



FWS Grant Opportunities for Private Landowners



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FWS has several grant programs available for private landowners

- Overview of each
 - (also see <http://grants.fws.gov>)
- Briefly touch on other grant opportunities w/other Federal agencies
- Provide some grant basics



■ Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program (PFW)

- **Focus:** Federal trust species – listed species & migratory birds, also state & tribal species of concern, \$165K in NM for 2004
- **Eligibility:** Private landowners & Tribes, also private groups, schools, counties, State Land Office properties (NM only), etc
- **Match requirements:** Nationally, 50% preferred (cash or in-kind, based on total project cost), in NM, $\geq 20\%$ preferred. Projects with a greater match rank higher. Advantageous to have as much match as possible
- **Funding cycle:** Applications accepted year-round, selections made in March 2004, probably January in 2005
- **Selection process:** Based at state-by-state level, program staff review, rank & make recommendations for funding to Ecological Services Field Supervisor & PFW Regional Coordinator
- **Contact:** **NM** - Nancy Derey, (505)761-4707, Nancy_Derey@fws.gov
AZ - Kris Randell, (602)242-2513, Kris Randell_@fws.gov

■ Middle Rio Grande Bosque Initiative

- **Focus:** Protect, enhance & restore ecological values/functions, coordinate such projects on Middle Rio Grande, \$550K in 2004
- **Eligibility:** Tribes, Public & Private, project must be somewhere in Middle Rio Grande (Cochiti Dam - Elephant Butte Reservoir)
- **Match requirements:** None, but many cooperators provide one
- **Funding cycle:** FY 2004 application deadline was 10/23/04, multi-year projects must re-submit
- **Selection process:** Projects presented to Bosque Improvement Group, a subset of group is selected to rank & recommends proposals, MRGBI Coordinator funds recommended projects
- **Contact:** Cyndie Abeyta, MRGBI Coordinator, 505/761-4738, Cyndie_Abeyta@fws.gov

■ Private Stewardship Grants Program

- **Focus:** Voluntary conservation of federally listed, candidate &/or species of concern on private lands, \$7M in 2004
- **Eligibility:** Projects must be on privately-owned (deeded) land
- **Match requirements:** $\geq 10\%$ (cash & in-kind of total project cost)
- **Funding cycle:** 2004 RFP 1/6/04, initially to close 3/8/04 but extended to 3/31/04, announcement of selected projects pending
- **Selection process:** National program, FWS regional committees review, rank & make recommendations to FWS WO & Director. Secretary DOI has selection authority
- **Contact:** Region 2, Mike McCollum PFW Regional Coordinator, 817/277-1100, Mike_McCollum@fws.gov

■ North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) Grants Program

- **Focus:** Wetlands conservation in US, Canada & Mexico. Strong emphasis on long-term commitment among organizations &/or individuals who have developed partnerships to carry out wetland conservation projects. \$37M in 2004
- **Eligibility:** Any public or private organization or individual
- **Match requirements:** 50%
- **Funding cycle:** Both standard & small grants available, \$50K cap on small grants, \$1M (?) on standard. Standard grants deadline in March, July & December, small grants deadline in December.
- **Selection process:** International program. North American Wetlands Conservation Council reviews & ranks projects & forwards recommendations to Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, which meets 3x/year.
- **Contact:** Standard Grants: David Buie 301/497-5870, David_Buie@fws.gov, Small Grants: Keith Morehouse 703/358-1888, Keith_Morehouse@fws.gov

Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund

- **Focus:** Financial assistance to States in conducting conservation planning or acquiring interests in land for listed species, \$80 million awarded in 2004 (in 4 different grant program)
- **2 types of grants, only non-traditional available to landowners:**
 - Traditional Conservation grant (2004-\$7.4 M): State agencies only - planning, surveys
 - Non-Traditional Conservation grants (2004-\$71.1 M):
 - 3 different pots to do things like
 - acquire land interests in support of a listed species recovery plan
 - develop habitat conservation plans (HCPs), do surveys & outreach
 - acquire land interests in support of an approved HCPs
- **Greater commitment** on part of landowner w/these funds, practices must be maintained for as long as species of interest is listed

Endangered Species Conservation Fund – con't

- **Eligibility:** Limited to States w/cooperative agreement w/DOI (only States can apply, **landowners can not apply directly**)
- Typically an intermediary organization, like a land trust, actually applies to State and individuals apply to “middle man”
- **Match requirements:** $\geq 25\%$ if one State, $\geq 10\%$ if two or more States involved (*each* State must provide 10% or more)

Match typically comes from on-the-ground applicant – landowner, etc

- **Funding cycle:** 2004 RFP opened 2/11/04, cut-off in 3-4 months
- **Selection process:** Final selection made by Secretary DOI, based on recommendation from Director/Regional Directors of FWS
- **Contact:** Your State Fish & Wildlife Agency. Start talking early with the State or NGO if you have an idea.

Other Federal Grants/Assistance

- Other programs available with other agencies:
 - BOR: ESA Collaborative Program (NM only)
 - BLM: Challenge cost share
 - USFS: Challenge cost share, FSP, CFRP
 - NRCS: Farm Bill programs EQIP, WHIP, WRP, CSP

- Grants.gov – E-government initiative
 - Website designed as single point entry for all Federal grant information & applications (one-stop shopping). New website & still some “bugs”, not everything included, etc.

 - 2 key features available
 - Query database for grant opportunities, sign up for email notices generated by query, etc
 - Grant applications (hard copy & online)
 - Also tutorials & other info/resources available

Some Grant Basics

- All programs competitive, demand exceeds supply. Some strategies:
 - Take grant writing course(s) so you can prepare compelling proposals that stand out
 - Develop & emphasize partnerships to leverage funds whenever possible
 - Cultivate relationship w/funding program reps & market your project(s)
 - Orient proposals towards purpose/objectives of grant program that you are applying for
- Virtually all grants are “reimbursable”, you do work first & get reimbursed, advance of funds available w/some programs
 - Keep good records, receipts, etc

- No project selection final until funds obligated for it, **DO NOT** spend any money until you receive written notification, otherwise you might not get reimbursed. Also delays in agency funding can delay notification of obligation
- O&M typically your responsibility, e.g., grant pays to fence out cattle in riparian area, you must maintain fence for length of agreement.
- Develop a funding strategy using a variety of funds, mix of public & private. If possible, hire someone to help with this. Also become familiar with grant administration.

- Understand and adhere to obligations under funding contract, i.e., project tasks, reporting requirements, commitment time frame. Important to cultivate a good reputation w/funding entities
- Most programs require a match, usually cash & /or in-kind contributions allowed. Amount of match required (20%, etc) usually based on total project cost, not amount you are requesting
 - If multiple federal grants involved, the match may be set at the highest rate required among the programs
- CAN NOT “double-dip” with federal funds. Can’t use one federal program to pay for your match under another program.
 - Example: Grant pays to fence out cattle in riparian area, your match is labor to construct fence. You can not use another federal grant to pay for labor to build fence.
 - BIA 638 program funds are an exception.



The End

Questions?

