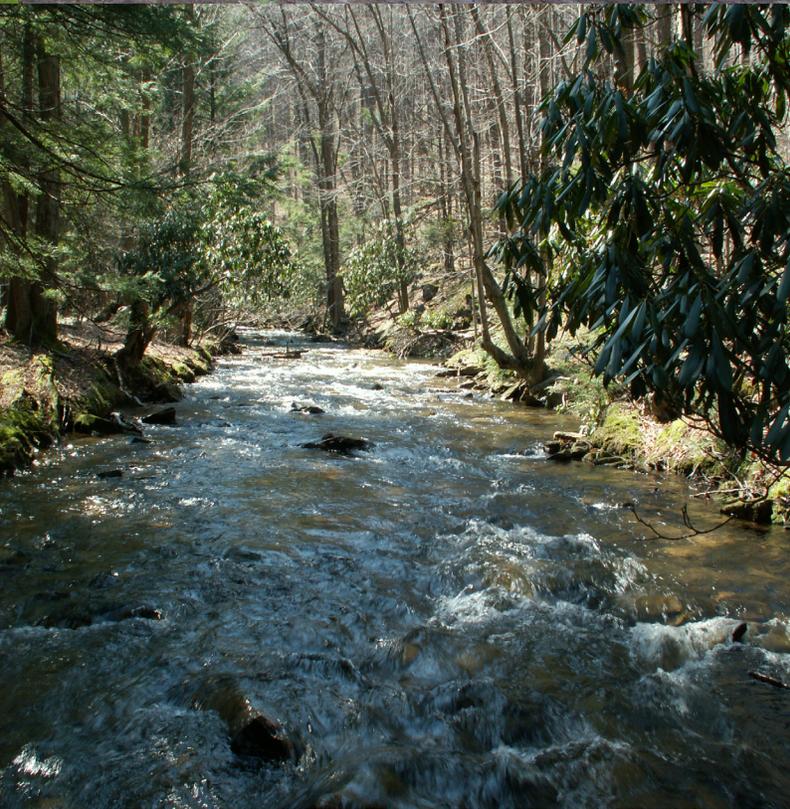
Board Meeting - June 9-10, 2010

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Silver Spring, MD



NATIONAL
FISH HABITAT
ACTION PLAN



AGENDA BOOK

Tabs for June 9-10, 2010 Board meeting:

Directions – Tab 1

Board Members –Tab 2

Approval of agenda – Tab 3

Approval of March 2010 meeting minutes – Tab 4

Legislative update – Tab 5

Administration support for National Fish Habitat Action Plan – Tab 6

Casting Call 2011/Communications update – Tab 7

Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership update – Tab 8

Board input to FWS on 2011 FWS NFHAP funds – Tab 9

Review of 2010 NFHAP Objectives and Deliverables – Tab 10

Board Development – Tab 11

Science and Data Update – Tab 12

Board Budget – Tab 13

Revised draft of White Paper on Assessment and DSS – Tab 14

NFHAP 2010 Status of Fish Habitats in the United States Report – Tab 15

Tab 1

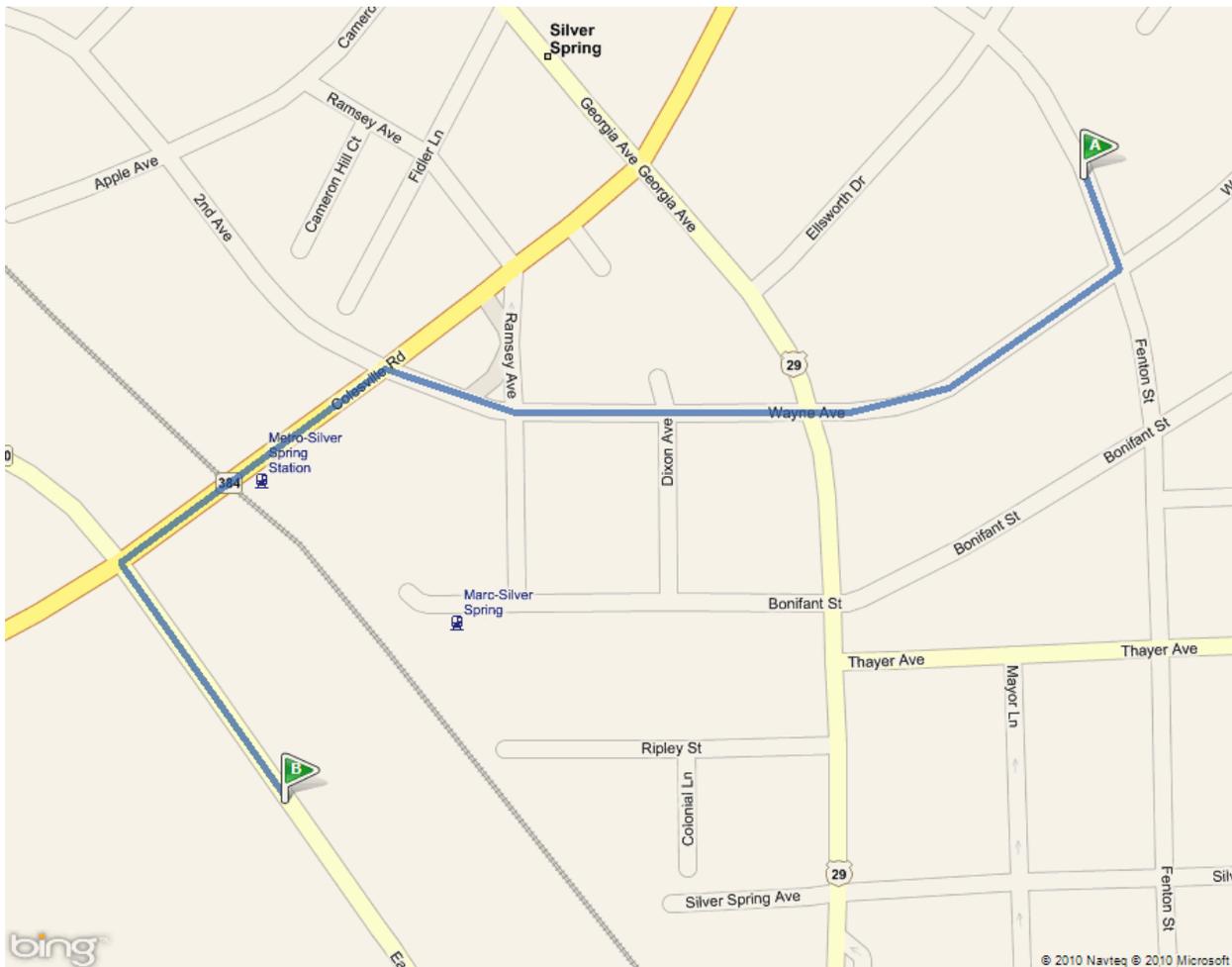
Hotel and Board Meeting Directions and Things to do in Silver Spring, MD:

Hotel:Courtyard Marriot
8506 Fenton Street
Silver Spring, Maryland, 20910
Phone: 301-589-4899
Fax: 301-589-4898

Meeting: NOAA (Building #3)
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring MD 20910

Hotel Information:

<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/maps/travel/wassv-courtyard-silver-spring-downtown/>



Walking Directions from hotel to meeting at NOAA:

- A) 8506 Fenton St, Silver Spring, MD 20910-4470 points: A–B: 0.6 mi (13 min)
1. Depart Fenton St 0.0 mi
 2. Turn right onto Wayne Ave 0.3 mi
 3. Bear left onto SR-384 / Colesville Rd 0.1 mi
 4. Turn left onto SR-410 / East-West Hwy EXXON on the corner 0.1 mi
- B) 5. Arrive at 1315 E West Hwy, Silver Spring, MD 20910-6233 on the left (NOAA Building #3, Room 4527).

Meeting Note:

The Board will meet in NOAA Building # 3 on the 4th floor, Room 4527. The address to Building #3 is 1315 East-West Highway Silver Spring MD 20910.

The Board meeting will convene at 1:00 pm on Wednesday and wrap-up at 4:30 pm on Thursday.

Please RSVP to rsvp@fishhabitat.org if you are interested in attending the NFHAP Board Meeting.

Participants are encouraged to take Metro (Red Line to Silver Spring) and RSVP to gain building security clearance.

In case of any problems entering the building at NOAA, please call Ryan Roberts @ 202-329-8882

Hotel Logistics and Travel (to and from Courtyard Marriot)

Parking

- Off-site parking, fee: 0.75 USD hourly, 8.25 USD daily
- Complimentary Bus Parking Available

Area Airports

Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport - BWI

- Phone: 1 410 859 7111
- Hotel direction: 31 miles SW
- Driving Directions: I-95 South to I-495 West Exit 30 Colesville Road South. Drive 2 miles. Turn left on Fenton St. 3 blocks, hotel on right side. To park turn right on Wayne Ave. Turn right into Wayne Ave Garage proceed to the 5th level and enter the hotel via the sky bridge.

This hotel does not provide shuttle service.

- Estimated taxi fare: 80.00 USD (one way)

Washington, DC/Dulles - IAD

- Phone: 1 703 572 2700
- Hotel direction: 25 miles NE
- Driving Directions: Dulles Toll Road to I-495 East to Exit 30B Colesville Road South 2 miles, Turn left on Fenton 3 blocks, hotel on the right. To park turn right on Wayne Ave. Turn right into the Wayne Ave garage, proceed to the 5th level and access the hotel via the sky bridge.

This hotel does not provide shuttle service.

- Estimated taxi fare: 70.00 USD (one way)

Ronald Reagan Washington National - DCA

- Phone: 1 703 417 8000
- Hotel direction: 14 miles N

- Driving Directions: George Washington Parkway to Beltway (I-495) North, Exit 30B- Colesville Road, south 2 miles. Turn left on Fenton 3 blocks, hotel on right. To park turn right on Wayne Ave, turn right into the Wayne Ave garage, proceed to the 5th level and enter the hotel via the sky bridge.

This hotel does not provide shuttle service.

- Bus service, fee: 35.00 USD (one way)
- Subway service, fee: 4.00 USD (one way)
- Estimated taxi fare: 70.00 USD (one way)

Other Transportation

Bus Station

- [Greyhound Bus Terminal](#) (0.2 miles S)

Metro Station

- [Metro Red Line - Silver Spring \(free shuttle provided\)](#) (0.5 miles SE)
- Complimentary shuttle service

Train Station

- [MARC Commuter Train Station](#) (0.3 miles NE)

Car Rentals

- Car Rental nearby: Hertz, 1-301-588-0608

Local Restaurants

Gazebo Grill (Courtyard Hotel)

American

Full Breakfast Buffet with eggs/omelet's to order; Full dinner menu; Dinner delivery service.

- Open for breakfast and dinner
- Dress code: Casual
- Phone: 1-301-589-4899

Nearby

[Ceviche \(0.1 miles\)](#) 

South American
Full bar and entertainment as well

- Open for lunch and dinner
- Dress code: Shirt/Slacks Req.
- Phone: 1-301-608-0081

[Austin Grill \(0.1 miles\)](#) 

Tex-Mex
Also offer live entertainment and full bar

- Open for lunch and dinner
- Dress code: Casual
- Phone: 1-240-247-8969

[Adega Wine Cellars & Cafe \(0.1 miles\)](#) 

Sandwiches
Wonderful selection of wine in addition to fabulous soups, salads, and sandwiches

- Open for lunch and dinner
- Dress code: Casual
- Phone: 1-301-608-2200

[Eggspectations \(0.1 miles\)](#) 

Eclectic
Eggs, crepes & traditional menu items all day in addition to a full bar; great for brunch!

- Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner
- Dress code: Casual
- Phone: 1-301-585-1700

[Jackie's Restaurant \(0.5 miles\)](#) 

Eclectic
Modern American cuisine by Chef Ann Cashion and a wonderful wine list. Happy hour

- Open for lunch and dinner
- Dress code: Shirt/Slacks Req.
- Phone: 1-301-565-9300

[Romano's Macaroni Grill \(0.1 miles\)](#) 

Italian

Family-style Italian in a casual atmosphere.

- Open for lunch and dinner
- Dress code: Casual
- Phone: 1-301-562-2806

Red Rock Canyon Grill (0.1 miles)

American

Enjoy the unusual outdoor fireplace!

- Open for lunch and dinner
- Dress code: Shirt/Slacks Req.
- Phone: 1-301-589-1330

[Lebanese Taverna Cafe \(0.1 miles\)](#)

Mediterranean

Casual Lebanese food. Eat inside or on the patio. Sandwich platters half price on Mondays!

- Open for lunch and dinner
- Dress code: Casual
- Phone: 224-301-588-1192

[Cold Stone Creamery \(0.1 miles\)](#)

American

Ice cream with mix-ins and special flavors

- Open for lunch and dinner
- Dress code: Casual
- Phone: 1-301-565-0126

[Crisfield Seafood Restaurant \(2 miles\)](#)

Seafood

Award-winning seafood for 60 years! Try the crabcakes.

- Open for lunch and dinner
- Dress code: Casual
- Phone: 1-301-588-1572

[Noodles & Co. \(0.2 miles\)](#)

Other

Noodle dishes. Salads. Soups. And noodle-less dishes.

- Open for lunch and dinner
- Dress code: Casual
- Phone: 1-301-588-5312

[Tastee Diner \(2 miles\)](#) 

American

Open 24 hours. Part of Silver Spring's colorful history.

- Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner
- Dress code: Casual
- Phone: 1-301-495-5845

[Cubanos \(3 miles\)](#) 

Other

Fabulous Cuban food!

- Open for lunch and dinner
- Dress code: Casual
- Phone: 1-301-563-4020

[Mi Rancho \(2 miles\)](#) 

Mexican

Fun, casual atmosphere with indoor and outdoor seating

- Open for lunch and dinner
- Dress code: Casual
- Phone: 1-301-588-4744

[Z Pizza \(0.2 miles\)](#) 

Pizza

- Open for lunch and dinner
- Dress code: Casual
- Phone: 1-301-495-5536

Tab 2

National Fish Habitat Board meeting June 9-10, 2010

National Fish Habitat Board Members

Kelly Hepler, <i>Chair</i>	Alaska
John Frampton	Southeast AFWA
Doug Austen, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Northeast AFWA
Rich Leopold	Midwest AFWA
Mike Stone	Western AFWA
Ron Regan	AFWA
Eric Schwaab	NOAA/NMFS
Bryan Arroyo <i>for</i> Rowan Gould	DOI/FWS
David Troutt	Tribal, Nisqually Indian Tribe
Krystyna Wolniakowski	NFWF
Steve Moyer <i>for</i> Chris Wood	Conservation/Academic, TU
Michael Andrews	Conservation/Academic, TNC
William W. Taylor	Conservation/Academic, SFBPC
Stan Moberly	Conservation/Academic, AFS
Stan Allen <i>for</i> Randy Fisher	At large/Interstate Fishery Commission, PSMFC
Bob Mahood	At large/Fishery Management Council, SAFMC
Gordon Robertson	At large, ASA
Chris Horton	At large, BASS/ESPN
	Conservation/Academic, CCA

Also participating:

Anne Zimmermann	USDA FS
-----------------	---------

Board Member Contact Information

Kelly Hepler - *Chair*

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
333 Raspberry Rd.
Anchorage, AK 99518-1599
Ph: 907-465-6184
Kelly.Hepler@alaska.gov

Doug Austen - *Vice Chair*

dausten@state.pa.us

John E. Frampton

Director
South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
PO Box 167
Columbia, SC 29202
framptonj@dnr.sc.gov

Rich Leopold

Director
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
502 East 9th St.
Wallace Building - 4th Floor
Des Moines, IA 50319
Ph: 515-281-5385
richard.leopold@dnr.state.ia.us

Mike Stone

Chief of Fisheries
Wyoming Game and Fish Department
5400 Bishop Blvd.
Cheyenne, WY 82006
Ph: 307-777-4559
Mike.Stone@wgf.state.wy.us

Ron Regan

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
444 North Capitol Street, NW
Washington D.C. 20001
Ph: 202-624-7890
mhogan@fishwildlife.org

Rowan Gould

(Acting) Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240
rowan_gould@fws.gov

Eric Schwaab

Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
NOAA Fisheries Service
1315 East West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910
eric.schwaab@noaa.gov

David Troutt

Nisqually Indian Tribe
3181 Brown Loop
DuPont, Washington 98327
staff@nisquallylandtrust.org

Stan Moberly

American Fisheries Society
Northwest Marine Technology, Inc.
955 Malin Lane, SW
Olympia, WA 98501
Ph: 907-736-2251
stan.moberly@nmt.us

Mike Andrews

Vice President for Ecosystem Services
The Nature Conservancy
6114 Fayetteville Road, Suite 109
Durham, NC 27713
Ph: 919-484-7857 ext 117
mandrews@tnc.org

Chris Wood

President and Chief Executive Officer
Trout Unlimited
1300 N. 17th St., Suite 500
Arlington, VA 22209-2404
Ph: 703-284-9405

Krystyna Wolniakowski

Director, Western Partnership Office
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
806 SW Broadway, Suite 750
Portland, OR 97205
Ph: 503-702-0245
Wolniakowski@NFWF.ORG

Gordon Robertson

Vice President
American Sportfishing Association
225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 420
Alexandria VA 22314
Ph: 703-519-9691
grobertson@asafishing.org

William W. Taylor

Professor—Department of Fisheries and
Wildlife,
Michigan State University
7 Natural Resources Building
East Lansing, MI 48824-1222
Ph: 517-353-3048
taylorw@msu.edu

Randy Fisher

Executive Director
Pacific States Marine Fisheries
Commission
205 SE Spokane Street, Suite 100
Portland, Oregon 97202
Ph: 503-595-3100
Randy_Fisher@psmfc.org

Bob Mahood

Executive Director
South Atlantic Fishery Management
Council
4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201
North Charleston, SC 29405
Ph: 843-571-4366
robert.mahood@safmc.net

Chris Horton

Conservation Director
BASS
200 Celebration Place Suite 900
Celebration, FL 34747
Ph: 407-566-2217
Christopher.M.Horton@espn.com

Anne Zimmermann

USDA, Forest Service
Director, Watershed, Fish, Wildlife, Air
and Rare plants
Sydney R. Yates Building
201 14th Street, SW Room 3SE
Washington, DC 20250-1121
azimmermann@fs.fed.us

Tab 3

National Fish Habitat Board meeting
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Room 4527, 1315 East-West Highway,
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Draft agenda

Wednesday, June 9

- 1:00 – 1:15 Welcome and introductions** Kelly Hepler, Board chair
Eric Schwaab
- Approval of agenda – Tab 3**
Approval of March 2010 meeting minutes – Tab 4
- 1:15 – 1:30 Legislative update – Tab 5** Steve Moyer
- 1:30 – 2:15 Administration support for National Fish Habitat Action Plan**
Ron Regan

Background: Fifteen months into the new Administration, NFHAP appears to be highly consistent with other Administration priorities (climate change, water policy, Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, ocean policy, etc.) but has not gained traction as an Administration priority itself. Efforts to promote a NFHAP Presidential Executive Order have stalled. The recently announced “America’s Great Outdoors Initiative” is another avenue to gain NFHAP recognition and support.

Reference Material: Tab 6

Desired Outcome: Agreement on actions to be taken by the Board or individual Board members to highlight and promote NFHAP as a priority of the Obama Administration. Possibilities include new efforts from outside the federal agencies to gain support for the Executive Order, in its current form or incorporated into something related to the AGO initiative.

- 2:15 – 2:45 Casting Call 2011/Communications update** Ryan Roberts

Jim Range National Casting Call

Background: The Jim Range National Casting Call (JRNCC), an event held each April on the Potomac River at Fletcher’s Boathouse, has been the venue for NFHAP to present our awards and unveil the annual “10 Waters to Watch”. For 2011, the American Fly Fishing Trade Association and other organizers are considering adding an evening reception on Capitol Hill. The Board should discuss continuing its relationship with JRNCC, whether to schedule a Board

meeting to coincide with this event, and whether to pursue other options such as a separate awards ceremony in addition to participation in JRNCC.

Presentation to Board of 2010 NFHAP draft Annual Update

Reference Material: Tab 7

Desired Outcome: Decisions on continuing the Board’s relationship with JRNCC, scheduling a Board meeting for April 2011, and whether to pursue a separate awards ceremony. Input from Board on draft Annual Update.

2:45 – 3:00 Break

3:00 – 3:30 Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership update Cecilia Lewis
RFHP Coordinator

Background: The Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership will update the Board on significant progress made in establishing its governance structure, organizing the “Friends of Reservoirs”, and developing a national assessment and classification system for reservoirs.

Reference Materials: Tab 8

3:30 – 4:30 Board input to FWS on 2011 FWS NFHAP funds Tom Busiahn

Background: In February 2008, the Board agreed to provide input to FWS on the allocation of FWS funds for NFHAP. FWS will provide background information to lead off a discussion by Board members on options for allocating these funds in Fiscal Year 2011.

Reference Materials: Tab 9

Desired Outcome: Non-binding recommendations from the Board on use of FWS NFHAP funds.

4:30 – 5:00 Review of 2010 NFHAP Objectives and Deliverables

Background: The Action Plan includes four objectives to be accomplished by 2010. A Multi-State Conservation Grant received by the Board has deliverables due in 2010. The Board should be highlighting these accomplishments as part of communicating our success.

Reference Material: Tab 10

budget. For 2011-2013 NFHAP staff submitted an application for a Multi-State Conservation Grant by AFWA on behalf of the Board.

Reference Material: Tab 13

Desired Outcome: Approval of a revised budget for 2010. Commitment from Board members to support the MSCG application, and seek other sources of funding.

2:30 – 3:15 Revised draft of White Paper on Assessment and DSS Gary Whelan

Background: At the June 2009 One-Year-Out meeting, participants requested a White Paper explaining the use of the NFHAP habitat assessment and its relationship to the Decision Support System the Board will use to set priorities. A draft of the White Paper was presented to the Board at the October 2009 Board meeting and comments were solicited from Board members as well as the FHPs. A revised White Paper has been prepared for discussion.

Reference Material: Tab 14

Desired Outcome: Approval of revised White Paper or edited revised White Paper to be sent back to commentators before it is finalized.

3:15 – 3:45 NFHAP 2010 Status of Fish Habitats in the United States Report
Doug Austen

Background: At the March 2010 meeting, Doug Austen presented a proposed outline and timeline for the 2010 report and solicited input on how to organize the report geographically. We received input from Board members and FHPs, as well as a communications specialist. A revised outline has been prepared for discussion.

Reference Materials: Tab 15

Desired Outcome: Board concurrence on a revised outline for the 2010 report.

3:45 – 4:00 Wrap-up, next meeting Susan-Marie Stedman

The next Board meeting will be October 13 and 14 2010 in Portland, OR. There will be a Board conference call in January 2011. The dates of the spring meeting will depend on the outcome of the Casting Call discussions.

Tab 4



NATIONAL
FISH HABITAT
ACTION PLAN

draft **Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Location: Ducks Unlimited Memphis, TN	Date: March 3-4, 2010
Members Present: Kelly Hepler, Chair Doug Austen, Vice-chair Ron Regan Dan Ashe for Rowan Gould Jim Balsiger for Eric Schwaab Mike Andrews Rich Leopold Steve Moyer Stan Allen for Randy Fisher Bill Taylor Mike Stone Krystyna Wolniakowski John Frampton Anne Zimmerman	Staff Present: Doug Beard Tom Busiahn Christopher Estes Ryan Roberts Susan-Marie Stedman Gary Whelan Other participants: see attachment 2
Members Absent: Bob Mahood Pat Murray Jason Stark Stan Moberly	Next mtg date: June 9-10, 2010 Silver Spring, MD
Key Discussion Items: National Fish Habitat Conservation Act 10 Waters to Watch for 2010 National Fish Habitat Award winner selection Project proposals for 2010 FWS NFHAP funding Recognition of Fish Habitat Partnerships California Fish Passage Forum Fishers and Farmers Partnership Recommended process for recognizing FHPs Cooperation among FHPs NFHAP implementation beyond 2010 (see attachment 1 for summary) Federal landscape planning efforts Landscape Conservation Cooperatives Climate Change Centers Marine Spatial Planning	

Decisions Made:

The minutes from the October 2009 and January 2010 meetings were approved.

The Board agreed to be listed as a sponsor of the NFHAP symposium at AFS.

The proposed 2010 “Ten Waters to Watch” were approved with changes needed for some of the write-ups.

The 2010 National Fish Habitat Award winners were selected.

The staff recommendation on the application of the Fishers and Farmers Partnership for Board recognition was approved.

The staff recommendation on the application of the California Fish Passage Forum for Board recognition was approved.

The Board recommended to FWS that they consider re-allocating 5% from each existing FHP to a pool of funds that will provide project funding for the two newly recognized FHPs.

Follow up Actions:	Who	By when:
1) Board is asked to send thoughts on 2010 report to Doug A by April 2.	Board members	April 2
2) Board staff will supervise revision of 10 Waters write-ups	Ryan	April 7
3) Kelly and Ryan will call NFHAP Award winners, all nominees will be listed with honor on web page.	Kelly Ryan	March 10
4) Board/FWS review team will assemble final list of projects for funding, send out to Board for quick endorsement by e-mail.	Tom and others	ASAP after review team meets
5) Board staff to write thank-you letter to Brenda and Scott at DU.	Susan- Marie	March 12
6) Board staff to write letters to GLIFWC and new Tribal representative.	Susan- Marie	March 12

Attachment 1 – Summary of discussion on “2010 and Beyond”

Goal-setting and accountability

A large part of the discussion centered on having clear commonly-held goals and an understanding of what success looks like. There was agreement that tracking individual projects or the growth of partnerships was not necessarily the best way to demonstrate success, although we do need to be accountable for the money spent on those projects and building those partnerships. There was discussion of whether the FHPs see success the same way the Board does, and mention of the fact that different Board members may have a different understanding of the existing goals and objectives in the Action Plan.

The goal of setting policy for fish habitat protection and restoration was also mentioned. The 2015 objective to “protect all healthy and intact habitat” was difficult to get included in the Action Plan and it hasn’t been discussed in detail. Getting the entire fish habitat constituency comfortable with the concept of habitat protection as a practical and acceptable form of habitat conservation would be a huge step. But how do we protect in light of ongoing development?

Suggested actions:

- Commit to revising Action Plan in 2011.
- Develop a score card/impact analysis like RBFF did.
- Develop a common understanding of existing and any new goals so we are speaking a common language.

Priority-setting

We need to be looking at objectives and how to prioritize. We need to set real priorities and factor them into decision-making, which means that some projects will get preference for funding over others, and some FHPs may get more resources than others. We have to remember that if everything is a priority then nothing is a priority.

While we’re focusing on priorities we need to keep in mind the philosophy of allowing priorities within FHPs to percolate from the bottom up. There have already been examples of priorities being imposed on FHPs from the top down, such as climate change. We need to figure out how to support local grass roots efforts with national priorities.

Fish Habitat Partnerships

Supporting FHPs so they can function administratively must be addressed, possibly through the regional AFWAs.

Science and Data

A lot has been accomplished in the Science and Data arena. We have managed to build an assessment framework that will serve the Board, but it will need a lot of refinement. Need to build bridges between the surrogate variable and the real variables, and expand the range of scales at which it can be used. We still have a lot of work to do, and we need to talk about where the science should go.

Funding

Even if we get \$75M in the bill it still won't stretch very far. We need to not lose sight of making better use of existing funds. We should also keep working on finding innovative sources of funding, like farmers. Above all, we need to prioritize, despite some suggestions that we take a socialist approach where everybody gets at least a little funding.

Communication

Communication is extremely important. We need to have a real strategic plan for communicating success and focus on the people who can pass this legislation. Other than for the legislation, we don't seem to have a plan for what we're trying to accomplish with communication or who we want to communicate with.

Attachment 2 - other participants

Emily Greene, ACFHP
Andrea Ostroff, USGS
Scott Robinson, SARP
Robin Knox, WNTI
Larry Gamble, USFWS
Stephen Preston, OSM
John DeLapp, USFWA
Tom Bigford, NOAA
Michael Armstrong, AR Game&Fish
Pam Dryer, USFWS
Ken Lubinski, USGS, Fishers&Farmers FHP
Leigh McDougal, USFS
Mark Hudy, USFS
Ron Dunlap, USFS
Stephen Perry, NH FGD, EBTJV

Tab 5

List of Current Sponsors signed on in support of the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act

(HR 2565) 24 total co-sponsors (Introduced by Ron Kind (D-WI) in May 2009)
15 Democrats/9 Republicans (14 total in 2010)

Rep Dan Boren (D-OK) - 2/4/2010
Rep Henry Brown, Jr. (R-SC) - 3/3/2010
Rep Christopher Carney (D-PA) - 12/8/2009
Rep Bill Cassidy (R-LA) - 12/2/2009
Rep Donna Christensen (D-VI) - 9/10/2009
Rep Kathy Dahlkemper (D-PA) - 2/4/2010
Rep Norm Dicks (D-WA)- 10/7/2009
Rep Jim Gerlach (R-PA) - 1/12/2010
Rep Steve Kagen (D-WI) - 3/2/2010
Rep Jim Moran (D-VA) - 5/12/2010
Rep John Murtha (D-PA) - 9/10/2009
Rep Tom Petri (R-WI) - 4/14/2010
Rep Todd Platts (R-PA) - 1/20/2010
Rep David Price (D-NC) - 10/7/2009
Rep Mike Ross (D-AR) - 1/20/2010
Rep Paul Ryan (R-WI) - 3/9/2010
Rep Joe Sestak (D-PA) - 1/15/2010
Rep Bill Shuster (R-PA) - 3/16/2010
Rep Mike Thompson (D-CA) - 7/23/2009
Rep Bob Wittman (R-VA) - 2/3/2010

(S.1214) 14 total co-sponsors (Introduced by Sen. Joe Lieberman (I-CT) June 2009)
9 Democrats/3 Republicans/2 Independents

Sen. Mark Begich (D-AK) - 7/16/2009
Sen. Michael Bennet (D-CO) - 5/10/2010
Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) - 9/8/09
Sen. Christopher Bond (R-MO) - 6/9/2009
Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD) - 6/9/2009
Sen. Bob Casey, Jr. (D-PA) - 6/9/2009
Sen. Mike Crapo (R-ID) - 6/9/2009
Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) - 6/23/2009
Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) - 6/15/2009
Sen. Bernie Sanders (ID-VT) - 6/9/2009
Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) - 6/9/2009
Sen. Mark Udall (D-CO) - 6/10/2009
Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) - 6/9/2009

Calendar No. 378

111TH CONGRESS }
2d Session }

SENATE

{ REPORT
{ 111-190

TO CONSERVE FISH AND AQUATIC COMMUNITIES IN THE UNITED STATES
THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS THAT FOSTER FISH HABITAT CONSERVATION,
TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED
STATES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

MAY 17, 2010.—Ordered to be printed

Mrs. BOXER, from the Committee on Environment and Public
Works, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany S. 1214]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Environment and Public Works, to which was referred a bill (S. 1214) to conserve fish and aquatic communities in the United States through partnerships that foster fish habitat conservation, to improve the quality of life for the people of the United States, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon and recommends that the bill, as amended, do pass.

GENERAL STATEMENT AND BACKGROUND

S. 1214 seeks to reverse the declines in aquatic habitat and species across the nation and would codify the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (Action Plan). The Action Plan focuses financial and technical resources on the root causes of fish habitat declines. The Action Plan focuses on the protection and conservation of intact and healthy aquatic habitats to prevent their future decline and disruption.

According to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) testimony before the Committee, aquatic species are some of the most at risk organisms in the United States. Since 1900, 123 freshwater species have become extinct in North America. Hundreds of other fish, mollusks, crayfish and amphibians are imperiled. A 2008 study by USGS scientists concluded that nearly 40 percent of the nation's fish populations are in decline. The loss and degradation of aquatic habitat are considered one of the primary reasons for the vulnerable condition of aquatic species.

S. 1214 would foster science, communication, and partnerships to unite diverse stakeholders and focus voluntary action on conserving priority habitats and encourage private-public partnerships that are consistent with the goals and mission of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan, which was released in 2006.

The goals of the plan are:

- (1) to protect and maintain intact and healthy aquatic systems;
- (2) to prevent further degradation of fish habitats that have been adversely affected;
- (3) to reverse declines in the quality and quantity of aquatic habitats to improve the overall health of fish and other aquatic organisms;
- (4) to increase the quality and quantity of fish habitats that support a broad natural diversity of fish and other species.

The legislation would establish a National Fish Habitat Board, composed of members from federal, state, and tribal agencies, and non-governmental organizations, which would approve Fish Habitat Partnerships (FHP) and make recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior regarding the funding of conservation projects. The bill also requires the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to establish the National Fish Habitat Conservation Partnership Office within the Service and NOAA and USGS to provide technical and scientific assistance to the Partnerships, the project participants, and the Board. The bill authorizes appropriations for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2014.

OBJECTIVES OF THE LEGISLATION

To conserve fish and aquatic communities in the United States through partnerships that foster fish habitat conservation, to improve the quality of life for the people of the United States, and for other purposes.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1. Short title; table of contents

Section 1 provides that this Act may be cited as the 'National Fish Habitat Conservation Act' and includes the table of contents of the Act.

Section 2. Findings; purpose

Section 2 provides the general purpose of the bill, along with several findings highlighting the economic, social, and environmental importance of aquatic habitats; acknowledge the harmful impacts to the national economy, environment, and wildlife that result from the destruction or alteration of aquatic habitats; and, recognize the need to protect, conserve, and restore the quality of aquatic habitats.

Section 3. Definitions

Section 3 provides definitions of several terms used in the Act.

Section 4. National Fish Habitat Board

Section 4 establishes the National Fish Habitat Board to oversee and promote the implementation of this Act, to establish national

goals and priorities, to designate partnerships, and to review and recommend aquatic habitat projects. This section describes the composition of the board and the procedures for appointing and replacing members.

Section 5. Fish Habitat Partnerships

Section 5 establishes procedures for designating Fish Habitat Partnerships and outlines criteria approval of partnerships. Criteria included are that the partnership: (1) includes a diverse group of public and private partners; (2) is organized to promote the health of important aquatic habitats and distinct geographical areas, keystone fish species, or system types; (3) identifies strategic fish and aquatic habitat priorities for the Partnership area; (4) is able to address issues on a nationally-significant scale; (5) includes a governance structure that reflects the range of all partners and promotes joint strategic planning; (6) demonstrates completion of or progress toward development of a strategic plan to address causes of fish decline; (7) ensures collaboration in implementing a scientifically-sound and achievable implementation program.

Section 6. Fish habitat conservation projects

Section 6 establishes procedures for consideration of fish habitat projects by the Board and criteria for the board to use in evaluating and recommending projects for funding to the Secretaries of Interior and Commerce, which the Secretaries must approve, reject, or reorder within 180 days. All fish habitat projects must include an evaluation plan designed to—appropriately assess the biological, ecological, or other results of the project and reflect appropriate changes to the fish habitat conservation project if the assessment finds that the project objectives are not being met. The report must be submitted to the board. This section also establishes cost-sharing requirements and includes requirements related to the acquisition of real property through a fish habitat project.

Section 7. National Fish Habitat Conservation Partnership Office

Section 7 establishes the National Fish Habitat Conservation Partnership Office and describes its functions, which include: providing funding for Partnership projects; facilitating communication and operations of the Partnerships and the Board; coordinating scientific reporting on projects; and providing support to the Board for national communication and outreach efforts that promote public awareness of fish habitat conservation. This section also requires the Director of the FWS, in cooperation with the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and heads of other appropriate Federal agencies, to establish an interagency operational plan to guide the efforts of the Partnership Office and ensure inter-agency coordination. This section directs the Director of the FWS and Assistant Administrator for Fisheries of NOAA to provide staff to support the work of the Partnership Office.

Section 8. Technical and scientific assistance

Section 8 directs the Director of the FWS, Assistant Administrator for Fisheries of NOAA, and Director of the United States Geological Survey (USGS), in coordination with other appropriate fed-

eral agencies, to provide technical and scientific assistance for assessments of projects, support the development and implementation of fish habitat conservation projects, and provide recommendations for a national fish habitat assessment.

Section 9. Conservation of aquatic habitat for fish and other aquatic organisms on Federal land

Section 9 provides that the head of each Federal department and agency responsible for acquiring, managing, or disposing of Federal land or water must cooperate with the FWS and NOAA to conserve the aquatic habitats and organisms within the land and water of the department or agency.

Section 10. Coordination with States and Indian Tribes

Section 10 provides that the Secretary of the Interior shall provide a notice to the appropriate State or tribal agency within which an activity is planned to be carried out pursuant with this Act no later than 30 days before the planned activity is implemented.

Section 11. Accountability and reporting

Section 11 requires the Board to submit reports to appropriate congressional committees on the implementation of this Act and the National Fish Habitat Action Plan, which shall include descriptions of those aquatic habitats protected or restored under the National Fish Habitat Action Plan and an assessment of the status of the fish habitat conservation projects funded under this Act.

Section 12. Regulations

Section 12 provides that the Secretary of the Interior may promulgate such regulations as the Secretary determines necessary to carry out this Act.

Section 13. Effect of Act

Section 13 states that nothing in this Act establishes a water right in the United States, affects any water right in existence, or affects state water law. This section further clarifies that nothing in the Act affects state rights to manage wildlife and fish, affects tribal rights, affects existing federal authorities for land or water acquisition, or enables the use of funds provided by the Act to acquire real property without the consent of the property owner. This section also states that nothing in this Act allows the use of funds for fish and wildlife mitigation under existing Federal laws and court settlements.

Section 14. Nonapplicability of Federal Advisory Committee Act

Section 14 provides that the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the National Fish Habitat Board or any Partnership.

Section 15. Funding.

Section 15 authorizes \$75,000,000 for the Secretary of the Interior to provide funds for fish habitat conservation projects approved under section 6(f), of which 5 percent shall be made available for each fiscal year for projects carried out by Indian tribes. This section authorizes the greater of \$3,000,000 or 25 percent of the funds

appropriated for fish habitat conservation projects for the National Fish Habitat Conservation Office and requires the Secretary to annually transfer appropriate amounts to other federal agencies pursuant to the interagency operation plan under section 7(c). \$10,000,000 is authorized for FWS, NOAA, and USGS to provide technical and scientific assistance. This section authorizes \$300,000 or 4 percent of the funds appropriated for fish habitat conservation projects for administrative expenses. All authorizations are for fiscal years 2010 through 2014.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

S. 1214 was introduced by Sen. Joe Lieberman (IN-CT), Sen. Kit Bond (R-MO), and six other co-sponsors on June 9, 2009. The bill was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works. On December 10, 2009, the full Environment and Public Works Committee met to consider the bill. The bill was ordered favorably reported by voice vote with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

HEARINGS

On December 3, 2009, the Water and Wildlife Subcommittee of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee held a legislative hearing on multiple wildlife and invasive species bills, including S. 1214.

ROLLCALL VOTES

The Committee on Environment and Public Works met to consider S. 1214 on December 10, 2009. The bill was ordered favorably reported by voice vote with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

REGULATORY IMPACT STATEMENT

In compliance with section 11(b) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the committee finds that S. 1214 does not create any additional regulatory burdens, nor will it cause any adverse impact on the personal privacy of individuals.

MANDATES ASSESSMENT

In compliance with the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-4), the committee noted that the Congressional Budget Office has found, "S. 1214 contains no intergovernmental or private sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments."

JANUARY 14, 2010.

Hon. BARBARA BOXER,
Chairman, Committee on Environment and Public Works, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for S. 1214, the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Daniel Hoople.

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS W. ELMENDORF.

Enclosure.

S. 1214—National Fish Habitat Conservation Act

Summary: S. 1214 would authorize the appropriation of \$500 million over the 2010–2014 period for the Department of the Interior (DOI) to fund projects to conserve fish habitats and establish a National Fish Habitat Conservation Office. The legislation also would establish a National Fish Habitat Board and authorize the appropriation of \$150 million over the same period to provide technical and scientific assistance to the board, Fish Habitat Partnerships (FHPs), and conservation project participants.

CBO estimates that implementing S. 1214 would cost \$591 million over the 2010–2015 period, assuming appropriation of the specified amounts. Because the legislation would authorize DOI to accept and use gifts and donations, enacting the bill could have a negligible impact on offsetting receipts and associated direct spending. Enacting the bill would not affect revenues.

S. 1214 contains no intergovernmental or private sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on State, local, or tribal governments.

Estimated cost to the Federal Government: The estimated budgetary impact of S. 1214 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By fiscal year, in millions of dollars—						
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2010–2014
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION							
Fish Habitat Conservation Projects:							
Authorization Level	75	75	75	75	75	0	375
Estimated Outlays	0	57	65	75	75	50	322
Technical and Scientific Assistance:							
Authorization Level	30	30	30	30	30	0	150
Estimated Outlays	8	32	38	32	30	8	148
National Fish Habitat Conservation Partnership Office:							
Authorization Level	22	22	22	22	22	0	110
Estimated Outlays	2	18	32	26	22	6	106
Planning and Administration:							
Authorization Level	3	3	3	3	3	0	15
Estimated Outlays	1	3	3	3	3	2	15
Total Changes:							
Authorization Level	130	130	130	130	130	0	650
Estimated Outlays	11	110	138	136	130	66	591

Basis of estimate: For this estimate, CBO assumes that the legislation will be enacted in fiscal year 2010 and that amounts specified in the bill will be appropriated for each year.

S. 1214 would establish a National Fish Habitat Board composed of 27 members from federal, state, and tribal agencies, and non-governmental organizations. The board would approve FHPs formed around specific aquatic habitats and geographic areas and make recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior regarding the funding of conservation projects. Those recommendations would

be informed primarily by the FHPs, which would conduct scientific assessments and identify strategic priorities on behalf of public and private partners.

Fish habitat conservation projects

S. 1214 would authorize the appropriation of \$75 million in each of fiscal years 2010 through 2014 for DOI to provide funding for fish habitat conservation projects, including the acquisition of property. Projects would increase fishing opportunities for the public; increase public access to land; protect threatened and endangered species, fish, and fish habitats; and promote resilience to environmental change. No project could derive more than 50 percent of its funding from the federal government, unless the project was located on federal land or water.

CBO estimates that no spending for conservation projects would occur in 2010 because few projects would likely be approved before the conclusion of that fiscal year. Based on the historical expenditures for other conservation and land acquisition projects, we estimate that implementing this provision would cost \$322 million over the 2011–2015 period.

Technical and scientific assistance

S. 1214 would authorize the appropriation of \$30 million in each of fiscal years 2010 through 2014 for technical and scientific assistance to the board, the FHPs, and conservation project participants. The legislation would provide equal funding in each year to the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the United States Geological Survey for those purposes. Based on the historical spending patterns for programs carried out by each of those agencies, CBO estimates that this provision would cost \$148 million over the 2010–2015 period.

National Fish Habitat Conservation Partnership Office

S. 1214 would authorize the appropriation of \$3 million, plus an amount equal to 25 percent of the funds provided for fish habitat conservation projects (which, assuming appropriation of the full amount, would total about \$19 million), in each of fiscal years 2010 through 2014 to establish a National Fish Habitat Conservation Partnership Office within FWS. The office would provide funding for operation of FHPs, including planning, outreach, implementation, and evaluation. The office also would help administer other provisions of the bill, including developing an interagency operational plan and reporting to the Congress regarding implementation of the bill and the status of aquatic habitats in the United States. CBO estimates that spending by the new office would total \$106 million over the 2010–2015 period.

Planning and administration

S. 1214 would authorize the appropriation of \$300,000, plus an amount equal to 4 percent of the funds provided for fish habitat conservation programs (which, assuming appropriation of the full amount, would total \$3 million), in each of fiscal years 2010 through 2014 for planning and administrative expenses. Such funds would be used by FWS, NOAA, and the board. CBO esti-

mates that those expenses would total \$15 million over the 2010–2015 period.

Intergovernmental and private-sector impact: S. 1214 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. State, local, and tribal governments would benefit from technical and financial assistance authorized in the bill. Any costs to those governments would be incurred voluntarily as a condition of receiving federal assistance.

Estimate prepared by: Federal Costs: Daniel Hoople; Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Melissa Merrell; Impact on the Private Sector: Amy Petz.

Estimate approved by: Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

Section 12 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate requires the committee to publish changes in existing law made by the bill as reported. Passage of this bill will make no changes to existing law.

Tab 6

[Help Connect NFHAP and The "America's Great Outdoors" Initiative](#)

Thursday, 06 May 2010 08:52

On April 16, President Obama introduced the "America's Great Outdoors" Initiative (AGO), and signed a Presidential Memorandum calling for a action plan due on 11/15/2010 to meet 3 goals:

- 1) reconnecting Americans to "rivers and waterways" and other outdoor landscapes;
- 2) building upon successful local conservation approaches, and determining how the Federal government can best support them; and
- 3) using science-based management to restore and protect lands and waters.

The National Fish Habitat Action Plan is highly compatible with the “America’s Great Outdoors” Initiative. NFHAP will help the Administration meet its goals if NFHAP is recognized as a part of the Initiative. This is a win-win for NFHAP partners and for the Administration. But it may not happen without your help. The AGO Initiative will conduct listening sessions around the country to engage interested groups and individuals.

The Initiative also has a web site where anyone can provide ideas and suggestions.

<http://www.doi.gov/americasgreatoutdoors/>.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Attend listening sessions in your area, if possible. A schedule has not yet been released, but keep checking the website above.

Register and provide input regarding NFHAP on the web site at

<http://ideas.usda.gov/ago/ideas.nsf/>

That website can also be accessed from <http://www.doi.gov/americasgreatoutdoors/> by clicking on the Submit Your Ideas & Join the Conversation link.

There are already threads on the discussion forum related to NFHAP on both the Reconnect with the Outdoors and Public Lands Conservation discussion topics .

The NFHAP threads can be accessed at:

Reconnect with the Outdoors:

Discussion topic: Connect National Fish Habitat Action Plan and America's Great Outdoors

<http://ideas.usda.gov/ago/ideas.nsf/0/A927265A95A30BEC8625771200762E86?OpenDocument>

Public Lands Conservation:

Discussion topic: Connect The National Fish Habitat Action Plan with America’s Great Outdoors and Improve America’s Fisheries

<http://ideas.usda.gov/ago/ideas.nsf/0/26192B81D3064FE086257713000CB451?OpenDocument>

You can vote to promote the NFHAP discussion thread at both of the above links and leave comments. However, you must register in order to vote and leave comments on the page.

Specifically you can suggest that the Administration:

- 1) actively support passage of the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act (current support is on the record, but passive);
- 2) put in place an Executive Order that encourages all Federal agencies to participate in NFHAP; and
- 3) consider NFHAP needs when proposing budgets for enactment by the Congress.

Use this opportunity to tell the Administration about the conservation successes in your area, and how they can be enhanced through the America's Great Outdoors Initiative.

Resources for the America's Great Outdoors Initiative:

President Obama's remarks:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/remarks-president-americas-great-outdoors-conference>

Presidential Memorandum:

<http://www.doi.gov/americasgreatoutdoors/upload/2010outdoors-mem-rel-2.pdf>

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 16, 2010

Presidential Memorandum -- America's Great Outdoors

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE
THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY
THE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

SUBJECT: A 21st Century Strategy for America's Great Outdoors

Americans are blessed with a vast and varied natural heritage. From mountains to deserts and from sea to shining sea, America's great outdoors have shaped the rugged independence and sense of community that define the American spirit. Our working landscapes, cultural sites, parks, coasts, wild lands, rivers, and streams are gifts that we have inherited from previous generations. They are the places that offer us refuge from daily demands, renew our spirits, and enhance our fondest memories, whether they are fishing with a grandchild in a favorite spot, hiking a trail with a friend, or enjoying a family picnic in a neighborhood park. They also are our farms, ranches, and forests -- the working lands that have fed and sustained us for generations. Americans take pride in these places, and share a responsibility to preserve them for our children and grandchildren.

Today, however, we are losing touch with too many of the places and proud traditions that have helped to make America special. Farms, ranches, forests, and other valuable natural resources are disappearing at an alarming rate. Families are spending less time together enjoying their natural surroundings. Despite our conservation efforts, too many of our fields are becoming fragmented, too many of our rivers and streams are becoming polluted, and we are losing our connection to the parks, wild places, and open spaces we grew up with and cherish. Children, especially, are spending less time outside running and playing, fishing and hunting, and connecting to the outdoors just down the street or outside of town.

Across America, communities are uniting to protect the places they love, and developing new approaches to saving and enjoying the outdoors. They are bringing together farmers and ranchers, land trusts, recreation and conservation groups, sportsmen, community park groups, governments and industry, and people from all over the country to develop new partnerships and innovative programs to protect and restore our outdoors legacy. However, these efforts are often scattered and sometimes insufficient. The Federal Government, the Nation's largest land manager, has a responsibility to engage with these partners to help develop a conservation agenda worthy of the 21st Century. We must look to the private sector and nonprofit organizations, as well as towns, cities, and States, and the people who live and work in them, to identify the places that mean the most to Americans, and leverage the support of the Federal Government to help these community-driven efforts to succeed. Through these partnerships, we will work to connect these outdoor spaces to each other, and to reconnect Americans to them.

For these reasons, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Establishment.

(a) There is established the America's Great Outdoors Initiative (Initiative), to be led by the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and implemented in coordination with the agencies listed in section 2(b) of this memorandum. The Initiative may include the heads of other executive branch departments, agencies, and offices (agencies) as the President may, from time to time, designate.

(b) The goals of the Initiative shall be to:

(i) Reconnect Americans, especially children, to America's rivers and waterways, landscapes of national significance, ranches, farms and forests, great parks, and coasts and beaches by exploring a variety of efforts, including:

(A) promoting community-based recreation and conservation, including local parks, greenways, beaches, and waterways;

(B) advancing job and volunteer opportunities related to conservation and outdoor recreation; and

(C) supporting existing programs and projects that educate and engage Americans in our history, culture, and natural bounty.

(ii) Build upon State, local, private, and tribal priorities for the conservation of land, water, wildlife, historic, and cultural resources, creating corridors and connectivity across these outdoor spaces, and for enhancing neighborhood parks; and determine how the Federal Government can best advance those priorities through public private partnerships and locally supported conservation strategies.

(iii) Use science-based management practices to restore and protect our lands and waters for future generations.

Sec. 2. Functions. The functions of the Initiative shall include:

(a) Outreach. The Initiative shall conduct listening and learning sessions around the country where land and waters are being conserved and community parks are being established in innovative ways. These sessions should engage the full range of interested groups, including tribal leaders, farmers and ranchers, sportsmen, community park groups, foresters, youth groups, businesspeople, educators, State and local governments, and recreation and conservation groups. Special attention should be given to bringing young Americans into the conversation. These listening sessions will inform the reports required in subsection (c) of this section.

(b) Interagency Coordination. The following agencies shall work with the Initiative to identify existing resources and align policies and programs to achieve its goals:

(i) the Department of Defense;

(ii) the Department of Commerce;

(iii) the Department of Housing and Urban Development;

(iv) the Department of Health and Human Services;

(v) the Department of Labor;

(vi) the Department of Transportation;

(vii) the Department of Education; and

(viii) the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

(c) Reports. The Initiative shall submit, through the Chair of the CEQ, the following reports to the President:

(i) Report on America's Great Outdoors. **By November 15, 2010, the Initiative shall submit a report that includes the following:**

(A) a review of successful and promising nonfederal conservation approaches;

(B) an analysis of existing Federal resources and programs that could be used to complement those approaches;

(C) proposed strategies and activities to achieve the goals of the Initiative; and

(D) an action plan to meet the goals of the Initiative.

The report should reflect the constraints in resources available in, and be consistent with, the Federal budget. It should recommend efficient and effective use of existing resources, as well as opportunities to leverage nonfederal public and private resources and nontraditional conservation programs.

(ii) Annual reports. By September 30, 2011, and September 30, 2012, the Initiative shall submit reports on its progress in implementing the action plan developed pursuant to subsection (c)(i)(D) of this section.

Sec. 3. General Provisions.

(a) This memorandum shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of any necessary appropriations.

(b) This memorandum does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

(c) The heads of executive departments and agencies shall assist and provide information to the Initiative, consistent with applicable law, as may be necessary to carry out the functions of the Initiative. Each executive department and agency shall bear its own expenses of participating in the Initiative.

(d) Nothing in this memorandum shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect the functions of the Director of the OMB relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(e) The Chair of the CEQ is authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the Federal Register.

BARACK OBAMA

Tab 7

NFHAP Board Communications Agenda Item – June 9, 2010:

Casting Call Summary from 2010 and looking ahead to NFHAP involvement in 2011

Event Background and involvement:

The National Fish Habitat Action Plan participated in the Jim Range National Casting Call event on Thursday April 22, 2010 on the grounds of Fletcher's Boat House in Washington, DC. This was the fifth year overall, that NFHAP has been involved in the Casting Call Event and the fourth event overall that NFHAP was of major prevalence. NFHAP has had a significant program tied to the Casting Call event since 2006, when NFHAP was signed and the Department of Interior announced projects under NFHAP. The Ten "Waters to Watch" were unveiled there in 2007 and in 2008 the NFHAP Awards were created and announced at Casting Call. The National Casting Call event has been in existence for 11 years and NFHAP's involvement is growing each year with the event.

The 2010 Event was a success from a logistics and program point for NFHAP, but some drawbacks to the event overall, were that Casting Call occurred on Earth Day (April 22) and there were other Federal Government sponsored events elsewhere throughout DC, specifically geared towards Earth Day. This was a factor in the attendance of the 2010 Casting Call Event, as far as federal employee attendance, with the overall numbers down approximately down about 20% from previous events.

The amount pre-coverage by the media was the same as in previous years. However on-site coverage of both of the day's events were low, again due to the earth day events throughout the Capitol Region.

Senator Mike Enzi (R-WY) participated in the scheduled congressional fish activities on the morning of the 22nd, which was an improvement from the past two years, and the staffs of five other members of congress attended the Casting Call event throughout the day.

2011:

The program for 2011 is in the planning stages and is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, April 14th (JRNCC) and Saturday, April 16th (FYCC). There is a proposal to possibly have a Hill reception on Wednesday night (April 13th) on the eve of the Casting Call event, which NFHAP is being asked to be a part of.

Final thoughts on 2011 from a Communications standpoint: If NFHAP were to have its awards ceremony during the proposed hill reception, the Action Plan would still have a major program at the Thursday Casting Call event in the form of a NFHAP update.

NFHAP has been a key partner in the Casting Call event and is being asked to partner again in 2011, moving forward I would like to ask the Board the following:

Board Decision:

How does the Board feel about NFHAP's continued involvement in the Casting Call Event?

Would the Board like to explore the possibility of having a meeting during the time frame of the Casting Call event in or around Washington DC?

Does the Board feel that it would benefit NFHAP to be involved in a Casting Call kick-off reception on the Hill? If so would there be additional funds available to contribute to a reception?

Also, in development of a hill reception, parties asked to be involved are: American Sportfishing Association (ASA), American Fly Fishing & Trade Association (AFFTA), Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation (RBFF), Trout Unlimited (TU), and Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF). Would there be a problem proposing a partnership with NFHAP and any of these groups moving forward?

There have been some ideas of NFHAP having their own awards event (stand alone) in the future. Being involved with the Hill reception for this event, would give NFHAP a different and unique forum for the NFHAP Awards, without having a stand-alone event. A hill reception would give the NFHAP awards another captive audience of partners and stakeholders as well as members of Congress as a possible audience. Board Thoughts?

THE NATIONAL FISH HABITAT ACTION PLAN

A Vision of Fish Habitat Conservation for the United States of America

2010 Update

America's fisheries are facing a conservation crisis. Nearly 40% of North American fishes, 700 species in total, are listed as imperiled. More than two-thirds of these are considered federally threatened or endangered. Habitat alteration is the principal factor in this conservation crisis and is the principal motivation for the development of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP).

The National Fish Habitat Action Plan is a national investment strategy to maximize the impact of conservation dollars on the ground.

NFHAP is the most comprehensive effort ever attempted to voluntarily conserve freshwater, estuarine and marine waterways and habitat across the country. The Action Plan is a science-based investment strategy to conserve waterways and their resources, by combining federal, state, and privately raised funds to build regional partnerships.

Background:

National Fish Habitat Action Plan (Mission, Goals & Objectives)

MISSION

The mission of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan is to protect, restore and enhance the nation's fish and aquatic communities through partnerships that foster fish habitat conservation and improve the quality of life for the American people.

This mission will be achieved by:

- Supporting existing fish habitat partnerships and fostering new efforts.
- Mobilizing and focusing national and local support for achieving fish habitat conservation goals.
- Setting national and regional fish habitat conservation goals.
- Measuring and communicating the status and needs of fish habitats.
- Providing national leadership and coordination to conserve fish habitats.

GOALS

- Protect and maintain intact and healthy aquatic systems.
- Prevent further degradation of fish habitats that have been adversely affected.
- Reverse declines in the quality and quantity of aquatic habitats to improve the overall health of fish and other aquatic organisms.

- Increase the quality and quantity of fish habitats that support a broad natural diversity of fish and other aquatic species.

OBJECTIVES

- Conduct a condition analysis of all fish habitats within the United States by 2010.
- Identify priority fish habitats and establish Fish Habitat Partnerships targeting these habitats by 2010.
- Establish 12 or more Fish Habitat Partnerships throughout United States by 2010.
- Prepare a “Status of Fish Habitats in the United States” report in 2010 and every five years thereafter.
- Protect all healthy and intact fish habitats by 2015.
- Improve the condition of 90 percent of priority habitats and species targeted by Fish Habitat Partnerships by 2020.

Governance and Coordination:

Through the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the states led development of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), NOAA Fisheries Service and other key partners, both government agencies and NGO’s. The two federal agencies with lead fishery management responsibility, FWS and NOAA Fisheries Service, served as the primary liaisons with other federal agencies and the Federal Caucus. Federal, state and private organizations provided personnel to assist in the development and implementation of the plan. Tribal governments were also invited to participate in the planning process. A 22-member Board was formed and has met a total of 17 times. It has approved a charter, developed an operational budget, and provided guidance on a many issues related to implementation of the Action Plan.

Fish Habitat Partnerships: Unprecedented expansion across the U.S.

- Fish Habitat Partnerships (FHP’s) are the primary units for implementing the Action Plan. Since 2009, 11 FHP’s were formally endorsed by the Board, joining the six that were endorsed previously from 2006-2009. These partnerships are formed around important aquatic habitats and distinct geographic areas (e.g. Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership); “keystone” fish species (e.g. eastern brook trout and salmon) or system types (e.g. large lakes impoundments, estuaries – e.g. Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership)
- These FHP’s operate under guidance developed by the National Fish Habitat Board, covering partnership diversity, strategic planning, and science and outreach. The 17 approved FHP’s are engaged with prioritizing projects for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service funding. Since 2006, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has provided \$12 million to support 257 on-the-ground Action Plan projects in 42 states, leveraging \$30 million in partner match, to address the priorities of Action Plan Fish Habitat Partnerships. Additional funds have been provided by several other state and federal agencies, businesses, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Fish Habitat Partnerships are established to:

- Provide leadership and help to develop fish habitat projects at regional and local levels.
- Work with other regional habitat conservation to promote cooperation and coordination leading to enhanced protection of fish habitats.
- Engage grassroots efforts to build support for fish habitat conservation

- Involve diverse groups of public and private partners and focus them on conservation of fish habitat.
- Collaboratively develop a compelling strategic vision and implementation plan that is scientifically sound and achievable.
- Leverage National Fish Habitat Action Plan and other sources of funding by building local and regional partnerships.
- Use adaptive management principles.
- Have the ability to develop appropriate regional habitat evaluation measures and criteria that are compatible with national measures.
- Address fish habitat conservation at a scale necessary to make a difference.

Partnerships Built on Success

The Action Plan has met its objective of establishing at least 12 Fish Habitat Partnerships by 2010 to help identify the causes of habitat declines and implement corrective initiatives for aquatic conservation and restoration, with 17 Fish Habitat Partnerships working on the ground in aquatic conservation.

The 17 recognized Fish Habitat Partnerships are:

Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership
California Fish Passage Forum
Desert Fish Habitat Partnership
Driftless Area Restoration Effort
Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture
Fishers and Farmers Partnership
Great Lakes Basin Fish Habitat Partnership
Great Plains Fish Habitat Partnership
Hawaii Fish Habitat Partnership
Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership
Matanuska-Susitna Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership
Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership
Ohio River Basin Fish Habitat Partnership
Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership
Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership
Southwest Alaska Salmon Habitat Partnership
Western Native Trout Initiative

In addition, four “Candidate” Fish Habitat Partnerships have stated their intent to apply for full NFHAP Board recognition in the future.

SPOT FOR FHP MAP

State Driven Initiative: Between the officially recognized and “candidate” Fish Habitat Partnerships, the National Fish Habitat Action Plan reaches across the entire United States. All 50 states participate in at least one FHP in an effort to improve all aspects of fish habitat. With the support of the states through the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, representing all 50 state fish and wildlife agencies, the initiative is continuously growing with the expansion of budding partnerships as represented with the unprecedented approval of 11 FHP’s in 2009 and 2010 alone.

One-Year-Out Workshop:

Partners in the National Fish Habitat Action Plan came together in the One-Year-Out Workshop in June 2009 to address Action Plan priorities and assess where the Action Plan stood one year out from critical 2010 objectives .

120 participants attended the three-day workshop held at the National Conference Center in Leesburg, VA on June 23-25. Over the three days, attendees heard from speakers on the vision of NFHAP, Science & Data, Partnerships, Communications and Funding.

Breakout groups following the plenary sessions developed recommendations to present to the National Fish Habitat Board. The workshop wrapped up with a half-day Board meeting in which the Board considered recommendations from each of the breakout sessions to achieve the objectives set forth by the Action Plan.

Science and Data Background:

In 2009 and 2010, the focus of the Science and Data Committee has been the timely development of the National Fish Habitat Assessment and the supporting data systems. The Science and Data Committee has started to outreach to partnerships on the National Fish Habitat Assessment and this effort will include opportunities for the partnerships to review assessment products. To date, Committee chairs have met with the Alaskan Partnerships, the Hawaii Fish Habitat Partnership, the Western Native Trout Initiative, the Reservoir Partnership, and SARP. These efforts will intensify over the summer and in the early fall with the National Fish Habitat Assessment Symposium that will be held at the American Fisheries Society meeting in September.

With respect to the National Fish Habitat Assessment, the following items have been accomplished: 1) an initial assessment of rivers has been completed and is currently being refined; 2) the spatial framework and assessment variables have been developed for the coastal assessment; 3) an initial assessment of Alaska has been completed and is being refined with a more detailed spatial framework; 4) the initial Hawaii and reservoir assessment is in progress; and 5) planning is in progress for the lake assessment. Only the Great Lakes fish habitat assessment is not yet in progress. This task will be a key item in the coming year for the Science and Data Committee along with the development of a Decision Support Tool for the Board and the Partnerships.

One key area that will be worked on in the coming year will be to examine how to link the more intensive partnership assessments and the data generated from them with the National Fish Habitat Assessment. This effort will include both data capture and summarization aspects along with how to bridge statistical bridges between assessments at different scales. The Committee is also involved in using the National Fish Habitat Assessment system as a platform to examine the effects of climate change and this project has been funded by the U.S. Geological Service.

Communications:

- Communications to support the Action Plan has advanced through the NFHAP website (www.fishhabitat.org) in the areas of Science & Data, Fish Habitat Partnerships and the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act. An outreach toolkit for the legislation has had more than 1,200 hits on the website, since it was developed in June 2009. The outreach toolkit includes a presentation document, talking points, a bill summary and a form letter to contact members in Congress of the importance of the legislation.
- The Communications effort has also elevated NFHAP into being a feature focus of the American Fly Fishing Trade Association's annual Jim Range National Casting Call event in Washington, DC. Casting Call was the venue for presentation of the 3rd annual National Fish Habitat Awards in 2010.
- The recognition of NFHAP has also been elevated through the continued success of its 10 "Waters to Watch" Campaign, which highlights aquatic conservation projects throughout the United States through the Fish Habitat Partnerships. The 10 "Waters to Watch" campaign unveiled its first list of waters in 2007. Since then the campaign has generated over 100 articles in a variety of media outlets, including Outdoor Life Magazine, Trout Unlimited, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and Cabella's Outfitter Journal. A complete database of 10 "Waters to Watch" projects, along with updates can be accessed at www.fishhabitat.org

The 10 Waters to Watch in 2010 include:

- **Bobs Creek, Pennsylvania -**
(Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture)
- **Diamond Lake, Iowa -**
(Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership)

- **Fairbanks and Soda Springs, Nevada –**
(Desert Fish Habitat Partnership)
- **Georgetown Creek, Idaho –**
(Western Native Trout Initiative)
- **Green River Basin, Colorado, Utah, Wyoming –**
(Desert Fish Habitat Partnership and Western Native Trout Initiative)
- **Koktuli River, Alaska –**
(Southwest Alaska Salmon Habitat Partnership)
- **Lake Vermilion, Minnesota -**
(Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership)
- **Mackeys Creek, Mississippi –**
(Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership)
- **Wasilla Creek, Alaska –**
(Mat-Su Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership)
- **West Branch, Machias River, Maine –**
(Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture)

The Action plan has also been the focus of media coverage of the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act, including a feature in *Fly Fisherman* magazine in 2009.

National Fish Habitat Awards

The winners of the National Fish Habitat Awards were honored for their extraordinary achievements at the Jim Range National Casting Call April, 2010 on the grounds of the C&O Canal National Historic Park, on the bank of the Potomac River in Washington, DC.

Recipients of the 2010 Awards were Scott Robinson (Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership) **Jim Range Conservation Vision Award**, Kenda Flores (Missouri Department of Conservation) and Bob and Nicky Baker (Lower Bourbeuse COA Landowner Committee) **Extraordinary Action Award**, David Moe Nelson (NOAA) **Scientific Achievement in support of Fish Habitat Conservation** and Catherine Inman (Wasilla Soil and Water Conservation District) **Outreach and Educational Achievement Award in support of Fish Habitat Conservation**. This was the third year the National Fish Habitat Awards have been presented, recognizing outstanding achievements in fish habitat conservation.

NFHAP Website and Partner Coalition:

The National Fish Habitat Action Plan's webpage has a growing database of over 1,700 subscribers. An average of five new members have signed up per week in 2009 and 2010.

The Partner Coalition gives members an opportunity to actively participate in National Fish Habitat Action Plan through regional projects as well as keeping up to date with all of the educational information offered through the Partner Coalition page.

Nearly 500 organizations - state and federal agencies, scores of non-profit organizations, along with corporations, academic institutions, and Native American tribes - are working together to conserve aquatic habitat through their support of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. With the growth of the Partner Coalition, the National Fish Habitat Action Plan has given everyone an opportunity to get involved.

National Fish Habitat Conservation Act

The National Fish Habitat Conservation Act was re-introduced in May 2009 in the Senate (S. 1214) by Senator Joe Lieberman (I-CT) and in the House (H.R. 2565) in June 2009 by Representative Ron Kind (D-WI). With the foundation already laid for the legislation in 2008, the bill has picked up significant bipartisan support in both the House and the Senate in 2009 and 2010.

The Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works held a hearing on the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act in December 2009. The Committee reported out an amended bill supported by the majority and minority and the conservation community. A hearing on the legislation was also held by the House Natural Resources Committee, Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife in June 2009.

A legislative team supporting these efforts is made up of individuals from the following organizations:

The Conservation Fund, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, American Sportfishing Association, Trout Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, and American Fisheries Society. Several other state agencies and conservation organizations also assist in advancing the Act.

NFHAP Capitol Hill Briefing

The American Fisheries Society (AFS), in conjunction with the National Fish Habitat Board, presented a briefing on the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act (S. 1214, H.R. 2565) on March 16 in the Rayburn House Office Building in Washington, DC. Speakers at the briefing were Representatives Ron Kind (D-WI) and Bill Cassidy (R-LA), both sponsors of H.R. 2565; AFS President Don Jackson; Jeff Hastings (Trout

Unlimited); Gordon Robertson (American Sportfishing Association) and Doug Austen (Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission).

All of the speakers touched on the importance of the legislation and engaged the crowd of nearly 50 people to reach out to their Representatives in Congress to support the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act. The speakers stressed the importance of the Act's passage and the resulting benefits to the aquatic resources and fisheries of the United States.

Below is a list of members of the House of Representatives who have signed on to support the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act as of May 2010.

Rep. Dan Boren (D-OK) - 2/4/2010
Rep. Henry Brown, Jr. (R-SC) - 3/3/2010
Rep. Christopher Carney (D-PA) - 12/8/2009
Rep. Bill Cassidy (R-LA) - 12/2/2009
Rep. Donna Christensen (D-VI) - 9/10/2009
Rep. Joe Courtney (D-CT) - 2/26/2010
Rep. Kathy Dahlkemper (D-PA) - 2/4/2010
Rep. Norm Dicks (D-WA) - 10/7/2009
Rep. Jim Gerlach (R-PA) - 1/12/2010
Rep. Steve Kagen (D-WI) - 3/2/2010
Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI) - 5/21/2009
Rep. Jeff Miller, (R-FL) - 3/12/2010
Rep. John Murtha (D-PA) - 9/10/2009
Rep. Tom Petri (R-WI) - 4/14/2010
Rep. Todd Platts (R-PA) - 1/20/2010
Rep. David Price (D-NC) - 10/7/2009
Rep. Mike Ross (D-AR) - 1/20/2010
Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI) - 3/9/2010
Rep. Joe Sestak (D-PA) - 1/15/2010
Rep. Bill Shuster (R-PA) - 3/16/2010
Rep. Mike Thompson (D-CA) - 7/23/2009
Rep. Bob Wittman (R-VA) - 2/3/2010

S. 1214 was introduced by Senator Joseph Lieberman (I-CT) in June, 2009. Below is a list of co-sponsors and when they signed on in support of the legislation:

(S.1214 Co-Sponsors)
Sen. Mark Begich (D-AK) - 7/16/2009
Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) - 9/8/09
Sen. Christopher S. Bond (R-MO) - 6/9/2009
Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin (D-MD) - 6/9/2009
Sen. Robert P. Casey, Jr. (D-PA) - 6/9/2009
Sen. Mike Crapo (R-ID) - 6/9/2009
Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) - 6/23/2009
Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) - 6/15/2009
Sen. Bernard Sanders (I-VT) - 6/9/2009
Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) - 6/9/2009

Sen. Mark Udall (D-CO) - 6/10/2009
Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) - 6/9/2009

DRAFT

Tab 9

**Report of the Joint Project Review Team
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service / National Fish Habitat Board
National Fish Habitat Action Plan
April 2010**

In 2010 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will provide funding to support on-the-ground, cost-share projects under the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (Action Plan). Funded projects will be those ranked highly by fifteen Fish Habitat Partnerships organized under the Action Plan.

A national review of the projects was done by a joint FWS / Board Project Review Team. Members of the Team were:

- Doug Austen, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Board vice-chair
- Krystyna Wolniakowski, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, Board member
- Steve Moyer, Trout Unlimited, Board member
- Joe Larschied, Chief of Fisheries, Iowa DNR (Acting for Rich Leopold, Iowa DNR, Board member)
- Mike Oetker, Assistant Regional Director-Fisheries, FWS Southwest Region
- Joe Moran, FWS Washington Office
- Paul Pajak, FWS Northeast Region
- Larry Gamble, FWS Mountain-Prairie Region

The Team was staffed by Tom Busiahn, FWS NFHAP Coordinator and Jody Brostrom, FWS Detailee, Idaho Fishery Resource Office.

Each Team member received a binder containing:

- Lists of projects as ranked by each FWS Region and Fish Habitat Partnership, including more projects than can be funded from available funds. The lists identified which of the Board's interim priority strategies were addressed by each project.
- Narrative descriptions of individual projects from FWS' Fisheries Operational Needs System (FONS).
- Narrative descriptions of how each Region / FHP solicited and ranked projects.
- Summary tables identifying performance measures, and NFHAP strategies and FWS climate change strategies addressed by the projects.
- List of projects by FWS region and state/congressional district.

Team members met on April 7, 2010. The Team reviewed its charge, i.e. to make recommendations to the FWS Director and to the Board to endorse or modify the project lists. Since the projects were already ranked by the Fish Habitat Partnerships and FWS Regions, the Team did not conduct an independent ranking. The Team had options to recommend 1) adopting the lists without changes, 2) switching out projects to meet national FWS or Board goals, or 3) modifying the project selection process for the future.

The Team endorsed the projects as proposed and expressed appreciation for the quality of projects and the work of the Fish Habitat Partnerships and FWS staff. The Team asked for clarifying information for some projects (see Attachment).

The Team also endorsed the following recommendations:

Project narratives

- Project narratives should state clearly what entity will receive the funding and implement the project, i.e. FWS or a partner or a combination. *Note: This recommendation is carried over from previous national reviews of FWS-funded NFHAP projects.*
- Project narratives should clearly identify whether the funds will be used for engineering/design work only, for construction only, or for both.
- If applicable, project narratives should discuss the recreational and/or economic value of the project in the “Additional Information” section.
- Project narratives should provide key information allowing readers to understand the methods and approach so that reviewers can ascertain appropriateness of methods.

Performance measures & outcomes

- Performance measures should reflect what will actually be accomplished within the available funding (not future outcomes) and be clearly identified.
- Assessment, education or other non-on-the-ground projects should clearly relate to habitat conservation outcomes, and state how they address strategic priorities of the FHP.

Project budgets

- Project Accomplishment Reports should capture the final match used and performance measures met to facilitate project tracking.
- Projects should include a line item budget as an attachment to the FONS record so that reviewers can understand how funds are proposed to be spent.

Project selection process

- The Board should convene a work group including members of the Science & Data Committee and representatives of Fish Habitat Partnerships to develop a national template for ranking projects. *Note: This recommendation is carried over from previous national reviews of FWS-funded NFHAP projects.*
- Fish Habitat Partnerships should promote consistency of FHP ranking criteria with their strategic plans, and systematically integrate resilience to climate change in their ranking criteria.
- FWS should initiate the project solicitation and ranking process as early as practicable each year to provide more time for developing quality proposals and thorough review and ranking.

Other

- The Board should invite a presentation on the Alaska Anadromous Waters Catalog, and how it contributes to protection of intact habitats. Projects that assess fish habitats leading to greater protection should be encouraged.

ATTACHMENT
Report of the Joint Project Review Team
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service / National Fish Habitat Board
National Fish Habitat Action Plan
April 2010

The Team asked FWS to follow up with individual Partnerships to obtain clarifying information on specific projects.

Desert Fish Habitat Partnership

Fish Passage Structure at Myton Diversion for native fish in the Duchesne River, Utah.

Has a vertical slot fishway been shown to be effective with these species? This design has been used with mixed results elsewhere. Would like confirmation that the design is appropriate.

Driftless Area Restoration Effort

NFHAP DARE coordination and organization of tri-state restoration workshops

What are the expected outcomes/outputs of restoration workshops?

Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture

Culvert Replacement and Habitat Restoration: Indian Stream, NH NFHAP-EBTJV

The methods, timeline and outcomes are not clearly identified in the project narrative given that it is a multi-year (5) project. How many culverts will be removed in Phase 1? There are no performance measures or species benefited identified in the project description.

Great Lakes Basin Fish Habitat Partnership

Promoting Aquatic Stewardship for Lake Superior Tributary Streams – NFHAP-GL

Even though this project is not identified for FY2010 funding, it was noted that the performance measure (Fishing activities and/or events targeting adults) was not what was described in the project narrative (pamphlet for landowners with methods appropriate to conserve/enhance tributary habitat). Would a different performance measure be more appropriate?

Great Plains Fish Habitat Partnership

Implementation of sloughing easement program for the Yellowstone and Missouri rivers. GPFHP.

Is this method proven effective? Is it applicable in other areas as well? Will NFHAP monies go towards real property acquisition (not fundable under NFHAP/FWS)?

Reduction of Eutrophication in the Ox Creek Watershed on Turtle Mountain Reservation GPFHP.

What is the microbial bioremediation method, and how is it applied?

Northern Plains Riparian Restoration Initiative GPFHP

Project narrative indicates \$30,000+ match, match table indicates \$360,000. Need clarification of the match.

Hawaii Fish Habitat Partnership

Anchialine Pool Restoration Project – Waiohinu, Hawaii Island

Performance measures indicate assessment, while the project narrative indicates actual restoration activities. Also indicates as two year project. Clarify one- and two- year performance measures.

Restoration of Moli’I Pond, Kualoa, Oahu

Performance measures indicate assessment, while the project narrative indicates actual restoration activities. Also indicates as two year project. Clarify one- and two- year performance measures.

Kenai Fish Habitat Partnership

Watermelon Trail Stream Bank Restoration

The project narrative did not indicate that the causal mechanism for the bank erosion (ORV use) had been dealt with. What is the long-term approach to manage off-road vehicle use? Concern with spending monies if cause is not resolved and dealt with.

Unnamed Creek at Fourth Avenue Fish Passage Restoration, Alaska

Verify the large NOAA match

Matsu Basin Habitat Partnership

LIDAR data and aerial imagery acquisition for the Mat-Su Valley and nearby areas

Large match is divided evenly among partners. Verify.

Estimate sockeye and coho salmon spawning distribution in Big Lake watershed 2010.

Verify match, particularly FWS dollars. May be Fisheries Subsistence dollars?

Ohio River Basin Fish Habitat Partnership

North Manchester Dam and Liberty Mills Dam Removals and Monitoring, Eel River, IN

Verify the \$600k match – is this for the monitoring? Also, two dams are being removed but barrier removals are not identified in the performance measures.

Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership

Assessment of Fish Habitat Impairment in U.S. Reservoirs

What are the next steps, how will this information be used, what can be expected in 2011 in regards to projects proposed? How will the project lead to habitat improvement? How does it meet needs of FWS federal trust species?

Southeast Aquatic Resource Partnership

Cumulative Assessments to Support SARP Habitat Plan

The project narrative is vague, difficult to discern why it is being done, how it is being done, what it will be used for, and what the money will be used for. Request for additional details and clarification. No match is identified.

NFHAP project funding options for Fiscal Year 2011

Background – Existing Policy

FWS policy ([717 FW 1](#)) says that each year in October the Director “allocates the available [NFHAP] project funding among Fish Habitat Partnerships consistent with the goals and strategies of the National Fish Habitat Board” and “issues guidance for project selection”.

The National Fish Habitat Board issued “[Final Interim Strategies and Targets](#)” in November 2007. Under 4 broad strategies, the document identifies “targets” and “success measures” for use by each Fish Habitat Partnership.

In February 2008, the Board approved the document “*Board Involvement in USFWS Budgeting, Funds Allocation and Project Selection Process*”. The document was developed in collaboration with the Service, with a goal to “develop a process that reflected the needs of all the parties”. It provides for recommendations from the Board to the Service Director on allocation of project funds.

Each year since 2007, the Board has provided written feedback to FWS on the annual list of projects and the process for selection. Some of the recommendations have been incorporated into the process, but most have not, more due to the complexity of the process than any substantive disagreement with the recommendations.

Background – Allocation History

FY 2006

Congress added funds to the Service budget for completing the Action Plan and for on-the-ground projects. The Service used Congressional guidance and input from the Core Work Group to allocate funds. Project funds were allocated to “pilot” Fish Habitat Partnership projects as follows:

Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership	221,625
Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture	197,000
Western Native Trout Initiative	197,000
Driftless Area Restoration Effort	98,500
Mat-Su Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership	98,500
TOTAL	812,625

FY 2007

The Service requested funds in the President’s budget, and initiated development of a policy on use of NFHAP funds, in consultation with the newly-organized Board. Project funds were allocated to “pilot” Fish Habitat Partnership projects as follows:

Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership	440,000
Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture	440,000
Western Native Trout Initiative	440,000
Driftless Area Restoration Effort	220,000
Mat-Su Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership	220,000
TOTAL	1,760,000

FY 2008

The Service requested an increase for NFHAP in the President's budget. A portion of the request (\$250,000) was identified by the Secretary of the Interior as part of the "Healthy Lands Initiative" focused on the Green River basin in Wyoming. The five "pilot" FHPs were recognized by the Board by February 2008, and several new "candidate" FHPs had indicated their intent to become recognized FHPs. Project funds were allocated as follows:

Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership	600,000
Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture	600,000
Western Native Trout Initiative (including \$246,100 earmarked for Green River basin, Wyoming)	846,100
Driftless Area Restoration Effort	300,000
Mat-Su Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership	300,000
Demonstration projects (one-time allocation to support projects identified by Candidate FHPs)	600,000
TOTAL	3,246,100

FY 2009

The budget for NFHAP was level from FY 2008. The Service increased the allocation to Regions for FHP development and operations. The number of recognized FHPs increased to six. Project funds were allocated as follows:

Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership	600,000
Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture	600,000
Western Native Trout Initiative (including \$246,100 earmarked for Green River basin, Wyoming)	846,100
Driftless Area Restoration Effort	300,000
Mat-Su Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership	300,000
Southwest Alaska Salmon Habitat Partnership	100,000
TOTAL	2,746,100

FY 2010

The Service requested an increase in NFHAP funds as part of a Climate Change initiative. Several additional FHPs were recognized by the Board. (The Green River basin funds are shown under WNTI, but could also be applied to projects of DFHP.) Project funds were allocated as follows:

Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership	600,000
Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture	600,000
Western Native Trout Initiative (including \$246,100 earmarked for Green River basin, Wyoming)	846,100
Driftless Area Restoration Effort	300,000
Mat-Su Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership	300,000
Southwest Alaska Salmon Habitat Partnership	100,000
Desert Fish Habitat Partnership	90,000
Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership	90,000
Hawaii Fish Habitat Partnership	90,000
Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership	90,000
Ohio River Basin Fish Habitat Partnership	90,000
Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership	90,000
Great Lakes Basin Fish Habitat Partnership	90,000
Great Plains Fish Habitat Partnership	90,000
Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership	90,000
TOTAL	3,556,100

Options for FY 2011

The Service's NFHAP budget request for 2011 is level from 2010. The allocation of 2010 NFHAP funds is shown in Attachment 1.

Two additional FHPs have been recognized by the Board, bringing the total to 17, two more than were included in project funding in 2010.

On a May 13, 2010 conference call, Fish Habitat Partnership representatives discussed options for allocating project funds in 2011. Some FHP representatives have also provided written input.

Option 1 – No decrease from past years

This option would ensure that any FHP will receive no less project funding than in previous years. This is the approach that has been used to date. Advantage: This option provides certainty for planning projects. Disadvantage: There is a large discrepancy among funding levels for FHPs, and a possibility that some FHPs will receive no project funding.

Option 2 – Formula

Under this option, allocation would be set by a formula, using variables such as area of FHP (with or without tidal waters) and number of Federal trust fish populations. The formula could incorporate broad tiers of funding and/or minimum and maximum funding levels. Advantage: This option accounts for the large differences in size of FHPs. Disadvantage: Agreement on a set of criteria would be difficult.

Option 3 – Competition

Under this option, a portion of project funds would be set aside for competition on a national scale. Advantage: Provides all FHPs an opportunity to compete for project funds, and may increase the quality of project submissions. Disadvantage: Adds a level of complexity and uncertainty to the allocation process.

Requested action

Board recommendations(s) to FWS for allocation of FHP project funding in 2011.

Prepared by Tom Busiahn, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
703-358-2056, tom_busiahn@fws.gov

Attachment 1
FY 2010 funding for the National Fish Habitat Action Plan
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

Background

In Fiscal Year 2009, FWS' NFHAP funding was \$5.153 million within the Fisheries Program budget, of which \$246,100 was earmarked for the Secretary of the Interior's "Healthy Lands Initiative", targeted to the Green River basin in Wyoming.

For FY 2010, the President requested and Congress appropriated \$7.153 million, an increase of \$2 million. The requested increase is part of a cross-program climate change budget initiative.

In March 2009, the FWS policy guiding the expenditure of funds for NFHAP was approved, after extensive internal and external review. The policy is available online at <http://www.fws.gov/policy/717fw1.html>.

Allocation of FY 2010 funds

The table below shows FWS's allocation of NFHAP funds for FY 2010. All line items are subject to a deduction of 0.5% deferred allocation. Amounts shown differ from FY 2009 as follows:

- Funds for priorities of the National Fish Habitat Board are increased by \$226,000.
- Funds for FWS involvement at national and regional levels are increased by \$840,000 to support expanded activities and commitments.
- Funds for "FHP development and operations" are increased by \$100,000. FWS Regions use these funds to support activities of recognized FHPs and development of Candidate FHPs.
- Funds for priority projects of fifteen recognized Fish Habitat Partnerships are increased by \$828,000.

National		
Board priorities	\$383,050	To be transferred through Cooperative Agreement to AFWA and/or Michigan State University to support science, communications, or other priorities of the Board
Board staff	\$180,905	Full-time senior staff support for Board activities, including travel. Focused on Fish Habitat Partnership coordination and liaison
Coordination & Leadership	\$241,206	Includes Federal Caucus coordination, maintenance and development of the NFHAP web site, development of Fish Habitat Partnerships, printing NFHAP communications materials, and other Washington Office staff costs.
Subtotal National	\$805,161	
Regional		

FHP development & operations	\$1,005,025	Supports operation of Fish Habitat Partnerships and development of Candidate FHPs, including meeting and travel expenses, strategic planning, and development of scientific capabilities.
Coordination & Leadership	\$1,768,844	Includes staff support for FHP operations, helping FHPs rank and select habitat projects, reporting accomplishments of habitat projects, providing biological expertise and technical assistance to FHPs, and outreach efforts in support of the Action Plan.
Subtotal Regional	\$2,773,869	
Local projects		
	\$603,015	Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership
	\$603,015	Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture
	\$850,352	Western Native Trout Initiative (includes \$246,100 for the Secretary of the Interior's "Healthy Lands Initiative" in the Green River basin, Wyoming)
	\$301,508	Driftless Area Restoration Effort
	\$301,508	Mat-Su Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership
	\$100,503	Southwest Alaska Salmon Habitat Partnership
	\$90,452	Desert Fish Habitat Partnership
	\$90,452	Midwest Glacial Lakes Initiative
	\$90,452	Hawaii Fish Habitat Partnership
	\$90,452	Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership
	\$90,452	Ohio River Basin Fish Habitat Partnership
	\$90,452	Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership
	\$90,452	Great Lakes Basin Fish Habitat Partnership
	\$90,452	Great Plains Fish Habitat Partnership
	\$90,452	Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership
Subtotal Projects	\$3,573,969	
GRAND TOTAL	\$7,153,000	



“A National Fish Habitat Partnership “

March 30, 2010

Kelly Hepler – Chair
National Fish Habitat Board
c/o Alaska Department of Fish and Game
333 Raspberry Rd.
Anchorage, AK 99518-1599

Dear Kelly:

Over the past four years, the Western Native Trout Initiative (WNTI) has applied National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP) dollars supplied by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) leveraged with WNTI partner funds to a wide variety of projects that address the habitat conservation priorities of the WNTI and NFHAP. Each year the WNTI Steering Committee chooses a limited number of priority projects to be funded from the long list of projects entered in the FWS Fisheries Operational Needs System (FONS) by the 5 WNTI FWS NFHAP regional coordinators. Projects submitted for this funding source adhere to FWS NFHAP guidelines ([FWS NFHAP Funding Policy Link](#)) and WNTI’s interpretation of National Fish Board (Board) guidelines ([NFHB Conservation Strategies & Targets Link](#)) for habitat conservation projects eligible for NFHAP FWS funds. As such, the WNTI Steering Committee is seeking confirmation from the Board on the eligibility of some specific types of projects proposed through WNTI that will aid and further improve our Steering Committee’s decision processes used to determine priority habitats and aid in the recovery and protection of our species of concern.

In general, WNTI approved projects have included the construction of barriers to prevent upstream movement of non-native trout into native trout conservation streams, removal of barriers to increase connectivity, chemical or mechanical removal of non-native trout from native trout conservation streams associated with barrier projects, as well as in-stream and riparian habitat restoration. More recently we added a project to reserve unallocated water for lake level protection. All have measurable metrics related to protection, restoration or enhancement. These types of projects are critical to WNTI fulfilling its mission and objectives in coming years and we believe they fulfill and are compatible with the NFHAP mission, goals, and objectives.

It is our understanding Board guidance for projects for all Fish Habitat Partnerships (FHP) is undergoing review. Accordingly, our Steering Committee coordinated in advance with the WNTI FWS Steering Committee member representing the five FWS regions within WNTI about this letter of clarification request to you and the Board. Thus, we seek confirmation by the Board on the eligibility of certain types of projects that may be submitted for future consideration of NFHAP funding based on the current sources of NFHAP FWS funding in coming years:

1. To create a native trout conservation stream, isolation from non-native trout is often necessary and requires the construction of a barrier. One step often necessary to ensure the success of the native trout population is the removal of all non-native fish. The most effective removal tool is by the application of approved piscicides (rotenone, antimycin). These types of projects may have both a barrier and chemical removal associated or they may be stand alone. These methods are not only implemented to protect native trout, but other native fishes as well (i.e., native fishes addressed in and important to the mission of the Desert Fish Habitat Partnership). Measureable outcomes include increased numbers of native fish and miles of habitat on the landscape due to habitat reestablishment and protection.
2. Habitat protection, restoration and enhancement projects can improve the quality of habitats to the point where measureable lengths and acres of habitat are made suitable for native trout, thus resulting in increases in fish population numbers. Habitat assessments and evaluations may require and consist of baseline data collection and analysis, and are often necessary to determine the scope of work before implementation is considered. Population assessments whether at range-wide, Evolutionarily Significant Units (ESU), or Distinct Population Segment (DPS) levels are important management tools that are identified in strategic plans and elsewhere as high priority needs and often involve multiple states. Population assessments may assist by providing baseline data prior to planning and implementation of habitat restoration projects and may also be used as monitoring tools to monitor the health and genetic purity status of native trout populations, or to monitor the fish population response to habitat restoration. For these types of projects, it is often necessary to conduct a habitat assessment and evaluation to determine the scope of work before implementation is considered. These evaluations may be made by an interdisciplinary team - including biologists, ecologists, and engineers from multiple agencies or organizations. These types of projects may include all components of habitat assessment and evaluation, protection, restoration, and population assessment, or they may be stand alone. Sometimes this may be a two phased effort before the specific habitat conservation action phase is implemented. Measurable outcomes include collection of baseline data and partnership participation, which may lead to increased numbers of fish and miles of habitat on the landscape due to habitat restoration and enhancement.
3. The majority of, if not all native trout projects require the preparation of environmental documents. This may include satisfaction of requirements under Clean Water Act (CWA), Endangered Species Act (ESA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Typically satisfaction of CWA and ESA requirements are handled as routine administrative procedures by federal land management agencies and FWS. However, NEPA compliance for federal land management agencies is typically more onerous and projects are often delayed without additional support for completion of NEPA compliance. Although WNTI recommends NEPA to be completed before a project is recommended for NFHAP funding, land management agencies often lack funding for NEPA compliance work and future proposals may incorporate funds to help support these requirements. Can projects be funded if this approval isn't completed in advance and may NFHAP funds be used to help support NEPA compliance?

We are also seeking this confirmation to insure WNTI is consistent in developing future habitat conservation project eligibility and prioritization criteria similar to criteria used by other FHPs. To that end, based on the October 2009 Board meeting discussions, it is our understanding NFHAP Board staff are in or will be in the process of compiling habitat conservation project nomination and prioritization criteria used this year by all of the FHPs. It is also our understanding all FHPs will have a chance to compare the processes and criteria used to select and prioritize projects by each of the various FHPs as part of this review process. We look forward to reviewing the outputs provided by other FHPs and will soon submit ours.

We thank you in advance for your time and consideration of this review and look forward to your and the Board's response.

On behalf of the Members of the WNTI Steering Committee,



Charlie Corrarino
Chair, WNTI Steering Committee

Cc: Doug Austen, National Fish Habitat Board Vice-Chair
National Fish Habitat Board members
National Fish Habitat Board Staff
WNTI Steering Committee
WNTI FWS Regional Coordinators
Virgil Moore, WAFWA
AFWA National Fish Habitat Action Plan files
NFHAP Fish Habitat Partnership Committee

Tab 10

Mission, Goals & Objectives

MISSION

The mission of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan is to protect, restore and enhance the nation's fish and aquatic communities through partnerships that foster fish habitat conservation and improve the quality of life for the American people.

This mission will be achieved by:

- Supporting existing fish habitat partnerships and fostering new efforts.
- Mobilizing and focusing national and local support for achieving fish habitat conservation goals.
- Setting national and regional fish habitat conservation goals.
- Measuring and communicating the status and needs of fish habitats.
- Providing national leadership and coordination to conserve fish habitats.

GOALS

- Protect and maintain intact and healthy aquatic systems.
- Prevent further degradation of fish habitats that have been adversely affected.
- Reverse declines in the quality and quantity of aquatic habitats to improve the overall health of fish and other aquatic organisms.
- Increase the quality and quantity of fish habitats that support a broad natural diversity of fish and other aquatic species.

OBJECTIVES

- Conduct a condition analysis of all fish habitats within the United States by 2010.
- Identify priority fish habitats and establish Fish Habitat Partnerships targeting these habitats by 2010.
- Establish 12 or more Fish Habitat Partnerships throughout United States by 2010.
- Prepare a "Status of Fish Habitats in the United States" report in 2010 and every five years thereafter.

- Protect all healthy and intact fish habitats by 2015.

- Improve the condition of 90 percent of priority habitats and species targeted by Fish Habitat Partnerships by 2020.

Executive Summary

I. Title of Project: National Fish Habitat Action Plan Implementation: meeting the goals and objectives for 2010.

II. Applicant Information:

Contact Name: Ron Regan, Resource Director
 Legal name of applicant: Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies on behalf of the National Fish Habitat Board
 Address: 444 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 725 Washington, DC 20001
 Phone: 202-624-7890 E-mail: Rregan@fishwildlife.org Fax: 202-624-7891

III. Project Objectives: This grant request is intended to cover a portion of the financial resources that will be required by the National Fish Habitat Board to successfully implement the 2010 objectives identified in the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (and guidance from the National Fish Habitat Board between September 2006 through June 2007).

1. Support and coordinate existing and new Fish Habitat Partnerships so there will be at least 12 in existence that target priority habitats in the United States by 2010
2. Support and coordinate preparation of the initial report on status of fish habitats in the United States due in 2010
3. Establish objectives for 2015 and beyond to meet the goals of the next phase of Action Plan implementation
4. Increase public and stakeholder awareness of the benefits of aquatic habitat conservation.

IV. Proposed Length of Project: Three years.

V. Amount of Grant Funding Requested for Each Year of the Project:
 2008 - \$ 82,500, 2009 - \$ 82,500, 2010 - \$ 82,500 Total request is \$247,500 to supplement additional funding sources to complete the project.

VI. Funding Source: 100% SFR

VII. States Benefited: 50 states, all 8 USFWS regions, and all regional fish and wildlife agency associations. Additionally, a nineteen member federal caucus has formed that will benefit from the project

VIII. Primary NCN Addressed in this Proposal: The proposal addresses NCN 6 (Support for Coordination and Development of National Fish Habitat Partnerships under the National Fish Habitat Action Plan) and as clarified in an email on May 22, 2007 to Christopher Estes from Christina Zarrella, MSCGP Coordinator, Support for Coordination and Development of National Fish Habitat Partnerships under the National Fish Habitat Action Plan.

IX. Summary Statement. This project provides a portion of the resources needed to perform essential actions required to build and strengthen the capacity of the National Fish Habitat Board (Board). to govern and support functions for meeting National Fish Habitat Action Plan (Action Plan) objectives for 2010 and beyond. These resources help fulfill coordination of plan implementation and partnerships The Board requires these and other resources to fulfill leadership and coordination roles to implement the Action

Plan and support existing and emerging Fish Habitat Partnerships. Coordination of this stage of Action Plan implementation and Board support require continued short term commitments of existing AFWA staff time, funds to support meetings of the board, to support other staff, Board, Partnerships, Partner, and Committees' actions. Coordination of funds for contract work associated with plan implementation, production, promotion and implementation is also required. Partner funds will also be requested to fund other support staffing and other operational needs to compliment project requests. The result will be the next step required to institutionalize the Action Plan so that is on par and complimentary to the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, other fish, wildlife, natural resources and other related strategically implemented actions.

National Fish Habitat Board

A. Title: National Fish Habitat Board Action Plan Implementation: Launching and Supporting the Regional Fish Habitat Partnerships

B. Objectives

1. Support and coordinate existing and new Fish Habitat Partnerships so there will be at least 12 in existence that target priority habitats in the United States by 2010
2. Support and coordinate preparation of the initial report on status of fish habitats in the United States due in 2010
3. Establish objectives for 2015 and beyond to meet the goals of the next phase of Action Plan implementation
4. Increase public and stakeholder awareness of the benefits of aquatic habitat conservation.

C. Problem Statement

Loss of fish habitat across the nation is recognized as a critical issue for fish and wildlife managers. Lost habitat undermines the health and productivity of aquatic systems and dependant fish populations. Declining fish habitat also diminishes aesthetic and angling opportunities, undermining ability of states to deliver quality outdoor recreation to the American public.

At its annual meeting in Madison in 2003, upon the advice of its National Fish Habitat Board, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies committed to take a leadership role in the development of a National Fish Habitat Action Plan. Modeled after the highly successful North American Waterfowl Management Plan, the Action Plan identifies a plan to arrest and reverse broad national and regional threats to fish habitat, coordinate and bring new resources to bear E

D. Experience

The National Fish Habitat Board will combine these and other resources to perform its governance and coordination of plan implementation.

Staff level leadership and management support to the work group will be provided by AFWA Resource Director Ron Regan on a part time basis. Additional staff resources to support the effort are committed by the US Fish & Wildlife Service, Fisheries Program other federal and state agencies and NGOs. Finally partner funds provided directly by state fish and wildlife agencies, regional associations and other organizations will be requested to directly fund other needs.

E. Approach

The project will be coordinated by the National Fish Habitat Board and its Chair, assisted by staff assigned to the Board by partner organizations, and volunteer committees established by the Board. Key elements of the Board's work will include:

1. Conduct outreach to the public and to diverse stakeholders focused on conservation of fish habitats to increase awareness of the Action Plan and the role of Fish Habitat Partnerships.
2. Provide technical assistance to partners, leading to the formation of 12 or more Fish Habitat Partnerships by 2010.
3. Formally recognize Fish Habitat Partnerships that fully meet criteria set by the Board.
4. Facilitate communication among the established and candidate Fish Habitat Partnerships
5. Maintain and compile reports on accomplishments of Fish Habitat Partnerships.
6. Maintain a database of contact and other information on established and candidate Fish Habitat Partnerships.
7. Develop a scaleable framework for scientific data that describe the condition of fish habitats throughout the United States.
8. Identify applicable data, and integrate existing databases into the framework.
9. Write and publish the "Status of Fish Habitats in the United States" report in 2010.
10. Build a network that queries existing databases for ongoing tracking of habitat conditions, and create a database of Action Plan projects and their results.
11. Oversee all activities through regular meetings (at least two per year) of the National Fish Habitat Board.
12. Provide all information to the public and stakeholders on the Action Plan web site, www.fishhabitat.org.

Staff level leadership and management support to the Board will be provided by Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' Resource Director, Ron Regan on a part-time basis. Additional staff resources to support the effort are committed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA Fisheries, and the U.S. Geological Survey. In addition, communications staff of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies will support activities related to communication. Finally partner funds provided directly by state fish and wildlife agencies, regional associations and other organizations will provide additional support for developing Fish Habitat Partnerships and completing the national fish habitat assessment.

F. Expected Results or Benefits

The National Fish Habitat Action Plan assigns to the National Fish Habitat Board the responsibility for coordinating agency and stakeholder involvement in the Action Plan at the national level. This includes developing appropriate policies and guidance for recognizing Fish Habitat Partnerships, and establishing national measures of success and evaluation criteria guidelines for Fish Habitat Partnerships.

The project will lead to the establishment and recognition of 12 or more Fish Habitat Partnerships that meet criteria set by the Board to meet the goals of the Action Plan. The project will also support crucial work to complete the draft framework for assessing fish habitat condition, compile existing data and develop the first-ever national report of the condition of fish habitats in the United States.

These are intermediate outcomes that will lead to long-term outcomes of improved fish habitat conditions and greater awareness among stakeholders and the general public of the benefits of fish habitat conservation. The work supported by this project is an early stage of Action Plan implementation that will continue for many decades. It will also provide the baseline information by which future progress will be measured on a national scale.

G. Certification Regarding Fishing and Hunting

“By submitting this proposal, AFWA’s primary contact and/or authorized representative identified in this grant application certifies that AFWA will not use the grant funds to fund, in whole or in part, any activity of the organization that promotes or encourages opposition to the regulated hunting or trapping of wildlife or the regulated taking of fish; and (2) that the grant funds will not be used, in whole or in part, for an activity, project, or program that promotes or encourages opposition to the regulated hunting and trapping of wildlife or the regulated taking of fish.”

H. Partnership Funds

“By submitting this proposal, the organization’s primary contact and/or authorized representative identified in this grant application certifies that AFWA: 1) understands that partnership fund contributions are assessed in the Association’s review and selection of its priority list of MSCGP projects, but are not considered by the USFWS to be an official non-federal match/cost-share; 2) will provide the partnership funds identified in order to complete the proposed project; 3) will report the expenditure of partnership funds to the USFWS and the Association as required, which will not be more frequently than quarterly; 4) understands that if the promised partnership funds are not provided, and there is not a sufficient explanation, potential consequences could include a poor “quality assurance” evaluation by the National Grants Committee for the organization’s future MSCGP applications; the imposition of “special award conditions” on this proposed grant and/or future grants (pursuant to 43 CFR 12); and if the failure to provide partnership funds affects the scope/objective or deliverables or other terms and conditions of the grant, then the USFWS could take necessary enforcement and termination actions (pursuant to 43 CFR 12).

Budget:

Expenses	2008		2009		2010		Total MSCGP Costs
	MSCGP	PF	MSCGP	PF	MSCGP	PF	
Objective 1: Fish Habitat Partnership Coordination							
Personnel	\$10,000	\$112,586	\$10,000	\$112,586	\$10,000	\$112,586	\$30,000
Fringe (30%)	\$3,000	\$33,776	\$3,000	\$33,776	\$3,000	\$33,776	\$9,000
Travel	\$5,000	\$9,000	\$5,000	\$9,000	\$5,000	\$9,000	\$15,000
Supplies (postage, printing, and other materials)	\$2,000		\$2,000		\$2,000		\$6,000
Equipment							
Contractual							
Other							
<i>Subtotal</i>	\$20,000	\$155,362	\$20,000	\$155,362	\$20,000	\$155,362	\$60,000
Objective 2: Communications & Outreach							
Personnel		\$50,000		\$50,000		\$50,000	
Fringe (30%)		\$15,000		\$15,000		\$15,000	
Travel							
Supplies	\$5,000		\$5,000		\$5,000		\$15,000
Equipment							
Contractual (web site and tool kit)	\$20,000	\$10,000	\$20,000	\$10,000	\$20,000	\$10,000	\$60,000
Other							
<i>Subtotal</i>	\$25,000	\$75,000	\$25,000	\$75,000	\$25,000	\$75,000	\$75,000
Expenses	2008		2009		2010		Total MSCGP Costs
	MSCGP	PF	MSCGP	PF	MSCGP	PF	
Objective 3: Develop Status of National Fish Habitat Report							
Personnel (USGS is providing salary for ½ FTE Science and Data Coordinator)		\$50,000		\$50,000		\$50,000	
Fringe (30%)		\$15,000		\$15,000		\$15,000	
Travel (transportation, meals, and lodging for work groups)	\$18,000	\$6,000	\$18,000	\$6,000	\$18,000	\$6,000	\$54,000
Supplies	\$2,000		\$2,000		\$2,000		\$6,000
Equipment (computer, GIS software)							
Contractual							
Other							
<i>Subtotal</i>	\$20,000	\$71,000	\$20,000	\$71,000	\$20,000	\$71,000	\$60,000

Objective 4: Board Recognizes 12 Fish Habitat Partnerships							
Personnel (NOAA is providing salary for Board Coordinator)		\$100,000		\$100,000		\$100,000	
Fringe (30%)		\$30,000		\$30,000		\$30,000	
Travel (transportation, meals, and lodging for work groups)							
Supplies							
Equipment (computer, GIS software)							
Contractual							
Other (Board meeting facilities)	\$10,000		\$10,000		\$10,000		\$30,000
<i>Subtotal</i>	\$10,000	\$130,000	\$10,000	\$130,000	\$10,000	\$130,000	\$30,000
<i>Subtotal 4 Objectives</i>	\$75,000		\$75,000		\$75,000		\$225,000
<i>10% Indirect</i>	\$7,500		\$7,500		\$7,500		\$22,500
MSCGP Total Request	\$82,500		\$82,500		\$82,500		\$247,500

Additional partner funds may be contributed during 2008, 2009, and 2010, but these budgets have not yet been established or approved as of the date of this proposal.

Budget Details:

1. Salaries

- Objective 1: Partial Salary for AFWA Resource Director requested (\$10,000); Salary of Fish Habitat Partnership coordinator paid by USFWS (2008 - \$112,586).
- Objective 2: Salary of Communication Committee co-chair paid by AFWA.
- Objective 3: Salary of Science & Data coordinator paid by USGS (half time \$50,000)
- Objective 4: Salary of Board Operations coordinator paid by NOAA.

2. Fringe Benefits – estimated average rate of 30%

3. Travel

- Objectives 1 and 3: These travel funds (lodging, transportation, meals, etc.) will provide reimbursement each year for people working on Candidate Fish Habitat Partnerships to attend Board meetings or travel to meet with Board staff, or for Board staff to travel to meet with the Candidate FHPs. (~5 trips per year @ \$1,000/trip for Objective 1, and 18 trips for Objective 3). Travel costs of Fish Habitat Partnership coordinator paid by USFWS (9 trips @ \$1,000/trip)

4. Equipment - 0

5. Supplies \$9,000 requested for materials, photocopying, postage, binders, etc.

6. Contractual

- Objective 2: \$20,000 requested for contractor to assist with website and communications tool kit, and \$10,000 of USFWS funds will pay for printing and web site contracts cost-share partnership funding

7. **Other** \$10,000 requested for meeting rooms and equipment rental (\$2500 per meeting x 4 meetings per year)

Key Staff

John Cooper, Chair

National Fish Habitat Board

John Cooper works as Senior Policy Advisor to the Governor of South Dakota. In 2006, he retired after 11 years as Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks. John previously also served 22 years with the Law Enforcement Division of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

John recently served as Vice-Chairman for the North American Wetlands Conservation Council, President of the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, and Chairman of the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Habitat Committee.

John is a recipient of the prestigious 2006 Outdoor Magazine Conservationist of the Year award; the 1992 South Dakota Wildlife Federation Conservationist of the Year Award; the 1982 South Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society Wildlife Professional of the Year Award, the 1995 Guy Bradley Law Enforcement Professional Award, and the 1998 U.S. Forest Service Chief's Award for Conservation Leadership.

In addition to his professional career, John served as Field Editor for *Dakota Outdoors* magazine for 14 years where he wrote a monthly conservation/outdoors column. He has also had articles published in *Sports Afield*, *In-Fisherman*, *Western Outdoor News*, and *Bassmaster* magazines.

He and his wife, Vera, have been married for 38 years and have two children, Leigh Ann and Leonard. He enjoys fishing, camping, hunting waterfowl with his Labrador Retriever, and taking his grandsons out on hikes.

Kelly Hepler, Vice-Chair

National Fish Habitat Board

An experienced fishery manager with expertise in Alaska's world class sport fisheries, Kelly Hepler is the Director of the Division of Sport Fish for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Previously Hepler served as Assistant Director for the division.

An avid sports fisherman who enjoys fishing with his family, Hepler, has a Bachelor of Science degree in Fish and Wildlife Management from Montana State University. He joined the department in 1979 and has held management and supervisory positions for more than 25 years, including Area Management Biologist for the Upper Copper/Upper Susitna, Prince William Sound, Resurrection Bay, and Anchorage areas. In 1993 Hepler was named the Regional Sport Fish Management Biologist for the Southcentral region.

The Division of Sport Fish is responsible for Alaska's fisheries stock assessment and management, development of public access for sport fishing and boating, hatcheries, and planning, information, and education services. The division employs 400 full-time and seasonal employees and has an annual budget of roughly \$25 million.

*Ron Regan, Resource Director
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies*

Ron Regan is the Resource Director for the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Prior to accepting the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' position in May 2007, Mr. Regan spent over 25 years working for the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. During that time, he served as Deer Project Leader, Director of Wildlife, Director of Operations, and Commissioner (i.e., head of the Fish and Wildlife Department).

Regan has a B. S. in Wildlife Biology from the University of Vermont (1974) and he is a Certified Wildlife Biologist (TWS). Throughout his career he has had a high level of leadership engagement with a variety of organizations including the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, The Wildlife Society, the Atlantic Flyway Council, and Atlantic Coast Joint Venture Management Board

National Fish Habitat Board Members June 2007

John Cooper , *Chair*

Kelly Hepler *Vice-chair*
Director, Division of Sport Fishing
Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Edward Parker
Bureau Chief
Division of Natural Resources
CT Department of Environmental Protection

Gary Myers
Executive Director
Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

Bill Hogarth
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
NOAA Fisheries Service
Dale Hall
Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Arlen Lancaster
Chief
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Benjamin H. Grumbles
Assistant Administrator

Michael (Mic) J. Isham, Jr.
Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission

Pat Murray
Vice President - Government Relations

Charles Gauvin
President and Chief Executive
Trout Unlimited

Michael Andrews
Vice President for Ecosystem Services
The Nature Conservancy

William W. Taylor
Professor and Chair
Department of Fisheries and Wildlife
Michigan State University

Jeff Trandahl
Executive Director
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Stan Moberly
Past President, American Fisheries Society Northwest Marine

Randy Fisher
Executive Director
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission

Bob Mahood
Executive Director
South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

Gordon Robertson
Vice President - Government Affairs
American Sportfishing Association

Matt Hogan
Executive Director
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Tab 12

National Fish Habitat Action Plan – Science and Data Activities
American Fisheries Society – Annual Meeting
Pittsburgh, PA
September 15 and 16, 2010

1. NFHAP Science Team Committee Meeting – September 15, 2010 – 1 PM – 5 PM
 - a. Review status and products of the National Assessment
 - b. Provide an opportunity for the Partnerships to comment on National Assessment
 - c. Plan for Decision Support Tool development
2. NFHAP Symposium - “The Big Picture of Fish Habitat – How Science Supports Conservation Under the National Fish Habitat Action Plan”– September 16, 2010 – 8:10 AM – 3:00 PM
 - a. 8:10 AM - Welcoming Remarks - G. Whelan and T.D. Beard
 - b. 8:20 AM - Pushing habitat into the future: an overview of the science basis of the national fish habitat action plan - G. Whelan and T. D. Beard
 - c. 8:40 AM - A national assessment of landscape influences on riverine fishes of the conterminous United States - P. Esselman, D. Infante, L. Wang, A. Cooper, and W. W. Taylor
 - d. 9:00 AM - The influence of inland habitat conditions on the status of estuary - P. Polte, P. Esselman, C. Greene, D. M. Infante, A. Candelmo, K. Miller, D. M. Nelson, and S. M. Stedman
 - e. 9:20 AM - Environmental indicators in the national estuary and coastal fish habitat assessment - D. M. Nelson, P. Polte, C. Greene, A. Candelmo, S. M. Stedman, and K. McGraw
 - f. 9:40 AM - A coast is a coast? Similarities and differences in the drivers of fish habitat condition across three US coasts - A. Candelmo, T. Noji, P. Polte, K. Larsen, D. M. Nelson, C. Greene, S. M. Stedman, K. McGraw, and S. K. Brown
 - g. 10:00 AM – Break
 - h. 10:20 AM - A multiregional assessment of estuary and coastal fish habitat of the United States - K. Larsen, D. M. Nelson, S. M. Stedman, C. Greene, T. Noji, A. Candelmo, P. Polte, and K. McGraw
 - i. 10:40 AM - Preliminary assessments of landscape sources of stress to fish habitats in Alaska and Hawaii - P. Esselman, D. Infante, L. Wang, A. Cooper, and W. W. Taylor
 - j. 11:00 AM - Thousands of miles of shoreline and a zillion river miles: the challenges of the Alaska fish habitat assessment - K. Miller

- k. 11:20 AM - Landscape based assessment of human disturbance for Michigan lakes - L. Wang, K. Wehrly, J. Breck, and L. S. Kraft
- l. 11:40 AM - Using traditional ecological knowledge to protect salmon habitat - T. Troll
- m. 12:00 PM – Lunch
- n. 1:20 PM - An overview of the development and utility of the ACFHP species habitat matrix and ACFHP assessment of existing information - E. Greene
- o. 1:40 PM - Missouri farmers and streams partnership in the Meramec Basin - K. Flores
- p. 2:00 PM - Synthesizing data from multiple sources to support the Hawaii fish habitat partnership efforts - J. E. Parham
- q. 2:20 PM - A synopsis of the southeastern aquatic resources partnership's comprehensive effort to assess the status of southeast aquatic habitats - A. Kaeser and E. M. Watson
- r. 2:40 PM – Concluding remarks – T.D. Beard and G. Whelan

Tab 13

a) Cover Page

I. Project Title: National Fish Habitat Board Action Plan Implementation:

II. Applicant Information:

This funding proposal was developed through the National Fish Habitat Board and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA). Primary contacts are as follows:

Ron Regan
Executive Director
Association of Fish and
Wildlife Agencies on behalf of
the National Fish Habitat
Board
444 North Capitol Street, NW,
Suite 725
Washington, DC 20001
202-624-7890
rregan@fishwildlife.org

III Co-Investigators or Partners

Co Investigators
National Fish Habitat Board and staff
Kelly Hepler, Chair
National Fish Habitat Board
c/o Alaska Department of Fish and Game
333 Raspberry Rd.
Anchorage, AK 99518
907-267-242-1907
kelly.hepler@alaska.gov

IV. Multi-State Conservation Grant Program Requirements

- A. National Conservation Needs Addressed: Primary - NCN 6; Secondary-NCN Subjects 1 and 7
- B. Project Length: 3 years
- C. States Benefited: All states, U.S. territories, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Regions
- D. Estimated Cost: \$240,000 (\$80,000 per year for 3 years)
- E. Funding Source: Sport Fish Restoration Fund

V. Summary of request:

This grant is required to cover a portion of financial resources required for the National Fish Habitat Board (Board) and AFWA staff and member states through 2013 to successfully implement objectives identified in the National Fish Habitat Action Plan and Board guidance. The Board supports Fish Habitat Partnerships to target conservation of priority habitats in the United States and is working on securing long-term legislation and funding.

b) Explanatory text (2 pages)

i. How will this project meet the needs of the NCN?

This project is essential to meet NCN Subject 6 and is integral to NCN Subject 1 and 4 to help AFWA and member states implement and address these state and AFWA priority needs by providing a portion of resources required for the National Fish Habitat Board and AFWA to coordinate and facilitate actions by state, federal tribal and local governments, conservation and recreational organizations, private landowners, and individual citizens to conserve fish habitat under the National Fish Habitat Action Plan in concert with other similar landscape and other planning and science initiatives critical to meeting the public trust priorities of AFWA and its partners.

Conservation (protection, restoration and enhancement) of intact and degraded fish habitat across the nation is recognized as a critical issue for fish and wildlife managers and stakeholders. Lost habitat undermines the health and productivity of aquatic systems and dependant fish populations and the socioeconomic benefits derived from these resources. The National Fish Habitat Action Plan implementation is one of AFWA's, its member states, and partnerships highest priorities established for addressing the reversal and avoidance of further decline of fish habitat. Conservation of habitat is essential to sustain angling opportunities and enable states to effectively sustain production of our nation's recreational, commercial, and subsistence fishery resources benefiting the American public.

In 2003, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies committed to take a leadership role in the development of a National Fish Habitat Action Plan, which was completed in 2006. Modeled after the highly successful North American Waterfowl Management Plan, the Action Plan is in the early stages of implementation and being successfully used to prevent and reverse broad national and regional threats to fish habitat.

A National Fish Habitat Board was formed to implement the Action Plan and support Fish Habitat Partnerships throughout the nation to implement habitat conservation actions across the country. The Board requires operational funds to perform its functions required to implement the Action Plan to maintain progress while the Association and partners work towards achieving permanent financial resources. These grant resources are being requested and are essential to supplement other state, federal and partner bridge funds required by the Association and the Board to participate fully in supporting its state members and overall support for successful Action Plan implementation.

ii. What states and/or USFWS regions or Regional Associations are targeted?

All 50 states, all USFWS Regions, and US Territories are targeted and will directly benefit from this grant.

iii. What are the goals of this project?

Ensure continued participation by AFWA and members states to successfully implement the Action Plan to benefit state members and partners to improve the status of fish habitats in our nation and its territories.

iv. Activities to Achieve Goals

The project will be coordinated by the National Fish Habitat Board and its Chair, assisted by AFWA permanent and temporary staff to work with other partner staff, organizations, and volunteer committees established by the Board. Key elements of the Board's work will include:

- 1) Provide technical assistance to Board members, Fish Habitat Partnerships, and partners to support the growing number Fish Habitat Partnerships and Action Plan implementation.
- 2) Formally recognize and support Fish Habitat Partnerships that fully meet criteria set by the Board.
- 3) Facilitate communication among the established and candidate Fish Habitat Partnerships
- 4) Maintain, contribute to, and compile reports on accomplishments of Fish Habitat Partnerships.

- 5) Continue with the development of a scalable framework for scientific data that describes the condition of fish habitats throughout the United States.
- 6) Contribute to processes and actions for identifying applicable data, and help to integrate existing databases into the national fish habitat assessment framework and decision support system.
- 7) Begin implementation of objectives established by the 2010 "Status of Fish Habitats in the United States" report completed in December 2010.
- 8) Continue the development and maintenance of a network that queries existing databases for ongoing tracking of habitat conditions, and create a database of Action Plan projects and their results.
- 9) Oversee all activities through regular meetings (at least two per year) of the National Fish Habitat Board.
- 10) Conduct outreach to the public and to diverse stakeholders focused on conservation of fish habitats to increase awareness of the Action Plan and the role of Fish Habitat Partnerships.
- 11) Develop new protocols for implementation contingent upon passage of the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act.
- 12) Develop alternative bridge funding sources to leverage for increased Action Plan Habitat Conservation actions.
- 13) Provide all information to the public and stakeholders on the Action Plan web site, www.fishhabitat.org.

Staff level leadership and management support to the Board will be provided by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' Resource Director, other staff members and member agencies.

v. Provide a specific timeline of the project activities.

Jan-Dec 2011 – support at least 2 Board meetings and initial implementation of the 2010 National Status of Fish Habitat Report recommendations. Contribute to all actions listed above.

Jan- Dec 2012 - support at least 2 Board meetings and initial implementation of the 2010 National Status of Fish Habitat Report recommendations, contribute to all actions listed above. Complete and begin development of -term implementation of Business Plan to sustain Action Plan with or without passage of enabling legislation.

Jan- Dec 2013 support at least 2 Board meetings and initial implementation of the 2010 National Status of Fish Habitat Report recommendations, contribute to all actions listed above. Complete and achieve long-term implementation of Business Plan to sustain Action Plan with or without passage of enabling legislation

vi. Project Budget

Expenses	2011		2012		2013		Total MSCGP Costs
	MSCGP Sportfish	PF	MSCGP Sportfish	PF	MSCGP Sportfish	PF	
Objective 1: Fish Habitat Partnership Coordination							
Personnel							
AFWA Resource Director	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$30,000
Fringe 30%	\$ 3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$9,000
Direct Project Related Costs							
Travel	\$5,000		\$5,000		\$5,000		\$15,000
Supplies	\$1,000		\$1,000		\$1,000		\$3,000
Communications	\$2,000		\$2,000		\$2,000		\$6,000
Consultants	\$15,000		\$15,000		\$15,000		\$45,000
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$36,000</i>		<i>\$36,000</i>		<i>\$36,000</i>		<i>\$108,000</i>

Objective 2: Communications & Outreach							
Personnel							
Communications Coordinator	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$60,000
Fringe (30%)	\$6,000		\$6,000		\$6,000		\$18,000
Direct Project Related Costs							
Travel	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$6,000
Communications							
Supplies							
Contractual (web site and tool kit) or meeting rooms (as needed)	\$8,000	\$3,000	\$8,000	\$3,000	\$8,000	\$3,000	\$24,000
<i>Subtotal</i>	\$36,000		\$36,000		\$36,500		\$108,000
Indirect 10% of the total	\$8,000		\$8,000		\$8,000		\$24,000
Total Budget Request	\$80,000	\$38,000*	\$80,000	\$38,000*	\$80,000	\$38,000*	\$240,000

*Additional partner funds may be contributed during 2011, 2012, and 2013, but these budgets have not yet been established or approved as of the date of this proposal.

Other \$10,000 requested for meeting rooms and equipment rental (\$2500 per meeting x 4 meetings per year)

vii. What are the measurable outcomes or products that will result from this project?

Conservation of fish habitat and increased fishing production and angler opportunities, as well as socioeconomic benefits to the nation. Coordination with other conservation initiatives.

How will these benefit state fish and wildlife agencies?

State Fish and Wildlife Agencies will benefit through the prevention of decline of fish habitat, which will increase fish production and socioeconomic benefits associated with these actions and insure state participation and benefits to states.

viii. What ideas do you have that could enhance the usefulness, quality, and communication of the project's results?

Continue the support for our communications and outreach efforts and enhance our web site www.fishhabitat.org.

ix. Summarize the most important strength of your proposal in the last paragraph.

The National Fish Habitat Board represents the top leadership and best interests of our nation's state, federal, tribal, non governmental and other stakeholders concerned with fish habitat conservation in our country. NFHAP is one of the top priorities of AFWA.

c) Qualifications

Two key staff for the program are:

Kelly Hepler,

Chair National Fish Habitat Board

An experienced fishery manager with expertise in Alaska's world class sport fisheries, Kelly Hepler is the Special

Assistant to the Commissioner and formerly Director of the Division of Sport Fish for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Ron Regan, Executive Director

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Ron Regan is the Executive Director for the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and was previously the Resources Director. Prior to AFWA, spent over 25 years working for Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department.

Staff level leadership and management support of the work of the Board group will be provided by AFWA and other agencies, such as USFWS, NOAA and USFS, USGS state agencies and other partners such as NGO's.

National Fish Habitat Board Members April 2010

http://fishhabitat.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=94&Itemid=63

Staff Support:

Tom Busiahn, USFWS, Susan Marie Stedman, NOAA, Christopher Estes, ADF&G/AFWA

Ryan Roberts, AFWA, Gary Whelan, MI DNR, Doug Beard, USGS

