



**National Fish Habitat Partnership**  
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June 15, 2017

Dan Shively  
USDA Forest Service  
Watershed, Fish, Wildlife, Air & Rare Plants  
201 14th Street SW, Yates Bldg., 3 SC  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Dan:

On behalf of the National Fish Habitat Board, thank you for the opportunity to review the Forest Services' National Fish and Aquatic Stewardship Strategy. It is a thoughtful, well-articulated plan and we commend the Service's emphasis on partnerships in stewarding the nation's aquatic resources and its commitment to fish habitat conservation in national forests, grasslands, and beyond. In addition, we applaud your goal of better connecting the American people to the aquatic world through recreational fishing. As a partnership of Federal, tribal, state, local, non-government, and other entities, we see many opportunities to provide mutual support to achieve these shared priorities.

We encourage the Service to use the National Fish Habitat Board and individual Fish Habitat Partnerships to help guide and achieve the goals of its Fish and Aquatic Stewardship Strategy. And as a state-led Partnership, we would also like to highlight the importance of coordinating with state fish and wildlife agencies and their distinctive statutory authorities, particularly when it comes to identifying conservation areas or establishing fishery management policy. In the attached document we have identified areas in the strategy where these and other ideas can be further clarified or emphasized.

We appreciate the Forest Service's participation in the National Fish Habitat Partnership and look forward to working together towards protecting, restoring, and enhancing the nation's fish and aquatic communities through partnerships that foster fish habitat conservation and improve the quality of life for the American people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Champeau".

Tom Champeau, Chair  
National Fish Habitat Board