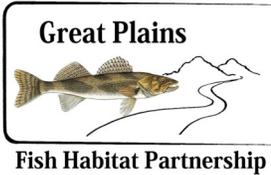


GREAT PLAINS FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP "CONSERVATION NEWS"

Mission Statement: "Work Together to Protect, Conserve, and Restore Aquatic Resources of Rivers and Streams throughout the Prairies of the Central U.S."



Special points of interest:

- The rate of new dams being built world-wide has decreased from around a 1,000 a year during the 1950's to about 260 in the early 1990's.
- There are an estimated 75,000 dams in the United States blocking 600,000 miles of river or about 17% of the rivers.
- The Missouri River is the longest river in the United States at 2,500 miles in length.

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Coordinator's Update

Like any worthwhile endeavor; hard work, perseverance, timing, lots of support, and LUCK all play a role in helping a project come together. Prior and since our Partnership was recognized and accepted by the National Board, many folk's have made special efforts to make this work and keep the momentum going.

One of our first tasks as an FHP was to identify conservation projects that could be implemented this year. I solicited project proposals and received an outstanding suite of great candidates. While we didn't have enough funding to do them all, I believe the Partners Council selected a set of projects that will highlight to the nation what we hope to accomplish; conserve river and stream habitats on the prairies. On that note, in order to select the projects, we needed a Partners Council representing the various agencies, Tribes, and organizations that make up the Partnership. We initially have 17 members on the Council who can help steer us into the first steps (page 4) of implementation. I look forward to their continued involvement and utilizing their experience to help build a Partnership that successfully implements the intent of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan while meeting many of

the goals organizations involved with the FHP have for themselves.

One other assignment we took on this spring was ensuring that aquatic habitat conservation was integrated into the development of the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCC's). The primary LCC's that involve this Partnership were the Plains and Prairie Pothole and the Great Plains LCC's. Through these efforts, there is funding going toward the Partnership's habitat assessment that will ultimately also help with information and science needs for the LCC. Through the Plains and Prairie Pothole LCC, funding was provided to begin developing a GIS-based habitat assessment that we can use to strategize and focus conservation efforts. I believe this tool will benefit all the agencies involved, but primarily it will help focus conservation attention on those habitats in most need of our efforts for conservation. We are still looking for persons interested in the Science and Assessment Team to pull together relevant information and consolidate the material in a format we can use and continue to build upon.

Check out the website for information related to the 2011 Project Proposals under the Project Page. September 30

Great Plains Prairie NFP receives PARTNERSHIP status

The National Fish Habitat Board reviewed the latest round of applications last October and accepted the Great Plains FHP's application and approved it unanimously, and if I might say, in record time. The process required a significant amount of time from a number of individuals on the GPFHP Writing Team, as well as others. However, many thanks go to the primary authors: Aaron Larsen, ND Dept of Health; Dave Zafft, WY

Game and Fish; Patrick Isakson, ND Game and Fish Dept; Ron Koth, SD Game, Fish & Parks; Rob Klumb, USFWS; Scott Gangl, ND Game and Fish Dept; and Steven Krentz, USFWS. What this has done, besides giving our Partnership recognition at the national level, is also gave us access to Fish and Wildlife Service funding for conservation projects. For this year and due to the number of partnerships, the Great Plains FHP received

a total of \$90K dollars to put toward projects. The next round of proposals is due Sept. 30th with selections later this fall, so keep thinking about opportunities for future conservation projects. However, now is not the time to sit on our laurels, lots of work still needs to be done; and I know with the talent, knowledge, and passion we have from our members, we can accomplish whatever we set out to do.



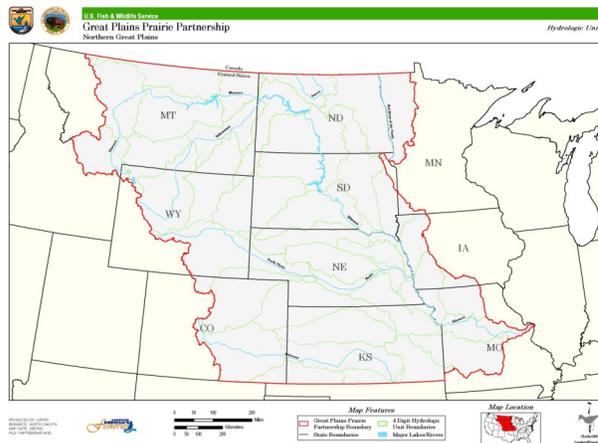
Seining is popular activity for assessments of streams. It's also a great group activity.

Interest increases as awareness spreads

As word spreads on the progress of the National Fish Habitat Plan and the efforts underway for the prairie fish, more individuals and agencies are expressing an interest in the efforts we're undertaking. Remember, the best way for anyone or additional agencies to become involved is through each of you. You are the ambassadors for the aquatic resources of the Great Plains and the best way for others to hear about the importance of the prairie streams and their residents, as well as these efforts, is from you. I'm certain that the people and communities in your area want to hear about where they can help. Using the Strategic Plan's goals and objectives, we'll be able to articulate this message and help others understand what this Partnership hopes to accomplish.

"Don't miss out on the opportunity to be a part of the building process of this aquatic habitat partnership."

We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.
~Native American Proverb



This map depicts the general outline of the boundary of the Great Plains Fish Habitat Partnership where we are focusing on the warm and cool water habitats of the rivers and streams of the prairies. All or portions of three major watersheds would be included in this effort; Souris-Red-Rainy, Missouri, and the Arkansas-White-Red.



A prairie with its stream habitat, each of them are a unique compliment to each other.

Great Plains Prairie FHP website?

I would like to have people start thinking about ideas for improving our website in order for it to be valuable part of an outreach effort. What would be helpful to you? Given the scope of this partnership and the variety of habitat restoration efforts that could be undertaken, it is logical that we'll want a mechanism to show the successes as well as the progress of the Partnership.

An earlier query showed that most respondents preferred a simple and easy URL to remember. Therefore, please book-

mark:

www.prairiefish.org.

In addition, there is a file transfer protocol (FTP) site that allows me the ability of sharing larger files with the rest of the partnership and avoid having to send large files through email. That can be accessed by anyone for downloading at:

http://www.fws.gov/filedownloads/ftp_prairiefish

This also has the ability to keep reports pertinent to the Partnership handy for all to access.

Some potential starting points I've included are:

Links to NFHAP Home Page, Partnership agencies, important documents, maps, referenced resources, potential projects, feedback or input from public on potential projects, etc.

If you're interested in helping provide input into the development of materials for the website or even if you have ideas that need to be included, please contact me at:

steven_krentz@fws.gov or 701-355-8547.

Great Plains FHP Projects Identified for 2010

Six projects were selected by this Partnership to receive additional funds from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service). An additional project will also be implemented by the Service that aligns with the goals and objectives of the Great Plains Fish Habitat Partnership.

As an initial effort, this did shed light on ways to improve the entire process from call for projects to the selection process. In order to facilitate the allocation of funds, we have been working with the North Dakota Natural Resource Trust to assist with the financial responsibility. Due to short time frames and complexity of moving funds to a variety of partners, we will have the capability to move funds to recipients with minimal effort. In addition, while we'll likely receive more projects proposals than we have ability to fund, our intention is to highlight all the projects and hopefully facilitate promoting all the submissions for other possible funding sources or increasing partner participation.

The following is a brief synopsis of each of the projects selected in 2010 to outline the main contact and what the project hopes to achieve.

- **Yellowstone River Channel Migration Easement**

Contact: Jim Darling, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, 406-444-5334.

Begin a program to assist private landowners for areas that experience lateral migration of the channel. This alternative will help reduce the number of miles of shoreline that would be

armored to prevent erosion. These funds will be used to conduct the work necessary prior to acquisition of an easement.

- **Ox Creek Eutrophication Reduction**

Contact: Kade Ferris, Turtle Mtn. Band of Chippewa Indians, 701-477-2640.

Due to a high inflow of nutrients into Belcourt Lake, the outflow, Ox Creek, is nutrient rich and impaired. This stream and the source water will be treated using bioremediation techniques similar to the bacteria used in septic systems.

- **Sheridan County Conservation District Waterjet Stinger**

Contact: Carrie Rogaczewski, Sheridan County Conservation District, 307-672-5820 .

Modified riparian corridor habitats along the Tongue River will be restored through the planting of native community woody plants.

- **Bolton Creek Riparian Restoration**

Contact: Keith Schoup, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, 307-473-3424.

The riparian corridor will be reconnected to encourage normal processes and reduce erosion. In addition, existing culverts will be replaced to discourage the downcutting currently taking place.

- **MT/ND/SD Habitat Inventory and Conservation**

Contact: Jake Chaffin, Bureau of Land Management, 406-233-2815.

This project will inventory fishes and their associated habitats to

identify areas that need to receive additional attention for restoration. The primary emphasis will be to improve connectivity and identify dispersal and migration barriers.

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

Contact: Matthew Kondratieff, Colorado Division of Wildlife, 970-472-4316.

The project will evaluate the effectiveness of two fishways that were installed at water diversion sites on the St. Vrain watershed. The anticipated results will assist in other fishways that are being considered.

- **Riparian Habitat Restoration along the Little Missouri River**

Contact: Wade King, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, 701-355-8546.

This project will assist private landowners with protection or enhancement of the riparian corridor of the Little Missouri River. This will be mainly by excluding intensive livestock use from the shoreline of the river and riparian habitats.

2011 Project Proposals are due soon.

Project proposals are due for 2011 on September 30th. If you need additional time or guidance, give Steven Krentz a call at 701-355-8547 or email at

Steven_Krentz@fws.gov.



Little Missouri River in North Dakota. USFWS

We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect. ~Aldo Leopold, A Sand County Almanac



Heart River in South Central North Dakota. USFWS



Partners Council Representatives

Mission Statement: "Work Together to Protect, Conserve, and Restore Aquatic Resources of Rivers and Streams throughout the Prairies of the Central U.S."

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We're on the Web:

www.prairiefish.org

Partner Type	Name	Organization
Tribe	Andrew Morin	Spirit Lake Tribe
Federal	Keith Grabner	US Geological Survey CERC
State	Harry Crockett	Colorado Division of Wildlife
State	Henry Drewes	Minnesota Dept Natural Resources
State	John Lott	South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks
Tribe	Kade Ferris	Turtle Mountain Chippewa
Academic	Katie Bertrand	South Dakota State Univ.
Academic	Kerry Hartman	Fort Berthold Community College
Federal	Larry Gamble	US Fish & Wildlife Service
Federal	Mark Gorges	Bureau of Land Management
State	Mark Van Scoyoc	Kansas Dept. of Wildlife and Parks
Private	Mike Cook	SWCA Environmental Consultant
State	Richard Holland	Nebraska Game and Parks Comm.
State	Scott Gangl	North Dakota Game and Fish Dept.
NGO	Scott Ressler	North Dakota Stockmen's Association
NGO	Steve Forrest	World Wildlife Fund
USFWS	Joanne Grady	USFWS Region 3 Liaison

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service—Mountain Prairie Region Selects New Coordinator

Region 6 of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has selected Scott Roth to fill the duties as Regional Coordinator for the National Fish Habitat Action Plan and Fish Passage Program. Scott will provide a communication link and coordination between the Fish Habitat Partnerships that overlap within the Service's Mountain-Prairie Region. Besides the Great Plains FHP, these include the Western Native Trout Initiative (WNTI), the Desert Fish FHP, and the Reservoirs FHP. Part of Scott's responsibilities will be to act as a conduit between each of the FHP's efforts and share information important to each partnership. He will also act as representative for the Service's Washington and Regional Off

ice staffs to communicate policies, timelines and funding information to the partnerships. Scott is originally from Iowa and still calls Iowa home. He moved west to pursue his career and brings a 20-year background as a fishery management field biologist. Previous capacities included hatchery and management positions with the Colorado Division of Wildlife and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. Most recently, Scott held a Fish and Wildlife Biologist position with the Lander, Wyoming Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office where he managed fishery resources for the tribes of the Wind River Reservation. Scott spent a large part of his time working on aquatic habitat issues in cooperative

efforts with private landowners as well as Tribal, Federal and State partners. He brings with him experiences in dealing with realities and complications of fish habitat restoration and fish passage related issues. He also has an excellent grasp of the planning, permitting and construction requirements involved in fish habitat and passage restoration. Scott said that "reversing the trend of declining fish habitat is the biggest challenge we face in preserving our aquatic populations into the 21st century. If we plan on leaving our kids and grandkids anything like we had growing up, we need to start now. I'll do what I can to make sure these initiatives succeed."



Seining is a popular monitoring activity for small rivers and streams.

Goals of the Great Plains Fish Habitat Partnership

Physical Habitat Goal

Goal Number 1: Determine the status of prairie rivers and aquatic species, in terms of aquatic habitat quality and quantity, water quality and quantity, and watershed characteristics.

Biological Community Goal

Goal Number 2: Evaluate trends of aquatic species distribution and abundance over time throughout the Great Plains in relation to changing habitat conditions, as part of an adaptive management process of prairie stream ecosystem structure and function to guide future actions.

Water Quality and Quantity Goal

Goal Number 3: Maintain water quality and quantity in prairie rivers to support fish and other aquatic organisms.

Local Level Goal

Goal Number 4: Ensure that instream and riparian physical habitat in rivers is sufficient to support vigorous fish populations at the local scale.

Watershed Level Goal

Goal Number 5: Promote watershed land uses that improve existing water quality and quantity and improve habitats of the aquatic resources of the Great Plains.

Partnership Development Goals

Goal Number 6: Develop funding mechanisms and enable partner participation at adequate levels to support partnership activities and achieve goals within a science-based adaptive management framework.

Goal Number 7: Partnership efforts foster integration across political boundaries of natural resource protection, restoration, enhancement, and planning.

Outreach Goal

Goal Number 8: Implement effective outreach tools to educate and inform the public on values of prairie rivers and the need for their conservation.