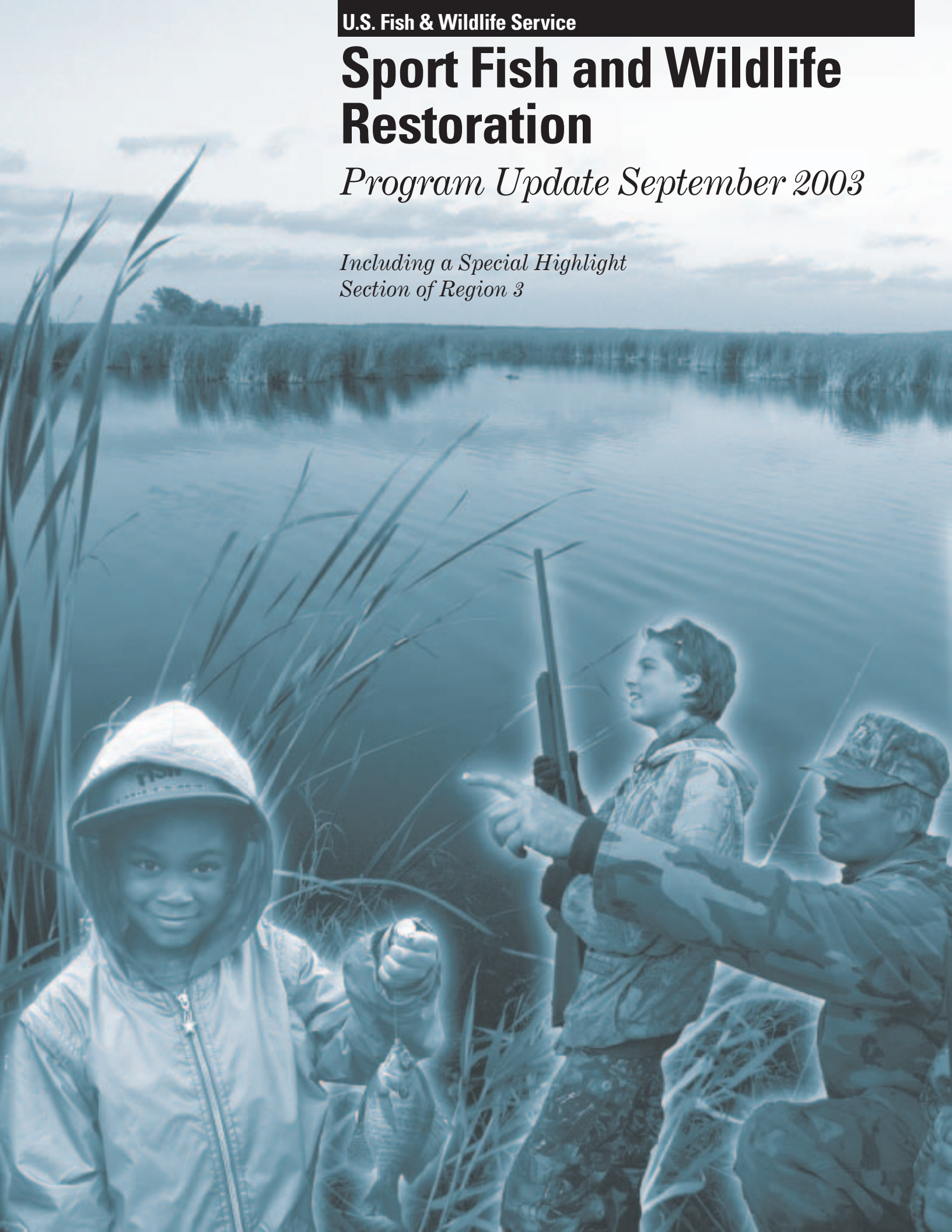


U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration

Program Update September 2003

*Including a Special Highlight
Section of Region 3*





Cover photo: Horicon NWR, Wisconsin

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Special Highlight Section of Region 323

Assistant Director's Comments

Paul R. Schmidt



In the Program Update March 2003, we expressed our enthusiasm for many of the changes occurring in the Federal Aid Program. Progress in effecting these changes continues and we are particularly excited that the recruitment for the first-ever Assistant Director-Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration has begun in earnest. Also consistent with the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act of 2000, you will notice throughout this Program Update that the program referred to in the past as Federal Aid is now referred to as the Federal Assistance Program.

As part of the continuing positive changes occurring in Federal Assistance, we are pleased to announce the addition of two new staff members to the Federal Assistance family in the Washington Office along with the promotion of a third individual. The first of these new staff members is Mr. Jim Greer. Jim is the new Deputy Division Chief for Federal Assistance replacing Larry Bandolin. Larry retired in August. Jim comes to the Division with a variety of career experiences in fish and wildlife management, administration, and policy development. His 26+ years with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife culminated in his appointment as Director of the Agency from 1997 to 2001. This followed various positions in the agency including Wildlife Division Chief, Regional Assistant Supervisor, and District Wildlife Biologist. Jim also served on the Pacific Flyway Council for 8 years, was President of the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, was Commissioner for the Pacific States Marine Fish Commission, and was a Board member of the Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation. Two years ago, Jim joined the Service in our Pacific Northwest Regional Office in Portland as the Wildlife Branch Chief for Federal Assistance.

The most recent addition to Federal Assistance is Mr. Joshua Winchell. Joshua served as Outdoor Ethics Program Director for the Izaak Walton League of America for three years. While with the

IWLA, Joshua's focus was on promoting responsible hunting and outdoor recreation on public and private lands nationwide. Joshua also has hands-on experience in working with fish in various field studies as a consultant and employee of National Marine Fisheries Service. Joshua will be a member of the Branch of Grants Operations and Policy and will focus on strengthening program ties with the hunter and aquatic education and shooting sports communities. We are very excited about the addition of the talent and experience that Jim and Joshua bring with them to the Federal Assistance Program. We are also pleased to announce the promotion of Mr. Pat McHugh to the position of Chief, Branch of Audits. Pat has served as a Systems Accountant for the Branch of Audits for two years. Pat's duties have included managing the audit process, being a point of contact for Regional and State fiscal staff, and monitoring audit resolutions. Pat is a Certified Public Accountant and prior to coming to the Service was employed by an accounting firm in Greeley, Colorado. Other professional experience includes working as a State revenue agent and a staff auditor for a university internal audit department.

Congratulations are also in order for Chris McKay who has been responsible for the Multistate Conservation Grant Program while serving as a special assistant to the Division Chief of Federal Assistance. Chris was recently promoted to Assistant Region Director in Region 1 for Migratory Birds and State Programs located in Portland, Oregon. We wish Chris the best of success as he begins his new position in October.

The efforts of the Joint Federal/State Task Force (JTF) on Federal Assistance Policy (composed of Service and State fish and wildlife agency personnel) have already begun to bear fruit. The first products of the JTF were announced by the Director in a memo to the Regions dated July 25, 2003. That memo transmitted Director's Orders Nos. 152 and 156 (see Appendix). Director's Order

No. 152 provides guidance on allowable recreational activities and related facilities on Federal Assistance lands. Director's Order No. 156 provides guidance for making budget changes within a nonconstruction grant funded under the Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration Programs. The next recommendations to be forwarded to the Director from the JTF are in regard to program income, allowable commercial activities, and Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultations. More details on the planned activities of the JTF are presented later in this Program Update.

Many positive changes continue to brighten the future of the Federal Assistance Program, such as the implementation of the State Wildlife Grants (SWG) and Landowner Incentive Programs.

The Service provided 42 States with Fiscal Year 2003 funds under the competitive Landowner Incentive Program earlier this year and the 60-day Request for Proposals for Fiscal Year 2004 was published in the Federal Register on Friday, August 15. This spring, the Service cooperatively conducted five Regional workshops within a 10-week period to provide the States with tools, resources, and approaches to help them develop their SWG Plans. Over 200 persons representing 49 States attended these workshops.

However, challenge is the constant companion of change. We continue to work closely with the American League of Anglers and Boaters (ALAB) in supporting their consensus position for reauthorization of the Sport Fish Restoration Program. ALAB provides the unique forum for the Service, States, and non-governmental organizations to work together to foster a stronger base of support for the Sport Fish Restoration Program. Reauthorization of the Program is essential for the continued funding of popular programs such as the Boating Infrastructure Grant Program, the Clean Vessel Act Program, and the National Outreach and Communications Program.

Also, preliminary information on gross receipts for the Sport Fish Restoration Program show a 4.9 percent increase over last year's collections; however, gross receipts for the Wildlife Restoration Program are down 4 percent. While routine fluctuations in gross receipts can be expected for either Program, we must be concerned about the future of hunting and fishing in America. As reported in the Program Update March 2003, total participation in all wildlife-related recreation increased from 1996 to 2001 according to the most recent National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Associated Recreation, while participation in fishing declined by 3 percent and hunting by 7 percent. Most of the decline in hunting is attributable to a reduction in

small game hunting and hunting for raccoon, groundhogs, etc. classified as "other animal hunting".

We are confident that through the strong partnerships we have with State fish and wildlife agencies and other natural resource conservation organizations, these and other challenges will be met. We will, together with our partners in the public and private sectors, provide the American sportsman and sportswoman, and all outdoor enthusiasts, with expanded opportunities to enjoy high quality hunting, fishing, viewing, and other wildlife associated recreational experiences that will help secure the future of these activities with the present generation and those generations yet to become "hooked on nature."

Finally, we are excited to be providing some extra information in this Program Update. We are highlighting some of the great work currently being accomplished in Region 3 through the various programs administered by the Division of Federal Assistance. The following are comments by Region 3 Regional Director Robyn Thorson. Then, after the national update of our Federal Assistance Program, this Program Update will include some specific project highlights from Region 3.

Regional Director Region 3 Comments

*Robyn
Thorson*

Welcome to the Midwest, the heart of America and home of Region 3, the Great Lakes – Big Rivers Region of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



All across the nation, there is recognition of the outdoor traditions and abundant recreational opportunities available in the eight States of this Region. Working among people who place a high value on fish and wildlife resources makes my job, and those of our State agency partners, both rewarding and inspiring. Midwest outdoors men and women share a passion for hunting, fishing and other wildlife-dependent recreation that is unmatched anywhere in the United States. According to the Service's 2001 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Outdoor Recreation, more than 44 million people in the eight States that make up Region 3 either hunted or fished in 2001. In Minnesota alone, an astounding 39 percent of the State's population hunted or fished that year!

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is to conserve protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. This important undertaking can only be accomplished through close partnerships with State agencies, non-governmental organizations and the support of conservation-minded individuals. Individual partners include hunters, anglers and other outdoors men and women, true conservationists who have long recognized the value of our fish and wildlife resources and help make them available for future generations. Through their purchases of licenses and hunting and fishing equipment, they provide funding for conservation efforts that add significantly to the quality of life we enjoy. The large number of licensed hunters and anglers in Region 3 yields the largest apportionment of Federal Assistance dollars of any other Service Region. In Fiscal Year 2003, \$52,909,734 in Sport Fish Restoration funds, and \$43,214,859 in Wildlife Restoration funds were allocated to Region 3 States through our Federal Assistance office. In recent years, Federal Assistance grants have accounted for one-quarter to one-third of many State fish and wildlife management budgets. In today's tight fiscal environment, the importance of Federal Assistance funds to State conservation projects has become even more critical.

As Regional Director, I am committed to the continued integrity and professional administration of our Federal Assistance Program. In order to work best together, my goal for the Federal Assistance Program is to listen to partners and focus on the strengths of the partnerships. The Federal and State commitment to fish and wildlife resources is a bond, much stronger and much more significant than our differences. In addition to monies distributed to States pursuant to the Sport Fish Restoration and Wildlife Restoration accounts, Federal Assistance has also been administering a growing list of new and re-authorized legislated programs such as: Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration; Landowner Incentive Program; Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act; Boating Infrastructure Grant Program; State Wildlife Grants; and the Clean Vessel Act Program. Although smaller in terms of dollars, these grants should not be overlooked as funding sources to benefit our fish and wildlife resources.

In recent years, the Region 3 Federal Assistance staff has assisted States with traditional resource enhancement projects such as the Lost Valley Fish Hatchery in Missouri (the largest capital development project in the history of the Federal Assistance Program) and with emerging challenges, such as chronic wasting disease. In the years ahead State and Federal conservation agencies will surely face new challenges. Together, we will meet these challenges in the spirit of cooperation that has been the basis of our successful partnership over the years. I look forward to working with all of our State partners in the years to come.

Lastly, please reference several Region 3 project highlights toward the end of this Program Update. These highlights outline some of the fantastic work being done in our Region.

*Robyn Thorson
Regional Director;
Great Lakes-Big Rivers Region
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

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Ed Duda, System Developer

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Branch of Grants Operations and Policy

Gary Reinitz, Branch Chief - National Issue
Management

Brian Bohnsack, Sport Fish Restoration
Program - Coastal Wetlands - Clean
Vessel Program - Boating Infrastructure
Grant Program - Regions 1 & 2

Kim Galvan, Regulations - U. S. Fish and
Wildlife Service Manual Chapters -
Section 6 Grants - Regions 4 & 7

Tim Hess, Wildlife Restoration Program -
Landowner Incentive Program - State
Wildlife Grants - Regions 3 & 5

Joshua Winchell, Regulations - Education
Liaison - Region 6

Branch of Audits

Pat McHugh, Branch Chief - Audits

Ord Bargerstock, Systems Accountant -
Regions 4 & 5 - Audit Resolution

Kate Gilliam, Systems Accountant -
Regions 1 & 2 - Lessons Learned -
Future Audit Plans

Vacant, Systems Accountant - Regions 3,
6, & 7 - Audit Program Oversight

Branch of Surveys

Sylvia Cabrera, Branch Chief - National
Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-
Associated Recreation

Richard Aiken, Economist - National
Survey

Genevieve Pullis, Economist - National
Survey

Branch of Training

Steve Leggans, Branch Chief

Julie Schroyer, Administrative Analyst

Blake Weirich, Assistant Training
Coordinator

Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) Agreement

Lanny Moore, On IPA between the U.S.
Fish and Wildlife Service and the
International Association of Fish and
Wildlife Agencies

This one-year IPA will allow Lanny to pursue full-time the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (BATF), and Customs Working Group initiatives. The main goal of the group is to ensure that the States receive all funds they are due from these agencies in a timely and accurate manner. Through displays, workshops, and seminars, Lanny will conduct training for all IRS, BATF, and Customs staff who are involved in the paying, collecting, accounting, and transferring of funds.

Federal Assistance Program

Overview

The goal of the Federal Assistance Program is to work with States to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, their habitats and the hunting, sportfishing, and recreational boating opportunities they provide. The Federal Assistance Program is responsible for administering the following Programs:

- Wildlife Restoration
- Sport Fish Restoration
- Clean Vessel Act
- Boating Infrastructure Grant
- National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant

- Multistate Conservation Grant
- State Wildlife Grants
- Landowner Incentive

In addition, Federal Assistance provides grant management support for endangered species traditional section 6, Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Land Acquisition, HCP Planning, and Recovery Land Acquisition Grant Programs.

The following is an update on the activities of the Federal Assistance Program and these grant programs.



Focus on Specific Programs and Activities

Joint Federal/State Task Force on Federal Assistance Policy

As reported in the Program Update March 2003, the Joint Federal/State Task Force on Federal Assistance Policy (JTF) was created to provide a forum to cooperatively identify Program issues of national significance and to develop jointly recommendations concerning those issues. The JTF is composed of seven State fish and wildlife agency and seven Service personnel along with two lawyers (one State and one Federal).

The first products of the JTF were announced by the Director in a memo to the Regions dated July 25, 2003. That memo transmitted Director's Orders Nos. 152 and 156 (see Appendix). Copies of these Director's Orders can also be viewed and retrieved from the Service's Policy and Directives Management web page located at <http://policy.fws.gov/do.html>. Director's Orders are listed in numerical order on this web page.

Director's Order No. 152 provides guidance on allowable recreational activities and related facilities on Federal Assistance lands. Director's Order No. 156 provides guidance for making budget changes within a nonconstruction grant funded under the Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration Programs. The JTF distributed initial drafts of these Director's Orders to the Service Regions and State fish and wildlife agencies for comment this past winter. The draft recommendations were then revised taking into consideration comments received. The final recommendations of the JTF, along with a summary of the comments, were then submitted to the Director this spring. After reviewing the

recommendations of the JTF, the Director adopted them in substantial form and issued these policy statements as Director's Orders.

The most recent meeting of the JTF was in Missoula, Montana, on August 5 through 7. At this meeting the JTF reviewed comments received from the Service Regions and State fish and wildlife agencies on the following draft policy statements:

1. Program Income from Federal Assistance Grants;
2. Allowable Commercial Activities and Related Facilities on Federal Assistance Lands; and
3. Guidance for Conducting Endangered Species Act Section 7 Consultations on Federal Assistance Grants to States.

Recommendations of the JTF regarding these three issues will next be forwarded to the Director.

In addition to these topics, the JTF also discussed:

1. Useful Life of Capital Improvements;
2. Cash Management Improvement Act;
3. Use of Sport Fish Restoration Funds for Boating Access; and
4. Homeland Security.

The next meeting of the JTF will be held in Madison, Wisconsin, in October 2003. At this meeting, the issues of Cost Accounting and Reporting, Useful Life, Boating Access, and Homeland Security will be further discussed.

For additional information on the JTF, please contact Gary Reinitz.

Sport Fish Restoration Program

The Service will soon announce the preliminary apportionments from the Sport Fish Restoration Program for Fiscal Year 2004. Final apportionments will be issued in the spring of 2004 after the total receipts into the Sport Fish Restoration Account are calculated for Fiscal Year 2003 and the status of other Sport Fish Restoration programs is determined for Fiscal Year 2004. Funding authorization of several Sport Fish Restoration programs expires at the end of Fiscal Year 2003 unless Congress acts to extend their authorization. These programs include the Service's National Outreach and Communications Program, Boating Infrastructure Grant Program and Clean Vessel Act Program, as well as the U.S. Coast Guard's Recreational Boating Safety Program.

If Congress does not reauthorize these programs, the Sport Fish Restoration Program and National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program will be the primary programs funded from the Sport Fish Restoration Account.

Recent Program highlights include the selection of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resource's Baraboo River dam removal and river restoration project as the 2003 Sport Fishery Development and Management Project of the Year by the American Fisheries Society's Fisheries Administrators Section. The Section also provided awards to the Mississippi Department of Natural Resources and the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department for their fisheries research and aquatic education efforts, respectively.

The total apportionment for Fiscal Year 2003 for the Sport Fish Restoration Program was \$265,241,214.

For more information on this issue, please contact Brian Bohnsack.

Sport Fish Restoration Program Reauthorization Update

The American League of Anglers and Boaters (ALAB) continues to lead efforts for the reauthorization of Sport Fish Restoration programs. ALAB, a large consortium of conservation and recreation agencies which includes groups such as the American Sportfishing Association, International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, National Association of Boating Law Administrators, American Recreation Coalition, and States Organization for Boating Access, reached a consensus position for reauthorization of programs funded by the Sport Fish Restoration Program earlier this year. ALAB's consensus position for reauthorization will fundamentally change the program funding process from the Aquatic Resources Trust Fund. Under the ALAB proposal, all of the programs funded from the Aquatic Resources Trust Fund and the accompanying Sport Fish Restoration Account will be based on preset percentages of the overall account. Previously, several programs received predetermined funding amounts. Accordingly, funding for some programs had risen considerably since the previous reauthorization, while the funding level of those programs with predetermined appropriations remained stable.

In addition to seeking reauthorization of all of the current programs funded by the Sport Fish Restoration Program, ALAB's consensus proposal recommends 1) to dissolve the Boating Safety Account, 2) to extend the Federal excise tax on motorboat fuels and on small engine fuels, 3) to guarantee funding for the U.S. Coast Guard's Recreational Boating Safety Program and to alter the required State match for this program to the 75 percent Federal share and 25 percent State share that is currently used with other programs funded by the Sport Fish Restoration Program. ALAB is also separately seeking full recovery of the tax on recreational boating fuels. Some of the existing taxes on recreational boating fuels are currently being deposited into other accounts.

In order to be passed by Congress, ALAB's reauthorization proposal will have to be incorporated into the SAFETEA Highway bill or other bills as an amendment. Accordingly, ALAB is currently seeking Congressional support for their proposal and also Congressional sponsors for the proposed amendment. The current SAFETEA Highway bill proposes "status quo" funding of the programs funded by the Sport Fish Restoration Program. At this time, it appears that reauthorization of the programs funded by the Sport Fish Restoration Program is not likely to occur until early 2004 at the earliest. Because funding authorization for several programs expires at the end of the Fiscal Year 2003, ALAB and other groups are working on stop gap measures to ensure that these programs are funded at status quo levels for Fiscal Year 2004. Programs whose authorization funding authorization expires at the end of Fiscal Year 2003 include the Service's National Outreach and Communications Program, Clean Vessel Act Pumpout Grant Program, Boating Infrastructure Grant Program, and the U.S. Coast Guard's Recreational Boating Safety Program.

State Audits

The Service published six audit chapters in the Federal Register for comment in December 2001. Modifications were incorporated into the Chapters in November 2002 as recommended by the Director's Joint Federal/State Task Force on Federal Assistance Second Audit Cycle. Upon the completion of the Service's internal review process, the chapters will be published in the Federal Register. The final chapters will become part of the Service's Manual. The chapters establish policy and responsibilities for grantee audits, define terms associated with audits, and provide an overview of the audit process. In addition, they establish policies and procedures for audit objectives, planning, conducting, reporting, resolution, and appeals. The establishment of these policies and procedures will enhance the ongoing audit process.

Chapter 1 provides terms associated with audits and an overview of the audit process. Chapter 2 identifies the programmatic and financial elements of audits. Chapter 3 provides procedures for conducting and reporting on audits of Federal Assistance Program grantees. Chapter 4 establishes policy and procedures for resolving findings and implementing recommendations. Included in this chapter are time-lines of the audit resolution process. Chapter 5 establishes policy and procedures for appealing Service determinations or corrective actions. Chapter 6 establishes Service policy for resolving findings and implementing recommendations from audits of Federal Assistance Program grantees under the Single Audit Act. The audit chapters will enhance the Service's ability to complete audits in a timely manner.

For additional information on this issue, please contact Pat McHugh.

Boating Infrastructure Grant Program

The funding status of the Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) Program for Fiscal Year 2004 and beyond is not certain at this time. Funding authorization for the

BIG Program expires at the end of Fiscal Year 2003. The BIG Program needs to be reauthorized by Congress in order to be funded in future years. The American League of Anglers and Boaters (ALAB) supports reauthorization of the Program and has lobbied Congress accordingly, as well as for other Sport Fish Restoration programs. Under the ALAB proposal, the BIG Program will receive 1.9 percent of the total receipts into the Sport Fish Restoration Account. Based on estimates of predicted receipts into this account, funding for the BIG Program would increase to approximately \$10 million annually.

The Service is hopeful that the BIG Program will be reauthorized in time to allow its Fiscal Year 2004 grant process to occur as scheduled. To avoid delays with project implementation, the Service has requested proposals from States for the BIG Program and proposals are due in to the Service's Regional Offices in late September. Awards, if any, from the BIG Program will be dependent upon its authorization from Congress. A minimal amount of funding may be available from funds recovered from projects that were awarded in previous years.

The Oregon State Marine Board recently completed the first 3 of the Tier-2 BIG projects in the nation on the Columbia River system. Several States are now completing Tier-1 level projects, including those completed by the Missouri Department of Conservation in the Ozark River system.

For more information on this issue, please contact Brian Bohnsack.

Federal Assistance Information Management System (FAIMS)

FAIMS is critical to the reconciliation of grant related fiscal information that exists in systems operated by the Department of Health and Human Services, the Division of Federal Assistance, and the Division of Finance. The checks and balances built into FAIMS ensure the integrity of Federal Assistance's fiscal data as confirmed by the audit firm KPMG.

In Fiscal Year 2004 Federal Assistance Program emphasis for FAIMS will be placed on:

- Interfacing FAIMS with the Federal government's new www.grants.gov web site. The [grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) site will provide grant opportunity announcements and electronic application capabilities to grant applicants for all grant programs. An interface will be developed through which FAIMS will retrieve applications submitted via the [grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) web site.
- Consolidating the FAIMS databases. Modifications required to combine the eight physically separate FAIMS databases into one will be completed and the databases will be combined. Combining the databases will reduce operational overhead and reduce the complexity of electronically interfacing FAIMS with the [grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) web site.
- Modernizing the interface between FAIMS and the Payment Management System (PMS). The FAIMS will be modified to utilize a new "Drop Box" interface methodology being developed by the Department of Health and Human Services. Implementation will



The vessel Shirley J tries out the new docks at the St. Helens Courthouse docks in Oregon that were funded with assistance from the Boating Infrastructure Grant Program (BIG). The Oregon State Marine Board recently completed the first three Tier-2 Boating Infrastructure Grant Programs in the nation. Photo: Oregon State Marine Board.

increase security and facilitate complete automation of the data flows between the two systems.

- Developing training methods and materials for users of the iFAIMS web site. The distributed nature of the user community of the iFAIMS web site requires development of new training methods and materials for site users.

For more information on this issue, contact Bill Conlin or Luther Zachary.

National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation

The 2001 Survey was the 10th sponsored by the Service since 1955. The Service has conducted the Survey every five years at the request of State fish and wildlife agencies, and it has become one of the Nation's most important sources of information on wildlife-related recreation.

In response to concerns from its members, IAFWA is reviewing other options for the funding and completion of future national surveys. IAFWA will make their recommendation for the 2006 survey at their National Conference in September 2003.

In March 1999, the Survey Grants-in-Aid Subcommittee of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA) recommended that the Service conduct a survey in 2001. In June 1999, the Service signed an agreement with the Bureau of Census (Census) to collect the information and produce the reports. Service staff met with State technical committee members and non-governmental organizations to determine survey content. Federal agencies and other major survey users also provided input.

In April and May 2001, Census conducted the screening interviews. Census collected information through computer-assisted interviews conducted primarily by telephone. They completed screening interviews of over 52,000 households.

These interviews identified samples of 30,000 sportsmen (anglers and hunters) and 15,000 wildlife watchers (wildlife feeders, observers, and photographers) for the Survey's detailed interview phase.

Census asked respondents about their 2001 activities and expenditures in three detailed interview waves beginning in April and September 2001 and in January 2002. Interviewers completed data collection on February 28, 2002. The response rate for the detailed data collection phase was about 90 percent. In 2001, 82 million U.S. residents, 39 percent of the population 16 years and older, participated in some type of wildlife-related recreation. Five million more participated in 2001 than in 1996, the last time the survey was conducted. Anglers, hunters, and wildlife watchers spent \$108 billion pursuing their activities. These expenditures accounted for 1.1 percent of the Nation's total gross domestic product. Of the sportsmen, 34 million fished and 13 million hunted. Sixty-six million wildlife enthusiasts observed, fed or photographed wildlife around their homes or on trips in 2001.

A comparison of 2001 and 1996 estimates shows a mixed picture. While total participation in all wildlife-related recreation increased, participation in fishing declined by 3 percent and hunting by 7 percent. The decrease in hunting was due to a decline in small game hunting and other animal hunting (raccoon, groundhog, etc.). Big game hunting and migratory bird hunting held steady. Wildlife watching increased by 5 percent from 1996 to 2001.

The Service began releasing preliminary information in May 2002. The final National Report and Quick Facts brochure were issued in early October 2002, and the State Reports were issued on a flow basis beginning in January 2003. A CD-ROM with all the survey data is available on request. Copies of the reports are available on request or are accessible through the following web site: <http://federalaid.fws.gov/>.

For more information on this issue, contact Sylvia Cabrera.

New Survey Reports

The Service recently released the following two reports on wildlife watching in the U.S. and its benefits to the economy: *Birding in the United States, A Demographic Economic Analysis*, and *2001 National and State Economic Impacts of Wildlife-Associated Recreation*. Both reports are based on information from the *2001 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife Watching*.

Birding in the United States reports the popularity of bird watching, the characteristics of birders, and the economic importance of the activity. Some highlights are as follows:

- In 2001 there were 46 million birders (16 years of age and older) in the United States — a little over one in five people.
- The average birder tends to be middle-aged, and has a higher than average income and education. The vast majority (94 percent) of birders identified themselves as white although Native Americans had participation rates nearly equal to whites.
- Measured in terms of State residents participating, Montana, Vermont, and Wisconsin had the highest participation rates. But when measured in terms of sheer numbers, the highly populated States of California, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Florida had the most birders.
- In one year (2001) birders spent \$32 billion dollars on their hobby. This figure includes: binoculars and gear; travel costs and food; and big-ticket items such as canoes, cabins and off-road vehicles (ORVs).

This spending generated \$85 billion in overall economic output and created 863,406 jobs.

- Birders place a high value on their activity. The report found that the net economic value for birding (in State of residence) is \$257 per year and \$35 per day.

The Economic Impacts of Wildlife Watching reports the effects of expenditures for wildlife watching on National and State economies. For example, 66 million wildlife watchers spent \$38 billion on their equipment, trips, and other items in 2001. If wildlife watching were a company, its sales of \$38.4 billion would rank it 33rd in the Forbes 500 list for 2001— placing it just ahead of Motorola and Kmart.

Furthermore, those expenditures resulted in a total industry output valued at \$96 billion, over one million jobs, \$28 billion in employment income, and \$6 billion in Federal and State tax revenues.

What do wildlife watchers spend their money on? In 2001, they spent 21 percent for wildlife-watching trips, including transportation, lodging, etc.; 61 percent for equipment including items such as cameras, bird food, campers, and tents; and the balance; 17 percent, on magazines, membership dues, and land leasing and ownership.

State economies benefitted tremendously from wildlife-watching expenditures. Twelve States derived 1 percent or more of their total economic gross product from the impacts of those expenditures.

These two reports, as well as other survey reports, may be accessed from the following website <http://federalaid.fws.gov>.

For additional information on these reports, contact Sylvia Cabrera.

Section 10 Hunter Education Program

With the passage of the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act of 2000, many State wildlife agencies have enhanced their hunter education programs to take advantage of the additional funding this Act provided. The Service has made an additional \$23 million of funds available for the hunter education program since the passage of this Act. Fiscal Year 2003 was the third year that section 10 funding has been available. As a result of their increased hunter

The ten States whose wildlife-watching expenditure output ranked the highest were:

	<i>Economic Output*</i>	<i>Wildlife Watchers</i>
California	\$5,169,100,000	5,720,000
Florida	\$2,815,400,000	3,240,000
New York	\$2,625,300,000	3,887,000
Texas	\$2,455,900,000	3,240,000
Wisconsin	\$2,453,600,000	2,442,000
New Jersey	\$2,264,700,000	1,895,000
Pennsylvania	\$1,955,200,000	3,794,000
Washington	\$1,781,500,000	2,496,000
Maryland	\$1,772,900,000	1,524,000
North Carolina	\$1,593,900,000	2,168,000

**Total industry output which includes direct, indirect, and induced effects of wildlife-watching expenditures.*

education efforts, in Fiscal Year 2003, 24 State wildlife agencies were eligible to receive additional reverted section 10 Funds from other States not expending their entire section 10 funds. These States received portions of the \$254,683 that was reverted back from the States not spending their entire initial section 10 allocation from previous fiscal years.

Some notable successes of the section 10 funded projects to date include: 1) increased numbers of hunter education classes being offered, 2) increased numbers of State agency staff devoted to the hunter education program, and 3) enhanced services and support to volunteer hunter education instructors.

The Act's supporters designed the legislation with incentives for States to increase their hunter education program expenditures. A preliminary analysis of States' hunter education program expenditures by the Service suggests that the legislation has been implemented as intended. In Fiscal Year 2002, 22 States were eligible to receive reverted Section 10 funds. By comparison, in Fiscal Year 2003, 24 States were eligible. Similarly, in Fiscal Year 2002 \$601,501 of section 10 funds were reverted. By Fiscal Year 2003, the total reverted section 10 funds was only \$254,683.

For additional information, contact Joshua Winchell.



Yellow-crowned night heron. Photo: USFWS

National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program

The Service will announce the awards recipients for the Fiscal Year 2004 National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program (NCWCGP) in the coming weeks. Thirty proposals from 13 States requesting a total of \$23.9 million in Federal funding were received this year. The Service estimates that a minimum of \$12.6 million will be available from this program in Fiscal Year 2004.

This amount is likely to be substantially more pending final determination of the deposits into the Sport Fish Restoration Account.

A national panel of personnel from several Service divisions reviewed all of the proposals received. The panel met for two days in early August to rank proposals. The panel has provided a list of projects recommended for funding to the Director.

Since the inception of NCWCGP in 1990, a total of \$120 million has been awarded to 25 States and 1 U.S. Territory. It is estimated that 150,000 coastal wetlands acres will have been protected or restored since its inception.

For more information on this issue, contact Brian Bohnsack.

Multistate Conservation Grant Program

The Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act of 2000 (Improvement Act) established the Multistate Conservation Grant Program within the Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration Programs. The Improvement Act authorizes grants of up to \$3 million annually from funds available under each of the Programs, for a total of up to \$6 million annually. Grants may be made from a priority list of projects submitted by the International Association of Fish



Representatives of the States Organization for Boating Access (SOBA), sewage pumpout manufacturers, and staff from Underwriters Laboratories Incorporated (UL) inspect the sewage pumpout machines that are being tested by UL. Funding for this SOBA project is being provided through the Multistate Conservation Grant Program. Photo: Kevin Atkinson, California Department of Boating and Waterways.

and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA), representing the State fish and wildlife agencies.

To be eligible for consideration by the IAFWA, a project must benefit fish and/or wildlife conservation in at least 26 States, a majority of the States in a Fish and Wildlife Service Region, or a regional association of State fish and wildlife agencies. Grants may be made to a State or group of States, to non-governmental organizations, and, for the purpose of carrying out the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation.

The priority list of projects submitted by the IAFWA for funding in Fiscal Year 2003 included these 25 projects (see the list on the next page) from which the Division made grant awards beginning February 1, 2003.



Coastal wetlands, such as this one in Texas, provide important habitat for many species of fish and wildlife. Coastal wetlands also help to reduce the destruction from tropical storms and hurricanes. Photo: Beau Hardegree, USFWS

Multistate Conservation Grants Proposals Awarded in Fiscal Year 2003

<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Recipient</i>	<i>Wildlife Funds (in dollars)</i>	<i>Sport Fish Funds (in dollars)</i>
Wildlife Values in the West	Western Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA)	223,961	223,961
Step Outside	National Shooting Sports Foundation	92,600	92,600
Becoming an Outdoors Woman	University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point	93,050	93,050
Women in the Outdoors	National Wild Turkey Federation	77,500	77,500
The Trailblazer Adventure Program	U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance Foundation	80,000	80,000
Automated Wildlife Data Systems Program Coordination	IAFWA Automated Wildlife Data Systems Task Force	81,840	81,840
Adaptive Outdoor Recreation Equipment	Paralyzed Veterans of America	44,000	.....
Measuring Public Opinion of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in 13 Northeast States	Northeast Conservation Information & Education Association	175,000	175,000
Continued Support for State "Hooked on Fishing-Not on Drugs" Programs	Future Fisherman Foundation	.....	51,500
The Northern Bobwhite Conservation Initiative: Moving the Plan Forward	SEAFWA and SC DNR	225,000	.....
Chronic Wasting Disease Prevention and Management Planning	IAFWA Wildlife Health Task Force	357,500	.....
Fish & Wildlife Reference Service: Managing and Providing Information to State Agencies	KRA Corporation	249,779	249,779
Evaluation of the Fish and Wildlife Reference Service	Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University	20,356	20,356
Data Management Support for the Chronic Wasting Disease Initiative	Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University	92,154	.....
Unwanted Aquatic Species: A Three-Year Project to Address State, Regional and National Aquatic Invasive Species Issues	IAFWA Fisheries & Water Resources Policy Committee	.....	391,840
Conservation Communication Team	IAFWA Education, Outreach & Diversity Committee	114,000	114,000
National 4-H Sportfishing Initiative	Future Fisherman Foundation	.....	150,623
Creating Master Naturalist Programs	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department	97,325	97,325
National Hunting Incident Clearinghouse	International Hunter Education Association	66,800	.....
Wildlife Law News Weekly Alert and Online Services	Center for Wildlife Law at the University of New Mexico Institute of Public Law Management Assistance Team 2003-2004 IAFWA	40,500	40,500
Sage Grouse Data Management: Making States' Data Available to Conservation Planning Teams	WAFWA Sage Grouse and Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse Technical Committee	27,800	.....
Bird Conservation for the Nation: Support for State All-Bird Conservation Efforts	IAFWA Bird Conservation Committee	214,520	.....
Assessing Ownership, Use and Modifications of Trapping Systems, and Familiarity of Trapping BMPs by Trappers in the United States	IAFWA Furbearer Resources Task Force; Education, Outreach & Diversity Committee; and Wildlife Resources Policy Committee	118,800	.....
Development of a Detailed National Conservation Need for a National Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation Survey	IAFWA National Grants Committee	68,970	68,970

Totals 2,969,727

Clean Vessel Act Pumpout Grant Program

The funding status of the Clean Vessel Act (CVA) Program for Fiscal Year 2004 and beyond remains uncertain as of late August. Funding authorization for the CVA program expires at the end of Fiscal Year 2003. The CVA program needs to be reauthorized by Congress in order to be funded in future years. The American League of Anglers and Boaters (ALAB) supports reauthorization of the Program and has lobbied Congress for its reauthorization, as well as other Sport Fish Restoration funded programs. Under the ALAB proposal, the CVA program will receive 1.9 percent of the total receipts into the Sport Fish Restoration Account. Based on estimates of predicted receipts into this account, funding for the CVA program would remain similar to its current level of \$10 million annually.

A notable change is likely to occur with the CVA program if Congress approves the current ALAB reauthorization proposal. The ALAB reauthorization proposal recommends removing the coastal project ranking preference that was established in the original act. Representatives from the States Organization for Boating Access (SOBA) and other boating organizations (e.g., National Marine Manufacturers Associations [NMMA]) have expressed concern about the need for additional pumpout facilities in freshwater environments because of national trends of larger boats being used in inland waters. These concerns are reflected in ALAB's proposal.

Additional changes to the CVA program may result from administrative changes that may occur in coming months. The Service will seek input on program guidelines regarding the grant awards process. Some States have recommended using a tiered funding approach similar to that of the Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) Program. Other States have suggested an automatic allocation approach similar to that of the Sport Fish



States have developed innovative techniques to provide services for recreational boaters through their Clean Vessel Act grant programs. A local Connecticut marina's sewage pumpout boat motors to a boat waiting to have its waste removed. Photo: Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection.

Restoration Program, except using criteria such as the number of registered boats or water acreage within a State.

An additional issue that may be reevaluated in coming months is updating the pumpout fee guidance given in the CVA program rules that were published in 1999.

The Service remains hopeful that the Program will be reauthorized in time to allow the Fiscal Year 2004 CVA proposal process to remain on its current schedule.

For more information on this Program, contact Brian Bohnsack.

State Wildlife Grants

President Bush signed the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2003, into law on February 20, 2003. It included \$60 million in Fiscal Year 2003 for the State Wildlife Grants (SWG) program, which is available to States and Territories for obligation until September 30, 2004. Fiscal Year 2002 SWG funds will be available for obligation by the States only until September 30, 2003, after which we will reapportion any remaining unobligated funds.

The Service designed the SWG program to assist States by providing Federal funds for the development and

implementation of programs that benefit wildlife and their habitat, including species that are not hunted or fished.

It permits both planning and implementation activities. The Federal share for planning grants may not exceed 75 percent and may not exceed 50 percent for other types of grants. To establish eligibility for these funds, the States and Territories first had to submit or commit to develop by October 1, 2005, a Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan. All States and Territories have made this commitment. Most States now have active SWG projects being funded.

The Service, IAFWA, and the States co-sponsored five Regional workshops this spring in West Virginia, Washington, Georgia, Wisconsin, and Utah which had the objective of sharing information and approaches to wildlife conservation planning and fostering collaboration and partnership in the development and implementation of the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plans. Subsequently, a collaborative Work Group was formed by IAFWA, which is continuing to develop further Plan development guidance for the States and their partners. Service staff are members of this Work Group, along with State and NGO representatives.

For additional information on this Program, contact Tim Hess.

Grant Awards for the Landowner Incentive Program - Fiscal Year 2003

<i>State</i>	<i>Tier 1</i>	<i>Tier 2</i>	<i>Total</i>
Alabama			\$0
Alaska	\$142,500	\$1,500,000	\$1,642,500
Arizona	\$180,000	\$1,560,000	\$1,740,000
Arkansas	\$158,512		\$158,512
California	\$180,000	\$1,560,000	\$1,740,000
Colorado		\$1,740,000	\$1,740,000
Connecticut	\$180,000		\$180,000
Delaware	\$180,000		\$180,000
District of Columbia			\$0
Florida	\$180,000	\$840,000	\$1,020,000
Georgia	\$180,000		\$180,000
Hawaii	\$180,000	\$1,551,750	\$1,731,750
Idaho	\$180,000		\$180,000
Illinois			\$0
Indiana	\$180,000		\$180,000
Iowa	\$180,000	\$900,000	\$1,080,000
Kansas			\$0
Kentucky	\$180,000	\$1,315,000	\$1,495,000
Louisiana			\$0
Maine	\$180,000		\$180,000
Maryland	\$180,000		\$180,000
Massachusetts	\$180,000	\$900,000	\$1,080,000
Michigan	\$180,000	\$1,351,718	\$1,531,718
Minnesota	\$180,000	\$1,334,542	\$1,514,542
Mississippi			\$0
Missouri	\$180,000		\$180,000
Montana	\$174,639	\$1,315,000	\$1,489,639
Nebraska	\$180,000	\$1,560,000	\$1,740,000
Nevada	\$180,000		\$180,000
New Hampshire	\$180,000		\$180,000
New Jersey	\$180,000		\$180,000
New Mexico	\$180,000		\$180,000
New York	\$180,000		\$180,000
North Carolina		\$165,000	\$165,000
North Dakota	\$180,000	\$710,500	\$890,500
Ohio	\$180,000		\$180,000
Oklahoma	\$180,000	\$1,315,000	\$1,495,000
Oregon	\$180,000	\$1,533,900	\$1,713,900
Pennsylvania	\$180,000	\$1,315,000	\$1,495,000
Rhode Island			\$0
South Carolina	\$75,000	\$900,000	\$975,000
South Dakota			\$0
Tennessee	\$180,000		\$180,000
Texas		\$1,465,000	\$1,465,000
Utah			\$0
Vermont	\$180,000		\$180,000
Virginia	\$178,593	\$1,555,500	\$1,734,093
Washington	\$180,000	\$1,560,000	\$1,740,000
West Virginia	\$180,000		\$180,000
Wisconsin	\$180,000		\$180,000
Wyoming	\$180,000		\$180,000
Puerto Rico			\$0
Guam			\$0
Virgin Islands			\$0
American Samoa			\$0
Northern Mariana Islands			\$0
Total	\$6,849,244	\$27,947,910	\$34,797,154

Landowner Incentive Program

Congress funded the Landowner Incentive Program (LIP), authorized in the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002, with \$40 million derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The same appropriations Act, in 2003, rescinded \$40 million from the Fiscal Year 2002 Landowner Incentive Program, but provided the same amount in Fiscal Year 2003. The Fiscal Year 2003 fund awards were made based on the existing 84 program applications. This program provides competitive matching grants to States, Territories, the District of Columbia, and Tribes. The Service allocated \$4 million to Tribes, \$34.8 million to the States and Territories, and \$1.2 million for administrative costs in Fiscal Year 2003 and plans to allocate any Fiscal Year 2004 funds in a similar manner. The grants are to establish or supplement landowner incentive programs that provide technical and financial assistance to private landowners for projects that protect and restore habitats of listed species or species determined to be at-risk. LIP projects involve activities such as the restoration of marginal farmlands to wetlands, the removal of exotic plants to restore natural prairies, a change in grazing practices and fencing to enhance important riparian habitats, instream structural improvements to benefit aquatic species, road closures to protect habitats and reduce harassment of wildlife, and conservation easements. The Service requires a minimum 25 percent non-Federal share of project costs.

The Program features two levels of funding, Tier-1 and Tier-2. Proposals can be submitted for either Tier-1 or Tier-2 competition (or both), with a maximum amount awarded to any individual State not to exceed 5 percent of the total funds available. Tier-1 grants (capped at \$180,000 per State and \$75,000 for D.C. and the Territories) are intended to provide a base for States to fund staff and associated costs necessary to develop a

new or enhance an existing landowner incentive program. Tier-2 grants are intended to 'implement' State landowner incentive programs by providing technical or financial assistance to private landowners through a variety of means to support on-the-ground projects.

On February 25, 2003, the Director announced \$34.8 million from the Fiscal Year 2003 budget had been awarded to 42 of the 47 States that had submitted project proposals. As of August 14, 2003, 23 of these 42 States have obligated funds through one or more grant agreements. On August 15, 2003, the Service published a notice and a 60-day Request for Proposals in the Federal Register in anticipation of a Fiscal Year 2004 appropriation for this Program.

Implementation and proposal submission guidelines are nearly identical to those used to solicit proposals for and award Fiscal Year 2003 funds to States and Territories. The Director will announce award decisions after Fiscal Year 2004 funds are authorized.

The Service continues to work with the States and other Federal agencies to streamline the program as much as possible, and to work with other Federal wildlife conservation impacting programs, such as those supported by the Farm Bill, to ensure complementary implementation of wildlife conservation actions to the extent possible.

For more information on this Program, contact Tim Hess or Kim Galvan.



California gnatcatcher habitat encroachment, southern California. Photo: Claire Dobert/USFWS

Federal Assistance National Training Program

The National Federal Assistance Training Program functions as part of the Washington Office of Federal Assistance, although the staff is located at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV. The training program develops and delivers grants management training for Federal Assistance staff and State fish and wildlife agency grantees. These training courses increase the knowledge, skills and abilities of State and Federal personnel who manage Federal Assistance grants. This training helps to ensure that Federal Assistance grant managers consistently apply the laws, rules, and policies that govern Federal Assistance Program administration.

Since 1996, more than 900 State and Federal Assistance staff have received training through courses developed by, or offered in cooperation with, the Federal Assistance Training Program. The

majority of those trained have completed the Basic Grants Management Course (348 graduates) and the Project Leaders Course (420 graduates). Additional courses conducted include: Federal Assistance Audit Training for Auditors, Boating Facilities Grant Workshop, Audit Training Workshop for State Federal Assistance Coordinators, and Group Systems Leader (Electronic Meeting Facilitator) Training.

Currently, Basic Grants Management Courses are scheduled at least once each year. Interest and demand for the State specific Federal Assistance Project Leaders Course continues to grow. Eight Project Leaders Courses were completed through July in Fiscal Year 2003. Additional Project Leaders Courses are planned through April 2004. Federal Assistance Audit Training Workshops for State grantees will be conducted by the end of December 2003 for the two Regions that have yet to hold their annual coordinators' workshop.

The GroupSystems (Electronic Meeting) Leaders Course was piloted in July 2003. Using computer technology and the Internet offers the Federal Assistance Division a way to increase meeting productivity, decrease meeting costs, and increase the number of partners involved in decision-making.

Two additional courses are currently under development:

- Fiscal Management of Federal Assistance Grants
- Compliance Issues

Course descriptions, an on-line application, training materials, and grant manager's resources are available on Federal Assistance's Training Program web site at: <http://training.fws.gov/fedaid/>.

For additional information on this issue, contact Steve Leggans at the National Conservation Training Center at 304/876 7927.



*Approximately 350 individuals have taken the Basic Grants Management Course offered by the National Federal Assistance Training Program.
Photo: National Federal Assistance Training Program.*

Appendix

All information and tables previously found in the appendices in earlier Program Updates are now on the Federal Assistance homepage at:
<http://federalaid.fws.gov/>.





United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240

DIRECTOR'S ORDER NO: 152

Subject: Allowable Recreational Activities and Related Facilities on Federal Assistance Lands

Sec. 1 What is the purpose of this Order? This Order provides guidance on recreational activities conducted and related facilities constructed on lands acquired, developed, or managed with Federal Assistance funds under the Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration Programs.

Sec. 2 To whom does this Order apply? This Order applies to all Service personnel who administer (concur or approve) grants funded through the Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration Programs.

Sec. 3 To what lands does this guidance apply? These guidelines apply to the following, unless otherwise mutually agreed to by the State fish and wildlife agency and the Service and specified in the grant documents:

- a. Lands acquired with Federal Assistance funds, regardless of when the lands were acquired.
- b. Any improvement on lands that were developed with Federal Assistance funds, as long as such improvement continues to be needed or useful for its original purpose.
- c. Any Federal Assistance-funded management activities during the defined grant period.

Sec. 4 What are the authorities for taking this action?

- a. 16 U.S.C. 777.
- b. 16 U.S.C. 669.
- c. 43 CFR 12.71b.
- d. 50 CFR 80.5.
- e. 50 CFR 80.14(b)
- f. 50 CFR 80.18(c)
- g. 50 CFR 80.21

Sec. 5 What recreational activities and related facilities are allowed on lands acquired, developed, or managed with Federal Assistance funds? The State fish and wildlife agency determines what recreational activities and related facilities are allowed on Federal Assistance supported lands, within the bounds of the following guidance.

a. The State fish and wildlife agency is prohibited from allowing recreational activities and related facilities that would interfere with the purpose for which the land was acquired or developed, or is managed. This means that the State fish and wildlife agency may not allow an activity or facility that will interfere with the fulfillment of the restoration, conservation, management, and/or enhancement grant objectives for sport fish, wild birds, or wild mammals on the area.

b. As required by law, grants to acquire, develop, or manage lands must have a purpose consistent with the Wildlife Restoration or Sport Fish Restoration Acts. Sport fish or wildlife dependent activities (e.g. hunting, fishing, wildlife photography, or viewing platforms) would frequently be associated with the purpose for which the land was acquired, developed, or managed, and, therefore, such activities would generally be allowed, because they would not interfere with such purpose. Recreational activities and related facilities that are not sport fish or wildlife dependent (e.g. bicycling, swimming, rock climbing, kennels, stables, horseback riding, weddings) may be allowed if it is shown they will not interfere with the purpose for which the land was acquired or developed, or is managed.

Sec. 6 Are costs attributable to recreational activities on lands acquired, developed, or managed with Federal Assistance funds eligible for Federal Assistance funding? The standard for an "allowable" recreational activity or related facility is separate and distinct from the standard to determine whether or not the associated costs are eligible for Federal Assistance funding. A State fish and wildlife agency may only be awarded a grant if the grant is consistent with the purposes of the Wildlife Restoration or Sport Fish Restoration Acts; and the agency may only recover costs attributable to recreational activities if the activity or facility is (1) allowable as defined in Section 5 and (2) specified in the grant agreement.

Sec. 7 What is the Service's authority to review compliance with this guidance? The State fish and wildlife agency has responsibility for the accountability and control of all assets, and has first responsibility to determine if a recreational activity or related facility interferes with the purpose for which the land was acquired or developed, or is managed [50 CFR 80.18]. However, the Service has the right to review or inspect at any time to ensure compliance with Section 5 [50 CFR 80.21].

Sec. 8 Must recreational activities and related facilities on lands acquired, developed, or managed with Federal Assistance funds be included in the grant documents? A description of recreational activities and related facilities on lands acquired, developed, or managed with Federal Assistance funds does not need to be included in grant documents as long as: (1) the decision as to what recreational activities and related facilities will be allowed remains with the State fish and wildlife

agency; (2) the activities and related facilities would not interfere with the purpose for which the lands were acquired or developed, or are managed; and (3) the cost of the activities and related facilities will not be paid for with Federal Assistance funds.

Sec. 9 What is the effective date of this Order? This Order is effective immediately. We will include the contents of this Order in Part 522 of the Fish and Wildlife Service Manual. This Order will expire on September 30, 2004, unless amended, superseded, or revoked

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Steve Williams".

DIRECTOR

Date: July 1, 2003



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Washington, D.C. 20240

DIRECTOR'S ORDER NO. 156

Subject: Budget Changes in Federal Assistance Grants

Sec. 1 What is the purpose of this Order? This Order provides guidance for making budget changes within nonconstruction grants funded under the Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration Programs.

Sec. 2 To whom does this Order apply? This Order applies to all Service personnel who administer (concur or approve) grants funded through the Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration Programs.

Sec. 3 What are the authorities for taking this action?

- a. 16 U.S.C. 777.
- b. 16 U.S.C. 669.
- c. 43 CFR 12.70.
- d. 033 FW 11.3C.

Sec. 4 What types of budget changes does this guidance cover? This guidance applies to transfers among separately budgeted programs, projects, functions, or activities (direct-cost categories) for nonconstruction grant agreements.

Sec. 5 What budget changes must the Service review for approval? The Service must approve transfers among direct-cost categories for nonconstruction grants when the cumulative changes exceed 10 percent of the total approved budget in the grant agreement and the Federal share of the grant is greater than \$100,000 (43 CFR 12.70(c)(1)(ii), referred to as the "10-percent rule"), as directed in Sections 6 through 9 below. Note: While not covered by this Order, any budget change in a grant agreement that results in an increase in the total approved budget requires prior written approval by the Service (43 CFR 12.70(c)(1)(i)).

Sec. 6 How should the Service address budget changes? All nonconstruction grant agreements should contain a provision that specifically addresses the State's ability to make transfers among direct-cost categories at any level within an approved grant agreement. Such a provision should allow States to make transfers as long as all funds are expended to achieve the grant's approved fish and wildlife objectives.

- a. Suggested language for the provision is: "This grant is not subject to the prior written approval requirements of 43 CFR 12.70(c)(1)(ii), the "10-percent rule."

b. If the State objects to having such a provision in the grant agreement or if there is a compelling reason not to include such language, the provision will not be in the grant agreement and the procedures in Section 7 or 8 will apply as appropriate.

Sec. 7 If the grant agreement does not contain a provision addressing budget changes, how should the Service handle requests for budget changes during the grant period? If the grant agreement does not contain specific language concerning transfers among direct-cost categories, the State must obtain the prior, written permission of the Service before it transfers more than 10 percent of the total approved budget in the grant agreement among direct-cost categories in grants where the Federal share is more than \$100,000 (43 CFR 12.70(c)(1)(ii)). Such permission should be granted if, in the judgment of the Service, transfers would have been allowed as a provision in the original grant agreement.

Sec. 8 Does the Service have authority to waive the "10-percent rule" if the State makes transfers of more than 10 percent of the total approved budget in the grant agreement without authorization in the grant agreement or the prior written permission of the Service? Yes. In the absence of specific language in the grant agreement (Section 6a) or other prior written permission (Section 7), the Service retains the authority to waive, in writing, the prior approval requirement and retroactively approve such transfers without regard to whether or not the grant is open or closed. This authority is discretionary and the Service will apply it on a case-by-case basis.

Sec. 9 For grants approved prior to issuance of this Order, how should the Service address requests for a "waiver," when the State has transferred more than 10 percent of the total approved budget in the grant agreement without the written approval of the Service? When grants were approved prior to the issuance of this Order and the State failed to get written permission to make a transfer among direct-cost categories in the grant agreement, a "waiver" in writing should be granted if, in the judgment of the Service, the transfer would have been allowed as a provision of the original grant agreement.

Sec. 10 Are there exceptions to the guidance in Sections 8 and 9, above, for nonconstruction grants? Yes. Budget changes involving the transfer of funds allotted for training require prior written approval by the Service unless specifically addressed in the grant agreement (43 CFR 12.70(c)(1)(iii)).

Sec. 11 What is the effective date of this Order? This Order is effective immediately. We will include the contents of this Order in Part 522 of the Fish and Wildlife Service Manual. This Order will expire on September 30, 2004, unless amended, superseded, or revoked.



DIRECTOR

Date: July 17, 2003



**Special Highlight
Section of Region 3**

Best Management Practices Evaluated in Illinois using Sport Fish Restoration funds

Many areas of the country are using best management practices to address a variety of water quality issues on waterways. Illinois has begun several watershed management projects over the past several years, including identifying the highest priority watersheds in the State for best management practices, based on the habitat value of streams draining the watershed. The Governor's Office has played a major role in establishing the best management practice programs in priority watersheds. Now, a unique study funded through the Sport Fish Restoration program will evaluate the impacts and effectiveness of

best management practices on a watershed scale and over the long-term. The Illinois watershed study is designed to examine the effects of good watershed management on the habitat quality of their streams over the long-term, and produce quantitative data to clearly illustrate the extent of impact that best management practices can have. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources is encouraging the broader use of best management practices by showing farmers, policy makers, and citizens the benefits gained from using these techniques in watersheds.

Northeastern Illinois Wetland Protection Project

Illinois is known as the prairie State but, historically, it also contained extensive wetlands. Most of those wetlands have been destroyed by developments. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (DNR) received Federal assistance to purchase acreage within Black-Crown Marsh, a unique wetland in northeastern Illinois. The Service's Washington D.C. Office of Endangered Species selected the proposal for funding. Grant compliance and fiscal management are administered by the Division of Federal Assistance. Northeastern Illinois once contained a mosaic of prairie and marsh with scattered occurrences of bogs and fens, a result of glacial activity. A large portion of that landscape was modified by agricultural development, as well as growth of Chicago and the metropolitan area. As the human population continues to grow, by almost ten percent annually, pressure continues to convert natural landscapes to urban settings.

To preserve wetlands, a partnership, called the Northeastern Illinois Wetland Protection Project, was initiated and consists of various organizations, including the Illinois DNR. Black-Crown Marsh is one of those important remaining areas, and is listed in the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory. Dominated by palustrine emergent wetland with hemi-marsh and scrub-shrub habitats, it provides refuge for a diversity and abundance of wetland-dependant birds. They include State-

listed threatened and endangered species such as the black tern, common moorhen, least bittern, pied-billed grebe, sandhill crane, black-crowned night-heron, and yellow-headed blackbird. The Service included the area in the North American Waterfowl Management Plan for the Upper Mississippi River. It is also included in the Great Lakes Region Joint Venture as a Focus Area for northeastern Illinois due to its size, location and the important role it plays in the production of, and migration habitat for, waterfowl and wetland-dependant birds. The Chicago Wilderness Biodiversity Recovery Plan considers the site part of the most important wetland complex in the Chicago area.

The Illinois DNR received financial assistance through the nationally competitive State Wildlife Grant Program to purchase an important parcel in Black-Crown Marsh. The Federal award of \$760,000 of SWG funding is leveraged with non-Federal cash and in-kind contributions — worth \$2,131,000 — from the Illinois DNR and its partners. The non-Federal contribution also includes wetlands management and purchase of other wetlands acreage. Acquisition of the selected acreage will ensure that its values to wildlife are protected along with the opportunity for the public to enjoy these resources.

Aquatic Education Grant Gives Up-Close Look at Fish at Indiana State Fair

One of the most popular attractions at the Indiana State Fair has a great new look. The 40-year-old fish display maintained by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Division of Fish and Wildlife, has been renovated to be more interactive. Activities, videos, and a wealth of information have been incorporated into the new design. The fish tanks now highlight the State's aquatic habitat from Lake Michigan to farm ponds to the Ohio River. The tanks now provide an ecosystem approach to viewing aquatic species found in the Hoosier State. In addition, lighting, air-conditioning, air movement, and humidity controls were added using creative designs which gives you the feeling of waves and water. These improvements were funded under Indiana's aquatic education grant using Sport Fish Restoration funds.

Every aspect of their project was designed to be accessible to persons with disabilities—from the multi-media presentations to the building's new restrooms. Some difficult adaptations were encountered due to the century-old building's historic significance. However, perseverance and ingenuity prevailed and the results speak for themselves—aquatic education available for everyone.

Many more Indiana citizens can view and better understand the types of aquatic systems found in Indiana due to the partnership between the Service and the Indiana DNR, Division of Fish and Wildlife.



Indiana State Fair exhibition. Photo: Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

BIG Program Brings Boating Opportunities to Iowa

Boaters who use the Mississippi River at Clinton, Iowa, will soon enjoy improved access and facilities thanks to grants under the Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) Program.

Through two grants that total more than \$1.9 million, along with additional matching funds, the city of Clinton plans to construct new and renovate existing boating access facilities on the Mississippi River. The improvements will provide access for larger transient recreation boats. Among improvements planned for the Clinton facility are 50 transient boat slips, security lighting, navigational aids,

fuel pumps, a sewage pump system, showers, laundry, access walks, and other upgrades. These projects will help meet a growing demand for recreational facilities by boaters, as well as better accessibility for disabled users and improved safety for those who use the new facilities.

BIG Program projects, such as those underway in Clinton, allow more people to enjoy the Mississippi River and take advantage of the many recreational, historical, natural, cultural, and scenic resources that are part of this National Scenic Byway.

Federal Assistance Programs Helps Iowa Acquire Important Bird Conservation Areas

Iowa's Bird Conservation Area (BCA) Program is part of a recent exciting continental initiative that resulted from a growing concern for the decline of a large number of North American bird species. A very important aspect that helps enhance the functionality of the Iowa BCA Program has been helped by the infusion of Federal Assistance dollars in the form of grants from the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program (WCRP) and State Wildlife Grant (SWG) program.

In 2001, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) designated its first BCA (also the first grassland BCA in the U.S.), the Kellerton Grasslands BCA in Ringgold County. The greater prairie-chicken serves as the umbrella species for this BCA, and by managing for prairie chickens, a host of grassland birds will benefit, such as Henslow's sparrow, bobolink, dickcissel, short-eared owl, and northern harrier. Three additional BCAs now have been dedicated, including Spring Run Grasslands (Dickinson County), Broken Kettle Grasslands (Plymouth County), and Effigy Mounds-Yellow River Forest (Allamakee and

Clayton Counties). These four BCAs comprise roughly a total 184,000 acres that have been targeted as high priority areas for bird conservation. Two more BCAs are targeted for designation in 2003, and six more areas will be designated in the near future.

Federal Assistance funds, through Iowa's Statewide Land Acquisition Program grant, have allowed the Iowa DNR to purchase several key land additions to existing or future BCAs. For example, the 240-acre Tauke addition to the Kellerton Grasslands BCA was largely purchased with WCRP funds and is critical habitat for the survival of Iowa's prairie chickens. As of July 2003, over \$500,000 of WCRP and SWG Program funds have been approved by the Service through the current one-year grant agreement period to acquire these State BCAs and other important habitat for grassland birds and neo-tropical migrants. In this era of tight budgets and little money for land acquisition, Federal Assistance Programs have taken on major importance by providing rare dollars for rare bird species habitat protection.



Greater prairie chicken. Photo: Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Funding of Michigan's Hatcheries Support Sportfishing



Chinook salmon. Photo: J. Keller/USFWS

Nearly one-third of all recreational fishing in Michigan depends on stocked fish, including most of the trout and salmon fisheries in the Great Lakes. Michigan's six hatcheries, funded in part with Sport Fish Restoration funds, produce 750,000 pounds of fish each year to support the demand for sportfishing opportunities. Fish production and stocking are important tools in maintaining and enhancing the State's sportfishing opportunities. By creating a diversity of fish populations through stocking, managers can create a more stable fishery and one that provides more opportunities for recreational fishing. A good example is Lake Michigan's fishery, once dominated by Chinook salmon. Today, anglers catch five salmonid species, along with yellow perch and walleye.

Fish produced in hatcheries can be marked and easily monitored after

release, giving managers a clearer picture of how these fish affect the ecosystem into which they are introduced, as well as impacts on other fish and on existing gene pools in the system. By employing separate regulations for marked and unmarked fish, managers can manipulate resources in new ways that recognize the importance of wild fish and self-sustaining populations.

Hatcheries give fisheries managers a range of options to provide desirable game fish in waters once dominated by species with little or no value to sport anglers or to the ecosystem. Michigan's fish production and stocking program expends about \$7 million a year — including \$5.5 million in Federal funds. In a State where the sportfishing industry amounts to \$2.2 billion a year, benefits of fish production and stocking clearly outweigh costs.

Wildlife Restoration Funding Supports Gray Wolf Research in Michigan's Upper Peninsula



Gray wolf. Photo: USFWS

As gray wolves, listed as Federally threatened species in the Great Lakes area move toward recovery, it is essential that wildlife managers have accurate information about the species' population and status. Since 1998 the Wildlife Restoration Program has provided funding to assist the State of Michigan's efforts to evaluate the State's population of gray wolves.

With annual funding of \$250,000 Michigan's Department of Natural Resources conducts a wide range of activities to study the State's gray wolves with the aim of refining population estimate techniques. Efforts include radio-telemetry of wolf packs, track counts, collection and analysis of historical observation data, and database maintenance.

The goal of the research is to provide the best scientific estimate of population size and trends of gray wolves in Michigan and to gain understanding of wolf ecology to support wolf recovery efforts and long-term maintenance of the population. In addition, the research will provide data on wolf habitat needs as well as impacts of the wolf population on the State's white-tailed deer herd. Data will be used to evaluate the performance of management activities that are designed to meet the goals of both the Federal and State gray wolf recovery plans, and to document the eventual recovery and post-delisting health of the species in Michigan and the Great Lakes area.

It is expected that the gray wolf population study in Michigan will continue at least until 2007. The total cost is estimated at \$1.7 million, with more than \$1.3 million coming from Wildlife Restoration or State Wildlife Grant funds.

State Wildlife Grant Enhances Management of Lake Shorelands for Wildlife Conservation

Known as the land of 10,000 lakes, Minnesota is famous for water-related recreation. But, development on Minnesota lakes has resulted with a continuing loss of natural resources, including wildlife habitats. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) received Federal assistance from the State Wildlife Grant Program to expand its programs of maintaining and restoring wildlife habitats on lakes throughout the State. Selection of the proposal for funding was made by the Washington Office of Endangered Species. Compliance and fiscal management are administered by Federal Assistance.

Minnesota lakes provide colorful vistas and wildlife that attract people who enjoy fishing, wildlife viewing, canoeing, hunting and other activities. Besides these avocations, people also frequent lakes for weekend cabins, and second or retirement homes. Increasingly, these developments impact the same features which lure people to lakes. In particular, natural shoreland vegetation has been removed to accommodate boat docks, swimming areas, uninterrupted views of clear, blue water and other reasons. Contrarily, people want to retain the visual appeals of the same vegetation that is removed. These conflicting attitudes create a complex management problem for agencies such as the Minnesota DNR.

To address continuous loss of shoreland habitats, the Minnesota DNR developed Statewide programs which partner with individuals, private groups, and communities to maintain and restore this thin boundary of lakeside vegetation. To increase funding for the programs, the Minnesota DNR entered into a national competition for financial assistance from the State Wildlife Grant Program and received an award of \$534,000. Those dollars are leveraged with \$2,300,000 of non-Federal matching funds. The project consists of a comprehensive approach to address loss of shoreland habitats. It includes collecting baseline information about lakes, their watersheds and status of shoreland vegetation; collecting and understanding public attitudes about how lakeshore owners manage their property and what practices they use; conducting workshops for lakeshore owners; increasing availability of plants used to restore shoreland habitats; training resource professionals in lakeshore restoration; improving techniques for controlling exotics such as common carp and purple loosestrife; and providing technical and financial assistance to local groups and agencies to support restoration of lakeshore habitats. This financial support for the Minnesota DNR program continues through June 2007. It will support the public/private partnerships to maintain and restore shoreland habitats for wildlife.



The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources recently received funding from the State Wildlife Grant Program that will be used to enhance the management of lake shorelines for wildlife conservation. Photo: Mike Sweet/USFWS

Minnesota Acquires Wildlife Management Areas through the Wildlife Restoration Program

Generations of wildlife enthusiasts have enjoyed the benefits of Minnesota's extensive system of Wildlife Management Areas (WMA). Since 1951 when Minnesota began its "Save the Wetlands" program, wetlands and other habitats have been acquired in order to conserve them. Initiated by a handful of visionary wildlife managers and supported by hunters, trappers, wildlife enthusiasts, and legislators, the system has evolved to include 878,000 acres of land.

Managed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' Division of Wildlife, this WMA system is one of the best and largest in the country. There are 1,355 wildlife management areas in 86 of Minnesota's 87 counties. Habitats

protected by the system include wetlands, prairie, woodlands, brush lands, and other lands vital to wildlife. They are also important contributors to Minnesota's economy — hunting and wildlife watching are a billion dollar industry in the State. Most of these wildlife management areas were acquired using funding from the Wildlife Restoration Program through Minnesota's Statewide Wildlife Land Acquisition Grant. More than a million dollars of Federal Assistance funds have been approved through this grant to continue to acquire land within the next 2-year grant agreement period. The State also utilizes their Wildlife Restoration funds to develop and manage WMAs, which provides hunting opportunities and other wildlife-dependent recreation.



Photo: USFWS

Sport Fish Restoration Grant Boosts Lost Valley Hatchery and Fisheries Management in Missouri



Lost Valley Hatchery Complex. Photo: Missouri Department of Conservation.

Missouri's fishery management capabilities received a boost in October 2000 with the construction of the Lost Valley Fish Hatchery, a project funded in part with \$16.2 million in Federal funding through the Sport Fish Restoration Program. This 970-acre hatchery facility, 15 years in the making, represents the largest single Sport Fish Restoration capital improvement project in the Program's history. This project received the American Fisheries Society's Fisheries Administrator's Section Wallop-Breaux Project of the Year Award in 2002. Lost Valley Fish Hatchery features an 18,000-square-foot fish production room, 78 fish production ponds, seven water supply wells, and 15 miles of piping capable of delivering 3,5000 gallons of water per minute. State-of-the-art technology allows electronic monitoring of water temperature, pH, and oxygen levels. A special solar collecting pond produces inexpensive warm water for controlling temperatures in rearing ponds and in the hatchery building. The

hatchery produces over 4 million warmwater and coolwater fish, including largemouth bass, walleye, muskellunge, catfish, paddlefish, bluegill and hybrid sunfish.

In Lost Valley Hatchery, the Missouri Department of Conservation has been able to consolidate operations in a single centrally located facility, allowing closure of two older, less efficient hatcheries. With the opening of the hatchery, the department is less dependent on private fish growers, resulting in better disease control and genetic management of fish stocks, as well as greater flexibility in meeting stocking needs.

Visitors to the hatchery, located near Truman Lake and the town of Warsaw, can learn about fish identification, fisheries management, fishing in Missouri, and the Sport Fish Restoration Program through interactive interpretive exhibits. They also get an up-close look at native Missouri fish in a 13,000-gallon aquarium.



Lost Valley Hatchery Aquarium. Photo: Missouri Department of Conservation.

BIG Program Improves Boating Access on Missouri Waterways

Boaters are now able to enjoy more of Missouri's many recreational and natural resources thanks to the Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) Program, a program that provides Federal funding to improve boating for non-trailerable recreational boats (those that are 26 feet or longer). For the past two years, the Missouri Department of Conservation has been awarded BIG grants totaling \$385,700 to improve access and other facilities for these boaters.

Money from the grant program has funded a variety of projects, including installation of transient docks, day docks, fuel docks, sewage pumpouts, restrooms and other boating related facilities. These projects are being carried out at a number of locations throughout the State. Seven projects are already complete at four marinas at Lake of the Woods, Table Rock Lake, and on the Missouri River. Three additional sites on the Missouri and Osage rivers have projects currently underway. Funds for the BIG Program are provided through the Sport Fish Restoration Account.



Wildlife Restoration Program Brings Environmental Education to Ohio Schools and Parks

Federal funding is bringing the world of wildlife and science closer to Ohio residents, thanks to some innovative partnering by the Ohio Division of Wildlife (DW) and funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. More than 50,000 Ohio middle schoolers are getting a chance for some hands-on learning through a program sponsored by the Ohio DW and funded in part through the Wildlife Restoration Program. In partnership with the Center of Science and Industry (COSI), the "COSI on Wheels" project brings the wildlife conservation message directly to children. The learning program was developed by COSI and the Ohio DW to focus on the process of discovery, with emphasis on inquiry and hands-on science projects. The program provides kids with pre-visit

activities and materials, as well as post-visit information to reinforce key concepts.

Visitors to Ohio's State parks will continue to enjoy the benefits of the parks' excellent naturalist program, despite State budget shortfalls. Grants totaling \$250,000 through the Ohio DW are helping keep the State Park Naturalist Program viable, with increased emphasis on wildlife biology and management.

The Ohio DW receives approximately \$4.8 million annually from the Wildlife Restoration Program for its Comprehensive Management System, which is based on a Statewide strategic wildlife plan and focuses on helping Ohio citizens conserve their wildlife resources.

Coastal Wetland Grant Enhances Ohio's Pickerel Creek Wildlife Area

The Ohio Division of Wildlife (DW) is using a \$1 million grant from the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program to purchase and protect 280 acres of restorable coastal wetlands on Lake Erie. The land lies adjacent to the 2,800-acre Pickerel Creek Wildlife Area on Sandusky Bay, an extremely important area for migratory birds.

The Pickerel Creek Wildlife Area lies at the center of the best coastal wetland habitat remaining on Sandusky Bay. Unfortunately, this habitat is declining, while importance of the area to migratory birds is high and continues to grow. Ohio's coastal marshes and Sandusky Bay support a dramatically growing number of

spring-migration, neotropical migratory birds. The area is also the most important migration staging area for black ducks on the North American continent. Acquisition and restoration efforts through this project will also enhance habitat for many native wetland species which are listed as Federal or State endangered or threatened species.

Looking to the future, the Ohio DW has proposed a follow-up National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Program grant. This would enable the State to take on a more comprehensive, longer-term effort to protect and enhance the remaining coastal wetland habitat of Sandusky Bay.



Photo: USFWS

Wildlife Restoration Funds Support Wisconsin Efforts to Understand Chronic Wasting Disease

Wildlife Restoration funds are supporting efforts in Wisconsin to study chronic wasting disease (CWD), a nervous system disease that affects deer and elk. First observed in 1967 in northern Colorado, CWD was subsequently detected in other western States and Canadian provinces in 2001. By 2002, CWD was found in deer in Wisconsin, New Mexico, Illinois, and Minnesota.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), supported by nearly \$1.5 million in Wildlife Restoration funds, has launched a wide range of activities to learn more about the disease. Activities include surveillance, disease monitoring, surveys and research.

An important highlight of these ongoing activities in Wisconsin is a research study

funded by the Wildlife Restoration Program that examines the relationships of deer ecology, disease ecology, and hunter behavior to manage CWD. During the study, the Wisconsin DNR will collect information to help researchers understand relationships between CWD and deer population dynamics, deer movement, and behavior. The study will also focus on the extent of the disease, how the disease is transmitted and how quickly it spreads, and the effectiveness of their CWD management program. An important part of the study is an examination of human risk factors and attitudes of hunters, landowners, and the general public toward the disease. Findings from the study will significantly increase the information available about CWD, thereby enhancing efforts to manage the disease.



Photo: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Sport Fish Restoration Funds Dam Removal on Wisconsin's Baraboo River

A portion of Wisconsin's Baraboo River has been transformed from a series of sluggish mill ponds to a free-flowing waterway, thanks to an ambitious project that included removal of four dams along the river. Funded in part with Sport Fish Restoration monies and encompassing 120 river miles, the \$1.8 million project represents the most miles of river to be restored in Wisconsin and is one of the biggest river restoration projects in the nation.

Removal of the dams — three of them located in Baraboo, about 40 miles from Madison — resulted in the longest contiguous riffle complex in the Baraboo River drainage. Following dam removal, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources restored and enhanced sport fish riverine habitat, as well as habitat for other aquatic species, and began a long-term evaluation of both habitat and aquatic species recovery patterns. As might be expected, a project of this magnitude included forging extensive partnerships to support financial and

administrative goals. Partners ranged from special interest groups and foundations to State and Federal agencies. As an example, the City of Baraboo integrated the project into the city's long-term downtown redevelopment plans. Baraboo has also developed a river walkway as a community focal point.

Initial information from evaluation efforts shows rapid improvement in the river's fishery, reflected in fish migration patterns, fish community health, and distribution patterns. The project has resulted in an improved sport fishery, and enhanced recreation opportunities on the river. For example, canoeists can now travel the entire 120 miles of navigable waters, something not possible in nearly 150 years.

The Fisheries Administrator's Section of the American Fisheries Society recently awarded this project its 2003 Sport Fishery and Development Project of the Year Award.

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