Briefing for the Board: Fish Habitat Partnership Excellence Project
National FHP Workshop, January 29-31, 2013

Background

- In 2011, the Board submitted a proposal for a Multistate Conservation Grant to support ***organizational development training*** for Fish Habitat Partnerships to increase capacity. The proposal was funded, with AFWA as the fiscal agent.
- In 2012, AFWA issued a Request for Proposals for a training contractor. ***River Network*** was selected, taking advantage of their organizational development expertise.
- The project calls for a face-to-face ***2-1/2 day workshop***, an online discussion forum for participants, and ***3-6 additional webinars*** on topics that address the needs of all FHPs.

The Workshop

- The Fish Habitat Partnership workshop was held on January 29-31, 2013 in Portland, Oregon. This was the first time FHPs had come together nationally since 2009.
- Thirty-three people from FHPs attended in addition to Board staff and River Network trainers. Seventeen of 18 recognized FHPs were represented, as well as the candidate Southeast Alaska FHP.
- Organizational development training occupied 2-1/2 days. The last afternoon was sponsored by the Board's Partnership Committee, focused on developing FHP strategic priorities and measuring progress.
- Workshop sessions included:
    - Vision and goals: overcoming barriers to success
    - Communicating our impact: messages and engagement opportunities
    - Models and strategies for engagement: organizational models
    - Getting the money we need: tapping private sector philanthropy
    - Getting it done: FHP leadership roles and responsibilities
    - Creating a learning network
    - Creating change
- Each FHP completed an ***organizational development plan***, and identified leadership roles, target audiences, conditions necessary for change, and possible funding sources.
- Topics were identified for follow-through by the ***peer learning network***, and individuals signed up to lead or participate for the various topics.

Outcomes of the Workshop

- The workshop was highly successful:
    - A sense of commonality and solidarity was established among the FHPs.
    - Participants received basic organizational training, and shared their own successes and mistakes.
    - FHPs recognized the importance and the potential of raising funds from private sources.
    - Topics of broad interest were identified for future training and peer networking.
    - Feedback from participants was very favorable.
- River Network staff will initiate follow-through and planning for future webinars.
- Attendees strongly supported having regular face-to-face meetings of FHP coordinators in the future.

Questions? Contact Matt Menashes (mattm@fishwildlife.org, 202-624-3602) or Tom Busiahn (tom_busiahn@fws.gov, 703-358-2056)