Bureau of Land Management investment in the National Fish Habitat Partnership

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) currently faces key challenges as it manages, restores, and protects fish habitat. Key to this challenge is the development of key working agreements with ten National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) affiliates: the Reservoir Fish Habitat Partnership, the California Fish Passage Forum, the Western Native Trout Initiative, the Desert Fish Habitat Partnership, the Great Plains Fish Habitat Partnership, the Southwest Alaska Salmon Habitat Partnership, the Mat-Su Salmon Habitat Partnership, the Driftless Area Restoration Effort, the Great Lakes Basin Fish Habitat Partnership, and the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture. Additional coordinated work with the NFHP Federal Caucus and the Partnership Committee additionally help meet those challenges. These affiliates are integrating effective cost-sharing programs for implementation of fish habitat priorities and providing the latest science research techniques into the BLM's aquatic program. The BLM Fisheries Program has recently completed a Strategic Plan tiered from the NFHP program, an Internal Memorandum detailing how the BLM field staff operates under the NFHP program, and a White Paper, or "Overview", of the BLM Fisheries Program and the NFHP relationship.

The BLM has provided expertise to the development of NFHP partnership Strategic Plans, has provided a key federal land management prospective, and working with all partners, helped in prioritization and selection of funded projects with all affiliated partnerships.

The BLM WO Fisheries Program has provided budget advice to field units allocating specific percentages of their annual base funding for NFHP activities. The Fisheries Program has also provided project codes specific for use with to various NFHP partnerships.

The BLM Fisheries Program's out year budget scenario is similar to other Department of Interior agencies with an anticipated budget shortfall. We will however continue with a strong presence of the NFHP program incorporated into our BLM Fisheries Program planning and activity.

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