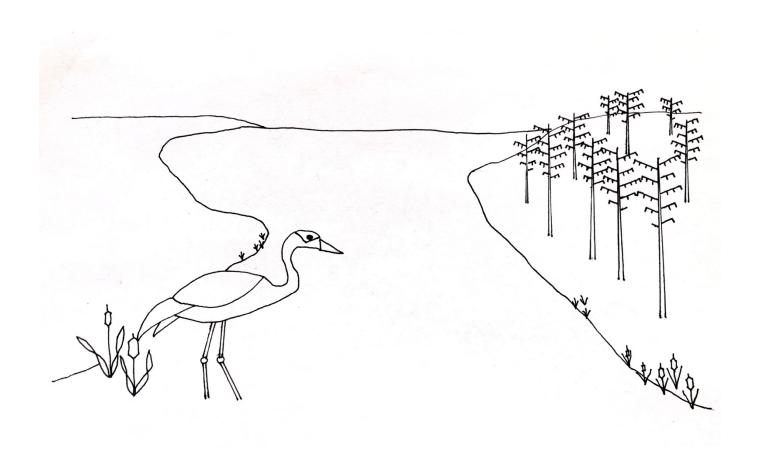
## Your experience with the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program



A survey by:

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service





#### **INTRODUCTION**

Programs that help landowners improve wildlife habitat have become more common and available to private landowners over the last few decades. Habitat improvement includes establishing, restoring, enhancing, or maintaining wildlife habitat.

In this survey, we'd like to ask you about a particular wildlife habitat improvement program you participated in—the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) PARTNERS FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE (PFW) PROGRAM, which we will refer to in this survey as the Program.

Hearing your feedback about participation will help us understand how the Program is serving private landowners like you.

#### **PROJECT DETAILS**

Your Program LANDOWNER AGREEMENT describes the habitat improvement project and the management activities required to advance or maintain project outcomes during the agreement term.

<<Your agreement with the Program <<is/was>> in partnership with <<mainagreementorg>>>>. In the Program, you <<will complete/have completed>> a <<pre>projecttype>> habitat improvement project on your parcel of land in <<county>>. This agreement started in <<startyear>> and <<will end/ended>> in <<endyear>>.

We would like to ask you specifically about your experiences with this habitat improvement project in this Program.

#### THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION!

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: We are collecting this information subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501) to solicit feedback on landowner experiences in the Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) Program to improve Program service and landowner support. Your response is voluntary and we will not share you response publicly. We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. OMB has reviewed and approved this survey and assigned OMB Control Number 1040-0001.

Estimated Burden Statement: We estimate it will take 17 minutes to complete this survey, including time to read instructions and gather information. You may submit comments on any aspect of this information collection to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 5275 Leesburg Pike, MS: JAO/PERMA-PRB, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803, or via email at Info\_Coll@fws.gov.

SECTION A: YOUR PROPERTY								
Private land is used for many reasons and it means different things to people. We'd like to know a little bit about your property and how you use it.								
	f land in the same area. If you own multiple parcels of land in ogether as your "property" for the following questions.							
1. How many years have you owned or m	anaged your property?							
years								
2. Is your primary residence on your prop	erty?							
□ No	□ Yes							
3. Who makes most of the day-to-day ded  ☐ Just me or me and my spouse ☐ Me and others (family members, business ☐ Only others (family members, business pa	partners, land managers, lessee, etc.)							
your property?	you spend on land management planning or activities on							
hours								
5. How many acres of your property are r wildlife?	nanaged with the primary goal to provide habitat for							
acres								

I use my property	Does not describe	Slightly describes	Moderately describes	Mostly describes	Completely describes
for timber production	0	0	0	0	0
for crop production	0			0	0
for livestock production	0				0
to provide hunting leases to others	0	0			
for the financial investment in land	0	0			
each additional option bel	Does not	Slightly	Moderately	Mostly describes	Completely describes
I use my property	describe	describes	describes	describes	describes
to provide wildlife habitat					
for personal hunting (self, family, friends)				0	
for other outdoor recreation (non-hunting)	ı		0	0	0
for the rural lifestyle					
to conserve/protect rare or declining species	0		0	0	0
very little—I'm not very involved in my land	0			0	
Other					
If you indicate some	other use for y	our property, pl	ease specify:		

6. Please indicate how well each option describes how you use your property:

**SECTION B: YOUR DECISION TO PARTICIPATE** 

Before participating in programs like this, people often consider reasons for and against participating. In this section, we want to know more about the factors that you may or may not have considered at the time you decided to participate in this Program.

We first want to hear about the reasons that may have POSITIVELY INFLUENCED your decision.

8. The items below reflect a number of reasons landowners may have when deciding to participate in the Program. Please indicate to what degree each of the items below positively influenced your decision to participate:

I participated because I wanted to	No influence	Small influence	Moderate influence	Strong influence	Very strong influence
improve habitat for game wildlife on my land					
improve habitat for non-game wildlife on my land	0			0	
improve the health of my land					
conserve/protect rare or declining wildlife	0	0		0	
increase the profitability of my land					
uphold my family connection to the land	0	0	0	0	

9. The items below reflect reasons that may be related to needs you had on your land. Please indicate to what degree each of the items below positively influenced your decision to participate in the Program:

I participated because the project	No influence	Small influence	Moderate influence	Strong influence	Very strong influence
met an existing need I had for my land					
was something I wanted to implement on my land anyway					0
matched my overall land management goals					0
was something I didn't know how to implement on my own					0
was something I couldn't otherwise afford to do on my own					0
was something I didn't have the resources (supplies or equipment) to do on my own					

10. The items below reflect some landowners' experiences learning about and participating in the
PFW Program. Please indicate to what degree each of the items below positively influenced your
decision to participate:

I participated because:	No influence	Small influence	Moderate influence	Strong influence	Very strong influence
I knew someone else who participated in the Program	0				
someone reached out to me directly					
< <mainagreementorg>&gt; was running the Program</mainagreementorg>	0	0		0	
I had a positive previous experience with the Program					
I had a positive previous experience with another habitat improvement program					

# 11. The items below reflect a number of personal reasons landowners may have when deciding to participate in the Program. Please indicate to what degree each of the items below positively influenced your decision to participate:

I participated because:	No influence	Small influence	Moderate influence	Strong influence	Very strong influence
I like the feeling I get when helping wildlife					
Establishing, restoring, or enhancing habitat is a fundamental part of who I am	0				
participation in the Program seemed like a reasonable thing to do	0				
I thought it was an appropriate thing for someone like me to do	0			0	
helping wildlife is a fundamental part of who I am	0				
it's the kind of thing someone like me should do	0				
I would feel guilty if I didn't do what I could to improve wildlife habitat	0			0	
I wanted recognition from others for participating in habitat improvement programs	0				

While you ultimately decided to participate in the Program, we want to hear about the reasons or concerns that may have had a NEGATIVE INFLUENCE on your decision.

12. The items below reflect a number of practical considerations landowners may have when deciding to participate in the PFW Program. Please indicate the degree to which the following items made you reluctant to participate:

When deciding to participate, I thought:	No influence	Small influence	Moderate influence	Strong influence	Very strong influence
implementing the habitat improvement project would be too burdensome	0				
my personal financial contribution would be too costly					
the agreement term length was too long					
the paperwork and administrative process would be a hassle	0				
the reimbursement process would be difficult and/or lengthy					
the project and management activities would decrease overall profitability of my land	0		0	0	0

13. The items below reflect a number of personal considerations landowners may have when deciding to participate in the Program. Please indicate the degree to which the following items made you reluctant to participate:

When deciding to participate, I considered:	No influence	Small influence	Moderate influence	Strong influence	Very strong influence
that I was uncomfortable receiving financial assistance to manage my land					
I was uncomfortable allowing access to my land				0	0
< <mainagreementorg>&gt; didn't seem trustworthy</mainagreementorg>					
the possibility that the habitat improvement project wouldn't be helpful					
that the habitat improvement project wasn't aligned with my land management goals					

to participate in the Program. Please indicate the degree to which the following items made you									
reluctant to p	articipate:								
I thought:	g to participate,		No influence	Small influenc	Moderat e influenc		Very strong influence		
I would lose the land the way I	ne control to mana feel is best	age my				0			
I wouldn't be pregulations on	orotected from fu my land	ture				0			
_	he federal goverr dden strings attac				0		0		
	stand you may r		<del>-</del>			your area are o	doing, but		
please answe	r the following o	questions to	the best o	of your ab	ility:				
About how ma	any landowners i	n your							
area			None	Few	Some	Most	Almost all		
	the Program or ar habitat improver	-			0		0		
manage their properties with a goal to conserve habitat for rare or declining wildlife		-					0		
16. People im	portant to me tl	nink I shoul	d manage	my land t	o improve wi	ildlife habitat.			
☐ Strongly disagree	☐ Moderately disagree	□ Slightly disagree	□ Neu	utral (	□ Slightly agree	☐ Moderately agree	□ Strongly agree		
17. Regardless	s of what other ife habitat.	people do,	my person	al values	oblige me to	always manag	e my land to		
☐ Strongly disagree	☐ Moderately disagree	□ Slightly disagree	□ Neu	utral C	□ Slightly agree	☐ Moderately agree	☐ Strongly agree		

14. The items below reflect a number of personal considerations landowners may have when deciding

#### **SECTION C: YOUR OVERALL EXPERIENCE WITH THE PROGRAM**

We are surveying Program landowners who are at various stages in their agreements—both during and beyond the life of the agreement term. Please respond to the following questions based on YOUR CURRENT STAGE in your agreement and habitat improvement project work plan.

#### 18. Please provide your general feedback about your experience with this Program thus far:

	Strongly	Moderately	Slightly	Noutral	Slightly	Moderately	Strongly
Tl	disagree	disagree	disagree	Neutral	agree	agree	agree
The	_	_	_	_	_	_	_
< <mainagreementorg>&gt;</mainagreementorg>							
has met my expectations							
I am proud of my							
association with the							
Program							
I am satisfied with my							
experience with the							
Program							
I have more knowledge							
of how to manage my							
land the way I would like							
The Program allows me							
to still manage my		Π			Π	Π	
property the way I want	U	U	U	U	U	U	U
to							
My involvement in the							
Program has increased		0				0	
my interest in helping		U					
rare or declining wildlife							

19. Please respond to these items about how you would consider participating in this	Program if you
made the decision again:	

Knowing what I know now	Strongly disagree	Moderately disagree	Slightly disagree	Neutral	Slightly agree	Moderately agree	Strongly agree
I would make the sam decision to participate the Program to do the project	e in	0		0		0	0
I would participate in Program for another habitat improvement project	Π				0	0	0
20. How would you describe the relationship with your << PFW biologist / << mainagreementorg>> primary contact>>?							
•	•	Slightly satisfactory	□ Neutral	☐ Slightly satisfactor		•	Very etisfactory
21. How much do you rely on your < <pfw <<mainagreementorg="" biologist="">&gt; primary contact&gt;&gt; for help?</pfw>							
□ Never	☐ Rarely	☐ Som	etimes	☐ Frequ	uently	☐ Always	
22. Did working with the Program to benefit wildlife make you more or less likely to want to continue conservation work on your property?							
	•	ghtly $\square$ N ss likely		Slightly more likely	□ Mode more	•	tremely ore likely

23. To the best of your knowledge, please select the option that best describes where you are in your Program agreement. "Project" refers to your << projecttype>> habitat improvement project.

SELECT ONLY ONE RESPONSE AND MOVE ON TO THE DIRECTED SECTION.

☐ Project has not started	PLEASE SKIP TO SECTION E
☐ Project has started, but is not yet completed	FLEASE SKIP TO SECTION L
☐ Project was completed within the past year, and the agreement term has not ended	
☐ Project was completed over 1 year ago, and the agreement term has not ended	PLEASE MOVE ON TO SECTION D
☐ Project was completed, and the agreement term has ended	

24. Please respond to these items about how you consider the results of your wil	dlife habitat
improvement project in this Program:	

This project	Strongly disagree	Moderately disagree	Slightly disagree	Neutral	Slightly agree	Moderately agree	Strongly agree	Too early to tell
helped me achieve my goals for the parcel								
delivered intended outcomes			0	0			0	
increased my income			0	0				0

After completion of the wildlife habitat improvement project, there are typically some management activities that need to continue to support the project outcomes. The questions below ask you to tell us more about the management activities outlined in your Program agreement.

### 25. Overall, continuing the management activities outlined in the Program agreement to support project outcomes is:

	Extremely	Moderately	Slightly	Neither	Slightly	Moderately	Extremely	
Easy		0				0		Difficult
Quick		0	0					Time consuming
Worthless		0						Worthwhile
Expensive	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Inexpensive
Manageable								Burdensome

Below are some conditions that might influence whether or not you maintain habitat improvement project outcomes.

### 26. Please indicate how the following items might increase the likelihood of you continuing management activities:

I am more likely to continue the		Slightly more	Moderately	Much more
management activities if	No change	likely	more likely	likely
the activities complement my operation or				
land management goals		U	U	
the financial burden of implementing the				
activities is low	U	U	U	U
I was in control of the project				
implementation and maintenance	U	U	U	U
I established a good relationship with				
contacts within the Program			U	
I simply enjoy keeping up with the activities	0			0
the project outcomes on my property are worth the cost and time			0	0

Below are some challenges that might influence whether or not you maintain habitat improvement project outcomes.

### 27. Please indicate how the following items might decrease the likelihood of you continuing management activities:

I am less likely to con activities if	tinue the management	No change	Slightly less likely	Moderately less likely	Much less likely
the project didn't pro	duce the intended outcom	es 🗆			0
the activities get in th	e way of my operation	0			0
I don't have sufficient continue over the lon	knowledge of how to g term			0	0
removing the activitie influence on my prop	es reduces government erty			0	0
the activities are too t	time consuming			0	0
the activities are too	expensive				0
monitoring, schedulin activities is too compl	g, and carrying out the icated			0	0
project outcomes tha agreement specified	y to achieve or maintain n what the Program nave you been able to co	□ ontinue managem	□ nent activities	□ to maintain oı	advance the
habitat improvemen	t project outcomes up u	ntil now?			
□ Not at all □ Some □ Most		Mostly	☐ Completely	√ □ Not	applicable
-	do you find challenging ab ent project outcomes?	out continuing ma	nagement activ	vities to maintai	n or advance

Maintaining wildlife habitat improvement outcomes after the Program agreement term ends requires continued maintenance and management. Wherever you currently are in your agreement, we want to know your thoughts about Continued habitat management after the agreement term ends.

-	ceiving the tech		-	re to maintain o	advance the ha	bitat
☐ Strongly disagree	☐ Moderately disagree	☐ Slightly disagree	□ Neutral	□ Slightly agree	☐ Moderately agree	☐ Strongly disagree
	long past the eabitat improve		_	nent do you plan	on continuing t	o maintain or
☐ Up to 2 years	s 🗆 2-5 ye	ars (	□ 6-10 years	□ 10-20 y		ore than 20 ears

SECTION E: DEMOGRAPH	SECTION E: DEMOGRAPHICS							
Your willingness to share some background information will help us appreciate landowner's considerations of managing land for wildlife habitat. Your responses are completely CONFIDENTIAL and will NOT be connected to your name or address, and we will NEVER release your personal information to anyone.								
Some landowners own multiple parcels of land in the same area. If you own multiple parcels of land in the same area, please consider them all together as your "property" for the following questions.								
32. Please indicate how	•	ı agree or disa	agree with	each item r	elated to t	he financial		
management of your p							_	
	Strongly	Moderately	Slightly	<b>N</b>	Slightly	Moderately	Strongly	
My property	disagree	disagree	disagree	Neutral	agree	agree	agree	
is an important source of income						0		
is a business								
needs to at least financially break even	0			0		0	0	
acres	f <b>property c</b> owned leased (rent leased out (l	ed)	ease from o	thers, and	lease to ot	hers?		
34. In a typical year, ap	-	-	entage of yo	our annual	household	income come	s from	
	%							
35. Please select your gender:  Male Female Other Prefer not to say								
36. What year were yo	ou born?							

If there is anything else you would like to share with us, please do so here:							
We greatly appreciate your time and thoughtful contributions to this survey.							
Please return your completed questionnaire in the postage-paid envelope as soon as possible.							
THANK YOU!							