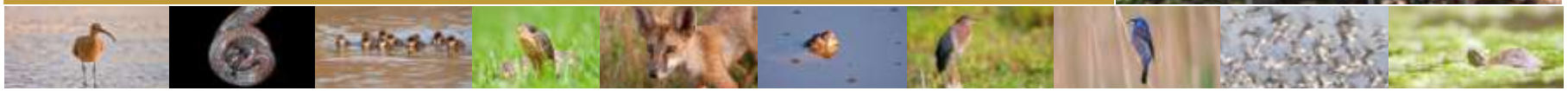
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program

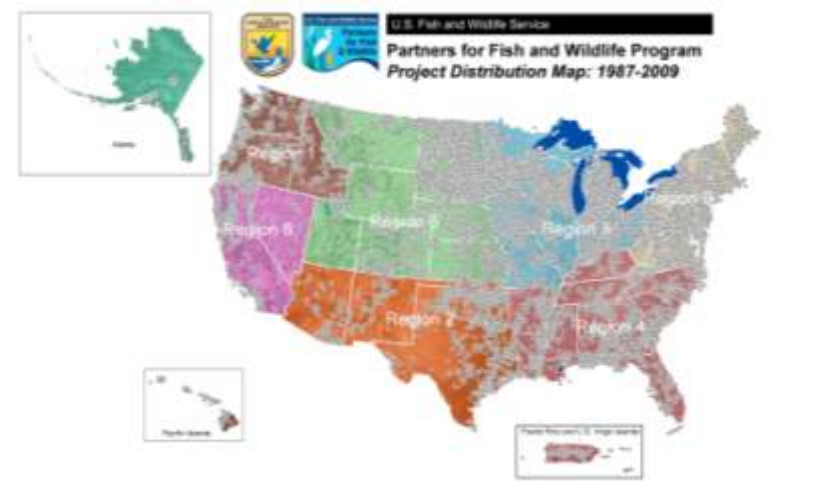
Regional Showcase Accomplishments:
Fiscal Year 2010



"Working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats"

www.fws.gov/partners

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program is one of the Service's critical conservation tools for voluntary, citizen and community based fish and wildlife habitat restoration activities on privately owned land. The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program serves as a bridge to landowners to develop individual partnerships and habitat restoration projects for the benefit of fish and wildlife species.



Our approach is simple: engage willing partners and landowners, using direct financial and technical assistance, to conserve and protect fish and wildlife values on their property.

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program has more than 250 full time staff, active in all 50 states, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and other Trust Territories. Program efforts are divided into eight distinct geographic regions, as shown above.

Working with over 44,000 private landowners from 1987-2010, the Program has successfully:

- **Restored and enhanced**
  - **-1,026,000 acres of wetlands**
  - **-3,235,000 acres of uplands**
  - **-9,200 miles of stream habitat**
- **Worked with more than 3,000 partnering organizations**

Region 1 - The Pacific Region

Bear Lake County, Idaho

Big Creek Fish Passage and Wetland Restoration

Partners:
Idaho Department of Fish & Game
Bear Lake County Commission
Geographic Focus Area:
Bear River / Bear Lake
Landscape Conservation Cooperative:
Great Northern

Photo by Utah DWR

The Bear Creek fish passage and wetland restoration project supports the endangered Bonneville cutthroat trout by restoring 80 Acres of wetlands, installing 3 fish structures and 2 additional water control structures. The project also benefits migratory bird species, increases habitat connectivity by connecting two adjacent projects and supports the goals of the local community based St. Charles Creek Working Group.

USFWS contribution:	$25,000
Partner contribution:	$131,890
Total project cost:	**$156,890**

Region 2 - The Southwest

Chaves County, New Mexico

Lesser Prairie-Chicken Upland Restoration

Partner:
Playa Lakes Joint Venture
Geographic Focus Area:
Lesser Prairie Chicken
Landscape Conservation Cooperative:
Lesser Prairie Chicken

Before Restoration

After Restoration

The project restored 2,400 acres of upland shinnery oak bunchgrass habitat by applying herbicides to control invasive mesquite on the property. Mesquite reduces the suitability of this habitat for the candidate lesser prairie chicken, other grassland dependent birds, and resident wildlife species; it also reduces livestock forage values.

USFWS/ Tony Ifland

By removing the invasive mesquite species, this project provides a movement and dispersal corridor, increasing habitat connectivity to benefit the lesser prairie chicken.

USFWS contribution:	$40,000
Partner contribution:	$28,040
Total project cost:	**$68,040**

Region 3 - Midwest Region

Pope County, Minnesota

Invasive Tree Removal Project

Partners:
Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
MN Department of Natural Resources
Geographic Focus Area:
Prairie Pothole, MN
Landscape Conservation Cooperative:
Upper Midwest and Great Lakes

Before Restoration

After Restoration

Invasive trees have spread all over western Minnesota, fragmenting our prairie landscape which can be detrimental to many species of prairie wildlife, especially ground nesting birds which become vulnerable to predation and parasitism. This project reduces habitat fragmentation by manually removing invasive Siberian Elm trees throughout a 90 acre tract of land, also enrolled in a perpetual WRP easement.

Bruce Martin

The landowner expressed particular interest in having the invasive trees used for biomass utilization, so the trees were ground into chips and hauled to a biomass facility in western Minnesota. Since completion, the project shows signs of increased bird nesting success and also contributes to local and regional plans which call for an increase in grassland bid and waterfowl nesting habitat.

USFWS contribution:	$5,500
Partner Contribution:	$42,696
Total project cost:	**$48,196**

Region 4 - The Southeast

Maricao, Puerto Rico

Elfin-Woods Warbler Forest Enhancement and Riparian Forest Buffer Project

Partners:
Envirosurvey, Inc.
Puerto Rico Department of Natural Resources
Geographic Focus Area:
Southwestern Puerto Rico

This project is implementing actions from the Elfin woods warbler Action Plan and Candidate Conservation Pilot Project Action Plan developed by the FWS Endangered Species Program and Southeast Region. The main objectives are to reduce habitat related threats on private lands and increase the population of this species to proactively prevent future species listing under the Endangered Species Act.

By planting 800 native trees in previously farmed areas, the project has improved nesting, roosting and feeding sites for the candidate Elfin woods warbler and endangered Puerto Rican Parrot, creating an ecological corridor between the farm and the Maricao Forest just 160 miles north of the property.

USFWS contribution:	$2,200
Partner contribution:	$9,255
Total project cost:	**$11,455**

Region 5 - The Northeast

Washington County, New York
Batten Kill at Eagleville

Partners:
Batten Kill Watershed Alliance of New York
Vermont Trout Unlimited
Washington County Soil and Water Conservation District
Landscape Conservation Cooperative:
Upper Midwest and Great Lakes

A number of areas along the Battenkill River had been degraded over the last two decades, causing extensive erosion, widening, and shallowing of the river eliminating the deeper, cooler channel and pools preferred by native fishes. This project restores 17 degraded sections of the river to a more ecologically productive and stable condition, with a primary focus on restoring habitat for the Eastern brook trout.

Habitat restoration techniques utilized a natural channel design and installation of rock vanes, log vanes, and large woody debris to provide a substrate for macro invertebrate production and cover for juvenile fish. This project will halt the excessive bank erosion, restore stable natural river dynamics and provide new fish habitat.

USFWS contribution:	$60,000
Partner Contribution:	$27,000
Total project cost:	**$87,000**

Region 6 - Mountain-Prairie

Sanders County, Montana

Jocko Tribal River Restoration

Partners:
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
Geographic Focus Area:
Mission Valley, Montana
Landscape Conservation Cooperative:
Great Northern

This cooperative project between the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and the US Fish and Wildlife Service entails restoring approximately 1,700 feet of the Jocko River back into its historic channel, reducing erosion, provide access to the historic floodplain and provide suitable fish habitat. The current channel has been restored back to a functioning floodplain and associated riparian area by means of reshaping and revegetation, in addition to installing approximately 1,500 feet of fencing to exclude livestock access to the project site from a neighboring livestock operation.

Photo by Joe Milmoe/USFWS

The project benefits priority species identified in the Mission Valley Strategic Plan, such as: Bull trout and other wild salmonids, Sandhill cranes, Bald eagles, Long billed curlews, and Olive sided flycatchers.

USFWS contribution:	$7,500
Partner contribution:	$101,938
Total project cost:	**$109,438**

Region 7 - Alaska

Sustina County, Alaska

Matanuska-Susitna Streambank and Lakeshore Revegetation

Partners:
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Friends of Mat Su
Matanuska Sustina Borough
Geographic Focus Area:
Coastal Matanuska Susitna Valley
Landscape Conservation Cooperative:
Northwestern Interior Forest

The Matanuska Susitna Borough provides a large land base which contains dense networks of both salmon bearing streams and roads. The Borough revegetated fish passage improvement projects using bioengineering techniques developed and encouraged for use by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and procured materials for a trampled lakeshore revegetation project that was installed by the Friends of the Mat Su.

The project restored the natural stream function and enhanced fish habitat along streambanks and lakeshores of Wasilla Creek, Wasilla Lake, Cottonwood Creek, and multiple unnamed tributaries of the Little Susitna River, all of which host interjurisdictional anadromous fish.

USFWS contribution: $3,400
Partner Contribution: $96,970
Total project cost: $100,370

Region 8 - The Pacific Southwest

Los Angeles County, California

Leo Politi Elementary Schoolyard Habitat

Partners:
Los Angeles Audubon Society
National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
Landscape Conservation Cooperative:
California

Approximately 5,000 square feet of Bermuda grass was removed and 300 locally native plants were planted at Leo Politi Elementary School in Los Angeles, California on November 7th, 2009. The grass was removed during September 2009 and about 300 people helped plant the 300 locally native plants.

The Leo Politi schoolyard habitat is used by teachers of all grade levels to compliment daily lessons. Students spend time outdoors learning about the ecology, habitats, plants, and animals through scientific inquiry, field sketching, and orienteering. Over the last year, fifth grade science test scores at Leo Politi for the California Standards Test have increased from 9% to 49%.

USFWS contribution:	$10,000
Partner contribution:	$58,865
Total project cost:	**$68,865**