



U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE PARTNERS FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE PROGRAM

IDAHO PARTNERS PROGRAM

The goal of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program is to work with private and Tribal landowners who want to voluntarily improve fish, wildlife, and plant habitat on their lands.

The program provides cost-share funding and technical expertise to these landowners.

The Idaho Partners Program is administered out of the Service's Snake River Fish and Wildlife Office in Boise, ID. Lands north of the Clearwater River watershed are administered by the Upper Columbia Office in Spokane, WA. The program's focus is on improvement of wetland, riparian, sagebrush/grasslands, wet-meadow, and aquatic habitats to benefit migratory birds, threatened or endangered species, and other sensitive or declining species.

ELIGIBLE LANDOWNERS

- Individual private landowners, Native American Tribes, corporations, schools, counties, cites, and other groups.
- Projects on federal and state lands are not eligible.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- Projects are selected based on their benefits to wetland, riparian, sagebrush/grasslands, wet-meadow, and aquatic habitats for migratory birds, threatened or endangered species, and sensitive or declining species within eight priority areas.
- Project selection occurs at the local level based on identified priorities.
- The intent of the program is to improve native fish, wildlife, and plant habitats; plantings and seedings should consist of native species.
- Partners Program funds may not be used on habitat improvement projects being implemented for mitigation purposes under any federal or state regulatory program.

PROGRAM APPLICATION

- Landowners can request assistance at any time during the year. There is no application period.
- Landowners simply contact the local Partners Program representative in Boise, Salmon, or Chubbuck for program and sign-up information.

- Service personnel will assist the landowner develop a project proposal and the necessary application material, including an agreement between the landowner and the Service.

PROGRAM PAYMENTS

- Landowners receive reimbursement for the Service's portion of the project cost after the work is completed.
- A 50:50 cost-share ratio is targeted, however, some flexibility is allowed.
- The Partners Program can contribute up to \$25,000 in cost-share funds per project.

PROGRAM FUNDING

- Over the past several years, the Idaho Partners Program has received approximately \$170,000 per year for on-the-ground projects.

PARTNERSHIPS: CAN OTHERS CONTRIBUTE?

- The Partners Program can cost-share with anyone to help finance a habitat improvement project. Funding can come from landowners, other federal agencies, state and local agencies, soil and water conservation districts, and non-governmental agencies such as Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, or environmental organizations.
- Cost-share funding from others can be in the form of "in-kind" as well as cash.
- Federal, state, and local governmental agencies or private organizations can act as intermediaries for the Service in arranging and carrying out habitat improvement projects by entering into Cooperative Agreements.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Dennis Mackey, Partners Program Coordinator, Snake River Fish and Wildlife Office, 1387 S. Vinnell Way, Boise, Idaho 83709 · 208-378-5267

