



# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Washington D.C. 20240



In Reply Refer To:  
FWS/AFAC/078098

Drue Banta Winters  
Policy Director  
American Fisheries Society  
425 Barlow Place, Suite #110  
Bethesda, MD 20814

Dear Dr. Winters,

I want to extend my gratitude for the letter you shared on behalf of the many interested hunting, fishing, wildlife conservation, and landowner organizations and scientific societies about federal agency coordination and strategic stakeholder input regarding fish passage funding in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). It is an honor and a privilege to bear witness to their thoughtful dedication to the coordinated implementation of this historic investment into fish passage and aquatic connectivity. I whole-heartedly agree that a sustained and high-level commitment to coordinated implementation across the Federal family will ensure that this generational funding opportunity provides the greatest benefit to our nation's fish, rivers, stream, and communities.

On December 2, 2022, I reconvened Federal agency leadership to review the set of recommendations developed by Federal agency staff, in coordination with non-Federal partners, since our first meeting in June 2022. Leaders from thirteen Federal agencies joined our discussion, as well as representatives from the Office of Management and Budget, the Council on Environmental Quality, and the White House, demonstrating high-level interest in and commitment to our collective goals from across the Federal government.

During our discussion, participating agencies came to consensus on several activities that will ensure that Tribes, States, and other non-Federal stakeholders are engaged and well-informed, BIL fish passage funding is applied in a manner that creates big conservation wins, and the applicant experience is improved and inclusive. We look forward to sharing these activities with you in the near future and to our continued dialog on how the conservation community can work collaboratively and strategically to benefit our aquatic resources.

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to either Siva Sundaresan, Deputy Director, at [siva\\_sundaresan@fws.gov](mailto:siva_sundaresan@fws.gov) and 202-208-4331 or Dave Miko, Acting Assistant Director, Fish and Aquatic Conservation Program at [david\\_miko@fws.gov](mailto:david_miko@fws.gov) and 703-358-2279.

Sincerely,

Martha Williams  
Director

Digitally signed by  
MARTHA WILLIAMS  
Date: 2023.01.12  
14:46:41 -05'00'