

NATIONAL RESERVOIR PARTNERSHIP

Opportunity, Challenge and Commitment

Louisville, Kentucky
September 16, 2007

OUR OPPORTUNITY

A National Reservoir Partnership under the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP) offers its partners unprecedented opportunity to address the needs of America's reservoirs in a way that is holistic, comprehensive, effective, strategic and, most critically, transparent and readily communicated to the public and public policy makers. Partnership offers opportunity to:

OUR OPPORTUNITY

- Frame Reservoir Management in Watershed Context
- Define a National Reservoir Systems' Strategy
- Focus on Habitat/Water Quality for Res. System Health
- Catalyze Conservation Across Broad Landscape Areas

OUR OPPORTUNITY

- Build Expansive and Diverse Partnership
- Raise Visibility/Resources for Reservoir System Mgmt
- Forge a National Partnership that Works Locally

OUR OPPORTUNITY

		<i>Resource Issues</i>	<i>Information Systems</i>	<i>Organizational Structure</i>
Scale	National	<p>Fish are depleted, listed, or lost due to habitat conditions.</p> <p>Need to know: How many? Status & trends?</p>	<p>Need linkage and increased use of large-scale systems (National Biological Information Infrastructure-Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Node, Fish Passage Decision Support System)</p>	<p>National Fish Habitat Action Plan</p>
	Regional (1,000 to 100,000 miles ²)	<p>Habitat degradation and loss are common issues at regional scale (coastal, Great Lakes, large river systems)</p>	<p>Many data sources (ACCSP, StreamNet, state resource agency databases)</p>	<p>Fish Habitat Partnerships</p> <p>Eastern Brook Trout, Western Native Trout, Midwest Driftless, SARP, Mat-Su Basin partnerships</p>
	Local (less than 1,000 miles ²)	<p>Habitat conditions largely result from local scale resource issues (artificial barriers, poor land use practices)</p>	<p>Assessment of habitats and populations.</p> <p>Need to know: What info is needed to answer relevant questions?)</p>	<p>On-the-ground habitat projects</p> <p>Local resources managers, watershed groups, etc.</p>

OUR CHALLENGE

Establishing a National Reservoir Partnership under NFHAP presents challenges that are both similar to and distinct from the challenges faced by other pilot and candidate Fish Habitat Partnerships. To be successful, we will have to ask and answer important questions, such as:

OUR CHALLENGE

- Why a National Partnership and What Is Its Purpose?
- Is a National Assessment of Reservoir Threats Needed?
- What Are the Conservation Fixes to Reservoir Threats?
- Do We Need a Conservation Strategy, and What Kind?
- Does Our Conservation Strategy Link to NFHAP Goals?

OUR CHALLENGE

- Is Our Partnership Inclusive and Diverse as It Can Be?
- Is Our Partnership Consistent with NFHAP Guidance?
- How Do We Coordinate with Overlapping Partnerships?
- Do We Have the Funds and Staff Support for Start-Up?

FWS COMMITMENT

A National Reservoir Partnership is a collaborative effort. The States and local jurisdictions are pivotal in moving the partnership forward. Landowners, communities, and conservation NGOs are essential. Tribal partners in some areas will be critical. Federal partners are no less key. Implementing NFHAP with partners is a top priority of FWS, and we are committed to being a dedicated partner in the National Reservoir Partnership in multiple ways. We will:

FWS COMMITMENT

- Support Reservoir Partnership with Funds and Staff
- Participate in Partnership Governance
- Participate in Assessment and Strategic Planning
- Coordinate ID & Ranking of Reservoir System Projects

FWS COMMITTMENT

- Support Habitat Restoration with Existing FWS Programs
- Support and Participate in Accomplishment Reporting
- Coordinate Federal Involvement in Res. Partnership
- Foster Tribal Involvement in Reservoir Partnership

OUR OPPORTUNITY, CHALLENGE,
& COMMITMENT

END

Engaging the FWS: A Proposal

Pre-Budget Preparation & Submission

- 1. FWS ARDs and Habitat Partnerships meet each winter to review progress and set goals/objectives/priorities for the next two budget years.**



Engaging the FWS: A Proposal

Pre-Budget Preparation and Submission

- 2. FWS and NFHB meet each year before April to talk about NFHAP goals and costs.**
- 3. FWS/DOI/OMB weigh NFHAP against other priorities. If \$ increases are requested in the budget, the budget narrative reflects pre-April discussions with NFHB.**

Engaging the FWS: A Proposal

Post-Appropriation and/or Pre-Allocation

- 4. Before appropriated funds are allocated to habitat partnerships, FWS and NFHB meet to re-visit priorities and make adjustments as necessary.**
- 5. FWS national submits any proposed changes to DOI/OMB/Congress for concurrence. NFHB support as necessary.**

Engaging the FWS: A Proposal

Post-Allocation

6. FWS ARDs and Habitat Partnerships meet to review progress and set goals/objectives/priorities for the next two budget years.

7. Partnerships choose proposals based upon priorities and submit to FWS Director for approval and obligation.