

Adopt a Fish and Wildlife Area program

Wildlife Management Handbook

There is a need for additional resources to help manage department properties, including Fisheries and Wildlife Areas. Partner groups can be a significant resource for managing these properties, both in financial contributions and volunteer labor. The Adopt a Fish and Wildlife Area program is a means by which the department can enter into land management partnership agreements with sponsors. Property managers are encouraged to promote the program within their communities and target local priority management needs. To ensure a positive cost/benefit, the agreements shall include an annual minimum of either three work days and 100 volunteer hours, a \$3,000 contribution, or a combination of both.

Sponsor selection

Sponsors should be selected based on how their proposed contribution fits the local priority management needs. If multiple Sponsors are interested in adopting the same Area, it is suggested that the Area be divided among the interested sponsors, or, different duties are assigned to different sponsors. If an entire Area is already adopted, a waiting list should be developed for other interested sponsors.

Agreement form and length

Adopt a Fish and Wildlife Area agreements shall be completed using form 2500-133. Agreements generally should be made for three years to ensure positive cost/benefits and are renewable. Agreements should be signed in accordance with Manual Code 1023.

Acceptance of gift

If the agreement includes a financial gift, staff should follow manual code 1403.11 relating to the acceptance of gifts.

Eligible properties

The Adopt a Fish and Wildlife Area program may be utilized on Fisheries and Wildlife Areas, Riverways, Flowages, Wild Rivers, and other scattered/extensive/remnant department properties.

Eligible activities

The Adopt a Fish and Wildlife Area program is designed to be flexible to meet the locally identified property management needs. Volunteer labor or funding can be used for habitat work, facilities maintenance, or other needs. The agreement should clearly identify the activities to be completed by the sponsor in the work plan section of the form. If the sponsor will construct any facilities such as kiosks, boardwalks, blinds, etc., those facilities should have department engineering approval of the

design and final construction. To facilitate this, facility developments should be entered into the development project system.

Sponsor Recognition

Sponsors should be recognized with an Adopt a Fish and Wildlife Area sign at a visible location on the property. BSI has a sign template. Sponsors are encouraged to fund the sign, but if not, funds can come from local operational budgets.