

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program

*Restoring Wildlife  
Habitat on Minnesota's  
Private Lands*

Minnesota Private Lands Office  
434 Great Oak Drive  
Waite Park , MN 56387  
320/253 4682

Hearing-impaired individuals  
may reach the Private Lands Office  
through the Federal Information Relay  
Service at 1 800/877 8339

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
1 800/344 WILD  
<http://www.fws.gov>



*Minnesota prairie and wetlands,*  
B. Angus, USFWS

*Partners for Fish and Wildlife works in voluntary partnership with private landowners to restore wildlife habitat by offering technical and financial assistance.*

*“When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.”*

*Aldo Leopold*



### How the *Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program* Can Help You!

- Restores fish and wildlife habitat on your private land
- Contributes to your land's health and rural quality of life
- Utilizes flexible and efficient partnerships with local, state and federal agencies and conservation organizations
- Emphasizes the landowners' participation in decision-making
- Offers technical and financial assistance for viable habitat projects to private landowners

### Partnerships Produce Results!

The *Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program*, conducted since 1987 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, restores important fish and wildlife habitats on private lands. This program has been successfully carried out nationwide through the cooperation of landowners, who voluntarily offer drained wetlands and degraded uplands or riparian areas for restoration. With this flexible voluntary arrangement, habitats can be restored with cost-share assistance to participating landowners who agree to protect their restored wetlands and uplands for a minimum of 10 years.

The foundation of the program is partnerships. These are formed not only with private landowners, but also with other Federal and state agencies, private conservation organizations, local agencies, communities, school groups, businesses and other private individuals. These partnerships have generated significant habitat restoration accomplishments on private lands, with emphasis on wetland, streambank, riparian, and in-stream aquatic habitat restoration, and native grassland establishment.



*Butterfly milkweed*,  
USFWS



*Water control structure*,  
USFWS

#### *Wetlands*

#### **Eligible Habitats**

Ditch plugs or complete ditch fills, earthen dikes and embankments may be constructed. Sub-surface tile lines can be rerouted or removed to restore wetland hydrology. Earthen fill placed in wetland basins can be removed to restore historic wetland depths.

#### *Grasslands*

Native grass and forbs can be planted. Mowing and prescribed burns can be done to maintain the native grasses and to control invasive species. Established invasive woody vegetation can be removed by cutting and burning. Fencing and watering facilities can be installed for livestock rotational grazing systems.

#### *Riparian Corridors*

It is possible to plant buffer strips. Fences may also be installed to exclude livestock and allow streambanks to stabilize with native vegetation.

#### *Streambanks*

Streambanks may be stabilized by reshaping banks and restoring native vegetation. Streams are returned to their natural meanders, and dams may be removed to allow fish passage.



*Bobolink*,  
S. Maslowski

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q:** *Can I be a partner?*

Most of our partners are private landowners, but anyone interested in assisting with the restoration and protection of wildlife habitat on private or tribal lands can get involved in the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program. Some of our partners include Federal, State and local agencies, Tribes, private organizations, corporations, schools and others.

### **Q:** *Is my land eligible for restoration under this Program?*

Any privately-owned land is potentially eligible for restoration. "Privately-owned," for the purpose of this Program, includes any land not owned by the State or Federal government.

### **Q:** *Who does the restoration?*

Restoration projects can be accomplished in several ways:

- a) the landowner completes the restoration project according to the agreement plan and is reimbursed directly for some or all of his or her expenses, or:
- b) the Service or the landowner hires a contractor to complete the work, or:
- c) Service employees or other partnering organizations may do the on-the ground work.

### **Q:** *What is the cost share rate?*

Normally the cost share rate is 50% (the Service and the landowner each pay half of the project costs), but the percentage is flexible. Services or labor can qualify for cost-sharing.

### **Q:** *What is the landowner agreement?*

Before beginning a habitat restoration project, the Service and the landowner will sign an agreement that states the landowner must not return the project area to its former use, or damage or destroy the restoration project during the agreement period without reimbursing the Service for the funds spent on the project. Agreements are for a minimum of 10 years.



*Meeting with the landowner, USFWS*



*Reseeded prairie grass, B. Angus, USFWS*

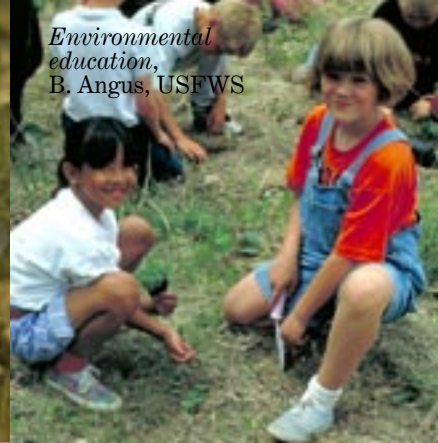
*Least Sandpiper, K. LeBlanc*



*Topeka Shiner, Garold Sneegas*



*Environmental education, B. Angus, USFWS*



*Prairie chicken, USFWS*



*Successful hunters, USFWS*



*Blue-winged teal, C. Vukonich, USFWS*

### Becoming a Partner

Landowners interested in restoring wildlife habitat on their land should contact the local U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service office listed inside the back cover of this brochure.

A private lands biologist will meet with you on your property to review for potential restoration sites. If areas on your land meet the criteria for habitat restoration, a voluntary wildlife habitat management plan is developed, explaining project goals, objectives and costs. After you approve the plan, the biologist continues to be available for advice and assistance throughout the restoration process.

Financial assistance is available. Up to 100 percent of the cost of the restoration may be obtained.



*Construction oversight, USFWS*



*Prairie smoke, B. Angus, USFWS*

### Benefits of Wildlife Habitat Restoration

- Preserve wildlife species for future generations
- Help recover threatened and endangered species
- Improve our quality of life
- Enhance recreational opportunities
- Improve water quality
- Provide flood reduction
- Recharge groundwater

Voluntary participation in this popular program allows landowners to retain all previous ownership rights and responsibilities - including the right to limit public access on their restored land. State and local agencies, conservation organizations and individuals may support Service biologists with contributions of financial and/or in-kind services, that can help offset construction costs for many projects.

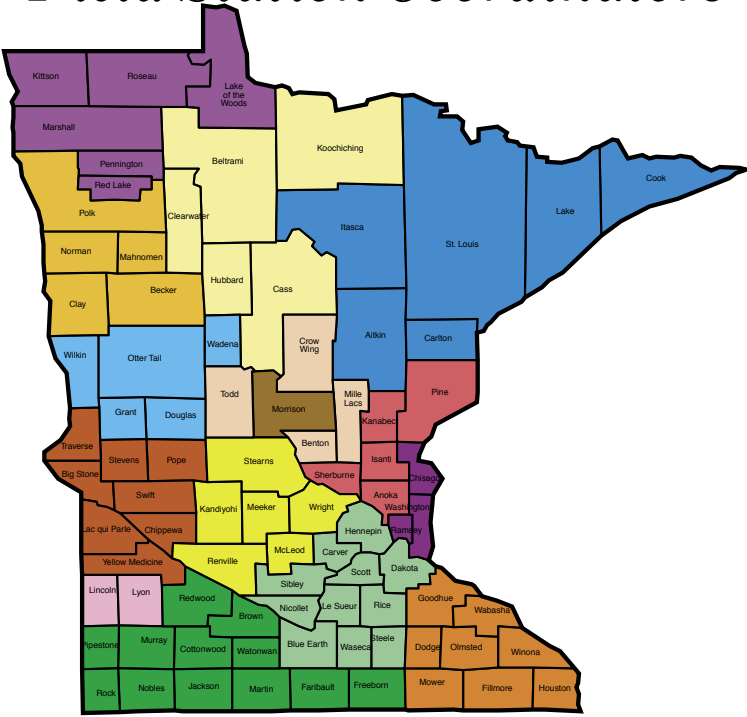



*Blue gentian, USFWS*


*Landowner retains ownership rights!*


# Partners for Fish & Wildlife


## Field Station Coordinators




 Agassiz NWR  
22996 290th Street NE  
Middle River, MN 56737-9754  
218/449-4115


 Big Stone WMD  
4483 County Road 19  
Odessa, MN 56276  
218/273-2191

 Crane Meadows NWR  
19502 Iris Road  
Little Falls, MN 56345  
320/632-1575

 Detroit Lakes WMD  
26624 North Tower Road  
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501-7959  
218/847-4431


 Fergus Falls WMD  
18965 County Highway 82  
Fergus Falls, MN 56537-7627  
218/739-2291

 Litchfield WMD  
22274 615th Avenue  
Litchfield, MN 55355  
320/693-2849

 Minnesota Valley NWR/WMD  
3815 American Boulevard East  
Bloomington, MN 55425-1600  
952/854-5900

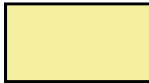
 Morris WMD  
43875 230th Street  
Morris, MN 56267  
320/589-1001


 Rice Lake NWR  
36289 State Hwy 65  
McGregor, MN 55760  
218/768-2402


 Sherburne NWR  
17076 293rd Avenue  
Zimmerman, MN 55398  
763/389-3323

 Minnesota Private Lands  
434 Great Oak Drive  
Waite Park, MN 56387  
320/253-4682

 Twin Cities Field Office  
410 East 80th Street  
Bloomington, MN 55425-1665  
612/725-3548

 Tamarac NWR  
35704 County Hwy 26  
Rochert, MN 56578-9638  
218/847-2641

 Upper Mississippi River NWR  
51 E 4th Street, Room 203  
Winona, MN 55987  
507/454-7351

 Windom WMD  
49663 County Road #17  
Windom, MN 56101-3026  
507/831-2220