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Trout Travails Treated with \$3 Million in Fish Aid

Recognizing the need to fix crumbling stream-banks and dilapidated culverts, and to improve water quality for brook trout and other aquatic species, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently provided more than \$3 million to support 70 fish habitat projects in 31 states across the nation. With an additional \$7.8 million in partner contributions, the projects will restore and enhance stream, lake, and coastal habitat to improve recreational fishing and help recover endangered species.

The funding is provided for priority projects identified under the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. The partnerships formed as part of the plan help direct funding and other resources to habitat improvement projects offering the highest long-term conservation returns.

Funding for NFHAP Partnership projects includes:

- **Western Native Trout Initiative, Teton Creek, ID** – \$20,000 in Service funds and \$149,000 in partner funds to restore nearly one-half mile of instream habitat on private lands for Yellowstone cutthroat trout
- **Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership, Oyster Reef, TX** – \$60,000 in Service funds and \$5,000 in partner funds to restore oyster reefs in Galveston Bay.
- **Driftless Area Restoration Effort, Pine Creek, WI** – \$22,384 in Service funds and \$79,500 in partner funds to restore spring flow and reduce sedimentation for brook trout and other native fish.
- **Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture, North Branch Hoosic River, MA** – \$71,500 in Service funds and \$118,500 in partner funds to remove Briggsville Dam, reopen three instream miles and restore a half mile of instream habitat.
- **Matanuska-Susitna Basin Salmon Conservation Partnership, AK** – \$39,000 in Service funds and \$46,000 in partner funds will restore habitat affected by all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), build bridges, and educate ATV users about protecting salmon spawning and rearing habitat.

Funding was also provided to seven “demonstration” projects coordinated under proposed fish habitat partnerships – partnerships that have applied for, but yet to receive, recognition under NFHAP. These projects include:

- **North American Salmon Stronghold Partnership, Rudio Creek, OR** – \$100,000 in Service funds and \$410,890 in partner funds to restore stream flows for steelhead salmon through improved irrigation methods.
- **Desert Fish Habitat Partnership, Red Rock Cienega, NM** – \$60,000 in Service funds and \$80,000 in partner funds to restore 35 wetland acres and reestablish populations of two endangered fishes.
- **Fishers and Farmers Fish Habitat Partnership, Meramec River, MO** – \$71,429 in Service funds and \$146,000 in partner funds to protect and restore 12 miles of stream to help endangered mussels and sport fish, in cooperation with local beef growers.

For a complete listing of funded projects, please visit: <www.fws.gov/fisheries>

For more information about the National Fish Habitat Action Plan, its partnerships and programs, please visit: www.fishhabitat.org

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit **www.fws.gov**.