

**Coral Reef Grants Workshop
State Wildlife Grants Program
Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)**

Agency Point of Contact

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Description

The State Wildlife Grants program (SWG or the Program) was authorized as part of the Dept. of Interior Appropriations bill (Public Law 107-63-Appendix A). The Program has year to year appropriation from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Funding is provided by the following formula: State receives $1/3 \times \% \text{ Land} + 2/3 \times \% \text{ State Population}$ (latest census figures), there is a Maximum 5% and a Minimum 1%. Puerto Rico receives $1/2$ of 1% and Insular Areas $1/4$ of 1%. To date the funding has been as follows: \$77 million in FY 2002, \$57 million in FY 2003, \$61 million in FY 2004, and \$69 million in FY 2005. All funds must be obligated by September 30, 2005, and any unobligated funds will be reappropriated in FY 2006. The primary emphasis on the program is the conservation of those species with the greatest conservation need.

Who is eligible? All States, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

What Projects are eligible?

To be eligible for the SWG funds, a State must commit to the development of a Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan by October 1, 2005. This plan must be statewide and focus on wildlife species of greatest conservation need. As incentive SWG only requires a 25 % match from the State/Commonwealth/Territory for activities involved in the development of these plans. Implementation grants should provide funding for wildlife conservation activities that have not been adequately funded through traditional means. Particular emphasis is given to projects that will provide conservation of those species with the greatest conservation need. These may include currently listed Federal and State wildlife species and other species of concern. In addition some definitions have been provided to clarify eligible activities: Wildlife – free living fauna (not flora), including aquatic species and invertebrates; Flora/Habitat – only eligible when required to conserve identified species at risk; Species with the Greatest

Conservation Need – A group of wildlife species, selected by the State wildlife agency, whose conservation status is of special concern in that State.

What Projects are not eligible?

Wildlife education, wildlife law enforcement activities, and wildlife associated recreation activities are not eligible.

How to determine eligibility

Applicants are encouraged to contact the Regional State Wildlife Grants Coordinator to discuss the eligibility of a project and cost share rate prior to proposal submittal.

Grant Schedules or Cycles

Most funds are available at the beginning of the National fiscal year October 1 of each year.

Matching Requirements

Planning activities have a cost share rate of 75/25 and implementation activities have a cost share rate of 50/50.

Grants Management

Each State/Commonwealth/Territory must submit all required grant application and compliance documents to Federal Assistance and have the federal share obligated within two years of the fiscal year the money was allocated. Federal Assistance requires interim performance and financial reports 90 days after each 12-month cycle of grant activity. Site visits are performed if necessary to observe progress. Final performance and financial reports are due 90 days after the end date of the Grant Agreement.

Project criteria and ranking

This program is non-competitive and only requires that projects are eligible and that the State/Commonwealth/Territory has met all of the grant management conditions.

Supplemental Information

Information about the State Wildlife Grants Program may be found at www.fws.gov. Click on “grants”.