

America's Great Outdoors and conservation education

The National Fish Hatchery System Volunteer Act of 2006 mandated that the Fisheries Program increase awareness of the conservation work delivered at Fisheries Program facilities through incorporation of outdoor classrooms and other conservation education programs. The Fisheries Program has provided quality conservation educational opportunities at the community level for decades.

As called for in President Obama's *America's Great Outdoors Initiative*, the Fisheries Program connects with today's young generations by engaging families in conservation. Working in cooperation with volunteers, partners, and formal Friends groups, the Fisheries Program delivers a wide array of formal and informal conservation education programs both on and off

Fisheries field stations at national and community levels.

With thousands of outreach and educational events every year, the Fisheries Program reaches well over one million youth alone. Biologists and professional educators communicate conservation issues through innovative, science-based, hands on learning, incorporating programs such as *Biologist in Training*; *Kids in the Creek*; and *Salmon Fest*. Through many of our 154 facilities nationwide, people of all ages experience inspired



Biologist in Training is a top-shelf education program used by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff. Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery's Amanda Patrick talks to a student about animals collected in a nearby Kentucky stream.

moments, learning about fish, plants and bugs, and science and conservation. These educational experiences plant the seeds of stewardship that may blossom into conservation careers. ♦ Denise Wagner