



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Fisheries and Habitat Conservation



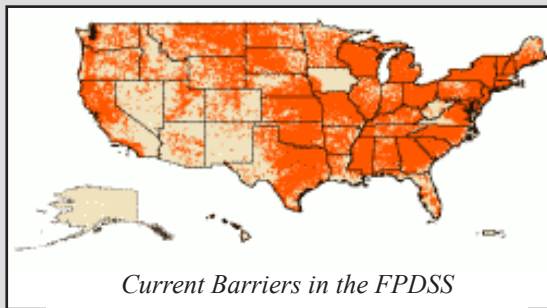
# Fish & Wildlife Conservation Offices

## *Fish Passage Decision Support System*

*The Fish Passage Decision Support System is an online application which makes information about barriers to fish passage available to policy makers and the public.*

An estimated 2.5 million dams, 70,000 of which are greater than 6 feet, exist throughout the United States. Many no longer serve their original purpose. Countless more culverts, spillways, and other artificial barriers block fish passage.

The Service's **National Fish Passage Program (NFPP)** is a voluntary, non-regulatory effort that provides financial and technical assistance to remove or



Current Barriers in the FPDSS

bypass artificial barriers that are impeding the movement of fish and contributing to their decline. To support the barrier removal process, the Service developed the Fish Passage Decision

Support System (FPDSS), an online application that contains information on barriers throughout the Nation. FPDSS is an on-line, web-based national inventory of barriers, with geo-spatial and quantitative tools, that assists resource managers with identifying critical areas, prioritizing fish passage projects, and modeling the removal of barriers, to make better decisions on the management of aquatic resources.

## Strategic Habitat Conservation and the Fish Passage Decision Support System

The Fish and Wildlife Service is using an innovative approach to resource management called Strategic Habitat Conservation (SHC). With SHC, on-the-ground conservation actions are guided by planning and design that is directly linked to the improvement of our Federal trust resources and are evaluated through monitoring and research. FPDSS, with its broad scope of capabilities, is an integral tool for implementing SHC. Here is how FPDSS helps with SHC's four basic steps:

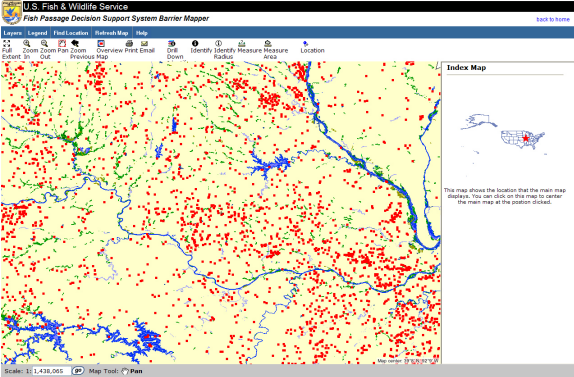
- **BIOLOGICAL PLANNING** - identifying and prioritizing fish passage projects
- **CONSERVATION DESIGN** - determining which barrier removals will best address conservation objectives
- **DELIVERY** - predicting the outcome of on-the-ground conservation and restoration actions
- **MONITORING AND RESEARCH** - monitoring and evaluating the restoration efforts



Restoration of 2,500 feet of stream channel in Mill Creek, FL for a self-sustaining population of endangered Okaloosa darters.

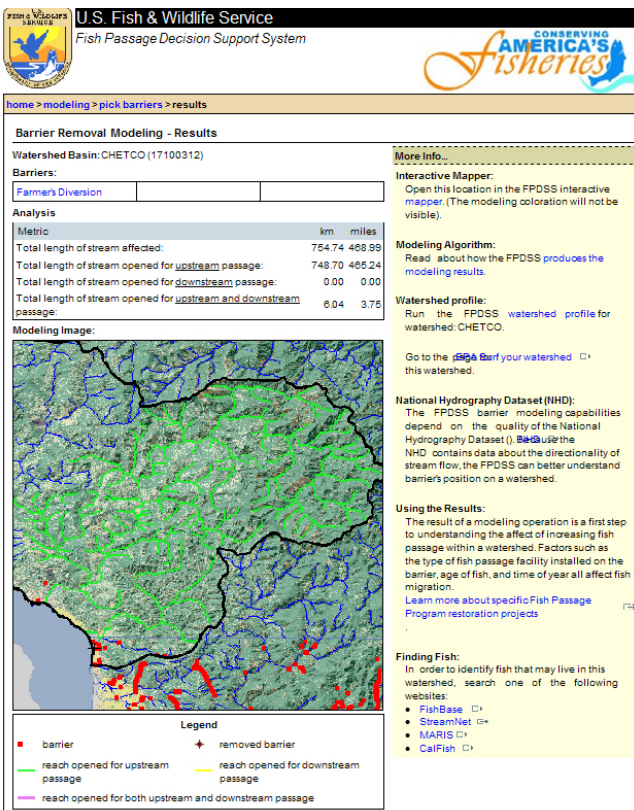
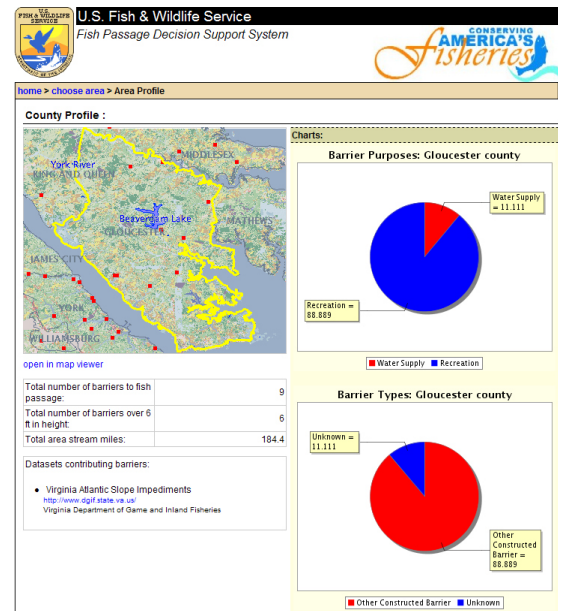
# http://fpdss.fws.gov/

*FPDSS is an expanding online database with enhanced interactive tools and links which aid FWS and our partners in making fish passage project decisions. Some featured capabilities include:*



**MAP VIEWER:** The interactive maper allows for viewing of barrier locations across the U.S. The simple viewer is a quick way to view fish passage barriers in a given location. The full viewer provides additional functionality such as the ability to turn on and off map layers and “drill down” capabilities. The mark-up tool can identify coordinates, measure distances, area, and radii. Additionally, modified maps can be exported through email. Map layers include: barriers / dams, National Wetlands Inventory, urban areas, zip codes, National Hydrologic Dataset (NHD), and Hydrological Unit Code (HUC), land use, and management areas.

**AREA PROFILE:** The area profile feature allows for searching by HUC, county, state, FWS Region, Congressional district, Army Corps of Engineers district, or Tribal lands name. The profile report includes maps of the area, barrier summary information (barrier types and uses), hydrology, and contributing datasets.



**BARRIER REMOVAL MODELING:** The barrier removal tool can simulate the removal of one or more barriers to fish passage, both upstream and downstream of the barrier. The barriers can be present within the FPDSS database or a coordinate point can be substituted if they are missing. The analysis returns total length of stream affected, upstream passage opened and downstream passage opened.

**For more information about the FPDSS, contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Fisheries Program at (703) 358-1718 or visit <http://www.fpdss.fws.gov>**

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (800) 344-WILD <http://www.fws.gov>**