



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

National Fish Habitat Action Plan

An Investment Strategy for Habitat

America's fisheries are facing a conservation crisis. Nearly 40 percent of North American fishes, 700 species in total, are imperiled. More than two-thirds of these are listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. Habitat alteration is the principle factor in this conservation crisis and was the motivation for the development of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP).

NFHAP is a national investment strategy to maximize the impact of conservation dollars on the ground. Under NFHAP, federal, state, tribal, and privately-raised funds are leveraged through regional partnerships to address the nation's biggest fish habitat challenges. For anglers, conservation groups, and industry leaders, NFHAP has become an unprecedented rallying point for those committed to conserving America's fisheries. This is the most comprehensive effort ever attempted to treat the causes of fish habitat decline, not just the symptoms. Since 2006, the NFHAP partners have:

- assessed the condition of fish habitats in the U.S. and prepared a *Status of Fish Habitats in the U.S.* report;
- established 19 Fish Habitat Partnerships (FHP) organized around aquatic geographic regions, species or aquatic system types; and
- funded hundreds of projects across the U.S. to protect, restore, and enhance priority aquatic habitats.



The Marine Resources Council, with the aid of local volunteers, have been planting red mangroves and spartina grass in the Indian River Lagoon (Pelican Island NWR), FL.



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The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Role

Habitat conservation is central to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) mission making it a natural collaborator with NFHAP partners. Along with states, tribes, other federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, and industry, the USFWS administers habitat conservation actions that support the mission and goals of NFHAP. The USFWS provides technical expertise for local restoration projects, supports FHP organizational development, and national partnership administration in an effort to conserve America's fisheries.



New Mexico Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office staff anchor geo-web into the stream bottom of the Sante Fe River.

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