

November 23, 2012

Great Plains Fish Habitat Partnership Request for
2013 Aquatic Conservation Projects

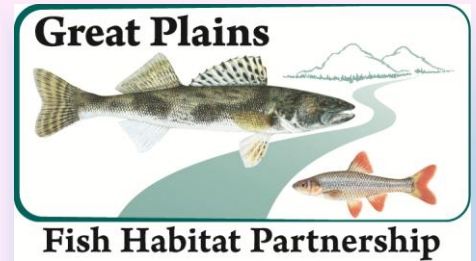
It's time again to ask for your consideration in submitting habitat project ideas for funding or support from the Great Plains Fish Habitat Partnership (GPFHP). The Great Plains FHP is one of eighteen partnerships that span the nation under the initiative of the National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP). The GPFHP area of focus; rivers, streams, riparian corridors and watershed health of the northern half of the Great Plains spans all or portions of 10 states and 28 Tribes.

This is our fourth year of supporting conservation projects and working toward meeting the goals and objectives set forth in the GPFHP Strategic Plan (prairiefish.org). While funding to date has been limited, it has still allowed the GPFHP to focus on a wide variety of projects across the landscape. We have been able to provide direct assistance to over 20 projects that ranged in size from \$1,250 to \$50,000. Collectively, we have directed just over \$300K worth of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service funding toward a wide range of aquatic conservation projects. While initial funding has been provided through the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Fisheries Program, many of the projects resulted from a wide variety of funding sources representing over \$3 million dollars of aquatic habitat conservation. This is currently one of the partnerships' greatest strengths; providing additional focus and resources for projects that align with the goals and objectives of the GPFHP.

With your input and involvement, we will continue to strive toward a more strategic and focused conservation effort to conserve aquatic corridors of the prairies for future generations. With help from the developing habitat assessments, we can have discussions that help the partners bring landscape scaled issues into manageable projects by effectively focusing conservation with greater positive impacts to targeted species.

If you have an aquatic conservation project aligned with the goals and objectives of the GPFHP and need financial assistance, we encourage you to submit a proposal.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Steven Krentz, GPFHP Coordinator, at 701-355-8547 or Steven_Krentz@fws.gov.



Partners Council

Harry Crockett
Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Henry Drewes
Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources

Jake Chaffin
Bureau of Land Management

John Lott
South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks

Keith Grabner
U.S. Geological Survey

Kerry Hartman
Ft. Berthold Community College

Katie Bertrand
South Dakota State University

Larry Gamble
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Mark Van Scoyoc
Kansas Dept. of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism

Martha Kauffman
World Wildlife Fund

Mike Cook
SWCA Environmental Consultants

Richard Holland
Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

Scott Ressler
North Dakota Stockmen's Association

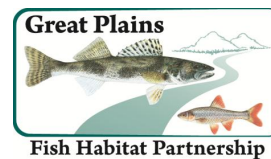
Scott Gangl
North Dakota Game and Fish Dept.

Andrew Morin Sr.
Spirit Lake Nation's Fish & Wildlife Dept.

Steven Krentz
Great Plains FHP Coordinator

Great Plains Fish Habitat Partnership

Project Application Instructions



Eligible Applicants: Eligible applicants include state and federal management agencies, non-governmental organizations (e.g. conservation groups, community associations, watershed councils, cooperatives, civic groups), municipalities, universities, schools, private landowners, and local and tribal governments.

Eligible Projects: Projects considered for funding must align with the goals and objectives of the GPFHP and may include watershed, riparian or in-stream habitat restoration, barrier removal or construction, population or watershed assessments needed for project evaluation, prioritization and planning, evaluating stream flows or lake water levels, and community outreach and education.

Project Duration: GPFHP funds projects that can be completed within 18-24 months of receipt of funding. In some cases GPFHP will consider funding phases or components of larger, long-term projects, as long as funds can be expended, objectives met, and benefits realized within the requisite 24-month period. Multiple year requests are beyond the limitations that we will entertain at this time.

Available Funding: GPFHP allocates approximately \$90,000 among 5 – 8 individual projects annually. However, the exact amount of funding available to the partnership varies, annually, and is currently unknown for fiscal year 2013 and beyond.

Match Required: Successful proposals should demonstrate close to a minimum 1:1 match, which may include cash, time, materials, or other services. In addition, there are additional funding sources for fish passage projects that can be utilized through our prioritization process to help direct conservation funding.

The deadline to submit a GPFHP project under the 2013 NFHP funding cycle is December 21, 2012. In order to help applicants put forward the best possible projects for consideration by the Partners Council, GPFHP has a set of criteria by which projects are evaluated for funding. Applicants should address these criteria in their project applications. Please review the attached materials for project selection criteria and application instructions. All projects will need to be input into the Fish and Wildlife Service Fisheries Information System to be considered for funding. Staff from each of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices within the GPFHP geography, can assist with the development of projects, implementation, and ensuring projects are input into the database system.

The application package should contain the following four items:

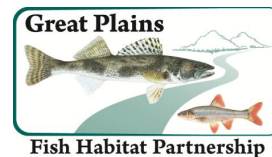
Cover Letter - Include in your cover letter a brief narrative describing the overarching project goals and anticipated outcomes; why GPFHP funds are needed; how GPFHP funds will be spent; and how this project addresses GPFHP and NFHP funding priorities.

Completed Project Application

Detailed Project Budget – Indicate how project funds will be spent in detail

Attachments – A letter of support from the State Fish and Wildlife Agency is required. Other letters of support, designs, planning documents, permits, articles, scientific studies, etc. are optional but encouraged.

Great Plains Fish Habitat Partnership Project Application Instructions



Submission Instructions

- Please combine all documents and attachments into a single pdf file. Number each page.
- File names should include the submission date followed by the organization name (Example "071512 Prairie Stream Project")
- Submit electronically as an email attachment to Steven_Krentz@fws.gov.
- Please note, proposals should not exceed 10 pages, not including attachments such as photos, maps, letters of support, etc.

Please note, the Great Plains Fish Habitat Partnership will not consider:

1. Late requests.
2. Requests for projects or programs already completed.
3. Refunding projects, programs or items purchased before the project is approved or awarded.
4. Participating in or funding of any political campaign on behalf of any issues, organizations or candidates.

Deadline

- Applications are due on December 21, 2012
- Applications must be received by 5:00 pm Central Standard Time.

The GPFHP Partners Council will review and rank projects in December, 2012, and successful applicants will be notified in within 30 days of concurrence of project selection by the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service. Successful applications will be reviewed by the National Fish Habitat Board and the US Fish and Wildlife Service for final funding approval in the Spring of 2013. Questions? Please contact Steven Krentz, GPFHP Coordinator, at Steven_Krentz@fws.gov.

Great Plains Fish Habitat Partnership Project Selection Guidelines, Evaluation Criteria and Process



The GPFHP Partners Council will review and evaluate proposals based on the criteria listed below and will also consider project rankings from species conservation teams and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regional managers. A list of the projects that are selected for funding will be submitted to the National Fish Habitat Partnership Board and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for final approval. Funds typically become available during early to mid-summer following grant approval.

In order to help project proponents put forward the best possible proposals, GPFHP has provided below a set of criteria and considerations by which projects are evaluated for funding. Project proponents must address these requirements, guidelines, and criteria in their project applications.

Requirements

1. Project must be consistent with specific GPFHP goals and objectives as outlined in the GPFHP Strategic Plan (available for download at <http://www.prairiefish.org>).
2. Project must benefit at least one of the GPFHP native species in its historic range.
3. Project proposals must be supported by state and/or federal fish and wildlife management agencies, or tribal governments, within project-area jurisdictions. Project application must include a signature and contact information for a 'sponsoring professional' from a relevant management agency.
4. If project is located on private land, a support letter from the landowner will be required.

General Criteria and Considerations

- Is the project proposal well-written and complete; does it provide sufficient information on methodology and monitoring to evaluate the project?
- Does the project address more than one of the goals or objectives listed above and in the GPFHP Strategic Plan, or a priority need or limiting factor in a species conservation, management or recovery plan? If so, please reference and explain.
- Does the project protect or restore a natural process, and/or address a root cause of decline or habitat degradation? Is the project self-sustaining over time, or will it require periodic/regular maintenance? Please describe.

- Does the application establish that the project is technically sound and supported by the best available science, and are the project objectives realistic, measurable, and achievable?
- Does the project convey a large conservation benefit to a GPFHP priority species? If so, how? (Examples: project benefits a broad geographic area; project benefits a small geographic area with extremely high value). Does the project benefit multiple GPFHP or non-GPFHP species?
- Is the project part of a larger restoration effort? If so, describe the overall plan.
- Does the project have a high probability of being completed within the proposed project timeline?
- What % of total project funding is needed from GPFHP funding sources? Is the match clearly identified and secured?
- Is the project budget clearly described and reasonable? Is the benefit high relative to cost?
- Does the project enhance or relate to a previously funded GPFHP or NFHP project?
- Are project outcomes quantifiable; is there a clear explanation of how success will be measured and reported (e.g. stream miles, acres of habitat protected or restored, fish population trends)?
- Are there adequate assurances that the project will be monitored and the benefits maintained over the long term? Are there provisions for operation and maintenance?

Administrative Considerations

- Have required state and federal permits been acquired (i.e. NEPA, 404, SHPO)? Projects with completed environmental compliance will score higher in the ranking criteria.
- Who are the various partners that will participate in the administration and implementation of the project? Is the partner list diverse? Does the partner list include other NFHAP-recognized Fish Habitat Partnerships?
- Does the Application provide adequate information to assess whether the applicant or implementing partners have the experience and capacity to successfully achieve the goals and objectives as described in the proposal?
- Does the project include an outreach and/or education component? (Applicants are encouraged to work with the GPFHP Partners Council to coordinate media and public outreach to raise the profile of GPFHP-funded projects).
- Are the responsible parties for reporting requirements and the successful completion of this proposal clearly identified? Who is a point of contact should the Committee have questions regarding this project?



**USFWS Regions 3 & 6 Primary Contacts for submitting and coordinating projects
for Great Plains Fish Habitat Partnership**

State	Office	Projects Manager	Phone/Fax/Cell	Address
Colorado	Colorado FWCO	Pamela J. Sponholtz Pamela_Sponholtz@fws.gov	O: 303-236-4255 F: 303-236-4005	134 Union Blvd Suite 675 Lakewood, CO 80228
Wyoming	Lander FWCO	Dave Skates David_Skates@fws.gov	O: 307-332-2159 F: 307-332-9857	170 North 1 st Street Lander, WY 82520-2836
Montana	Montana FWCO	George Jordan George_Jordan@fws.gov	O: 406-247-7365 F: 406-247-7357	James Federal Bldg 2900 4 th Ave North Rm 301 Billings, MT 59101
Missouri Iowa	Columbia FWCO	Jeff Finley Jeff_Finley@fws.gov	O: 573-234-2132 x 171 F: 573-234-2182	101 Park DeVille Drive Suite A Columbia, MO 65203
South Dakota Nebraska Kansas	Great Plains FWCO	Robert Klumb Robert_Klumb@fws.gov	O: 605-224-8693 x 226 F: 605-224-9974	420 South Garfield Ave. Suite 400 Pierre, South Dakota 57501
Minnesota	La Crosse FWCO	Louise Mauldin Louise_Mauldin@fws.gov	O: 608-783-8407 F: 608-783-8450	555 Lester Avenue Onalaska, WI 54650
North Dakota	Missouri River FWCO	Steven Krentz Steven_Krentz@fws.gov	O: 701-250-4419 F: 701-355-8550	3425 Miriam Ave. Bismarck, ND 58501
	Mountain Prairie NFHP Regional Coordinator	Scott Roth Scott_Roth@fws.gov	O: 303-236-4219 F: 303-236-8163	134 Union Blvd Suite 665 Lakewood, CO 80228
	Midwest NFHP Regional Coordinator	Maureen Gallagher Maureen_Gallagher@fws.gov	O: 660-562-1008 F: 660-562-1055	NWMSU Dept Geology/Geography 800 University Dr Maryville, MO 64468