



Call for Project Proposals Great Lakes Basin Fish Habitat Partnership

September 16, 2011

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service anticipates receiving a combination of base funded appropriations and the Administration's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative in FY 2012 to support the Great Lakes Basin Fish Habitat Partnership (Partnership) and its efforts to complete on-the-ground, fish habitat protection, restoration, and enhancement projects. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Partnership recognize that a substantial amount of the protection, restoration and enhancement of fish habitat will be done at the local level by local watershed associations, municipalities, tribes, states and non-governmental organizations. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Partnership will work with organizations to encourage local conservation actions that fit within the Partnership's Strategic Plan priorities.

A "project" is defined as an action that will protect, restore or enhance Great Lakes fish habitat. Project proposals will be compiled, ranked by a subcommittee of the Partnership and submitted to the Partnership's Steering Committee for review. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will use the recommendations provided to them by the Partnership's Steering Committee in making final decisions regarding project funds, and anticipates making final decisions regarding project selection by early spring 2012.

Please use the following guidelines and accompanying application template (<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/fisheries/nfhap.html>) to submit your proposal to Ms. Kellie Tinkham, kellie_tinkham@fws.gov by **4:00 pm CST October 14, 2011**. For questions, please call Mark Brouder, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ashland Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office at 715-682-6185, ext. 11 or mark_brouder@fws.gov.

The announcement can also be found on grants.gov: <http://www.grants.gov/>

The Great Lakes Fish Habitat Partnership (<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/GLBFHP/>) is a recognized partnership of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (<http://www.fishhabitat.org/>). The Partnership was formed to make habitats whole and accessible for fish and other aquatic organisms, from headwater streams to deep lake habitats. The Partnership is international, including both U.S. and Canadian waters and lands. Land conversion, exotic species invasions and past overharvest have threatened fish stocks, and depleted habitats and food webs. Many fish communities have been restored in the Great Lakes, but many remain in poor shape. Protecting, restoring, and enhancing the aquatic biological diversity and habitats throughout the Basin will help in achieving not only healthy habitats, but healthy fish, healthy people and healthy economies.

The Great Lakes Basin Fish Habitat Partnership (GLBFHP) will accept proposals for 2012 fish habitat projects in the Great Lakes Basin as follows.

Focus Areas:

Fish habitat protection and restoration, specific to one or more of the following:

- Tributary stream restoration or protection to improve:
 - Fish and aquatic species passage
 - Riparian habitat
 - Large woody debris
 - Water temperatures
 - Natural stream flow functions
 - Natural stream channel form
- Coastal and connecting channel wetland restoration, enhancement and protection
- Connecting channel restoration or protection to improve:
 - Fish and aquatic species passage
 - Riparian habitat

Eligibility:

GLBFHP funding requests should range between \$10,000 and \$200,000. Larger project requests can be submitted and will be considered if additional funding becomes available. We anticipate funding approximately 8 projects, averaging \$50,000 to \$75,000.

Projects must be within the Great Lakes watershed.

States, tribes, tribal authorities, local governments and non-profits can apply. Federal agencies can also apply, but might not be eligible for all funding sources.

Match and partner contributions are encouraged. In-kind and federal match is allowed.

Priority will be given to projects that:

- Incorporate the focus areas stated above. These were identified from the Partnership's draft strategic plan: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/GLBFHP/documents.html>. Consider watershed-scale ecological and hydrological processes that affect fish habitat and fish populations.
- Are part of a watershed restoration effort.
- Evaluate their actions on target habitats, ecosystem processes and fish populations over time.
- Leverage resources from partners.
- Where applicable, incorporate best management practices that:
 - Ensure they will not spread invasive species
 - Use the most current science and technology for project design.
 - Incorporate climate change adaptation.
- Can be completed within 2 years of receipt of GLBFHP funds.

Other Considerations:

- If you have multiple projects that are different project types, please submit separate proposals for each project type. For example, a project that will restore fish passage in one stream or watershed in three different locations is considered one project, but a project that removes a fish passage barrier and restores a coastal wetland downstream of the barrier is considered two projects.
- Fund recipients must follow federal requirements for accounting, National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, historic preservation, and other applicable laws.
- *Please note that additional information describing predicted and/or final resource outcomes for projects selected for funding through this RFP may be required at a later date (due to funding requirements of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative).*

Fund Request Restrictions:

 GLBFHP funding cannot be used for:

- Realty costs (e.g., lease or purchase interests in real property or to make rental or other land use incentive payments to landowners).
- Operation and maintenance of facilities or structures.
- Actions required by existing regulatory programs, except that funds may support activities under voluntary agreements that exceed regulatory requirements for conserving habitats (e.g., hydropower licensing in which the licensee enters into a voluntary agreement to restore habitat that exceeds regulatory requirements).
- Projects that are primarily research studies. See the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act RPF for possible research grants available:
<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/fisheries/glfwra-grants.html>

Ranking Criteria:

Scores will be given to each proposal based on how the proposed project:

- Addresses priority threats in priority habitats according to the Partnership's Strategic Plan (<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/GLBFHP/documents.html>).
- Fits into a watershed-scale effort that addresses ecological and hydrological processes which result in positive effects on fish habitats and populations.
- Incorporates partner resources.
- Will be monitored and evaluated.
- Incorporates best management practices that prevent spread of invasive species and/or use most current science/technology.
- Incorporates climate change adaptation.