Budgeting

Board Operations

The National Fish Habitat Board (Board) approves an annual budget that focuses on priority Board activities. Typically, the Board's budget includes funding for staffing resources, support of the NFHP science and data committee, NFHP communications products and programs, partnership coordination, and Board travel.

The Board approves its annual budget each winter based on staff recommendations. The budget runs on a calendar year. The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) both serve as fiduciary agents for the Board.

Revenues are received from federal souces, state agency contributions, Multistate Conservation Grants, and other grant sources. Typically, the USFWS provides funds to AFWA to support the Board's priorities, and also directly funds Board priorities for science and data needs and web site development after consultation with the Board. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and US Geological Survey (USGS) also directly fund board priorities for science and data needs. State agency funds are solicited on an *ad hoc* basis and are typically focused on key areas such as science and data support needs. Multistate Conservation Grants are dependent upon proposals making their way through a joint AFWA/USFWS process.

Project Funding

The USFWS funds cost-shared projects that protect, restore, or enhance fish and aquatic habitats or otherwise directly support habitat-related priorities of Fish Habitat Partnerships. Each year in October, the USFWS Director allocates available project funding among Fish Habitat Partnerships consistent with the goals, objectives and strategies of the National Fish Habitat Board. Each Fish Habitat Partnership prioritizes projects consistent with its strategic plan and submits its project list to the designated lead USFWS Region. The USFWS Regions rank projects with consideration of Fish Habitat Partnership priorities and the criteria in USFWS policy (www.fws.gov/policy/717fw1.html). USFWS Regional Directors submit ranked lists of projects to the Director. A national-level project review group reviews project lists and makes recommendations to the USFWS Director and to the Board. The USFWS Director selects final projects for funding that are consistent with the goals and strategies of the National Fish Habitat Board and allocates funds to the USFWS Regions to implement approved projects.