



# *National Fish Habitat Action Plan*



*Action Plan mission 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 National Fish Habitat Action Plan (Action Plan) was approved for implementation by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies on March 24, 2006 in Columbus, Ohio. The Action Plan is non-regulatory and voluntary, and relies upon the energies and expertise of geographically-focused regional Fish Habitat Partnerships dedicated to protecting, restoring, and enhancing fish habitats.*

## **Habitat project proposals for the 2012 funding cycle.**

### **Application Deadline**

Due Date: October 1, 2011

### **Application Procedure**

Proposals should be submitted electronically to Louise Mauldin at [darestoration@gmail.com](mailto:darestoration@gmail.com)

### **Questions can be address by:**

Louise Mauldin  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
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### **Funding Request:**

Funding floor \$15,000.  
Funding ceiling \$40,000

USFWS requires at least a 1:1 cost share.

**Cost sharing by partners.** A contribution of at least 50 percent of total project costs is required from partners. Cost share may be in-kind services or cash. Cost share may include monitoring.

**Note:** NFHAP is *not* a federal grant program, therefore the cost share may be *federal or non-federal monies*. The cost share must be new dollars (New projects cannot be matched with program/grant dollars and in-kind service from previous year dollars on another project).

**Note:** We expect funding to be available for FY12, however, a 2012 federal budget has not been passed at this time. Upcoming budget decisions may lead to a reduction or loss in funding.

**NFHAP funds may be used for riparian and in-stream habitat work on:**

**Coldwater streams**

**Coolwater river/streams**

**Warmwater rivers/streams**

**Eligible expenditures.** Expenditures of NFHAP funds are appropriate for the following actions and activities:

**(a)** Time spent for project planning, directing project activities (e.g., earthwork, fence installation), site assessments, travel to and from the project, and project oversight.

**(b)** Equipment (e.g. monitoring equipment).

**(c)** Earthwork (e.g., contracts for earth moving, planting, structure installation, or other site preparation), materials (e.g. rock, gravel, plants and planting supplies, materials to construct habitat structures).

**(d)** Monitoring/evaluation. Funds may be used for pre-post project monitoring of NFHAP projects to evaluate biological and/or physical response to project activities. Long-term monitoring is not eligible for funding.

**Ineligible expenditures.** The following activities are **not** eligible for Action Plan funding:

(a) Actions required by existing Federal or State regulatory programs. Fish habitat expenditures shall be in addition to, not in lieu of, other expenditures authorized or required from other entities under other agreements or provisions of law.

(b) Realty costs (e.g. lease or purchase interests in real property, or to make rental or other land use incentive payments to landowners).

(c) Pre-award costs associated with preliminary design, surveys, and appraisals.

(d) Operation and maintenance of facilities, structures, or other construction.

**Projects must comply with Federal, State, and local laws and regulation** Managers and supervisors responsible for implementing fish habitat projects must document compliance with all applicable Federal laws and regulations (e.g. National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, National Historic Preservation Act, Rivers and Harbors Act). Fish habitat projects must also comply with any applicable State, local and tribal laws and regulations that do not conflict with, or are not preempted by, Federal laws and regulations.

## FY12 National Fish Habitat Action Plan projects

Federal funding available under the National Fish Habitat Action Plan through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be used to fund the top ranked proposals.

### **Project ranking and selection will include criteria listed below:**

- *Adequately addresses the root cause of the problem within the watershed*
- *Promotes habitat connectivity and integrity for native fish species*
- *Outlines anticipated benefits to the larger restoration focus area*
- *Completion of work within a 2-year timeframe*
- *Adequately explains pre and post project evaluation/monitoring (**required**)*
- *Generates the maximum in matching funds and cost-sharing contributions*
- *Incorporates climate change strategies*

### **Process by which all NFHAP projects will be funded for the 2012 cycle:**

**A.** Every project will be identified in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) Fisheries Operational Needs System (FONS). FWS Fisheries field office staff will work with partners and other Service program offices to identify fish habitat projects, and enter them into the FONS.

**B.** Projects will be reviewed and ranked by a partnership review panel. Rankings in FONS will reflect that of the partnership.

**C.** The Fish and Wildlife Service Director will divide the available project funding among Fish Habitat Partnerships, pursuant to recommendations from the Assistant Director-Fisheries and Habitat Conservation.

**D.** Fisheries Assistant Regional Directors will request prioritization of projects in the FONS from the FWS field office.

**E.** FWS Regional Directors will provide the Director with recommended projects for implementation within each Fish Habitat Partnership.

**F.** The Director selects projects for funding and forwards them to the National Fish Habitat Board for concurrence.

**G.** After the Board and the Director agree on the final list of selected projects, funds will be allocated to Regional Directors/CNO Manager to implement those projects.

**H.** Fisheries Assistant Regional Directors notify Fish Habitat Partnerships of projects approved for funding.

**I.** Project Officers are notified of approved projects for funding.