

News Release



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Fish Habitat Benefits From More Than \$3 Million in Funding

Pacific Region projects receive more than \$500,000

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will provide more than \$3.3 million to support 68 fish habitat projects in 36 states across the nation under the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP). An additional \$9.9 million in partner contributions, over \$13.2 million in total, will go toward restoring and enhancing stream, lake and coastal habitat, as well as to improving recreational fishing and helping endangered species.

In the Service's Pacific Region, five projects in Hawaii, Oregon, Washington and Idaho will receive \$582,908, which will be matched by partner contributions of \$3.9 million.

The funding is provided for priority projects identified through fifteen Fish Habitat Partnerships established under the NFHAP. The partnerships formed to help direct funding and other resources to habitat improvement projects offering the highest long-term conservation returns.

Aquatic ecosystems are especially vulnerable to changes in climate. Healthy habitats help fish and other aquatic life withstand flows and temperatures that are altered due to climate change. Thirty of the projects, supported by \$2 million of the Service funds and including three projects in the Pacific Region, will improve stream flow, remove barriers or acquire scientific information needed for long-term protection against the effects of climate change.

“The Service is pleased to work side-by-side with our partners to improve habitat for fish. These projects represent the mutual priorities of broad locally-based partnerships,” said Dan Ashe, Deputy Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

More than 40 percent of U.S. fish populations are currently considered declining, half of the waters in the U.S. are somehow impaired, and fragmented conservation efforts are not reversing these declines. Besides climate change, principal factors contributing to these declines include: habitat destruction and fragmentation, toxic substances, invasive species, harmful algal blooms and altered thermal regimes.

In addition to helping stem these declines, NFHAP projects also enhance fishing opportunities for the public by putting more dollars on the ground for fish conservation.

In the Pacific Region, the following NFHAP Partnership projects are being funded:

- **Hawaii (Hawaii Fish Habitat Partnership):**
 - \$46,064 in Service funds and \$60,050 in partner funds to begin remediation of He'eia estuary and wetlands, Kane'ohe Bay, Oahu.
 - \$22,300 in Service funds and \$44,600 in partner funds for the Anchialine Pool Restoration Project in Waiohinu, Hawaii. This is a climate change-related project.
 - \$21,636 in Service funds and \$121,915 in partner funds for the Molii Pond restoration project in Kualoa, Oahu.

- **Idaho (Western Native Trout Initiative):**
 - \$71,400 in Service funds and \$55,000 in partner funds for streambank stabilization and fish screening for St. Charles Creek.

- **Oregon (Western Native Trout Initiative):**
 - \$72,554 in Service funds and \$184,900 in partner funds for the Deep Creek and Crazy Creek fish passage and habitat restoration project. This is a climate change-related project.

- **Washington (Western Native Trout Initiative)**
 - \$115,000 in Service funds and more than \$3 million in partner funds to increase flows in the Lower Wenatchee River by improving irrigation systems to benefit bull trout, steelhead and Chinook salmon. This is a climate change-related project.

For a complete listing of funded projects, please visit:

http://www.fws.gov/fisheries/fwco/pdfs/NFHAP_2010_approved_projects_by_State.pdf

NFHAP is a national investment strategy to maximize the impact of conservation dollars on the ground. Under the plan, federal, state and privately-raised funds are the foundation for building regional partnerships that address the Nation's biggest fish habitat issues. This comprehensive effort will treat the causes of fish habitat decline, not just the symptoms.

For more information about the National Fish Habitat Action Plan, its partnerships and programs please visit: www.fishhabitat.org

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov

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