

**Tuesday, October 1**

2:00-5:00

**Wednesday, October 2**

**7:00-8:00**

8:00-8:15 (Otter Room)

8:15-8:30

8:30-8:45

8:45-9:45

9:45-10:00

**10:00-10:15**

10:15-11:00

11:00-11:30

11:30-12:00

**12:00-1:00**

1:00-1:15

1:15-1:30

1:30-2:15

2:15-2:30

**2:30-2:45**

2:45-4:30

\*Briefing Book

October 2-3, 2013

Sheraton Bayfront

Erie, PA

Field Trip

**CATERED BREAKFAST (Salon B-Harlequin Room)**

Welcome/Introductions-Terry Foreman

Welcome-John Arway, PFBC Executive Director

\*Approval of Minutes/Financial Statement (Page 3)

\*Outreach Committee Update (Page 10)-Boxrucker

\*MSCG Update (Page 12)-Boxrucker

**BREAK**

Assessment Update-Rebecca Krogman

\*Bylaws Revisions/New Officers (Page 20)

\*RFHP Conservation Priorities (Page 32)

**CATERED LUNCH (Salon B-Harlequin Room)**

Strategic Plan update-Boxrucker

\*Business Plan (Page 36)-Boxrucker

\*Coordinator Work Plan/2014 Budget (Page 43)

2013 Project Update-Cecilia Lewis

**BREAK**

\*2014 Project Selection (Page 50)

**Proxies**

Rick Ott for Dave Terre

Doug Nygren for Gary Martel

Gene Gilliland for Noreen Clough

John Moore for Tom Mendenhall

Terry Foreman for Joe Margraf

**Call-In Number: 1-866-560-0760**

**Pass Code: 2832957#**



**Thursday, October 3**

**7:00-8:00**

8:00-8:30 (Otter Room)

8:30-9:30

9:30-10:30

**Current Officers:**

Terry Foreman-President

Mike Armstrong-Secretary

Doug Nygren-Treasurer

**Members:**

Martin MacDonald

Mark Oliver

Noreen Clough

Dave Terre

Gene Gilliland

**Continental Breakfast (Salon B-Harlequin Room)**

New Officers

Director of Strategic Partnerships

Business Plan

**Annual Meeting Minutes (October 12, 2012)**

Meeting attendees

Meeting called to order by Executive committee chair, Terry Foreman at 8:05am CDT.

Old Business

Change to 2011 meeting minutes: On page 2 the name of the individual should be Ryck Lydecker

* Motion to accept the minutes with changes by Doug Nygren and seconded by Tim Toplisek. Motion passed.
* Motion to accept the current financial report made by Lucero and seconded by Toplisek. Motion passed.

FOR Update –Jeff Boxrucker

* There are currently 3 FOR Chapters and the fourth is pending renewal:5 Group Affiliates; 7 Individual Affiliates; 0 PFFW; ~10 additional applications in development
* Action item: Board approval for to move forward with the development of materials that the outreach committee deems necessary for outreach to potential partners. Motion by Hannibal Bolton and seconded by Terry Foreman.

Outreach Update –Dave Terre

* Met in fresh water center in TX
* Future direction of FOR 🡪 creating a FOR network in state agencies
* Marketing strategies –industry , lake associations, and
* Currently we have 2 websites, and brochures, and a canned presentation for individuals to use to promote FOR
* Following the meeting the outreach group met with Martin MacDonald and he agreed to allow FOR to leverage some of Bass Pro’s marketing strategies to help develop FOR.
* The FOR recently launched a FOR FB page. Please send the stories
* FOR was promoted at the Toyota Texas Bass Classic again this year
* The Classic will be televised on ???
* A FOR Booth was also present at the classic and run by the Seven Coves Bass Club
* An article about FOR was in the TTBC spectator guide
* The committee asks that if you have anyone in you staff that is adept at using FB please have them contribute your regional stories to the FOR FB page
* Future plans for MSCG funds, TX would use the funds to:
  + Pull together FOR groups into one place and invite an unaffiliated group and talk about FOR successes as a way to leverage FOR in TX
  + Magazine articles
  + Add a link to the FOR site on the TXPWD website
  + FOR Planning promotional meetings with other states to encourage their involvement in the FOR
  + Work with Noreen Clough to promote FOR at the BASS Mater Classic in Tulsa, OK. Also, plan to attend the ICAST to get the work about FOR to industry attendees.
  + 24 state agencies are represented on the FOR website. Users can click on the map and find out who their FOR representative is for their state.
  + Dave discussed that bass clubs and homeowners groups are great groups to connect with to work on water quality and fish habitat issues.
  + Comment: (Jeff Lucero) prepare a presentation for watershed associations to provide information about access to NRCS funds available for groups that are interested in restoring the watershed but not necessarily fish
    - Action Item: Tim Toplisek and Jeff Lucero will work with Dave Terre on re-working the prepared presentation to address watershed associations.
  + Comment: (Don Gablehouse) to draw in groups like other than bass groups the FOR would need to address pelagic species (walleye and crappie for example) and water level management
  + **Action Item**: Jeff will add a page with the for chapters for each region or state
  + Comments: (Doug Nygren): There is an opportunity to involve prison groups in reservoir habitat restoration. Lorna State Prison to plant live vegetation and/or deploy the structures. This is also an opportunity to get additional FOR Groups that are willing to perform restoration and conservation activities.
  + Also, 3-D printing can be used for designing and testing in-reservoir structure. Google 3-D printing.
  + NFHP proposed to a list of communications/outreach goals and one of the goals is to assist the partnerships with obtaining funds from other sources.
  + InFisherman Magazine is interested in an article from the RFHP
  + Talked about getting a pro-angler to promote the FOR but haven’t found one yet.
  + Terry Foreman will talk with Dean Rojas
  + Craig Bonds has talked with Alton Jones about becoming a FOR professional representative and promote FOR. Brian Snowden -he helped Seven Coves help constructed fish attractors.
  + Comment (Nygren): Broaden the scope of the search for a spokesperson. Reach out to any individual that is easily recognizable (i.e. football coaches, NASCAR drivers, etc.)
  + Comment: (Vitello): Muskie Magazine is willing to write an article about FOR
  + **Action item**: Chris will draft an article and share it with Jeff Boxrucker before sending to <http://www.muskiesinc.org/indy_files/mimag.html>
* USACOE and Bass Pro Shops MOU -Tim Toplisek
  + At this point, the scope of the MOU is very broad and general but individual managers have some leeway to manage flows on the dams they manage. Details about individual regional projects or
  + Working on how to bring in other state and federal agencies.
  + In June an agreement was signed between several federal agencies to help support fishing events across the country for disadvantage children. Called Catch a Special Thrill. Tim would like to promote fish habitat at these events
  + Watchable wildlife –getting people out to view wildlife. This organization is also one number on the web. Tim is trying to get the organization to include more fisheries information into the website.
  + **Action item**: Tim will send a copy of the MOU to Jeff for distribution to the RFHP.
  + Chris Vitello mentioned some project slowdowns due to the strict interpretation of regulations by Corp project managers/lawyers.
  + **Action item**: Tim Toplisek will talk to Megan Smith, regulatory division in HQ about strictly interpreting the regulations, which can slowdowns projects.
  + Jeff spoke with Martin MacDonald about having FOR become a part of the ACOE/Bass Pro MOU. This would be an opportunity to have RFHP projects on several Corp dams.

MSCG –Jeff Boxrucker

* Communication snag initially with the NFHP board and other FHPs
* Endorsement of the proposal from the Conowingo/Susquehanna River nutrient abatement issue. PFBC in regard to technology called Floating Islands International, which produces floating islands as a method to restore reservoir habitat.
* Jeff Boxrucker would like to ask the Executive Committee whether it would like to approve a draft letter endorsing the project. Or not approve the endorsement at all.
* The RFHP doesn’t have an official endorsement procedure in place so this letter would be ad-hoc. However, the board could decide not to endorse the project at all and wait until the RFHP has an official procedure.
* Jeff will develop a process shortly and he would like to develop a method for endorsing products.
* Discussion
  + Jeff Lucero –Do we [the RFHP] really want to endorse actual products and/or for-profit companies?
  + James Adams –it a common model for a non-profit organization to endorse a particular product.
  + Don Gabelhouse –I would feel more comfortable endorsing independent evaluation of a product.
  + Jeff Boxrucker –he clarified that the RFHP will only be endorsing the project not necessarily the product or the company. Jeff Lucero added that an endorsement of any portion could lead to the company claim that the RHFP therefore supports the products. He further asserted that the endorsement criteria explicitly explain what is being endorsed.
  + Joe Margraf –the Conowingo (the Susquehanna River) is a major run –of-the river system (flashy system with a large amount of water moving through the system) and it would not be the best place to test this technology.
  + Pat Sollberger –can we send a more generic letter that endorses the project “we support doing work/research on reservoir habitat”
  + Terry Foremen – we should look at whether the project moves our efforts forward. If it does then endorse, if not then no.
  + Chris Horton –The RFHP is not ready to endorse any project until it has put in place the criteria
* Motion needed –move forward with endorsement as a BMP at the reservoir scale
  + Joe Margraf made a motion not to endorse the floating island project. Motion seconded by Chris Horton. Motion passed. The RFHP will not endorse the floating island project.

Assessment Update –Jeff Boxrucker

* Presentation that was given by Jeff at AFS and will be given at other meetings throughout the remainder of the year.
* **Action item**: The PowerPoint presentation is available online
* Draft manuscript has been submitted by Rebecca Krogman to *TAFS* for review.
* A submission should be sent to *Fisheries* b/c fisheries professionals are more likely to read about the project in Fisheries magazine.
* **Action item**: The development of an impairment map would be helpful for funding purposes. Rebecca is currently working on a map that displays impairments with the conditions that determine their impairment.
* Comment: (Gene Gilliland): these maps can be used on the FOR website to communicate reservoir needs.

Coordinator work plan –Jeff Boxrucker

* All accomplishments are outlined in the RFHP briefing book for the 2012 Annual Meeting
* Motion to accept the2012 -2013 work plan mad e by Mark Oliver and seconded by Hannibal Bolton. The motioned passed and the work plan was accepted as written.

Budget

* Jeff Boxrucker reviewed the 2013 budget based on funds provided by the MSCG.
* Details about the budget are in the Annual Meeting briefing book.
* Jeff will add his travel expenses for the AFS meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas to the 2013 budget
* Discussion on what to do with $15,000 that was not claimed by the IA project.
* Action Item: Hannibal Bolton will talk with his staff to leave funds in project pool
* Motion to approve the budget made by Hannibal Bolton and seconded by Tim Toplisek.
* Mark Oliver requested a discussion to make sure that the reverted dollars be put into the projects fund pot instead of the operational funds.

RFHP Project Update –Craig Bonds TPWD

* His presentation was given via PowerPoint and will be made available on the web

Bylaws Discussion

* Remedy the problem of no vice-chair representatives and the
* Suggested that we remove the non-governmental and industry representatives
* **Corrections**: in the board book Change Doug Fielder to Dwight Fielder and Action item in the board book on page 32.
* The coordinator to investigate the issues with any contradictions in the charter document
* **Correction**: We should indicate that Don Gabelhouse represents the Fisheries Administrators Section (FAS)
* Action item: Joe Margraf will reconcile the current RFHP and FOR document to eliminate discrepancies

Project Funding Report –Cecilia Lewis

* **Action item:** Report attached
* Type in overview of changes to the plan for the $15,000

Project Proposal Selection

* Summary of project break out is in the presentation. Get a copy from Jeff and add a summary here.
* The executive committee discussed the projects rankings and determined which projects would be submitted to the USFWS for approval by the Director.
* Projects that will be forwarded include
  + Ranks 2, 3, 5, 6, and 9. Project ranked 6 (NV), 8, and 10 will be the additional projects submitted. Project ranked 1 will be funded using carry overfunds from FY12.
* Motion to fund the following projects IA, NM, UT, MO, TX, MD,
* Motion made by Mark Oliver and seconded by Joe Margraf. Motioned passed.
* Next meeting Oct 2 and 3, 2013 at the Sheraton, in Erie, PA
* 2014 meeting will be in the Southeast



Financial Report (1 Oct 2012 - 31 Aug 2013)

**Virginia Tech Account**

Zeroed Nov. 2012

**Friends of Reservoirs** (Bank of America)

Beginning Balance (1 October 2012) **$ 7,114.06**

Deposits

FOR membership (Canyon Bass Club) 25.00

FOR membership (Lake Houston Sports & Rec Foundation) 25.00

FOR membership (Friends of Everbloom) 25.00

Transfer (check of donate button on website) 1.00

FOR membership (Lake Buchannan Cons. Corps) 100.00

FOR membership (IL Bass Federation) 100.00

FOR membership (westernbass.com) 25.00

Sponsor Fee (Boomerrang Tool-SNIPS sales) 408.94

Dave Terre (SNIPS sales) 220.00

FOR memberships (Bassmaster Classic) 230.00

FOR memberships (Bassmaster Classic-Intuit) 350.00

FOR membership (Carl Wengenroth) 25.00

FOR membership (Steve Miranda) 25.00

FOR membership (KS B.A.S.S. Nation) 25.00

FOR membership (Prairieland Anglers) 25.00

FOR membership (Sierra Nevada Bass Club) 25.00

FOR membership (Sid Lindholm) 25.00

FOR membership (Piney Wood Lakes) 25.00

FOR membership (Hell’s Gate Bass Cub) 25.00

FOR membership (Stillwaters Bass Club) 25.00

FOR membership (Tioga County Bass Club) 25.00

FOR membership (TX Assoc. of Bass Clubs) 100.00

Donation (Ellason) 100.00

Sponsor (MossBackRack) 1,000.00

Dave Terre (SNIPS sales) 520.00

FOR membership (OR B.A.S.S. Nation-renewal) 25.00

FOR membership (Lake Fork Sportsman Assoc-renewal) 25.00

FOR membership (B.A.S.S.-renewal) 100.00

FOR membership (Lake Fork Sportsman Assoc-renewal) 100.00

**$ 3,704.94**

Expenses

Bank Fees $ 42.35

Tax Return prep 250.00

**$ 292.35**

Ending Balance (31 August 2013) **$10,526.65**

**Outreach Committee Report**

Committee Chair: Dave Terre

Presentation on FOR (used to recruit Chapters)

* Current membership
  + 13 Chapters
  + 11 Group Affiliates
  + 35 Individuals
  + Sponsors: Bass Pro Shops, Moss Back Rack, Boomerrang Tool

Committee Activities (October 2012 through September 2013)

* Scientific Meetings
  + SARP meeting at SEAFWA
  + Updated Natural Resources Committee (SEAFWA) on RFHP activities (assessment, BMPs)
  + Moderated RFHP session at North American Lake Management Society meeting in Madison, WI
    - 4 presentations given (2 by Coordinator)
  + Moderated RFHP session at Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, Wichita, KS
    - 5 presentations given (2 by Coordinator)
  + Assessment and Bass Pro Shops : USACE MOU for presentation at the SDAFS meeting
  + IA and NE Habitat Program Coordinators made presentations on their respective programs to Reservoir Committee meeting at SDAFS
  + Annual Meeting AFS, Little Rock
    - Full day symposium-21 presentations
    - 70-80 individuals in audience
* Trade Shows (Bassmaster Classic Expo-Feb, 2012; ICAST-July, 2012) Boxrucker, Terre, Gilliland
  + Work with TPWD staff to develop 2 “standees” promoting FOR
  + Purchased promotional items for membership signees
  + license holders
  + Sale of FOR-branded SNIPS promoted on Boomerang Tool website ([www.boomerangtool.com/shop/the-snip-wled-line-cutter-benefitting-friends-of-reservoirs](http://www.boomerangtool.com/shop/the-snip-wled-line-cutter-benefitting-friends-of-reservoirs/)), Facebook URL ([www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-Reservoirs/132056723600976](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-Reservoirs/132056723600976) ).
  + RFHP joined American Sportfishing Association
* Updated FOR recruiting presentation and posted for partner use
  + TPWD produced video promoting FOR featuring Alton Jones (professional bass angler)
  + Developed membership certificate
  + Conference call with City of Wichita Falls, TX to develop FOR group
* Articles for popular media
  + Brad Wiegmann (Outdoor Writer)-article appeared in Weekly Express newspaper-Westville, Oklahoma
    - same article will be posted on [www.bradwiegmann](http://www.bradwiegmann)
  + Article on reservoir habitat issues and FOR’s role on fishhound.com
  + Posted Q&A from Craig Bonds on fish management and habitat issues for westernbass.com
  + BASS Times
  + Articles in TPWD agency publications
* Developed FOR member page on website
  + Routine updates provided to both websites
  + Terre manage Facebook page
* Developed sponsorship brochure
  + Produced by TPWD
* Newsletter (November 2012, April 2013)

RESERVOIR FISHERIES HABITAT PARTNERSHIP

ARKANSAS GAME AND FISH COMMISSION

Final Report

Multistate Conservation Grant No. AR-M-2-HP-1 (FBMS F12AP00092)

[www.reservoirpartnership.org](http://www.reservoirpartnership.org); [www.waterhabitatlife.org](http://www.waterhabitatlife.org)

**Objective 1: *Reservoir classification and baseline assessment of fish habitat impairments.***

* United States Geological Survey (Dr. Reed Green) completed a compilation of physical characteristics of reservoirs in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers National Inventory of Dams (NID) data base. The effort was limited to reservoirs over 250 acres to make the task manageable. This spreadsheet will be posted on the RFHP website and distributed among state fisheries agencies.
* Dr. Steve Miranda (Mississippi State Univ.) designed an on-line survey and asked reservoir managers to rate reservoir-specific habitat impairments. Data from over 1300 reservoirs >250 acres were submitted. Data gathering was completed in March, 2011.
  + MS student successfully defended her thesis based on completion of the assessment
    - Subsequently hired by California Department of Fish and Wildlife to lead their reservoir management program
  + Two manuscripts are in draft form waiting submission to professional journals
  + Posting of summary of data on the web is ongoing
    - Impairment data will be presented by:
      * Reservoir
      * State
      * Region
* Updates of reservoir assessment presented to:
  + Kansas Department of Wildlife Parks and Tourism
  + B.A.S.S. Conservation Summit
  + North American Lake Management Society
  + American Fisheries Society (AFS)
  + Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society (SDAFS)
  + Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference
  + National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) Board
  + Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership (RFHP) Executive Committee
* Assessment data have been incorporated into Project Selection Criteria to prioritize project focus by region.

**Objective 2:*****Preliminary survey/publication of best management practices (BMPs) for fish habitat impairments.***

* NFHP has recognized the need to compile BMPs and make available to FHP’s and their partners.
  + RFHP Coordinator is served on a committee that rewrote the next 5-year NFHP plan. The need for BMPs was incorporated into the conservation priorities.
* Coordinator is working with SDAFS Reservoir Committee to update the “Habitat Manual for Use of Artificial Structures in Lakes and Reservoirs” and the “Biotic (Aquatic Vegetation) Manual”. These documents are about 10 years old and much new information is available, particularly with reestablishing native vegetation.
* Coordinator contacted SARP representative re: stream enhancement BMPs being compiled. All information compiled and published will be made available to states and other FHPs.
* Coordinator is serving on Gulf Coastal Prairie Landscape Conservation Cooperative Steering Committee and is currently a member of the GCPLCC Science Team
  + BMP development needs are a proposed science need for this geographic region
* BMP publications are being assembled
* Letter of Intent and full proposal for MSCG was submitted to AFWA in 2012
  + Full funding was received (2 years at $62,500/year)
  + Objectives were to compile reservoir habitat restoration BMPs; organize by regional impairments established in the assessment; and make available on the web
* Portion of award was subgranted to Mississippi State Univ.
* Discuss use of floating islands for nutrient abatement and fish habitat with CEO of Floating Islands International
* Research and compile BMP’s for shoreline stabilization and rehabilitation
  + Provide shoreline stabilization materials to FOR Affiliate Member
* Review web-based BMP’s for watershed restoration compiled by SARP
* Discuss siltation abatement potential relative to restoring connectivity in reservoirs with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers staff
* Work with NM B.A.S.S. Conservation Director, TPWD staff, and SDAFS Reservoir Committee to purchase and ship floating islands as a demonstration/evaluation as addition to bulkheads for ameliorating habitat loss from bulkhead construction
* Work with IL DNR District Biologist and USACE to investigate the effects of terrestrial herbicide runoff on establishment of native aquatic plants

**Objective 3: *Coordination of strategies, actions and data sharing with NFHP and FHPs.***

* Coordinator has participated in the bi-monthly NFHP conference calls
* Coordinator attended July, 2011, 2012, October, 2011, 2012 and June, 2013 NFHP Board meetings; participated in the February 2012 meeting via webinar.
* Coordinator serving on committee to develop objectives and strategies for the 5-year (2013-2018) plan for NFHP
* Coordinator attended the MWAFWA Director’s meeting; WAFWA Inland and Marine Fisheries Resources Committee meeting; Natural Resources Committee (SEAFWA), WNTI meeting; NFHP symposium at the Annual AFS meeting; Western FHP coordination meeting (held at AFS meeting)
* Coordinator is organizing a full-day symposium on reservoir habitat restoration at the 2013 Annual Meeting of AFS
* Coordinator is organizing a FHP Coordinators meeting at the 2013 Annual Meeting of AFS
* Coordinator maintains close contact with SARP Coordinator and strives to develop collaborative efforts
  + Attended annual meeting in October, 2012
  + RFHP and SARP Coordinators named to Gulf Coastal Prairie LCC Steering Committee
    - Submitted joint proposal to advance in-stream flow methodologies within the LCC (expansion of current SARP effort)
    - Working with GCPLCC Science Team to develop other reservoir-related restoration science needs
* Attended Gulf Coastal Prairie LCC Steering Committee Meeting in June, 2011, Feb., 2012 and June 2012
* Participate in panel discussion re: partnering opportunities during the inaugural meeting of the South Central Climate Science Center
* Coordinator filled out Fish Habitat Partnership Performance Evaluation Criteria and submitted to NFHP for review
* Provide information to Western Native Trout Initiative Development Director re: potential funding opportunities
  + Received outreach materials for recruiting corporate partners from WNTI
* Provide EBTJV with examples of RFHP Coordinator job duties and work plans
* Discuss collaborative efforts with SARP Coordinator
  + Discuss potential for joint MSCG proposal with SARP Coordinator
* Discuss role of RFHP with FWS Assistant Director of Fisheries and NE Region ARD in working with other FHP’s
* Contact Science and Data Committee Chairs to discuss relevance of RFHP assessment data to national assessment
* Provide Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership with copies of Request for Proposals and Project Scoring Criteria used by RFHP
* Discuss cooperative project potential with Great Plains and OH River Basin FHP Coordinators

**Objective 4: *Selection and support of projects in priority reservoir systems.***

* Project selection criteria were established (priority points given to how project fits into objectives of RFHP Strategic Plan)
  + Modifications to criteria are on-going as members of Project Proposal Scoring Committee recommend changes
  + Conducted webinars with Project Proposal Scoring Committee to discuss and revise project selection criteria for 2013 and 2014 project proposals
  + Assessment data were incorporated into the project selection criteria for the 2014 round of proposals
  + Requests for proposals were modified as per project selection criteria revisions and sent out to partners
* Six projects were funded in 2011:
  + Native vegetation reestablishment in OK and TX;
  + Shoreline habitat added to Leaser Lake, PA during drawdown;
  + Fish exclusion device added to Lovewell Reservoir, KS;
  + Economic analysis of habitat improvements to Lake Havasu, AZ;
  + Additional funding for reservoir impairment assessment.
* Seven projects were funded in 2012:
  + Shoreline stabilization project in NC
  + Native vegetation reestablishment in AR
  + Habitat restoration efforts in NE
  + Bottom sculpting project in FL
  + Addition of woody structure in PA and MO
  + Nutrient removal project in NM
* Six projects were funded in 2013:
  + Addition of woody structure in MO
  + Evaluation of structure placement in TX
  + Whole lake restoration project in IA
  + Addition of woody structure in UT
  + Addition of woody structure and vegetation in NM
  + Shoreline stabilization in MD
* Project Endorsement Criteria for non-RFHP/NFHP funded projects were developed and circulated to Board and Working Groups for review
* Revised the project reporting format and forwarded to FWS for review
* Discuss potential projects with Oklahoma Water Resources Board

**Objective 5**: *Establish Friends of Reservoirs Foundation (FOR) to sustain RFHP into the future.*

* *Friends of Reservoirs* was established in 2011
* Bass Pro Shops donated legal fees for establishment
  + Provides for tax-deductible donation status for donors
* Communicated with FOR partners re: project funding administration
  + Copied grant manual supplied at National Conservation Training Center workshop
  + Discuss grant opportunities with FOR partners (Conservation Directors at B.A.S.S. Conservation Summit)
  + Research federal and foundation granting opportunities
* Prepared and made presentation on FOR and aquatic habitat restoration programs to:
  + Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
  + Reservoir Committee (SDAFS meeting)
  + Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation
  + Kansas Department of Wildlife Parks and Tourism
  + B.A.S.S. Conservation Directors at the B.A.S.S. Conservation Summit
  + Missouri Department of Conservation
  + Southern Division of American Fisheries Society
  + American Fisheries Society
  + North American Lake Management Society
  + Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference
* Distributed FOR brochures to:
* Reservoir Committee members B.A.S.S. Conservation Director
* Bass Pro Shops (BPS)Conservation Director
* KS Department of Wildlife Parks and Tourism
* OH Department of Natural Resources
* NC Wildlife Resources Commission
* TX Parks and Wildlife Department
* IL Dept. of Conservation
* UT Division of Wildlife Resources
* AR Game and Fish Commission
* OK Department of Wildlife Conservation
* CA Department of Fish and Wildlife
* Contacted RFHP grant recipients about becoming FOR Chapter members
  + No response to date
* Contacted RFHP Board members to become Affiliate members of FOR
  + Process checks received
* Discussed benefits of FOR with potential members
  + Processed applications
  + Developed and distributed a membership certificate to all members
  + As of June 30, 2013, registered FOR members include:
    - 35 Individual Affiliate members
    - 11 Group Affiliate members
    - 13 Chapter members
* Meet with Bass Pro Shops Conservation Director to develop an Outreach Plan for Friends of Reservoirs
  + Receive $1000 check from BPS for FOR sponsorship
  + Develop and forward an e-mail message for distribution to BPS e-mail list that encourages interested parties to engage in FOR efforts
* Discuss potential of Anheuser-Busch sponsorship of FOR with Marketing Director
* Developed sponsorship brochure to recruit sport fishing industry sponsorship
  + Joined American Sportfishing Association
  + Made preparations to attend ICAST show (industry trade show) to discuss partnership opportunities with industry representatives
* Discuss fund-raising potential with B.A.S.S. Conservation Director
* Updated FOR recruiting presentation and posted for partner use
* Developed FOR member page on website

**Objective 6: *Hire coordinator to administer RFHP and implement RFHP strategic plan.***

* Jeff Boxrucker was hired as coordinator in May, 2011
* Routine phone and e-mail correspondence completed to facilitate coordination and communication of RFHP activities
* Appliedfor DUNS number for federal granting purposes
  + Received DUNS number and CAGE Code for federal granting purposes
* Developed and distributed agendas for RFHP bi-monthly conference calls; lead discussion on conference calls
* Made arrangements for October 2011, October 2012 and October 2013 RFHP Annual Meetings
  + Organized and led discussions at the Annual RFHP Board meetings
  + Reviewed and edited minutes from Annual RFHP Board meetings
* Compiled financial information for Friends of Reservoirs
  + Submitted same to accountant for preparation and filing of income tax return

**Objective 7: *Expand RFHP partnership through outreach and infrastructure.***

* *Friends of Reservoirs* website ([www.waterhabitatlife.org](http://www.waterhabitatlife.org)) was developed to provide outreach, raise awareness of reservoir habitat issues, and raise funds.
  + Tiered membership criteria for *Friends of Reservoirs* were established.
    - **Chapter**-fishing/sportsmen’s groups interested in working on habitat issues on a particular reservoir;
    - **Partnership for Fish Friendly Waters**-organizations wishing to work on reservoir habitat issues at the watershed scale;
    - **Affiliate (individual)**-individuals interested in advancing the mission of FOR without getting involved in a specific project;
    - **Affiliate (group)**-organizations interested in advancing the mission of FOR without getting involved in a specific project.
  + As of June 30, 2013 FOR membership consisted of:
    - 35 Individual Affiliate members
    - 11 Group Affiliate members
    - 13 Chapter members
  + Membership is distributed among 21 states
* Worked with FOR members to secure external funding for habitat projects
* Provided guidance on establishing native vegetation to FOR partner in IL
* Produced outreach video featuring Alton Jones (professional bass angler) to promote FOR: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cj5EbqwFQNg>
* Outreach plan outline was developed
* Brochure describing and highlighting the benefits of *Friends of Reservoirs* was developed and 3000 copies printed and being distributed
* Sponsorship brochure was produced targeting the sportfishing industry
  + Secured Bass Pro Shops, MossBackRack Company, and Boomerrang Tool as sponsors
* Produced and distributed quarterly newsletter
  + Update newsletter distribution list as needed
* Newsletters available at http://www.reservoirpartnership.org/Newsletters/Newsletters.html
* Discussed Outreach Committee needs with members
  + Participate in Outreach Committee conference calls
* Assembled materials and coordinated activities in advance of April, 2012 Outreach Committee meeting
  + Attended Outreach Committee meeting in Athens, TX
  + Prepare follow-up materials
* Submitted nomination for “Ten Waters to Watch” in 2011 and 2012
  + Table Rock Lake (MO) National Fish Habitat Initiative was selected
  + Lake Conroe (TX) Habitat Enhancement Project was selected
* Routinely discussed and provided updates for [www.waterhabitatlife.org](http://www.waterhabitatlife.org) with website designer
  + Established Facebook page
  + Designed FOR Facebook campaign
    - Provided regular postings to Friends of Reservoirs on Facebook
* Routinely updated RFHP website ([www.reservoirpartnership.org](http://www.reservoirpartnership.org))
* Presentations on reservoir habitat restoration programs in IA and NE were given at North American Lake Management Society Annual Meeting, Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference and Southern Division AFS Reservoir Committee Meeting
  + Purpose of presentations was to inform state fisheries agency representatives of potential alternate funding avenues for habitat restoration efforts
    - Further discussions are being held with PA Fish and Boat Commission
* Organized block of presentations on RFHP for November, 2012 meeting of North American Lake Management Society;
  + 4 presentations accepted (2 by Coordinator)
  + Coordinator served as moderator for the session
* Moderated RFHP session at Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, Wichita, KS, December, 2012
  + 5 presentations given (2 by Coordinator)
* Planning for full-day symposium on reservoir habitat restoration at the 2013 Annual Meeting of AFS (September, 2013) is ongoing
* Drafted press releases:
  + B.A.S.S. becoming FOR Affiliate Member
  + [www.bradwiegmann.com](http://www.bradwiegmann.com) (introducing FOR)
  + Article on reservoir habitat issues and FOR’s role on [www.fishhound.com](http://www.fishhound.com)
  + Posted Q & A on fish management and habitat issues for [www.westernbass.com](http://www.westernbass.com)
* Worked with B.A.S.S. Conservation Directors to encourage members to become FOR Affiliates
* Coordinated discussions between U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and NM B.A.S.S. Conservation Director on habitat work on Elephant Butte reservoir
* Prepared Letter of Intent for Multistate Conservation Grant for assessment follow-up project: Outreach Efforts
  + submitted same for consideration
  + Coordinated with Outreach Committee re: objectives
  + Drafted and submitted MSCG proposal
  + Received full funding for same (2 years for $125,000)
* Procured outreach materials for FOR booth at the Bassmaster Classic Expo
  + Worked with TPWD staff to develop displays for 2 “standees”
  + Purchased promotional items for membership signees
  + Sale of FOR-branded SNIPS promoted on Boomerang Tool website ([www.boomerangtool.com/shop/the-snip-wled-line-cutter-benefitting-friends-of-reservoirs](http://www.boomerangtool.com/shop/the-snip-wled-line-cutter-benefitting-friends-of-reservoirs/)), Facebook URL ([www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-Reservoirs/132056723600976](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-Reservoirs/132056723600976) ).
  + Reviewed and purchased license holders for individuals willing to fill out survey at FOR booth
  + Purchased shirts with FOR logo for booth workers
* Made arrangements for FOR booth at the ICAST show in July, 2013
* Drafted article on FOR for publication in *In-Fisherman*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Project Award** | **Funds Spent** | **Funds Remaining** |
| $296,000.00 | $295,879.16 | $120.84 |
|  |  |  |
| **Partner Contributions** | | |
|  | **In-Kind** | **Cash** |
| RFHP | $16,647.98 |  |
| Federal Agencies | $24,130.00 |  |
| State Agencies | $151,573.36 |  |
| MS State Univ | $23,436.00 |  |
| B.A.S.S. | $2,300.00 |  |
| Bass Pro Shops | $1,545.68 | $1,000.00 |
| Moss Back Rack |  | $1000.00 |
| **Totals** | **219,633.02** | **$2,000.00** |

**Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership Charter**

# I.BACKGROUND

The Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership (RFHP) is a national collaborative partnership established to promote the protection, restoration, and enhancement of habitat for fish and other aquatic species and their communities in reservoir systems through cooperative and voluntary actions. The RFHP provides strategic coordination and direction in the conservation of fish and aquatic habitat in reservoir systems.

# II. MISSION and GOALS

The Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership is a national partnership established to

promote and facilitate the conservation of habitat for fish and other aquatic species in reservoir systems through collaborative actions that contribute to:

* The ecological health and function of reservoirs and their associated waters and watersheds
* The restoration, protection and enhancement of fish and other aquatic species and communities, therein
* The sustainability and enhancement of reservoir fisheries
* Public awareness of the conservation issues and challenges facing reservoir and associated waters and watershed management in the 21st Century
* The quality of life of the American people

The RFHP’s goals are to:

* Protect, restore and enhance fish habitat in reservoir systems to support productive fisheries and healthy aquatic ecosystems
* Manage reservoir systems to provide, protect and enrich quality of life for the American people
* Develop and foster partnerships that implement landscape-scale approaches to the conservation of fish habitat in reservoir systems
* Develop and sustain institutional arrangements and sources of funding to support the long-term conservation of fish habitat in reservoir systems
* Support education and outreach initiatives that advance public awareness and understanding of the value of healthy reservoir systems

In furtherance of the mission of the Reservoir Fisheries Habitat partnership, an Executive Committee is established to:

* 1. Coordinate reservoir stakeholder involvement at the national level
  2. Establish policy and operational guidance for the partnership
  3. Develop mechanisms to acquire funding for conservation of reservoir systems and their fisheries, and processes to prioritize the distribution of those funds
  4. Support Fish Habitat Partnerships, and other partnerships, in the implementation of projects to achieve healthy reservoir systems and sustainable fisheries
  5. Establish national measures of success and evaluation criteria for the conservation of reservoir systems and their fisheries
  6. Establish technical guidelines and appropriate technologies for the conservation management of reservoir systems and their fisheries
  7. Communicate with policy makers and the public to advance the health of reservoir systems and resident fisheries

# III. RFHP BYLAWS

The Executive Committee constitutes the governing structure of the RFHP. Its responsibilities are to:

* Implement the RFHP Strategic Plan
* Set partnership policy
* Review and approve national conservation priorities
* Request, acquire and allocate funds to projects
* Provide oversight of and direction to Regional Workgroups
* Conduct national assessments
* Maintain a reservoir database coordinated with the NFHP database
* Oversee monitoring and performance measurement and reporting

# Appointment

The membership of the RFHP Executive Committee includes by category of organization:

* Four State agency members
* Up to six Federal agency members
* Up to four Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)
* Up to three Industry representatives
* One at large member; candidates include, but are not limited to Tribal Nations

Individual members of the Executive Committee will be selected, respectively, by the organizations that are assigned seats to the committee.

1. State and Federal agencies constitute eight (8) to 10 positions on the Executive Committee.
2. Executive Committee members will designate the specific organizations within stated categories for all other Executive Committee seats by a majority vote of a quorum of the Executive Committee.
3. Remaining Committee seats are designated by category for:
   1. Outdoor recreation and fishing industry
   2. Non-Governmental Organizations
   3. At-Large, including but not limited to Tribal Nations
4. Organizations and individuals from each of the categories mentioned in (3) above must be invited to join the Executive Committee.

Membership

The Executive Committee will consist of up to 15 members. Composition of membership by category will consist of the following:

1. Four State agency members representing each of the four Regional Associations of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. The Chair of the Executive Committee shall be selected from among these four members;
2. Four to six Federal agency members including the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Geological Survey, Environmental Protection Agency, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Forest Service;
3. Four Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) to be designated by the Executive Committee;
4. Three industry representatives to be designated by the Executive Committee;
5. One at-large representative to be designated by Executive Committee.

In addition to the membership guidelines stated above, the Executive Committee will consist of a term-appointed Chair and two term-appointed Vice-Chairs. The Chair will be automatically filled by rotation in alphabetical order of the four Regional Associations. The first Chair will be selected by the Executive Committee and will determine the alphabetical starting point for subsequent Chair selections. In the event a Chair is not available in the following rotation, the next available Regional Association member will be selected. A quorum of Committee members will nominate and elect the two Vice-Chairs from among the non-State Executive Committee membership.

# Terms of Service

1. Executive Committee members will remain seated on the committee until they are replaced by their respective agency. Members that have term appointments on the committee (i.e. the Chair and Vice-chairs) will serve one term, with the option of a second consecutive term at the Executive Committee’s discretion. One term is equal to two consecutive years. Members whose term appointments have expired and they have not been replaced by their respective agency will remain seated on the committee until replaced by the agency they represent.
2. Vacancies - Any vacancy among the Executive Committee membership shall be filled through appointment by the respective organization or agency to which the respective seat is assigned. Any vacancy in a term appointment on the Executive

Committee shall be filled by the prescribed rotation, in the case of the Chair, or by the Executive Committee, in the case of the Vice Chairs, for a full two-year term.

1. Members assigned to the Executive Committee should represent a high administrative or executive level within their respective organizations or agencies to ensure the committee’s authority to commit partners and partnership resources to the implementation of the RFHP strategic plan as consistent with the missions of each partnering entity and governing State and Federal laws.
2. Individual Executive Committee members may represent multiple organizations within their respective category but they can fill only one position and exercise only one vote on the Executive Committee, except in the case that an Executive Committee member is acting as a proxy for another Executive Committee member.

# Procedures

* 1. Selection of Executive Committee Chair - At the first meeting of the Executive Committee, the Executive Committee shall elect a Chair by majority vote from the four State Regional Association members. Thereafter, the Chair shall rotate alphabetically every two years among the State Regional Associations of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.
  2. Term of Chair - The term of the Chair shall be two years. In the event that a chair must serve consecutive terms, he or she may not serve more than 2 consecutive terms.
  3. Meetings - The Executive Committee will meet a minimum of two times a year,

one time of which will be in person at a time and place to be determined by the Chair in consultation with its members and staff. Executive Committee members are expected to attend at their own expense. Financial support can be provided at the discretion of the Chair in cases of hardship.

* + 1. The Chair shall establish a proposed meeting schedule identifying potential meeting dates within the twelve-month period following each meeting of the Executive Committee.
    2. The Chair must give Executive Committee members at least two months’ notice of an Executive Committee meeting and shall provide a draft agenda at that time. Notice must be provided in writing, email or facsimile to each Executive Committee member.
    3. The Chair with due cause may call the Executive Committee for emergency meetings, provided, however, that business of the meeting must be restricted to the reasons for which the meeting is called.
    4. Executive Committee meetings shall be open to the public, provided, however, that the Executive Committee may meet in executive sessions closed to the public to discuss personnel, legal matters, or any other matter of a private or confidential nature. These closed sessions shall be clearly identified in the meeting announcement. Notification of Executive Committee meetings shall be made to members of the RFHP and other interested parties.
  1. Quorum - A quorum of the Executive Committee is comprised of a simple majority of members in good standing. A quorum can be established using one or more approved proxy votes.
  2. Participation and Attendance - A committee member’s failure to attend three consecutive committee meetings, or teleconferences, can result in the member’s suspension by majority vote and a request to the members’ organization or agency to select a replacement.
  3. Proxy - Committee members may appoint a proxy to act on his/her behalf in the event that the Committee member is unable to attend a meeting in person or via teleconference line.
     1. Notification of a proxy must be submitted to the Chair of the Executive Committee, in writing, prior to the meeting.
     2. The Chair must receive notification of an acting proxy at least two days before the scheduled meeting.
     3. Notification of a proxy can be sent via email, fax, or phone to the Chair
  4. Voting - The committee will seek consensus on all business before it. In the absence of a consensus, a simple majority vote of the members present will carry the motion.
     1. Each Executive Committee member shall have one vote and all Executive Committee members have the right to vote on motions.
     2. Any Executive Committee member acting as a proxy can cast a vote for him/herself and one vote for the individual he/she is acting for.
     3. All voting shall proceed under Robert’s Rules of Order. A motion set forth by the Committee can be carried by majority vote of the members present and participating in the meeting. This includes proxies and individuals participating via teleconferencing.
     4. The Executive Committee may extend the discussion period for items on the agenda, or consider items not on the proposed agenda for a meeting, provided that such changes to the agenda are approved by a vote at the time they are proposed.
     5. Executive Committee business, including motions and resolutions, may be conducted via e-mail, fax, or teleconference.
  5. Other Procedures - The Executive Committee shall establish other procedures as needed to schedule meetings, develop agendas, and otherwise facilitate and conduct business, including those procedures or matters required to comply with any requirements resulting in accordance with the governance of Fish Habitat Partnerships under the National Fish Habitat Action Plan.
  6. Chair’s Responsibilities - In addition to such duties established elsewhere in these bylaws, the Chair shall:
     1. Prepare a written agenda of all matters to be considered by the Executive Committee at any meeting;
     2. Prepare and issue all notices, including notices of meetings, required to be given to the Executive Committee and public;
     3. Preside at all meetings of the Executive Committee and, unless otherwise directed by the Executive Committee, present items of business for consideration by the Executive Committee in the order listed on the agenda for the meeting;
     4. Conduct all meetings in accordance with Robert’s Rules of Order and these bylaws;
     5. Appoint committees as required; and
     6. Perform other duties as requested by the Executive Committee.

# Executive Committee Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the RFHP Executive Committee to:

* + - 1. Coordinate with the NFHAP Board and its Fish Habitat Partnerships in the implementation of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan
      2. Support the development and implementation of monitoring and evaluation protocols for reservoir systems, as well as fish habitat conservation actions at national, regional and local levels
      3. Promote planning efforts for fish habitat conservation among partners and stakeholders by providing direction to Regional Workgroups on funding availability, categories of potential projects, and criteria for their prioritization
      4. Support and recommend partnership projects to the National Fish Habitat Action Plan Board for funding
      5. Provide direction and input to partnership committees and Regional Workgroups, and creating RFHP ad-hoc task groups as needed
      6. Support the Regional Workgroups and the projects of the partnership with financial and/or staff resources as available
      7. Participate in marketing efforts and information campaigns to garner additional resources to meet the RFHP objectives
      8. Report to partners and stakeholders on the status and accomplishments of the RFHP
      9. Establish and direct a Science and Data Committee to provide direction and support to the Executive Committee and the Regional Workgroups in the implementation of the strategic plan, the national reservoir assessment and database, monitoring, reporting, and performance assessment, and in the coordination of science and data related issues with the NFHAP Board, the Board’s Science and Data Committee, and other Fish Habitat Partnerships
      10. Establish and directing an Outreach and Communication Committee to further develop and expand the partnership, provide educational services, communicate the purpose, organization, activities and successes of the partnership to the public and policy makers, review and contribute to the development of policies impacting reservoir systems, and coordinate with and support Friends of Reservoirs
      11. Establish other Committees as deemed necessary
      12. Recruit and hire a full-time Coordinator to provide staff support to the Executive Committee, including dissemination of information, coordination and facilitation of actions and projects within the partnership, coordination of outreach activities, and pursuit of funding and grant opportunities
      13. Establish and implement a national Friends of Reservoirs foundation and network of affiliated Friends chapters to support the RFHP and to sustain its operations through volunteer recruitment and fund-raising

1. **Financial Management** of the RFHP
   1. The Reservoir Fish Habitat Partnership will be self-supporting through the contributions of the partnership members, grants, private donations and other gifts.
   2. Friends of Reservoirs will be the banking institution for the RFHP. It will hold and distribute at the direction of the Chair and the Executive Committee all funds granted or donated to the partnership.
   3. Funds raised through Friends of Reservoirs Foundation shall be managed and distributed by that entity by the procedures and for the purposes set forth in its charter.
   4. The Chair and the RFHP coordinator will have joint discretionary spending authority for expenses not to exceed $1,000. For expenses in excess of $1,000, the approval of one Vice Chair will be required in addition.

# Entities supporting the Executive Committee

1. Staff - A full-time paid coordinator (supported by voluntary staff from partnering

agencies and organizations will manages partnership operations. The Chair, in consultation with the Executive Committee, may accept additional staff or other support from other entities.

1. Science and Data Committee - The Executive Committee shall solicit information from the Science and Data Committee and incorporate that information, and other appropriate information, into the strategies and goals developed by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will support the Science and Data Team by providing necessary staff, funding, data and other resources needed to complete the national assessments and reports called for in the RFHP Strategic Plan.
2. Outreach and Communication Committee – The Outreach and Communication Committee shall establish and maintain a partnership website, expand partnership participation to all stakeholders, publicize and report on the partnership to policy makers and the public, maintain and publish newsletters and other publications promoting understanding and knowledge of the partnership, and establish, support and coordinate partnership activities with Friends of Reservoirs.
3. Fund Raising Committee – The Fund Raising Committee shall be responsible for identifying and pursuing sources of financial support for support of partnership programs and projects.
4. Project Selection and Ranking Committee – The Project Selection and Ranking Committee shall be responsible for establishing procedures and criteria for selecting and ranking projects for funding support by the partnership through the Executive Committee.

# Committees

The Executive Committee may establish and otherwise manage other committees as needed to carry out the responsibilities of the Executive Committee. Such committees may include individuals who are not members of the Executive Committee.

# Board and Committee Expenses

Executive Committee members and RFHP partners will not be compensated for their time working on the Executive Committee, other Committees or work groups on the behalf of the Executive Committee. This includes any expenses accrued while conducting business or traveling to meetings. Travel expenses generally should be borne by the agency or other entity that employs the Executive Committee, Committee, or work group member, but reimbursement arrangements may be made at the discretion of the Chair if funds for this purpose are available.

# Regional Workgroups

Regional Workgroups will be selected, staffed, and supported by or in coordination with the four Regional Associations of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (Southeastern, Northeastern, Midwest, and Western). Each Regional Association will organize and structure its respective Regional Workgroup to meet internal administrative requirements.

Regional Workgroups will be responsible for assembling stakeholders to guide development of local joint-venture projects that address fish habitat issues in reservoir systems described in the RFHP strategic plan.

Regional Workgroups will prioritize projects for submission to the Executive Committee for either national partnership funding or funding by the NFHAP. Criteria used to prioritize regional projects will be developed from the national assessment and project criteria guidelines developed by the partnership through its Executive Committee in consultation with the Science and Data and project selection and ranking Committees.

Regional Workgroups may, at any time, collaborate with reservoir managers and local stakeholders to develop and fund opportunistic projects through non-partnership funds. Additionally, Regional Workgroups will promote and communicate RFHP strategic plan goals and objectives and meet the data needs established by the Executive Committee and those required by the NFHAP.

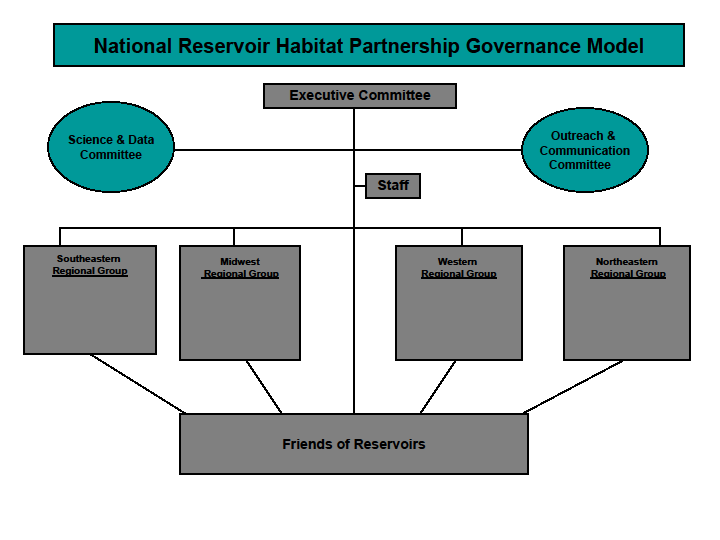
# Friends of Reservoirs

The Friends of Reservoirs national foundation and affiliated network of local chapters shall constitute the primary support institution for the RFHP. It shall provide the institutional means to include all stakeholders with interests in healthy reservoirs in the support, implementation, and governance of the RFHP. The role of Friends of Reservoirs shall be four-fold:

* Provide supporters options to participate in the operation of the RFHP and to influence its governance through interaction with the Executive Committee, staff, and Regional Workgroups on the setting of reservoir conservation priorities, selection of fish habitat conservation projects, and long-term partnership goals and objectives;
* Provide sustainable funding for RFHP operations and project implementation;
* Help develop volunteer corps to support project implementation;
* Facilitate delivery of outreach for public education, awareness, and service.

# Procedure to Amend Charter

The Executive Committee may decide to amend this charter by consensus or a two- thirds vote of all members present and voting. Any proposed change to this charter must be noted on the draft agenda that is sent out at the time the meeting is scheduled.



**Appendix III (Strategic Plan)**

**Governing Elements of the Reservoir Fish Habitat Partnership**

**Executive Committee**

The RFHP Executive Committee will promote and facilitate the actions described in the strategic plan. These actions include, but are not limited to:

* Coordinating with the NFHP Board and its Fish Habitat Partnerships in the implementation of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan;
* Supporting the development and implementation of monitoring and evaluation protocols for reservoir systems, as well as fish habitat conservation actions at national, regional and local levels;
* Promoting planning efforts for fish habitat conservation among partners and stakeholders by providing direction to Regional Workgroups on funding availability, categories of potential projects, and criteria for their prioritization;
* Supporting and recommending partnership projects to the National Fish Habitat Action Plan Board for funding;
* Providing direction and input to partnership committees and Regional Workgroups, and creating RFHP ad-hoc task groups as needed;
* Supporting the Regional Workgroups and the projects of the partnership with financial and/or staff resources as available
* Participating in marketing efforts and information campaigns to garner additional resources to meet the RFHP objectives;
* Reporting to partners and stakeholders on the status and accomplishments of the RFHP;
* Establishing and directing a **Science and Data Committee** to provide direction and support to the Executive Committee and the Regional Workgroups in the implementation of the strategic plan, the national reservoir assessment and database, monitoring, reporting, and performance assessment, and in the coordination of science and data related issues with the NFHAP Board, the Board’s Science and Data Committee, and other Fish Habitat Partnerships;
* Establishing and directing an **Outreach and Communication Committee** to further develop and expand the partnership, provide educational services, communicate the purpose, organization, activities and successes of the partnership to the public and policy makers, review and contribute to the development of policies impacting reservoir systems, and coordinate with and support Friends of Reservoirs;
* Recruit and hire a full-time Coordinator to provide staff support to the Executive Committee, including dissemination of information, coordination and facilitation of actions and projects within the partnership, coordination of outreach activities, and pursuit of funding and grant opportunities;
* Establish and implement a national **Friends of Reservoirs** foundation and network of affiliated **Friends** chapters to support the RFHP and to sustain its operations.

The RFHP Executive Committee will not exceed 15 Members. Membership will include representation as follows:

* Four state agency members representing each of their respective regional Association of Fish and Wildlife Associations, one of which serves as Executive Committee ChairUp to six Federal agency members chosen from the folowing: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Army Corps of Engineers, and Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Geological Survey, Environmental Protection Agency, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Forest Service
* Up to four Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO): Candidates include Friends of Reservoirs, North American Lake Management Society, American Fisheries Society-Fisheries Administration Section, and The Nature Conservancy
* Up to three Industry Representatives: Candidates include, but are not limited to, the Bass Anglers Sportsman’s Society, Bass Pro Shops, the American Sportfishing Association, the hydropower industry
* One at large member: candidates include, but are not limited to, Tribal Nations.

Individual members of the Executive Committee will be selected, respectively, by the organizations that are assigned seats to the committee, as indicated above. Member organizations will be assigned by a quorum of the Executive Committee. Members assigned to the Executive Committee should represent a high administrative or executive level within their respective organizations to ensure the committee’s authority to commit partners and partnership resources to the implementation of the RFHP strategic plan as consistent with the missions of each partnering entity and governing State and Federal laws.

Executive Committee members will remain seated on the Committee until replaced by their respective organization. A committee member’s failure to attend three consecutive committee meetings, or teleconferences, can result in the member’s suspension by majority vote and a request to the members’ organization to select a replacement. Committee members may appoint, in writing to the Chair, a proxy to attend meetings in their place as needed.

The Executive Committee will have a Chair and two Vice-Chairs. The Chair will serve a two-year term and will be automatically filled by the rotation alphabetically of the representatives of the AFWA regions. A quorum of Committee members will nominate and elect the two Vice-Chairs: one from a Non-Governmental Organization and one from Industry, each serving a two-year term.

The Executive Committee will adopt a set of By-Laws incorporating the provisions described above as well as additional provisions regarding the conduct of RFHP business, including:

1. The Executive Committee will meet annually at a time and place to be determined by the Chair in consultation with its members and staff. Executive Committee members are expected to attend at their own expense.
2. A quorum of the committee is comprised of a simple majority of members in good standing.
3. Executive Committee meeting agenda will be developed jointly by the Chair in consultation with the full committee and staff.
4. Executive Committee Chair will lead the meeting following Roberts’s Rules of Order. The committee will seek consensus on all business before it. In the absence of a consensus, a majority vote of the members present will carry the motion. All Executive Committee members have the right to vote on motions.
5. Executive Committee business, including motions and resolutions, may be conducted via e-mail, fax, or teleconference.
6. In the event that an Executive Committee member is unable to attend a meeting or conference call, he or she may designate a proxy via letter, email or fax to the Chair in advance of the meeting.

**Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership Conservation Priorities**

1. The Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership (RFHP) focuses on protecting/restoring habitat for sport fisheries in reservoir systems. As such, our primary partners are state and federal fisheries and reservoir management agencies, anglers, and the angling industry.
2. Reservoir health is a direct reflection of the health of the watershed in which it is located. We know that we can best protect, restore, and enhance fish and aquatic communities when our habitat conservation strategies and actions contribute to the ecological integrity and function of the watersheds in which our reservoirs reside. Structurally-intact and well-functioning watersheds yield cascading benefits, from healthier reservoirs to healthy fish habitat to a healthful day of fishing.
   1. Project proposals that target rehabilitative actions in the watershed that address sedimentation and nutrification issues in reservoirs downstream are given priority in the scoring criteria.
   2. The vast majority of other Fish Habitat Partnerships (FHPs) target river and stream restoration efforts and necessarily focuses on watershed issues.
3. RFHP will foster cooperative projects in priority areas designated by other FHPs that would provide water quality improvements in downstream reservoirs.
4. RFHP will support outreach and education initiatives that advance public awareness and understanding of the value of healthy reservoir systems.
5. RFHP will develop and sustain institutional arrangements and sources of funding to support the long-term conservation of fish habitat in reservoir systems.

# National Conservation Strategies

Approved by National Fish Habitat Board February 26, 2013

# Introduction

National conservation strategies are intended as a framework to guide future actions and investment by the FHPs while allowing the FHPs to develop meaningful goals and approaches to conserve fish habitat. By establishing and communicating a national framework to partners, these strategies emphasize the need to focus on the process-level issues, not just the symptoms, to reverse the decline in fisheries and aquatic resources by directly addressing the contributing factors. This enhances progress toward the National Fish Habitat Partnership mission to protect, restore, and enhance the nation’s fish and aquatic communities through partnerships that foster fish habitat conservation and improve the quality of life for the American people.

FHPs are encouraged to incorporate the concepts of these conservation strategies into their strategic planning and development of site specific goals and approaches to achieve results at a system level. Melding of the FHPs approaches with the national conservation strategies will assist partners to focus on the common factors responsible for most of the fisheries and habitat problems occurring today, namely: loss of connectivity, hydrologic alteration, water quality alteration, and alteration of aquatic communities (from NFHAP 2nd ed. 2012, Appendix 5: Science and Data Strategy).

Variability among FHPs and local conditions is recognized in the development of conservation strategies. FHPs will determine the extent to which each conservation strategy fits their scope and resources. Each FHP should find identity with one or more of the conservation strategies. Goals and approaches for one FHP may not fit conditions for another. Example actions listed under each conservation strategy are not meant to be exhaustive or prescriptive, but to demonstrate types of actions that may be undertaken.

Example actions are listed in broad terms to stimulate development of specific actions meaningful for individual FHPs.

While not identified as a specific conservation strategy, it is incumbent upon the FHPs to assess the effectiveness of actions taken to protect, restore, and enhance habitats that support fish and aquatic communities. Through evaluation of specific actions taken to address those factors identified as responsible in the loss of fisheries habitats, FHPs can focus and foster implementation of efforts of proven effectiveness.

The NFHP Board in cooperation with the FHPs and their work plans will develop a set of meaningful and measurable targets for each of the listed conservation strategies.

Effectiveness reporting measured against these targets in the annual Board progress reports will, over time, provide a meaningful description of progress for the public. Future revisions of the conservation strategies and habitat targets will recognize that habitat conservation is a long term endeavor.

Partnerships, working relationships, communication, planning, and funding are prerequisites to implementation of any conservation measure and are therefore not included as conservation strategies.

# Conservation Strategies

1. Protect intact and healthy waters.

Example actions:

* + Develop inventories and data support systems for priority waters.
  + Participate in land and water use planning and decisions at all geographic and governmental levels to protect aquatic values.
  + Incorporate climate change into development of land and water use plans.
  + Acquire land, water rights/reservations, or easements.
  + Implement management actions to maintain habitat values.
  + Prevent direct habitat alteration.
  + Avoid aquatic community alteration.
  + Implement best management practices to minimize habitat alteration.
  + Implement state and regional aquatic invasive species plans.
  + Utilize applicable administrative and statutory opportunities at all governmental levels to protect habitat (hydrologic conditions, connectivity and water quality).

1. Restore hydrologic conditions for fish. Example actions:
   * Restore natural variability in river and stream flows.
   * Restore natural variability in estuary and natural lake surface water elevations.
   * Secure favorable conditions for reservoirs.
   * Secure favorable operating agreements on regulated systems.
   * Acquire water rights for streams, lakes and reservoirs.
   * Work with water users to incorporate fish habitat values into water management.
   * Reconnect rivers to floodplains.
   * Restore ground and surface water hydrologic connections.
   * Manage vegetation to restore stream flow.
2. Reconnect fragmented fish habitats. Example actions:
   * Identify access impairments to spawning, nursery, rearing and refugia

areas.

* + Facilitate fish passage through removal of physical barriers.
  + Restore concrete stream channels to natural form and structure.
  + Incorporate fish friendly designs in construction and rehabilitation of water diversion structures.
  + Eliminate chemical/water quality barriers.
  + Restore habitat conditions (physical, temperature, lack of water, etc.) in degraded reaches that fragment systems.
  + Daylight currently buried stream segments.

1. Restore water quality. Example Actions:
   * Identify sources of watershed degradation.
   * Control excessive rates of sedimentation, phosphorus, nitrogen and toxic inputs to aquatic systems.
   * Control thermal impairments.
   * Control sources of pollutants.
   * Control surface runoff through land use practices.
   * Develop or maintain functioning wetlands and vegetation buffers.

**NFHP Objectives (from 2nd Edition of Strategic Plan 2012)**

Objective 1: Achieve measureable habitat conservation results through strategic actions of Fish Habitat Partnerships that improve ecological condition, restore natural processes, or prevent the decline of intact and healthy systems leading to better fish habitat conditions and increased fishing opportunities

Objective 2: Establish a consensus set of national conservation strategies as a framework to guide future actions and investments by the Fish Habitat Partnerships in 2013.

Objective 3: Broaden the community of support for fish habitat conservation by increasing fishing opportunities, fostering the participation of local communities-especially young people-in conservation activities, and raising public awareness of the role healthy fish habitats play in the quality of life and economic well-being of local communities.

Objective 4: Fill gaps in the National Fish Habitat Assessment and its associated database to empower strategic conservation action supported by broadly available scientific information, land integrate social-economic data in the analysis to improve people’s lives in a manner consistent with fish habitat conservation goals.

Objective 5: Communicate the conservation outcomes produced collectively by Fish Habitat Partnerships, as well as new opportunities and voluntary approaches for conserving fish habitat, to the public and conservation partners.

**Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership/Friends of Reservoirs**

**Business Plan/ Strategic Action Plan**

**Executive Summary**

* Unique Value or Competitive advantage
* Financial situation/needs -
* Our financial goals for the next three years are…
* Key Factors to Success
* We will achieve our financial goals through these new programs and services
* We will build towards our longer-term business goals by …..

**Case Statement:**

The Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership (RFHP; [www.reservoirpartnership.org](http://www.reservoirpartnership.org)) is a national collaborative partnership established in October, 2009 to promote the protection, restoration, and enhancement of habitat for fish and other aquatic species and communities in reservoir systems through cooperative and voluntary actions. RFHP is one on 18 recognized Fish Habitat Partnership by the National Fish Habitat Partnership Board (NFHP; [www.fishhabitat.org](http://www.fishhabitat.org)). The RFHP provides strategic coordination and direction in the conservation of fish and aquatic habitat in reservoir systems. It is committed to integrating watershed conservation, in-reservoir management, and the management of downstream flows to attain more holistic and coherent strategies for addressing aquatic habitat impairment issues in reservoir systems. The RFHP works through partnerships to implement conservation actions needed to achieve and sustain healthy reservoir systems. It does this by facilitating, informing, equipping, and supporting a bottom-up approach to implementation of conservation – enabled, in turn, by the partnership’s wealth of technical expertise.

**Mission of Partnership**

The Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership is a national partnership established to promote and facilitate the conservation of habitat for fish and other aquatic species in reservoir systems through collaborative actions that contribute to:

* The ecological health and function of reservoirs and their associated waters and watersheds
* The restoration, protection and enhancement of fish and other aquatic species and communities, therein
* The sustainability and enhancement of reservoir fisheries
* Public awareness of the conservation issues and challenges facing reservoir and associated waters and watershed management in the 21st Century
* The quality of life of the American people

**Sponsoring nonprofit, including short history, mission and services**

Friends of Reservoirs (FOR; [www.waterhabitatlife.org](http://www.waterhabitatlife.org)) is a 501 (c) (3), tax-deductible non-profit foundation established in August, 2010 dedicated to protecting and/or restoring fisheries habitat in reservoir systems nationwide. FOR is also a coalition of individuals, local citizen groups and corporations that share in the mission of the RFHP. FOR serves as the funding arm of the RFHP.

**Description of “triple bottom line” goals: environmental, social, financial**

Reservoir conservation is, by necessity, collaborative. The RFHP depends on collaborative conservation in two critical ways. One, our partnership must have the depth of membership and the expanse of inclusion to ensure that all of the key stakeholders are gathered under a single organizational umbrella, and that each of the constituent parts to our partnership have commitment to and ownership in the partnership and its goals and objectives. We address this in our strategic plan. Two, our partnership depends on collaboration with others to implement the strategic conservation actions we deem essential to achieve and sustain healthy reservoirs, associated waters, and related fisheries across the great expanse of our nation. We will help facilitate, inform, equip, and support a bottom-up approach to the implementation of our strategic targets through partnerships at the local, State, and regional level.

Healthy reservoir systems are vital to the security of the United States, to the quality of life of its citizens, and to the quality and quantity of aquatic habitat needed to sustain our native and sport fisheries. Our conservation strategy to protect, restore and enhance healthy reservoir systems – and the fish habitat that relies upon them – is built on the foundation of five goals:

1. Protect, restore and enhance fish habitat in reservoir systems to support productive fisheries and healthy aquatic ecosystems
2. Manage reservoir systems to provide, protect and enrich quality of life for the American people
3. Develop and foster partnerships that implement landscape-scale approaches to the conservation of fish habitat in reservoir systems
4. Develop and sustain institutional arrangements and sources of funding to support the long-term conservation of fish habitat in reservoir systems
5. Support education and outreach initiatives that advance public awareness and understanding of the value of healthy reservoir systems

**Description of current programs and services**

RFHPs focus is preserving quality habitat and restoring degraded habitats that sport fisheries in our nation’s reservoirs are dependent on. These actions are vital to preserving the economic engine provided by the sport fishing industry and the quality of life of the citizenry that enjoy outdoor recreation. The first step in meeting our goals was to assess what the reservoir fisheries habitat issues are, where the quality habitats exist that need to be maintained and where restoration efforts need to be focused to strategically address the issues. RFHP along with researchers at Mississippi State University conducted habitat assessments of over 1300 reservoirs across the country. The assessment has identified reservoir systems that are relatively unimpaired and warrant protection and identified priority impairments on a regional basis. Results of the assessment can be found at [www.reservoirpartnership.org/assessment](http://www.reservoirpartnership.org/assessment).

RFHP member organizations are actively recruiting FOR member organizations and individuals. As of August, 2013 FOR has 13 Chapters, 11 Affiliate Organizations and 35 Individual members ([www.waterhabitatlife.org/members](http://www.waterhabitatlife.org/members)). FOR has a website ([www.waterhabitatlife.org](http://www.waterhabitatlife.org)) that serves as an outreach and member recruiting tool. RFHP Coordinator and partners provide information to outdoor writers and other online angling-related media outlets to raise awareness of reservoir habitat issues and encourage readers to become involved in addressing these issues. These recruitment efforts are intended to build the community of support for reservoir fisheries habitat restoration projects/programs. RFHP currently has a Multistate Conservation Grant to expand outreach efforts with a goal of having 50 FOR partners by December, 2014.

Currently, 100% of RFHP-project funding ($85,000) comes from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) through allocations from NFHP. RFHP limits funding requests to a maximum of $20,000. As such, RFHP has provided funding for five to eight projects annually. Projects are selected by an objective scoring process conducted by the Regional Working Groups. The Executive Committee reviews the rankings and makes final recommendations to the FWS for project funding.

**Future programs/services**

RFHP wishes to expand existing programs, i.e., update the assessment every five years, increase recruitment efforts and expand the base of funding for projects. Over the course of this 3-year business plan (1 January 2014 through 31 December 2016), RFHP hopes to expand its programs to include:

* Currently RFHP has a one staff member (Coordinator). RFHP wishes to create a “Director of Strategic Partnerships” position. The Coordinator would essentially handle administration of RFHP programs with the Director of Strategic Partnerships focusing on outreach efforts and recruitment.
* Transition project funding from FWS funds to sponsorship funding.
* Use FWS-funding for administrative functions.
* Transform the RFHP Annual Meeting from solely administrative functions to include:
  + Technical sessions highlighting reservoir restoration efforts
  + Workshops demonstrating Best Management Practices
  + Funding mechanism by charging a registration fee

**How financial management will be structured in the organization**

RFHP Coordinator develops and annual budget approved by the Executive Committee at the Annual Meeting. All funds secured through RFHP and FOR are deposited into the FOR account at Bank of America. The FOR Treasurer, in concert with RFHP Coordinator, is responsible for managing the account. Annual account management is reviewed by the Audit Committee, comprised of two FOR officers.

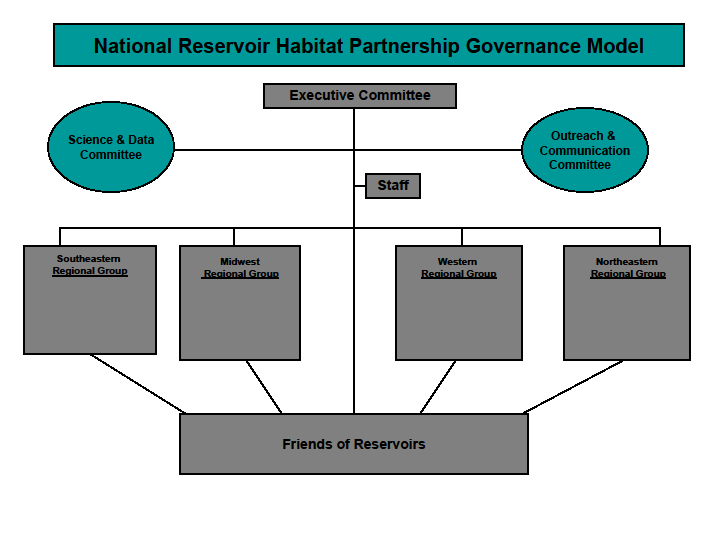
**Legal structure and governance (Boards, advisory committees, reporting)**

The Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership was recognized by the National Fisheries Habitat Partnership in October, 2009. RFHP is managed by a 15-member Executive Committee comprised of:

* Four State agency members [one from each of the four Regional Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA)]
* Up to six Federal agency members
* Up to four Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)
* Up to three Industry representatives
* One at large member; candidates include, but are not limited to Tribal Nations

**Executive Committee** membership is intended to reflect senior level management representation so that individual members have authority to speak for their agency. The Executive Committee meets via bi-monthly conference calls and one Annual Meeting. Two permanent committees have been established. **The Science and Data Committee** has been primarily responsible for design, completion and distribution of a national reservoir habitat impairment survey. Results of this effort are posted on [www.reservoirpartnership.org](http://www.reservoirpartnership.org). Updates and expansion of the assessment will continue to be under the purview of the Science and Data Committee. **The Outreach Committee’s** primary responsibility is to expand membership in FOR and to raise public awareness of reservoir habitat issues. **Regional Working Groups**, comprised of mid-level supervisory staff of state agencies affiliated with the regional divisions of AFWA, are primarily responsible for scoring of project proposals from their respective regions and encouraging agency staff to promote FOR among angling groups in their respective states. **The Coordinator** is the sole paid staff member. The Coordinator’s role is to conduct the day to day operations of RFHP and FOR.

Friends of Reservoirs was recognized by the IRS as a 501 (c) (3) corporation in August, 2010 (FEI number: 27-3605852). FOR was formed largely in response to the recognition that government programs were insufficient to address reservoir fisheries habitat issues without additional partnerships. FOR is currently governed by a six-member Board that is comprised of RFHP Executive Committee members and additional members active in, but not directly involved in RFHP governance. The FOR Board meets via bimonthly conference calls (in conjunction with RFHP’s conference calls) and an Annual Meeting (held in conjunction with the RFHP Annual Meeting).



**Prospect Analysis** *This is the heart of a business plan. Solid research is necessary to understand the needs and demands of your prospective supporters. No amount of mission or commitment will overcome a deficiency in market knowledge.*

* “Triple bottom line” outcomes that your programs/services meet
* Specific, current prospects that support these outcomes
* Similar programs these prospects currently support
* Potential Future Supporters

Our nation’s reservoirs are getting older and as they age, their fish habitats and fisheries decline. The hey-day of reservoir construction occurred in the 1950s and ‘60s and rate of new reservoir construction has dramatically declined. As the median age of U.S. reservoirs now surpasses 60 years, the fish habitat in these systems is degrading and needs to be restored. Good fish habitat is the foundation for healthy aquatic life, clean water supplies, and quality fishing.

The quality of fishing is largely dependent on the quality of habitat. Whereas, fishing in this country is still excellent, there are habitat issues looming that threaten the existence of the $22.8 billion industry that fishing in our nation’s reservoirs and lakes supports. Addressing these habitat issues has historically been the purview of government agencies. The enormity of the issues and the shrinking budgets of government agencies make this model inadequate. Partnerships with all reservoir users are required to protect intact habitats and restore degraded habitats to ensure that future generations can rely on quality water supplies and aquatic-based outdoor recreation continues to thrive.

The Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership and Friends of Reservoirs are working to bring reservoir users (anglers, boaters, lake associations, municipalities, hydropower industry, angling industry and government agencies) together to cooperatively address reservoir habitat impairments and to further build a community of support to influence public policy and its effects on reservoir fisheries habitat. RFHP currently has written support from 35 state fisheries management agencies and five federal agencies are currently represented on the Executive Committee. Friends of Reservoirs currently has membership in 19 states (24 Affiliate Organizations and Chapters and 35 Individual members). FOR’s goal is to expand this membership from 24 to 50 by the end of 2015.

RFHP has provided funding for 19 projects to date in 13 states. RFHP has contributed $270,000 that has been supported by over $2.9 million from other sources to complete these projects. It is a start! The partnerships are working! However, the current level of funding is woefully inadequate to address the issues at hand.

**Gap Analysis** *Describe other groups providing similar programs/ services in your geography, both nonprofit and for-profit, and why your approach is needed.*

**Project Specific Narrative**

*The “how to” section describes how the organization will reach the target audiences, find prospective supporters, generate personal contracts and revenue. Include leadership roles and responsibilities of partners.*

* Ongoing source of prospective supporters
* Advertising, public relations and promotions
* Ongoing contact with supporters
* Key collaborators
* Human resources plan
* Facilities, equipment and contractors

## Evaluation and Assessment

## *Sustainable business planning uses a triple-bottom line analysis.*

* Financial Benchmarks
* Environmental Benchmarks
* Social Benchmarks
* Monitoring and evaluation strategy

**Financial Plan**

*The financial section should present actual dollar amounts and leveraged resources, new costs for marketing and staffing, and include a narrative of year-to-year actions needed to meet goals.*

* Revenue and Expenses (detailed by year)
* Three-year goals for each funding sector
* Three-year goals for increasing operating reserves and leveraged resources
* Starting balance sheet

RESERVOIR FISHERIES HABITAT COORDINATOR

2012-2013 Work Plan

* Work with Outreach Committee to promote/market RFHP/FOR
  + Promote/market RFHP to resource professionals and users nationwide
    - Attend scientific meetings
      * Make presentations highlighting RFHP programs/accomplishments at Annual Meeting AFS, SDAFS, SEAFWA, MWFWC, WDAFS, others as applicable

**Text in red is accomplishments under this Work Plan**

* + - * + The Reservoir Partnership sponsored a block of talks at the North American Lake Management Society in Madison (4 presentations); Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Wichita (5 presentations); Southern Division AFS, Nashville (3 presentations) and sponsored a symposium at the Annual AFS meeting, Little Rock (21 presentations; 70-80 attendees throughout)
        + Highlighted IA and NE habitat restoration programs at SDAFS Reservoir Committee meeting
    - Represent RFHP at regional AFWA meetings
      * Coordinator gave oral report to the Fish Chiefs at SEAFWA
      * Gene Gilliland gave a plenary presentation re: FOR’s outreach efforts at WAFWA
    - Write a minimum of 3 articles for popular angling publications
      * *In-Fisherman, North American Fisherman, BASS Times*
        + Articles were written for BradWeigeman.com, Fishhound, BASS Times, westernbass.com
    - Provide regular updates for website to webmaster
    - Produce quarterly newsletter, generate distribution list and distribute
      * 2 newsletters produced
  + Promote FOR Foundation
    - Popular angling media outlets
      * Explore feasibility of promotions on TV/Radio programs with B.A.S.S. and Bass Pro Shops
        + Alton Jones video promoting FOR was produced by TPWD
      * Professional angler spokesperson

See above

* + - Angling industry (ICAST, Bassmasters Classic, ASA, trade shows)
      * RFHP joined ASA
      * Produced sponsorship brochure targeting angling industry
      * Develop displays for trade show booths
        + 2 standees produced as cornerstone of trade show display
        + FOR booths displayed at:

Bassmaster Classic Expo (Boxrucker, Terre, Gilliland);

signed up 24 individual members;

made contacts in angling industry

UT/NV Chapters AFS (Craig Walker)

ICAST (Boxrucker, Terre, Gilliland)

Learning experience

ASA Sportfishing Summit may be better venue

* + - Develop displays/advertisements for catalogues
      * Bass Pro Shops
        + No activity
  + Manage funds for MSCG outreach activities
    - Final report for MSCG written and forwarded to AGFC and FWS (see briefing book)
* Work with Mississippi State researchers to compile and disseminate reservoir restoration BMPs as part of the 2013 MSCG
  + Worked cooperatively with AGFC and MSU to develop cooperative agreement
  + Routinely provide BMP documents to MSU
* Solicit projects for funding
  + Refine project selection criteria (include assessment data in 2014 RFP)
    - Held webinar to revise selection criteria and RFP
    - Distribute RFP (late June-early July)
      * Distributed late May
    - Proposal deadline (1 September)
      * Deadline 15 August
        + 21 proposals received

USACE (10)

State Agencies (4)

FOR Chapters (6)

NGO’s (2)

Municipalities (1)

* + - Distribute project proposals to Regional Working Groups for scoring
    - Summarize projects and scores for 2013 RFHP Annual Meeting
    - Provide information to FWS for input into FONS
  + Explore opportunities for joint funding of projects with other FHP’s (SARP, Fishers and Farmers, Great Plains)
    - Held discussions with Ohio River Basin FHP; SARP; Fishers and Farmers, Great Plains FHP
      * No specific projects identified to date but coordination with OHRB FHP promising
    - Foundation grants available for water quality improvement
      * Apply for grants for watershed restoration projects in systems with reservoirs with water quality issues (as identified in the assessment)
        + Assist with grant applications for ToyotaTogetherGreen grants for NC Wildlife Federation and NM Bass Nation
* Disseminate assessment results
  + Work with Principle Investigator to house assessment summaries on web
    - Summaries by region, state, reservoir are ongoing
  + Present results at scientific meetings (MWFWC, SDAFS)
    - See above
  + Encourage publication of results
    - Publication submitted to *TAFS* (revisions in progress)
    - Assessment highlighted in LakeLine (NALMS newsletter)
    - Tailwater portion of assessment published in *River Research and Applications*
* Liaise with other NFHAP Partnerships & Landscape Conservation Cooperatives
  + Advance goals of NFHAP
    - Attend all NFHP Board Meetings (either in person or via webinar)
      * Attended June meeting in Salt Lake City
      * Plan to attend Oct. meeting (Charleston) via webinar
    - Serve on Partnership Committee
      * Attend workshop on enhancing operational programs of FHP’s (NFHP 2012 MSCG)
        + Attended workshop in Portland

Discussed cooperative projects with FHP coordinators

Received template for business plan

Series of follow-up webinars are ongoing

* + - * Hosted FHP meeting at Annual AFS meeting in Little Rock
        + Discussed FHP involvement in MSCG submissions by NFHP Board
        + FHP evaluation of NFHP Board process
    - Serve on Habitat Conservation Committee
      * Drafted National Conservation Strategies (see briefing book)
        + Approved by NFHP Board in February, 2013
    - Attend SARP Annual Meeting
      * Attended meeting in Hot Springs, AR
  + Provide reservoir assessment data for national fish habitat assessment
    - Assessment data and publications were provided as they became available
  + Continue to serve on Gulf Coast Prairie LCC Steering Committee
    - Largely inactive
  + Work with Great Plains LCC Science Coordinator to establish a workshop to establish aquatic science priorities
* Serve as Business Manager for RFHP
  + Work with Executive Committee to:
    - Establish budget for operations of RFHP (excluding project funding)
      * See briefing book
    - Produce financial report for semi-annual meetings
      * See briefing book
    - Compile income/expense statement and provide to accountant for completion of FOR tax return
      * Tax return completed
  + Continue bi-monthly Executive Committee conference calls
  + Work with FWS Coordinator to schedule/arrange accommodations for RFHP meetings
    - Work with FWS Coordinator to produce and distribute minutes of semi-annual meetings
      * Agendas developed for bimonthly calls
      * Minutes of 2012 Annual Meeting distributed (see briefing book)
    - Work with local arrangement venue to schedule needs for Annual Meeting
      * 2013 Annual Meeting to be held 2-3 October at the Sheraton Erie Bayfront, Erie, PA

RESERVOIR FISHERIES HABITAT COORDINATOR

2013-2014 Work Plan

* Update RFHP Strategic Plan (original 2009)
  + Establish committee
* Work with Outreach Committee to promote/market RFHP/FOR
  + Promote/market RFHP to resource professionals and users nationwide
    - Attend scientific meetings
      * Make presentations highlighting RFHP programs/accomplishments at professional meetings
    - Represent RFHP at regional AFWA meetings
    - Write a minimum of 3 articles for popular angling publications
    - Provide regular updates for website to webmaster
    - Produce quarterly newsletter, generate distribution list and distribute
  + Promote FOR Foundation
    - Popular angling media outlets
      * Explore feasibility of promotions on TV/Radio programs with B.A.S.S. and Bass Pro Shops
      * Professional angler spokesperson
    - Angling industry (ICAST, Bassmasters Classic, ASA, trade shows)
    - Develop displays/advertisements for catalogues
      * Bass Pro Shops
    - Hire “Director of Strategic Partnerships”
      * Work with DSP to develop fundraising strategy
  + Manage funds for MSCG outreach activities
    - Form committee to develop FOR/RFHP Business Plan
* Work with Mississippi State researchers to compile and disseminate reservoir restoration BMPs as part of the 2013 MSCG
* Solicit projects for funding
  + Refine project selection criteria (as needed)
    - Distribute RFP (late June-early July)
    - Proposal deadline (1 September)
    - Distribute project proposals to Regional Working Groups for scoring
    - Summarize projects and scores for 2013 RFHP Annual Meeting
    - Provide information to FWS
  + Explore opportunities for joint funding of projects with other FHP’s (SARP, Fishers and Farmers, Great Plains)
    - Foundation grants available for water quality improvement
      * Apply for grants for watershed restoration projects in systems with reservoirs with water quality issues (as identified in the assessment)
  + Ensure timely reporting and accounting of funded projects
* Disseminate assessment results
  + Work with Principle Investigator to house assessment summaries on web
  + Present results at scientific meetings
  + Encourage publication of results
* Liaise with other NFHAP Partnerships
  + Advance goals of NFHAP
    - Attend NFHP Board Meetings (either in person or via webinar)
    - Serve on Partnership Committee
    - Serve on Habitat Conservation Committee
    - Provide RFHP accomplishments to FWS/NFHP for funding allocation
  + Provide reservoir assessment data for national fish habitat assessment
* Serve as Business Manager for RFHP
  + Work with Executive Committee to:
    - Establish budget for operations of RFHP (excluding project funding)
    - Produce financial report for annual meeting
    - Compile income/expense statement and provide to accountant for completion of FOR tax return
  + Continue bi-monthly Executive Committee conference calls
  + Work with FWS Coordinator to schedule/arrange accommodations for RFHP meetings
    - Work with FWS Coordinator to produce and distribute minutes of semi-annual meetings
    - Work with local arrangement venue to schedule needs for Annual Meeting
      * 2014 meeting in Southeast
        + Possible venues

SEAFWA (FL)

Big Cedar

Other host

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership-Budget (2013-2014)** | |
|  | |
| **2013 Multistate Conservation Grant** | |
| **Funds Remaining** | **$125,000.00** |
| Coordinator Salary (October, 2013-May, 2014) | **80,000.00** |
| Travel |  |
| * SDAFS | 1,000.00 |
| * Bassmaster’s Classic | 1,000.00 |
| * NFHP Board Meeting (March) | 1,000.00 |
| * Solicit Sponsors | 10,000.00 |
| **Total Travel** | **$ 13,000.00** |
| Other Expenses |  |
| * Outreach Materials | 5,000.00 |
| * Postage | 200.00 |
| * Web Hosting | 600.00 |
| **Total Other** | **$ 18,600.00** |
| **Funds Remaining** | **$ 13,200.00** |
|  |  |
| **2011 FWS Project Award (reverted from OK)** | **$ 10,000.00** |
| **2015 MSCG???** |  |
| **Sponsor Solicitation (projected)** | **$ 30,000.00** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **I. AQUATIC HABITAT RESTORATION/PROTECTION** | **Points = 130** |
| ***I.1 Would the habitat project in question address the regional priority impairments identified in the RFHP habitat impairment assessment. Refer to the map and table attached.*** |  |
| 1st and/or 2nd Regional Priority Impairment = 50 |  |
| 3rd and/or 4th Regional Priority Impairment = 25 |  |
| 5tht and/or 6th Regional Priority Impairment = 10 |  |
| Does not address any of the top 6 Regional Priority Impairments = 0 |  |
|  | |
| ***I.2 Are objectives and performance measures clearly defined in the proposal? (e.g., ft2 of shoreline restored; quantified amount of structure added; number of native plants planted; changes in water quality parameters; changes in fish sampling catch rates in affected area, rates of recruitment, or population size structure; angler catch rates, harvest rates, and measures of directed fishing effort; measures of recreational use or economic benefit; etc)*** |  |
| Clearly defined objectives and performance measures with reasonable likelihood of performance measures being met = 40 |  |
| Clearly defined objectives and performance measures with low likelihood of performance measures being met = 20 |  |
| Loosely defined objectives/performance measures=10 |  |
| No performance measures=0 |  |
|  | |
| ***I.3 Are monitoring plans included in the proposal? (Are monitoring plans sufficient to evaluate the stated performance measures in the proposal? \*Note: monitoring may be outside of the time scope of the project but should be included to receive maximum points. Are monitoring plans of sufficient duration to determine if project objectives are met?)*** |  |
| Monitoring and evaluation adequate to evaluate performance measures = 40 |  |
| Monitoring and evaluation stated but insufficient to meet performance measures = 20 |  |
| No monitoring and evaluation included = 0 |  |

**RFHP Project Selection Criteria-Revised May 2013**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **II. QUALITY OF LIFE FOR AMERICANS** | **Points = 50** |
| ***II.1 Would the habitat project in question help the RFHP achieve its objectives to provide, protect and enrich quality of life for all Americans?***  ***Check all that apply:***   * ***Develop environmental amenities, nature experiences, and wildlife-based activities and opportunities on lands adjacent to reservoir systems to engage and inform local communities and visiting public on the values and benefits of healthy reservoir systems.*** * ***Promote conservation of fish and aquatic resources to boaters and other water-based recreationists.*** * ***Maintain and enhance public access.*** * ***Support recreational industries and related economic activities that advance watershed health and contribute to conservation of fisheries and aquatic habitats in reservoir systems.*** |  |
| Yes, three or more objectives = 15 |  |
| Yes, two objectives = 10 |  |
| Yes, one objective = 5 |  |
| No = 0 |  |
|  | |
| ***II-2 Would the project restore/enhance habitat that would directly support an economically important or high-use fishery (as documented in past studies or the published literature) or other types of fisheries within the project area?*** |  |
| Yes, multiple important fisheries = 20 |  |
| Yes, single important fishery = 15 |  |
| Yes, less significant or multiple developing fisheries = 10 |  |
| Yes, less significant or a single developing fishery = 5 |  |
| No = 0 |  |
|  | |
| ***II.3Would project outcomes lead to improvements in water quality or quantity for human health, recreational use, or ecological health of the reservoir system?*** |  |
| Yes, direct and immediate improvement = 15 |  |
| Yes, indirect or delayed improvement = 10 |  |
| No = 0 |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **III. PARTNERSHIPS, FUND LEVERAGING, AND PROMOTION** | **Points = 80** |
| ***III.1 Would the habitat project in question help the RFHP achieve its objectives to establish partnerships between management agencies and reservoir stakeholders; leverage outside sources of funding; and advance public awareness and understanding of the value of healthy reservoir systems?***  ***Check all that apply:***  o ***Establish national and regional technological assistance, data sharing and information network capacities to support development and adoption of best management practices among managers and among individuals and organizations engaged in the conservation of fish habitat in reservoir systems***  o ***Support and participate in watershed planning initiatives to promote implementation of best management practices for conservation of fisheries and fish habitat in reservoir systems***  o ***To ensure practitioner awareness of and access to RFHP and its support capacities, establish outreach to reservoir managers, relevant authorities and communities within reservoir systems, and other private and public stakeholders engaged in conservation of those systems and their fisheries***  o ***Develop and formalize institutional relationships between RFHP and principle partners to establish landscape-level networks of communication and governance that will facilitate effective, efficient, and sustaining conservation of aquatic habitat in reservoir systems***  o ***Identify and develop long-term funding opportunities for RFHP projects and operations***  o ***Advance public awareness of the economic, societal and ecological value and benefits of healthy reservoir systems***  o ***Advance public understanding of the connections between habitat quality in reservoir systems and land-use practices within their associated watersheds***  o ***Nurture a public that is well-informed and involved in current and emerging resource issues in reservoir systems*** |  |
| Yes, > 5 objectives = 15 |  |
| Yes, 3 - 5 objectives = 10 |  |
| Yes, 1 - 2 objective = 5 |  |
| No = 0 |  |
| ***III.2 How many partners are involved in the project? (Partners must be listed in the budget table and provide cash and/or in-kind contributions to be considered.)*** |  |
| >5 = 15 |  |
| 3-5 = 10 |  |
| 1-2 = 5 |  |
| 0 = 0 |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***III.3 Will this project bring together a diverse cross-section of partner types (State government, Federal government, City or County government, water controlling authorities, universities, angler groups or clubs, civic groups or clubs, private industry, or local businesses). If so, how many partner types are directly involved in the project?*** |  |
| >5 = 15 |  |
| 2-5 = 10 |  |
| 1 = 0 |  |
| ***III.4 Are state and/or federal fish and wildlife management agencies actively engaged (providing financial or in-kind contribution) in this project and is the project compatible with a reservoir, watershed or land use management plan? If so, provide a copy or a link to the plan.*** |  |
| Yes and plan = 10 |  |
| Yes, but no plan = 5 |  |
| No = 0 |  |
| ***III.5 What amount of funds are leveraged from other sources?*** |  |
| >5:1 = 15 |  |
| 5-2:1 = 10 |  |
| > 1 < 2:1 = 5 |  |
| <1:1 = 3 |  |
| No leveraging = 0 |  |
| ***III.6 Does the project involve a Friends of Reservoirs group or member? Name the FOR group or member.*** |  |
| Yes = 10 |  |
| No = 0 |  |
| ***Point Total for Goal Category I (maximum of 130)*** |  |
| ***Point Total for Goal Category II (maximum of 50)*** |  |
| ***Point Total for Goal Category III (maximum of 80)*** |  |
| ***Grand Point Total for Project (maximum of 260)*** |  |



|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **REGION**  **PRIORITZED REGIONAL IMPAIRMENTS**  (Top 2 Impairments in each Region-50 pts; 3rd and 4th-25 pts; 5th and 6th-10 pts) | **IMPAIRMENT** | **POINTS** |
| **Western Mountain/Xeric** | Water Regime (low retention, mistimed fluctuations, extreme drawdowns) | **50** |
| Lack of Structural Habitat (woody and vegetation) |
|  | Excessive Nutrients (algae blooms) | **25** |
|  | Siltation/Turbidity |
|  | Connectivity (lack of connection with embayments/backwaters, tributaries) | **10** |
|  | Degraded Shoreline Areas (excessive shallows, mudflats, disturbed riparian) |
| **Northern Plains** | Lack of Structural Habitat | **50** |
|  | Excessive Nutrients |
|  | Water Regime | **25** |
|  | Siltation/Turbidity |
|  | Connectivity | **10** |
|  | Degraded Shoreline Areas |
| **Upper Midwest** | Excessive Nutrients | **50** |
|  | Siltation/Turbidity |
|  | Excessive Vegetation (typically invasive/non-native plants) | **25** |
|  | Lack of Structural Habitat |
|  | Connectivity | **10** |
|  | Degraded Shoreline Areas |
| **Southern Plains** | Lack of Structural Habitat | **50** |
|  | Siltation/Turbidity |
|  | Degraded Littoral Areas | **25** |
|  | Connectivity |
|  | Excessive Nutrients | **10** |
|  | Water Regime |
| **Temperate Plains** | Lack of Structural Habitat | **50** |
|  | Siltation/Turbidity |
|  | Excessive Nutrients | **25** |
|  | Connectivity |
|  | Degraded Shoreline Areas | **10** |
|  | Water Regime |
| **Coastal Plains** | Excessive Vegetation | **50** |
|  | Siltation/Turbidity |
|  | Lack of Structural Habitat | **25** |
|  | Connectivity |
|  | Degraded Shoreline Areas | **10** |
|  | Excessive Nutrients |
| **Northern Appalachians** | Lack of Structural Habitat | **50** |
| Siltation/Turbidity |
|  | Excessive Nutrients | **25** |
|  | Excessive Vegetation |
|  | Degraded Shoreline Areas | **10** |
|  | Water Regime |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Southern Appalachians** | Lack of Structural Habitat | **50** |
| Siltation/Turbidity |
|  | Excessive Vegetation | **25** |
|  | Connectivity |
|  | Excessive Nutrients | **10** |
|  | Water Regime |

**RESERVOIR FISHERIES HABITAT PARTNERSHIP**

**Project Proposal Summary-2014**

Shoreline Stabilization and Fish Habitat Enhancement at Lake Bloomington, Illinois; submitted by Friends of EverBloom (FOR Chapter)

Lake Bloomington is located in central Illinois about 160 miles northeast of St. Louis and approximately 125 miles southwest of Chicago. The primary problems in Lake Bloomington are that the levels of phosphorus and nitrates/nitrites are too high, sedimentation of the lake is occurring, and quality fish habitat is lacking in parts of the lake. The Lake Bloomington Watershed Plan (<http://web.extension.illinois.edu/lmw/downloads/22860.pdf>) discusses the issues facing Lake Bloomington and its watershed and also proposes solutions to address the issues. The shoreline stabilization and habitat enhancement project will decrease shoreline erosion, turbidity, siltation, and nutrient release. The project will stabilize approximately 950 feet of severely eroding shoreline. Due to the steep, high banks, and extreme fluctuations in water levels, biotechnical means of shoreline stabilization were excluded from consideration. The recommended alternative selected in the 2005 Study, based upon cost and impact upon near shore woodland cover is Stone Toe Protection (STP) which when applied along the eroding sections to an elevation of 721.5 will provide the stability needed to protect the base of the bank and prevent any additional recession of the bank line. The project will also increase structural habitat to enhance the fisheries in the project area by adding 4 to 5 sets of lunker structures that will be 20 to 40 feet long and will be made from 2 to 3 feet diameter concrete culverts. Success of the project will be gauged by monitoring water quality, sedimentation, and the fisheries.

**Funds requested: $20,000; Total project costs: $77,609; total score: 222; rank: 1**

Olpe City Lake Shoreline Stabilization and Habitat Restoration, Kansas: submitted by City of Olpe

Olpe City Lake is situated on the eastern edge of the Flint Hills region of Kansas. The lake is located one mile west and one mile south of the city of Olpe. Construction of the 90 acre lake was completed in June of 1964. The 1,280 acres of native tall grass prairie drainage basin would seem to contribute to good water clarity; however, gradual shoreline gradient, little wind protection, and colloidal clay bottom sediments all contribute to a modest mean water transparency of 12 inches. In 2013, 26,630 cubic yards of bottom sediment near shore was pushed up into nine piers and one island to enhance shoreline angling access, deepen shoreline fish habitat, and improve water quality at a cost of $53,500. The side slopes of these piers and island are 3:1. We would like to add 1,915 tons of limestone rip-rap to ten feet of shoreline (five feet above the water line and five below) along the entire 3,050 linear feet of the piers and island. Limestone rip-rap would reduce shoreline erosion, improve water quality, and provide fish habitat.

**Funds requested: $10,000; Total project costs: $57,000; total score: 218; rank: 2**

Possum Kingdom Lake Habitat Enhancement Project, Texas: submitted by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Hell’s Gate Bass Club (FOR Chapter)

Built in 1941, Possum Kingdom Reservoir (PK) is an extremely popular recreation reservoir and historically an exceptional Striped Bass and black bass fishery. Since 2001, PK has periodically suffered from golden alga fish kills which have severely diminished these traditionally high-use fisheries in turn harming the local economy. Fish habitat in PK is lacking with the majority of habitat consisting of rocky substrate and boat docks. Although some woody debris exists, it is degraded and only minimal aquatic vegetation occurs in the lake. Ultimately, golden alga fish kills, the lack of structure, lack of woody debris, and lack of aquatic vegetation hampers fisheries quality, angling quality, and ultimately usage and quality of life. Originally PK was comprised of large stands of flooded timber (pecan, mesquite, cedar; 1956 TPWD Fisheries Report). Many of these stands have since degraded to their trunks and a few main branches. A portion of this project will include making cedar brush piles to restore some of these traditional stands. To further restore these stands 100 MossBackRack-type artificial fish attractors will be attached horizontally to these barren trunks with cable. These attractors will effectively restore structural habitat by mimicking the tree branches that have broken off over time. Other portions of PK offer vast ledges and flats that have likely never offered any structure for fisheries habitat. In these areas we will deploy 65 Georgia DNR style fish attractors and 16 Moss Back structures. These structures will further be enhanced by the deployment of cedar brush piles around them. Possum Kingdom is an extremely high recreational-use reservoir. Pleasure boating, skiing, jet-skiing, and tubing, etc. cause extreme wave action throughout much of the year. Such wave action coupled with a lack of littoral aquatic vegetation has led to increased siltation and degraded littoral areas. These degraded areas offer only minimal fisheries habitat. To combat these impairments we propose adding 100 cedar brush piles to the littoral zones and planting 200 founder colonies (approximately 1,000 individual starter plants; Figure 3) of aquatic vegetation to include American pondweed, Illinois pondweed, water stargrass, and water willow. The combination of these methods will decrease wave action thus lowering siltation, provide cover for fish, and greatly enhance fisheries habitat.

**Funds requested: $8,000; Total project costs: $37,900; total score: 218; rank: 2**

Improvement of Sport Fish Habitat and Species Diversity within Lake Livingston, Texas; submitted by Piney Wood Lakes Chapter, Texas Master Naturalists (FOR Chapter)

Lake Livingston has a surface area of approximately 83,000 acres, and its maximum depth is 77 feet. The reservoir was formed when the Trinity River was impounded by the construction of the Livingston Dam in 1969. The lake is seven miles west of Livingston and is 50 miles north of Houston, an area hosting 6.2 million residents. Historically, in its first decades of establishment, Lake Livingston was host to many bass tournaments. Over the years, due to such adverse detriments as siltation, turbidity, habitat and shoreline loss and economic development of constructed bulkheads, there has been a decline of the bass population. Non-native plant species, water hyacinth, giant salvinia and hydrilla have negatively impacted habitat quality. Hurricane Rita in 2005 damaged the earthen dam site causing an enforced year-long drawdown followed by severe drought conditions have further stressed habitat quality. Recommendations from a TPWD lake management plan include collaboration with the “Lake Livingston area chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist Program …. to develop native plant nurseries and to provide plants for habitat restoration efforts”. Project funds will be used to develop a native aquatic plant nursery to facilitate production of American water willow. Nine native aquatic plant nursery boxes will be constructed at Livingston Independent School District (LISD) and maintained with student assistance. Three additional nursery boxes will be constructed at Project Leader’s property just south of Livingston, TX. Nursery tanks will be stocked with American Water Willow potted seedlings. Other species may be added if conditions are deemed suitable by TPWD. Methods established by TPWD Inland Fisheries in their native aquatic vegetation establishment manual will be followed for nursery construction, and plant maintenance. Approximately 1,000 + plants transferred from the nursery to Lake Livingston each year. Plants will be protected by wire enclosures.

**Funds requested: $20,000; Total project costs: $289,255; total score: 217; rank: 4**

Rockport Reservoir Fish Habitat Improvement Project, Utah; submitted by Rocky Mountain Anglers (FOR Chapter)

Wanship (Rockport) Reservoir is a 1,080-acre impoundment located in Peoa, Utah adjacent to Interstate Highway 80, approximately 45 miles northeast of Salt Lake City. Rockport Reservoir State Park affords recreational boaters and anglers with access to a 1,080-acre impoundment. Operated by the Bureau of Reclamation, this impoundment serves primarily as freshwater storage for irrigators in the Weber River Basin and, secondarily, as a source of hydroelectric power for a downstream power plant. The Rockport Reservoir Fishery provides anglers with opportunities for yellow perch, smallmouth bass, rainbow trout, and brown trout. Rockport Reservoir is the eleventh most popular reservoir among boaters and anglers in Utah; accommodating 119,676 boater trips annually. Recent angler surveys indicate 124,979 angler days are invested on this reservoir annually. Based upon results from the 2011 Utah Statewide Angler Survey, catch and harvest estimates for panfish (e.g., yellow perch) and smallmouth bass at Rockport Reservoir lag far behind those of other comparable reservoirs in northern Utah; suggesting that the abundance of stock-sized fish might be limited. The aforementioned lack of cover and spawning habitat in the littoral zone is suspected as the major limiting factor to recruitment. Rocky Mountain Anglers (RMA) propose partnering with UDWR and UDPR to install a combination of shoreline log structures (Figure 2) and porcupine cribs (Figure 3) at varying depths in an effort to improve sport fish habitat; providing cover during drawdown periods and mimicking natural processes of a typical lakeshore when trees and brush fall in the water. Sass et al. (2006) suggest that adding habitat complexity can enhance fish populations. In particular, large woody debris provides excellent habitat and is an important food source for invertebrates; providing forage for fish. In April of 2012, UDWR and the Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (RFHP Appendix B) outlining permissible in-lake fish habitat enhancements (i.e., enhancements that do not pose boating hazards at low water and will not become dislodged and foul outlet works) to be used in Bureau reservoirs. The suite of enhancement structures approved by the Bureau for installation were based on structure installations undertaken by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and habitat structure installations undertaken successfully at Utah Community Fisheries.

In May of 2013, UDWR biologist completed the installation of four shoreline log structures at Rockport Reservoir during phase I of this project. In July of 2013, UDWR biologists secured funding from the Utah Partnership for Conservation and Development, a Utah Department of Natural Resources coordinated funding partnership between private, state, and federal entities designed to enhance wildlife habitat in Utah, for completion of phase II of this habitat improvement project for Rockport Reservoir. Existing phase II funding will allow UDWR to purchase 40 tons of 20-inch to 24-inch anchoring boulders, install eight 10-inch shoreline logs, and construct/install 60 porcupine cribs. The shoreline log structures planned for installation during phase II of this project have met with Bureau approval. Porcupine cribs will be included as a Bureau-approved habitat enhancement upon amendment of the existing MOU during state fiscal year 2014.

**Funds requested: $4,500; Total project costs: 14,200; total score: 213; rank: 5**

Aquatic habitat restoration at Mahoning Creek Lake, Pennsylvania; submitted by USACE

Mahoning Creek Lake is located on the Mahoning Creek in northeastern Armstrong, northwestern Indiana, and Jefferson Counties, Pennsylvania. The dam is 21.6 miles upstream from the confluence of Mahoning Creek with the Allegheny River. It is also 77 miles upstream from the Ohio River at Pittsburgh. The lake was authorized by the Flood Control Acts of 1936 and 1938. Mahoning dam was the fourth one built out of 16 dams in the Pittsburgh District. The dam was completed in 1941. The dam’s primary management function is flood control, and is managed secondarily for water quality and recreation. Water quality issues arose in the 1970’s due to acid mine drainage degradation. This issue caused low pH which is harmful to aquatic species. In the 1980’s and the 1990’s mine acid abatement efforts were placed into effect to improve water quality. The pH levels improved and were consistently between 7.0 and 7.4 where they remain today. In 43 years water quality has greatly improved from its previous state. An aquatic restoration project at Mahoning Creek Lake could help further improve the reservoir ecosystem.

Mahoning Dam’s current aquatic vegetation is nearly nonexistent. The development of submergent and emergent plant communities continue to be stressed by the fluctuating water levels. Currently cover for aquatic species is provided by decaying or dead materials that have fallen into the lake.

The goal of the aquatic habitat restoration project at Mahoning Creek Lake, Armstrong County Pennsylvania will be to establish aquatic vegetation to increase fish and invertebrate habitat and enhance overall aquatic health. Previous research suggests that while a diverse community of native plants is ideal, native aquatic plants such as american pondweed (*Potamogeton nodosus*) and water celery ( *Vallisneria Americana*) have proven to be successful in reservoir restoration (Cheshier et al. 2008). American pondweed and water celery have singularly shown that they can provide physical structure and complexity that benefit the aquatic environment. This goal will be achieved by undertaking the following objectives:

1. Establish 212 ft^2 of American pondweed and water celery and continue to monitor the vegetation to assess’ establishment outside of the enclosures.
2. Monitor plant survival and seed bank establishment, for up to three years to assess’ success.

**Funds requested: $1,300; Total project costs: $9,850; total score: 213; rank: 5**

Fish Habitat Enhancement and Shoreline Stabilization on an Island in Lake Norman, North Carolina: submitted by North Carolina Wildlife Federation

Lake Norman is the largest reservoir within the boundaries of North Carolina, having a surface area of 32,500 ac and a shoreline extending for 520 mi. Formed by Duke Power Company (now Duke Energy) in 1963 by impounding the Catawba River, Lake Norman is the site of three electric power generating facilities. The reservoir is located near the city of Charlotte, and is North Carolina’s largest city with a population of more than 750,000. Due to its size and proximity to Charlotte and other metropolitan areas, Lake Norman receives heavy recreational use. A 1999 study by Duke Power Company estimated almost 500,000 recreational visits during that year. Lake Norman features 96 islands that cover almost 300 acres and have about 30 miles of shoreline. Duke Energy Company owns most of the islands. All of the islands contribute to the diversity of aquatic habitat in the form of fallen trees, rock outcroppings and the presence of littoral areas in otherwise open waters. In addition, many islands provide valuable wildlife habitat including a major rookery for colonial waterbirds. One of the largest rookeries on Lake Norman is on the 2-acre island that is the site of this project. The major component of the first phase of the project is a breakwater structure that includes at a minimum a 200lf rock sill made up of boulders, riprap, and large woody debris and native vegetation. The rock sill will be located approximately 10ft from the shoreline to minimize boating hazards. The breakwater structure would add complex, physical habitat that would provide refuge, spawning, and nursery habitat for fishes in what is otherwise a relatively uniform physical environment. The structure would also provide a shoreline fishing opportunity that boat anglers could target. Furthermore, the structure would reduce wave action and prevent further shoreline erosion of an island. More linear feet of the breakwater structure will be constructed as funds allow. This will be determined after the design is finalized. Aquatic vegetation will be planted as part of the breakwater structure. Volunteers will harvest and plant water willow *Justicia americana* along the eastern side of the island to help further break wave action and improve aquatic habitat. Buttonbush *Cephalanthus occidentalis* and other aquatic vegetation will be panted behind the rock sill. In addition, the 50lf of eroding shoreline will be reshaped using a track hoe to a 2:1 slope and stabilized with a brush mattress, containerized trees and shrub and coir fiber matting. Stabilizing the banks will help further stabilize the island and reduce turbidity in the water. This project was one of the three alternates submitted to FWS in 2013.

**Funds requested: $20,000; Total project costs: $79,000; total score: 212; rank: 7**

Funding of top 7 ranked projects totals $83,800l

Locations include IL, KS, TX (2), UT, PA, NC

MW-2

SE-3

NE-1

W-1

Fish Habitat/Fetch Reduction Project on Wister Lake, Oklahoma; submitted by Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation

Construction of Wister Dam was completed in 1949 impounding the Poteau River and Fourche Maline Creek in LeFlore County, OK with a watershed consisting of 993 square miles. Wister Lake is operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) for flood control, water supply, low flow augmentation, water conservation, and sedimentation. A large portion of the lake is less than 7.5 ft. deep (normal pool) and frequent depth fluctuations prevent the establishment of aquatic vegetation. The absence of vegetation in the littoral zone and shallow pelagial zone facilitates shoreline erosion and sediment/nutrient resuspension as wind stirs the water column. Related water quality parameters consistently fail to meet state standards. A trial Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB) project in 1999-2000 formed long wind breaks with round hay bales. The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) wishes to instead sink eastern red cedar trees to potentially act as breakwaters. The tree row could serve multiple purposes: 1) Remove nuisance cedar trees (1320) from the Wister wildlife management area (WMA). 2) Provide additional marked fish habitat/attractors for anglers. 3) Possibly reduce fetch in shallow areas. Similar to all ODWC fish attractor structures, freshly cut cedar trees will be submerged using concrete cinder blocks attached with rope. Supplies for this method will cost $1.08 per linear foot of breakwater structure. The trees eventually water log and stay submerged even after the rope deteriorates. Trees stacked side-by-side into a tangled row will exceed the water depth at normal elevation and protrude beyond the water surface. Fish attractor buoys with reflective tape will mark the structures during day and night. The location of the structures will not be high traffic boating areas of the lake.

**Funds requested: $10,000; Total project costs: $41,100; total score: 210; rank: 8**

Lake Houston Fisheries Habitat Improvement Project: submitted by Lake Houston Sports and Recreation Foundation (FOR Chapter)

Lake Houston is a previous “Ten Waters to Watch” awardee from the National Fish Habitat Partnership. Lake Houston has a large watershed and siltation is a major habitat issue. Aquatic vegetation is needed to combat erosion, improve water clarity and enhance aquatic habitat. The project includes the construction of protective enclosures along shoreline that is sheltered from prevailing wind and away from development. Each enclosure is populated with multiple native aquatic plant species. With help from local business owners, volunteers and public support, the Lake Houston Sports and Recreation Foundation has obtained a site to have 10 – 20’ X 4’ plant cells. Presently, we have 7 cells constructed. Funding will be used to construct additional growing cells and for approximately 200 exclosures 7' diameter, 6' tall cages out of 2"X 4" X 6' vinyl coated welded wire. Our goal within the next 5 years is to have 1,500 acres of native vegetation on Lake Houston. We have already duplicated the same vegetation and habitat program as the one located in Conroe, Texas, and it is our hope to have similar success on Lake Houston. With “boots on the ground,” we are well positioned and ready to receive additional funding to move forward and ensure the success of our vegetation and habitat restoration project.

**Funds requested: $15,000; Total project costs: $25,000; total score: 205; rank: 9**

San Angelo Reservoirs Structural Habitat Project, Texas; submitted by Stillwaters Bass Club (FOR Chapter)

The objective of this project is to restore structural habitat in 3 small western Texas reservoirs, particularly during periods of drawdown due to persistent drought conditions. Fort Phantom Hill (4,246 acres; impounded 1938), Coleman (1,783 acres; impounded 1966), and Hords Creek (510 acres; impounded 1948) reservoirs are subjected to droughts. Littoral habitat consists of flooded terrestrial vegetation, rocks, and aquatic vegetation when the lakes are full. However, in times of drought, the impairment in these Southern Plains reservoirs is a lack of structural habitat. When water levels are low and cover is limited, fish will spread out looking for refuge. When fish are dispersed, fishing can be more difficult. Adding artificial habitat under these conditions will guide fish to those structures, making it easier for anglers to locate fish. Our goal is to provide more fishing opportunities in these reservoirs during periods of low water. To spread out angling effort and to increase the chance that some structures will be more productive at certain parts of the year, Georgia Structures should be deployed in many locations. We will place 30 Georgia Structures in both Lake Fort Phantom Hill and Coleman Lake, at 10 locations. In Hords Creek Lake, 12 Georgia Structures will be deployed at 4 locations. Clusters of three will be used to create reef-like habitat that will be easier for anglers to locate.

**Funds requested: $10,789; Total project costs: 42,294; total score: 205; rank: 9**

DeGray Lake Fisheries Habitat Management, Native Aquatic Plant Protection: Arkansas submitted by USACE

DeGray Lake, located 8 miles north of Arkadelphia, AR is a 13,800-acre reservoir with 210 miles of shoreline. Fishing is a premier sport oat DeGray Lake, which is known for world class hybrid striped bass fishing. The fishery is also known for largemouth and spotted bass, walleye, channel catfish, crappie and sunfish. The funding requested is for materials to construct herbivore exclosures around coontail and *Vallisnaria* colonies planted in 2012. Note: the exclosures should have been constructed with the first round of funding. In 1999, *Hydrilla* was discovered in Lake Ouachita and its spread eventually eliminated many littoral foraging areas. *Hydrilla* blocked access to marinas, choked out swimming areas, ruined boat propellers, had detrimental effects on aesthetics, and raised concerns that its growing impact on recreation at Lake Ouachita could negatively affect the local economy. Hydrilla control efforts by the Corps of Engineers, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, and Friends of Lake Ouachita have been ongoing. Pakistani fly have been introduced and native aquatic plants have been reintroduced. Funding from the grant would help continue these efforts by purchasing material for propagating and reestablishing native aquatic plants.

**Funds requested: $10,000; total cost: $32,580 total score: 177; rank: 11**

Lake Ouachita Fisheries Habitat Management, Native Aquatic Plant Protection: Arkansas submitted by USACE

Lake Ouachita is a 40,000-acre reservoir located 10 miles west of Hot Springs making it a highly-used fishery (annual visitation >4 million). In 1999, *Hydrilla* was discovered in Lake Ouachita and its spread eventually eliminated many littoral foraging areas. *Hydrilla* blocked access to marinas, choked out swimming areas, ruined boat propellers, had detrimental effects on aesthetics, and raised concerns that its growing impact on recreation at Lake Ouachita could negatively affect the local economy. Hydrilla control efforts by the Corps of Engineers, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, and Friends of Lake Ouachita have been ongoing. Pakistani fly have been introduced and native aquatic plants have been reintroduced. Funding from the grant would help continue these efforts by purchasing material for propagating and reestablishing native aquatic plants.

This is a request for additional funding for a project that RFHP funded in 2012. The funding requested is for materials to construct herbivore exclosures around plant colonies. Note: the exclosures should have been constructed with the first round of funding.

**Funds requested: $10,000; Total project costs: $43,480; total score: 177; rank: 11**

Native Aquatic Vegetation Enhancement and fish attractor development on Lake Shelbyville, Illinois: submitted by USACE

Lake Shelbyville is an 11,100 acre reservoir managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Enginners, primarily for flood control on agricultural lands boardering the Kaskaskia River. The primary causes of water quality problems are nutrients, siltation, organic enrichment (low dissolved oxygen), and suspended solids attributed to agriculture and point sources. Nutrient levels were so high in 2013 that significant amounts of duckweed were found throughout the lake. Due to its relatively young age (impounded in 1970), variable flood control pools, and tendency towards repeated long duration high water elevations enduring from spring to well into summer, native aquatic vegetation has not established naturally in the reservoir, resulting in limited submerged structure and below average fishery recruitment, particularly for largemouth bass and other centrarchid species. Additionally, while vegetation can reduce shoreline erosion, the paucity of vegetation along Lake Shelbyville’s shoreline leaves it susceptible to erosion due to wave action and high turbidities due to suspended sediments. Bank erosion is so bad that the USACE has resorted to lining extensive areas of bank with rip-rap to prevent loss of recreational properties and structures.Outcomes expected include the construction of 3-4 culture boxes to raise a variety of aquatic plants to introduce into Lake Shelbyville. Planting sites on Lake Shelbyville will be protected by PVC-coated welded wire mesh to reduce impacts of depredation and physical destruction of introduced plants. In addition, the continuation of the fish attractor program will include the construction and placement of 130-150 Christmas tree bundles and 160+ porcupine “balls” into 3-4 large clustered fish attractors of each type. This will provide ¼ to ½ acre of physical habitat to concentrate fish for higher quality fishing experiences.

**Funds requested: $6,500; Total project costs: $26,670; total score: 173; rank: 13**

Underwater Structure Enhancement for West Point Reservoir, Georgia: submitted by USACE

The purpose of this project is to enhance the underwater structure, or lack thereof, by adding artificial habitat and fish attractors to various locations around West Point Lake (WPL). Currently, WPL has limited structure for fish species to utilize. While there is moderate structure, such as tree stumps at relatively shallow depths up to 10 feet, there is insufficient structure for fish at depths from 10 feet to 30 feet. The plan for WPL is to build around 200 fish attractors out of bamboo, five gallon buckets, and concrete with the help of volunteers from various high schools around the area.

**Funds requested: $6,000; Total project costs: $9,520; total score: 163; rank: 14**

Structure Addition to Grenada Lake, Mississippi; submitted by Friends of Mississippi Corps Lakes

The disastrous Flood of 1927 served as the catalyst for the construction of four strategically located reservoirs located in North Mississippi. With the Flood Control Act of 1928, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Vicksburg District became involved in a comprehensive flood control program.  The major components of the program included the construction of lakes, levees, and large concrete floodwalls.  In 1936, the Yazoo Headwater Project became a reality and resulted in the construction of Sardis, Arkabutla, Enid, and Grenada dams. Construction on Grenada Dam began in 1947 and opened for operation in January, 1954. After construction of the Dam, the upper lake contained much of the original vegetation. After inundation, the harder wood species like cypress remained for many years and served as natural fish habitat. However, after 50 years, the lake bed was nearly void of any structure and many natural depressions have silted in. Starting in the early 1990s, lake personnel began the placement of artificial fish shelters in the lake to offset the habitat lost from years of inundation. With the rise and fall of the lake level artificial habitat constructed of organic material degrades quickly and is functional for five or less years. Initially some work was done by contract however, due to budget/manpower constraints; it became necessary for the Corps of Engineers to look for other means of accomplishing this endeavor. Currently the work is accomplished by a large contingence of volunteers. The Friends of Mississippi Corps Lakes is a new organization dedicated to supporting the lakes in various capacities including the annual Fish Habitat Day. Fish Habitat Day is specifically designed to help restore and enhance Arkabutla Lake’s fish habitat. The project proposes to construct and place at least 350 cedar brush shelters in key areas in the lake annually. Stake beds and other artificial habitat will supplement, not replace, brush shelters.

**Funds requested: $10,000; Total project costs: $43,390; total score: 155; rank: 15**

Structure Addition to Arkbautla Lake, Mississippi; submitted by Friends of Mississippi Corps Lakes

The disastrous Flood of 1927 served as the catalyst for the construction of four strategically located reservoirs located in North Mississippi. With the Flood Control Act of 1928, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Vicksburg District became involved in a comprehensive flood control program.  The major components of the program included the construction of lakes, levees, and large concrete floodwalls.  In 1936, the Yazoo Headwater Project became a reality and resulted in the construction of Sardis, Arkabutla, Enid, and Grenada dams.  Work on Arkabutla Dam was completed in 1943. After construction of the Dam, the upper lake contained much of the original vegetation. After inundation, the harder wood species like cypress remained for many years and served as natural fish habitat. However, after 50 years, the lake bed was nearly void of any structure and many natural depressions have silted in. Starting in the early 1990s, lake personnel began the placement of artificial fish shelters in the lake to offset the habitat lost from years of inundation. With the rise and fall of the lake level artificial habitat constructed of organic material degrades quickly and is functional for five or less years. Initially some work was done by contract however, due to budget/manpower constraints; it became necessary for the Corps of Engineers to look for other means of accomplishing this endeavor. Currently the work is accomplished by a large contingence of volunteers. The Friends of Mississippi Corps Lakes is a new organization dedicated to supporting the lakes in various capacities including the annual Fish Habitat Day. Fish Habitat Day is specifically designed to help restore and enhance Arkabutla Lake’s fish habitat. The project proposes to construct and place at least 150 cedar brush shelters in key areas in the lake annually. Stake beds and other artificial habitat will supplement, not replace, brush shelters. RFHP funding will allow expansion of current habitat efforts.

**Funds requested: $10,000; Total project costs: $42,650; total score: 153; rank: 16**

Martis Creek Vegetation Removal Project: California, submitted by USACE

Martis Creek is a 71-acre reservoir in the Sierra Nevadas. The lake is 75% covered with Eurasian watermilfoil. USACE has been partnering with the Tahoe Divers Conservancy and the Truckee River Watershed Council to install barriers to shade light penetration and kill milfoil. The barrier program uses 100 – 10 x 10 foot landscape cloth barriers framed with sand filled PVC; the barriers are pressed down onto the milfoil, which is killed due to lack of sunlight. Each barrier application kills about a quarter of an acre of milfoil. The barriers were constructed by Patagonia with funding from the first grant in 2009. The grant request is to pay for divers to continue to move the barriers.

**Funds requested: $7,500; Total project costs: $45,230; total score: 142; rank: 17**

Greater Ozarks Audubon Society Green Leadership Academy for Diverse Ecosystems (GLADE): Improving Habitat and Developing the Next Generation of Ozarks Conservation Leaders, Bull Shoals Lake, Missouri: submitted by Greater Ozarks Audubon Society

GOAS has increased its commitment to conservation education in the Ozarks, recognizing that future citizens will be making decisions that will have a profound impact on some of Missouri’s most precious resources. The centerpiece of this enhanced commitment is the “Green Leadership Academy for Diverse Ecosystems” (GLADE), created in 2009. GLADE is a place-based, week-long, service-learning, peer-mentoring residential camp for predominantly rural high school students, designed to restore critical habitat, improve water quality, and give participating students the knowledge, skills, and inspiration to become conservation leaders in their own communities. GLADE participants will replace Missouri Department of Conservation wildlife food plots with Giant Cane (*Arundinaria gigantea*), a permanent native ground cover, to help increase nutrient uptake in terrestrial, riparian vegetation, to reduce riparian erosion and corresponding reservoir siltation and turbidity, and to re-establish both terrestrial and aquatic habitat along Bee Creek, which serves as a tributary to Bull Shoals Reservoir in an established Audubon Important Bird Area. GLADE participants will also continue the current five years of work to qualitatively and quantitatively monitor water quality. This continued monitoring will serve to establish baseline data for both Bull Shoals Reservoir and its tributary Bee Creek. Funding request is for a 2-year period.

**Funds requested: $20,000; Total project costs: $45,000; total score: 123; rank: 18**

Potholes Reservoir Fisheries Enhancement Project, Washington; submitted by the Central Washington Fisheries Advisory Council

Potholes Reservoir, a 28,000 acre BOR impoundment (1952), is located in eastcentral Washington and is a primary component to the Columbia Basin Project. The eruption of Mt. St. Helens in 1980 deposited 4-6 inches of volcanic ash in the basin and significantly degraded fish spawning habitat. Ash deposition coupled with natural degradation of woody structure turned the lake bottom into a moonscape. The Central Washington Fisheries Advisory Council (CWFAC) was formed to address fish habitat issues in the region. Working closely with WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, CWFAC has been conducting Lake Havasu-like habitat improvements for many years. As of 8/12/13 the CWFAC has placed 1522 Habitat Boxes on the bottom of Potholes Reservoir. These sanctuaries give new first and second year fish a place to live and grow at our low water status in late summer and fall. Funding sources for their work have diminished and CWFAC is requesting support from RFHP to continue their habitat restoration efforts.

**Funds requested: $20,000; Total project costs: not listed ; total score: 95; rank 19**

Outreach Efforts to Inform Public on Habitat Restoration Efforts in the Russian River Watershed, California: submitted by the Friends of Lake Sonoma

This $10,000 grant request leverages over $12,000,000 in habitat improvement work being performed by many agencies all working together to address the RPAs of the Russian River Biological Opinion. The funds are need to conduct outreach on this story of everyone coming together to save ESA fish from extinction. The myriad of projects directly benefit fish habitat in California and two US Army Corps of Engineers Districts. Note: Restoration efforts in this proposal are downstream of any reservoir.

(**Funds requested: $10,000; total cost: $40,000; total score: 75; rank: 20**

Development of Outreach Kiosks and Interpretive Trail to Highlight Habitat Restoration Efforts on the Yuba River, California; submitted by Friends of Lake Sonoma

On February 29, 2012, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service issued a Biological Opinion (BO) for the US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) operation and maintenance of Daguerre Point Dam on the Yuba River. The BO reviews the effects of the dam on federally listed Threatened Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon evolutionarily significant unit (ESU), threatened California Central Valley steelhead distinct population segment (DPS), and threatened Southern DPS of North American green sturgeon and critical habitat for Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon ESU, California Central Valley steelhead DPS, and Southern DPS of North American green sturgeon. Restoration efforts have been on-going below Daguerre Point Dam. This proposal is to fund outreach efforts to tell the public the story of the restoration efforts.

Note: Restoration efforts in this proposal are downstream of any reservoir.

**Funds requested: $10,000; Total project cost: $40,000 ; total score: 50; rank: 21**

**SMALL PROJECT GRANT PROPOSALS (FOR MEMBERS ONLY)**

**Canyon (Canyon Bass Club of San Marcos)**

This proposal is to continue a long-term cedar brush pile project that is a collaboration between Canyon Bass Club and TPWD. A publication (SEAFWA Proceedings) was written evaluating fish use of these brush piles (attached). The objectives and expected outcomes were clearly stated; methods have been tested over time and brush placement has been supervised by TPWD personnel. Funds leveraged are: **$1000:$22,380.**

**Lake Bloomington (Friends of Everbloom)**

FOE is a new FOR group formed specifically to become a member of FOR and work on Lakes Bloomington and Evergreen in central IL. There has been extensive work done in the watersheds of both lakes and a detailed watershed/lake restoration plan has been written and is being implemented. FOE is asking for funds to initiate a vegetation planting project. I worked with FOE and the USACE's aquatic plant researchers (Mike Smart and Gary Dick) to do a site visit and instruct IL DNR biologists on BMPs for aquatic plant establishment. I thought that the objective and expected outcomes could be better stated. Methods appear to be following BMPs. Funds leveraged are **$1000:$3500.**

**Topaz Lake (Sierra Nevada Bass Club)**

The proposal is for installing 7 artificial structures (Bass Pro Shops Honey Hole Tree Fish Habitat $189/ea) to provide cover for an expanding smallmouth bass population. The structures are designed to provide cover for small fish thereby potentially enhancing recruitment. Previous brush pile projects have proven to attract fish and increase angler catch. However, degradation of these trees and lack of locally available trees precipitated the switch to artificial structure. I contacted the PI and suggested that they look into MossBackRack products (FOR sponsor) but have not heard back. Project will be supervised by NDOW biologists. Objectives and expected outcomes could be better stated but were adequate. Methods were fine but seems like 7 structures in 2400 acres would be inadequate to see much of a difference. Funds leveraged were **$1000:$2172.**

I would like to fund all 3 because we need to encourage these FOR groups to be involved with habitat work and local management biologists. All proposals accomplish this. I would recommend funding Canyon and Bloomington because I see a better chance of the projects "making a difference" and they did a better job of leveraging funds.