

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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To: State Directors

From: Director

Subject: Draft Recreational Fishing Conservation Plan Implementation Strategy

DD: 11/27/96

The draft strategy for implementing the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Recreational Fishing Program is attached for your review and comment. Copies of the *Recreational Fishery Resources Conservation Plan (Plan)* were sent to each State by Federal Express on Friday, November 8, 1996, so that the BLM strategy may be compared to the national *Plan*. This draft document is the product of the Recreational Fishing Strategy Team which included expertise in fisheries, range, and outdoor recreation management. Your input will complete the process of developing the BLM strategy for Recreational Fishing which will provide the basis for BLM's efforts to improve both fishery habitat and recreational opportunities on public lands.

The *Plan* requires each Federal agency to develop an agency specific document that details the actions it will undertake to meet the national goal. The agency specific plans will be attached to the master document in December, 1996. The Department of the Interior will be required to annually report specific agency/bureau accomplishments to the National Recreational Fisheries Coordination Council by March 31, beginning in 1997. The Coordination Council will prepare a report analyzing each agency/bureau's accomplishments and progress toward the *Plan's* goal. The report will be distributed to a variety of audiences, including Congress, and could have an impact on the appropriations process.

It is, therefore, important that you carefully review the *Strategy's* state specific project descriptions to assure that they are compatible with your land management objectives from FY 1997 through 2000. The BLM will be evaluated on its progress toward implementing the projects and activities described in the *Strategy*. The ability to accomplish the work described in the final document is critical. The team member(s) from each State have been asked to brief you and your management team on the *Strategy* and their input to the state-specific objectives.

Suggestions or changes should be provided to Deborah Ann New, Fish, Wildlife and Forests Group, WO-230, LSB-204, by November 27, 1996. For additional information contact Deborah at 202-452-7753, Jill Silvey at 208-373-4045 or Michelle Dawson, Recreation Group at 202-452-5134.

Signed
Maitland Sharpe
Assistant Director
Renewable Resources and Planning

Authenticated
Glenda Barnes
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2 Attachments

- 1 - State Recreational Fishing Conservation Plan Implementation Goals (45 pp)
- 2 - Draft Recreational Fishing Strategy (11 pp)

Alaska's Recreational Fishing Conservation Plan Implementation Goals

Access BLM Recreational Fishing Information at: <http://www.blm.gov/nhp/prodserv/rec/fishing/>

INTRODUCTION TO ALASKA'S FISHERY RESOURCES

The BLM in Alaska manages lands through which flow approximately 97,000 miles of fishable streams and 2.6 million acres of lake habitat. Some of these areas offer extremely high quality recreational fishing opportunities. Most of these streams exist in a natural state with relatively few habitat problems resulting from human activities. Where habitat problems have occurred the general causes are attributable to mining, logging, and road construction activities. Of those types of activities logging is not a significant problem on BLM lands. There is a high demand for quality fishing opportunities and in some areas there is intense competition among sport fishers and in the same and other areas there is sometimes intense competition among user groups with commercial, subsistence and sport fishers all wanting their share of a limited resource. These competition problems like those of habitat destruction and pollution are usually located in the areas where the most people live and in areas that are road accessible, although competition occurs in some remote areas over some species and between some user groups. All five species of Pacific salmon are popular recreational species. Other species include northern pike, Arctic grayling, rainbow trout and steelhead, cutthroat trout, Dolly Varden, Arctic char, lake trout, and sheefish. Some of the streams on BLM lands that offer good to excellent fishing opportunities are well known such as the Gulkana River while others are practically unknown and are lightly and rarely exploited. Opportunities for maintaining, developing and enhancing fishing opportunities include habitat rehabilitation in areas that have been heavily placer mined for gold, restoring populations in some areas that have been too heavily harvested in the past, providing information about the location of areas which currently are not fished, and improving and developing angler access. Satellite imagery and digital hydrography are being acquired through partnerships which will enable us to better monitor change in key watersheds, and, an aquatic information management system (ARIMS) is being developed to support field level monitoring and inventory of aquatic resources.

PROJECTS/PARTNERS PROPOSED--FY 1997 THROUGH FY 2000

Plan Strategy 1: Conserve, enhance, and restore recreational fisheries habitats and fish stocks, emphasizing self-sustaining fish stocks where feasible.

Although, Alaska has an abundance of fish habitat, the BLM in will work to improve habitat in mining areas by working with the miners and other responsible agencies to see that the best mining practices available are used to mitigate potential harmful impacts. The BLM in Alaska will also restore disturbed land to minimize siltation of streams and other non-point source pollution. Some of these opportunities are on small streams that may not be fished but contain habitat necessary for completing the life cycle of several species. Hoosier Creek is an example of an upland stream where innovative habitat restoration techniques are being used to restore habitat heavily impacted from mining. Glacial and Salmon Lakes are sockeye salmon spawning and nursery lakes heavily overfished many years ago where a cooperative project with the State and a private organization is in place to restore populations of this popular fish to former levels of abundance. Studies are in progress or under development to gather important life history information so proper protective measures can be instituted to protect their habitats should they become threatened. Studies on steelhead in the Gulkana River are examples of ongoing work. In-stream flow studies are being conducted on three segments of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System to insure abundant water for recreational and fishery purposes.

Alaska has adequate fisheries habitat, the state will focus more on other areas of recreational fisheries.

Plan Strategy 2: Develop and maintain recreational fishing facilities and access.

There are opportunities to enhance access to fishing areas on BLM lands in several areas. Those identified include the following:

Project	Cost	Funded/FY	Unfunded Need
Upgrade boat launch (including access for handicap): Glennallen District - Tangle Lakes			
Construct a boat ramp: Northern District - Salmon Lake			
Provide river access: Northern District			
Kuzitrin River			
Pilgrim River			
Develop trails: Northern District - White Mt. National Recreation Area			
Trailhead identification: Northern District - Dalton Highway Lakes			

Plan Strategy 3: Promote public education and support for resource conservation and ethics, recreational angling, and safety.

The BLM in partnership with the Nome, Alaska High School and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game developed an aquatic education program that was centered around a demonstration salmon incubation and rearing system in the Nome High School. We supported this pioneer program for three years until it was self sufficient. In addition this program has expanded to other schools in the Norton Sound region because of the success of the pilot program. Presently one of our staff members is developing a proposal to develop an aquatic education program in the Seward Peninsula/Norton Sound region but this project is still in the formative stages of development.

BLM participates with many partners to introduce school children to fishing basics and fishing issues during National Fishing Week and Outdoor Week, (a series of Alaska events which reaches 3000 to 4000 children across the state) . BLM Alaska has just completed the Science Center which is located at the BLM's Campbell Tract Facility in Anchorage. The Science Center is an environmental education facility which is operated in partnership with school district.

Plan Strategy 4: Work collaboratively with state and Tribal management partners, industry, anglers, and conservation groups.

The BLM maintains a partnership agreement with Trout Unlimited along with a variety of other Federal Agencies. The BLM is also working in partnership with various state and Federal agencies, local governments, interest groups

and industry on various projects including, standardizing mining reclamation requirements and techniques, developing a statewide framework process which can be used to collaboratively manage issues on a watershed basis, and, acquiring, standardizing, sharing spatial data such as hydrography and satellite imagery. Each of these joint activities will produce products which can be applied directly to the conservation of our recreational fishery resource.

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Arizona's Recreational Fishing Conservation Plan Implementation Goals

Access BLM Recreational Fishing Information at: <http://www.blm.gov/nhp/prodserv/rec/fishing/>

INTRODUCTION TO ARIZONA'S FISHERY RESOURCES

The Bureau of Land Management in Arizona administers approximately 14.2 million acres of public land. This amounts to about one fifth of the state's land surface. These lands are composed primarily of four major deserts; Chihuahaun, Sonoran, Mojave and Great Basin. Included within these broad habitats are relatively small amounts of wetland/riparian habitats which are extremely important simply because of their relative scarcity in desert environments. Much of the 9,000 acres of lakes and reservoirs and 130 miles of fishable streams are managed by the Yuma and Havasu Field Offices.

Arizona's arid environment offers interesting opportunities for managing fish habitat on public land. There are no cold water fisheries on public lands, and what warmwater fisheries exist, other than the Colorado River, are confined to occasional small reservoirs and short stretches of the Gila and Virgin Rivers. BLM's role in fishery management on the Colorado River is growing as more emphasis is placed on recreational fishing. The Lake Havasu Fisheries Improvement Program is a prime example. The BLM, in partnership with the Arizona and California state wildlife agencies, Bureau of Reclamation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and Anglers United are undertaking the largest warmwater fisheries habitat improvement and angler access project in the United States.

A wide array of fish are native to Arizona, including saltwater species. The majority of native fish species in Arizona are imperiled. Several species exist only outside Arizona, and others are present only because they have been reintroduced. The three saltwater species only occur during the rare instances when the Colorado River flows all the way to the Gulf of California. Arizona public land supports some of the best remaining habitats for native fish species. Aravaipa Creek contains the most diverse assemblage of native fish in the state. Other important habitats include the San Pedro, Virgin and Gila Rivers and Bonita, Burro and Cienega Creeks. There is considerable opportunity for the restoration of native fish on public land. There is also an opportunity to expand recreational fisheries on public land where no conflict exists with native fish.

PROJECTS/PARTNERS PROPOSED--FY 1997 THROUGH FY 2000

Plan Strategy 1: Conserve, enhance, and restore recreational fisheries habitats and fish stocks, emphasizing self-sustaining fish stocks where feasible.

Arizona will pursue undertaking several projects which will enhance recreational fisheries. The priority project will be the Lake Havasu Fisheries Improvement Project, where 660 acres of habitat will be enhanced by 2000.

Project	Cost	Funded/FY	Unfunded Need
Install fish habitat improvement structures:			

Lake Havasu			
Ehrenburg-Cibola Recreation Area			
Lower Colorado River			
Squaw Lake			
Little Senator's Wash			
Mittry Lake			
Palo Verde Oxbox			
Paradise Cove			
Yuma (Redondo) Lakes			
Secure in-stream flows to protect water rights in wilderness areas			
Protect outstandingly remarkable values in 14 river areas determined suitable for inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic River System			
Restoring or creating new fishing opportunities:			
Colorado City (Proposed)			
Painted Rock Borrow Pit Lake (Proposed)			

Plan Strategy 2: Develop and maintain recreational fishing facilities and access.

Arizona will continue to enhance recreational fishing opportunities by improving facilities, primarily at Lake Havasu, Parker Strip and the Lower Colorado River.

Project	Cost	Funded/FY	Unfunded Need
Develop universally accessible fishing docks:			
Lake Havasu			
Betty's Kitchen			
Ehrenburg-Cibola Recreation Area			
Construct/improve support facilities (restrooms, parking etc):			
Lake Havasu			
Parker Strip			
Ehrenburg-Cibola Recreation Area			

Yuma (Redondo) Lakes			
Lower Colorado River (6 sites)			
Improve parking areas and boat provide better access:			
Lake Havasu			
Parker Strip			
Ehrenburg-Cibola Recreation Area			
Construct boat ramps:			
Ehrenburg-Cibola Recreation Area			
Lower Colorado River (Palo Verde Oxbow)			
Develop access trails and canoe portages:			
Lake Havasu			
Parker Strip			
Reopen recreational facility:			
Parker Strip			
Painted Rock Borrow Pit Lake			
Acquire waterfront properties for fishing/river access:			
Lower Colorado River (3 sites)			

Plan Strategy 3: Promote public education and support for resource conservation and ethics, recreational angling, and safety.

Arizona will promote recreational fisheries through co-sponsorship of events targeted at young people.

Project	Cost	Funded/FY	Unfunded Need
“Kid’s Fishing Day” at Lake Havasu (2 times/yearly)			
Wonderful Outdoor World (WOW) for intercity children (20 events statewide)			

Plan Strategy 4: Work collaboratively with state and Tribal management partners, industry, anglers, and conservation

groups.

Arizona's primary effort will be the completion of the Lake Havasu Fisheries Improvement Project, a 10 year (1992-2002), \$30 million project dollar which will accomplish habitat improvement on 875 acres, and development of shoreline angler access trails, floating fishing docks, and support facilities. In addition, the Lake Havasu Project has a native fish component which will help reduce conflicts between native fish and Endangered Species Act responsibilities. The primary partnerships formed, or proposed in the state:

- Lake Havasu Fisheries Improvement Project
 - PARTNERS: BLM, Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Anglers Unlimited, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, California Department of Fish and Game, Arizona Game and Fish Department
 - SUPPORTERS: Arizona State Parks, Lake Havasu City Parks and Recreation Dept., Havasu Springs Resort, Chemehuevi Indians, Arizona Wildlife Federation, Shimano Corporation, Berkley Corporation, local Bass Clubs
- Lower Colorado River Habitat Improvement
 - PARTNERS: BLM, Bureau of Reclamation
- State of Arizona
 - Grants to improve habitat, water quality, visitor access, visitor information and interpretation through various state grant programs.
- Colorado City Recreational Fishing Program (Proposed)
 - POTENTIAL PARTNERS: BLM, AZ Game and Fish Department, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the town of Colorado City
- Painted Rock Borrow Pit Lake (Proposed)
 - POTENTIAL PARTNERS: BLM, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Army Corps of Engineers, Hokokam Resource Conservation District, Gila Bend Natural Resource Conservation District, and the town of Gila Bend

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STATE DIRECTOR

DATE

California's Recreational Fishing Conservation Plan Implementation Goals

Access BLM Recreational Fishing Information at: <http://www.blm.gov/nhp/prodserv/rec/fishing/>

INTRODUCTION TO CALIFORNIA'S FISHERY RESOURCES

Nearly 10 million people observe, harvest, photograph and otherwise appreciate fish in California and Northwest Nevada. Recreational activities focusing on California fisheries generated a direct expenditure of \$1.8 billion in 1991.

The Bureau of Land Management manages 16 million acres of public lands in California and Northwest Nevada, including 3,500 miles of streams and 50,000 acres of lakes and reservoirs inhabited by fish. Native aquatic resources are essential to the biological integrity of the ecosystems in which they occur.

Fish and their habitats are important not only for their aesthetic and economic values, but also because they constitute part of California's and Nevada's highly valued natural heritage. Some think that fish are an isolated component of stream and lake communities. Fish are not an isolated component of any ecosystem. The factors adversely affecting fish in California are eroding the biological diversity of entire ecosystems. Similarly, goals under this strategy cannot be achieved without rehabilitation of the ecosystems upon which fish depend.

Healthy streams and lakes and their associated wetland habitats are among the world's most biologically diverse and highly productive environments. The land-water interface promotes complex associations of animals and plants, ranging from microscopic plant species to vegetation communities that sustain invertebrates, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. These habitats also play a role in purification of water supplies, moderating regional impacts of flooding, and collect rain and snow runoff, thus replenishing water supplies needed to sustain natural vegetation, agriculture crops, and other species, including humans. Economic development of California and Nevada has brought many changes to fish populations and the habitats that support them. Large-scale alterations of watersheds by dam construction, timber harvest, agriculture, and urbanization have affected the distribution and abundance of numerous fish species. Water projects built in California have not treated fish habitat very well, relying on hatcheries instead of healthy ecosystems to sustain fish populations. Salmon have been particularly impacted by dam building, many native salmon stocks are now at risk. Some are in danger of going extinct, such as the San Joaquin River fall run chinook.

Early concern for fish in California focused on the need to maintain stream habitat by banning hydraulic mining in 1884. We are still trying to maintain or enhance fish habitat in the 1990's. However, we are now taking the following five critical steps to improve management of fish habitat on public lands managed by BLM in California and NW Nevada:

- * Involve all interested and affected parties in all phases of watershed or ecosystem management;
- * Adopt regional ecosystem management principles;
- * Adopt ecosystem health as the primary land management goal;
- * Let best science provide the foundation for decision; and.

* Commit to long-term restoration.

PROJECTS/PARTNERS PROPOSED--FY 1997 THROUGH FY 2000

Plan Strategy 1: Conserve, enhance, and restore recreational fisheries habitats and fish stocks, emphasizing self-sustaining fish stocks where feasible.

Project	Cost	Funded/FY	Unfunded Need
Inventory/Monitoring of streams, lakes and reservoirs - 4,700 miles of streams, 4,300 acres of lakes and reservoirs	\$2,500,000		Yes
Watershed/Ecosystem Activity Planning - plans needed 50, plans revised 13, plans to be implemented 100	\$3,500,000		Yes
Ecosystem Restoration and Aquatic/Riparian Habitat Protection - proposed projects 80.	\$15,400,000		Yes
Outreach Projects and Partnership Agreements - projects 60, agreements 45	\$800,000		Yes
Maintain Current and Develop New fishery Recreational Sites - maintenance (sites) 20 develop/expand (sites) 17			
Land Exchanges and Acquisitions - water rights 15, easements 15, land exchanges 25			Yes
Research and Studies - Studies 25.			Yes

TOTAL FUNDING NEEDED: \$47,820,000

Plan Strategy 2: Develop and maintain recreational fishing facilities and access.

Fisheries Recreation Sites with Development/Expansion (D/E) and Maintenance (M) funding needs.

Project	Cost	Funded/FY	Unfunded Need
Bare Creek Exclosure	\$30,000	\$5,000	Yes
Hobo Camp and Devils Corral	\$70,000	\$5,000	Yes

Eagle Lake	\$200,000	\$5,000	Yes
Dodge Reservoir	\$100,000	\$5,000	Yes
Pit River Campground	\$50,000	\$5,000	
Horton Creek		\$15,000	
Rock Creek		\$15,000	
Merced River		\$110,000	
North Fork Yuba		\$10,000	
Squaw Leap, San Joaquin		\$20,000	
South Fork Yuba		\$30,000	
Mokelumne		\$30,000	
North Fork American River		\$30,000	
Kern River		\$15,000	
Kaweah Creek	\$50,000	\$5,000	
Dave Moore Nature Area		\$5,000	
Keyesville/Kern	\$100,000	\$5,000	
South Fork Kaweah	\$80,000	\$5,000	
Paynes Creek		\$10,000	
Copco Lake		\$5,000	

TOTAL FUNDING NEEDED: \$1,015,000

Plan Strategy 3: Promote public education and support for resource conservation and ethics, recreational angling, and safety.

Project	Cost	Funded/FY	Unfunded Need
Develop environmental education directed toward students, user groups, outdoor enthusiasts, and other interested individuals			
Work with private sector partners in developing and making fisheries related activities available to school-aged children during National Fishing Week and other outdoor program.			

Use the national Adopt-a-Watershed program to promote other fisheries related activities			
National Watchable Wildlife Program			
Bring Back the Natives			

Plan Strategy 4: Work collaboratively with state and Tribal management partners, industry, anglers, and conservation groups.

California Department of Fish and Game
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
California Department of Parks and Recreation
California Department of Food and Agriculture
California Department of Conservation
California Department of Water Resources
California State Lands Commission
California Association of Resource Conservation Districts
U.S. Forest Service Region 5
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. National Park Service
University of California
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Soil Conservation Service
U.S. Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service
California Trout Unlimited

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Colorado's Recreational Fishing Conservation Plan Implementation Goals

Access BLM Recreational Fishing Information at: <http://www.blm.gov/nhp/prodserv/rec/fishing/>

INTRODUCTION TO COLORADO'S FISHERY RESOURCES

BLM administer over 8 million acres of public land in Colorado that contain 2,600 miles of streams and 23,700 acres of lakes and reservoirs. These public aquatic resources provide resident fish with 1,900 stream miles and 17,600 lake and reservoir surface acres.

There are 89 species of fish in Colorado, these include 82 resident fish (endemic to the US) and 53 fish native to Colorado. Eleven native fish are currently listed as federal or state threatened or endangered species. Of the 89 species found in Colorado, 45 are considered to be game fish.

PROJECTS/PARTNERS PROPOSED--FY 1997 THROUGH FY 2000

Plan Strategy 1: Conserve, enhance, and restore recreational fisheries habitats and fish stocks, emphasizing self-sustaining fish stocks where feasible.

Additional opportunities for recreational fishing may be obtained by maintaining existing recreation use sites at reservoirs, rives, and working with interest groups to develop and expand recreation opportunities by completing one or more of the following:

Project	Cost	Funded/FY	Unfunded Need
Securing in-stream flows to protect fish habitat			
Completing recreation and habitat project planning			
Restoring riparian ecosystems			
Diverting water to enhance fisheries			
Improving fish habitat			
Completing land exchanges along rivers			
Improving water quality and quantity			

Additional Projects include:

- Inventory and evaluate habitat condition of all important fishery resources on a priority basis;
- Monitor all high priority fishery resources under current or proposed management where conflicting uses or potential impacts are anticipated;
- Summarize inventory data and store in ARIMS on an annual basis;
- Implement management actions i.e., grazing systems, and aquatic habitat improvement projects and project maintenance work as identified in approved activity plans;
- Develop aquatic habitat management plans in areas with important fisheries resources or where habitat conditions are impacted by other uses;
- Develop standards and guidelines to be used in Resource Management Plans and resource activity

- plans for the protection of priority riparian areas;
- Implement water right reservations for adequate flows on streams and impoundments supporting important fisheries;
 - Developing partnership agreements with other organizations to cooperatively fund habitat restoration or maintenance programs;
 - Using the concept of basinwide management, develop Coordinated Resource Management Plans with adjacent landowners to restore or maintain important fishery habitats;
 - In cooperation with other agencies and organizations, develop standardized fish habitat inventory and monitoring methodology and computerized data base for storage and retrieval of field data; and
 - Manage streamside riparian vegetative to maintain a healthy and productive vegetative condition within the framework of multiple use management.

Plan Strategy 2: Develop and maintain recreational fishing facilities and access.

Project	Cost	Funded/FY	Unfunded Need
Create a trail/path with universal access:			
Gunnison Forks (potential site)			
San Miguel River (potential site)			
Dolores River (potential site)			
Cunningham Creek (potential site)			
Increase access:			
Cebolla Creek (potential site)			
Lake Fork of Gunnison River (potential site)			
Cochetopa Creek (potential site)			
West Creek (Grand Junction District)			
Arkansas River - 5 sites			
Wheelchair platform:			
Dolores River (potential site)			
Construct campsites and day use areas:			
Dolores River Canyon/Dove Creek Pumping Station (potential site)			
Developing parking areas:			
Arkansas River - 3 sites			

Remove tamarisk and plant cottonwoods and willows:			
Arkansas River - 1 sites			
Construct protective fencing/railing:			
Arkansas River - 2 sites			
West Creek (Grand Junction District)			
Install fish habitat improvement structures:			
Arkansas River - 2 sites			
Securing (formal) easements for public access			
Developing (informal) landowner public access agreements			
Developing handicap access fishing sites			
Developing fishery access locations (parking areas and boat ramps)			
Completing land exchanges along rivers			

Plan Strategy 3: Promote public education and support for resource conservation and ethics, recreational angling, and safety.

Project	Cost	Funded/FY	Unfunded Need
Recognize individuals and organizations demonstrating excellence in riparian management			
Host educational programs for public and user groups on the value, productivity, and management of riparian areas			
Provide technical training and field tours on riparian classification, evaluation, and management			
Install interpretive signs for user education:			
Arkansas River - 2 sites			
Great Outdoors Colorado Program			
National Fishing Day Projects			
Pathways to Fishing Clinics			
Free Camping Day in recognition of National Fishing			

Habitat improvement projects:			
Lake Vermilion, MN (shoreline and spawning bed improvement)			
Black Lake, LA			
Wisconsin Rivers (including Milwaukee, Black, Chippewa, Menominee rivers)			
Milwaukee District will take advantage of opportunities for projects as they arise			

Plan Strategy 2: Develop and maintain recreational fishing facilities and access.

Project	Cost	Funded/FY	Unfunded Need
Create universally accessible docks and piers:			
Lake Vermilion, MN			
Provide greater fishing access:			
Black Lake, LA			
Improve support facilities:			
Wisconsin Rivers			
Enhanced local law enforcement:			
Black Lake, LA			
Milwaukee District will take advantage of opportunities for projects as they arise			

Plan Strategy 3: Promote public education and support for resource conservation and ethics, recreational angling, and safety.

Eastern States will conduct or participate in various fishing and fish education events on an annual basis. The following are highlights of the public education and support for resource conservation and ethics and recreational angling. In Milwaukee, the America's Outdoors Office can help promote public education and support for conservation and ethics, recreational fishing, and safety.

Plan Strategy 4: Work collaboratively with state and Tribal management partners, industry, anglers, and conservation groups.

Lake Vermilion, MN

PARTNERS- BLM, Minnesota DNR, USFS, local private parties Wisconsin Rivers

POTENTIAL PARTNERS- BLM, Wisconsin DNR, USFS, FWS, numerous local private organizations and individuals.

Black Lake, LA

POTENTIAL PARTNERS- BLM, Louisiana Game and Fish, FWS, numerous local fishing guides and private land owners.

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INTRODUCTION TO IDAHO'S FISHERY RESOURCES

The Bureau of Land Management in Idaho administers approximately 31.4 million acres of public land. The management of these public lands is done through three districts- Lower Snake River, Upper Snake River and Upper Columbia-Salmon-Clearwater. The ecological environments of the state are quite diverse. Southwest Idaho is known for its sagebrush steppe communities, eastern Idaho for lodgepole pine and northern Idaho for its native white pine and douglas fir communities. Central Idaho exhibits ponderosa pine communities which, at higher elevations, yields to alpine type communities (alpine fir/whitebark pine).

Fishery resources, to a large degree, are also tend to exhibit area characteristics. The southwest desert streams produce native red banned trout while the reservoirs and larger streams/rivers contain rainbow trout and smallmouth bass. Eastern Idaho is noted for native westslope cutthroat trout as well as rainbow trout and introduced brown trout. Northern Idaho has been noted for native dolly varden (bull trout) and lake trout. Central Idaho lays claim to the anadromous salmon and steelhead that draws thousands of anglers weekly during their runs.

Idaho has approximately 8,600 miles of fishable streams adjacent to public lands and 5,700 acres in 20 lakes and 36,900 acres in 97 reservoirs, and some 59,000 acres of riparian/wetlands. These waters support some 50 species of fish. Portions of the nationally famed Main and Lower Salmon Rivers, and Clearwater River border on public lands as do all or portions of Henry's Lake and Coeur d'Alene Lake. During September and October, these famed salmon and steelhead rivers draw fishermen from all parts of the country. Other significant cold water bodies include Island Park, Mormon and Magic reservoirs. The state also has a number of popular warm water areas- Paddock, Brownlee, Oxbow and Blackfoot reservoirs, and a popular walleye fishery at Salmon Falls Creek reservoir. In 1994, Idaho recorded 569,000 anglers fishing on public lands and 490,000 boaters (motor and non-motor).

PROJECTS/PARTNERS PROPOSED--FY 1997 THROUGH FY 2000

Plan Strategy 1: Conserve, enhance, and restore recreational fisheries habitats and fish stocks, emphasizing self-sustaining fish stocks where feasible.

Idaho will focus its major efforts to enhance fisheries habitats on restoration of riparian habitats adjacent to streams by restoring vegetation to the area and by reducing livestock access during all or portions of the season. Projects will include the following:

Project	Cost	Fund/FY	Unfunded Need
Providing additional habitat structures:			
Boise District - 1 site proposed			
Idaho Falls District - 4 sites proposed			

Protection from livestock to increase shrub restoration			
Boise District - 1 site proposed			
Burley District - 2 sites proposed			
Salmon District - 1 site proposed			
Reintroducing vegetation along streams:			
Burley District - 1 site proposed			
Salmon District - 1 site proposed			
Shoshone District - 4 sites proposed			
Install erosion control structures:			
Boise District - 2 sites proposed			
Burley District - 1 site proposed			
Shoshone District - 1 site proposed			

Plan Strategy 2: Develop and maintain recreational fishing facilities and access.

Idaho will continue to provide additional fishing and access opportunities through the following:

Project	Cost	Fund/FY	Unfunded Need
Convert to universally accessible recreation areas:			
Boise District - 1 site proposed			
Coeur d'Alene District			
Idaho Falls District - 4 sites proposed			
Crete additional access:			
Shoshone District - 2 sites proposed			
Create picnic area:			
Boise District - 1 site proposed			
Coeur d'Alene District - 5 sites proposed			
Idaho Falls District - 2 sites proposed			
Build support facilities (restrooms, parking, etc.):			
Boise District - 9 sites proposed			

Coeur d'Alene District - 4 sites proposed			
Idaho Falls District - 4 sites proposed			
Salmon District - 6 sites proposed			
Build/Improve fishing dock/pier:			
Boise District - 6 sites proposed			
Coeur d'Alene District - 3 sites proposed			
Idaho Falls District - 1 sites proposed			
Construct a boat ramp:			
Boise District - 6 sites proposed			
Coeur d'Alene District - 4 sites proposed			
Idaho Falls District - 3 sites proposed			
Develop trails:			
Coeur d'Alene District - 3 sites proposed			
Create camping area			
Boise District - 1 site proposed			
Coeur d'Alene District - 3 sites proposed			
Idaho Falls District - 1 site proposed			

Plan Strategy 3: Promote public education and support for resource conservation and ethics, recreational angling, and safety.

Idaho will use education and develop user ethics through development of the following projects.

Project	Cost	Funded/FY	Unfunded Need
Interpretative signs:			
Shoshone District - 2 sites (13 partners)			
Fishing map guides:			
Shoshone District - 1 project			

Plan Strategy 4: Work collaboratively with state and Tribal management partners, industry, anglers, and conservation groups.

Idaho will actively work with a number of partners to achieve BLM and partner goal/objectives in meeting fishing, boating and access needs of Idaho residents and visitors. Idaho will work with Trout

Unlimited, USFS, Idaho Fish and Game, BOR and other agencies to accomplish the following projects.

Project	Cost	Funded/FY	Unfunded Need
Challenge Cost Share Projects:			
Idaho Falls District (fish bypass) - 1 project			
Coeur d'Alene District (chinook red count, bull trout inv'y) - 2 projects			
Boise District (redbaned trout survey) - 1 project			
Free Fishing & Camping Day, BLM, USFS, Idaho Fish & Game, Idaho Parks & Recreation			
Project Wild, BLM and Idaho Fish & Game			
Idaho Rare Fishes & Bull Trout Posters, BLM, American Fisheries Society, Idaho Fish & Game			

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Montana's Recreational Fishing Conservation Plan Implementation Goals

Access BLM Recreational Fishing Information at: <http://www.blm.gov/nhp/prodserv/rec/fishing/>

INTRODUCTION TO MONTANA'S FISHERY RESOURCES

In Montana, great fishing is a way of life. Opportunities include legendary trout streams in the Central and Western portion of the State, spectacular walleye reservoirs in the East and paddlefish and sturgeon on the lower portions of the Missouri River drainage. Blue ribbon rivers such as the Madison, Yellowstone, Big Hole, Jefferson, Beaverhead, Missouri, and Clark Fork, support native cutthroat and rainbow trout and introduced species such as the Brown and brook trout. BLM and Bureau of Reclamation are partners on Canyon Ferry Reservoir, the heaviest fished reservoir in State with in excess of 200,000 visitors in 1995. An activity gaining popularity with unlimited potential is bow fishing for carp and non-game fish. Premier fly fishing opportunities abound on pristine trout streams for those wishing solitude and uncrowded wilderness if they are willing to explore areas off of the beaten track. Large reservoirs with crappie and large rivers with smallmouth bass are examples of other opportunities. There were approximately 450,000 visits to BLM lands in Montana related to fishing in FY 1995.

PROJECTS/PARTNERS PROPOSED--FY 1997 THROUGH FY 2000

Plan Strategy 1: Conserve, enhance, and restore recreational fisheries habitats and fish stocks, emphasizing self-sustaining fish stocks where feasible.

Project	Cost	Funded/FY	Unfunded Need
Continue to work with the State of Montana and other Federal agencies to solve the problem of whirling disease effects on trout populations			
Continue to cooperate on water reservations for instream flow protection and water rights filings for fish and wildlife values			
Develop cooperative management strategies to protect and improve habitat for warm and cold water fish			
Construct 5 or more new fishing reservoirs			
Cooperate on the Montana Stream Protection Act to protect fish habitats			
Coordinate land exchanges (land adjustment program) to acquire fisheries habitat and access with high recreational potential			
Continue cooperation with the current Interagency Stream and Lake data base			

Monitor potential point and non-point sources of water pollution			
Encourage the use of alternative irrigation diversion structures and Incremental shut-down procedures for water flow to irrigation ditches			
Improve to proper functioning condition 658 miles of non-functioning riparian areas and 1748 miles of riparian areas functioning at risk			

Plan Strategy 2: Develop and maintain recreational fishing facilities and access.

Provide new, or improve existing facilities at fishing sites, such as parking areas, trail systems, sanitation, boat ramps, handicap access, picnic tables and signs to direct the public."

Project	Cost	Funded/FY	Unfunded Need
Construct Day Use Areas:			
Salmon Reservoir			
Reser Reservoir			
Warm Springs			
Ennis Lake			
Develop Floating Dock			
Salmon Reservoir			
Reser Reservoir			
Construct Boat Ramp And Parking:			
West Madison Campground			
Create Trail/Path With Universal Access:			
Fort Meade Reservoir			
Chapman Reservoir			
Kipp Recreation Area			
Big Hole Special Management Area			
Pompeys Pillar			
Increase Access:			

Bad Canyon			
Sun River			
Clark Fork River			
Blacks Ford			
Devils Elbow			
Madison River			
Big Hole River			
Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone			
Yellowstone River			
Improve Support Facilities:			
Blackfoot River			

Plan Strategy 3: Promote public education and support for resource conservation and ethics, recreational angling, and safety.

Project	Cost	Funded/ FY	Unfunde d Need
Annual Kid's Fishing Events - 3 - 4			
National River Clean-up Week			
Develop and make available information on fishing opportunities on BLM land			

Plan Strategy 4: Work collaboratively with state and Tribal management partners, industry, anglers, and conservation groups.

Montana Dept of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks

- Montana Power
- United States Forest Service
- National Park Service
- local governments
- community
- Trout Unlimited
- Walleye Unlimited
- Ducks Unlimited
- Magic Valley Fly Fishers
- Federation of Fly Fishers
- Montana River Action Network

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Nevada's Recreational Fishing Conservation Plan Implementation Goals

Access BLM Recreational Fishing Information at: <http://www.blm.gov/nhp/prodserv/rec/fishing/>

INTRODUCTION TO NEVADA'S FISHERY RESOURCES

Nevada has a large recreation fishing program; much of it involves BLM administered waters. BLM in Nevada manages over 48 million acres; this includes more than 2,500 miles of fishing streams, 35,870 acres of lakes and reservoirs, and according to the FY 1995 RMIS, 3,380,840 fishing participants for the year on BLM administered areas.

There are 86 species of fish found in Nevada. These include 4 native game fish species and 51 species and subspecies are protected under the Endangered Species Act, or considered sensitive species.

Opportunities for enhancement are identified in each District Resource Management Plan. Joint agreements have been established with State departments for stocking and fishing enhancements in certain Districts.

PROJECTS/PARTNERS PROPOSED--FY 1997 THROUGH FY 2000

Plan Strategy 1: Conserve, enhance, and restore recreational fisheries habitats and fish stocks, emphasizing self-sustaining fish stocks where feasible.

Project	Cost	Funded/FY	Unfunded Need
Continue to work with the Nevada State Department of Wildlife to improve fisheries habitat and access with high recreational potential			
Implement joint agreements that have been established with NDOW for stocking and enhancements			
Restoring riparian habitat			
Protecting spawning areas and enhancing sensitive fish species habita			
Improving water quality and quantity			

Plan Strategy 2: Develop and maintain recreational fishing facilities and access.

Opportunities for enhancement are identified in each District Resource Management Plan. Joint agreements have been established with State departments for stocking and fishing enhancements in certain Districts.

Coordinate management plans with multiple resources and recreational fishing opportunities and protection: Carson River, Indian Creek Reservoir, Walker Lake, Walker River, Wilson Reservoir, Humboldt River, Salmon Falls Creek, and Wildhorse Reservoir.

Project	Cost	Funded/FY	Unfunded Need
Create/upgrade universally accessible recreation areas			
Provide greater fishing access			
Coordinate landowner public access agreements			
Improving boat ramps: Walker Lake			

Plan Strategy 3: Promote public education and support for resource conservation and ethics, recreational angling, and safety.

Project	Cost	Funded/FY	Unfunded Need
Derbies, joint brochures and volunteer river clean up projects			
Annual Fishing events and Derbies; Walker Lake			
Install interpretive signs for users education			
Participate in National River Clean-up Week; Carson River			
Provide educational brochures jointly with state and Federal agencies			

Plan Strategy 4: Work collaboratively with state and Tribal management partners, industry, anglers, and conservation groups.

Trout Unlimited, State Parks & Recreation, NV Dept of Wildlife
 Trout Unlimited Partnerships
 BLM Outfitter & Guide partnerships
 U.S. Forest Service
 Nevada State Division of Parks & Recreation and Division of Wildlife
 Sporting Goods Stores Partnerships

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New Mexico's Recreational Fishing Conservation Plan Implementation Goals

Access BLM Recreational Fishing Information at: <http://www.blm.gov/nhp/prodserv/rec/fishing/>

INTRODUCTION TO NEW MEXICO'S FISHERY RESOURCES

Recreational fishing opportunities in New Mexico are limited due to the States natural aridity, possessing the distinction of being the nations third most arid state. The state is comprised of eight major river drainages, with BLM managed public lands providing for a minority of the available fishing water. Fishing opportunities are concentrated in the northern third of the State where the BLM is responsible for the management of two Wild and Scenic Rivers, three Recreation Areas and approximately 20 miles of smaller fish-able streams.

There are approximately fourteen species of fish which are considered highly desirable by anglers and some early releases in the wild have resulted in the establishment of 27 species of sport fishes. The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish estimates that there are approximately 280,000 licensed anglers in the State. On BLM public lands there are approximately 132,763 anglers which account for approximately 809,681 angler hours of use.

PROJECTS/PARTNERS PROPOSED--FY 1997 THROUGH FY 2000

Plan Strategy 1: Conserve, enhance, and restore recreational fisheries habitats and fish stocks, emphasizing self-sustaining fish stocks where feasible.

Project	Cost	Funded/FY	Unfunded Need
Securing in-stream flows to protect fish habitat			
Restoring riparian habitat			
Protecting spawning areas from over harvest			
Enhancing sensitive fish species habitat			
Improving water quality and quantity			

Plan Strategy 2: Develop and maintain recreational fishing facilities and access.

Project	Cost	Funded/FY	Unfunded Need

Santa Cruz Lake Disabled Accessible fishing dock			
Orilla Verde Recreation Area Disabled fishing platform			
Racecourse fisherman access trails:			
Lover's Lane Access acquisition (5 acres)			
Orilla Verde Klauer acquisition (640 acres)			
Lower Gorge acquisitions (20 acres)			
John Dunn Bridge and County Line rest room facility development			
Acquiring easements for access (lower San Juan)			
Coordinated Resource Management Plans(CRMP) multiple resources and opportunities for use and protection:			
Lower Red River			
Rio Grande Wild and Scenic			
Lower Rio Grande			
Lower Rio Embudo			
Rio Embudo Box			
Agua Caliente			
Rio Hondo			
Rio Chama Wild and Scenic			
Santa Cruz Lake			

Plan Strategy 3: Promote public education and support for resource conservation and ethics, recreational angling, and safety.

Project	Cost	Funded/FY	Unfunded Need
National Fishing Day Projects:			
Dia del Rio whole river emphasis day			

BLM/Forest Service Eagle Rock Lake Fish Fiesta			
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Plan Strategy 4: Work collaboratively with state and Tribal management partners, industry, anglers, and conservation groups.

Sikes Act Habitat Improvement Stamp Program
Trout Unlimited Partnerships
BLM Outfitter/Guide Permittee Partnerships (River Floating/Fishing)
Fishing Gear Manufacturers Partnerships
Private industry organizations involved in resource extraction
Sporting Goods Stores Partnerships
US Forest Service
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
various other groups

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Oregon / Washington's Recreational Fishing Conservation Plan Implementation Goals

Access BLM Recreational Fishing Information at: <http://www.blm.gov/nhp/prodserv/rec/fishing/>

INTRODUCTION TO OREGON/WASHINGTON'S FISHERY RESOURCES

The BLM manages almost 16 million acres in Oregon and over 300,000 acres in Washington. These lands provide important aquatic habitats for anadromous fish (salmon and steelhead), trout and numerous warm water species. Most anadromous fish habitat on BLM managed land occurs in western Oregon, primarily in coastal rivers. The BLM also manages 287 miles of important salmon and steelhead habitat in eastern Oregon, primarily in the Deschutes and John Day river systems. Resident trout are produced in cold water habitats on forest lands in western Oregon and parts of eastern Oregon as well as in many desert streams and reservoirs. Warm water species such as largemouth bass, various sunfish and catfish are also found in lower reaches of major rivers and certain reservoirs throughout both states.

The BLM administered public lands and related waters in Oregon provide a diversity of recreational opportunities - from lake and reservoir fishing for trout and warm water species to stream and river fishing for steelhead, salmon, trout, and bass. These public fishing opportunities attract about 1,000,000 visits annually. Popular lakes include Hyatt and Owyhee Reservoirs, Warner Lakes, and a variety of smaller lakes, ponds and impoundments. Popular rivers, many nationally renowned for their native trout and steelhead, include the Rogue, North Umpqua, Nestucca, Sandy and Salmon rivers in western Oregon and the Deschutes, John Day, Crooked, Grande Ronde, Upper Klamath, Donner and Blitzen, and Owyhee in eastern Oregon. BLM administered lands on Washington's Yakima River provide blue ribbon trout fishing opportunities.

Commercial and recreational fishing have always been important to the northwest. Based upon a 1988 report, the estimated annual value of recreational fishing attributable just to BLM managed lands in Oregon is \$13.4 million (it is 30 billion nationwide for all land ownership). Not included in this figure is the value of non-consumptive uses and the significance of unique and threatened or endangered fishes scientific, educational, and cultural importance and value.

PROJECTS/PARTNERS PROPOSED--FY 1997 THROUGH FY 2000

Plan Strategy 1: Conserve, enhance, and restore recreational fisheries habitats and fish stocks, emphasizing self-sustaining fish stocks where feasible.

Project	Cost	Funded/FY	Unfunded Need
Securing in-stream flows to protect fish habitats			
Restoring/enhancing riparian and aquatic habitat			

Diverting water to enhance fisheries			
Improving spawning habitat			
Enhancing threatened/endangered species habitat			
Pursue management actions which improve water quality and quantity			
"Bring Back the Natives" program			
"NW Forest Plan"			
"Jobs-in-the-Woods" program			

Plan Strategy 2: Develop and maintain recreational fishing facilities and access.

Project	Cost	Funded/FY	Unfunded Need
Securing formal easements for public access			
Developing informal landowner public access agreements			
Developing additional handicap access fishing sites			
Completing recreation and habitat project planning			
Increase barrier-free access			
Allowing for compatible fish stocking programs			
Where absent, provide boat ramps			
Developing fishery access locations (parking areas and boat ramps)			
Pursue land exchanges to acquire recreational fishing sites and access			

Plan Strategy 3: Promote public education and support for resource conservation and ethics, recreational angling, and safety.

Project	Cost	Funded/FY	Unfunded Need
Developing fishery environmental education			

outreach programs			
National Fishing Day Projects			
Free Camping Day in recognition of National Fishing Week			
National River Clean-up Week			
Some Districts and the number of sites involved with these objectives:			
Burns - 3 sites			
Vale - 3 sites			
Prineville - 1 site			
Lakeview - 3 sites			
Medford - 2 sites			
Coos Bay - 8 sites			
Salem - 8 sites			
Eugene - 10 sites			
Spokane - 1 site			
Roseburg - 2 sites			
And many others in the present, near future and beyond....			

Plan Strategy 4: Work collaboratively with state and Tribal management partners, industry, anglers, and conservation groups.

Trout Unlimited and Oregon Trout Partnerships

- BLM Outfitter/Guide Permittee Partnerships (River floating/fishing, for example the McKenzie River Guides Association)
- Local and Regional Angler Group Organization Partnerships (for example, the Northwest Steelheaders Association)
- Izaak Walton League Partnerships
- Fishing Equipment Manufacturers Partnerships
- Organizations supporting the physically challenged
- Chamber of Commerce/BLM joint projects
- other federal agencies (USFS, FWS)
- local agencies (county and city parks with fishing opportunities)
- state agencies (ODF&W)
- fishing tackle retail stores

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Utah's Recreational Fishing Conservation Plan Implementation Goals

Access BLM Recreational Fishing Information at: <http://www.blm.gov/nhp/prodserv/rec/fishing/>

INTRODUCTION TO UTAH'S FISHERY RESOURCES

Utah is the second most arid state in the Union and overall, recreational fishing opportunities on public lands are separated by many miles of "hydrologically challenged" earth. However, there are diamonds in this geologic rough. Nearly half of all the Class 1 waters, or "Blue Ribbon" trout fisheries in the State are located on the BLM managed lands of the Green River below Flaming Gorge Reservoir. Additionally, Pelican Lake, known throughout the west for its trophy bluegills is primarily located on Public Land.

The cutthroat is the only trout native to Utah. In the past, stocking of recreational fishing waters was with many species of trout exotic to the State. Biologists and land managers have long recognized the importance of maintaining populations of these native trout species, and in 1996 an agreement and strategy were drafted that ensures the continued existence of these fish. This plan calls for using native cutthroat for stocking purposes in many of the streams and reservoirs that are enjoyed by anglers throughout Utah.

PROJECTS/PARTNERS PROPOSED--FY 1997 THROUGH FY 2000

Plan Strategy 1: Conserve, enhance, and restore recreational fisheries habitats and fish stocks, emphasizing self-sustaining fish stocks where feasible.

Project	Cost	Funded/FY	Unfunded Need
Secure instream flows:			
Cedar City District - all streams			
Secure reserve pool:			
Cedar City District - 1 site (South Creek Reservoir)			
Improve riparian/stream habitat:			
Cedar City District - 13 sites			
Moab District - 2 sites			
Vernal District - 1 site			
Study reason for fish decline:			
Vernal District - 1 site (Pelican Lake)			
Stocking fisheries:			

Moab District - 2 sites			
Vernal District - 5 sites			

Plan Strategy 2: Develop and maintain recreational fishing facilities and access.

Project	Cost	Funded/FY	Unfunded Need
Land acquisition:			
Cedar City District - 2 sites			
Vernal District - 1 site			
Easement acquisition:			
Cedar City District - 2 sites			
Provide greater fishing access:			
Moab District - 2 sites			
Developing universal access fishing sites:			
Salt Lake Field Office - 1 site (Horseshoe Springs)			
Vernal District - 1 site			
Develop boat launch:			
Vernal District - 1 site			
Campsites/boating facilities:			
Vernal District - 1 site (potential)			

Plan Strategy 3: Promote public education and support for resource conservation and ethics, recreational angling, and safety.

Project	Cost	Funded/FY	Unfunded Need
Free camping and fishing day			
Pathway to Fishing Clinics			
National River Clean-up week; Green and White			

River			
Volunteer river clean-up days			

Plan Strategy 4: Work collaboratively with state and Tribal management partners, industry, anglers, and conservation groups.

Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, The Nature Conservancy and recently the Natural Resource Conservation Service, Utah Department of Environmental Quality Division of Water Quality, the Fish and Wildlife Service, The Mountainland Association of Governments, and bass fishing clubs; and monetary contributions from Shakir Safari Club International, The Foundation for North American Wild Sheep, Bring Back the Natives, The Salt Lake Fish and Conservation Association, Wildlife Forever, Environmental Protection Agency, the Community Impact Board, and many others.

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Wyoming's Recreational Fishing Conservation Plan Implementation Goals

Access BLM Recreational Fishing Information at: <http://www.blm.gov/nhp/prodserv/rec/fishing/>

INTRODUCTION TO WYOMING'S FISHERY RESOURCES

Some of the best fishing opportunities in the Rocky Mountains can be found in Wyoming. The BLM administers approximately 18 million acres of public land in Wyoming that contain 1926 miles of stream fishing habitat and 6434 acres of ponds, lakes and reservoir fishing habitat.

The vast majority of existing recreational fishing opportunities in Wyoming are cold water trout fisheries. These areas provide outstanding opportunities for a diversity of user experiences including walk-in fishing, four-wheel drive access only, and fully developed and accessible sites. There are 75 species of fish in Wyoming, with 29 species classified as game fish specie such as cutthroat, rainbow, brown and brook trout, norther pike and walleye.

Additional opportunities for recreational fishing may be obtained by maintaining existing recreational use sites at reservoirs, rivers, and working with interest groups to develop and expand recreation opportunities by completing one or more of the following:

PROJECTS/PARTNERS PROPOSED--FY 1997 THROUGH FY 2000

Plan Strategy 1: Conserve, enhance, and restore recreational fisheries habitats and fish stocks, emphasizing self-sustaining fish stocks where feasible.

Project	Cost	Funded/ FY	Unfunde d Need
Securing in-stream flows to protect fish habitat			
Restoring riparian habitat			
Diverting water to enhance fisheries			
Stocking fisheries			
Improving spawning areas			
Improving fish habitat by installing drop structures thereby creating plunge pools			
Enhancing endangered species habitat			

Plan Strategy 2: Develop and maintain recreational fishing facilities and access.

Project	Cost	Funded/FY	Unfunded Need
Developing fishery access locations (parking areas and boat ramps)			
Completing land exchanges along rivers			
Improving water quality and quantity			
Securing (formal) easements for public access			
Developing (informal) landowner public access agreements			
Developing handicap access fishing sites			
Completing recreation and habitat project planning			
Providing more warm water (bass) fishing opportunities			

Plan Strategy 3: Promote public education and support for resource conservation and ethics, recreational angling, and safety. There are 25 sites involved with the project listed below.

Project	Cost	Funded/FY	Unfunded Need
Developing fishery environmental education outreach programs			
Install visitor registration/comment stations			
National Fishing Day Projects			
Pathways to Fishing Clinics			
National River Clean-up Week			
Free Camping Day in recognition of National Fishing Week			
Fishing Derbies			

Plan Strategy 4: Work collaboratively with state and Tribal management partners, industry, anglers, and conservation groups.

Develop Cooperative Agreements with:

- Fish Wyoming Grant Program (Wyoming Game and Fish Department)
- Trout Unlimited Partnerships
- BLM Outfitter/Guide Permittee Partnerships (River Floating/Fishing)
- Angler Group Organization Partnerships
- Fishing Gear Manufacturers Partnerships
- Organizations supporting the physically challenged
- Private industry organizations involved in resource extraction
- Sporting Goods Stores Partnerships
- Chamber of Commerce/BLM joint projects, (i.e., Fishing Derbies)

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RECREATIONAL FISHING STRATEGY

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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November 8, 1996

DRAFT, November 8, 1996

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL RECREATIONAL FISHING CONSERVATION PLAN

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

BLM's Mission and Responsibilities

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), an agency of the United States Department of the Interior (DOI), manages 270 million acres of the Nation's public lands, one-eighth of America's land surface. Most BLM managed public lands are located in the twelve Western states including Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana/North and South Dakota, New Mexico/Oklahoma, Nevada, Oregon/Washington, Utah, and Wyoming. BLM's Eastern States Office in Springfield, Virginia, manages small parcels of public lands, about 30,000 surface acres, in the 31 states bordering on and east of the Mississippi River. BLM also manages 570 million acres of subsurface mineral estate. The BLM's mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of these public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Every year millions of Americans discover a fishing paradise right in their own backyards on BLM public lands. During 1996, BLM public lands provided 65 million recreation-related visits. BLM offers some of the most exhilarating water-related recreation and leisure opportunities found anywhere in the world--174,000 miles of fishable streams, 2.5 million acres of fishable lakes and reservoirs, 6,664 miles of floatable rivers along 746 river segments, and 533 boating access points. BLM is committed to revitalizing aquatic and riparian habitat on public lands to assure viable populations of resident and anadromous fish species, many of which provide outstanding recreational fishing opportunities when present in harvestable numbers.

Recreational fishing is a cherished American tradition significantly contributing to the social and economic well being of the Nation. Fishing represents the universal entry point into the natural world, provides many social benefits, is a relaxing and healthful source of recreation to millions of individuals and families, and leads to a lasting appreciation of the outdoors. Demand for these opportunities is rapidly increasing. Recreational use of water resources provides leisure benefits to over 4.5 million fishermen, 3.2 million boaters and 2.5 million water-based recreation users and provides important economic benefit to our Nation and our local and rural communities. Recreational fishing activities generated \$360 million for the Nation's economy in 1992 (Sport Fishing Institute, 1992). In 1994, recreational anglers spent seven million days on BLM public lands and \$55 million on their activities.

1988 National Recreational Fisheries Policy

In June 1988, President Ronald Reagan endorsed a *National Recreational Fisheries Policy* (1988 *Policy*), signed by sixty-three Federal and State agencies, Tribes, the fishing tackle industry, and private industry groups and organizations. The *1988 Policy* gave national direction encouraging development and protection of the Nation's fishery resources. The *1988 Policy* established the framework for Federal agencies, in cooperation with States and Tribes, to proactively manage fishery resources for recreation pursuits. The goals outlined in the *Policy* are:

Protect and/or increase productivity of fishery resources.

Ensure and enhance the quality, quantity, and diversity of recreational fishing opportunities.

Encourage and expand partnerships among government and the private sector for conserving and managing recreational fisheries.

Achieve and maintain a healthy recreational fisheries industry.

1996 Recreational Fishery Resources Conservation Plan

On June 7, 1995, President William Clinton brought renewed emphasis to the economic and social values of recreational fishing when he signed Executive Order 12962: Recreational Fisheries, during the annual celebration of National Fishing Week. The Executive Order instructed the Secretaries of the Interior and Commerce to cooperate with other Federal and State agencies and Tribes to develop a plan to conserve, restore, and enhance the Nation's recreational fisheries resources. The *Recreational Fishery Resources Conservation Plan (Plan)* was developed in response to the Executive Order. The *Plan* represents the collective efforts of twenty-four Federal agencies to strengthen successful partnerships among Federal and State agencies, Tribes, and other stakeholders to restore and enhance America's fisheries.

The National Goal of the *Plan* is to:

"Provide for increased recreational fishing opportunities nationwide through the conservation, restoration, and enhancement of aquatic systems and fish populations, and by increasing fishing access, education and outreach, and partnership opportunities."

The *Plan* outlines four strategies to implement the Goal:

Strategy 1: Conserve, enhance, and restore recreational fisheries habitats and fish stocks, emphasizing self-sustaining fish stocks where feasible.

This strategy addresses restoration of flat water and streams to: improve fish habitat or restore water quality standards; assure fish migration; establish or restore fishable populations; restore riparian areas; and open angler access.

Strategy 2: Develop and maintain recreational fishing facilities and access.

This strategy addresses development of facilities such as boat ramps, universally accessible facilities, campgrounds, and other amenities that enhance access to recreational fishing opportunities.

Strategy 3: Promote public education and support for resource conservation and ethics, recreational angling, and safety.

This strategy addresses training and education to enhance fishing competency and aquatic resource conservation.

Strategy 4: Work collaboratively with State and Tribal management partners, industry, anglers, and conservation groups.

This strategy addresses Federal agency success in working with recreational fisheries partners to implement on-the-ground projects and to develop conservation easements or agreements with private land owners to enhance fishing access.

The *Plan* requires each Federal agency to craft an agency specific document detailing action items to meet the national goal and, where possible, to integrate existing agency plans and programs within budget constraints. The agency specific plans will be attached to the master document. Each Federal agency is also required to report its annual accomplishments to the National Recreational Fisheries Coordination Council by March 31 of each year, beginning in 1997. The agency report will use output measures defined in the agency specific plan and describe the sources and reliability of data used in evaluating agency accomplishments. BLM played an important role in facilitating the development of the *Plan* and is continuing to aggressively implement its existing strategies for fisheries and recreation in support of *Plan* requirements

EXISTING STRATEGIES THAT SUPPORT INCREASED FISHERIES RESOURCES

BLM is committed to revitalizing aquatic and riparian habitat on public lands to assure viable populations of resident and anadromous fish species, many of which provide outstanding recreational fishing opportunities when present in harvestable numbers. BLM has the potential to contribute to the *Plan* goals by improving riparian, wetland, and aquatic habitats, increasing healthy populations of native fish species, and providing improved access to recreational fish species. To accomplish these goals, BLM will rely on guidance found in three existing initiatives:

Riparian-Wetland Initiative for the 1990's

BLM's *Riparian-Wetland Initiative for the 1990's (Initiative)*, published in September 1990, provides the blueprint for management and restoration of riparian-wetland areas encompassing 23.7 million acres of BLM lands. The *Initiative's* four goals are:

- 1) Restore and maintain riparian-wetland areas on public lands in proper functioning condition;
- 2) Protect riparian-wetland areas and associated uplands through proper land management;
- 3) Ensure an aggressive riparian-wetland information/outreach program; and,
- 4) Improve partnerships and cooperative restoration and management processes in implementing the *Initiative*.

This *Initiative* provides the foundation for increasing recreational fishing opportunities and addresses the most basic requirement for healthy populations of fish species, suitable habitat.

Fish and Wildlife 2000: A Plan for the Future

Fish and Wildlife 2000: A Plan for the Future, developed in 1986, established a framework for meeting the goal of managing the public lands as a national resource in harmony with principles of balanced multiple use, while simultaneously publicizing the many outdoor recreation opportunities available on the public lands. *Fish and Wildlife 2000* emphasizes restoring habitat for terrestrial and aquatic species as a foundation for increasing recreational opportunities. Specific implementation strategies tiered from *Fish and Wildlife 2000 (Resident Fish Habitat Management, Anadromous Fish Habitat Management, and Special Status Fishes)* provide

additional guidance on the importance of restoring and protecting riparian habitat to increase all aquatic species. This comprehensive strategy continues to equate the importance of healthy aquatic habitat and sustainable populations of native fish species with increasing recreational opportunities.

Recreation 2000: A Strategic Plan

Recreation 2000: A Strategic Plan, originally published in 1988, provides the framework for BLM to accommodate the increased public demand for the challenging and diverse recreation opportunities found on the public lands. BLM recognized the explosive growth in traditional outdoor recreational pursuits. The 1995 *Recreation 2000 Update* defines BLM's unique recreation niche, emphasizing resource-dependent recreation opportunities (fishing, camping, river rafting, back country driving, and wildlife viewing) which typifies the vast Western landscapes. These companion documents emphasize the critical importance of healthy land and aquatic systems as the foundation for quality recreational and leisure experiences.

To accomplish the goals of *Recreation 2000: A Strategic Plan* and *Recreation 2000 Update*, BLM must cooperate and collaborate with its many partners, stakeholders, and visitors. BLM has embraced the *Leave No Trace* and *Tread Lightly* interpretive and educational programs to encourage visitors to minimize the impact of their recreational activities. These programs encourage visitors to practice outdoors skills and ethics to reduce the evidence of their presence on the public lands. These programs also instill visitors with an interest in, understanding of, and respect for natural, terrestrial, aquatic, and cultural resources on BLM public lands, as well as promote backcountry etiquette.

The *Riparian-Wetland Initiative for the 1990's*, *Fish and Wildlife 2000*, and *Recreation 2000: A Strategic Plan* are all strategies that compliment the *Policy*, the Executive Order, and the *Plan* in emphasizing the development of partnerships, providing educational opportunities, improving public access to recreational waters, and improving water quality and instream and riparian habitat for the multitude of fish and other aquatic species found on public lands.

CURRENT STATUS OF BLM FISHERIES RESOURCES

BLM public lands contain an abundance and diversity of resident and anadromous fishery resources that are prized for their recreation, historic, and economic values. BLM manages over 132,190 miles of fisheries stream habitat and more than 2.9 million surface acres of lake and reservoir habitat primarily in the Alaska and Western States. In addition, thousands of reservoirs have been built on BLM public lands to provide water for livestock and many have the potential for development as recreational fishing sites.

Waters on BLM public lands are inhabited by a diverse variety of fish species, from Pacific salmon and rainbow trout, to virtually unknown species such as the orangethroat darter. All of these species are important to the natural function of their associated ecosystems and are biological indicators of the health of the public lands. Since the early 1980's, BLM has been actively working to improve aquatic habitat and to protect and restore all aquatic species. *Bring Back the Natives* is a partnership program that leverages Federal funds with cash or contributed goods and services from non-Federal partners. Other cooperative watershed management and challenge cost share initiatives complete on-the-ground restoration work and are examples of BLM's commitment to implement these strategies. The *Plan* provides new emphasis for existing BLM activities and will provide the opportunity for additional State, Federal, Tribal, and private

industry partnerships to achieve the National goal.

BLM'S IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

BLM must maintain healthy biotic communities, both terrestrial and aquatic, to support the various resource dependent activities the public expects to use and enjoy on the public lands.

FISHERIES EMPHASIS

Fish Habitats

Recreational fishing opportunities depend upon the availability of healthy populations of fish which depend on healthy aquatic systems. BLM must restore, maintain, and protect aquatic habitat by assuring that the thousands of miles of riparian vegetation and wetlands found on public lands are first returned to proper functioning condition and, eventually, to desired future habitat conditions. As habitat conditions improve to the level necessary to support healthy populations of aquatic species, recreational fishing opportunities will be improved and enhanced.

Where existing conditions support recreational fishing opportunities, such as in reservoirs or impoundments, BLM will work with State fisheries agencies. These areas will assure that fishing opportunities are available through appropriate stocking or enhancement of recreational species, but will not adversely impact Special Status Species or other native populations.

BLM's major emphasis for improving recreational fishing on public land will be the continued restoration of riparian and instream habitat to facilitate rebuilding or protecting stocks of native recreational fish species. BLM is restoring degraded riparian areas to desired future aquatic habitat conditions and improving water quality in areas where recreational fish stocks have been depleted. This work is a priority in areas where existing fish stocks are in decline or where Special Status Species, such as some stocks of salmon, could eventually be restored to harvestable levels. Emphasis will be placed on strengthening populations of native species through habitat improvement; preventing additional listings of Special Status Species through changes in land use practices; and working to preserve and improve existing recreational fishing opportunities for present and future publics. BLM will continue to maintain its commitment to restore habitat for Special Status Species, some of which have no recreational value, because they are an integral part of the ecosystem. Based upon annual appropriations, critical work for restoring salmon and steelhead populations should take precedence over work to support recreational fishing on non-native species.

RECREATION EMPHASIS

Anglers

BLM will continue to upgrade and maintain recreational fishing sites to assure universally accessible recreation opportunities for the public. BLM will develop new access sites and support facilities where such development is compatible with sustainable use of aquatic resources. BLM's Recreation program will concentrate on repairing existing recreational fishing sites and facilities for safe angler use and enjoyment. Fishing is recognized as the fastest growing recreational activity among people with disabilities. Both repairs and future construction will incorporate the principles of universal design to insure access for all anglers, including those with disabilities.

BLM will also continue to develop a comprehensive set of brochures, maps, and guides for anglers to use in locating recreational fishing opportunities on public lands. This promotional material will provide information such as species of fish present, recreational facilities, camping areas, and other accommodations. Accessibility for persons with disabilities, other recreational activities, and local attractions will also be identified. This material will be distributed through traditional printed materials and electronically through the BLM Homepage (in a section developed to support the *Plan*) to provide the broadest distribution to the recreational fishing community.

Education and Outreach

BLM will continue its active participation in educational and outreach opportunities to introduce young people to the experience of recreational fishing. While enjoying fishing, participants will learn about protecting and conserving public lands and aquatic resources through *Leave No Trace* and *Tread Lightly* programs. The public will also be encouraged to volunteer its time on habitat improvement projects. Area Offices will be encouraged to increase participation in National Fishing Week activities, to sponsor C.A.S.T. for Kids (Catch a Special Thrill) events to introduce youth with disabilities to recreational fishing, to address local school and civic groups, and to provide other educational opportunities such as conducting *Pathways to Fishing* seminars at community gatherings.

BLM is a major sponsor and supporter of National Fishing Week. During the last nine years, BLM has hosted events to promote the sport of fishing, teach children fishing basics, and encourage children's stewardship of the Nation's public lands. During National Fishing Week 1994, BLM hosted 25 events, involving 10,400 children and adults. In 1995, BLM hosted 20 events with the participation of 8,000 children and adults who enjoyed BLM-sponsored National Fishing Week activities. BLM is currently compiling its 1996 National Fishing Week report which will reflect similar levels of participation and enjoyment.

FISHERIES AND RECREATION KEYS TO SUCCESS

Partnerships

BLM has been active in establishing partnerships for recreation, fish and wildlife restoration, and habitat improvement. These partnership efforts will be increasingly important in BLM's efforts to complete on-the-ground work as Federal budgets decline. Successful partnership efforts such as *Bring Back the Natives*, which involves the USDA Forest Service, Trout Unlimited, and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and Coordinated Watershed Plans, will be continued with continued with a renewed emphasis on improving fishery resources and habitats on public lands. New initiatives, such as the *Golden Partnership* with Trout Unlimited to celebrate BLM's 50th Anniversary, are targeted toward increasing recreational fishing through habitat restoration and management for native species.

State and Area BLM offices will be encouraged to sponsor C.A.S.T. for Kids (Catch a Special Thrill) fishing events under an Memorandum Of Understanding signed between BLM and the C.A.S.T. Foundation. These events, which introduce disabled youth and their families to recreational fishing, accomplish many objectives such as promoting awareness of the abilities of people with disabilities; encouraging and expanding partnerships among BLM, local chapters of the Bass Anglers Sportsmens Society, Inc., (the major C.A.S.T. partner), and local business and

organizations; and providing opportunities for cooperative efforts to improve local accessible fishing sites and facilities.

Area Offices will be encouraged to arrange for other Federal agencies, Tribes, State and local government agencies, and local businesses, individuals, and groups to cooperate and collaborate on projects to improve fishing access sites, increase the number of accessible facilities for persons with disabilities, and support the annual National Fishing Week and related activities. Area Offices will also be encouraged to leverage Federal funds through challenge cost share projects to improve aquatic habitat on BLM public lands and provide new or enhanced recreational fishing opportunities for the public.

AQUATIC RESOURCES/RECREATIONAL FISHING FUNDS BY PLAN

Riparian-Wetland Initiative for the 1990's

The *Riparian-Wetland Initiative for the 1990's* was not originally funded as a separate program. The BLM budget for restoration and maintenance activities increased from \$3.5 million in FY 1988 to \$10.4 million in FY 1992. In FY 1996, the *Initiative* became a line item where the budget had increased to \$14.5 million dollars. The FY 1997 budget for the *Initiative* is \$16.1 million dollars.

BLM has also established an interagency Riparian Team based in Prineville, Oregon, to work with USDA Forest Service, National Resource Conservation Service, and BLM field managers and employees to provide technical assistance and training in riparian management. This team will conduct program reviews and facilitate returning riparian areas within watersheds to proper functioning condition to improve related aquatic habitat.

Fish and Wildlife 2000

BLM has an extensive, active Challenge Cost Share Program that greatly assists implementing projects to improve the health of biotic resources on public lands. Challenge Cost Share funds are provided to BLM State Offices through the Annual Work Planning Process. The required "match" of Federal and non-Federal dollars, or contributed (in-kind) goods and services, is a minimum of 1::1. Many of these funded projects benefit aquatic species and provide angler access to recreational fishing sites.

Since 1990, BLM, Trout Unlimited (TU), USDA Forest Service, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation have been jointly funding cost share projects designed to improve, restore, and enhance populations of native fish species, particularly those that provide recreational values when populations are at harvestable levels. *Bring Back the Natives* has funded 118 projects in 18 states through FY 1996. \$2.14 million in Federal funds were combined with \$3.6 million in non-Federal funds for on-the-ground work to enhance native fish species on public and forest system lands. In FY 1997, approximately \$250,000 of BLM fisheries appropriations has been targeted for competition through NFWF for *BBN* projects to enhance aquatic resources on BLM public lands. In addition, BLM and NFWF are providing matching funds for projects enhancing a variety of biotic resources, including aquatic species, through a "General" project category, providing opportunities for a variety of non-Federal partners to participate. Information on the grant process has been made available on the Internet at <http://www.nfwf.org/bbn/dbn.htm>.

In celebration of BLM's 50th Anniversary, TU and BLM signed a *Golden Partnership* agreement to promote recreational fishing opportunities on five outstanding trout streams on public lands. The work is scheduled for completion in FY 1997. TU is planning special fundraising efforts and is encouraging its local chapters to work with BLM field personnel to develop, fund, and execute projects to enhance recreational fishing opportunities on the Gulkana River in Alaska, the Upper Henry's Fork of the Snake River in Idaho, the Upper Blackfoot River in Montana, the Deschutes River in Oregon, and the Green River in Wyoming. The agreement defines the essence of recreational fishing on public lands:

"These five Golden Opportunity Trout Streams have been chosen to represent the notable recreational fishing resources found on public lands. Most are readily accessible to visitors and provide excellent recreational opportunities, such as fishing and viewing birds and other wildlife. These Golden Opportunity Trout Streams deserve special consideration in long-term conservation plans. They will be monitored closely to ensure their continued viability as habitat for native fish species that can provide exceptional recreational opportunities for American anglers."

In FY 1997, BLM has designated \$250,000 from the Fisheries budget allocation and \$250,000 from the Recreational budget allocation for challenge cost share projects that support this *Implementation Strategy*. At least \$1 million in on the ground work benefiting recreational fishing will result from this financial commitment through cost share with a variety of partners. It is anticipated that similar amounts will be set aside for FY 1998 through 2000.

Recreation 2000: A Strategic Plan

Funding for the Recreation program is dispersed to all recreation management activities, including the construction and maintenance of multiple purpose recreational facilities. Funds are currently being expended for information materials, both nationally and BLM State-specific, on land use ethics, interpretation, and recreational opportunities on the 270 million acres of BLM public lands. A portion of recreation funding is allocated for challenge cost share projects, such as accessible fishing piers, parking areas, trail maintenance, and comfort facilities, to enhance fishing and other recreation activities. Volunteerism on the public lands is an integral component of on-the-ground work for BLM's Recreation, Education, and Fish and Wildlife Programs.

Reclamation of Abandoned Mines

In response to the Clean Water Act and to improve the overall health of uplands and aquatic habitat, BLM is working toward cleaning up approximately 300,000 abandoned mine sites. The funds expended on reclaiming these sites and reducing toxic runoff will directly impact water quality and will eventually return aquatic habitat to natural conditions.

Range Reform

The new guidelines for management of grazing on public lands require practices that will allow riparian areas to return to Proper Functioning Condition (PFC). There is also a biotic standard for wildlife, which includes fishery resources, in the associated Standards and Guidelines. Funding for Range Management is routinely spent on improving wildlife and fisheries habitat to assure that PFC and biotic standards are met for wildlife and fisheries.

CHALLENGES

Conservation and maintenance of healthy ecosystems is central to the concept of watershed management. Public land management is becoming increasingly oriented toward regional ecosystems and watersheds. This development involves close cooperation with private land owners, community groups, and other Federal, State, and Tribal land managers to facilitate joint planning and management across administrative boundaries. Coordination is most effective when BLM fisheries, hydrology, recreation and riparian specialists are able to provide technical advice on a regular basis. Working with landowners and other interest groups to correct watershed problems, such as nonpoint source pollution that causes increased water turbidity and sedimentation which impact aquatic communities, is critical to the management of aquatic resources on public lands.

Future management must balance the desire of the public for access to recreational sites with the need to protect habitat and the rights of private landowners. Access to riparian areas is sometimes curtailed because of private ownership or poor physical access. Uncontrolled public access can lead to the destruction of important riparian areas and fish habitat. BLM's recreation specialists will continue to work with other Federal and State agencies, Tribes and private land owners to assure appropriate public access to recreational fishing opportunities.

Special Status Species: Native fishes have declined in the past century as a result of overall habitat degradation, while sportfishing has experienced a dramatic increase in the interior United States. Often these two interests appear to be in direct conflict. BLM must protect and restore special status fishes, many of which do not have recreational potential, but which have value to their ecosystems serving as biological indicators of the health of those systems. In those instances where species with historic recreational potential have declined to Special Status, there is an overall recognition that habitat improvement is both immediately beneficial for restoration of these native species and, over time, for increased recreational fishing opportunities. The Special Status Species management plan supports the goal of conserving native species.

BLM has consistently requested appropriations to support the *Recreational Fishery Resources Conservation Plan*. Although the funding specifically requested for the Recreational Fishing initiative has not been appropriated by Congress, the Fisheries Challenge Cost Share appropriation increased by approximately \$1 million in FY 1997. Funds from this increase have been designated for projects involving recreational fishing. BLM will continue to work through the appropriations process to obtain funding for both the fisheries and recreation portions of work to support the *Plan*.

The budget for Threatened and Endangered species has not changed in several years despite major increases in the number of Special Status Species. For example, major impacts from the listing of Umpqua cutthroat trout, steelhead, and coastal coho, have required the use of fisheries appropriations for actions necessary to protect and restore these species. BLM must continue to fund work to protect these species as mandated by the Endangered Species Act.

SUMMARY

This *Implementation Strategy* describes BLM's existing activities to meet the *Plan*. It also provides a state-by-state description of activities and projects that could be undertaken to enhance recreational fish species and their habitats, facilities, access, angler education, and partnerships on public lands when funding becomes available from Congress. The *Implementation Strategy* lists state contacts for recreational fishing. By reviewing the

Implementation Strategy, current or potential partners can identify cooperative opportunities that are particularly suited to their interests. They will also be able to contact an individual who can facilitate development of a mutually beneficial agreement to accomplish a particular project or activity. The *Implementation Strategy* provides a framework for use by field employees, managers, and external partners to enhance aquatic resources and recreational opportunities on BLM public lands.

BLM's mission and existing policies compliment the Strategies and Goal of the *Plan*. BLM will meet its goal of providing sustainable recreational fishing for a variety of publics by focusing on aquatic habitat restoration and management, assuring that special status species are not negatively impacted by recreational activities, and by working with a variety of partners to complete projects that enhance aquatic resources and recreational opportunities on public lands,