



What is the Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) Program?

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) program is a voluntary program that provides technical assistance and cost-share incentives to private landowners to restore fish and wildlife habitat.

Who can become a partner?

Any municipal or privately owned land is eligible for the PFW program. "Privately owned" includes any land that is not owned by State or Federal government. State and/or Federal agencies can still be involved in the program as partners but cannot receive funds. Partners not only include private landowners, but also national, regional, state, county, and local agencies, communities, non-profit organizations, corporations, and educational institutions.

How do I enroll?

Contact the USFWS PFW State Coordinator. In Maine, our Coordinator is Fred Seavey (Fred_Seavey@fws.gov) and 207-902-1571.

What type of lands and waters are eligible to be restored?

Any land that is potential fish and wildlife habitat and has been altered or degraded is eligible for assistance.

Do landowners have to allow public access to their lands if they participate in the program?

No. Landowners retain all access rights to the property. USFWS employees and partners are granted access for project-related activities, such as planning and monitoring.

What is a landowner agreement?

Before a project is implemented, the landowner must sign an agreement with the USFWS that indicates that they will maintain the project in good condition for a minimum of 10 years.

How is financial assistance provided?

The USFWS and project partners provide financial assistance to landowners for habitat restoration projects. The amount of cost-share may vary by project, depending on partners involved and type of project. Landowners may help with project construction and be reimbursed directly for their expenses, the landowner may hire a contractor, or one of the partners may act on behalf of the landowner. If the project is near one of the National Wildlife Refuges in the State of Maine, our Partners Coordinator may be able to work with the Refuge and arrange for Refuge staff to do the construction using Refuge's equipment; and the PFW program may be able to cover the heavy equipment operator's salary and other expenses. Please contact Fred Seavey for more information.

When will restoration activities be done?

The project will be completed as soon as it can be appropriately planned. Many factors can affect project completion date, including complexity, weather, funding, and priority among other projects.

Where does the PFW program focus its efforts?

The program focuses in areas that will have the most impact on trust resources (migratory birds, threatened and endangered species, and anadromous fish) and complement national wildlife refuges. The presence of other permanently protected lands or lands identified as priority lands may also be considered.

Who is responsible for project maintenance?

Many habitat restoration projects will not require any maintenance. However, if maintenance is required it is typically the responsibility of the landowner. Any repairs that are required due to design or construction failure will be the responsibility of the USFWS.

For more information please check out our website at:
<http://www.fws.gov/mainfieldoffice/index.html>