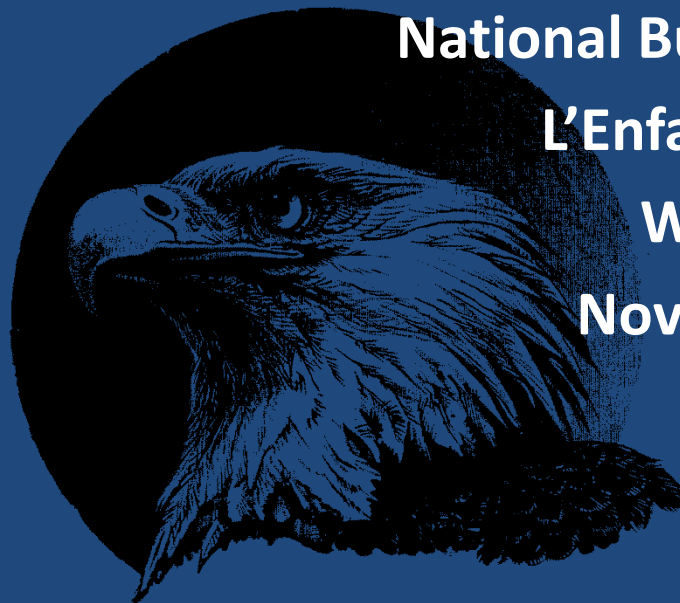




# **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

## *Native American Crosscut Funding*

**Tribal / Interior Budget Council  
National Budget Meeting  
L'Enfant Plaza Hotel  
Washington, DC  
November 8, 2013**



# U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## Who We Are?

### Mission:

*“Working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people”*



# U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## Who We Are?

### Our Responsibilities:

- Administer the ESA (over 1,400 domestic & over 600 foreign species).
- Monitor and manage migratory birds.
- Restore nationally significant fisheries, including fish passage.
- Enforce federal wildlife laws and regulate international wildlife trade.
- Conserve and restore wildlife habitat such as wetlands.
- Work with Tribes on a government-to-government relationship basis.
- Help foreign governments conserve wildlife through international conservation efforts.



# U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## Who We Are?

### National Wildlife Refuge System:

- 561 NWRs and 38 Wetland Management Districts
- Manage approximately 150 Million Acres

### National Fish Hatchery's:

- 72 NFHs, 1 Historic NFH, 9 Fish Health Centers, and 6 Fish Technology Centers.
- 65 Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices

### Ecological Services:

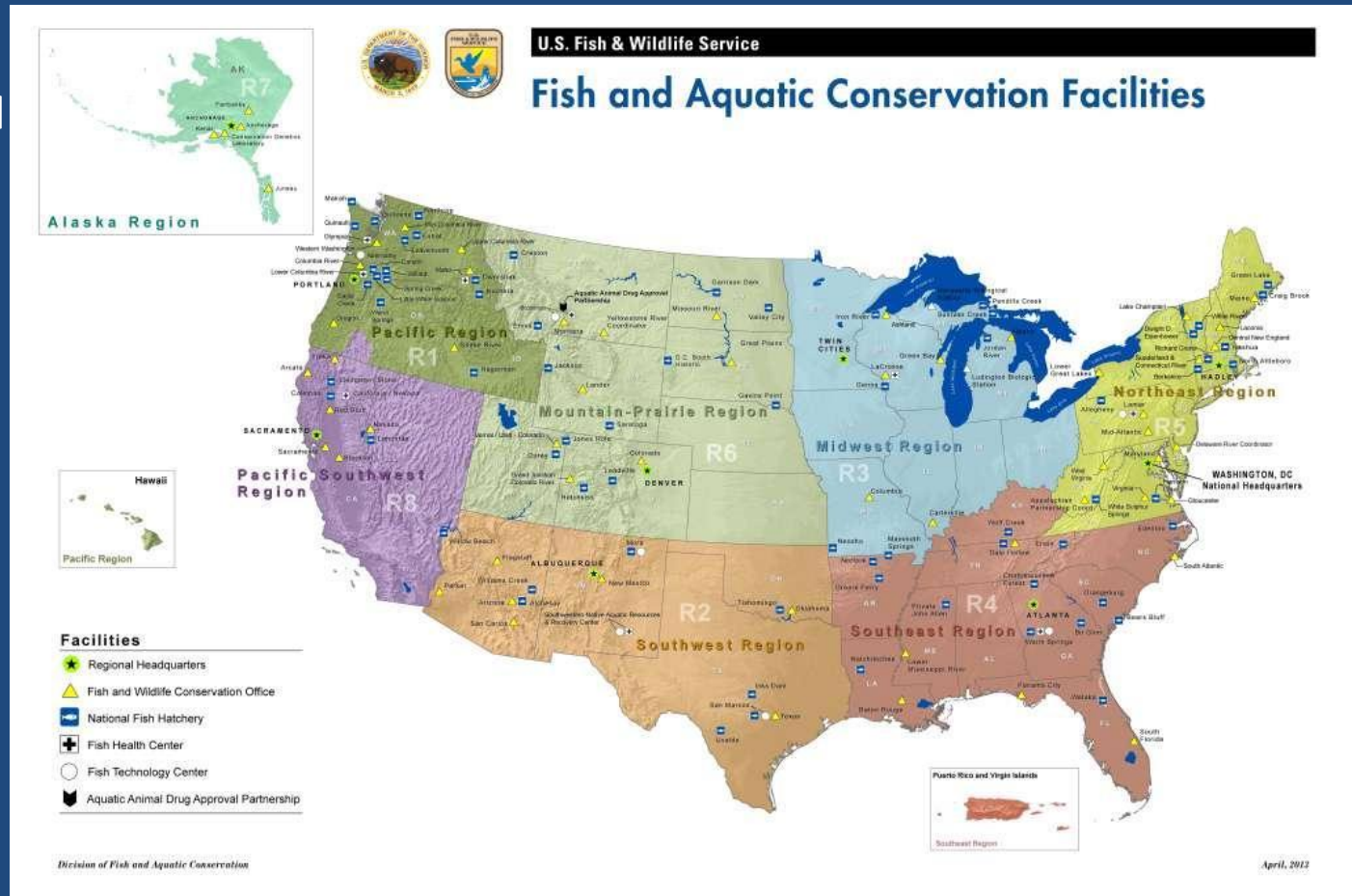
- 78 Ecological Services field stations



# U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## Where We Are Located:

The Service has about 8,700 employees, located at facilities across the country, including a Headquarters Office in Arlington, VA, eight regional offices, and nearly 700 field offices.



# Hatchery Operations and Maintenance

## Background:

- Assets include 73 National Fish Hatcheries, 9 Fish Health Centers, 6 Fish Technology Centers, Aquatic Animal Drug Approval Partnership (AADAP)
- Propagates native species for recovery and restoration
- Develops new tools for maintaining the health of native aquatic species in the wild and in aquaculture facilities
- Develops and approves critically important drugs for aquaculture
- Continues to work through funding challenges related to unfunded costs for operating mitigation fish hatcheries
- Strategic planning for operating system within a low budget environment



# Hatchery Operation and Maintenance

## Recent Funding for Tribal Activities:

**2012: \$2,457,000**

**2013: 2,062,000**

**2014: 2,457,000 in President's request**

- Funding generally supports hatchery production in support of technical assistance activity on tribal lands
- FTC's and FHC's support healthy stocks of fish on tribal lands
- Funding eliminated in FY13 for Tribal Youth Conservation Corps (Tribal YCC) in NM, AZ and MT
- Tribal YCC supported the Service's ability to train and recruit Native Americans into conservation careers



# Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices

## Background:

- **Assets: 65 Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices**
  - National Fish Habitat Partnership**
  - National Fish Passage Program**
- **Provides leadership for the Service on aquatic species conservation**
- **Plans and conducts fish population and habitat restoration**
- **Assesses the status of populations of native fish and their habitats**
- **Monitors and reduces impacts of aquatic nuisance species**
- **Coordinates with the National Fish Hatchery System in applying aquaculture tools to conservation problems**
- **Provides funding support to and coordinates with Office of Subsistence Management in Alaska**





# Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices

## Recent Funding History:

	<u>Base Funds</u>	<u>Alaska Subsistence</u>
2012:	\$2,063,000	\$10,000,000
2013:	1,778,000	8,900,000
2014:	1,856,000	7,800,000 (President's request)

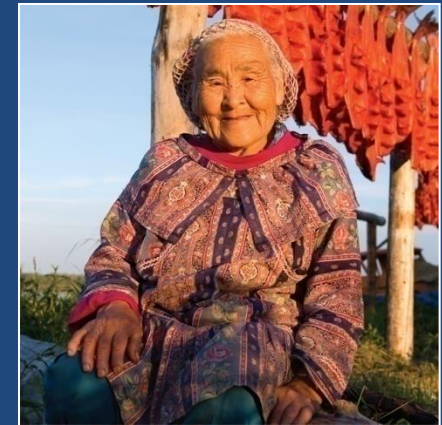
- Funding generally supports technical assistance activity on tribal lands
- Work directly with Tribes to restore native fish on tribal lands
- Provide technical support for wildlife management, esp. in northern Rocky Mountain states
- Alaska subsistence activity includes fish restoration, population assessment and setting of harvest limits



# Example of Tribal Fisheries Benefit

## Alaska Subsistence Fisheries Management

- Conserves salmon stocks to maintain traditional subsistence lifestyles
- Regulate subsistence harvest on federal lands
- Support the Yukon River Salmon Agreement and the Alaskan Subsistence Fishery Program



## Alaska partners include:

- Numerous Native American entities
- Alaska Department of Fish and Game
- North Pacific Fishery Management Council
- Federal Subsistence Management Board



# Example of Tribal Fisheries Benefit

## Apache Trout Recovery



- Apache trout were listed as Endangered with remnant populations found only on tribal lands
- Partnered with White Mountain Apache Tribe to locate populations, assess and restore trout habitat
- Apache trout stocked in reservoirs to establish recreational fishery
- Down listed to Threatened



# Tribal Wildlife Grants

## Background:

- The Tribal Wildlife Grants (TWG) program was initially created by Congress within the State Wildlife Grants program in 2002, setting aside \$5 million to establish a competitive Tribal grant program for Federally-recognized Indian Tribes.
- TWG funds were not subject to further requirements of the formula-based State Wildlife Grant program.
- Competitive grant program which affords only federally-recognized Tribes an opportunity to apply and build capacity for their fish and wildlife programs.
- Currently, Tribal consortiums cannot apply directly, however, they can participate as a contractor through a federally-recognized Tribe's application.
- To date, the USFWS has provided over \$60 million to over 170 Tribes for more than 360 conservation projects.



# Tribal Wildlife Grants

## Purpose:

- **TWG are competitive funds that “provide technical and financial assistance for the development and implementation of programs that benefit fish and wildlife resources and their habitat, including species that are not hunted or fished.”**
- **Funds may be used for salaries, equipment, consultant services, subcontracts, acquisitions and travel.**
- **Proposals are evaluated by the following criteria: Resource Benefit (30), Performance Measures (20), Work Plan (10), Budget (10), Capacity Building (25) and their Partnerships and Contributions (5). (Max. 100 points)**



# Tribal Wildlife Grants

## Benefits:

- Enabled Tribes to develop increased fish and wildlife management capacity.
- Improve and enhance relationships with partners (including state agencies).
- Ability to address cultural and environmental priorities and heighten tribal students' interest in fisheries, wildlife and related fields of study.
- Support recovery efforts for threatened and endangered species.



# Example of Tribal Benefit

## Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe

### Project Title:

*“Popponeset Bay Restoration Project”*

### Objectives:

- Develop oyster aquaculture and restore oyster fishery in Popponeset Bay.
- Reduce nitrogen loading into the bay by raising oysters which will filter it out of the bay.
- Develop Tribal capacity to manage and protect its land and natural resources.
- To have a self sustaining ongoing project through the sale of oysters.

Partners: Town of Mashpee, EPA, Mashpee Shellfish Constable, UMASS at Darmouth & USFWS



# Tribal Wildlife Grants

Examples of eligible project activities include, but limited to:

- Planning for fish and wildlife (including T&E species) and habitat conservation
- Ongoing and / or new fish and wildlife conservation and management actions
- Fish and wildlife related laboratory work
- Field research
- Natural history studies
- Habitat mapping
- Field surveys and population monitoring
- Habitat preservation, restoration or enhancement





# RFP for Fiscal Year 2014 TWG

**May 1, 2013 – September 3, 2013**

**126-day RFP Period (generally 4 months)**



# Timeline for TWG Grant Awards

- Grants are reviewed / scored / ranked at the regional level from September through November.
- National review typically occurs in December early January.
- Once a budget is passed, either the DOI Secretary or FWS Director makes an award announcement based on the current appropriated funds.
- Delays can occur when short term CR's are passed.



# Where to go to obtain TWG Information?

USFWS National Website:

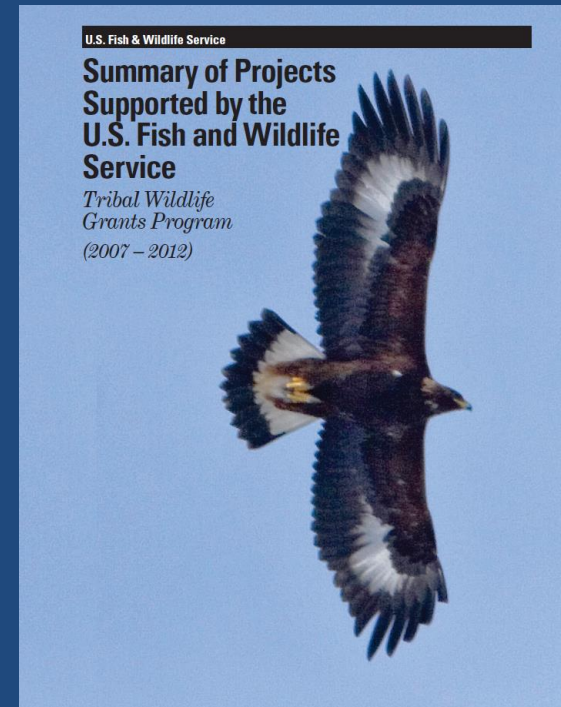
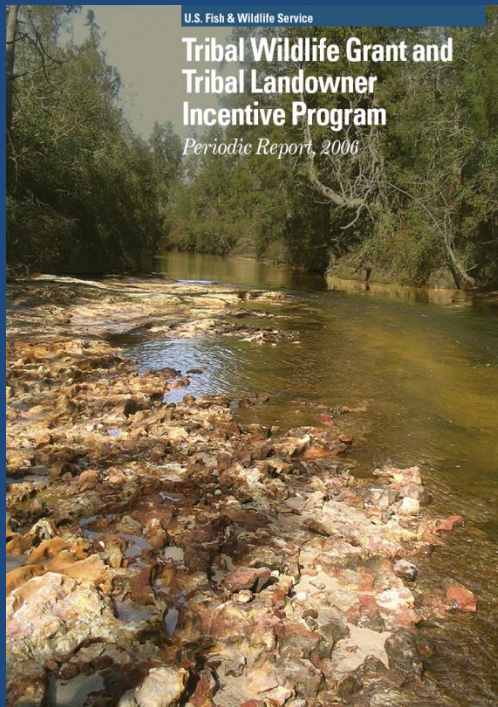
<http://www.fws.gov/nativeamerican/grants.html>



# Tribal Grants Publications

USFWS National Publication

<http://www.fws.gov/nativeamerican/pdf/twg-incentive-program-periodic-report-2006.pdf>



USFWS National Publication

<http://www.fws.gov/nativeamerican/pdf/twg-projects-summary-2007-2012.pdf>

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**<http://www.fws.gov/nativeamerican/index.html>**

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Questions/Comments?

