



## U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Washington Fish and Wildlife Office Restoration and Recovery Programs

### Notice of Funding Availability Federal Fiscal Year 2016 Release Date: October 16, 2015

#### General Information

Through our restoration and recovery programs, local offices of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) provide both technical and financial assistance for habitat restoration and species recovery projects. Our vision is to *work with our partners* to deliver *coordinated investments* of Service program funds that assist in the *restoration of ecosystems*, supporting the *recovery of listed and other priority species*. We provide the following information for both current and potential new partners to learn about and participate in Service programs.

Assistance with habitat restoration and recovery projects is available through the Washington Fish and Wildlife Office (WFWO) from several locally administered programs:

- Puget Sound Coastal Program (PSCP)
- Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program (PFW)
- Chehalis Fisheries Restoration Program (CFRP)
- National Fish Passage Program (NFPP)
- Recovery Implementation Program (Recovery)

For program specific information, see Attachment 1 and our website:

<http://www.fws.gov/wafwo/funding.html>

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2016, WFWO is implementing a combined Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for these programs. This NOFA allows us flexibility to allocate funds to successful projects from all appropriate funding sources, combine multiple funding sources for larger projects as needed, and/or identify funding sources in addition to these programs. A combined NOFA also allows Service biologists and managers to identify those projects that provide significant opportunities to direct limited resources (financial and technical assistance) towards addressing priority landscapes and species.

The FY 2016 (October 1, 2015 – September 30, 2016) federal budget has not been finalized as of the date of this notice. We anticipate funding to support habitat restoration and species recovery projects in 2016 and will announce our funding decisions once we have received notification of FY16 funding levels.

We funded 50 restoration, recovery, and fisheries program projects through our NOFA process in 2015, totaling over \$2,250,000 in Service funds. Most projects received \$25,000-80,000; for more information on restoration and recovery projects funded last year see the summary reports on our website:

[http://www.fws.gov/wafwo/funding\\_NOFA.html](http://www.fws.gov/wafwo/funding_NOFA.html).

#### Annual Schedule

Service biologists are available on a year-round basis to assist with development of projects. However, to best evaluate projects, align them with technical assistance and funding programs, and meet fiscal-year contracting deadlines, we work under the action schedule described below in Table 1. Please note that changes to this schedule could occur should funding to our agency be delayed for FY16. To ensure your project receives highest priority consideration for funding, please work with a Program Contact (Table 2) to submit a project summary form on or before **January 15, 2016**, except National Fish Passage Program (NFPP) proposals, which are due **November 15, 2015**

Service interdisciplinary teams will evaluate all projects and make recommendations for further technical assistance or funding. The Service is supportive of projects that aid in the recovery of listed threatened and endangered species, maximize ecological benefits for priority landscapes and species, meet specific

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*The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.*

program goals, and provide flexibility to our partners. Service biologists will work with project partners throughout this project development and evaluation process and inform partners of the status of their efforts. We will also provide technical assistance and be involved in future implementation and post-project evaluation of projects selected for funding.

Final decisions are made by the WFWO State Supervisor and our Regional Office in Portland, Oregon. While funding officials carefully consider the technical input of our interdisciplinary teams, they retain the right to exercise discretion in carrying out their responsibility to make final funding decisions. Decisions regarding technical and/or funding assistance are expected in the spring or early summer of 2016; however, we retain the discretion to make technical and funding assistance decisions at any time. Please contact a Service biologist identified in Table 2 for questions you have about your project and the status of our funding process.

**Table 1. NOFA Action Schedule**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Action</b>
Throughout the year	Service biologists provide technical assistance to partners interested in project development.
October 15, 2015	FY16 Notice of Funding Availability for Service programs in Washington State distributed to potential project partners. Covered programs include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Puget Sound Coastal Program</li> <li>• Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program</li> <li>• Chehalis Fisheries Restoration Program</li> <li>• National Fish Passage Program</li> <li>• Recovery Implementation Program</li> </ul>
November 15, 2015	Partners submit a project summary form or equivalent for National Fish Passage Program to <a href="mailto:FW1restoration@fws.gov">FW1restoration@fws.gov</a> , and <a href="mailto:Miranda_plumb@fws.gov">Miranda_plumb@fws.gov</a>
January 15, 2016 5:00 pm PST	Partners submit a project summary form or equivalent by the due date via email to a Program Contact listed on Table 2 <b>and</b> to: <a href="mailto:FW1restoration@fws.gov">FW1restoration@fws.gov</a>
<b><i>The following dates may change depending on when funds are released to this office from Service Headquarters and are dependent on Congressional appropriations for Service programs.</i></b>	
March 30, 2016 Date is dependent upon Federal budget verification.	Service biologists notify partners of priority projects, those that may be supported financially or through in-kind services, technical assistance, or other substantial involvement.
Late Spring – Early Summer, 2016	Service biologists work with partners to complete cooperative agreements and other federal contracting documents and initiate required Federal, State, Tribal, or local environmental compliance and permitting. Funds become available upon completion of the cooperative agreement.
Late Summer 2016	Following allocation of all available program funding available in FY16, partners proposing projects not selected for funding are notified of their status.

## Working Together

We recommend that you read this document in its entirety and **contact us** for further information about these programs (see Table 2. Program Contacts). Service biologists will provide technical assistance and work closely with project sponsors to develop projects, conduct site visits to project locations, and evaluate projects for Program eligibility. Service biologists and project sponsors will work together to plan and implement projects, coordinate with landowners and partners, and evaluate post-project compliance and performance.

If you feel you have a project that meets the goals of our programs, call or email a Program Contact (listed in Table 2) to discuss your project. ***If we determine your project may be eligible for funding, the Program Contact will email you a project summary form.*** We use this form to consistently describe and evaluate projects. Service biologists will assist with project development and necessary summary information. We will accept other forms of project information, such as applications for other programs, as long as they cover all the topics contained in our summary sheet. ***To ensure your project receives highest priority consideration for funding, please submit a project summary form on or before January 15, 2016.***

Your interest in our programs helps us to continue to grow existing partnerships and learn about other opportunities in Washington so we can strategically allocate personnel and funding to maximize conservation benefits for fish and wildlife. The Service offers many more opportunities to partner in conservation of fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats. Information on other Service restoration and recovery programs can be found on our website at: <http://www.fws.gov/wafwo/funding.html>

## Our Partners

Any private individual, State, Tribe, nonprofit organization, community group (such as a watershed team), land trust, corporation, or Federal entity may be eligible for technical and financial assistance. Some programs limit financial assistance to certain entities, more information on our programs and associated eligibility and other requirements can be found in Attachment 1. Your Service Program Contact will assess eligibility of your project for specific programs and help you understand which of our programs might be a good fit for your proposal.

## Focus Areas

To maximize effectiveness the Service, working with our partners, has identified focus areas for our efforts. While we can and do work in other areas of Washington State, we anticipate concentrating investment of limited staff and financial resources on projects that provide significant opportunities to address priority landscape focus areas and species.

In FY16, landscape focus areas include:

- Shrub-steppe ecosystems in eastern Washington
- Native prairie ecosystems in western Washington
- Coastal, estuarine, and riverine ecosystems in the Puget Sound (excluding major metropolitan areas of Seattle and Tacoma)

In addition to these landscape focus areas, we anticipate funding projects that benefit:

- Recovery of species listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act and other priority species in Washington State.
- Fishery resources in the Chehalis River basin and fish passage in western Washington
- Fishery resources and fish passage in the upper and mid-Columbia River basin, including the Yakima and Methow River basins.
- USFWS National Wildlife Refuges in western Washington.

General geographic extent of these focus areas are depicted in Map 1. Restoration and recovery actions may occur outside of these geographic focus areas.

## Restoration Priorities

Within priority landscapes, preference is usually given to projects which strengthen protection of existing functioning ecosystems, particularly strongholds and refugia for target species. The next highest consideration is given to projects which improve connectivity and access to existing functioning ecosystems. Finally, consideration is given to restoration of the processes which create and maintain properly functioning habitat over time. Proposals to enhance habitat without achieving self-sustaining physical and ecological processes are seldom competitive, nor are proposals to restore severely degraded habitat using structural techniques.

## Recovery Priorities

The Recovery Implementation Program in Washington will give preference to actions that: 1) accomplish high priority, documented recovery actions for high priority, listed threatened or endangered species; 2) secure information about endangered, threatened, candidate or proposed species to aid in their recovery; 3) avert listing of species pursuant to the Endangered Species Act; 4) conserve the ecosystems upon which these species depend, and 5) document/address a species response to impacts from climate change. Table 3 identifies high priority species for FY16 Recovery Implementation Program funding in Washington State. Proposals developed to benefit listed, proposed, candidate and other species of concern not identified in Table 3 may also be considered for funding. Please contact the Recovery Program contact identified in Table 2 to discuss your proposal.

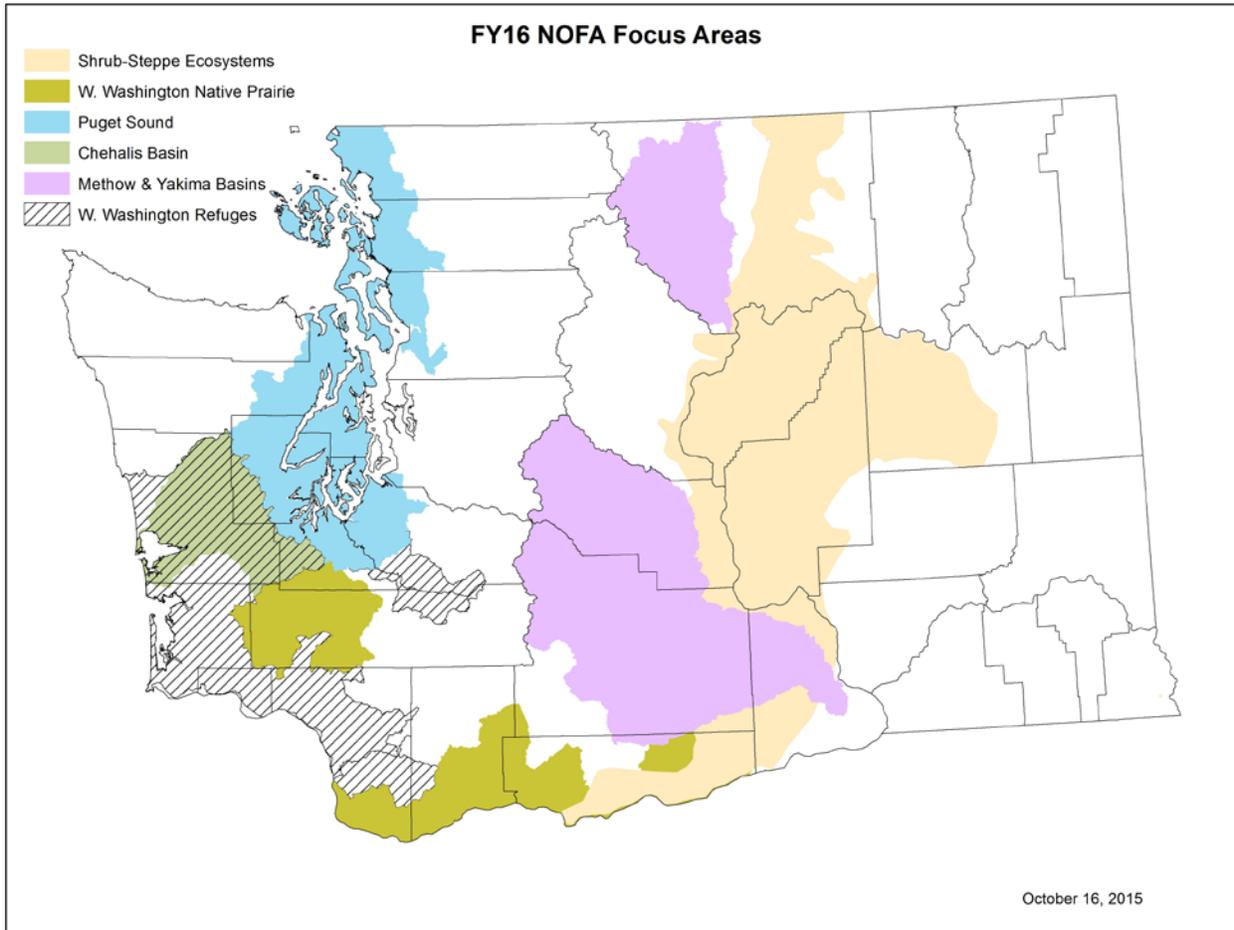
## Project Development Assistance

Technical assistance in developing your project is available from the Service. Please contact one of the biologists below to discuss your project and request a Project Summary Form used to describe your proposal for Service funding. If uncertain who to contact, or for general program questions, contact the Environmental Assessment and Restoration Division Manager identified at the bottom of the program contacts list.

**Table 2. Program Contacts**

Focus Area	Program Contact	Phone Number	E-mail
Central Washington Shrub-Steppe Ecosystems	Gregg Kurz	509 -665-3508 ext. 2005	<a href="mailto:gregg_kurz@fws.gov">gregg_kurz@fws.gov</a>
Western Washington Native Prairies	Judy Lantor	360-753-6056	<a href="mailto:judy_lantor@fws.gov">judy_lantor@fws.gov</a>
Puget Sound Coastal, Estuarine, and Riverine ecosystems	Rich Carlson	360-753-5829	<a href="mailto:rich_carlson@fws.gov">rich_carlson@fws.gov</a>
Chehalis Basin Fisheries Restoration, and Fish Passage in Western Washington	Miranda Plumb	360-753-9560	<a href="mailto:miranda_plumb@fws.gov">miranda_plumb@fws.gov</a>
Mid/Upper Columbia Fisheries Restoration, and Fish Passage in Central and Eastern Washington	Kate Terrell	509-548-2985	<a href="mailto:kate_terrell@fws.gov">kate_terrell@fws.gov</a>
Western Washington National Wildlife Refuges	Terri Butler-Bates	360-484-3482	<a href="mailto:terri_butler-bates@fws.gov">terri_butler-bates@fws.gov</a>
Recovery Implementation Program in Washington State	Ginger Phalen	360-753-5819	<a href="mailto:ginger_phalen@fws.gov">ginger_phalen@fws.gov</a>
General Program Questions: Environmental Assessment and Restoration Division Manager	Curtis Tanner	360-753-4326	<a href="mailto:curtis_tanner@fws.gov">curtis_tanner@fws.gov</a>

Map 1: FY16 Service WFWO Notice of Funding Availability Focus Areas.  
(**Note:** Recovery Implementation Program proposals may occur outside of these landscape focus areas.)



**Table 3. Recovery Program Priority Species Information**

The Service supports important, identified recovery actions for all listed threatened and endangered species in Washington. The species listed in this table are the identified priority species for the FY16 NOFA. If the species you are interested in is not listed here, please contact the Recovery Program contact to discuss further.

**Note:** Hyperlinks are provided for the relevant electronic document where available.

Species Common Name	Species Scientific Name	Documents to guide recovery projects	
		Recovery Plan/Other	Species Action Plan
<b>Endangered Animals</b>			
<a href="#">Columbian white-tailed deer</a>	<i>Odocoileus virginianus leucurus</i>	<a href="#">2010 USFWS Columbian White-Tailed Deer Five - Year Review</a>	Request Information from Service Contact
<a href="#">Pygmy rabbit (Columbia Basin DPS)</a>	<i>Brachylagus idahoensis</i>	<a href="#">2012 USFWS Columbia Basin Pygmy Rabbit Final Recovery Plan</a>	
<a href="#">Taylor's checkerspot butterfly</a>	<i>Euphydryas editha taylori</i>	<a href="#">USFWS Information for Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly</a>	Request Information from Service Contact
<b>Endangered Plants</b>			
<a href="#">Showy stickseed</a>	<i>Hackelia venusta</i>	<a href="#">2010 Five-Year Review for Showy Stickseed and Other Sp.</a>  <a href="#">2007 USFWS Final Recovery Plan for Showy Stickseed</a>	Request Information from Service Contact
<b>Threatened Animals</b>			
<a href="#">Bull trout</a>	<i>Salvelinus confluentus</i>	<a href="#">2015 USFWS Final Recovery Plan for Bull Trout</a>	Request Information from Service Contact
<a href="#">Marbled murrelet</a>	<i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i>	<a href="#">1997 USFWS Final Recovery Plan for Marbled Murrelet</a>	Request Information from Service Contact
<a href="#">Mazama pocket gopher</a>	<i>Thomomys mazama</i> ssp. <i>glacialis</i> , <i>pugetensis</i> , <i>tumuli</i> , <i>yelmensis</i>	<a href="#">USFWS Information for Mazama Pocket Gopher</a>	Request Information from Service Contact
<a href="#">Northern spotted owl</a>	<i>Strix occidentalis caurina</i>	<a href="#">2011 USFWS Final Revised Recovery Plan for Northern Spotted Owl</a>	Request Information from Service Contact

<b>Species Common Name</b>	<b>Species Scientific Name</b>	<b>Documents to guide recovery projects</b>	
		<b>Recovery Plan/Other</b>	<b>Species Action Plan</b>
<a href="#">Oregon spotted frog</a>	<i>Rana pretiosa</i>	<a href="#">USFWS Information for Oregon Spotted Frog</a>	Request Information from Service Contact
<a href="#">Streaked horned lark</a>	<i>Eremophila alpestris strigata</i>	<a href="#">USFWS Information for Streaked Horned Lark</a>	Request Information from Service Contact
<a href="#">Western snowy plover</a>	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus</i>	<a href="#">2007 USFWS Final Recovery Plan for Western Snowy Plover</a>	Request Information from Service Contact
<b>Threatened Plants</b>			
<a href="#">Golden paintbrush</a>	<i>Castilleja levisecta</i>	<a href="#">2000 USFWS Final Recovery Plan for Golden Paintbrush</a>  <a href="#">2007 USFWS Five-Year Review for Golden Paintbrush</a>	Request Information from Service Contact
<a href="#">Spalding's catchfly</a>	<i>Silene spaldingii</i>	<a href="#">2007 USFWS Final Recovery Plan for Spalding's Catchfly</a>	Request Information from Service Contact
<b>Petitioned Species and Other Species</b>			
<a href="#">Greater sage grouse</a>	<i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i>	<a href="#">USFWS Information for Greater Sage Grouse</a>	Request Information from Service Contact
<a href="#">Island marble butterfly</a>	<i>Euchloe ausonides insulanus</i>	<a href="#">USFWS Information for Island Marble Butterfly</a>	Request Information from Service Contact
<a href="#">Northern Wormwood</a>	<i>Artemisia campestris var. wormskioldii</i>	–	Request Information from Service Contact
<a href="#">Pacific fisher</a>	<i>Pekania pennanti</i>	<a href="#">USFWS Information for Pacific Fisher</a>  <a href="#">2006 WDFW Recovery Plan</a>	Request Information from Service Contact
Northern Sea otter	<i>Enhydra lutris</i>	<a href="#">2004 WDFW Recovery Plan for Sea Otter</a>	Request Information from Service Contact

## **Eligible Program Activities**

The Service works with our partners to advance all stages of project implementation. This can include funding and technical assistance for:

- Project feasibility assessment and design
- Recovery actions for threatened and endangered species
- Surveys, research, assessment and monitoring needed to inform recovery actions for priority species
- Environmental compliance
- Project construction and management
- Post project monitoring
- Outreach and education

Within our focus areas, we seek opportunities to restore ecosystem function across the range of habitats required to support recovery of listed and priority species. Examples of some of the common treatments that the Service Restoration and Recovery programs support include:

### Riparian and wetland habitats

- Reduction of livestock impacts (installation of fencing, crossings, and off-channel watering devices)
- Non-native plant removal/control
- Native plant establishment
- Wetland hydrology improvements (dike removal, ditch plugging, and fill removal)

### Stream channel habitats

- Fish passage improvements and fish screening
- Culvert replacement or removal to improve fish passage
- Stream channel restoration
- Placement of key wood pieces to induce large wood structures/jams

### Native forest and prairie restoration

- Prescribed burning and other invasive plant removal techniques
- Road abandonment, decommissioning, obliteration
- Silvicultural treatments (oak release, thinning/planting to benefit wildlife habitat)
- Native plant species propagation, introduction, and re-establishment

### Shrub-steppe restoration

- Non-native plant removal/control
- Native plant establishment
- Reduction of grazing (livestock, feral, wild animal) impacts

### Coastal/marine nearshore restoration

- Tide gate or dike removal or modification to restore tidal hydrology
- Tidal channel restoration
- Native plant establishment
- Removal of derelict fishing gear

Types of projects preferred for funding under the Recovery Program are those that:

- Address one or more of the priority species identified in Table 3;
- Accomplish high priority tasks identified in an approved species recovery plan, 5-year status review, or species action plan; and
- Provide a measurable benefit to the status or recovery of a species. Projects may be proposed for:
  - animal, plant, and habitat surveys
  - research, assessment, and monitoring
  - species captive breeding, propagation, introduction, re-establishment, and genetic work
  - habitat protection, restoration, and management
  - removal of threats directly responsible for listed species mortality
  - public education and outreach

### **Indirect Rates/ Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreements**

Allowable project costs include approved indirect costs rates associated with project management. Program Contact/Project Manager will work with project partners to determine the applicable indirect cost rate to include in a proposed project budget.

### **Ineligible Program Activities**

Some activities cannot be supported by Service funds. Ineligible program activities include:

- Pond creation
- Cleanup of Federal or State designated environmental contaminant sites
- Community beautification and/or recreational access
- Fines/penalties due to non-compliance with Federal, State, or local laws
- Gravel bar mining
- Gravel trap development or maintenance
- Improvement of natural resources for commercial or private profit
- Land acquisitions, conservation easements, or appraisals
- Required Habitat Conservation Plan activities
- Required mitigation
- Streambank hardening (rip-rap, bulkheads, or other armoring)
- Structure-based restoration planned without primary consideration of habitat protection, habitat connectivity, or habitat-forming processes

### **Cost Share**

Service funds must generally be matched with contributions from project partners. Cost share, as defined for these Service Programs, is the amount or percentage of the total project cost that the project partners must contribute towards the project. While program requirements vary, we typically request a minimum of 25% in cost share. For all Programs, if provided cost share is higher than the 25% minimum, a project is more likely to be supported by the WFWO. There is not a required minimum cost share for the Recovery Implementation Program.

**Cash:** Funds that have been secured or are pending final approval from Federal, State, or private sources will be counted as eligible cost share. Project partners must differentiate between secured and pending cash cost share amounts.

**In-Kind:** includes those services committed from other Federal, State, or private sources such as: labor, use of equipment, surveying, or other contributions that would otherwise qualify for Program funds.

**Ineligible:** includes value of the land, costs associated with unrelated or ineligible projects, and work performed by WFWO Service personnel.

## **Climate Change**

The Service is committed to considering how species and habitats are affected by climate change in making our funding decisions. We seek projects that document a species response to climate change, help species adapt to climate change, and promote projects that are resilient to climate change.

Expected climate change impacts in Washington State include changes in temperature, precipitation, snowpack, and hydrology; increases in intensity and frequency of fire, storm surges, and impacts from sea level rise; and shifts in the distribution and range of native and non-native species.

The project information will need to describe how the project promotes ecosystem and species adaptation and is resilient to climate change. Adaptation and resiliency may result from increased habitat connectivity, securing transitional habitats, restoring refugia, reducing fire risk, protecting water quality and quantity, restoring processes that form and maintain habitat, and protecting habitats from invasion by non-native species.

More information on climate change is available at:

<http://www.fws.gov/pacific/Climatechange/changepnw.html>

<http://cses.washington.edu/cig/res/ia/waccia.shtml>

<http://www.northpacificlcc.org/>

## **Invasive Species**

The Service is concerned about the impacts of invasive species on ecosystems and species. Invasive species degrade, change, or displace native habitats and compete with native species and are thus harmful to fish, wildlife, and plant resources. Preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and non-target species is the most effective strategy to avoid impact to restored ecosystems. Preventive measures typically offer the most cost-effective means to minimize or eliminate environmental and economic impacts due to invasive species.

The project information will need to describe how invasive species prevention will be addressed during the planning and construction phase of the proposed project. One method that can help your planning is the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP). HACCP is a management tool that provides a structured method to identify risks and focus prevention procedures on pathways for invasive species introduction. Information on HACCP is available at:

HACCP website - <http://www.haccp-nrm.org/>

HACCP Training Presentation - <http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/pdf/HACCP%20Training%20Slides.pdf>

HACCP Tools (manual, forms, wizard) - <http://www.haccp-nrm.org/forms.asp>

Please let us know on the project summary form if you plan to use HACCP as an invasive species management tool.

More information on identifying and preventing the spread of invasive species can also be found on the web at:

<http://www.fws.gov/invasives/what-you-can-do.html>

<http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/unitedstates/wa.shtml>

## **Attachment 1: Program Information**

### ***Puget Sound Coastal Program***

The Puget Sound Coastal Program (PSCP) is part of the Service's National Coastal Program. In 1991, the PSCP was established to protect, restore, and enhance the natural resources of Washington's coastal ecosystems. We work closely with partners to conserve fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats in Puget Sound, an "estuary of national significance." Partnerships with other agencies, Native American Tribes, citizens, and organizations are emphasized. The PSCP has identified geographic focus areas. These areas are: North Puget Sound and the Eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca; South Puget Sound; and Hood Canal (see Map 1). Projects occurring outside of the focus area boundaries are eligible; however, we prioritize partnership and project development within the focus areas. The PSCP typically provides financial assistance of up to \$50,000 for individual habitat restoration projects.

The PSCP can fund work on state, tribal, private, or federal lands. For on the ground restoration and recovery projects that will receive funding, the landowner, the cooperator, and the Service must sign a Landowner Agreement before funding is made available. This agreement: 1) describes the restoration or recovery activity that will take place; 2) ensures that all parties understand the activities that will be undertaken; 3) secures the Federal investment for at least 10 years, preferably longer; 4) allows the cooperator and the Service to access the project site for post-project monitoring (with advance notification); 5) outlines modification procedures; and, 6) outlines the rights and responsibilities of the Service, the landowner, and the cooperator.

#### **Goals:**

- Restore and protect coastal habitats through completion of interagency projects; provide technical assistance in the restoration process; and provide cost share where appropriate.
- Use outreach and education to improve stewardship and conservation of Washington's coastal resources. Increase understanding and prevent the introduction and spread of coastal and marine non-native, invasive species.
- Support the strategic priorities of the Puget Sound Partnership and the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project.
- Work with Federally Recognized Tribes to restore coastal habitats and species.

#### **Types of projects preferred for PSCP:**

Due to the highly developed and/or impacted state of most of our coastal resources in Washington, projects tend to be large and multi-partner in nature. Our primary focus is on-the-ground projects within the above mentioned focus areas. Example projects can include:

- tide gate or dike removal to restore tidal hydrology to estuarine wetlands
- protection and restoration of estuarine and near-shore habitat
- removal of derelict fishing gear
- protection and restoration of unique coastal upland habitats and coastal habitats that support federally listed species or species of concern

### ***Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program***

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) Program is a national, voluntary habitat restoration and conservation program that provides technical and financial assistance to private landowners, Tribes and other conservation partners. The PFW Program focuses on restoring and conserving habitat for listed and declining plant and animal species, migratory birds, and inter-jurisdictional fish. The PFW Program has identified geographic focus areas. These areas are: Western Washington prairies; Western Washington Refuges; Columbia Plateau/Shrub-steppe; Inland Northwest National Wildlife Refuge Stewardship Area (Channeled Scablands; the Methow and Yakima watersheds (see Map 1). Projects occurring outside of these focus area boundaries are eligible; however, we prioritize partnership and project development within the focus areas. Priority habitats in Washington include prairies, shrub-steppe, forests, wetlands, rivers and streams, and riparian areas. The PFW program typically provides financial assistance of \$25,000 for individual habitat restoration projects.

The PFW Program cannot fund work on state or federal property but can collaborate with state and federal agencies. For on the ground restoration and recovery projects that will receive funding, the landowner, the cooperator, and the Service must sign a Landowner Agreement before funding is made available. This agreement: 1) describes the restoration or recovery activity that will take place; 2) ensures that all parties understand the activities that will be undertaken; 3) secures the Federal investment for at least 10 years, preferably longer; 4) allows the cooperator and the Service to access the project site for post-project monitoring (with advance notification); 5) outlines modification procedures; and, 6) outlines the rights and responsibilities of the Service, the landowner, and the cooperator.

#### **Goals:**

- Develop partnerships through proactive, voluntary cooperative efforts with private landowners, nongovernmental organizations, other agencies, and Native American Tribes to restore habitat.
- Reestablish habitat function through restoration and/or enhancement activities.
- Provide corridors and decrease impediments to native fish and wildlife migration.
- Enhance the environmental integrity of the National Wildlife Refuge System by restoring private lands that influence habitat on Refuge lands.
- Work with Native American Tribes to restore tribal trust species and their habitats.

#### **Types of projects preferred for PFW:**

Projects may include, but are not limited to:

- restoring native prairie and shrub-steppe habitat
- planting native trees and shrubs and other vegetation
- restoring wetland hydrology
- removing stream blockages
- controlling invasive plants

### ***Chehalis Fisheries Restoration Program***

The Chehalis Fisheries Restoration Program (CFRP) makes funding and technical assistance available for on-the-ground restoration of salmon habitat, watershed assessments, and outreach education in the Chehalis River and Grays Harbor Basins. Significant runs of salmon, steelhead, and cutthroat trout have declined throughout the Chehalis River basin, the second largest watershed in Washington. Commercial and sport fishing have greatly diminished in the area. The CFRP's goal is to recover Chehalis Basin fisheries by forming partnerships with private landowners, non-profit organizations, and local, tribal, and state agencies, and by implementing habitat restoration, habitat assessment, and public education projects. The CFRP typically provides financial assistance of less than \$50,000 for individual habitat restoration projects.

#### **Goals:**

- Improve water quality in Inner Grays Harbor and the Upper Chehalis River basin.
- Restore or improve natural spawning and rearing habitat.
- Extend the range of wild spawning anadromous fish to achieve optimum habitat use.
- Increase public awareness of the value of fisheries habitat restoration in the Chehalis basin.

#### **Types of projects preferred for CFRP:**

Projects may include, but are not limited to the following:

- On the ground projects in watersheds that are in relatively good condition, have ongoing restoration, and that have a completed watershed assessment will receive priority.
- Assessment projects that fill identified data gaps in existing watershed assessments will receive priority.
- Outreach projects that are established and successful or that are innovative will receive priority.

### ***National Fish Passage Program***

The National Fish Passage Program (NFPP) is a voluntary, non-regulatory initiative that provides funding and technical assistance to reconnect aquatic habitats. The NFPP aims to restore native fish and other aquatic species to self-sustaining levels by reconnecting habitat that has been fragmented by man-made barriers. Fish passage projects restore unimpeded flows and fish movement by removing barriers or providing ways for aquatic species to bypass them. Projects are prioritized based upon the benefits to species and the geographical area. Typical projects include barrier culvert removal or replacement with a fish passable culvert or bridge and re-opening oxbow and off channel habitats. Typical funding amounts range from \$15,000 to \$80,000 with a minimum 25% cost share requested. Funding decisions for this program are made at our Regional Office in Portland, Oregon with input from our local office biologists.

**Deadline for NFPP proposals is November 15, 2015.**

#### **Types of projects preferred for funding for western Washington NFPP:**

- Show demonstrable ecological benefits for Federal trust species.
- Exhibit permanence of fish passage benefits.
- Make use of the most current scientific knowledge and proven technology.
- Address objectives outlined in approved management plans.
- Are located in a USFWS Fisheries focus area: Chehalis River watershed and the Olympic Peninsula (see Program contact for specific HUC information).

Local offices help with the development and evaluation of projects for NFPP. More information on the NFPP is available at: <http://pacific.fws.gov/fisheries/fishpassage/>. For assistance and information on NFPP please contact:

#### **Western Washington:**

Miranda Plumb  
(360) 753-9560  
[miranda\\_plumb@fws.gov](mailto:miranda_plumb@fws.gov)

#### **Eastern Washington:**

Kate Terrell  
509-548-2985  
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### ***Recovery Program***

The Recovery Program funds projects in Washington that implement recovery actions which directly contribute to the recovery and conservation of listed threatened or endangered species. Any entity can apply for recovery funds. High priority species (Table 3) and activities which specifically benefit them are the target of this program.

#### **Funding will be prioritized for projects meeting these goals:**

- 1) For high priority (Table 3) listed endangered or threatened species: accomplish high priority, documented recovery actions identified in an approved species recovery plan, 5-year status review, or spotlight species action plan that will help recover or downlist these species.
- 2) Secure information about endangered, threatened or candidate species to aid in their recovery.
- 3) Avert listing of species pursuant to the Endangered Species Act by undertaking conservation actions consistent with approved plans including State recovery plans, Federal species assessment and listing priority assessment forms, and/or species action plans.
- 4) Conserve the ecosystems upon which these species depend.
- 5) Projects that document/address a species response to impacts from climate change.

Projects may be proposed for: recovery actions, animal, plant, and habitat surveys; research; assessment and monitoring; species captive breeding, propagation, introduction, re-establishment, and genetic work; habitat protection, restoration, and management; removal of threats directly responsible for listed species mortality; or public education and outreach.

#### **Recovery Program priority species information**

Table 3 identifies high priority species for the Recovery Program for FY2016, and the Federal or State documents that should be used to guide conservation actions for these species. Newly listed or candidate species typically lack recovery plans or species action plans. In those cases, the Service will consider funding tasks or actions identified in plans focused on the species' conservation and supported or developed by a qualified entity (such plans may be HCPs, tribal restoration plans, CCPs, CCAAs, INRMPs). Higher priority tasks or actions will receive preference for funding.

Projects designed to benefit priority species **must** be coordinated with the appropriate Service contact (see Table 2) in advance of submission.