



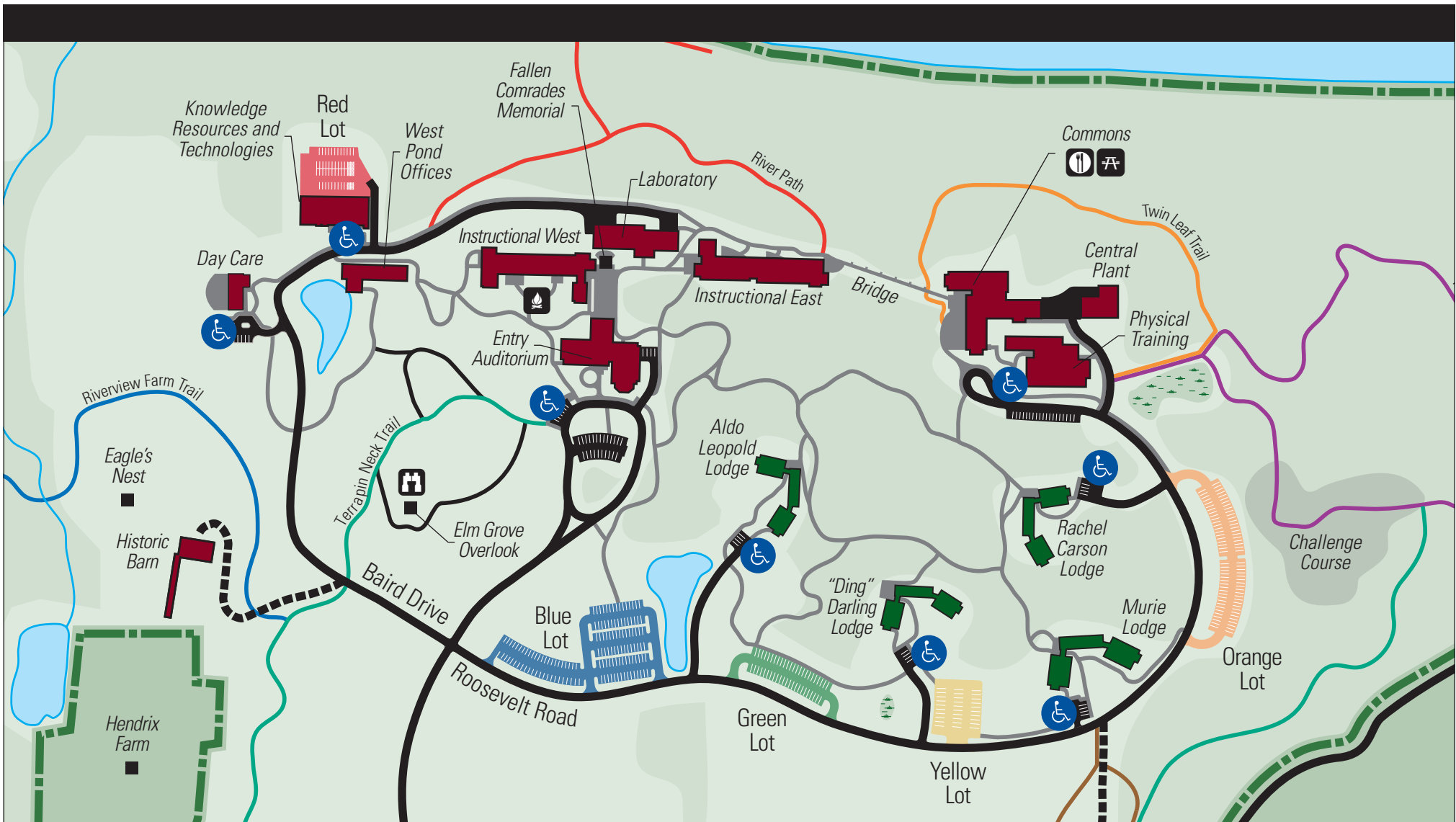
 NATIONAL
FISH HABITAT
PARTNERSHIP

Board Meeting Book

April 26-27, 2022
National Conservation
Training Center -
Shepherdstown, WV

Meeting supported by:





National Conservation Training Center

Campus Map



- Accessible Parking
- Firepit
- Eagle Viewing
- Dining Hall
- Picnic Area
- Hiking Trails
- Paved Trails
- Paved Roads
- Gravel Roads
- Points of Interest

Campus Store

Extension 7350

11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

The Conservation Library

Extension 7399

Monday – Thursday 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM

Friday 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Dining Services

Extension 7353

Breakfast 6:30 AM – 9:00 AM
Hot Food until 8:30 AM

Lunch 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM
Hot Food until 1:00 PM

Dinner 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Commons Lounge

Extension 7351

5:30 PM – 11:00 PM

Physical Training Center

Extension 7341

Sunday – Thursday 6:00 AM – 10:00 PM

Friday 6:00 AM – 4:30 PM

NCTC Frequently Asked Questions

Welcome to the National Conservation Training Center!

As your hosts, we want to ensure that you have the most productive and enjoyable time possible while you are staying with us. If you have any questions or need assistance, give us a call by dialing "0" from any phone on campus. We have staff at the desk 24 hours a day.

If I receive a fax, how will that be handled?

If you receive a fax before your class or meeting ends for the day, it will be folded and posted with your name on it on your classroom door. If your fax arrives after hours, we will call your room and leave a message for you if you are not available. It will be available for pick-up from the Front Desk any time, day or night.

Can I receive phone calls directly to my room?

Yes, every room has its own direct-dial phone number. To give the number to someone off-campus, tell them to dial "304/876" and your 4 digit room number. For example, room 7403 would be 304/876 7403.

I have difficulty walking, and this is a walking campus. How can I move around the facility easily?

We have several motorized carts available for guests at the Front Desk. Simply dial "0" and let us know that you would like a cart, and we will deliver it to your door.

How do I control the heat in my room?

The lodges are centrally-controlled by our Maintenance Department's computer system. The lodges are set to one temperature (for example, 70 degrees,) and then the guest may fine-tune the temperature by about four degrees, warmer or cooler. There are two sets of controls in your room. The thermostat is located by the bed. It is a sliding lever that may be behind a plastic flip-cover. Do not push the lever to the absolute top or bottom position; this will turn the system off in your room. There is also a fan speed control located by the closet where you can control the amount of air coming into your room. If this is set to the OFF position, your room will not receive any heating or cooling. If you are uncomfortable, please dial "0" for Guest Services, and we will contact Maintenance to raise or lower the temperature in your room.

Does my room have high-speed Internet?

Yes! We have recently installed high-speed Internet connections in every lodge room. We also provide LAN cable for you in the room, in case you left yours at home.

Are there any laundry facilities on campus?

Yes, in every lodge, on the ground floor, you will find a laundry room with washer, dryers, and complimentary laundry detergent. We do ask that you try to finish your laundry before 10 pm, in order to avoid disturbing other guests who may be sleeping.

Where are the closest vending machines?

They are located on the ground floor of each lodge. In Instructional East and West, they are located in an alcove in the center of the buildings on the first floor.

Where can I go if I need to use a computer, print documents, or send a fax?

There are computers available for use, with Internet connections, along the hallways in Instructional East and West. The Conservation Library in the Commons also has computer stations available, and is open until 8 pm Monday, through Thursday. If you need to send a fax, or print documents, the Faculty Lounge, in room 106 Instructional East has a laser printer attached to the computer. There is a fax machine in the room as well.

I'm checking out very early in the morning on the day I'm departing. Should I check out the night before?

No need! We provide express check-out for you the night before you depart. We will slip a receipt for your stay under your door late in the evening, as well as a sheet with shuttle information if you are using this service. To check out in the morning, simply take your receipt with you, sign the outer envelope, and leave the envelope and room key in the room. Please dial "0" to let us know when you leave.

Where can I see the NCTC bald eagles?

If you are facing the Entry Auditorium building, you will be able to see their nest in the large sycamore tree to your far left. Since they are nesting and are sensitive to disturbances in their environment, we request that visitors do not walk too near the eagles' nest. If you would like a close-up view, we have a Web cam that is constantly keeping watch over the eagles, unobtrusively (it even has night vision.) Simply go to the following Web address in your browser:

<http://training.fws.gov/eagle/>

National Fish Habitat Partnership Board Meeting

Meeting Logistics:

WHEN: Tuesday, April 26 and Wednesday, April 27, 2022
9:00 AM – 4:30 PM

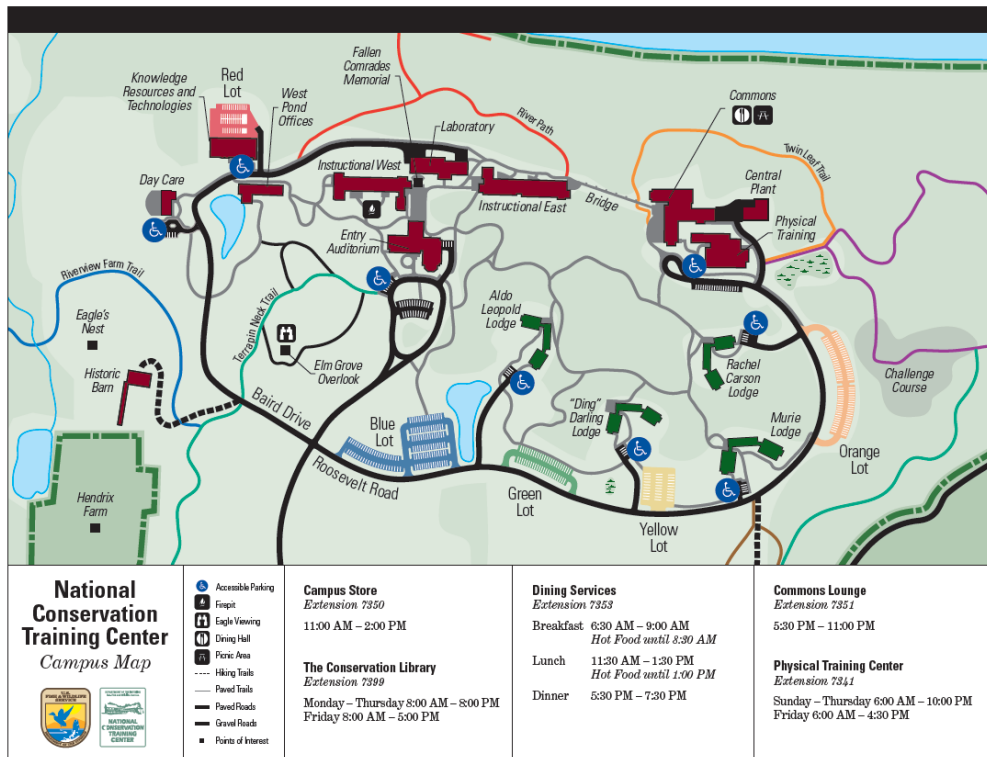
WHERE: National Conservation Training Center
114 Turner Instructional East Building (*meeting space for both days*)
698 Conservation Way
Shepherdstown, WV

COVID Policy: Venue and COVID policy questions can be directed to the NCTC Front Desk at 304-876-1600.

Please review the [COVID policy of NCTC](#) (Jefferson County, WV). **Please do not travel to NCTC if you are currently experiencing COVID-19 symptoms; if you have been exposed to COVID-19; or you have been ill within 10 days of your meeting.**

Meals and snacks will be provided on site by NCTC.

****Please note that all agenda times marked with an * are approximate.***



Agenda Day 1:

Tuesday, April 26, 2022

Meeting Room: 114 Turner Instructional East Building

Zoom Meeting Information:

<https://fishwildlife-org.zoom.us/j/88434982551?pwd=dW5POE5DRTVncklhVGQ0N2tNVnlhdz09>

Meeting ID: 884 3498 2551

Passcode: 935248

**Please note that all agenda times marked with an * are approximate.*

Time (EDT)	Agenda Item	Board Book Tab	Lead(s)
9:00 AM	Welcome & Icebreaker Activity		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bettina Fiery (<i>Facilitator</i>) • All Board Members
10:00*	Attendance & Schedule/task Overview <i>Desired outcomes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board staff to take attendance. • Board action to approve the April 26 agenda. • Board action to approve the February 2022 meeting summary. • Board staff to review remainder of 2022 meeting schedule & Board tasks. 	Tab 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ed Schriever (<i>Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Board Chairman</i>) • Alex Atkinson (<i>NOAA Fisheries, Board Staff</i>)
10:15*	Orientation to & Discussion of ACE Act Requirements (working session) <i>Desired outcomes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board develops a shared understanding of the FHP requirements in the ACE Act. 	Tab 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bettina Fiery (<i>Facilitator</i>) • All Board Members
10:45*	Break		
11:00*	Orientation to & Discussion of ACE Act Requirements cont'd (working session) <i>Desired outcomes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board begins formulating a plan for FHP Congressional approval process. • Board agrees on what procedures to focus on during morning of meeting day 2. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bettina Fiery (<i>Facilitator</i>) • All Board Members
12:30 PM*	Lunch		
1:45*	FY24 National Conservation Priorities <i>Desired outcomes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board awareness of the NCP team progress to date. 	Tab 3	Gary Whelan (<i>MI Department of Natural Resources, Board Staff, Co-chair of the Science and Data Committee</i>)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board understanding of how NFHP project tracking currently works and the work required to increase the level of detail of the NCPs. • Board action to determine whether to keep NCPs at high level or continue to explore other options. 	
2:30*	<p>NFHP Project Tracking System Demo & Board Input <i>Desired outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board awareness of and input on the NFHP Project Tracking System and planned updates to assist meeting ACE Act provisions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Announce project funding ○ Request Board member participation on subcommittee focused on improving the Database ○ Board to provide feedback on specific metrics to include in reporting tools 	Daniel Wieferich (<i>USGS, Board Staff, Co-chair of the Science and Data Committee</i>)
3:00*	Break	
3:30*	<p>Science and Data Committee Update <i>Desired outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board understanding of the existing National Fish Habitat Assessment products to start scoping the 2025 National Fish Habitat Assessment. • Board understanding of the Project Tracking Database system. 	<p>Tab 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gary Whelan (<i>MI Department of Natural Resources, Board Staff, Co-chair of the Science and Data Committee</i>) • Daniel Wieferich (<i>USGS, Board Staff, Co-chair of the Science and Data Committee</i>)
4:00*	<p>Beyond the Pond & Bass Pro Update <i>Desired outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board awareness of the status of the Bass Pro donated funds RFP which closes in May. • Board awareness of NFHP participation in World Fishing Fair event in April. • Board awareness of the status of the Beyond the Pond accounting. • Board awareness of the status of a new Beyond the Pond fundraising portal. 	<p>Tab 5</p> <p>Ryan Roberts (<i>Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Board Staff</i>)</p>
4:15*	Wrap Up (prep for day 2)	
4:30*	Adjourn	

Agenda Day 2:

Wednesday, April 27, 2022

Meeting Room: 114 Turner Instructional East Building

Zoom Meeting Information:

<https://fishwildlife-org.zoom.us/j/88434982551?pwd=dW5POE5DRTVncklhVGQ0N2tNVnlhdz09>

Meeting ID: 884 3498 2551

Passcode: 935248

**Please note that all agenda times marked with an * are approximate.*

Time (PM ET)	Agenda Item	Board Book Tab	Lead
9:00 AM	Attendance & Welcome <i>Desired outcomes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board action to approve the April 27 agenda. • Board members share reflections and observations from meeting day 1. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ed Schriever (<i>Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Board Chairman</i>) • Bettina Fiery (<i>Facilitator</i>) • All Board Members
9:45*	Development of Board Procedures (working session) <i>Desired outcomes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board continues developing procedures needed to meet ACE Act provisions. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bettina Fiery (<i>Facilitator</i>) • All Board Members
10:30*	Break		
10:45*	Development of Board Procedures cont'd (working session) <i>Desired outcomes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board continues developing procedures needed to meet ACE Act provisions. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bettina Fiery (<i>Facilitator</i>) • All Board Members
12:30 PM*	Lunch		
1:45*	FHP Item – SARP Aquatic Barrier Prioritization Tool <i>Desired outcomes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board awareness of FHP barrier prioritization tool and its applications. 		Kat Hoenke (<i>GIS Coordinator for the Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership</i>)

2:15*	<p>Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) & America The Beautiful Roundtable</p> <p><i>Desired outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board awareness of status of America the Beautiful initiative. • Board awareness of agency funding (relevant to fish habitat work) described in the IIJA, agency priorities for those funds, and process/timeline of spending funds. • Board awareness of how Alaska FHPs are partnering to access IIJA funding. • Board discussion of ripe opportunities for NFHP and Fish Habitat Partnerships to access infrastructure funding and capitalize on the opportunities afforded by America the Beautiful. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve Guertin (<i>USFWS, Board Member</i>) • Sam Rauch (<i>NOAA Fisheries, Board Member</i>) • Doug Beard (<i>USGS, Board Member proxy for Anne Kinsinger</i>) • Bernie Gyant (<i>USFS, Board Member</i>) • Kurt Thiede (<i>AFWA Director of Government Affairs</i>) • Christy Plumer (<i>TRCP, Board Member</i>) • Debbie Hart (<i>Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership Coordinator</i>)
3:30*	<p>Break</p>	
3:45*	<p>USFWS & Interagency Operational Plan (IOP) Update</p> <p><i>Desired outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board awareness of the status of FY22 project funds. • Board awareness of the plan for FY23 FHP project administration. • Board awareness of the next steps for the IOP revisions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve Guertin (<i>US Fish & Wildlife Service, Board Member</i>) • Mike Bailey (<i>US Fish & Wildlife Service, Board Staff</i>)
4:00*	<p>Wrap Up</p>	
4:30*	<p>Adjourn</p>	

National Fish Habitat Partnership Board Meeting Agenda

Wednesday - Thursday, February 16-17, 2022

Zoom Meeting Information:

<https://fishwildlife-org.zoom.us/j/83366529843?pwd=RTFHymtuSmFYRmFFbkIzUCtzUVVMZz09>

Meeting ID: 833 6652 9843

Passcode: 225035

Wednesday, February 16, 2022

1:00 – 4:00 PM ET

Board Members (23/24):

1	Allen	Stan	X
2	Austen	Doug	X
3	Bowden	Allison	X
4	Boyd	Douglass	X
5	Cantrell	Chris	X
6	Eischeid	Ted	X
7	Gilliland	Gene	
8	Guertin	Steve	X
9	Gyant	Barnie	X
10	Kinsinger	Anne	X
11	Kruse	Carter	X
12	LeCoq	John	X
13	Leonard/Chester	Mike/Anne	X
14	Moore	Chris	X
15	Moore	Bryan	X
16	Rivers	Patrick	X
17	Perry	Steve	X
18	Plumer	Christy	X
19	Rauch	Sam	X
20	Schaeffer	Timothy D.	X
21	Schriever	Ed	X
22	Slaughter	Joe	X
23	Trushenski	Jesse	X
24	Wilson	Bobby	X

Board Staff (4/4):

- Alex Atkinson
- Ryan Roberts
- Gary Whelan
- Daniel Wieferich

FHP & FWS Coordinators (19/27):

1	Lisa	Havel	X
2	Alicia	Marrs	
3	Jennifer	Graves	
4	Jeff	Hastings	
5	Lori	Maloney	X
6	Heidi	Keuler	X
7	Rick	Westerhof	
8	Steve	Krentz	X
9	Gordon	Smith	X
10	Branden	Bornemann	X
11	Jessica	Speed	X
12	Joe	Nohner	X
13	Kevin	Haupt	X
14	Alicia	Marrs	X
15	Joan	Drinkwin	X
16	Jeff	Boxrucker	X
17	Debbie	Hart	X
18	Jessica	Graham	
19	Tim	Troll	
20	Therese	Thompson	X
21	John	Netto	X
22	Karin	Eldridge	X
23	Jessica	Hogrefe	X
24	Walter	Boltin	
25	Bill	Rice	X
26	Michael	Daigneault	X
27	Lisa	Heki	

Other Attendees (14):

- Doug Nygren (MAFWA)
- Carrie Robinson (NOAA)

- Chris Crookshanks
- Eric MacMillan (USFWS)
- Kim Conley (USFS)
- Callie McMunigal (USFWS)
- Christopher Estes
- Yvette Paroz
- Louise Mauldin (USFWS)
- Chris Carlson (USFS)
- Jess Newton
- Will Duncan
- Adam Ringia (SWTFC)
- Mark Humpert (AFWA)

Board Business/Items Approved by the Board:

- February 16-17, 2022 Board meeting agenda: motion by: Steve Perry, seconded by: Doug Boyd
- October 27, 2021 Board meeting summary: motion by: Chris Moore, seconded by: Carter Kruse
- FY23 FHP Project Proposal materials and process presented by the Partnerships Committee: motion by: Steve Perry, seconded by: Doug Austen
- Proposed process to develop FY24 National Conservation Priorities as presented by the Science and Data Committee: motion by: Doug Austen, seconded by: Jesse Trushenski
- 2022 Waters to Watch guidance and timeline: motion by: Jesse Trushenski, seconded by: Alison Bowden

Wednesday, February 16, 2022

1:00 – 4:00 PM ET

Time (PM ET)	Agenda Item	Board Book Tab	Lead
1:00	<p>Attendance & Welcome</p> <p><i>Desired outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board staff to take attendance. • Board action to approve the February 16 agenda. • Board action to approve the October 2021 meeting summary. • Welcome new Board member, Patrick Rivers, representing the Midwest Association for Fish and Wildlife Agencies 	Tab 1	Ed Schriever (<i>Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Board Chairman</i>) & Board Staff

Chairman Schriever welcomed everyone to the Board meeting and noted the significant attendance from Fish Habitat Partnership Coordinators. The Chairman then recognized Doug Nygren as he heads into retirement at the end of March and wraps up his term as NFHP Board member representing the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA). We greatly appreciate Doug’s involvement with and support of NFHP over the years, we expect to see Doug in a new role continuing his engagement with NFHP. The Board was then introduced to Patrick Rivers, who will replace Doug as the MAFWA representative. In his current role, Pat serves as the Deputy Director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife at Minnesota DNR, but has previously been involved with NFHP as the coordinator for the Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership from 2007-2011. He is looking forward to working with the NFHP Board and contacts outside his agency. Pat will take over Doug’s Board member role effective today.

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| 1:15 | 2022 Meeting Schedule & Annual Planning
<i>Desired outcomes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board awareness of the tentative 2022 Board meeting schedule. • Board action to complete poll indicating preferred 2022 meeting dates. • Board awareness of the upcoming list of Board tasks and how they fit into the 2022 schedule. | Tab 2 | Alex Atkinson (<i>NOAA Fisheries, Board Staff</i>) |
|------|---|-------|--|

Alex Atkinson presented the proposed annual Board meeting schedule along with key Board decisions to occur at each meeting. The staff is proposing four meetings beyond the February meeting in April, June, September, and November. The staff asked Board members to weigh in on a survey to indicate if they are available for proposed meeting dates. The proposed meeting dates work for most Board members and will be added to calendars.

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| 1:35 | Board Priorities Discussion for FY22, FY23, & Beyond
<i>Desired outcomes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board awareness of responses from the October 2021 Board survey. • Board discussion of where their desires for Board priorities beyond 2022. | | Ed Schriever (<i>Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Board Chairman</i>), Ryan Roberts (<i>Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Board Staff</i>), & Board |
|------|---|--|--|

Alex Atkinson reviewed the NFHP gantt chart that depicts both Board and FHP timelines with key deadlines – the staff will keep this chart updated to orient everyone to all the simultaneous processes ongoing. Chairman Schriever reminded the Board that these gantt chart displays 50,000-foot bins, we will need a more specific task list so we can begin to prioritize individual tasks. Alex reminded the Board of the existing Committees who will continue to advance many of the Board tasks including the formally designated Partnerships and Science and Data Committees, the informally designated Policy and FHP Project Review Committees. The Board staff will also utilize a meeting planning team that includes Board and FHP representatives to help shape future agendas. Finally, Alex presented the concept of a Board Workplan that the Board can revisit for the staff, Board, and FHPs to identify SMART tasks to focus actions and advance implementation of the ACE Act in the near term. Alex opened it up to Board discussion of items to include in the Board work plan to advance in the near term. In the discussion, Board members raised that the size of the Board is large and that the use of workgroups and Committees is key to get things done. It was also discussed how Board members can advance the fundraising efforts of NFHP to grow NFHP’s external funding sources. It was recognized that the FHP approval by Congress is a key item that the Board will need to advance soon. Ed also reminded the Board that we have been hindered by the inability to meet in person and that several tasks have been delayed so they can occur in person.

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| 2:00 | FHP Project Proposal and Review Process for FY23
<i>Desired outcomes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board awareness of changes to the FY23 FHP Fish Habitat Conservation project submission process from the FY22 process. • Request Board volunteers for the FY23 FHP Project Proposal review team (~9-10 Board members total). | Tab 3 | Stan Allen (<i>Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, Board member</i>) |
|------|---|-------|--|

- **Board vote** on whether or not to adopt the FY23 FHP Project Proposal materials and process presented by the Partnerships Committee.

Stan Allen presented to the Board the process by which FHPs will submit their FY23 project proposals and the timeline for the subcommittee of Board members to review. The process is similar to last year with some improvements that were suggested by last year’s reviewers, Committee members, and Board staff. One key change as we continue to make process improvements is that this process move up on the calendar so that FHPs have all of the Board review information in advance of releasing their RFPs in the fall. Stan reviewed the current timeline that FHP project submissions are due to the Board by March 31, Board subcommittee will review from April – May, subcommittee will present list of recommended projects to the Board in June, and the list will be sent to the Secretary of Interior by July 1. Stan highlighted that this year the Board will have a longer time to review the projects compared to last year. This year, the requested information from FHPs also highlights more specifically the ACE Act project criteria which have been broken into “hard” and “soft” criteria to be weighted differently in the review. The Partnerships Committee leads and committee members assisted with the review and revision of the FHP submission materials. Stan also reminded Board members that they are welcome to volunteer for the review subcommittee if they are interested. In the Board discussion, members asked for clarity on the FHP allocation levels and Stan reminded the Board of the 2 tiered allocation method that was used last year. It is up for consideration whether the subcommittee would like to proceed with the same approach this year. There was discussion of the Board’s role in the FHP project proposal process and a reminder of the process that all FHP project proposals have gone through before they reach the Board – e.g. vetting by FHPs, Steering Committees, etc.

2:20

USFWS Update

Desired outcomes:

- **Board awareness** Tribal, FWS internal discussions, and Financial Assistance, Support, and Oversight (FASO) meeting with FHPs on 2/18.

Steve Guertin (*US Fish and Wildlife Service, Board Member*)

Steve Guertin informed the Board that the USFWS has been very busy with everything going on with the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. There is currently still uncertainty about FY22 and the current Continuing Resolution expires on Friday, but it sounds like there will be another Continuing Resolution through March 11. Steve indicated that the USFWS does not have visibility into what is included in the Omnibus Spending bill and he expects that the FY23 budget will be released in about a month. He informed the Board that the USFWS will be hosting an FHP training on Friday with the USFWS Financial Assistance, Support and Oversight (FASO) group to help provide a high level overview for all FHPs about grants, the grants solutions online system, and how to utilize these tools. Steve indicated that he expects this year’s Board list of recommended FHP projects to be reviewed and cleared at the Assistant Secretary level as it was last year. Steve also shared with the Board that Mike Oekert is now the current Acting Assistant Director for the Fisheries and Aquatic Conservation program.

2:30

Tribal Board Member Vote

Desired outcomes:

- **Board awareness** of the status of the Tribal NFHP Board seats.

Ed Schriever (*Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Board Chairman*)

- **Board vote** on whether or not to appoint a single Tribal Board member in advance of receiving the Secretary of Interior’s nominee list.
 - **Board consideration** of previous Tribal nominees.

Chairman Schriever shared that the list of three Tribal Board member nominations was received from Interior on February 14th. The Board must select one of the two Tribal Board member representatives from this list and *may* select both from the list. The information on the candidates was distributed to all Board members for your review in advance of this meeting. The Chairman suggested that the Board select two Tribal representatives from the Secretary of Interior’s nomination list and the Board supported that suggestion with a motion and vote. There was Board discussion about the split between Alaska and non-Alaska representatives on the nominee list and a reminder of previous candidates that were considered from earlier Board seating exercise who were not included on the Interior’s list. Board members then voted in support of their preferred 2 candidates from the Secretary of Interior’s list and selected Adam Ringia and Karen Linnell to serve on the NFHP Board. The staff will plan a new Board member orientation for these new Board members in advance of the next Board meeting.

2:45	<p>Science and Data Committee Update on FY24 National Conservation Priorities, Schedule, & Opportunities to Engage</p> <p><i>Desired outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board approval of the proposed process to develop FY2024 National Conservation Priorities. • Board understanding of the status of the NFHP Project Tracking Database System <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Request Board members who would like to participate on SDC subcommittee focused on guiding improvements to Project Tracking Database. ○ Request Board feedback on specific metrics to include in reporting tools (i.e., what queries of NFHP projects would be helpful for the community). • Board understanding of the need to start scoping the 2025 National Fish Habitat Assessment. 	Tab 4	<p>Gary Whelan (<i>MI Department of Natural Resources, Board Staff, Co-chair of Science and Data Committee</i>) & Daniel Wieferich (<i>USGS, Board Staff, Co-chair of the Science and Data Committee</i>)</p>
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Gary Whelan presented on behalf of the Science and Data Committee (SDC) the process by which the Board will develop the new National Conservation Priorities (NCPs). He also highlighted that the Board will need to begin scoping the 2025 National Fish Habitat Assessment required by the ACE Act. Gary reminded the Board that at the October 2021 Board meeting, the SDC provided a suite of options for the Board to develop the NCPs informed by the lessons learned from previous several years. Gary reviewed the members of the team, including Board members, FHP coordinators and SDC members, who will develop the NCPs over the next several months. He notes that the group will nominate a Chair and should consider adding a Tribal representative to their group. The timeline for NCP development will begin in February and conclude with recommendations to the Board in August

and approval by the Board in September. This timeline will allow FHPs to have the revised NCPs going into their FY23 RFP process.

Daniel Wierich presented to the Board on the NFHP project tracking system and how it will support the new reporting requirements outlined in the ACE Act. The system has been around for 10 years and PSMFC has lead the development and maintenance of this NFHP database. Daniel shared the current capacities of the database as well as the data aspects not currently supported that may be useful to add. There is a NFHP dashboard in prototype phase that will support queries and easy export of summaries and overviews. After addressing some Board and FHP questions about these resources, Daniel indicated that he can bring a tutorial for how to use these tools at a future Board meeting.

3:20 **Interagency Operational Plan (IOP)**

Desired outcomes:

- **Board discussion** of the next steps with the draft IOP.

Mike Bailey (*USFWS, Board Staff*)

Mike Bailey reminded the Board of the requirement outlined in the ACE Act to develop an Interagency Operational Plan. A small, interagency writing team drafted a living document that was shared with the Board and FHPs in December for feedback. Mike acknowledged that there is a need for more detail to be incorporated into the IOP and a desire to expand what Federal agencies are involved. A feedback letter was shared widely with the Board and writing team with constructive feedback for the IOP drafters. FHPs also noted a need to include Tribes in the IOP. Mike opened the floor to hear more from other Board members about the draft IOP. There was Board discussion about the IOP challenges and opportunities for Federal agencies to recognize how NFHP can help them achieve their missions. Mike plans to set up a future meeting with the authors of the comment letter and the writing team to get a start on revisions. There is agreement that collectively moving forward to improve upon the living IOP draft is best.

4:00 **Adjourn**

Wednesday - Thursday, February 16-17, 2022

Zoom Meeting Information:

<https://fishwildlife-org.zoom.us/j/83366529843?pwd=RTFHymtuSmFYRmFFbkIzUCtzUVVMZz09>

Meeting ID: 833 6652 9843

Passcode: 225035

Thursday, February 17, 2022

1:00 - 4:00 PM ET

Time (PM ET)	Agenda Item	Board Book Tab	Lead
1:00	Attendance & Welcome <i>Desired outcomes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board staff to take attendance. • Board action to approve the February 17 agenda. 		Ed Schriever (<i>Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Board Chairman</i>) & Board Staff
1:15	Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) & America The Beautiful Roundtable <i>Desired outcomes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board awareness of status of America the Beautiful initiative. • Board awareness of agency funding (relevant to fish habitat work) described in the IIJA, agency priorities for those funds, and process/timeline of spending funds. • Board discussion of ripe opportunities for NFHP and Fish Habitat Partnerships to access infrastructure funding and capitalize on the opportunities afforded by America the Beautiful. 		TRCP - Christy Plumer USGS - Anne Kinsinger NOAA - Carrie Robinson (<i>Director of Office of Habitat Conservation</i>) USFWS - Steve Guertin USFS - Barnie Gyant AFWA - Kurt Thiede (<i>AFWA Director of Government Affairs</i>)

During this roundtable session we invited Federal Board members, plus AFWA and TRCP, to share funding the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act authorizes for their agency relevant to fish habitat, information about spend plans that is available, and potential opportunities they see for NFHP. USGS started off the roundtable by sharing that they are authorized an overall \$511 million spread across multiple programs. Following USGS, NOAA shared they are authorized \$3 billion over 5 years through 18 different provisions that will mostly be distributed via competitive grants. USFWS shared that the Department of Interior is authorized \$28 billion over the next 5 years, much of which is destined for the Bureau of Reclamation for water projects, dams, and abandoned mine reclamation. \$450 million of the DOI authorization is for the USFWS. The USFS shared that the bill authorizes \$620 million to a variety of their programs including Legacy Roads and Trails, a dam decommission and removal fund, invasive species, and others. AFWA's Devin DeMario highlighted in her remarks the scale of the opportunity ahead of us with these funds. She reminded the Board of this unique opportunity to show outcomes of projects and thanked the FHPs for their help in providing AFWA shovel-ready projects. This funding provides an opportunity for Federal agencies to work with states, tribes and NFHP to achieve great outcomes for fish habitat. TRCP's Christy

Plumer also shared remarks about the need for transparency and to build capacity now to build out projects in the last stages. TRCP will be issuing a letter that highlights existing partnerships, data needs to monitor success, and match waivers where possible. Slides from all the agency presentations were shared with all Board members.

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| 2:15 | <p>Waters to Watch 2022
<i>Desired outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board vote to approve the 2022 Waters to Watch guidance and timeline. | Tab 6 | Ryan Roberts (<i>Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Board Staff</i>) |
|------|--|-------|--|

Ryan Roberts presented to the Board a review of the Waters to Watch program and highlighted that the guidance for this year’s campaign is similar to last year’s. 10 FHP projects will be highlighted via the campaign to focus attention on FHP work, garner local and national support for NFHP and the FHPs, and strengthen existing and develop new partnerships. This year’s proposed timeline was recommended to be shifted back so as not overlap so much with FHP proposals for NFHP funding. A revised timeline will be communicated with the FHPs and Board following this meeting. The Board approved this year’s Waters to Watch guidance via motion and vote.

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| 2:30 | <p>FHP Update about FY23 Project Submissions
<i>Desired outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board awareness of changes in number of projects submitted to NFHP Requests for Proposals and feedback FHPs are hearing from project managers. | FHP Representative |
|------|--|--------------------|

Joe Nohner presented, on behalf of the FHPs, an overview of FHP poll data that shows a reduction of NFHP project proposals observed by many FHPs in FY22. He highlighted how the many uncertainties throughout the transition to implement the ACE Act has impacted the FHPs via potential administration gaps, funding uncertainties particularly with non-federal match, and impacts to partner organizations and relationships. Joe presented some feedback on behalf of the FHPs to the Board including the need for standardized RFP guidance, the need to finalize the template/guidance on FY23 projects ASAP, the many challenges associated with the long delay between proposals and funding, and potential issues this year with small pots of NFHP funding in comparison with other large Federal sources of funding that have become available.

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| 2:50 | <p>Bass Pro Funding Opportunity
<i>Desired outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board awareness of the Bass Pro funding application and review process planned for 2022. • Request for volunteers to review FHP project proposals after submission deadline of March 30, 2022. | Tab 7 | Ryan Roberts (<i>Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Board Staff</i>) |
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Ryan Roberts presented to the Board an overview of the Bass Pro funding opportunity. Eligible projects for this funding opportunity will improve habitat in reservoirs and their tributaries resulting in enhanced angling opportunities. Ryan reminded the Board that the Board voted via email to approve the criteria and guidance for project submissions. The RFP will be announced in March and the target date for project completion is fall 2023. There is an understanding that not all FHPs will be eligible to apply. The Board will need to form a subcommittee to review the project submissions for this RFP.

3:10 **NOAA NFHP Funding Opportunity**

Sam Rauch (*NOAA Fisheries, Board Member*)

Desired outcomes:

- **Board awareness** of NOAA’s informal funding opportunity for coastal Fish Habitat Partnerships and previously funded projects.

Sam Rauch provided an overview of an informal NOAA funding opportunity for coastal FHPs for projects that improve habitat and engage recreational anglers. Sam highlighted the 11 previously funded projects since FY19 in 6 different FHPs. In FY22, NOAA has added a priority criteria to engage underrepresented groups and is excited to be reviewing 9 project submissions and will announce funded projects in the spring.

3:25 **2022 NFHP Letter to Congress**

Tab 5 Ed Schriever (*Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Board Chairman*)

Desired outcomes:

- **Board awareness** of letter that was sent on the Board’s behalf to Congress to fulfill the requirements of the ACE Act.

Alex Atkinson shared an overview of the letter to Congress drafted to fulfill ACE Act reporting requirements by February 1. The letter, included in the Board book, was developed by Board staff with the help from Board members and Kate Sherman who provided summary statistics. Given the unique position of the Board, who is in progress implementing the provisions of the Act, and FHPs, who have not yet been formally approved by Congress, this year’s “report” took the form of a high level letter that will be expanded upon in future years. The letter included a high level education about NFHP, the FHPs, and an offer to learn more about our Partnership. The letter did indicate the places where NFHP has been challenged to implement the Act, particularly since they’ve been forced to meet in a virtual setting since the Act’s passing. The letter also featured highlights of four recent FHP projects that showcase the diversity of NFHP work all across the country.

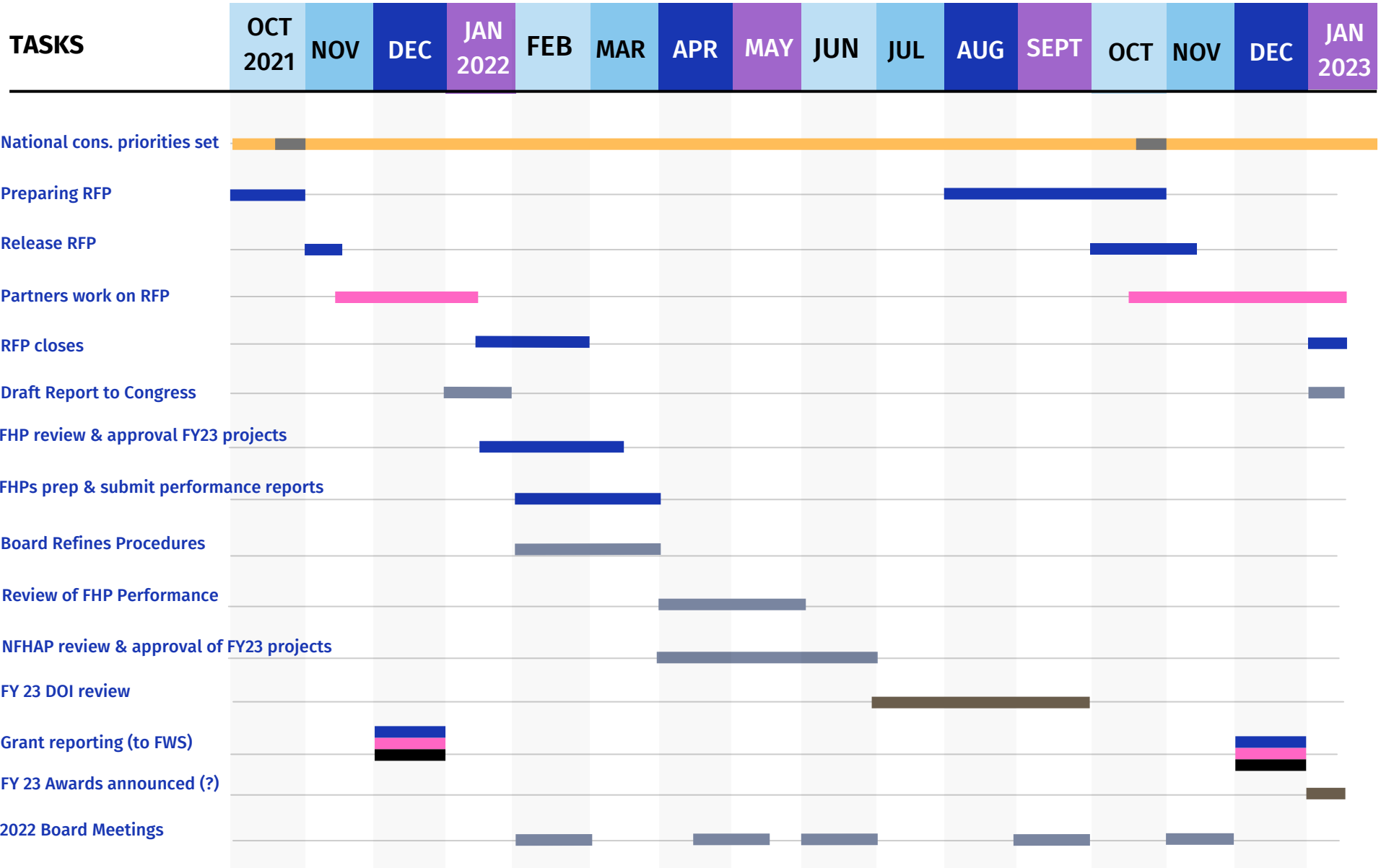
3:45 **American Conservation & Stewardship Atlas**

Daniel Wierich informed the Board that there is an open public comment period on the America the Beautiful initiative to develop an American Conservation & Stewardship Atlas. It was recommended that the Board submit a comment letter to provide an overview of the data sources within NFHP that could be utilized in this tool as well as showcase the role of aquatic systems since there has been a focus on terrestrial systems thus far. Gary and Daniel will be drafting a letter a circulating to the Board for comments by March 3 so it may be submitted before the March 7 deadline.

4:00 **Adjourn**



NFHP Board Tasks and Schedules



2022 National Fish Habitat Board Meeting Schedule

Timing	Tasks
February 16-17 (virtual)	Annual planning, FHP project submission process & criteria, Waters to Watch criteria
April 26-27 (in-person)	Budget planning, Board work plan, Board procedures
June 28 (virtual)	Vote on FHP project list – due to DOI by 7/1
September 13-14 (in-person, location TBD)	Vote on NCPs for FY24 & finalize annual reporting
November 29 (virtual)	Committee/Board work plans, Congressional report

America's Conservation Enhancement (ACE) Act Summary Document

This purpose of this document is to informally summarize the provisions of Title II of the ACE Act that effect the implementation of the National Fish Habitat Partnership. Below, you will find excerpts from several sections from the ACE Act with a high level summary of the responsibilities of the Board and Fish Habitat Partnerships (FHP). *Please note, that this summary *does not* include all of the ACE Act details, so please refer to the full bill text if you require further context about any of the provisions below.

NFHP Purpose: Promote fish conservation through partnerships.

NFHP Goals:

1. Achieve measurable habitat conservation results-strategic actions of FHP's that lead to better habitat and increased fishing opportunity by:
 - a. Improving ecological conditions
 - b. Restoring natural processes
 - c. Preventing decline of intact and healthy systems
2. Establish a consensus set of national conservation strategies as a framework to guide actions and investments of FHP's.
3. Broaden community support for fish habitat conservation by:
 - a. Increasing fishing opportunities
 - b. Fostering the participation of local communities in conservation activities
 - c. Raising public awareness of the role healthy fish habitat play in the quality of life and economies of local communities
4. Fill the Gaps in the National Fish Habitat Assessment and the associated database.
 - a. Empower strategic conservation supported by broadly available scientific information
 - b. New Opportunities and voluntary approaches for conserving fish habitat

National Fish Habitat Board Duties:

1. Promote, oversee and coordinate the implementation of National Fish Habitat Conservation through Partnerships.
2. Establish national goals and priorities for fish habitat conservation (*develop procedures*).

3. Recommend to Congress entities for designation as FHP's (*develop procedures*).
4. Review and make recommendations (to the Secretary) regarding fish habitat conservation projects (*develop procedures*).
5. Establish procedures to carry out the business of the board – (*revisit existing Board Charter*)
6. Submit Annual “Report to Congress on Future Fish Habitat Partnerships and Modifications”; no later than Feb 1 (starting in 2022) and every year thereafter that:
 - a. Identifies entities that the Board has found meets the criteria and the Board is recommending for Partnership designation;
 - b. The purpose of each Partnership and how they will fulfill the requirements of a Partnership
 - c. Describe any proposed modifications to a Partnership previously designated by Congress
 - d. Within 5 years, all previously existing Partnerships will be subject to a designation review whereby Congress will have the opportunity to designate the partnership
7. Five Year Summary Report
Every five years, the Board reports to appropriate Congressional Committees the progress of this Title.
8. Make recommendations for project funding to the Secretary:
 - a. Partnerships submit a list of priority fish habitat conservation projects to the Board for annual funding no later than March 31
 - b. No later than July 1 the Board submits to the Secretary a priority list of fish habitat conservation projects following these criteria at a minimum;
 - i. A recommendation of the partnership that will be actively participating in the implementation of the project
 - ii. The capabilities and experience of project proponents to successfully implement the project
 - iii. The extent to which the project:
 1. Fulfills a local or regional priority that is directly linked to the strategic plan of the Partnership
 2. Address the national priorities of the Board
 3. Is supported by the findings of the habitat assessment of the Partnership or the Board and aligns with or is compatible with other conservation plans.

4. Identifies appropriate monitoring and evaluation measures and criteria
 5. Provides well defined budget linked to deliverables and outcomes
 6. Address the causes and process behind the decline of fish populations or fish habitats
 7. Includes an local or regional outreach or educational component
- iv. The availability of sufficient non – Federal matching funds (50%)
- v. The extent to which the project:
1. Will increase fish populations in a manner that leads to recreational fishing opportunities for the public
 2. Will be carried out through a cooperative agreement among parties
 3. Increases public access to land or water for fish and wildlife dependent recreation
 4. Advances the conservation of SGCN as designated by State agencies
 5. Advances the conservation of fish and fish habitat under Magnuson Act
 6. Promotes healthy fish habitats so that desired biological communities are able to persist and adapt
- vi. The substantiality of the character and design of the project
- c. Requirement for Evaluation- No project may be recommended by the Board unless it includes an evaluation plan designed using applicable Board guidance
- i. To appropriately assess the biological and/or ecological results
 - ii. To reflect appropriate changes to the project under adaptive management
 - iii. To identify improvements to existing fish populations, recreational fishing opportunities and the overall economic benefit for the local community
 - iv. To require a report describing the findings of the assessment to the Board

Fish Habitat Partnerships:

Authority to Recommend to Congress the designation of a FHP rests with the Board.

Purpose: The Purpose of a Partnership is:

1. Work with other habitat conservation programs to promote cooperation and coordination to enhance fish populations and fish habitat.
2. Engage local and regional communities to build support for Fish habitat conservation.
3. Involve diverse groups of public and private partners.

4. Collaboratively develop a strategic vision and achievable implementation plan that is science based.
5. Leverage funding from sources that support local and regional partnerships.
6. Use adaptive management principals, including project evaluation.
7. Develop appropriate habitat evaluation and assessment measures and criteria that are compatible with national habitat conditions measures.
8. Implement priority projects that improve conditions for fish and fish habitat.

Criteria for FHP to be considered for designation:

1. Submit an application to the Board.
2. Demonstrate to the Board that the FHP has:
 - a. A focus on promoting the health of important fish and fish habitats
 - b. An ability to coordinate the implementation of priority projects the support the goals and national priorities set by the Board that are within the Partnership Boundary
 - c. A self-governance structure that supports the implementation of strategic priorities for fish habitat
 - d. The ability to develop local and regional relationships with a broad range of entities to further strategic priorities for fish and fish habitat
 - e. A strategic plan that details required investments for fish habitat conservation that addresses the strategic fish habitat priorities of the Partnership and supports and meets the strategic priorities of the Board
 - f. The ability to develop and implement fish habitat conservation projects that address strategic priorities of the Partnership and Board
 - g. The ability to develop fish habitat conservation priorities based on sound science and data and the ability to measure the effectiveness of the Partnership and a clear plan as to how Partnership science and data components will be integrated with the overall Board science and data efforts

Requirements for the Board to recommend a Partnership for Congressional Designation:

1. Partnership meets the above criteria.
2. Identifies representatives to provide support and technical assistance to the Partnership from a diverse group of public and private partners focused on conservation of fish habitat across jurisdictional boundaries on public and private lands.
3. Is organized to promote the health of important fish species and habitats.
4. Identifies strategic fish and fish habitat priorities for the partnership to facilitate strategic planning and decision making.
5. Is able to address issues and priorities at a nationally significant scale.
6. Includes a governance structure that reflects the range of all partners and promotes collaborative planning and decision making.

7. Demonstrates completion (or significant progress toward the development of) a strategic plan to address declines in fish populations in accordance with goals and National priorities established by the Board.
8. Promotes collaboration in developing a strategic vision and implementation program that is scientifically sound and achievable.

Technical and Scientific Assistance

- \$400K during fiscal years 2021 – 2025 to carry out, and provide technical and scientific assistance to the following agencies:
 - US Fish and Wildlife Service,
 - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,
 - Environmental Protection Agency,
 - US Geological Survey, and
 - US Forest Service.

Development of Interagency Operational Plan

- Describe the functional, operational, technical, scientific, and general staff, administrative, and materials needs.



**National Conservation Priorities Development Process Schedule
 April 4, 2022**

Action	Milestone dates
Guidance developed by FHPs for consideration by NCP Workgroup	March 23
Workgroup requests feedback from FHPs on options (regional goals, habitat focus, etc.)	April 4 – May 24
SDC Committee review of and comment on guidance for Workgroup consideration	March 25
Workgroup reports on progress to Board	April 26-27
SDC provides input on NCP and metrics	May 27
Initial request from FHPs for priorities (high level) with metrics (detailed) due	May 24
NCP Working Group drafts NCPs and metrics in response to FHP, etc. input	June
Draft of Priorities and metrics provided to SDC, FHPs and Board for review and refinement	June 15
Board provides feedback on draft priorities and metrics	June 28
Workgroup compiles metrics and finalizes proposal for FHP and SDC review	June (early)
Feedback received from SDC	July 22 (SDC)
Feedback received from FHPs	July 22 (SDC)
Final spreadsheet or ranked priorities and metrics from Workgroup to Board	August (early)
Board approves final NCPs	September 13-14

Title: Science and Data Committee Report**Desired Outcomes:**

- **Board Understanding** of current National Fish Habitat Assessment products to start scoping the 2025 National Fish Habitat Assessment.
- **Board Understanding** of the status of the Project Tracking Database System
 - **Announce Project Funding** - Proposal to USGS Community of Data Integration
 - **Request** if any Board members would like to participate on SDC subcommittee focused on guiding improvements to Project Tracking Database
 - **Request** Board feedback on specific metrics to include in reporting tools (i.e., what queries of NFHP projects would be helpful for the community)

National Fish Habitat Assessment Scoping – Current Assessment Overview

The ACE Act requires the Board report to Congress on the condition of the nation's aquatic habitat by 2025 and to fill the gaps in the National Fish Habitat Assessment (Assessment). One gap specifically noted in the ACE Act is the omission of socioeconomic data. To accomplish this reporting task, the Board's desired Assessment needs to be fully scoped by the end of 2022. The SDC is starting this process with an overview of existing assessment products at this Board meeting.

The Board has developed two Assessments, one in 2010 and another in 2015, both of which followed the guidance laid out in the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. Both Assessments use NHDPlusV1 as the spatial framework in the lower 48 states and a similar system in Hawaii. Since NHDPlusV1 does not exist for Alaska, HUC12 watershed units were used as the spatial layer. The Assessments evaluated rivers and streams for all of the U.S., although at different resolutions in Alaska and Hawaii, and had a high-level analysis of coastal areas of the lower 48 states with regional analyses in Southeast Alaska, Hawaii and the Gulf of Mexico. These Assessments did not cover lakes, reservoirs, or detailed coastal or marine habitats. The Assessments also did not include Great Lakes waters of the U.S.

For each of the 2.7 million NHDPlusV1 segments in the lower 48 states, the equivalent system in Hawaii, and for HUC12 watersheds in Alaska, nationally and consistently developed data layers ranging from local geology to land use to fish community data were attributed to the spatial framework. Approximately 80 variables are attributed to each of the lower 48 states' 2.7 million river and stream segments and since less data was available, fewer variables were attributed to spatial units in Hawaii and Alaska. For the lower 48 states, these attributed variables were combined with fish community data, collected with single pass electrofishing, from appropriately 40,000 segments to produce statistical dose-response curves that allowed degradation risk scores to be

generated for all lower 48 state segments. For Alaska and Hawaii along with coastal systems, attributed stressor data was scored using expert opinion to generate system scores. The one exception is the Gulf Coast estuaries which used fish community data generated statistical dose-response curves to develop degradation risk scoring. System degradation risk scores were generated for all parts for the U.S. where spatial and stress data were available. Maps were generated for the lower 48 states, Alaska and Hawaii. Summaries, techniques, and data products are all available for the 2015 Assessment in the online Through a Fish's Eye Report at <http://assessment.fishhabitat.org>.

The Science and Data Committee during the development of both Assessment products did evaluate if and how FHP assessments could be integrated into the Assessments. Due to the differences in spatial formats and inconsistently measured datasets, there was no practical way to integrate this important information into the Assessments. Another analysis of these FHP data should be done to understand current transferability of information into future Assessments.

While both the 2010 and 2015 National Fish Habitat Assessments reached a level of analysis that had not been achieved previously, there were still significant gaps that could not be filled. The key gaps are as follows:

- Spatial
 - Inland – There was a lack of coverage for lakes and reservoirs.
 - Coastal – There was a lack of a consistent spatial framework to properly map estuaries, nearshore areas, and coastal waters for both marine and Great Lakes areas.
 - Alaska and Hawaii–NHDPlus was not available for these states, although similar products were derived for Hawaii and Southeast Alaska.
- Fisheries Data Layers
 - Inland – Lack of consistent spatial coverage of fish community data for many river and stream areas was noted. Similarly, fish community data could not be easily gathered with consistent methods for lakes and reservoirs. This resulted in macrohabitat analysis gaps and low sample sizes for some types of rivers and streams.
 - Coastal - Fish community data could not be easily gathered with consistent methods for most of the coastal waters with some data allowing analysis for Gulf of Mexico estuaries. Development of dose-response curves could not be conducted for most coastal U.S. waters.
 - Alaska – Fish community data is not available for most Alaskan waters and coverage is spotty in most areas. The use of the Alaska Anadromous Fish Catalog was attempted but this dataset is incomplete with respect to the species coverage and is not intended for this type of analysis.
- Anthropogenic Layers

- Hydrology – National databases for hydrology which included both gauged and ungauged stream reaches was not available so this key variable could not be included in the analysis.
- Grazing Intensity – Appropriate databases for this key regional variable were not available and it could not be included in the analysis.
- Timber Harvest Intensity - Appropriate databases for this key variable were not available and it could not be included in the analysis.
- Barriers – While national data layers for dams and road-stream crossings were available and used in the Assessment, it was acknowledged to be incomplete for those variables. Available data also did not include tidal gates, chemical barriers or concrete stream/river channels.
- Water Quality – While available national data layers for water quality were included in the Assessment, there were significant gaps in coverage both spatially and for a range of chemicals.
- Material Recruitment and Transport – Complete national data layers for material recruitment and transport (i.e. sediment and woody debris) were not available and could not be incorporated into the Assessment.
- Geomorphology - Complete national data layers for geomorphology and bottom form were not available and could not be incorporated into the Assessment. This includes data on harbor installations, jetties, channelized stream segments, and shoreline hardening.
- Living Habitat and Invasive Species – Complete layers for living habitat (i.e. oyster and mussel beds and SAV) and invasive species were not available and could not be incorporated into the Assessment.

Even with the known gaps and flaws, the Assessments are remarkable compilations of data and the peer-reviewed statistical analytical approaches are sound with the available data. The 2015 Assessment map does provide broad scale information on where most of the intact systems are located and an image of the degradation of our aquatic systems. The data gaps and spatial scales do cause some interpretation issues, particularly in the desert regions of the U.S.

Since 2015, considerable progress has been made to address some of the data gaps noted above. For example, a layer of unimpaired hydrology is now available from USGS with more detailed work being done on specific large watersheds such as the Delaware River. New and much improved coastal assessments are being done in the Northeast and West Coast at this time. A new and much improved spatial framework is now available for the Great Lakes. Other important new assessments have been done on barriers in the Southeast, Northeast and Northwest along with new information on impairments in glacial lakes to name a few examples. An analysis of newly available datasets and updated existing datasets will need to be done prior to developing the next Assessment depending on what the Board wishes the Assessment to examine and look like.

Project Tracking System Update

FY21/22 Project Tracking System Priorities and Progress

- Work with FHPs to keep Project Tracking System up to date by entering new project information
 - Update system to include FY2019 and FY2020 projects (**Complete**)
 - Update system to include FY2021 projects (**Completed**)
- Secure funding to upgrade project tracking system technology and data structure
 - USGS and PSMFC submitted \$50,000 proposal to USGS Community of Data Integration. (**Funded**, project period June-November 2022)
- Improve reporting capabilities of database
 - Update feature service of project information (**Completed**)
 - Develop NFHP Project Reporting Dashboard Prototype. Initial development and progress can be tracked at <https://data-beta.usgs.gov/nfhp-dashboard/>. (**in-kind USGS, In Progress**)

Information Request from Board in February 2022 Board Meeting

During the project tracking update in the February 2022 Board meeting additional information was requested to better understand metrics currently being tracking in the system. The table below shows a full list of metrics tracked. Counts reflect all NFHP submitted projects through FY21, with a total of 1276 NFHP funded projects and 119 support projects (Note NFHP supported projects are currently documented opportunistically and are not representative of all NFHP supported projects. These are projects that FHPs help coordinate and facilitate but receive no funds from the national program.). In summary 69 metrics can be tracked in the current system. Approximately 85% of projects are currently assigned a project type which is a high-level classification, while only 58% have reported finer level metrics to further describe the projects.

ProjectType	Project SubType	Project Technique	Question	# Projects	# Projects w/ Detailed Metric(s)
Habitat Treatment	Aquatic Organism Passage	Barrier Removal	Type(s) of barriers removed	164	125
Habitat Treatment	Aquatic Organism Passage	Barrier Removal	Number of barriers removed	234	209
Habitat Treatment	Aquatic Organism Passage	Barrier Removal	Length of stream opened (miles)	234	214
Habitat Treatment	Aquatic Organism Passage	Fish Screening	Number of screens installed	3	2
Habitat Treatment	Aquatic Organism Passage	Fish Screening	Number of screens replaced/modified	3	0
Habitat Treatment	Aquatic Organism Passage	Fish Screening	Flow through screen (cfs)	3	0
Habitat Treatment	Aquatic Organism Passage	Fish Screening	Length of stream opened (miles)	3	3
Habitat Treatment	Invasive Species Control/Management	Invasive Species Removal	Name(s) of species removed	33	16
Habitat Treatment	Invasive Species Control/Management	Invasive Species Removal	Removal technique	33	12
Habitat Treatment	Invasive Species Control/Management	Invasive Species Removal	Length of stream treated for invasives (miles)	34	11
Habitat Treatment	Invasive Species Control/Management	Invasive Species Removal	Area treated for invasives (acres)	34	10
Habitat Treatment	Water Quality	Water Quality Improvement	Water quality limitation addressed	78	64
Habitat Treatment	Water Quality	Water Quality Improvement	Length of stream treated for water quality (miles)	76	39
Habitat Treatment	Water Quality	Water Quality Improvement	Area of land treated to improve water quality (acres)	76	24
Habitat Treatment	Water Quality	Water Quality Improvement	Specific reductions in water quality constituents	76	11
Habitat Treatment	Instream Flow	Irrigation Practice Improvement	Increase in instream flow (annual) (cfs)	0	0
Habitat Treatment	Instream Flow	Irrigation Practice Improvement	Years of flow increase	0	0
Habitat Treatment	Instream Flow	Water Acquisition or Lease	Increase in instream flow (annual) (cfs)	0	0
Habitat Treatment	Instream Flow	Water Acquisition or Lease	Years of flow increase	0	0
Habitat Treatment	Instream Habitat	Streambank Stabilization	Length of stream treated (miles)	57	51
Habitat Treatment	Instream Habitat	Channel Enhancement	Number of instream structures placed	102	23

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Habitat Treatment	Instream Habitat	Channel Enhancement	Length of stream channel treated (miles)	169	148
Habitat Treatment	Instream Habitat	Channel Reconfiguration	Length of stream channel treated (miles)	29	22
Habitat Treatment	Lake Habitat	Lake Planting	Name(s) of species planted	6	0
Habitat Treatment	Lake Habitat	Lake Planting	Area planted (acres)	6	1
Habitat Treatment	Lake Habitat	Lake Structure Installation	Number of structures installed	7	3
Habitat Treatment	Lake Habitat	Lake Structure Installation	Area in which structures installed (acres)	7	1
Habitat Treatment	Riparian Habitat	Riparian Planting	Name(s) of species planted	76	12
Habitat Treatment	Riparian Habitat	Riparian Planting	Length of stream planted (miles)	101	77
Habitat Treatment	Riparian Habitat	Riparian Planting	Area planted (acres)	76	29
Habitat Treatment	Riparian Habitat	Riparian Fencing	Length of stream protected by fence (miles)	13	8
Habitat Treatment	Riparian Habitat	Riparian Fencing	Area protected by fence (acres)	13	5
Habitat Treatment	Upland Habitat	Road Improvement	Length of road treated (miles)	2	0
Habitat Treatment	Upland Habitat	Road Abandonment	Length of road treated (miles)	0	0
Habitat Treatment	Upland Habitat	Upland Erosion Control	Erosion control technique	28	24
Habitat Treatment	Upland Habitat	Upland Erosion Control	Area treated for erosion control (acres)	42	35
Habitat Treatment	Wetland Habitat	Enhancement of Existing Wetlands	Wetland treatment technique	37	20
Habitat Treatment	Wetland Habitat	Enhancement of Existing Wetlands	Area of wetland treated (acres)	175	61
Habitat Treatment	Wetland Habitat	Creation of New Wetland	Wetland creation technique	6	3
Habitat Treatment	Wetland Habitat	Creation of New Wetland	Area of wetland created (acres)	6	4
Habitat Treatment	Estuarine Habitat	Estuarine Improvement	Estuarine treatment technique	39	24
Habitat Treatment	Estuarine Habitat	Estuarine Improvement	Area of estuary treated (acres)	39	29
Land Acquisition	Land Acquisition	Land Acquired or Leased	Area acquired/leased (acres)	2	2
Land Acquisition	Land Acquisition	Riparian/Beach Buffer Acquired or Leased	Area acquired/leased (acres)	0	0
Outreach and Education	Outreach and Education	Outreach/Education Event	Type(s) of outreach/education events held	65	48
Outreach and Education	Outreach and Education	Outreach/Education Event	Number of outreach/education events held	78	57

Outreach and Education	Outreach and Education	Outreach/Education Event	Number of individuals reached by outreach/education events	65	44
Outreach and Education	Outreach and Education	Outreach/Education Materials	Type(s) of outreach/education materials prepared	60	40
Outreach and Education	Outreach and Education	Outreach/Education Materials	Number of outreach/education materials prepared	60	32
Engineering and Design	Engineering and Design	Project Engineering and Design	Number of project designs developed	20	11
Planning and Coordination	Planning and Coordination	Planning and Coordination	Type(s) of planning activities conducted	142	106
Planning and Coordination	Planning and Coordination	Planning and Coordination	Number of plans developed	140	93
Planning and Coordination	Planning and Coordination	Planning and Coordination	Number of organizations involved in planning activities	85	39
Stream/Habitat Assessment	Stream/Habitat Assessment	Stream Assessment	Type(s) of stream assessment conducted	28	14
Stream/Habitat Assessment	Stream/Habitat Assessment	Stream Assessment	Number of stream assessments conducted	28	10
Stream/Habitat Assessment	Stream/Habitat Assessment	Stream Assessment	Length of stream assessed (miles)	75	58
Stream/Habitat Assessment	Stream/Habitat Assessment	Habitat Assessment	Type(s) of habitat assessment conducted	35	14
Stream/Habitat Assessment	Stream/Habitat Assessment	Habitat Assessment	Type(s) of habitat assessed	37	21
Stream/Habitat Assessment	Stream/Habitat Assessment	Habitat Assessment	Number of habitat assessments conducted	137	122
Stream/Habitat Assessment	Stream/Habitat Assessment	Habitat Assessment	Area of habitat assessed (acres)	92	84
Stream/Habitat Assessment	Stream/Habitat Assessment	Population Assessment	Number of population assessments conducted	45	16
Monitoring	Monitoring	Monitoring Programs	Type(s) of monitoring programs conducted	61	34
Monitoring	Monitoring	Monitoring Programs	Name(s) of species monitored	61	42
Monitoring	Monitoring	Monitoring Programs	Type(s) of habitat monitored	61	44
Monitoring	Monitoring	Monitoring Programs	Length of stream monitored (miles)	61	25
Monitoring	Monitoring	Monitoring Programs	Area of habitat monitored (acres)	61	10
Monitoring	Monitoring	Monitoring Programs	Monitoring timeframe (years)	61	30
Research	Research	Research Programs	Type(s) of research programs conducted	12	3
Research	Research	Research Programs	Number of research studies completed	12	7

Do these include coordination projects?

Do these include supported or only funded projects?

Project techniques (can each project have multiple techniques)



Bass Pro Shops U.S. Open/NFHP Grant Opportunity & Beyond the Pond Update

Background: The National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) is pleased to announce that the competitive grant application period for the new Bass Pro Shops US Open National Bass Fishing Amateur Team Championships grants program is open effective, March 25, 2022. [This grant program is funded by proceeds from the Bass Pro Shops US Open National Bass Fishing Amateur Team Championships.](#) To date, the championships have dedicated nearly \$1.6 million to NFHP that were earned through a combination of entrance fees and generous matching donations from tournament sponsors Bass Pro Shops and Toyota.

Grant Structure: The grant program funds will be administered by Beyond the Pond, the 501c3 organization established to manage private NFHP financial donations. Higher priority will be given for projects specifically designed to improve aquatic habitat within reservoirs and by doing so support enhanced angling conditions and opportunities. Funding may also be used to conserve natural lake habitats and interconnected tributary flows that also impact lake and reservoir habitat conditions and recreational fish production. Examples of on-the-ground conservation could include riparian and underwater vegetation planting, shoreline native habitat planting, bank sloping and shaping in tributaries, and habitat structure placement or other habitat conservation actions that ensure adequate amounts of clean water will be available to sustain aquatic productivity and within these important habitats.

Eligibility Criteria: To help applicants put forward the best possible projects, NFHP and Beyond the Pond have established a set of criteria that will be used to determine by which projects are eligible for funding and prioritization. Applicants should address these criteria in their project applications. All grant projects meeting these criteria will be considered regardless of the amount of funding requested. There is no funding match requirement for grant eligibility. All funding request levels for eligible project proposals will be considered. Successfully funded projects must successfully complete and use all grant funds allocated by 12/1/2023. The deadline to submit a project application under this initial grant cycle for the Bass Pro Shops US Open National Bass Fishing Amateur Team Championships Grants Program is **May 16, 2022**. Contact Ryan Roberts, Program Manager at rroberts@fishwildlife.org with grant application-related questions.

NFHP/Bass Pro Shops US Open National Bass Fishing Amateur Team Championships Grants
Program:

Application Review/Ranking Criteria for Applicant Reference

Project Eligibility Screening*

1. Does this project specifically benefit on-the-ground habitat conservation work? (Y/N)

2. Does this project conserve habitat in Reservoirs, Natural Lakes, or Tributaries that connect Reservoirs or Lakes? (Y/N)

3. Does this project support the objectives/measures below? (Y/N) If yes, which ones?

- a. fulfills a local or regional priority that is directly linked to the strategic plan of the Partnership is consistent with the mission and goals for NFHP, and is consistent with the purpose of this grant program;
- b. addresses one of more of the national habitat conservation priorities established by the National Fish Habitat Board (Board);
- c. is supported by the findings of the habitat assessment of the Partnership or the Board, and aligns or is compatible with other conservation plans;
- d. identifies appropriate monitoring and evaluation measures;
- e. provides a well-defined budget linked to deliverables and scheduled outcomes;
- f. leverages other funds to implement the project;
- g. addresses the causes, factors, or processes behind the decline of fish or fish habitat;
- h. includes an outreach or education component that includes the local or regional community and other stakeholders;
- i. will increase fish populations in a manner that leads to improved recreational fishing opportunities;

4. increases public access to land or water for both fish and wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities; Is this project implemented through one of the FHPs under the National Fish Habitat Partnership? (Y/N) If yes which ones

5. Will this project be completed within 18 months of the funding being received? (Y/N)

* If a project does meet all five stated criteria, it will not be considered for potential funding

Please apply online for this grant opportunity, at: <https://form.jotform.com/220734963436056>



National Fish Habitat Partnership

Bass Pro Shops U.S. Open Grant Application

Name of your organization *

Phone Number of Organization *

Please enter a valid phone number.

Applicant Email Address *

example@example.com

Applicant Address *

Street Address

Street Address Line 2

City

State / Province

Postal / Zip Code

Primary Contact Person *

First Name

Last Name

Phone Number of Primary Contact Person *

Please enter a valid phone number.

Project Name *

Name of body of water *

What state is the project is located in? *

Is this project supported by a Fish Habitat Partnership? *

Yes

No

If yes, which Fish Habitat Partnership supports your project?

Please list all project partners: *

Do you have the required State/Federal permits for implementation of this project? *

The Below Sections are designed to explain project specifics for review:

Conservation Benefits

Does this project benefit the habitat for Reservoirs, Natural Lakes, or Tributaries that connect Reservoirs or Lakes? If yes, explain the technical merits of this project *

Does this project benefit a sportfish species? if so which species? *

Bass Pro Shops is a big proponent of providing anglers increased opportunities to catch fish. How will this project specifically benefit anglers, providing increased access, enjoyment and recreational opportunities? *

Explain or elaborate quantifiable habitat measures/benefits (i.e. reservoir/lake acreage directly affected by the project, miles or feet of reservoir or lake shoreline rehabilitated, stream miles affected or rehabilitated, amount of structural habitat added, vegetation planted) that will be provided through this project? Please provide specifics on the amount of habitat to be conserved. *

Will there be a monitoring aspect of your project once completed? If so, what aspect(s) of the project will be monitored? Please explain. *

Community and Partner Involvement

Will this project foster/generate a community conservation ethic through citizen/youth involvement? If so, please explain. *

Will the project have local community involvement? *

How would this grant catalyze or sparks other partners and future or ongoing conservation efforts at the project site? *

A desire of projects awarded under this grant, is to have an outreach component. How will you promote this project through your organization? *

Bass Pro Shops is a key conservation partner and benefactor in this project opportunity. How do you envision Bass Pro Shops would view your project? How would this project help Bass Pro Shops elevate what they do for conservation? *

Funding Request and Budget

There is no match requirement for this grant opportunity. However please note all other contributions for this project. *

Will your project be completed by 12/1/23? *

Acknowledgment

I confirm that all information I entered in this form is accurate and true.

I understand that the information in this form is not for public use and remains confidential depending on the agreement.

I certify that all purchases, invoices, certifications, financial statement, and other legal documents are thoroughly checked and make sure it is accurate.

I understand that the application will be reviewed and thoroughly evaluated based on the criteria of the grantor.

I release this company (grantor) and its employees from any liabilities, claims, and demands that may arise during this application.

By signing this form, you agree to the terms and conditions indicated on this form.

Date Signed



Month Day Year