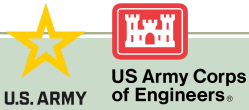




Stewardship

news

Volume 8, Issue 2: June 2025



Your Thoughts

We are looking for contributors and ideas! If you have a topic, success story, lesson learned, or helpful suggestion-let us know.
Tara.J.Whitsel@usace.army.mil

Stewardship News is an unofficial publication of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). This online publication is produced quarterly with the purpose of providing readers with information about the USACE Recreation Program. Editorial views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. Mention of specific vendors does not constitute endorsement by the Department of the Army or any element thereof.

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YOUR STEWARDSHIP HQ UPDATE

POC: Tara.J.Whitsel@usace.army.mil

I am excited to share this issue of Stewardship News! As we work to implement the FY25 ENS budget and take the next steps in both the FY26 and FY27 budget processes, this issue highlights many notable efforts that are occurring around USACE.

In particular, I would like to congratulate and call your attention to the selection of three USACE projects that will be receiving conservation funding through the Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership. This article can be found on page 9. Thanks to all who have contributed articles to this issue and for sharing the amazing work we are doing for our public lands and waters! ■

Lake Sturgeon Efforts at Mel Price Locks and Dam

POC: Insiyaa.Ahmed@usace.army.mil

Lake sturgeon were historically found throughout the Mississippi River, with their range extending across rivers, lakes, and tributaries in eastern and central United States and Canada. This unique species is impressive due to its size—growing up to 8 ft long and weighing over 200 lbs—and its appearance, which has changed little since it evolved 150 million years ago. Since the 1800s, commercial overharvesting, habitat loss, and altered river hydrology from the impoundment of the Upper Mississippi River has caused severe population declines. This species is currently listed as threatened or endangered in at least 19 states, including Missouri and Illinois. Recovery efforts have been ongoing by the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service since the 1980s through the reintroduction of fisheries-raised juveniles to the Mississippi River. However, long-term recovery is limited by the lack of suitable spawning habitat throughout the river system. Lake sturgeon need a specific range of water velocities and temperatures, in combination with appropriate substrate material, to successfully spawn.

In 2015, there was a confirmed sighting of lake sturgeon spawning on the tailwater banks of Mel Price Locks and Dam in West Alton, Missouri, which is managed by the USACE St. Louis District Rivers Project. This was the first documentation in several decades of this species spawning in Missouri. Biologists from the Rivers Project and MDC received a grant from the Nature Conservancy's Sustainable Rivers Program in 2021 to study the conditions below the dam during the spawning to see if they could be recreated. St. Louis District water control and hydraulics division analyzed river and dam data during the 2015 spawning event to model water velocities.

Article continued on page 2.





Training Opportunities

ENS 101 (ULC Course #411)

FY25 remaining session:

- Aug. 18-21, 2025, at Kanopolis Lake, Kansas.

FY26 sessions are currently scheduled for

- Nov. 3-6, 2025, at Rend Lake Visitors Center, Illinois.
- Feb. 9-13, 2026, at Lake Seminole Resource Management Office, Florida.

Registration for this course is through your training coordinator. Please visit <https://ulc.usace.army.mil/> for more information.

About the Course

ENS 101 provides an introduction to the concepts of natural resource management by providing a background on the USACE approach to monitoring, managing, and sustaining USACE lands and waters. This course covers all aspects of the environmental stewardship program such as

- An overview of the authorizations and regulations that guide the environmental stewardship program
- Project Master Plan and Operations Management Plan development
- Commodities management
- Aquatic and land management strategies for various habitats such as forest, grassland, and wetlands, which are discussed through lectures, case histories, field visits, and structured student discussion

Lake Sturgeon Efforts continued

During spring 2022, biologists and the hydraulics division coordinated with Mel Price Locks and Dam operators to use these models to adjust the dam gate closest to the bank and manipulate water flows to desirable velocities. MDC fisheries biologist Sarah Peper led efforts to collect, measure, and tag lake sturgeon below Mel Price in March and April. Radio tags were inserted into captured lake sturgeon, which can track the fish's movement remotely through receiver devices placed throughout the river. This was in part to evaluate the presence of lake sturgeon below Mel Price, as well as to expand monitoring of this species throughout its range. In April 2022, lake sturgeon successfully spawned below Mel Price for the first time since the 2015 event.



Left: USACE Biologist Tyler Goble and MDC Fisheries Biologist Sarah Peper hold a lake sturgeon captured and tagged below Mel Price Locks and Dam. Right: MDC and USACE biologists evaluate substrate below Lock and Dam 25.

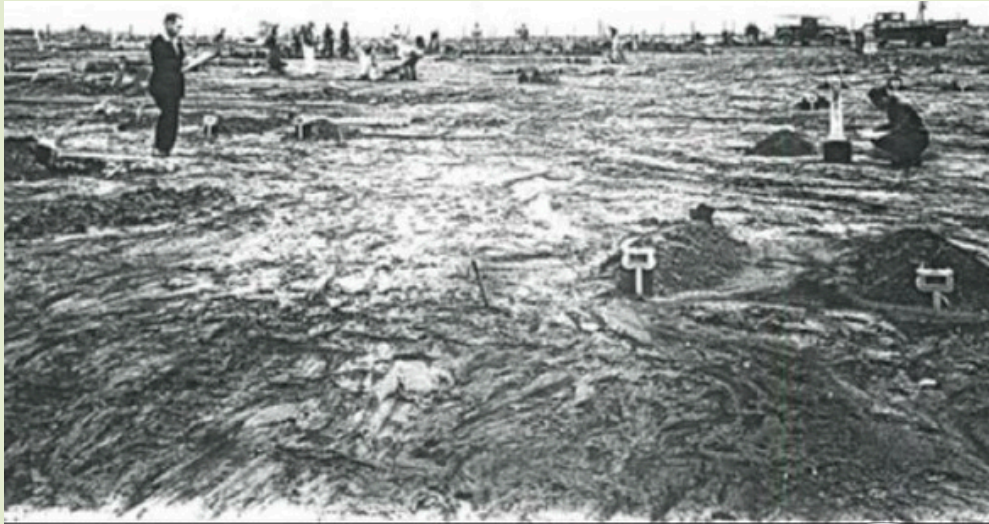
This project has been ongoing every year following its initial success, and this past spring marks the fourth year of lake sturgeon spawning in response to gate adjustment at Mel Price Locks and Dam. Additionally, dozens of lake sturgeon have been tagged by MDC and have been tracked across thousands of miles of the Mississippi and Missouri river basins. The study, supported through the Sustainable Rivers Program, expanded in 2024 to evaluate all 27 locks and dams on the Upper Mississippi River for their potential to manage lake sturgeon spawning conditions, looking at factors such as habitat quality, ability to manage flows, lake sturgeon presence, and ability to access and monitor a site. Initial findings indicate that at least half have potential site conditions and velocities. Some sites may not be suitable for velocity manipulation but could support spawning habitat through improvement of substrate along the banks. Additionally, MDC expanded their lake sturgeon monitoring and tagging to Lock and Dam 25 (LD25), one of the sites evaluated as possibly having suitable habitat and the ability to manage tailwater velocities.

It isn't often that a project for the recovery of a species in decline can achieve immediate results. This project and its continued efforts would not be possible without the collaboration of several partner agencies including MDC, Illinois Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Iowa DNR, Minnesota DNR, Wisconsin DNR, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and USACE as well as continued support from the Sustainable Rivers Program. Future objectives include expanding modeling at LD25, expanding tagging and tracking efforts, and further evaluation of substrate and velocities.

Right: Lake Sturgeon spawning on the banks of the Mississippi River, below Mel Price Locks and Dam.



Tulsa District: Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA)



Above: Image of cemetery relocation in progress at Lake Texoma, 1942.

Under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), federal agencies are required to repatriate human remains, funerary objects, and other culturally significant items to Indigenous nations.

Tulsa District NAGPRA Specialist Jackie Rodgers worked closely with representatives from the Chickasaw Nation to repatriate nine individuals and associated funerary objects that had been recovered over the years at the original location of a relocated cemetery at Lake Texoma. Once the NAGPRA consultation process was completed, all ancestors were repatriated to the Chickasaw Nation.



In addition, Ms. Rodgers and other Tulsa District staff have worked with the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes to repatriate an individual found at Canton Lake and worked with the Kaw Nation to repatriate an individual found at Kaw Lake. This important work demonstrates the Tulsa District's commitment to the respectful repatriation of Indigenous ancestors and cultural items.

Agreement with the National Language Service Corps



USACE is now able to partner with the National Language Service Corps (NLSC), a group within DoD, through a 10-year agreement supported through HQUSACE and IWR to provide language translation and interpretation support.

If you have immediate needs for translation or interpretation services, please contact Sarah.A.Moore@usace.army.mil.



We Need YOUR Help!







We need recent (within the past year or two) photos that represent our efforts in natural resources management, our visiting public, and our workforce. We use A LOT of photos in various publications and shared media. Please send any images to Tara.J.Whitsel@usace.army.mil. Thank you!



Knowledge Management Portal for NRM

The Natural Resources Management Program has several pages on the Civil Work Knowledge Management Portal. Please visit <https://usace.dps.mil/sites/KMP-CW/SitePages/Natural-Resource-Management.aspx> to access program priorities, metrics, newsletters, and more.

ADVANTAGES TO NLSC PARTNERSHIP

 DoD Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exclusively Government-to-Government resource Supported by Special Government Employees Department of Treasury forms
 Interagency Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nonbinding No fund obligations Partner included in member selection process
 Full Spectrum Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Translation, interpretation, regional expertise, and cultural training 500+ languages and dialects Personnel administrative support by DHRA
 Affordable and Flexible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hourly rates ~ \$30/hour No contracts, no prior funding, and no minimums Transactions conducted through a 7600B or MIPR
 Breadth and Depth in Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Trust up to TS/SCI security clearances Professional, industry and academic qualifications DLPT and OPI test scores
 Mission-Oriented Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dedicated Mission Support Liaisons (MSL) On-site and remote delivery Specialized training and travel arrangements available



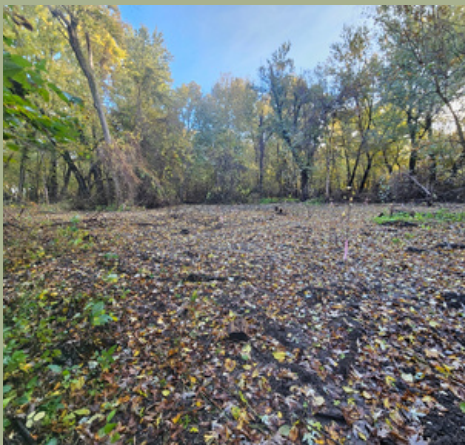
Above: Skid steer clearing debris.



Above: Trees barged in for planting.



Above: Bogus Island before.



Above: Bogus Island after.



Above: Off loading equipment that was barged in for forest regeneration efforts.

Partnerships Promote Forest Regeneration



The Rock Island District Mississippi River Project team completed two joint projects to promote forest regeneration and prepare an area for a future prescribed burn. Work involved the project's navigation channel maintenance and facilities maintenance teams along with multiple partners.

The team started on Bogus Island south of Muscatine, Iowa partnering with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (ILDNR). A dense growth of mulberry trees was outcompeting native tree saplings and hindering the natural development of a more diverse and healthy forest ecosystem. To tackle this issue, NRM staff cut down all the mulberry that was growing in the area and then barged in two skid steers and a Polaris to clear the cuttings. This successfully exposed large areas of bare ground, creating the perfect conditions for natural seed catch, with the goal of encouraging the establishment of native silver maple and cottonwood. The team also direct planted bare-root and containerized oaks, hickories, Kentucky coffee trees, and others to help hard mast seed trees.

On Blackhawk Island, the project goal was to establish a fire break. This area has a considerable amount of existing forest mortality making it a prime candidate for prescribed burn, but it also had an unique constraint, an old railroad line running through the center of the island. Recognizing the potential risks associated, the team needed to establish a fire break to ensure safety and control. In partnership with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IADNR) and using a barge to offload equipment, the team was able to efficiently move substantial quantities of flood debris that had accumulated over the years and could have obstructed the creation and effectiveness of a fire break. NRM staff worked to cut down remaining standing dead trees within the designated fire break area, further mitigating potential fuel sources and enhancing the overall safety and efficacy of the planned burn.

These two distinct, yet related, efforts show the importance of collaborative partnerships in NRM along the Mississippi River. The work on Bogus Island benefited significantly from the shared conservation goals to enhance habitat with ILDNR. Similarly, the establishment of the fire break on Blackhawk Island was a direct results of the project's partnership with IADNR, aligning efforts to prepare for a prescribed burn that will be managed jointly to improve forest health.

In addition, the crucial logistical support provided by navigation channel maintenance and facilities maintenance staff for both island projects highlight the essential role of internal collaboration within the Mississippi River Project Office in achieving our conservation objectives.

15th Annual Tulsa District Prescribed Fire Training

The Tulsa District kicked off its 15th annual prescribed fire training at Ft. Gibson Lake. Seventeen Natural Resources Specialists and maintenance staff from 11 SWT projects participated in the 5-day training. The training covered safety protocols, ecology, and management, and included both classroom instruction and hands-on field training on using fire equipment. Participants conducted eight prescribed burns totaling 855 acres and gained practical experience in executing fire plans, smoke management, and fire weather monitoring. This training fulfilled regulatory requirements and provided a valuable learning experience for Park Rangers to ensure public safety and effective management of public lands.



Above: Tulsa District's prescribed fire training.

Prescribed Fire at Beaver Lake



Above: Burning crew hold and secure fire lines around host site in Horseshoe Bend Park.

In March, Beaver Lake Natural Resources Specialists conducted three prescribed fires totaling 415 acres. Burn bosses Lucas Wicker and Matthew Voskamp led the burns at three different areas. These burns offer numerous benefits including reducing leaf litter, minimizing wildlife hazards, enhancing biodiversity, controlling invasive species, improving forest health, and supporting wildlife habitat.

National Public Lands Day



Registration is now open for this year's National Public Lands Day (NPLD). Event registration must be completed on or before Aug. 1, 2025, to be eligible for Fee-Free Coupons. Event listings can be edited at any time.

The National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF) will host a webinar on Jul. 29, 2025, focused on low-cost, low-effort event ideas that are easy to implement, even with limited staff. Please register for the webinar at <https://www.neefusa.org/event/national-public-lands-day-public-webinar-2025>.

USACE has proudly supported NPLD for over 20 years and hopes to continue that tradition—whether through scaled-back events or by simply planning ahead for future participation.



Reminder!

If your project master plan has been recently revised, please be sure to have a copy of the plan posted on the NRM Gateway Master Plan page.

<https://corpslakes.erdc.dren.mil/employees/masterplans/masterplans.cfm>

Send To!

Please email a PDF copy of the completed plan to Tara.J.Whitsel@usace.army.mil

Rivers Project Office Master Plan Update

The St. Louis District Rivers Project Office hosted a public meeting at the National Great Rivers Museum as part of the Master Plan Update public comment period. The team organized an open house format providing the public, partners, and stakeholders the opportunity to discuss the Master Plan and answer any questions. Members of the Rivers Project Natural Resource Management Staff were on hand to engage with the public and answer any questions and solicit feedback.

Receiving and incorporating public comments is an integral piece in the Master Plan process.



Above: Master Plan meeting at the National Great Rivers Museum.

Bird Collision Prevention Alliance



POC: Michael.G.Vissichelli@usace.army.mil

Birds play a crucial role in maintaining ecosystems, providing pest control, pollination, and seed dispersal. They contribute to the balance of nature, helping to regulate insect populations and aiding in the growth of forests and plants. Additionally, birds hold cultural, aesthetic, and scientific significance, inspiring art, literature, and conservation efforts. Their presence enhances biodiversity and offers countless environmental benefits, making it essential to protect them, especially migratory species that face numerous threats during their long journeys.

And let's face it, birds are just awesome! They use feathers to fly. They weigh ounces and migrate hundreds and even thousands of miles. They come in all sorts of colors, shapes, and sizes. They are fun to watch. And, THEY need your help!

One major threat to migratory birds is collisions with structures and glass. Reflective surfaces on buildings create illusions of open sky or habitat, leading birds to unknowingly crash into buildings and windows. Millions of birds die every year due to these collisions, disrupting populations and impacting fragile ecosystems. Preventing such accidents is a vital step in bird conservation, and there are many simple ways individuals and organizations can contribute.

At home, people can make windows bird-friendly by using decals, screens, or external shades to break up reflections. Businesses and workplaces can implement similar strategies, such as using patterned glass, installing bird-safe window treatments, or supporting legislation that promotes bird-friendly building designs. By taking these small but effective measures, everyone can help reduce bird collisions and ensure a safer environment for migratory birds. Through awareness and action, we can all play a role in protecting birds and preserving biodiversity.

For More Help



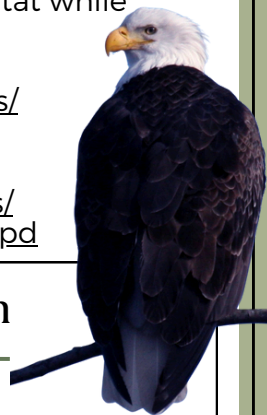
The USACE Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) Policy was signed by Mr. Edward E. Belk, Director of Civil Works, and is intended to educate and inform staff as well as provide Best Management Practices (BMPs) on commonly performed activities to help achieve compliance with MBTA. This compliance will allow USACE to meet its responsibility to avoid or minimize negative impacts to migratory birds and their habitat while adhering to USACE policies, practices, and guidelines.

- The policy memorandum can be found at <https://corpslakes.erdc.dren.mil/employees/cecwon/pdfs/24Aug7-MigratoryBirdBMPImplementation.pdf>
- The BMPs can be found at <https://corpslakes.erdc.dren.mil/employees/cecwon/pdfs/Migratory%20Bird%20Treaty%20Act%20BMP%202024.pdf>



Dalles Lock and Dam 15th Annual Eagle Watch

Rangers, partners, and volunteers hosted the 15th annual Eagle Watch at the Dalles Dam Visitor Center. Approximately 2,000 visitors had the opportunity to use spotting scopes and binoculars to view bald eagles and other raptors in the Columbia Gorge. Visitors could also learn more about raptors through interpretive programs and activities.



Bird Conservation Alliance

The Bird Collision Prevention Alliance (BCPA) is working to build a safer environment for all birds. USACE has partnered with the BCPA in an effort to reduce bird fatalities from glass and structure strikes.

Promoting innovative glass treatments, responsible lighting practices, and collaborative community actions are just a few simple ways we can help to dramatically reduce the amount of bird collisions at home and at work. Every bird has a purpose, a role in our ecosystems, and a story worth protecting.

To learn what you can do to help keep birds safe from collisions go to <https://www.stopbirdcollisions.org>.



Highlighting Stewardship Efforts Throughout USACE

LAKE WASHINGTON SHIP CANAL (NWS)

The Lake Washington Ship Canal NRM section created an opportunity for volunteers from the public to work alongside USACE staff. "Volunteer Saturdays" take place the second Saturday of every month and allows volunteers to help with restoration efforts at both the Fremont and Montlake Cuts. These areas regularly undergo environmental restoration and additional help is always welcomed. Since starting in November of 2024, Lake Washington Ship Canal staff have been joined by 59 volunteers including the University of Washington Men's Rowing Team and a Seattle District employee! Volunteers have helped remove over 40 bags of English ivy and approximately one acre of invasive species including blackberry, clematis, and morning glory.



Above: Volunteers at Fremont Cut.



Above: Park Ranger Peter Lundberg and Gardener Marena Yarnell with the UW Men's Rowing Team after Volunteer Saturday.



LAKE WASHINGTON SHIP CANAL (NWS)

The Lake Washington Ship Canal Natural Resource Management section took part in a cooperative program that connects local fish hatcheries with educational organizations to raise and release salmon eggs while educating the public and boosting salmon populations. In January, 250 coho salmon eggs arrived from the Issaquah Fish Hatchery.

The fish hatched, and once smolt size, were released in Lake Washington to migrate and grow. Visitors enjoyed the opportunity to view salmon during the off season when salmon are not migrating through the fish ladder viewing windows.



Above: Park Ranger Brendin Ailles testing water quality and completing daily wellness check of salmon fry.

CARLYLE LAKE (MVS)

Carlyle Lake partnered with the Carlyle Lake Habitat Group and the Carlyle Future Farmers of America (FFA) to build 40 "Shelbyville" cubes, which are strategically positioned in the lake as artificial fish habitats. Dedicated volunteers returned on Mar. 15, 2025, to help USACE staff place the cubes, along with more than 250 recycled Christmas trees that had been collected. These initiatives will enhance Carlyle Lake's fisheries by adding essential structures that support the growth of young fish.



Left, middle: Coho salmon eggs. Left, bottom: "Shelbyville" cubes are strategically placed using a small barge.

Highlighting Stewardship Efforts Throughout USACE Continued

WALLISVILLE LAKE (SWG)



Above: Staff removing derelict crab traps.

Wallisville Lake Project rangers and Addicks and Barker Reservoir staff worked together with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to remove abandoned crab traps at Lake Wallisville. This was the seventh year for the annual crab trap removal, which has been highly effective at reducing the overall number of abandoned crab traps across the 23,000-acre project. Abandoned crab traps pose an entrapment risk to aquatic and terrestrial wildlife and negatively impact recreation users by causing damage to boat motors. Texas Parks and Wildlife allows for the removal of traps during certain periods of the year.

BROKEN BOW LAKE (SWT)

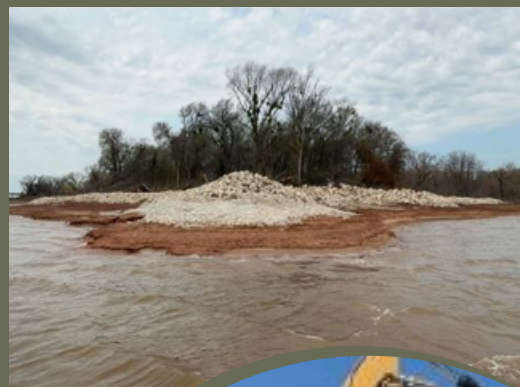
Tulsa District Forester Reilly Cloud and Broken Bow Lake staff partnered with several organizations to develop the Southeast District forestry contest. Students, age 9-18 years old, learned a variety of forestry skills utilized in the forestry profession, including tree identification, forest evaluation, compass and pacing, and identifying insects and diseases. The top three students were awarded college scholarships.



Above: Students learn forestry skills with Broken Bow Lake staff.

TULSA DISTRICT OFFICE / LAKE TEXOMA (SWT)

Tulsa District Operations HUB Crew, Lake Texoma, and NRM staff completed shoreline erosion work at Old Willis Cemetery. Work included placement of 1,800 feet of rock base and riprap. Prior to work starting, USACE consulted with the Chickasaw nation, who required an archaeological monitor to be present.



Above: Old Willis Cemetery shoreline protection work.

SOMERVILLE LAKE DEWATER AND FISH REMOVAL (SWF)



Above: A USACE staff member captures fish prior to dewatering of the uncontrolled spillway at Lake Texoma.

Staff and volunteers from the Somerville Lake project, in partnership with the Tennessee Valley Authority and the Capital Region FRM team, conducted a dewatering of the uncontrolled spillway. Over a period of several days, water was drawn down to a level where members of the team could safely remove fish and other aquatic life from the spillway before it was completely drained. Park Rangers and volunteers worked quickly to capture and identify fish, which were then released downstream in Yegua Creek. The dewatering allowed lake staff to meet crucial FRM objectives while also conserving and protecting the project's natural resources.

Right: Old Willis Cemetery shoreline protection work.





NEPA Module moving to CWBI-OPS

At the end of 2023, HQ initiated the first collection of NEPA data for Civil Works projects that are operated and maintained by USACE. Data was collected through the NRM Assessment platform through May 01, 2024. The NEPA data collection module reopened for data entry on Jan. 2, 2025, and has remained open for continuous data collection in order to maintain accurate information on NEPA actions.

Now, the data collection platform is being transferred from NRM Assessment to CWBI-OPS so that data entry is available for all of Operations. The existing data in NRM Assessment will be transferred into CWBI-OPS, which is tentatively scheduled to be open for field use on Jun. 16, 2025.

A series of webinars for assistance in data entry and understanding of the module in the CWBI platform will be available.

Three USACE Projects Selected for Fish Habitat Conservation in 2025



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) recently announced \$23.4 million for fish habitat conservation, which included three USACE projects supported by the Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership!

- Cochiti Lake Aquatic Habitat Enhancement Project (New Mexico) = \$40,000
- Mark Twain Lake Fisheries Habitat Development Project (Missouri) = \$20,000
- Blue Marsh Lake Shoreline Project (Pennsylvania) = \$75,000

The full press release from USFWS is provided below and available at <https://www.friendsofreservoirs.org/grants/u-s-fish-and-wildlife-service-and-partners-announce-more-than-23-4-million-for-fish-habitat-conservation-in-2025/>.

Through the National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) (<https://fishhabitat.org>), the USFWS and partners are providing more than \$23.4 million to support 53 on-the-ground fish habitat conservation projects in 29 states. The USFWS is providing \$5.9 million this year, with nongovernmental organizations, state resource agencies, and other partners contributing an additional \$20.4 million. This represents a 6.7:1 leveraged funding match for NFHP funding.

These projects empower and boost locally led conservation efforts that restore and reconnect habitats to create more robust fish populations, improved fishing opportunities, and healthier waterways. Twenty individual Fish Habitat Partnerships across the nation make up our national efforts and work with a variety of partners, including private landowners, farmers, and ranchers, Tribes, nonprofit organizations, state, federal, and local government agencies, and many others to achieve fish habitat conservation goals that protect, restore, and enhance habitat conditions locally for fish.

In 2025, project types include removing barriers to fish passage, reducing erosion from farm and rangelands, restoring stream banks, combating the impacts of drought, and conducting monitoring and assessment work to identify conservation needs for fish and their habitats. This year's projects meet local priorities through partnerships that span from restoring urban and suburban streams to reconnecting tidal wetlands, in states across the country from Alaska to Vermont. Projects target and address limiting factors to improve habitat, water quality, and benefit our nation's fisheries resources. This funding will also support the coordination of individual Fish Habitat Partnerships and the operations of the National Fish Habitat Board to help establish national priorities under NFHP.

"Annually, the National Fish Habitat Partnership focuses on putting priority conservation projects on-the-ground through partnerships, which benefit both fish and the American people," said Tim Schaeffer, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and Chair of the National Fish Habitat Board. "These locally-driven projects are designed to leave a conservation legacy for the protection, restoration, and enhancement of fish habitat for future generations to enjoy in the outdoors."

NFHP uses a nationally focused aquatic conservation strategy to maximize the reach of limited fish habitat conservation dollars. Under NFHP, federal, state, tribal, and privately raised funds are leveraged through regional Fish Habitat Partnerships to address the nation's biggest fish habitat challenges. The USFWS is a key partner in implementing the partnership, providing leadership and technical expertise on the local, regional, and national levels, as well as financial

assistance directly to partners for on-the-ground conservation projects. Since 2006, the USFWS has provided over \$65.6 million to conservation projects, which leveraged at a 5:1 ratio, provide over \$335 million in funding support for fish habitat conservation projects that improve angling and recreational opportunities across the nation. NFHP assembles the collective expertise of federal, state, and nongovernmental organizations to identify and prioritize conservation work to achieve significant benefits for fish and other aquatic resources for the American people.

About the National Fish Habitat Partnership

Since 2006, NFHP has supported over 1,500 projects benefitting fish habitat throughout all 50 states. This effort works to conserve fish habitat nationwide, leveraging federal, state, tribal, and private funding resources to achieve the greatest effect on fish populations through priority conservation projects of 20 Fish Habitat Partnerships that are organized around key fish species, geographic areas, or important fish habitats. In 2020, NFHP was recognized by Congress as part of the America's Conservation Enhancement (ACE) Act, and was reauthorized in 2024 through passage of the America's Conservation Enhancement Reauthorization Act. NFHP guidance and policies are developed in conjunction with our partnerships and the National Fish Habitat Board. For more information, visit: <https://fishhabitat.org/>.