











# FY2026 Recommended NFHP Funding

#### **Stan Allen & Bryan Moore**

Board Staff
National Fish Habitat Board Meeting
June 10, 2025















### **Outline**

- Board responsibility & requirements
- Recommendation development & revisions
- Final recommendation summary
  - FHP Fish Habitat Conservation Projects
  - Board Operations
- Staff recommendation
- Potential motion















#### Thanks to the Board Review Team & Staff!

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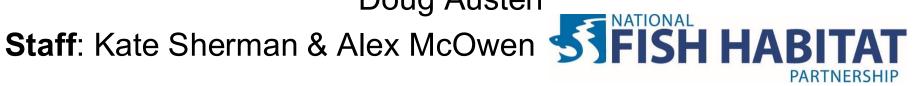
Julie Carter

Steve Perry

Jesse Trushenski

Ian Nakayama

Doug Austen















# **Board Responsibilities & Requirements**

- ACE Act requirements
  - Section 203(a)(1)(D) Board duty to review and make recommendations regarding fish habitat conservation projects.
  - Section 203(e)(1)(B) No recommendations may be adopted by the Board, except by the vote of 2/3 of all members present.
  - Section 205(b) Board shall submit to the Secretary a priority list of projects including a description and estimated cost of each project for Secretary approval and funding by July 1.













## **Board Responsibilities & Requirements**

- ACE Act Reauthorization
  - Given changes in the reauthorization, FHP operations funding are no longer considered fish habitat conservation projects.
  - FHP operations funding requests no longer need to go to the Secretary for approval.
  - The Board can approve them as a budget item, not as an ACE-required action anymore given the changes in the reauthorization bill.















# **Recommendation Development**

- Two groups scored 12-13 FHPs each (10 per group + 2-3 more randomly assigned).
- Developed funding tiers based on FHP scores.
- FHPs were scored on:
  - "Hard" & "soft" ACE Act criteria
  - Justification for operational funds
  - Overall application quality and completeness
- FHPs operational funding did not require non-federal match
- All FHPs will receive a report with their score & reviewer comments.















#### Minor Changes in FY26 Project List

- Great Plains FHP fiscal sponsor is WAFWA
- Ohio River Basin FHP operational request should read \$125K















#### **Board Review Team Recommendation**

- All proposed projects should be included in Board recommendation to DOI with implementation contingent on available funding.
- Recommending 107 fish habitat conservation projects be advanced for Sec. of Interior consideration (excl. Board operations and FHP operational funding) for a total request of \$7.38M (with \$27.2M in leveraged funds)















# **FY2026 Board Operations Proposal**

Component	Cost
Communications and Travel Support	\$300,000
Project Tracking Database Development & Support	\$91,000
Board Assessment Data System Maintenance	\$270,000
Total	\$661,000















## **Board Staff Recommendation**

 Board staff recommends that the complete Board Operations Proposal (\$661K) be approved by the Board.















# FY2026 Recommended Funding

Component	Cost	Leveraged
FHP Projects (107)	\$7,383,533	\$27,225,900
FHP Operational Funding	\$2,400,000	\$2,604,040
Board Operations	\$661,000	-
Total	\$10,444,533	\$29,829,940















### **Recommended Motion**

 It is moved that the Board Recommended Projects, 107 Fish Habitat Conservation Projects (\$7.38M), be approved to be submitted by July 1, 2025 to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior by the Board Chairman.

