

## How and why has the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service used technology transfer to advance its mission?

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is dedicated to the conservation, protection, and enhancement of fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats. FWS is the only agency in the Federal Government whose primary responsibility is managing fish and wildlife resources for the American public. It manages more than 855 million acres of lands and waters in the National Wildlife Refuge System, including seven national monuments, 568 National Wildlife Refuges, and 211 Waterfowl Production Areas. FWS also operates National Fish Hatcheries, which, in conjunction with its Fish Health Centers and Fish Technology Centers (including the Conservation Genetics Lab in Alaska), restore native aquatic populations, mitigate for fish lost as a result of Federal water projects, and support recreational fisheries throughout the United States. Research and Development (R&D) within FWS is primarily focused on applying the latest scientific and technical information to fulfill its mission of working with partners to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. Transferring FWS's technology and knowledge to the public and collaborators accelerates the adoption and use of agency research while improving the economic and societal benefit from its R&D investments to help solve natural resource problems.

The majority of FWS's technology transfer is done via dissemination to the public and scientific community through traditional avenues such as peer-reviewed papers, reports, and fact sheets. FWS employees are actively involved in the larger scientific community and participate in scientific societies, meetings, and conferences and publish scientific research. Sharing scientific and technical information via public outreach and partnerships is a high priority for FWS. For example, the [FWS Conservation Library](#) at the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, provides a searchable collection of selected documents, images, historical artifacts, audio clips, publications, and videos, most of which are in the public domain. FWS also makes internal publications, reports, and other information available to the public through the FWS website. As another example, FWS is a partner to all units within the 17 Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESU) Network, allowing FWS to be involved in interdisciplinary and multiagency research projects with the host university and other non-Federal partners. Each year, FWS pursues dozens of projects through the CESU network, including surveying and monitoring efforts, climate change vulnerability assessments, streamflow projections, and many others.

Scientists within the agency published 343 scholarly articles, papers, or book chapters in publications focused on diverse topics such as ecology, biodiversity conservation, fisheries, zoology, ornithology, environmental sciences, and evolutionary biology. FWS also manages two online peer-reviewed publications focused on the practical application and integration of applied science to wildlife conservation and management—the *Journal of Fish and Wildlife Management* and the *North American Fauna Monograph Series*. These electronic journals are in the public domain. FWS also uses its research to help inform a wide range of wildlife management decisions in the interest of the general public. For example, the National Wildlife Refuge Inventory and Monitoring Program systematically obtains a range of biological data about the status, trends, and management responses of species and habitats within the Refuge System. Those data inform and improve the conservation of fish, wildlife, and plant natural resources.