



FISHERIES HABITAT RESTORATION COMMUNITY BASED RESTORATION PROGRAM FY 2011 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) requests an increase of \$10.4M in FY 2011 for a total of \$23.8M to support the Community-based Restoration Program. With this funding NMFS will implement larger-scale ecological restoration that achieves significant benefits for species of concern, and threatened or endangered species.

NOAA will focus on increasing habitat to support recovery of species by reversing the loss of coastal wetlands that provide spawning and rearing habitat, improving hydrological function of coastal wetlands, and restoring the ecological functions of our rivers. The requested funding will advance national priorities for larger-scale habitat restoration and strengthen NOAA's leadership role in science-based conservation.

Overview

The NOAA Restoration Center provides technical and funding assistance through the Community-based Restoration Program (CRP) to support restoration of coastal habitats through national and regional partnerships. NOAA awards funding competitively to partnerships and community-led efforts to restore thousands of acres and open hundreds of stream miles of coastal and estuarine habitat that result in revitalized habitat and long-term stewardship of our nation's marine and coastal resources.

Since 1996, the Community-based Restoration Program has funded more than 1,500 habitat restoration projects in 26 states, the Caribbean and the Pacific. These projects have restored over 41,000 acres of fishery habitat and opened more than 1,700 miles of stream for migratory fish. NMFS staff around the country provides partners with technical assistance on engineering, site evaluation, restoration planning, monitoring, and environmental compliance to ensure effective design and implementation of successful projects.

Habitat Restoration for Listed Species

Habitat destruction, degradation, and modification are a threat to endangered and threatened species populations and a major factor limiting recovery of these populations. With this funding, NOAA will improve habitat condition and ecosystem function through larger-scale habitat restoration in targeted areas to support recovery efforts for listed species and species of concern. NOAA can capitalize on its experience implementing larger-scale habitat restoration projects gained through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), and further strengthen its leadership role in science-based habitat conservation.

The Community-based Restoration Program is authorized by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to implement and support the restoration of fishery and coastal habitats. This includes initiatives such as focusing on listed species to further NOAA goals for recovery of threatened and endangered species. This funding allows NOAA to support larger-scale initiatives that address agency priorities for reducing threats that limit recovery of listed species, restoring wetlands and opening fish passage that provide spawning and rearing habitat for fish. These large-scale initiatives would address habitat degradation that is caused by human impacts and further exacerbated by climate change, and would focus on:

- River restoration—improving ecological function of rivers through riparian restoration
- Wetlands restoration—restoring natural hydrology to improve habitat condition at the watershed-scale
- Fish passage—remove barriers to improve population trends in listed and migratory species.



NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION