



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Partners For Fish & Wildlife



Protecting, enhancing, and restoring habitat on private lands

Partners Program

The Service's Alaska Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) Program invests in partnerships and projects that protect, restore or enhance habitat for Alaska's native fish and wildlife on private lands.

Our PFW Program provides direct conservation assistance: we pay up to 50 percent of project costs and local Service biologists provide assistance ranging from informal advice on the design and location of potential projects to on-the-ground project implementation and monitoring. This level of personal attention and follow-through is a significant strength of the PFW Program that has led to national recognition and its wide use by rural landowners.

Typical Projects

The PFW Program can provide direct conservation assistance to any type of project that leads to the protection, restoration, or enhancement of habitat for native migratory birds and fish, threatened and endangered species, and marine mammals.

For example, restoring and protecting streambanks, or removing or upgrading culverts, can provide suitable spawning habitat or reconnect upstream rearing habitat for migratory fish. These projects also oftentimes solve chronic maintenance problems and enhance

property aesthetics and value. We also like to see projects that complement activities on conservation lands (e.g., National Wildlife Refuges) or help resolve habitat impacts caused by practices on adjacent lands. Priority projects include those that help address species and habitat priorities that have been identified by the Service or in collaboration with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, are sustainable over time, and are the most cost effective.

Typical partners include private land owners, Tribes, municipalities, boroughs, schools, and non-profit organizations. Landowners may also receive assistance from a wide array of other partners, including the Natural Resources Conservation Service and businesses. These partners, and the landowner, provide cash or "in kind" contributions of materials, services or labor to share the project costs.



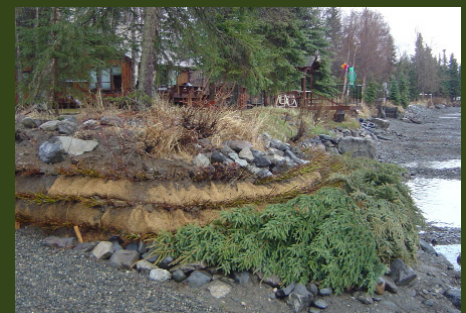
Taku Lake Park Pilot Rain Garden/stormwater demonstration project

Photo courtesy of the Municipality of Anchorage

Partners for Fish and Wildlife is a national program that was established in 1987 to promote and implement habitat improvement projects that benefit Federal Trust Species (e.g., migratory birds and fish, marine mammals, endangered species) on private lands. Introduced to Alaska in 1995, projects to date have focused on the restoration of wetland, riparian, and stream habitats. While many win-win projects have resulted in restored habitat for the fish and wildlife that make Alaska unique, there are many more habitat impacts to address and our door is always open to new landowners, including schools!



Waterfront property (before restoration).



Riprap was replaced with live willows and cabled trees that provide riparian/instream habitat for fish at high tide.

USFWS

Project Examples

The PFW Program funds a variety of different projects each year. Some of these include the creation of rain gardens in urban areas, restoration

of natural streambank and in-stream habitats that have been lost as a result of landuse practices, and creation of habitat for native fish and wildlife on or

near school properties. These projects support our mission to provide for healthy self-sustaining fish populations in Alaska.



Photo courtesy of the Municipality of Anchorage

Designed to collect and filter stormwater run off, rain gardens can improve the quality of urban stream habitat for native fish as well as decrease maintenance on municipal storm drains and improve aesthetics.



USFWS/John Hudson

With support from the Partners Program, SAGA's Alaska Service Corps planted native vegetation along Pullen Creek in Skagway, Alaska to maintain or restore bank stability and habitat for native species including salmon.



USFWS/Katrina Mueller

Schoolyard Habitats improve school grounds or nearby lands for native fish and wildlife while providing an accessible place outdoors for children to learn about and connect with nature on a daily basis.

Rain Gardens

A partnership between the Service and the Municipality of Anchorage has supported the design and construction of rain gardens in public spaces and on school, commercial, and residential properties throughout the municipality. Between 2008-2011, 55 gardens totaling approximately 8,000 square feet have been installed, with the capacity to detain over 5,200 cubic feet of stormwater runoff during a single rain event. Approximately \$37,600 in incentives have been matched with contributions by participating landowners three times over.

Improving Streambanks

Each year the PFW Program supports projects that protect or restore stream banks. Juvenile salmon require overhanging vegetation and submerged woody vegetation and native grasses that provide cover from predators and habitat for insect prey. Some streambank projects include replacing traditional riprap with natural structures (e.g., cabled spruce trees, brush layering) and installing light-penetrating gratwalks.

Schoolyard Habitats

Schoolyard Habitats can take many forms as they are designed to achieve the mission and goals of the school, the Service, and the community. Schoolyard Habitats are also dynamic – they can be planned through multiple phases, with new students building upon the existing work of past students. Schools are encouraged to engage their students in coming up with ideas for habitat features that foster learning and provide habitat for native fish and wildlife.

Questions about the Alaska Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program welcome at any time!

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