

Science Support Partnership (SSP) Program

Through the Science Support Partnership (SSP) Program, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) provides the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) with critical science information to manage the nation's resources more effectively.



Program History

Since 2001, the USGS has devoted \$3.4 million annually to the SSP program that addresses the priority science needs of the FWS. Through this partnership effort, the USGS has undertaken more than 165 projects in support of FWS local, regional, and national programs such as:

- ◆ Migratory bird management
- ◆ Endangered species recovery
- ◆ Freshwater fisheries restoration
- ◆ Ecosystem-based management
- ◆ Coastal habitat conservation
- ◆ Fish and wildlife law enforcement

Though in place for only three years, the SSP Program has already provided tremendous benefits to the FWS in support of the nation's fish and wildlife resources.



Project Planning

Each year, representatives from the USGS and the FWS meet to develop annual planning guidance. Based on that guidance, FWS Research Coordinators and the USGS Wildlife Program Coordinator issue a nationwide call for proposals. Local FWS sponsors and USGS scientists collaborate in writing proposals for studies to address urgent FWS science needs.



The FWS Regions and the Washington Office review, prioritize, and recommend projects based on the funds available. The FWS Director then approves the projects and the USGS Wildlife Program Coordinator distributes funds to the USGS Science Centers and Cooperative Research Units to support the studies identified.

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