

# Rebuilding a National Fish & Aquatic Conservation Strategy

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# Outline

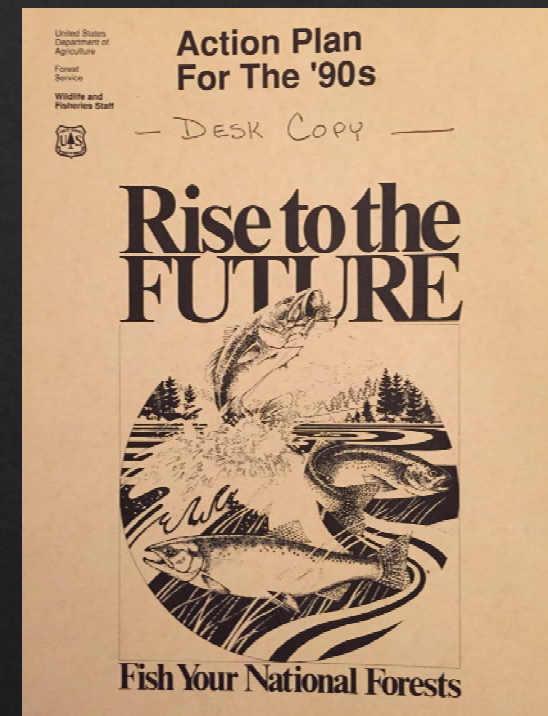
1. Background
2. Process and Progress to Date
3. Timing and Next Steps
4. Questions and Feedback





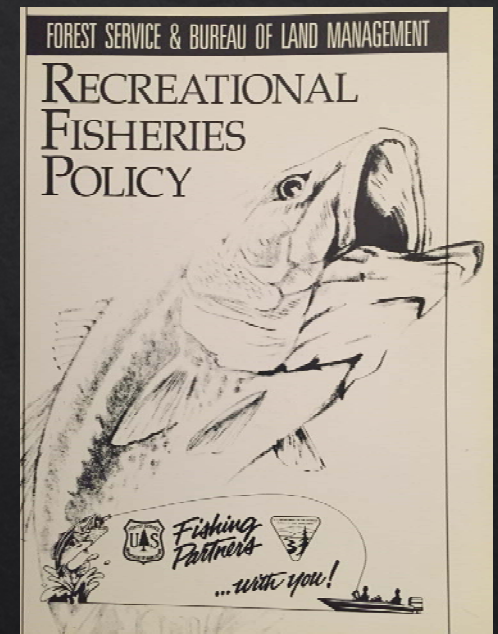
# Background

- ◆ 1985 – American Fisheries Society evaluates Forest Service Fisheries Program.
- ◆ 1987 – Rise to the Future (RTTF) Fisheries Program established.
- ◆ 1991 – RTTF Action Plan updated in collaboration with external partners.
- ◆ FishNet, a strong external partnership base, was key to establishing relevancy and integrating program delivery into the agency's mission.



# RTTF Action Plan for the 90s

- ◆ Through RTTF, the Forest Service became a national leader in fisheries habitat management and research.
- ◆ Forest Service Fisheries program budget and staffing grew substantially during first decade.
- ◆ Forest Service and partners promoted recreational fishing as a top priority.





# Why Rebuild the Strategy?

- ◆ The RTTF Action Plan is 30 years old.
- ◆ The agency and society face different and more complex challenges.
- ◆ Forest Service has increased emphasis on integration & collaboration.
- ◆ Our partners have called for it.
- ◆ We recognize many great opportunities.



# Process and Progress to Date

- ◆ National team widely representative of the agency, across all branches and at all levels.
- ◆ Team structure: core team, extended participants, multiple work groups.
- ◆ Engaging partners throughout.
- ◆ Seeking to align goals and objectives with Forest Service Strategic Plan.
- ◆ Developing draft goals and objectives.





## **Draft Goals**

- Goal 1: Conserve and Restore Fish and Aquatic Resources**
- Goal 2: Connect People to the Aquatic World through Recreational Fishing, Boating, and Other Water-based Activities**
- Goal 3: Strengthen Partnerships and Work Across Boundaries**
- Goal 4: Deliver and Apply Scientific Research**
- Goal 5: Build Capacity through Mentoring and Training**
- Goal 6: Communicate the Value of our Work**

# Strategic Alignment and Integrated Delivery

- ◇ Protection, conservation, and restoration of fish and aquatic resources is widely embraced, strategically aligned, and well integrated into our work portfolio at all levels.
- ◇ Integration of fish and aquatic conservation work is seen as a combination of the parts, like a tapestry, where the uniqueness of the parts can still be realized while they complement each other.
- ◇ Employees are actively engaged at local, regional, and national levels.
- ◇ National forests and grasslands are recognized for their importance in fish and aquatic resource conservation, recovery, and public use and enjoyment.



<b>National Fish and Aquatic Conservation Strategy Goals</b>	<b>1. Conserve and Restore Fish and Aquatic Resources</b>	<b>2. Connecting People to the Aquatic World Through Fishing, Boating, and Other Water-Based Activities</b>	<b>3. Strengthen Partnerships and Work Across Boundaries</b>	<b>4. Deliver and Apply Scientific Research</b>	<b>5. Build Capacity Through Mentoring and Training</b>	<b>6. Communicate the Value of Our Work</b>
<b>USDA Forest Service Strategic Plan: FY2015-FY2020 Goals</b>	<b>Sustain our Nation's Forests &amp; Grasslands</b>	<b>Deliver Benefits to the Public; Sustain our Nation's Forests &amp; Grasslands</b>	<b>Sustain our Nation's Forests &amp; Grasslands; Deliver Benefits to the Public; Excel as a High Performing Agency</b>	<b>Apply Knowledge Globally, Excel as a High Performing Agency</b>	<b>Excel as a High Performing Agency, Sustain our Nation's Forests &amp; Grasslands</b>	<b>All four agency goals</b>

## **Goal 1**

### **Conserve and Restore Fish and Aquatic Resources**

- ◆ **Evaluate Status and Diversity of Aquatic Species and Habitats on National Forests and Grasslands.**
- ◆ **Identify Conservation Watersheds to Focus Protection, Conservation, and Restoration Efforts.**
- ◆ **Lead, Participate in, and Contribute to Protection, Conservation, and Restoration Plans.**
- ◆ **Implement Protection, Conservation, and Restoration Actions and Demonstrate Outcomes.**
- ◆ **Monitor Native Aquatic Species and Habitats.**



## **Goal 2**

### **Connect People to the Aquatic World through Recreational Fishing, Boating, and Other Water-based Activities**

- ◆ **Increase Recreational Fishing on National Forests and Grasslands.**
- ◆ **Connect People to the Outdoors through Water-based Recreation and Education.**
- ◆ **Market and Promote Recreational Fishing and other Water-based Activities.**
- ◆ **Collaborate with Tribal Governments to Enhance Fish and Aquatic Resources.**

## **Goal 3**

### **Strengthen Partnerships and Work Across Boundaries**

- ◆ **Expand Our All-Lands Approach with Our Partners.**
- ◆ **Create Strong and Durable Partner Relationships and Improve Business Practices.**
- ◆ **Increase Large Corporate and Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships that Provide Multiple Conservation Benefits.**



## **Goal 4**

### **Deliver and Apply Scientific Research**

- ◆ Identify and Prioritize Fish and Aquatic Ecosystem Science Needs.**
- ◆ Produce, Support, and Synthesize Needed Fish and Aquatic Conservation Science.**
- ◆ Promote Use of Forest Service Science to Foster Effective Management and Desired Outcomes.**
- ◆ Improve Data Collection and Data Stewardship to Increase Transparency and Opportunities for Collaborative Partnerships.**

## **Goal 5**

### **Build Capacity through Mentoring and Training**

- ◆ **Ensure our workforce is made up of employees from diverse backgrounds.**
- ◆ **Provide opportunities for technical and professional development through training and mentoring.**
- ◆ **Foster an environment of professional excellence.**

## **Goal 6**

### **Communicate the Value of Our Work**

- ◆ **Develop and Share Media and Information to Increase Public Awareness and Engagement with Fish and Aquatic Resources.**
- ◆ **Communicate the Value and Importance of Our Collaborative Partnerships**
- ◆ **Listen and Respond to Our Partners and the Public**



## Timeline and Next Steps

- ◇ March: Circulate draft strategy internally. Hold meeting to review and revise. Identify measures to track progress.
- ◇ April: Complete internal review.
- ◇ May – June: Circulate draft strategy for partner review: state and federal agencies, tribal governments, NGOs.
- ◇ July: Finalize National Fish and Aquatic Conservation Strategy.
- ◇ September: Vet strategy with USFS and USDA leadership.
- ◇ November: Rollout Strategy to the public.

# Questions or Feedback?

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