



Challenge Cost Sharing

A Partnership with the
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Working Together to
Restore, Protect, and Manage
Our Natural Heritage

Roots of the Legacy

The foundation for partnerships that established, restored, and protected many of today's premier wildlife areas was built in the early 1930's. Early cooperative efforts responded to the effects of land use practices that resulted in precipitous declines in migratory bird populations, upland wildlife species, and large mammals across the country.

Citizens, sportsmen, and scientists realized the need to act promptly and effectively. Ultimately, they joined forces to petition the Administration and Congress for a broader system of protected lands for fish and wildlife. This was transformed into the passage of landmark legislation that expanded the National Wildlife Refuge System, authorized the first "Duck Stamp" to help pay for acquisition of migratory bird habitat, and established many private land programs that continue to benefit wildlife and the public.



Challenge Cost Share

Promoting Partnerships on Public and Private Land

The urgent need to restore, manage, and protect fish and wildlife today is no less than the “dust bowl” period of the 1930’s. Since then the U.S. population has more than doubled, over 20 million acres of wetlands have been lost or degraded and air and water pollution has increased from many sources. The threats facing wildlife today may be different but the effect is the same—loss and degradation of habitat, fish and wildlife population losses and contamination by toxins.

To restore fish and wildlife resources and natural habitats on public and private lands, and rejuvenate participation in public programs, the Fish and Wildlife Service launched a partnership effort in 1988 known today as the Challenge Cost Share program. Challenge Cost Share allows the Service to provide matching funds for projects that support the management, restoration and protection of natural resources on more than 480 National Wildlife Refuges, 70 Fish Hatcheries, Research Facilities and Private Lands.

The Goal and Focus of the Challenge Cost Share Program

Our goal is to manage, restore, and enhance natural and cultural resources on Fish and Wildlife Service and private lands in partnership with nonfederal public and private institutions, organizations and individuals. The focus of the

program is to encourage the mutual shared interest and participation of the real beneficiaries of wildlife programs—People. In other words, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service needs your help and involvement.

Meeting the Challenge—Project Basics

- The Service provides up to 50% of the total project cost.
- Partners or Cooperators provide no less than 50% of the project cost.
- The Partner may contribute cash, material, equipment, land, water or other in-kind services.

- A Challenge Cost Share Agreement defines the purpose and scope of the project, assigns partner responsibilities and certifies the contribution.



Partners for Wildlife

Stewardship on Private Lands

“Partners for Wildlife,” a companion program to Challenge Cost Share, is a habitat restoration program that encourages private land owners to restore wetlands and other habitats for wildlife through funding and technical assistance. Contact your nearest Fish and Wildlife Service office for more information.

Renew the Legacy

Share the opportunity with us to . . .

- Restore habitat for a variety of wildlife species.
- Provide clean, abundant water and protect our soils.
- Develop educational programs that will benefit our children and grandchildren.
- Improve the quality of life for all Americans.

To learn more about the Fish and Wildlife Service's Challenge Cost Share Program, contact your nearest Service office. We will discuss projects and provide details on assistance needed on public land or available to you for private land projects.



Region Headquarters

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Areas Covered

Challenge Cost Share Coordinators

1. Eastside Federal Center
911 N.E. 11th Avenue
Portland, OR 97232-4181
CA, ID, HI, NV,
OR, WA and
Pacific Islands
2. P.O. Box 1306
500 Gold Avenue
Albuquerque, NM 87103
AZ, NM, OK, TX
3. Whipple Federal Building
No. 1 Federal Drive
Fort Snelling, MN 55111-4056
IL, IN, IA, MI, MN,
MO, OH, WI
4. R.B. Russell Federal Bldg.
75 Spring Street, S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30303
AR, AL, FL, GA,
KY, LA, MS, NC,
SC, TN, PR, VI
5. 300 Westgate Center Drive
Hadley, MA 01035-9589
CT, DE, MA, MD,
ME, NH, NJ, NY,
PA, RI, VA, VT, WV
6. P.O. Box 25486
Denver Federal Center
Denver, CO 80225
CO, KS, MT, NE,
ND, SD, UT, WY
7. 1011 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, AK 99503
AK
8. 1849 C Street, N.W.
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November 1992

