United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Washington, D.C. 20240
http://www.blm.gov

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Memorandum

To: Acting Director

Through: Edwin L. Roberson
Assistant Director, Renewable Resources and Planning

From: Dwight Fielder
Division Chief, Fish and Wildlife Conservation

Subject: Submission of the Bureau of Land Management Report - National Fish Habitat Action Plan

I. INTRODUCTION

Please find attached the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) contributions to the report for the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (Action Plan) and National Fish Habitat Partnership (Partnership), as agreed under the March 2012 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (also attached). This report highlights agency accomplishments and progress through September 2012 and provides a qualitative baseline for increased future cooperation and coordination among agencies and their partners. This report highlights the BLM's accomplishments in the four key implementation strategies of the Action Plan and offers a one-page summary of our most significant work under the Partnership. The BLM narrative will be combined with the reports from the other Federal agencies as a complete report of Federal activities in the Partnership.

II. BACKGROUND

With the 2012 MOU, the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, and the Department of the Interior (DOI) affirmed their commitment to promote collaborative, science-based conservation of the Nation's waterways and fisheries through the Partnership and the implementation of the Action Plan. The Partnership is a voluntary and non-regulatory effort providing a nationwide strategy to harness the energies, expertise, and existing programs of Federal and State agencies, conservation organizations, foundations, and individuals. The mission of the Partnership 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. The Action Plan provides a national strategy to address aquatic habitat from the interior to the oceans.

The BLM has been an active member in the implementation of the Action Plan and fully engaged in each of the Fish Habitat Partnerships within the BLM jurisdiction. Since 2007, cooperation with the Partnerships and support for implementation of the Action Plan has been the primary focus of the BLM's Fisheries Program.

III. POSITION OF INTERESTED PARTIES

The attached report conveys the highlights of the BLM's achievements. The other DOI Bureaus are submitting their reports to the Secretary; the reports from all MOU signatories will be combined into a comprehensive report. The combined report will show the dedication of the DOI to this monumental effort for the conservation of fish habitat.

IV. DECISION OPTIONS

Approve for submission, Approve with changes, Disapprove.

V. RECOMMENDATION

Approve for submission.

VI. DIRECTOR'S DECISION

Attachments

Concurrence_____ Nonconcurrence_____

_____ 12/5/2012

Mike Pool Date
Acting Director

Multi-Bureau NFHP Highlights

Submitted to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior

Purpose: Provide examples of bureau accomplishments and progress supporting the National Fish Habitat Action Plan

Contents: An assemblage of four tables based on the Implementation Strategy of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. Following the tables are collections of one-page fact sheets that provide project specific bureau highlights.

Foster New and Support Existing FHPs (reference the NFHAP Implementation Strategy #1 -*Support existing Fish Habitat Partnerships and foster new efforts.)*			
Agency	**Project Title**	**Timeline**	**NFHAP Goal**
BLM	**Leadership in the Reservoir Fish Habitat Partnership**	2010-present	1, 2, 3, 4
	Brief Project or Program Description		
	The BLM has played an integral role in the development and continues to serve on the Executive Committee of this Partnership. In 2011, the BLM hosted the 2nd Annual Membership Meeting of the partnership in 2011, including providing an on-lake tour of Lake Havasu to allow participants to view the work conducted through the Lake Havasu Fisheries Improvement Partnership (see attached highlight page).		
BLM	**Leadership in the Desert Fish Habitat Partnership**	2005-present	1, 2, 3, 4
	Brief Project of Program Description		
	Beginning in 2005, the BLM worked with state, federal, and local partners in the west to develop the Desert Fish Habitat Partnership. The BLM played an integral role in the budding partnership, including providing a coordinator during the critical time when the partnership applied for NFHP recognition and developed the strategic plan. The BLM continues to be a vital member, providing leadership on the executive committee and involvement on the steering committee.		
BLM	**Participation in Fish Habitat Partnerships**	2005-present	1, 2, 3, 4
	Brief Project of Program Description		
	The BLM has been an active participant in every fish habitat partnership where we have land, including serving on the steering committees of the California Fish Passage Forum, Desert Fish Habitat Partnership, Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture, Great Lakes Basin Fish Habitat Partnership, Great Plains Fish Habitat Partnership, Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership, Matanuska-Susitna Basin Habitat Partnership, Reservoir Fish Habitat Partnership, Southwest Alaska Salmon Habitat Partnership, and Western Native Trout Initiative.		

Mobilize and Focus National Support (reference the NFHAP Implementation Strategy #2 -*Mobilize and focus national and local support for achieving fish habitat conservation goals.)*			
Agency	**Project Title**	**Timeline**	**NFHAP Goal**
BLM	**Lower Clear Creek Salmon Restoration**	1996-ongoing	1, 2, 3, 4
	Brief Project or Program Description		
	BLM, working with agency partners and non-governmental organizations, continue implementing stream restoration activities in Lower Clear Creek, a regulated tributary to the Sacramento River, to restore important salmon and steelhead spawning habitat. Historically the river was "turned upside down" during the late 1800's gold rush by industrial-scale dredging operations. Conceived in 1988 with construction beginning in 1996 following years of planning and obtaining secured funding, over 2 miles of stream have been intensively rehabilitated. Salmon runs have responded favorably with the 12 year average return of over 9000 adults – up from 1600 adults pre-project.		
BLM	**Maggie Creek Restoration for Lahontan Cutthroat Trout**	2006-ongoing	2, 3, 4
	Brief Project of Program Description		
	The Maggie Creek Basin in Nevada supports one of the few remaining metapopulations of Lahontan cutthroat trout (LCT), federally listed as threatened, and has been the focus of comprehensive watershed restoration efforts involving multiple public and private partners, including the BLM, since the early 1990s. In the Maggie Creek Basin, more than 90% of the over 70 miles of LCT stream habitat has been improved through a combination of fencing, culvert replacements, water developments and prescriptive livestock grazing programs. With the assistance of WNTI funding, the Elko District of the BLM will be constructing a fish barrier to prevent nonnative fish in downstream areas from accessing populations of LCT in Maggie Creek in October 2012. Installation of the barrier will ensure cooperative efforts to enhance and reestablish LCT in Maggie Creek Basin are successful.		
BLM	**Green River Restoration and Protection**	2006-ongoing	1, 2, 3
	Brief Project of Program Description		
	The BLM has contributed greatly to the restoration and protection of the fishes in the Green River Basin in Utah, a 2010 Water to Watch. This has included non-native riparian vegetation removal in the White and Escalante River basins.		
BLM	**Trapper Creek Cooperative Restoration**	2006-ongoing	1, 2, 3
	Brief Project of Program Description		
	The BLM and the Grand Valley Anglers Chapter of Trout Unlimited are partnering to restore and protect Trapper Creek, a small stream in northwest Colorado which is home to a pure strain of Colorado River cutthroat trout. Volunteers have provided 100's of hours of labor to plant riparian vegetation, install stream structures, and repair livestock fences. In 2008, WNTI provided funds to replace and upgrade over 11,000 feet of fencing to protect and prevent future damage to the creek.		

Mobilize and Focus National Support (reference the NFHAP Implementation Strategy #2 -*Mobilize and focus national and local support for achieving fish habitat conservation goals.)*			
Agency	**Project Title**	**Timeline**	**NFHAP Goal**
BLM	**Lacks Creek Watershed Restoration**	2007-ongoing	1, 2, 3, 4
	Brief Project or Program Description		
	Lacks Creek, a 19 square mile watershed located in northwestern California in the Redwood Creek drainage, has been the focus of extensive road-related restoration activities designed to reduce sediment inputs into Redwood Creek -- a tributary to the Pacific Ocean supporting federally listed salmon and steelhead. The BLM manages approximately 60% of the watershed with the remainder in private ranch lands. Road assessment efforts have identified approximately 93 miles of roads in the watershed with the potential to deliver approximately 196,000 yards of material. From 2007 through 2010, 8.5 miles of road have been decommissioned and 16.3 miles have been upgraded along the 63 miles of road on BLM lands in the watershed. In 2011, $75,000 dollars in fisheries and riparian funds were earmarked to the Arcata Field Office to continue road restoration work.		
BLM	**Coleman Creek Connectivity Restoration**	2009-ongoing	2, 3, 4
	Brief Project of Program Description		
	With funding from WNTI, the BLM is working with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to provide unobstructed passage for resident coastal cutthroat trout and other native species in western Oregon. By replacing and improving a culvert on Coleman Creek, the BLM will provide access to over 8 miles of habitat in Coleman Creek, upper South Fork Alsea River, and strengthen productivity and genetic diversity of the population of coast cutthroat trout.		
BLM	**Lake Havasu Fish Partnership**	2005-ongoing	3, 4
	Brief Project of Program Description		
	In 1993, BLM began the Lake Havasu Partnership, focused on restoration of the sport and native fish in this Lower Colorado River reservoir. Since inception, the partnership has been a great success, coming in significantly under budget, quadrupling angler use days, and increasing imperiled native fish populations, all without stocking sport fish. In 2011, the Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership contributed $20,000 to help fund additional angler outreach and economic study. See project highlight sheet at the end for more information.		

Measure and Communicate Aquatic Habitat Needs

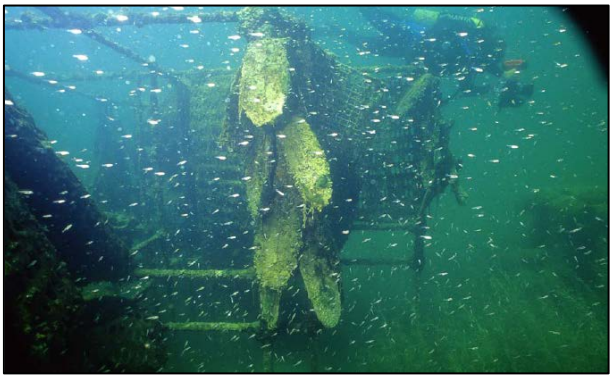
(reference the NFHAP Implementation Strategy #3 -*Measure and communicate the status and needs of aquatic habits.)*

Agency	Project Title	Timeline	NFHAP Goal
BLM	**Conservation Success Index**	2009-ongoing	1, 2, 3, 4
	Brief Project or Program Description		
	The BLM has been supporting Trout Unlimited's Conservation Success Index (CSI) under an assistance agreement at headquarters. The CSI is a strategic approach to quantify and map the conservation status of all native coldwater fishes so that comparisons of existing condition, threats, future security, and management opportunities can be made across watersheds, river basins, and entire species, enabling agencies and organizations to best use limited conservation resources. With BLM's assistance, Trout Unlimited has begun applying CSI to warmwater species in the west as well, including bluehead sucker, flannelmouth sucker, and roundtail chub, making this an important effort for the science needs of both the Western Native Trout Imitative and the Desert Fish Habitat Partnership. In 2012, the approach has been applied to northern California BLM land use planning efforts under the same agreement.		
BLM	**San Rafael River Restoration Plan**	2011-ongoing	1, 2
	Brief Project of Program Description		
	The BLM is leading the development of a restoration plan for the San Rafael River, a tributary to the Green River, a 2010 Water to Watch. This includes the development of a science based restoration, conservation and monitoring plan utilizing research results specific to the habitat needs of endemic fishes with fluvial geomorphology and hydrologic analysis.		
BLM	**Cooperative Ecosystems Study Unit Project with UC Santa Barbara**	2010-2011	1, 2, 3, 4
	Brief Project of Program Description		
	The Bishop Field Office, working with the Sierra Nevada Aquatic Laboratory and Marine Science Institute, and University of California-Santa Barbara (UCSB) conducted a quantitative survey of invertebrate populations, physical habitat characteristics and water chemistry in Rough Creek, Bodie Creek and interconnected perennial tributaries in the Bodie Hills, Mono County, CA. The project is part of a larger cooperative effort of the Walker River Implementation Team (WRIT), to support recovery of Lahontan cutthroat trout, a Federally Threatened listed species. This project provides relevant and timely information for evaluation of the potential establishment of a meta-population of Lahontan cutthroat as part of ongoing recovery efforts.		
BLM	**Western Native Trout Species Assessments**	2006	1, 2, 3, 4
	Brief Project of Program Description		
	BLM biologists were an integral part of the western native trout species assessments undertaken by WNTI. These assessments provide information non the status, range, habitat needs, and key actions for protection and recovery of the species to direct WNTI's activities. You can learn more about the assessments at http://www.westernnativetrout.org/content/species-assessments		

Provide National Leadership and Coordination (reference the NFHAP Implementation Strategy #4 -*Provide national leadership and coordination to conserve fish habitats.)*			
Agency	**Project Title**	**Timeline**	**NFHAP Goal**
BLM	NFHP Focus of the BLM Fisheries Program	2005-ongoing	1, 2, 3, 4
	Brief Project or Program Description		
	Since 2007, the BLM Fisheries Program has made implementation of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan the central focus of its program. By mission, the BLM is a land management agency, which cooperative manages habitat for sport and native fish with local, state, and federal partners throughout the west. Partnership with other agencies and organizations, through NFHP and its Fish Habitat Partnerships, is a natural way for the BLM to achieve its goals, as the NFHP goal 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.		
BLM	Leadership in the National Fish Habitat Partnership	2005-ongoing	1, 2, 3, 4
	Brief Project of Program Description		
	The BLM has provided integral support and participation to the National Fish Habitat Partnership since its inception. In addition to active participation with the Federal Caucus, BLM staff have worked on numerous workgroups and initiatives, such as the creation of this report and the National Fish Habitat Assessment.		

Bureau of Land Management
Division of Fish and Wildlife Conservation

Lake Havasu Restoration
A Financial and Recreational Success



Project Summary: In 1993, in response to declines in angler catch rate and access, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) helped to lead the Lake Havasu Partnership, focused on restoration of 875 acres of fish habitat in the 21,000 acre reservoir on the Colorado River. With cooperation from the Arizona Department of Game and Fish, the California Department of Game and Fish, the Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Geological Survey and Anglers United, the partnership has achieved great success by increasing angler-use days and user satisfaction without stocking sport fish and increasing imperiled native fish populations. In 2001, the American Sportsfishing Association teamed with the BLM to perform an assessment of the program that showed a conservative value of $38 million annually from the Havasu Fishery to the regional economy and a quadrupling of angler use days with increased angler satisfaction. In 2011, the Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership contributed $20,000 to help fund updated angler outreach and economic study.

Strategic Value: Lake Havasu is situated on the lower Colorado River inundating 30 miles of the border between California and Arizona. Nearly 30 million Americans depend on the reservoir for water and reside within a four-hour drive, making this one of the highest recreational-boating sites in the west. To date, $17 million, 40% less than the original $28 million estimate, has been spent to install structures for sportfish, address the declining native fish population, and produce five handicap accessible shoreline fishing areas. With funding from the National Fish Habitat Partnership, the Lake Havasu partnership continues to maintain and monitor those improvements to sustain long-term benefits for the community. Through the "America's Great Outdoors" initiative the partnership is also working to develop a sixth free public shoreline fishing site. The Lake Havasu community has supported this work with nearly 300,000 volunteer hours and contributions from many other organizations.

The Lake Havasu Fisheries Improvement Program met all original goals on schedule and under budget with positive results for anglers and native fish!

To learn more, see http://www.blm.gov/volunteer/feature/1998/az/lake.html
and http://www.reservoirpartnership.org/