



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

National Fish Passage Program

Connecting Fish to Habitats

Fish need water: that's a given. But habitat is more than water alone. Stream-dwelling fishes need connected habitats. Waters fragmented by large dams or small, poorly placed road culverts keep fish from accessing habitat. Fish need certain waters at particular times of the year, times of day, or times of their lives. The National Fish Passage Program (NFPP) removes barriers to help connect and create more fish habitat.

Not all fish migrations are as storied as Pacific salmon leaping into cascading falls, moving hundreds of miles to spawn and die. Diminutive darters, sunfishes or minnows in Midwest streams may need to migrate mere feet to find refuge through a warm low-water period. Trout in the West may need to find deep water to over-winter, or a place to spawn in the spring.

Sustaining Outdoor Recreation

Removing barriers allows kayakers to run the rivers, as well as helping fish reach key habitats. There's more wildlife to see in high-quality habitat. Irrigation diversions can kill fish. The NFPP helps farmers to protect fish by installing fish- and debris-screens on irrigation intakes. All of this increases the quality of life.



Removing obsolete dams allows fish to reach former habitats.



The National Fish Passage Program helped remove Troy Dam, an obsolete concrete structure built in 1940s. Fish now freely pass upstream.

Economic

Since launching in 1999, the NFPP has removed 1,522 fish passage barriers; reopened 7,486 river miles and benefited over 90 species of fish. With a 3:1 ratio of non-federal match to federal NFPP dollars, it has supported 219,195 jobs.



Fish screens protect fish from being caught and killed diversions such as the one at Ray Canal.

Based on that, NFPP generated approximately \$11 billion in economic value to local communities from its projects based on a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service economic study conducted in 2010.

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