



Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program in Tennessee

Background

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program is one of the Service's most popular and effective programs for voluntary, citizen and community-based fish and wildlife habitat restoration activities. The Partners program serves 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.

Accomplishments

❖ In October 2006, Congress unanimously enacted the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Act which recognizes and authorizes the Partners Program as a leader in private lands conservation. This

year, the Service will be celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Partners Program.

- ❖ Although the Partners Program is active throughout the State of Tennessee, three focus areas with high concentration of federal trust resources, specifically rare aquatic species, have been targeted (see map).
- ❖ Because Partners is a 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 more common species.
- ❖ The Tennessee Partners Program has established a

Tennessee Partners Program Accomplishments 1996 - 2006

- 234 acres of riparian buffers protected
- 65 miles of stream and riparian habitat restored
- Over 130 agreements have been written with landowners
- \$ 1.4 million in funds

network of over 50 partners made up of state agencies and private organizations to accomplish habitat restoration practices for rare species.

❖ In FY 2006, the Partners Program was funded at \$51 million nationally, including approximately \$175,000 for projects in Tennessee.

Priorities

As the delivery mechanism for strategic habitat conservation, the Partners Program will continue to lead change 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 Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program in Tennessee, contact the Brad Bingham, State Private Lands Coordinator at the Cookeville Field Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, at 931-528-6481; or visit us on the internet at <http://www.fws.gov/cookeville/docs/partners.html>.