

February 25, 2009



News from the

## NATIONAL FISH HABITAT ACTION PLAN

*For and about employees of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

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### **Habitat Projects in 2009**

The Service's Fisheries Program will provide approximately \$2.5 million to support on-the-ground, cost-share projects under the Action Plan in 2009. A slate of 51 projects in 25 States has been selected by the Regions to address priorities of the six Fish Habitat Partnerships organized under the Action Plan. Service funds will be matched by more than \$4.7 million from partners. In addition, the Service will direct \$246,100 to address priorities of the Western Native Trout Initiative in the Green River Basin, Wyoming, under the DOI Healthy Lands Initiative. Funds for the projects will be allocated to the Regions after Congress enacts the 2009 appropriations, currently moving through the House of Representatives as H.R. 1105, the "Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009".

The *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* signed by President Obama on February 17 may also provide funds for Action Plan projects using a portion of the Service's \$280 million appropriation. The Regions identified a slate of projects that address priorities of Fish Habitat Partnerships while also meeting requirements of the Act to create the largest number of jobs in the shortest period of time. Final decisions are expected from Service and DOI leadership very soon. For more information, contact [Susan\\_Wells@fws.gov](mailto:Susan_Wells@fws.gov).

### **National "One-Year-Out" Workshop scheduled for June**

Many people and organizations are working in concert to implement the Action Plan, expending significant funding and effort. Approved in 2006, the Action Plan lays out several objectives that are due to be achieved in 2010:

- Conduct a condition analysis of all fish habitats within the United States by 2010.
- Identify priority fish habitats and establish Fish Habitat Partnerships targeting these habitats by 2010.
- Establish 12 or more Fish Habitat Partnerships throughout the United States by 2010.
- Prepare a "Status of Fish Habitats in the United States" report in 2010 and every five years thereafter.

A national workshop is planned to bring together people involved in the Action Plan to enhance the likelihood that the 2010 milestones will be achieved. The workshop will be an opportunity for structured and informal communication among partners working to implement the Action Plan -- to review progress, renew commitment and enthusiasm, and make necessary adjustments to achieve the 2010 milestones.

The workshop is scheduled for June 23-25, 2009 at the National Conference Center ([www.conferencecenter.com](http://www.conferencecenter.com)) near Dulles International Airport, just west of Washington DC. More information will be available soon. Service employees involved with the

Action Plan should mark their calendars now and plan to attend. For more information, contact [Tom\\_Busiahn@fws.gov](mailto:Tom_Busiahn@fws.gov).

## **“Branding” the Action Plan**

On February 10, the Action Plan logo was registered with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. At its March meeting, the National Fish Habitat Board will consider approval of “branding guidance” for grant programs, partnerships and projects to maintain quality control and protect the value and integrity of the “National Fish Habitat Action Plan” brand. The guidelines will help participants in the Action Plan align with its mission and goals and maximize their contributions. Contact Ryan Roberts [Rroberts@fishwildlife.org](mailto:Rroberts@fishwildlife.org) for more information.

## **Upcoming Events**

**National Fish Habitat Board**, March 4-5, 2009, Harrisburg, PA. Susan-Marie Stedman, [Susan.Stedman@noaa.gov](mailto:Susan.Stedman@noaa.gov), 301-713-4300 x132

**Reservoir Fisheries: Angling for New Opportunities**, a workshop at the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference, March 16, 2009, Arlington, VA. [www.wildlifemanagementinstitute.org/](http://www.wildlifemanagementinstitute.org/)

**National Casting Call**, April 26-27, Washington, DC. Ryan Roberts, [Rroberts@fishwildlife.org](mailto:Rroberts@fishwildlife.org), 301-713-4300 x171. [www.nationalcastingcall.com](http://www.nationalcastingcall.com)

**Evolution of the Western Landscape: Balancing Habitat, Land, and Water Management for Fish**, Annual Meeting of the Western Division – American Fisheries Society, May 3-7, 2009, Albuquerque, NM. Amy Unthank, [aunthank@fs.fed.us](mailto:aunthank@fs.fed.us), 505-842-3263.

**NFHAP One-Year-Out Workshop**, June 23-25, 2009, Washington DC area. Tom Busiahn, [Tom\\_Busiahn@fws.gov](mailto:Tom_Busiahn@fws.gov), 703-358-2056.

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### **For more information**

[www.fishhabitat.org](http://www.fishhabitat.org)

The place to go on the web for general information on the National Fish Habitat Action Plan

<http://www.fws.gov/fisheries/fwco/nfhap/>

A web site about the Action Plan with information tailored for FWS employees

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