



The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program and Corporate Partnerships

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program is a voluntary habitat restoration program that provides financial assistance and restoration expertise to private landowners, including private corporations, tribes and other conservation partners who desire to improve the condition of fish and wildlife habitat on their land. All private landowners and tribes are eligible for the program, and participation is voluntary. Project selection is based on projected fish and wildlife benefits and reflects the needs of the landowner, as well as the fish and wildlife it is intended to benefit. The Partners Program has helped restore habitats on private lands for corporations or with corporate partnerships. A few of these projects are described below.

HAWAII - Maui Land and Pineapple Co., Ltd.

For more than a decade, **Maui Land and Pineapple Co.** has been a strong leader in protecting and restoring native Hawaiian habitats within the Pu'u Kukui Watershed on the island of Maui. They have protected about 13,000 acres of contiguous rainforest and montane bogs. The company has spent about \$200,000 and for every dollar spent they have gained about four dollars from matching grants that provide money, materials, consultations or labor. They have partners in the federal and state government, academia, environmental organizations and local groups including: the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Biological Resources Division, State Department of Land and Natural Resources, Maui County, University of Hawaii, The Nature Conservancy and the Maui Invasive Species Committee.



Aerial view of Pu'u Kukui or "Hill of Light."

CALIFORNIA - Sierra Pacific Industries

In California, **Sierra Pacific Industries** is working with the Partners Program and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to restore that important migratory bird habitat along Piaute Creek. Grazing operations and other activities in the watershed had degraded habitat along the creek. Sierra Pacific Industries provided one-third of the funding for the \$37,890 project. They also set aside a nearby 27-acre timber harvest site as scrub-shrub habitat for the willow flycatcher, little willow flycatcher, and northern goshawk.

OHIO - Cincinnati Gas & Electric and Champion International Corporation

Working with the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, **Cincinnati Gas & Electric, Champion International Corporation**, State and Federal agencies, volunteer organizations, and a local foundation collaborated to restore 140 acres of wetland and 1100 acres of native prairie in Hamilton County, Ohio. They also set aside part of the former village for a native wetland and prairie seed nursery. A recent site survey revealed that 135 species of birds now use these restored habitats.

WISCONSIN - Alliant Energy,



King rail nest in restored wetland.

Inc.

Norb Rich, a private landowner, had an interest in providing habitat for the federally endangered Karner blue butterfly and contacted Partners Program biologists for help. In addition to improving his own property for the butterfly, Mr. Rich wanted to include the utility right-of-way running through his property.



Mr. Rich with Alliant Energy Associate Environmental Consultant, Heidi Rahn, in the right-of-way.

The Service contacted **Alliant Energy** about the proposal and they supported this effort. Their support of this habitat project is an excellent example of how private landowners and industry can work together to protect and possibly someday delist endangered species.

LOUISIANA - Cajun Electric Cooperative

The largest single reforestation effort on private land in the southeastern U.S., supported by Service funding, was accomplished with the help of **Cajun Electric Cooperative**, of De Soto Parish, Louisiana. Cajun Electric Cooperative partnered with the Partners Program, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, Louisiana Tech University, and Louisiana Office of Forestry to help fund and implement a \$61,000 project to retire and reforest nearly 2,000 acres of active cropland and pasture, and create 60 acres of shallow water wetland. For their contribution and efforts on this project, Cajun Electric Cooperative received a National Wetland Award in the private sector category from the U.S. Department of the Interior.



Water control structures and low dikes were installed to restore shallow water areas.

OKLAHOMA - Williams Natural Gas Company

The **Williams Natural Gas Company** teamed up with the Partners Program in Oklahoma to help build Outdoor Environmental Classrooms. Materials donated by the company were used in wetland restoration projects for the use by local schools as “outdoor classrooms.”



Children exploring their outdoor classroom in Jackson, Oklahoma.

TEXAS - Phillips Petroleum

Phillips Petroleum is working to restore unique playa lake and native shortgrass prairie habitat in Bailey, Hansford, and Donley counties, Texas. Phillips Petroleum contributed nearly half of the \$53,000 cost to remove sediment build-up in lakes, build fences to restrict livestock access, remove mesquite from native shortgrass prairie, and implement managed grazing activities. Texas playa lakes and native prairie are used by waterfowl, shorebirds, sandhill crane, swift fox, bald eagle, ferruginous hawk and mountain plover, along with several species of

amphibians. Private landowners and the Partners Program contributed the remaining costs.



A playa lake in Texas that has been fenced to protect wetland vegetation.

NEW JERSEY - Pacific Gas and Electric National Energy Group

The Logan Generating Plant of the **Pacific Gas and Electric National Energy Group** was the site of an innovative project to restore habitat along the Delaware River. **Pacific Gas and Electric** joined with the Partners Program of the New Jersey Field Office and Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, Inc., to restore wildlife. The group planted 900 trees and shrubs on land adjacent to the Logan Generating power plant and in an adjacent wetland. They also established a wide strip of native warm-season grasses as a riparian (streamside) buffer. Costs were shared among the partners for this \$8,360 project. The restored land will be maintained and managed for a minimum of ten years, providing much needed habitat for migratory and grassland-dependent birds.



Restored native vegetation near Logan Generating Plant.