

# Wyoming

# Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program

Wyoming's landscapes contain 62 million acres of diverse habitats and equally diverse fish and wildlife resources. Forty-two percent of Wyoming's land is privately owned, and managers of these lands play an integral role in sustaining native fish and wildlife. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Partners for Wildlife Program has been teaming with private landowners to enhance habitat in Wyoming since 1988.



## How can a landowner benefit?

The Partners Program provides voluntary cost-share to fund habitat enhancements; special emphasis has been placed on projects that simultaneously benefit agricultural production and wildlife habitat. Past examples include fence and water developments that improve livestock grazing management, irrigation diversion upgrades

that allow for traditional water withdrawal and fish passage in streams, and irrigation infrastructure rehabilitation to maintain and enhance created wetlands. Funding levels depend on project type, availability of other funding partners, and current USFWS budget.

# What strings are attached?

Generally, landowners agree to maintain the new structure (e.g. fence, dike, fish screen, etc.) and use it for its intended purpose for at least 10 years. Landowners retain all rights to control access to their private property.

#### **Project Types:**

- Wetlands
  - Restoration of natural wetlands
  - Enhancement of artificial wetlands



Ray Lake wetland restoration

#### • Streams

- o In-stream habitat improvement
- Fish barrier removal and irrigation infrastructure rehabilitation



- Riparian Habitat
  - Fencing to create special-use pastures
  - Off-stream livestock water developments



Healthy riparian/wet meadow habitat

- Invasive species control
- Upland Habitat
  - Fencing and water developments to control season and duration of livestock grazing

 Mechanical vegetation treatments/reseeding



Upland & riparian grazing management project

#### **Contact:**

Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program staff can provide general technical assistance and assist with all aspects of project planning, design, permitting, and funding.

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