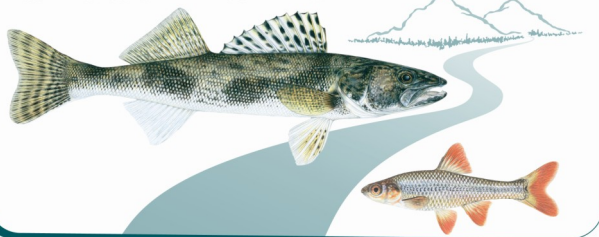


## Great Plains



## Fish Habitat Partnership

# Conservation PROJECT UPDATE

The Great Plains Fish Habitat Partnership is focusing efforts on conservation of the rivers and streams of the Great Plains. These “arteries” of the grasslands are a diverse mix of habitats, important to not only the aquatic species, but also the birds, mammals and people of the region. These river habitats range in size from the mighty Yellowstone River in eastern Montana and western North Dakota to the headwater streams like Horse Creek in Missouri. This complexity of habitat is only recently being recognized for their importance to not only downstream habitats, but also their role in connectivity for a variety of species from topeka shiner to brassy minnow to the sauger. Hundreds of species utilize these habitat and they are facing more threats due to habitat changes than in other point in history.

Too many times, these habitats are ignored due to the small size or they’re remote locations. Many of the streams of the Great Plains run through a vast jigsaw of private, tribal, government ownership where they’ve been held in trust for generations.

This update will begin to highlight these water’s values and bring to light the variety of species that rely on these habitats and the efforts being undertaken to conserve these important habitats.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- By working together and pooling resources, more conservation can be accomplished than by one agency alone.
- Habitat conservation is an investment toward the next generation.
- A viable, intact habitat provides both intrinsic and recreational values important to the local landscape.
- Using a strategic approach to habitat conservation will provide a focused effort that can increase success in conserving aquatic habitats into the future.
- Partnerships are the best way that positive landscape scale changes to these habitat will be successful.
- Respect and understanding of agencies differing priorities is critical to finding commonality.

JULY, 2011

### The Mission:

**“Work Together to Protect, Conserve, and Restore Aquatic Resources of Rivers and Streams throughout the Prairies of the Central U.S.”**

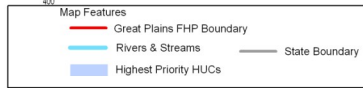
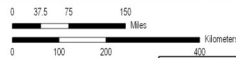


U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
**Great Plains Fish Habitat Partnership**  
 Priority HUCs

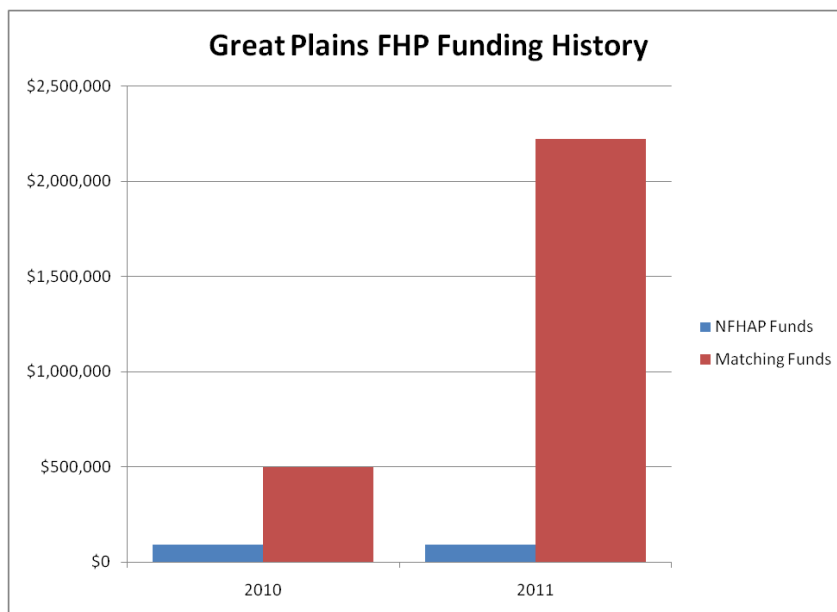
*Hydrologic Units*



PRODUCED BY USFWS  
 BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA  
 MAP DATE: 12/06/2010  
 FILE: PARTNERSHIP.MXD



## Great Plains FHP Projects Funding History through 2011



## **2010 Great Plains FHP Conservation Highlights**

### **Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks**

#### **Yellowstone River Channel Migration Program**

This project was staged to move fairly rapidly and willing landowners were on board and lining up; until the final details of the reimbursement was finally decided. In finalizing details of the program, a cap of 15% of the land value was used for the cost of these easements and the feedback was less than negative. While riverbank owners were willing to put easements on the property to accommodate for the natural migration and sloughing of the shoreline, this amount was inadequate to make it worthwhile. While the program is still in place and ready to move forward, until negotiations resolve the cost of reimbursement to make it acceptable to landowners, delays will continue in the short term. No funds have been expended on this project.

Contact: Jim Darling, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

### **Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians**

#### **Ox Creek Eutrophication Reduction**

This project was staged to begin in the spring of 2011, however, due to flooding and high runoff, plans have been delayed until later this summer. The Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa's Natural Resource Department is planning on finalizing the project this summer. This project will utilize bio-remediation to reduce nutrient inflow and improve water quality for the Ox Creek which runs through the community of Belcourt, North Dakota.

Contact: Kade Ferris, Director, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Natural Resource Department

### **Sheridan County Conservation District (SCCD)**

#### **Streambank Revegetation Project**

SCCD assembled a waterjet stinger to improve planting efficiency and survivability of dormant cuttings of willow, dogwood, and other species on six projects (seven sites) on the Upper Tongue River Watershed and the Clear Creek Watershed. There were three projects on the Tongue River, one on Big Goose Creek, one on Piney Creek, and two sites on the North Tongue River in the Bighorn National Forest in partnership with Trout Unlimited and the US Forest Service. Each site included treatment of approximately 4500 square feet of dense plantings. Although the treatment areas are small, the benefits include improved habitat in riparian corridors, bank stability, and water quality.

Contact: Carrie Rogaczewski, District Manager, Sheridan County Conservation District, Wyoming

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## **Wyoming Game and Fish Department**

### **Bolton Creek Riparian Restoration**

The primary goal of this project is to provide watershed restoration in the Bolton Creek by restoring cottonwood, willow and riparian vegetation communities. The objectives include restoring connectivity between Bolton Creek and its floodplain, attenuate sediment and flood energy, reduce bank erosion and vertical channel adjustment, reduce fine sediment inputs into the Platte River, and raise water table allowing for expansion of riparian vegetation. As of December 2010, they had aurally deposited 82,000 pounds of aspen trees into existing beaver dam complexes. This was accomplished using 20 hours of helicopter flight time over a one week period. Field observations showed beaver have used the deposited trees.

Contact: Keith Schoup, Wyoming Game and Fish Department

## **Bureau of Land Management**

### **MT/ND Habitat Inventory Project**

Staff from the BLM, inventoried fish and their habitats in order to prioritize areas for habitat conservation. The primary emphasis was to improve connectivity and identify dispersal and migration barriers. A total of 66 sites were surveyed in 2010 with 10 sites being identified and prioritized for restoration potential. The primary habitat issue was culverts in disrepair at road crossings and will be the primary emphasis in 2012 for restoration work.

Contact: Jake Chaffin, Bureau of Land Management, Miles City Field Office

## **Colorado Division of Wildlife / Colorado State University**

### **Improving Fish Passage Structures for Great Plains Fishes**

- This project is working to evaluate the effectiveness of existing fish passage structures that have been implemented. The work will assess the ability of native plains fishes to negotiate the barriers under various conditions. The primary objectives are:
  - Determine the maximum height of drop-structure that state-listed brassy minnow, common shiner, and Arkansas darter can successfully negotiate.
  - Determine the design parameters (critical water velocity) for fish passage structures and pool and weir characteristics (pool depth, waterfall height) to permit passage by these three species, based on their swimming and jumping performance.
  - Investigate the movement of native eastern plains fishes past existing stream barriers and evaluate potential impacts to listed fish species.

Contact: Dr. Christopher A. Myrick, Colorado State University

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## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

### Riparian Habitat Restoration along the Little Missouri River

This project involves working with willing landowners in southwest, North Dakota to fence cattle off of approximately one mile of the Little Missouri River. The project will create a buffer zone that is designed to improve overall water quality and fish species diversity, as well as restoring woody vegetation within the buffer strip corridor. Plans also include providing an alternative water source for livestock purposes. Efforts are currently underway to pool other funding sources to provide exclusion fencing to protect and enhance additional acres of riparian habitat and miles of streambank.

Contact: Wade King, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Missouri River FWCO

#### 2012 PROJECT REQUEST

It's time to think about submitting project proposals for consideration of Fish & Wildlife Service funds related to aquatic habitat conservation. The Great Plains Fish Habitat Partnership is focused on river and stream projects that protect, restore or enhance these aquatic habitats. While there not a significant amount of funding, these funds are helpful if you've got an existing project and need that little bit extra to make it work.

If you plan on submitting a project for 2012 funding, please contact the person listed on the back page for your area to get the project entered into the database. Looks like we'll have about the same amount as last year with about \$90K available for projects. Deadline for entering into the database will be November 1st, so contact your person early. As always, feel free to call Steve if you have any questions at 701-355-8547 or email at [Steven\\_Krentz@fws.gov](mailto:Steven_Krentz@fws.gov).



Bolton Creek Before



After

Photos by Keith Schoup, Wyoming G&F Department



Waterjet Stinger in operation during stream bank re-vegetation. Photo supplied by Carrie Rogaczewski, SCCD

Cuttings and operation on Big Goose Creek (Project 4) Photo supplied by Carrie Rogaczewski, SCCD



A culvert contributing to erosion in William Coulee, tributary to the Musselshell near Fort Peck Reservoir identified during BLM habitat inventory. Photo supplied by Jake Chaffin, BLM



Stinger operation on North Tongue (Project 6, site 2). Photo supplied by Carrie Rogaczewski, SCCD

## Great Plains FHP Projects Identified for 2011

Thirteen projects were submitted for consideration and reviewed and ranked by this Partnership to receive additional funds from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for 2011.

The following is a brief synopsis of the top ranked projects that were funded for 2011.

- **Modifying Farm Creek grade control weirs (Mills County Iowa) for flathead chub fish passage**

Fish passage in Farm Creek has been seriously impacted by water control weirs. Modifying these weirs to 1:15 (rise-run) structures will allow fish to pass as shown by studies completed by Iowa DNR and Iowa State University

Contact: Jeff Finley, Columbia FWCO, USFWS, 573-234-2132.

- **Christine and Hickson Dam Modifications, Red River Minnesota**

Provide fish passage at Christine and Hickson dams in the upper Red River system at Fargo, ND. Modifications will improve flow regime and connectivity to seasonal habitats preferred by lake sturgeon, walleye and other native fish species in the Red River system.

Contact: Louise Mauldin, LaCrosse FWCO, USFWS 608-783-8407.

- **Bighorn River Side Channel Restoration Project**

The project will remove invasive plant species and sediment deposits that have resulted in the disappearance of the side channels of the Bighorn River. This will re-establish fish habitat, angling opportunities, and preserve the local angler based economy. Both Picture and Kline's channel will be enhanced to restore aquatic habitat.

Contact: Dennis Fischer 406-666-9175 or Mike Ruggles, MTFWP, 406-247-2963.

- **Certified Culvert Installers Workshop - Kansas University (KU) Highway Center**

This project will provide private contractors, and State, County and local Government Agencies with training in culvert installation philosophy and protocols that ensure new road crossings (e.g. culverts) will be designed and installed to standards that will maintain fish passage through the structure.

Contact: Wayne Stancill, USFWS, 605-224-8693.

- **NFHAP: Stony Point and Shelton Prairies Stream Protection (MO)**

The Objective of this project is to exclude cattle access to two prairie streams; located on two different Missouri Dept. of Conservation owned prairies, Stony Point and Shelton by constructing permanent fence. This would allow for continued grassland bird management through the use of grazing, while providing much needed stream protection.

Contact: Jeff Finley, Columbia FWCO, USFWS, 573-234-2132.

- **Removal of Cavalier City Dam from Tongue River in North Dakota**

The primary objective will be to remove the structure located in Cavalier, North Dakota on the Tongue River and restore the riparian habitat to a condition that encourages recreation uses while improving water quality.

Contact: David Nyhus, North Dakota State Water Commission, 701-328-2750.



**Primary Contacts for submitting projects for Great Plains Fish Habitat Partnership**

State	Office	Projects Manager	Phone/Fax/Cell	Address
Colorado	Colorado FWCO	Bruce Rosenlund Bruce_Rosenlund@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 <sup>st</sup> Street Lander, WY 82520-2836
Montana	Montana Tribal FWCO	Ron Skates Ron_Skates@fws.gov	O: 406-585-9010 F: 406-586-6798	4052 Bridger Canyon Road Bozeman, MT 59715
Montana	Northern Rockies FWCO	George Jordan George_Jordan@fws.gov	O: 406-247-7365 F: 406-247-7364	James Federal Bldg Rm 301 2900 4 <sup>th</sup> Ave North 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 NFHAP Regional Coordinator	Scott Roth Scott_Roth@fws.gov	O: 303-236-4219 F:303-236-8163	134 Union Blvd Suite 665 Lakewood, CO 80228



NATIONAL  
**FISH HABITAT**  
ACTION PLAN



**Attention**

**2012 PROJECT REQUEST**

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