

# Partners for Fish and Wildlife

## Kentucky



photo: USFWS



photo: USFWS



photo: USFWS/Dick Biggrins

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### Photos (top two to bottom)

- *Partners for Fish and Wildlife restores streams using natural channel designs and bio-engineering techniques as demonstrated in this cedar tree revetment. Stream and forested riparian restoration projects benefit federally endangered fish and mussel species.*
- *Partners for Fish and Wildlife Projects benefit a suite of federal trust species, such as the threatened black-side dace and endangered running buffalo clover.*

### The Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program

The Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program is a proactive, voluntary habitat restoration program for private landowners and provides financial and or technical assistance to restore, improve and protect habitat for federal trust species. Corporations, non-profit organizations and universities can also participate.

### Program Objectives

- Restore fish and wildlife habitats for federal trust resources on private lands.
- Provide technical and financial assistance to private landowner and other conservation agencies and organizations.
- Help recover rare and unique fish and wildlife habitats, while promoting bio-diversity.
- Leverage funds with other conservation partners.
- Develop new and innovative partnerships.
- Work closely with National Wildlife Refuges, National Fish Hatcheries, major conservation initiatives and habitat plans to support landscape fish and wildlife missions.

### Habitat Improvement Opportunities on Private Lands in Kentucky

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program assists with the restoration

and enhancement of every ecosystem in the Commonwealth of Kentucky that benefits federal trust species. Without conservation efforts on private lands, the trust resources would simply not recover. Many private landowners in Kentucky want to restore and conserve habitats for fish and wildlife resources, but often lack the financial support and technical knowledge necessary to accomplish this task. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife program along with its other conservation partners helps to satisfy this need by conserving, protecting and restoring quality fish and wildlife habitat for federal trust species on private lands. These habitats include, but are not limited to:

- Stream and riparian habitats with threatened, endangered, candidate and state rare species.
- Wetlands and bottomland hardwoods for migratory birds.
- Native prairie, barren, woodland savannahs, and giant cane to benefit migratory birds and rare plant species.
- Karst or cave habitats with threatened and endangered bats and other rare cave organisms.
- Oak-hickory and American chestnut forests to benefit migratory birds and rare plant species.
- Educational wetlands.

### Partnerships

- Private landowners.
- Natural Resources Conservation Service.
- Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.
- Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission.
- Kentucky Division of Forestry.
- Kentucky Division of Conservation.
- Farm Service Agency.

## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

- Private Conservation Groups.
- Local soil and water conservation districts.
- Eastern Kentucky University.
- Western Kentucky University.
- University of Kentucky.
- University of Louisville.
- Murray State University.

### Habitat Accomplishments (1999-2005)

Since 1999, the Partners program of Kentucky with its partners has accomplished the following:

- 37 miles of forested riparian established and protected.
- Two miles of failing stream banks and erosion areas repaired.
- 53 acres of wetlands created.
- 286 acres of bottomland hardwoods planted.
- 1215 acres of native grass for upland bird species established.
- Four biologically significant caves restored and protected.
- Instrumental in precluding the federal listing of two Candidate cave species.
- 81 signed private landowner agreements.
- Established four educational wetlands.
- Given technical assistance and reviewed over 150,000 acres for restoration through various federal and state programs and for private landowners.

### Questions and Answers

*What is a typical Partners for Fish and Wildlife Project in Kentucky?*

Partners for Fish and Wildlife Projects in Kentucky generally include restoration of stream and riparian habitat, wetlands, prairie remnants, protection of karst areas and educational outreach projects. Because of the extensive number and biologically diverse stream systems in Kentucky, most restoration projects have been stream and riparian restoration.

*Is there a cost share associated with the program?*

Yes, there is a cost associated with the program. Nationwide, the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program tries to achieve a 50% cost share on all restoration projects. However, cost shares may vary depending on other partners or program contributions. Landowner contributions are typically in-kind contributions related to project implementation (e.g. labor, use of equipment). The average cost of a Partners for Fish and Wildlife project in Kentucky is approximately \$6,300.

*How do I apply for the program?*

All private landowners qualify to participate in the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program, however, requests to conduct Partners for Fish and Wildlife projects exceed available funding. Because of limited funding, there is a competitive process.

Therefore, Partners for Fish and Wildlife projects are generally concentrated in certain watersheds or geographical areas to maximize program funds and restoration results. Willing participants should contact a Partners for Fish and Wildlife representative to determine where focus areas occur and to discuss their project. A Partners for Fish and Wildlife biologist will provide technical assistance to the landowner and determine an appropriate course of action.

*What is expected of the landowner when conducting a Partners for Fish and Wildlife project?*

All Partners for Fish and Wildlife Projects require a minimum 10-year Wildlife Cooperative Extension Agreement, and many are 15-year agreements. The landowner must enter into the agreement before the project can begin. Usually the landowner is responsible for the implementation of the project, which will follow a detailed plan created by the Service biologists and or other conservation partners. The landowner may be responsible for hiring contractors if necessary, and will be reimbursed for project cost after the project is completed. The landowner must maintain the project for the life of the cooperative agreement.

The agreement does not give the Service ownership to the landowners property nor does it allow public access, its is only specific to maintain the funded conservation practice.

*What are some examples of Partners for Fish and Wildlife Projects in Kentucky?*

Partners for Fish and Wildlife biologists have worked with many private landowners in the Buck Creek watershed of southeastern Kentucky to restore degraded habitat for federally listed mussels. Projects included livestock exclusion fencing from streams, establishment of forested riparian corridors, alternate water, stream bank repair and in-stream restoration.

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife program has provided funding to restore and protect cave systems with rare species, such as the Adams Cave Gating Project. This project precluded the need to list two federal candidate species.

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife program has restored and enhanced vital habitat for the endangered relict darter in the Bayou du Chien watershed by repairing eroded stream banks and headcuts, that contribute excessive amounts of sediments to the watershed that bury relict darter spawning habitat.

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife program has provided funding to help restore rare prairie habitat and remove invasive plant species adversely affecting the federally listed running buffalo clover located in the Muddy Creek watershed of central Kentucky.

### Additional Partners for Fish and Wildlife contact in Kentucky

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