Jun 29th, 2:15 PM - 2:35 PM

Session C8- Migratory fish, Fish passage and the National Partnership between The Nature Conservancy and NOAA's Community-based Restoration Program

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Hancock, Boze and Bowden, Alison, "Session C8- Migratory fish, Fish passage and the National Partnership between The Nature Conservancy and NOAA's Community-based Restoration Program" (2011). International Conference on Engineering and Ecohydrology for Fish Passage. 40.
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Migratory fish, Fish passage and the National Partnership - TNC and NOAA’s CRP

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Acknowledgments

NOAA Restoration Center
- TNC-NOAA National Partnership for Community-based Restoration

Private donors including the Kabcenell Family Foundation, Quay Foundation, Shell, and the Turner Foundation

20,000+ volunteers and dozens of Partners

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)
Outline

Describe the National Partnership
TNC- NOAA CRP (core prog – funding opp)

Very brief overview of 10 years of Partnership

Provide rationale for project selection

Describe main criteria for successful proposals

Case studies
TNC and NOAA CRP
Restoring Many Habitats

• Ken Nedimyer, 2005

Mark Butler  Diana Garland  Carl LoBue  Ken Nedimyer, 2005
TNC-NOAA CRP Partnership; 109 projects, 4 National Partnerships, 2001-2010

**Restoration Target**
- Shellfish reefs & beds
- Open Rivers projects
- Other anadromous fish
- Salt marsh
- Seagrasses
- Coral
- Mangrove
- Other

The Nature Conservancy
Protecting nature. Preserving life.

NOAA
A series of 3 year agreements
2011 is the 2\textsuperscript{nd} year of the 4\textsuperscript{th} Partnership
- 2011 projects will be notified as soon as the NOAA spend plan is signed off
- Significant focus on shellfish 50\% of projects
- Migratory fish habitat 25\% of projects

2012 RFP out in early Feb
- open 6 to 8 weeks
- Projects notified end June (Approximately)

Funding $25-$85K
- Proof-of-concept scale

Sign up sheet for RFP! Pass along!
Proposal Selection Criteria

TNC’s Mission
Protecting biodiversity by protecting the lands and waters that native plants and animals need to survive

Conservation process – 4 components
- *Set priorities
- Develop strategies (Restoration)
- Conservation action (Restoration)
- *Measure success

Site is a priority in TNC Conservation Planning
- “Conservation By Design”
- Conservation priority setting based on data
- MARXAN optimization of result
- Provides ‘Portfolio’ or priority site list
- Accessed via web site AND contacting TNC
Proposal Criteria ‘TNC-NOAA CRP Partnership’

Community involvement
- *The C in CRP*

Restoration outcome
- Restoration footprint, important, accurately stated

Monitoring plan
- $ not limited
  - Short & long term

1:1 Non-federal match required

Mitigation funds – Ask!
Ecoregional assessment

Fine Filter Targets
Smalltooth Sawfish

Fine Filter Targets
Atlantic, Gulf and Shortnose Sturgeon
Check your site

Example.
FL Marine & Estuarine Priority Sites

Check with TNC chapter for updates

Stream barrier prioritization
Community involvement
- Some places it’s easy
Community involvement
- Some places it isn’t
Restoration footprint
Not planning / Design?
Other selection criteria

Multi species benefit
Emphasis on Ecosystem-Based Management
Linkages- Terrestrial, freshwater, marine

Partners

Capacity to leverage policy or incr. investment

Priority classifications, EFH, Listed Sp., nursery, Special management areas

• A somewhat difficult fit with many aspects of migratory fish habitat restoration
• An innovative approach required
Alabama & Cahaba Rivers fish passage

Partner with ACoE
Add pumps & attractant flows
Create a schedule of loch operation during migration
  Independent of boat traffic
Huge restoration potential

Community engagement through monitoring
Acoustic tracking & Monitoring loch
Tagging and tracking done with volunteers
Fisher surveys
Developing cost effective ways to add large woody structure
Without engineering
Remove tide gate
Construct sloughs
Construct backwater ponds
Huge volunteer investment in revegetation
Tidal reconnection, Coho salmon habitat

Fish monitoring using
- Nets
- Traps
- Passive integrated transponder (PIT) tags & receivers

All indicate huge value to pre-yearling coho salmon
Overwintering / growth habitat
Providing shelter habitat for salmonids waiting for estuary opening
Outreach via Ecology Center coursework
Common New England scale dam removal

Developing sediment control Mechanisms

Visitor center & trails
Conclusions

- TNC-NOAA CRP Partnership does fund fish passage
- Small scale
- Component of a larger project
- Requirements of Partnership can make meeting criteria difficult

- Viable option when criteria can be met
  Community involvement
  Restoration outcomes
  Sound monitoring of results

Contact NOAA RC and TNC staff