



## U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Opportunities for Tribal Participation

Tribes located in the Missouri River Basin have many opportunities to receive funding, products, and/or technical assistance from the Service. A few of these opportunities are highlighted below. For more information on services not listed below, please contact the Regional Tribal Liaison Kim Greenwood, [kim\\_greenwood@fws.gov](mailto:kim_greenwood@fws.gov) or 303-236-4575.

### ***Plains and Prairie Potholes Landscape Conservation Cooperative***

The Plains and Prairie Potholes Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) is dedicated to the conservation of a landscape unparalleled in importance to breeding waterfowl and many species of wetland and grassland birds in steep decline. This area also provides vast expanses of habitat for resident game and nongame animals, and its waters are home to many unique aquatic species. The LCC, which transcends existing U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regional boundaries and the international border with Canada, includes three distinct geographic components: 1) Rivers and Riparian Corridors, 2) Northern Great Plains and, 3) the Prairie Pothole Region. Currently, the Service and our partners are working to develop and apply the scientific tools necessary to determine how climate change, coupled with other stressors may affect the health and productivity of populations of species in this landscape. Opportunities for tribal participation may include: *data sharing* with other partners; opportunities to *compete for research and monitoring funds*; and, *partnerships* with federal, state and non-governmental organizations for research and monitoring. Our website: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/climate/LCC/PPP/index.cfm>

Contact: Rick Nelson, 701-355-8509, [richard\\_d\\_nelson@fws.gov](mailto:richard_d_nelson@fws.gov)

### ***National Fish Hatchery System***

The Service's Fisheries Program plays a vital role in conserving America's fishery resources. The National Fish Hatchery System helps to recover native fish, such as the pallid sturgeon, and supports Tribal and State recreational fishing programs. Cultured fish are used to replace fish that were lost from natural (drought, flood, habitat destruction) or human (over-harvest, pollution, habitat loss due to development and dam construction) influences, to establish fish populations to meet specific management needs, and to provide for the creation of new and expanded recreational fisheries opportunities. The Hatchery System helps recover species listed under the Endangered Species Act, restoring native aquatic populations, mitigating for fisheries lost as a result of federal water projects, and *providing fish* to benefit Tribes and National Wildlife Refuges. The Hatchery System works closely with other Service biologists and with the States, Tribes, and the private sector to complement habitat restoration and other resource management strategies for maintaining healthy ecosystems that support healthy fisheries.

Contact: Jeff Powell, 605-665-3352, [Jeffrey.Powell@fws.gov](mailto:Jeffrey.Powell@fws.gov)

### ***Technical Assistance for Tribes – Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices***

Reservations support important fish and wildlife resources, including antelope, apache trout, bighorn sheep, bison, elk, Gila trout, mule deer, Pacific salmon, sturgeon, and whitetail deer. Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices provide *technical assistance* to Tribal governments. Biologists help Tribes assess the species resources on reservations, for example, by developing

management plans, coordinating habitat improvement, and evaluating the results of management directives. Service area of these offices is limited.

Contact: Ron Skates, 406-585-9010, [Ron\\_Skates@fws.gov](mailto:Ron_Skates@fws.gov)

### ***National Fish Habitat Action Plan - Great Plains Fish Habitat Partnership***

NFHAP is a national investment strategy to maximize the impact of conservation dollars on the ground. Federal, State, Tribal, and privately-raised funds are leveraged through regional partnerships to address the nation's biggest fish habitat challenges. Streams of the Great Plains are home to a wide diversity of aquatic fauna adapted to harsh changes in temperature and water availability. Low human population density has enabled many Great Plains streams to remain relatively unimpaired, yet aquatic species have experienced a slow but steady decline in abundance and diversity during the 20th Century and continue to face challenges that threaten their viability. Existing habitat losses are attributed to numerous factors including the conversion of native prairie to land uses for agriculture, energy development, and urbanization, which are reflected in degraded water quality, water quantity, fragmentation, and isolation of rivers from their floodplains. Climate change and invasive species are also factors affecting Great Plains stream habitat. Tribes are encouraged to join the *partnership* and submit projects for *competitive funding*.

Contact: Steve Krentz, 701-355-8547, [steven\\_krentz@fws.gov](mailto:steven_krentz@fws.gov)



### ***Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program***

Partners Program can help Tribes improve grasslands, restore wetlands, enhance riparian areas, and reduce invasive species that compete with range production and health. The Partners Program is a voluntary habitat restoration program that benefits fish and wildlife. It is a *direct financial assistance cost-share program*. Therefore, there is no request for proposal process, and the Tribe does not need to fill out a grant application to receive financial or technical

assistance. A highly trained Partners professional will make an on-site review of the proposed project and work with the Tribe to develop a mutually agreed upon conservation plan.

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### ***Tribal Wildlife Grants***

Tribal Wildlife Grants are *competitive financial assistance* to Tribes for the development and implementation of programs that benefit fish and wildlife resources and their habitats. Activities may include, but are not limited to, planning for wildlife and habitat conservation, fish and wildlife conservation and management actions, fish and wildlife related laboratory and field research, natural history studies, habitat mapping, field surveys and population monitoring, habitat preservation, conservation easements, and public education that is relevant to the project. Grant recipients are selected through a nationally competitive process. Proposals are evaluated according to resource benefit, performance measures, work plan, budget, capacity building and their partnerships and contributions. Proposal deadline is September 1.

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