

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service



Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program in West Virginia

Background

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife program is the Service's most popular and effective program for voluntary, citizen and community-based fish and wildlife habitat restoration activities. Partners programs serve as a bridge to owners and managers of private lands to develop partnerships for the benefit of these Trust Species. Its approach is simple: Engage willing partners, through non-regulatory incentives, to conserve and protect wildlife values on their property.

Program Benefits

Because of its successful voluntary, incentive-based approach, it has been recognized as an integral delivery mechanism for the recovery of threatened and endangered species as well as to maintain common species common

and species of concern to West Virginians such as the Eastern Brook Trout.

Focus Areas

The West Virginia Partners Program constructs projects throughout the state but is focusing on projects in the following watersheds:

**POTOMAC RIVER
GREENBRIER RIVER
ELK RIVER
MIDDLE ISLAND CREEK
LITTLE KANAWHA RIVER
WEST FORK
RIVER/HACKERS CREEK
POTTS CREEK**

Accomplishments

Nationwide the Partners program was funded at \$51 million in FY06. West Virginia received nearly \$180,000.

The West Virginia Partners Program supported more than 125 private landowners with the following habitat restoration and enhancements:

West Virginia Partners Program Accomplishments 1993-2006

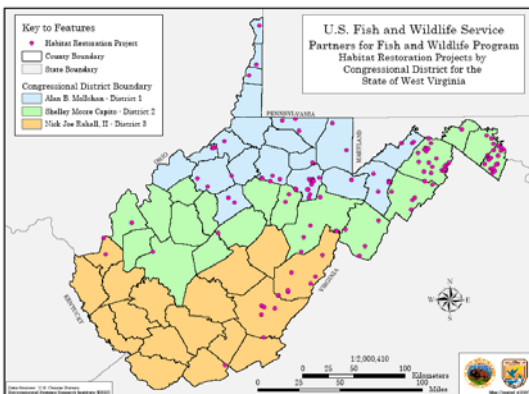
- 3,500 acres of wetland and riparian habitat protected
- 70 miles of streambank restored
- Built partnerships with over 30 organizations

Priorities

- The Partners Program will function as the delivery mechanism for strategic habitat conservation and continues to lead change through working and coordinating with our public and private partners to assist in reaching national conservation goals.
- By working cooperatively with private landowners to restore and enhance habitat on private lands, the Partners program helps reduce the reliance on regulation to achieve the Service's mission of conserving Trust species.

For More Information

For more information about the West Virginia Partners Program, contact John Schmidt at 304-636-6586 x 16, at john_schmidt @ fws.gov, or on the web at <http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/partners/web/pdf/561.pdf>



Partners for Fish and Wildlife Accomplishment Sites 1993-2006