



Habitat and Ecosystem Health

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Habitat and Ecosystem Health Branch of the Alpena FRO supports:

- ◆ Stewardship
- ◆ Partnership
- ◆ Fish and wildlife
- ◆ Future generations

It's about working together in a voluntary pro-active manner with partners to restore and enhance fish and wildlife habitat. It's about sharing resources of time, labor, and funds to ensure that our common heritage—wildlife, fish, and a healthy ecosystem—will be there for our kids, and their kids.

The Habitat and Ecosystem Health Branch of the Alpena FRO focuses on improving habitat for federal trust resources:

- ◆ federally-listed endangered or threatened species
- ◆ interjurisdictional fish
- ◆ migratory birds
- ◆ refuge lands
- ◆ resource conservation priority species



Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program

In Michigan, restoration of wetlands has been, and remains, the primary focus for the Partners Program. The program also includes restoration of streams (both in the channel and within the riparian corridor), grasslands and specific habitats used by federally-listed endangered or threatened species. Since this program began in Michigan in 1988, more than 2,500 projects have been completed within Michigan.



Before

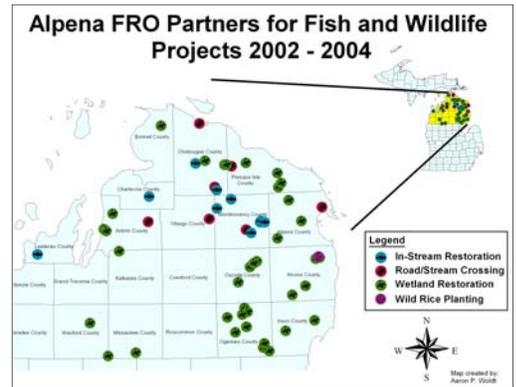


After

The Alpena Fishery Resources Office, Partners for Fish and Wildlife (Partners) Program leads Service habitat recovery efforts for northern Michigan wetlands and watersheds. Since 1998 the Alpena Partners Program has restored:

- ◆ 544 acres of wetlands, on
- ◆ 52 sites, in
- ◆ 18 counties in northern Michigan.

Wetlands benefit migratory birds, reptiles, amphibians, and a number of upland wildlife species as well as improving water quality within northern Michigan watersheds. Watershed projects include in-stream efforts to minimize or eliminate sediment input from non-point sources such as road crossings and stream bank erosion sites, and improvements within the stream such as removal of fish



“Working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.”

passage barriers and addition of large woody debris. To date:

- ◆ 172 stream miles have been improved, in 8 counties, with 111 projects.



These habitat restoration efforts improve habitat in coldwater and coolwater rivers and streams, benefiting brook trout, northern pike, yellow perch and the Federally endangered Hungerford's crawling water beetle and Michigan monkeyflower.

Fish Passage Program

The Alpena FRO administers the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Fish Passage Program for the Lake Huron and Western Lake Erie Basins.

Funding and technical support, which includes information on fish habitat needs and methods to bypass barriers, is provided through this program. The goal of the program is to restore native fish and other aquatic species to self sustaining levels by reconnecting fragmented habitat. Activities that accomplish this include:

- ◆ dam removals
- ◆ construction of fish ladders
- ◆ replacement of undersized culverts



Before culvert replacement on Johnson's Crossing Otsego County, MI



After

Since 1999, the Alpena FRO Fish Passage Program has:

- ◆ provided \$511,000 to partners for 19 projects
- ◆ Restored 107 river miles for native brook trout and resource conservation species
- ◆ assisted with a dam removal feasibility study on the Cass River in Frankenmuth.

Habitat for Endangered Species



Efforts are expanding to remove invasive species in sensitive habitats supporting threatened or endangered species. For example, Eurasian watermilfoil is being removed from wetlands to benefit the Bald eagle, native plant and fish species. Sediment removal occurred on a stream to protect the Michigan monkeyflower and a scrub/shrub wetland was restored for the Eastern massasauga snake.



Before Tannery Creek Dam Removal in Petoskey, MI



After

Contact Information

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