

November 6, 2024



NATIONAL
FISH HABITAT
PARTNERSHIP

Policy Committee Update

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Policy Committee

- **Board awareness and discussion:** ACE Act re-authorization updates
- **Board awareness:** Scientific and technical support update
- **Board awareness:** Other policy committee activities
- **Board awareness:** Election update

ACE Act Re-Authorization Activity

- Bill marked up in the House
 - Overall, language remains the same as the Senate
 - No increase in funding authorization levels
 - Update to Congressional Designation process language
- House ACE Act Reauthorization Fact Sheet Available
- Next steps

Ace Act 2.0 (House Version)

- Adding two Board Seats (BLM, and ensuring EFMC and MFC have a seat)
- ACE Act funding timeline – remove “following fiscal year” language to provide flexible funding timeline driven by the Board
- Federal match requirement changes
 - 50% of the total cost of all fish habitat conservation projects come from non-Federal funds (Partnership level match)
 - Board authority to recommend operations funding have no cost-share
- Add BLM to agencies receiving technical assistance and get funding for it
- ~~Increase authorization funding to \$10 million (from \$7.2)~~
- ~~Add an authorization of \$1M for the National Fish Habitat Assessment~~

Ace Act 2.0 (House Version)

- Reauthorization of the NFHP program through 2030
- Clarification on annual report on updates to FHPs: required only when there are changes
- Clarification on 5-year summary report: have one condensed report as opposed to two overlapping reports
- Exemption to be added that would allow FHP coordination “projects” to be submitted without non-Federal match requirement
- Shifted designation process: FHP Board sends recommendations to committees of jurisdiction (HNR, Senate EPA). If congress does not take action within a 90 days, then FHPs are congressionally designated. **

Scientific & Technical Support

- At our last meeting, decided to move forward with working towards getting scientific & technical support funding
- NFHP Policy met with Budget Examiners from USFS and USGS
 - Overview of NFHP and budget request
 - Examples at the national level and from two FHPs

Other Activities

- The committee wrote a governance document that outlines the terms of reference for the committee (see Board book)
- Election update