

Joe Donahoe: I'm Joe Donahoe here, and I'm here with...

Jarrad Kosa: Jarrad Kosa.

Joe: And you work for...?

Jarrad: The Fisheries program in the Washington office.

Joe: And your official title?

Jarrad: I'm the branch chief for Fish and Wildlife Management. I provide national leadership to the Service's system of 65 Fisheries offices.

Joe: Great. I guess the question of the day is what's the role of the Fish and Wildlife Service in regards to the Boy Scouts of America at the 2010 National Scout Jamboree?

Jarrad: Well, the Department of the Interior, especially the Fish and Wildlife Service, have closely aligned interests with the Boy Scouts of America. It's a priority to connect American youth to nature for both the Secretary of the Interior and the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service. They're particularly interested in fostering a generation of conservation stewards, and, in particular, they want to stimulate interest in conservation careers. The BSA is the premier youth conservation movement on the planet. There is no doubt that many of our conservation leaders are going to come from the ranks of the Boy Scouts of America. The Service's Fisheries program is perfectly prepared to partner with the Boy Scouts of America at the Jamboree's Fishhook Lake, on the conservation trail, and other endeavors as well. Our Harrison Lake National Fish Hatchery provided 20,000 channel catfish. They're beautiful fish between one and six pounds. The Fish and Wildlife Service has the most comprehensive fisheries program in the world. It's not an overstatement to say that our biologists and other fisheries professionals are the best anywhere. So through instruction of fishing, fly fishing, and especially the Fish and Wildlife Management merit badge, we can show scouts the breath of fish and wildlife conservation professions. We can instill in them the importance of citizen stewardship, and maybe just maybe we can create a spark that fires up the youth to pursue a career in conservation. It really does work. Most of the Service personnel here, both current employees as well as a number of retired volunteers we've got, were scouts themselves. Several are Eagle scouts, but most importantly most of them give back their time as volunteers, as scout masters like myself, or as merit badge counselors, brother types of adult leaders.

Joe: Great. Well it's look as if the kids are having a ton of fun here. They're catching fish at that too.

Jarrad: Yes they are!

Joe: There's something right going on here, that's for sure.

Jarrad: That's right. Lots of fast action at Fishhook Lake.

Joe: Absolutely. Well, you heard it here listeners. This is the place to be. The 2010 National Scout Jamboree. I'm Joe and now you know!