



A Fish Habitat Partnership

Fall 2013 Highlights

The National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) continues to be in the headlines, as communication of the importance of fish habitats becomes a priority for partners. Staff of the National Partnership recently highlighted videos on Partnership Habitat efforts, and the impacts these projects have had on fish.



video release.pdf

The video featured here focuses on a project recently completed by the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture (one of the 18 FHP's), on Aaron Run, a tributary of the Savage River, in Massachusetts.

We continue to work with NFHP to strengthen our Partnership. Recently, webinar training sessions on "NFHP Communication-Reaching Out-Making Conservation matter (communications in FHP's)", "Use of a NFHP-Economic Impact tool, a useful and simple calculator for FHP's", and "Coordinating NFHP with the revision of the State Wildlife Action Plans (SWAP Plans)" were held for Coordinators and others interested in the topics.

Our partnership offers a venue to communicate and share ideas and research/management information. This fall our Partnership Steering Committee met once, and the Work Group met twice.

Project Proposal Review and Selection

Our Project Proposal Review Team also evaluated submitted habitat project proposals. There were 11 project proposals submitted for funding by NFHP for our partnership in 2014. Of these 11 proposals, the five highest ranked were selected to be sent to USFWS for their consideration for funding. We do not know how much we will receive in funding at this time. These five proposals and the respective applicants were:

1. MGLP Island Protection Projects on Webster and Loon Lakes, IN. \$25,000 request/\$79,100.00 match. Tippecanoe Watershed Foundation

Create demonstration projects to stabilize eroding islands using bio-engineering techniques (bioengineered seawalls) on two lakes in the Upper Tippecanoe River Watershed, Kosciusko and Noble counties, Indiana.

2. MGLP Knutson Dam Modernization Project Cass Lake, MN. \$35,000.00 request/\$619,000.00 match The U.S. Forest Service, Chippewa National Forest

Remove a dam on the Mississippi River at the outlet of Cass Lake, Beltrami County, MN and associated riparian improvements. The project intends to utilize an engineered rock arch design to maintain gradient and lake elevations. It will restore a natural channel, while maintaining water elevations in Cass Lake, and reduce maintenance and/or replacement costs for an aging dam. It

will result in improved fish passage along the Mississippi River and Cass Lake, Wolf Lake and Lake Andrusia, and into the Turtle River chain of lakes

3. Partnering with MGLP to Restore Habitat in St. Croix Headwaters Watershed Lakes, WI. \$25,000.00 request/\$271,600.00 match. Douglas County Conservationist

Install shoreland best management practices on five waterfront properties on Upper St. Croix Lake, St. Croix Flowage and Eau Claire Chain of Lakes, Douglas and Bayfield counties, Wisconsin. Demonstration practices will include shoreline restoration, rain gardens, large woody habitat, and infiltration pits and other practices to reduce runoff and erosion. Private property landowners will sign five year contracts. Project will restore .25 miles, 3 acres of habitat. This project includes volunteer work days, site tours and workshops.

4. MGLP Habitat Improvement and Shoreline Stabilization Project on Clark Lake (Jackson Co. MI). \$25,480.00 request/\$28,060 match. Potawatomi RC&D Council

Improve and stabilize shoreline on Clark Lake, Jackson County Park. This project includes installation of large woody debris, and terrestrial vegetative buffers to improve fish habitat and control shoreline erosion on the lake. The project includes educational programming for the public, management authorities and lake associations. The project will improve/protect .15 river miles of shoreline, and .36 acres of upland and .18 acres of riparian habitat. There will be a workshop held in conjunction with this project.

5. Promoting Bioengineering for Habitat through the Midwest Glacial Lakes Fish Habitat Partnership. (\$24,175.00 requested) (\$15,000 recommended by the Partnership)/\$15,150.00 match. Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council in Emmett Co. Michigan

Restore shoreline and stream bank conditions at two public parks in N. Michigan in collaboration with several partners. Bioengineering techniques will stabilize erosion and enhance riparian habitat on Pickerel Lake shoreline, and will also serve as demonstration sites. The total area to be stabilized includes 50' of slumping stream bank and 85' of eroding shoreline.

Phase II Assessment Project

We received \$13,212 in 2013 NFHP Project dollars to improve the MGLP Assessment, which was completed by Downstream Strategies in 2013. As produced, there are still some improvements which need to be made in order for the partner states to use this assessment to prioritize habitat protection and restoration work. In addition, pending Federal approval, we should receive \$10,000 from a NFHP multi-state grant to augment the \$10,000, thus bringing our total closer to what was originally requested when the proposal was submitted.

MN Lakes and Rivers Conference

Coordinator has worked to catalyze an effort to bring together partners MNDNR, MN PCA, Freshwater Society and Conservation MN to plan for a "MN, State of Water" conference to be held May 1 and 2 in Brainerd, MN. More information forthcoming soon.

MGLP Fall Projects and Activities

October

- 1 Habitat Project List submitted to USFWS
- 15 Attended St. Croix Watershed Research Rendezvous in Marine on St. Croix

- 17 Attended Lake Friendly Awards, Brainerd
- 22 Participate by phone NFHP Board Meeting
- 1, 23 set up meeting, and met by phone with “State of MN Waters Conference” planning group

November

- 1 Looked at prospective conference sites for “State of MN Waters Conference”
- 4 Met by phone with “State of MN Waters Conference” planning group (1 hour)
- 7 Viewed shore land habitat sites in Cass/Crow Wing Counties with Heather Baird
- 12 Work Group Meeting with web-ex presentation by Contour Innovations
- 18 Met by phone with “State of MN Waters Conference” planning group (1.5 hours)
- 18, 19 Staff Meeting with Fish Habitat and Fish Research DNR groups, Duluth
- 21 NFHP Coordinators Conference Call
- 25 Meet with Extension re track planning for “State of MN Waters Conference” (1 hour)

December

- 2, 16 Met by phone with “State of MN Waters Conference” planning group (4 hours)
- 5, 10, Track planning for “State of MN Waters Conference” (3 hours)
- 10 Webinar/Economic Tool for use by FHP’s
- 12 Webinar on FHP Coordination with SWAP plan revisions
- 17 NFHP Coordinators Training webinar on Effective Communications
- 18 NFHP Communications Committee meets (phone)
- All month Worked on completing Partnership 2013 Annual Review and Fall Quarterly Update

On the Horizon

Hire new Project Manager (discuss strategies for this)

Abbreviations

NFHP National Fish Habitat Partnership
FHP Fish Habitat Partnerships
MGLP Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership
SWAP State Wildlife Action Plan
DNR Department of Natural Resources
PCA Pollution Control Agency

Please contact for more information: Vacant: Project Manager*

***Interim Contact**

Martin Jennings
Habitat Program Manager
Section of Fisheries, Minnesota DNR
500 Lafayette Rd.
St. Paul, MN 55155
Martin.jennings@state.mn.us
Work phone 651-259-5176