



# United States Department of the Interior



## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

FWS/AF

### Memorandum

To: Project Leaders-Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Region 3  
Assistant Regional Director-Ecological Services, Region 3  
Assistant Regional Director-National Wildlife Refuge System, Region 3  
Assistant Regional Director-Migratory Birds and State Programs, Region 3

From: Assistant Regional Director-Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Region 3

Subject: Request for Project Proposals-FY 2014 Region 3 Fish Passage Program

In the Midwest Region, there are approximately 15,300 dams over 6 feet high and hundreds of thousands of other smaller barriers to fish passage, such as perched culverts and road crossings. Removing these barriers will enhance biodiversity and help restore healthy populations of aquatic species, and is a top priority of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and its partners. Please distribute the attached request for project proposals and information for fish passage project funds available through the Region 3 Fish Passage Program to appropriate staff within your program. Funds provided under this program may only be used for in-the-water activities, including fish passage engineering costs.

Small dam removals, perched culvert renovations, low water crossing improvements, rock ramp installations, stream grade control structure modifications, barrier inventories, and evaluation monitoring are examples of activities eligible for funding. If you have staff interested in submitting a project proposal, please follow the attached guidance.

- **Non-Fisheries Staff: Proposals are due by COB October 4, 2013**, to the appropriate FWCO, based on the geographic location of the project.
- **Fisheries Staff: Full proposals are due by COB October 25, 2013**, to Brian Elkington, Regional Fish Passage Coordinator, at [Brian\\_Elkington@fws.gov](mailto:Brian_Elkington@fws.gov).

Those interested in submitting a proposal who are not Fisheries staff must contact the appropriate Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO) to coordinate and develop a Fisheries Operations Needs System (FONS) entry for the project. The geographic areas of responsibility and the primary

points of contact for each FWCO are attached. Please encourage those interested to contact the appropriate FWCO as early as possible.

In FY 2014, regional fish passage projects are expected to be funded through a combination of base funded appropriations and the Administration's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). A portion of the GLRI fish passage funds may be targeted towards improving fish and wildlife habitat and their populations within watersheds of "Areas of Concern" (AOC; (<http://www.epa.gov/greatlakes/aoc/>), as a coordinated effort between the Service's Coastal, Joint Venture, and Partners for Fish and Wildlife Programs.

Thank you for your interest in the Region 3 Fish Passage Program. Removing barriers and reconnecting rivers and streams is one of the most important things we can do to restore habitat for fish and other aquatic species. If you have general questions about the proposal submission process or the fish passage program, please contact the FWCO Biologist in your geographical area (attached) or Mr. Brian Elkington, Regional Fish Passage Coordinator at (612-713-5168). More information about the Region 3 Fish Passage Program can also be found at: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/Fisheries/fish-passage-program.html>



Todd J. Turner  
Assistant Regional Director

Attachment