

Departmental Guidance: Conservation Grants Coordination

Subject: Strategic coordination of conservation grant and cooperative agreement programs.

What is the purpose of this Guidance?

The purpose of this Guidance is to enhance conservation outcomes by enabling more coordination among grants and cooperative agreements. The Guidance provides a flexible, systematized method for identifying synergistic opportunities among programs that will optimize the more than \$1 billion the Department allocates annually to conservation executed through grants and cooperative agreements. It is not the purpose of this Guidance to disrupt current coordination or prevent the development of other efforts to leverage funding. Nothing in the process is intended to reduce existing program flexibility, effectiveness, or timelines.

Given the amount of coordination taking place, why have written guidance?

The ongoing efforts of Interior's grant administrators, program managers, and others to coordinate grants and cooperative agreements are laudable. Additional guidance helps employees identify and reduce administrative redundancies and replicate success instead. The intent is, along with other work in grants and cooperative agreement coordination, to ensure that bureaus can strive to maximize all their efforts at achieving conservation outcomes. The goal is to yield the greatest benefits in as comprehensive a manner as possible. Having written guidance in hand facilitates this endeavor.

Why is this Guidance important?

This Guidance provides a common means to seek out coordination opportunities where coordination might not otherwise occur. By identifying overarching conservation priorities, this Guidance provides focal points for coordination efforts, allowing the more than \$1 billion annual allocation to be used more effectively and efficiently to maximize conservation outcomes.

How should this Guidance be implemented?

Implementation of this Guidance occurs when a decision is being made on a proposal for a grant or cooperative agreement and the decision-maker takes into account whether the proposal can help achieve other, complementary conservation priorities in addition to the primary purpose of the program. Full implementation of this Guidance involves four tools: (1) current grant and cooperative agreement program policies, rules and regulations, which shall remain in full force under this Guidance; (2) a list of conservation grant programs subject to the Guidance (see Supplement); (3) a list of conservation priorities that would be the focal points for coordination under this Guidance (see Supplement); and (4) more detailed information on implementation (see Supplement).

To whom does this Guidance apply?

Interior employees in a position to seek additional conservation benefits from the grant or cooperative agreement selection process. Such employees would include grant administrators, managers of relevant programs, and regional and field staff involved in grants and developing cooperative agreements.

Who are potential entities with whom to coordinate?

Partners may include bureau personnel who are already involved programmatically in pursuing a conservation priority listed in the Supplement. More generally, partners may include other bureaus, agencies, State and local entities, as well as other programs within the same bureau.

What is the Supplement to this Guidance?

This Guidance generally describes an approach to enable new coordination efforts. This approach is expected to evolve over time and therefore details on its implementation will be provided on a regular basis in a Supplement. The Management Excellence Council's Management Initiatives Team will solicit views on a line authority basis from field and regional staff and assist in updating the Supplement, which at a minimum will contain:

1. Conservation grant and cooperative agreement programs subject to this Guidance; and
2. Conservation priorities established by the Department that are focal points for grants and cooperative agreement coordination.

Supplements also may describe instances of enhanced coordination that exemplify intended outcomes from implementing this Guidance.

When should this Guidance be applied?

This Guidance applies to decisions on funding proposals for grants or cooperative agreements. This Guidance also should be used through all other phases of grant and cooperative agreement programs, from pre-application to monitoring. For example, the conservation priorities identified in the Supplement can be included in calls for applications and communicated to State and local agencies, as well as private and nonprofit partners, at conferences, on bureau websites, etc. The absence of a grant or cooperative agreement program from the list in the Supplement should not preclude efforts to increase coordination or link those grant programs to Departmental conservation priorities.

How will implementation of this Guidance be monitored?

It is important to document the implementation of this Guidance and how coordination around Departmental conservation priorities influenced decisions relating to grants and cooperative agreements. At the end of each fiscal year, bureaus will be asked to submit noteworthy coordination achievements to the Assistant Secretary – Policy Management and Budget on a self-selecting basis. The Assistant Secretary – Policy Management and Budget intends to recognize superior achievements in coordinating grants to maximize outcomes.

Does this Guidance supersede any Departmental or bureau policies and directives pertaining to the grants my office administers?

The goal of greater coordination should be accomplished without compromising the specific requirements of any program or greatly altering existing grant processes. This Guidance makes suggestions about how to improve coordination and the efficiency of grant programs without changing any laws or regulations and without replacing current grant program policies. Those implementing this Guidance shall continue to apply all policies relevant to grants and cooperative agreements, including, for example, 505 DM 2 of the Departmental Manual, regarding Departmental policy on procurement contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements. Additionally, as noted above, nothing in the process is intended to reduce existing program flexibility, effectiveness, or timelines.

2008 Supplement to Departmental Guidance Regarding Enhanced Conservation through Increased Grants Coordination

Contents:

- (1) List of 2008 Grant and Cooperative Agreement Programs
- (2) List of 2008 Conservation Priorities
- (3) Details on Coordination
 - (a) General Steps
 - (b) Approaches to Coordination
 - (c) Linking Individual Program Criteria and Conservation Priorities

SECTION 1. 2008 Grant and Cooperative Agreement Programs ¹

Grant and Cooperative Agreement programs in the 2008 List met the following criteria:

- (1) Status as a conservation grant or cooperative agreement program included in the inventory of conservation grants reviewed and included in the grants workgroup report; and
- (2) FY 2007 funding of at least \$5 million; or
- (3) status as a Challenge Cost Share Program, regardless of budget.

Grant program managers and administrators seeking additional information on these programs (as well as others not included here) should check the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) (www.cfda.gov), bureau websites, and other resources.

Program Name	Funding Method	Funding: FY 2007 Actual (except where otherwise noted)	CFDA Number
Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)			
Water Resources on Indian Lands	Competitive grants and cooperative agreements	\$7,056,000	15.037
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)			
Challenge Cost Share	Competitive cooperative agreements within each State	\$9,375,000	15.224, 15.225
National Fire Plan - Rural Fire Assistance (also administered by BIA, FWS, and NPS)	Competitive cooperative agreements and grants (differs by bureau)	FY08 enacted \$5,900,000	15.242
National Fire Plan- Wildland Urban Interface Community Fire Assistance	Competitive cooperative agreements	\$8,500,000	15.228
Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)			
Boating Infrastructure Grants Program	National competition for grants	\$12,512,671	15.622
Clean Vessel Act Program	National competition for grants	\$12,512,671	15.616
Coastal Program	Regional competition for grants and cooperative agreements	\$13,477,000	15.630
Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (CESCF) (includes the following 4 programs)	Grants; varies by Program as described here	\$81,001,000 (This amount includes administrative funds not counted in the four programs below)	15.615
CESCF: Conservation Grants	Formula grants	\$9,852,000 (included in overall CESCF figure above)	15.615
CESCF: Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition	National competition for grants	\$47,160,000 (included in overall CESCF figure above)	15.615
CESCF: Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Program	National competition for grants	\$7,531,000 (included in overall CESCF figure above)	15.615
CESCF: Recovery Land Acquisition Program	Regional competition for grants	\$13,977,000 (included in overall CESCF figure above)	15.615
Hunter Education and Safety Program	Formula grants	\$8,000,000 (this amount is part of Wildlife Restoration Program funding total)	15.626
Multistate Conservation Grant Program	National competition for grants	\$6,280,000	15.628
National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grants	National competition for grants	\$32,744,088	15.614
National Outreach (Sportfishing and Boating Safety Act: National Outreach and Communication Program)	Competitive grants and cooperative agreements	\$12,512,671	15.622

Program Name	Funding Method	Funding: FY 2007 Actual (except where otherwise noted)	CFDA Number
National Wildlife Refuge System Challenge Cost Share	Regional competition for cooperative agreements	\$4,280,000	15.642
North American Wetlands Conservation Act	International competition (U.S., Canada, Mexico) for grants	\$39,412,000	15.623
Partners for Fish and Wildlife	Technical assistance and cooperative agreements	\$29,000,000	15.631
Sport Fish Restoration Program	Formula grants	\$348,215,633	15.605
State Wildlife Grants	Formula grants	\$67,492,000	15.634
Tribal Wildlife Grants	National competition for grants	\$6,000,000 (Part of State Wildlife Grants program funding above)	15.639
Wildlife Restoration Program	Formula grants	\$266,039,000 (includes Hunter Education and Safety Program funding total)	15.625
Minerals Management Service (MMS)			
Coastal Impact Assistance Program	Formula grants	\$250,000,000	15.426
National Park Service (NPS)			
Challenge Cost Share Program	Regional competition for program funds	\$2,380,000	N/A
Heritage Partnership Program	Cooperative agreements; pass-through funding to nonprofit organizations or States	\$13,233,000	N/A
Land and Water Conservation Fund - Outdoor Recreation-Acquisition, Development, and Planning Grant Program	Formula grants	\$27,995,000	15.916
Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM)			
Abandoned Mine Land Grants	Formula grants	\$145,352,582	15.252
Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation)			
California Bay Delta Program CALFED	Competitive cooperative agreements	\$6,100,000	15.533
Colorado River Basin Salinity Control	Competitive cooperative agreements	\$16,408,000	15.509
Upper Colorado and San Juan River Endangered Fish Recovery Program	Competitive grants and cooperative agreements	\$11,480,000	15.529
Water 2025 Challenge Grant Program	Competitive grants and cooperative agreements	\$9,200,000	15.507
Water Conservation Field Services Program	Competitive grants and cooperative agreements	\$5,461,000	15.530
Water Reclamation and Reuse Program (Title XVI)	Cooperative agreements; earmarks	\$10,100,000	15.504
Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Program	Competitive grants	\$9,865,000	15.531

SECTION 2. List of 2008 Conservation Priorities

The 2008 Conservation Priorities: At-Risk Species; Wild Birds; Healthy Habitats; Post-Fire Restoration; Coastal Habitat; Water; and Engage Today's Youth in the Great Outdoors.

2008 Conservation Priorities

At-Risk Species

Through this priority, the Department seeks to sustain biological communities by focusing on conserving the most imperiled components and improving the health of watersheds, landscapes, and marine resources. For listed species, bureaus can identify priority opportunities to enhance the condition of private lands consistent with restoration activities identified by the FWS recovery plans. The Department and its bureaus should also support State Comprehensive Wildlife Plans to benefit both Endangered Species Act-listed and candidate species.

Wild Birds

The Wild Birds initiative is intended to conserve birds and their habitats to assure healthy and sustainable populations. Three outcomes are envisioned: (1) Conserve priority bird habitat; (2) collect scientific data that support plans and guide management actions; and (3) educate citizens to understand the needs and stressors of birds.

Healthy Habitats

The goal of this priority is to enhance habitat on federally managed and adjoining lands. A prominent example of this priority being put into action is BLM's Healthy Lands initiative. Outcomes envisioned by this priority include improving the condition of wildlife habitat, with a special emphasis on sage brush and sage grouse habitat, promoting the recovery of species, and helping assure continued access to and multiple-use of public lands while improving the ecological landscape. To achieve these outcomes, bureaus should continue to work with their Federal and non-Federal partners to address issues such as decreasing native vegetation for fish and wildlife, the influx of non-native species, and degraded water quality.

Post-Fire Restoration

Consistent with the National Fire Plan this conservation priority focuses on restoration and post-fire recovery of fire-prone and fire-adapted ecosystems. Goals under this banner include reducing the threat of catastrophic wildfire, improving forest and rangeland health, and restoring and recovering lands post-fire.

Coastal Habitat

This conservation priority is intended to promote policies and programs that engender responsible use and stewardship of U.S. coastal resources. The President's Ocean Action Plan encompasses many of the concepts and goals of this priority. Strategies for success include effective management of coasts and their watersheds including coordination of bureau and agency activities; promotion of responsible and efficient use and conservation of ocean, coastal, and great lakes resources; and support for partnerships to develop and implement comprehensive management strategies.

Water

Successful natural resource conservation in the West depends heavily on reducing crises and conflict over water supply, and improving water supply and delivery. Efforts to improve water use efficiency through use of technology and alternative water use regimes will continue to be important. Water crises can be averted and mitigated by working with partners to settle water claims and manage or adjust water rights to achieve benefits to the Department's trust resources in a mutually acceptable manner.

Engage Today's Youth in the Great Outdoors

The goal of this priority is to enhance children's interaction with nature. Projects under this priority should contribute to reconnecting our youth with their nation's land and water. Better engaging our youth in the outdoors can create a new generation of stewards with a public service ethic; improve the mental and physical health of our nation; reduce the cost of health care; increase awareness of the important role that nature and science plays in our lives; strengthen America's workforce; and ensure the perpetuation of the resources entrusted to our care. Proposed grant and cooperative agreement projects can further this priority by adding a component that urges youth to engage with nature and the outdoors. For ideas that can be incorporated into a grant application or cooperative agreement proposal, applicants and other partners may visit the following website www.nps.gov/ChildrenInNature/BestPractices.

SECTION 3. Details on Coordination

3 (a). General Steps

The following steps provide more detail for implementing the Guidance. Individual managers, field staff, and proposal reviewers should use their judgment and expertise to decide how best to apply these steps.

Competitive grant program with multiple project proposals

Pre-application: In the pre-application period, the 2008 Conservation Priorities may be communicated to prospective grant applicants and cooperative agreement recipients through calls for proposals, conferences, correspondence, websites, publications, and professional networks. Bureaus should communicate that they will lend conservation priorities a “bonus” factor for decision-making purposes.

Post-application: In the post-application period, review each proposal made under the program and determine where the program’s objectives link to one or more conservation priorities listed in Section 2, above. Links may occur through common subject matter, locations, or contributions to a landscape level outcome. Rank all proposals by how strongly each one benefits one or more conservation priorities identified in this Supplement. As appropriate under the rules of each program, consider this rank when rendering decisions among proposals or when making recommendations to a body rendering such decisions.

Development of cooperative agreements with partners *or* a competitive grant program with a single project proposal

Pre-application: As in the case of grants with multiple proposals, the pre-application period is an important time to communicate the 2008 Conservation Priorities to prospective grant applicants and cooperative agreement recipients through calls for proposals, conferences, correspondence, websites, publications, and professional networks. Bureaus should communicate that they will lend conservation priorities a “bonus” factor for decision-making purposes.

Post-application: After receiving applications, in cases where there is only one proposal for a grant or cooperative agreement, work with the applicant(s)/partner(s) to link or incorporate into the proposal elements of one or more conservation priorities listed in Section 2, above. Such coordination with the applicant(s)/partner(s) may include seeking additional entities which can help contribute toward the conservation priorities.

Formula or “pass-through” grant to States or other entities

Before pass-through or allocation time: The administrator of formula or “pass-through” grant programs can support the Conservation Grant Coordination Initiative by communicating this year’s conservation priorities through conferences, correspondence, websites, publications, and professional networks.

At “pass-through” or allocation time: Reinforce the message that Interior is implementing this coordination tool; for example, discuss it at meetings or in informal calls with recipients. As appropriate to the nature of the funding, send a form letter to grant recipients in order to communicate the purpose of this conservation grants coordination initiative and encourage interaction among Federal, State, and other entities to achieve common conservation aims. The following form letter is an example communication, and may be edited to fit a particular program or bureau’s customary approach. The letter suggests sending a copy of the Guidance and Sections 1 and 2 (“relevant sections”) of this Supplement.

“To [Formula or ‘Pass-Through’ Award Recipient]:

The Department of the Interior (Interior) is implementing an innovative initiative to enhance the coordination with federally funded grant and cooperative agreement programs. The goal is for our agencies to more efficiently and effectively achieve common conservation objectives. Examples of successful coordination efforts include the State Wildlife Action Plan projects and the National Fish Habitat Initiative. Interior is seeking to broaden this approach. Attached for your information are

new Guidance and relevant portions of its 2008 Supplement to Interior bureaus to affect our coordination efforts.

Although the new Guidance applies to Interior personnel and programs, I am asking you to consider it, especially in the pre-award planning phase and/or in carrying out your programs. Interior bureaus and offices will continue to evaluate grant and cooperative agreement proposals consistent with each program's applicable rules and policies. In addition, when the Guidance is used by Interior personnel and programs, grant and cooperative agreement proposals will be evaluated for how well they are linked to Interior's conservation priorities. I believe that such interaction across programs will be a crucial tool for effective resource use.

I encourage you and all your relevant managers to review the attached Guidance. Please consider its usefulness in meeting your own conservation goals. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or ideas about helping Interior bureaus in this coordination effort.”

3 (b). Approaches to Coordination

Where coordination opportunities are not obvious, there are several approaches to coordinating grant and cooperative agreement programs around conservation priorities. Two examples follow.

(1) Linking to programs supporting one or more conservation priorities

Link the grant or cooperative agreement program criteria to the programs that underpin one or more conservation priorities. In the case of the 2008 conservation priorities, relevant programs include, but are not limited to, the following:

At Risk Species FWS: Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund

Wild Birds FWS: State Wildlife Grants Program; Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund; Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program; and Migratory Bird Joint Ventures

Healthy Habitat FWS: State Wildlife Grants Program; Candidate Conservation Program; and Partners for Fish and Wildlife Programs

Post-fire Restoration N/A

Coastal Habitat FWS: National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program

Water Reclamation: Water 2025 Challenge Grant Program

Engage Today's Youth in the Great Outdoors N/A

(2) Linking to subject matter or location where conservation priority is being supported

Identify a common subject matter or location that is relevant to a 2008 conservation priority around which to coordinate. Then identify opportunities to coordinate with other grant programs, bureaus, or agencies that may have, for example, a proposal, a multi-year project, or an entire program that is relevant to the same 2008 conservation priority and linked to the common subject matter or location.

Coordination scenarios may exist where there is a common subject or a common location, or both, as indicated in the text box below.

Coordination scenarios (individual projects or entire programs)		
	Same Subject	Different Subjects
Same Location	Same Subject / Same Location	Different Subjects / Same Location
Different Locations	Same Subject / Different Locations	Different Locations / Different Subjects (or “Landscape” Approach)

The descriptions of existing coordination below help illustrate each scenario. These are formal structures that have significant coordination underway, and therefore they can be described in a straight forward fashion. New efforts at coordination may not be defined so readily.

Same Subject / Same Location

Endangered species litigation over the silvery minnow and willow fly-catcher spurred collective action among entities along the Middle Rio Grande. Incentives to coordinate varied, but the primary reason for coordination was to improve the status of these endangered species in that location. This program’s coordination efforts are rather extensive. It is a collaborative process involving technical subcommittees and technical work groups. These subcommittees and work groups consist of signatories from Reclamation, BIA, FWS, the Army Corps of Engineers, State game and fish agencies, office of the State engineers, etc. Agencies participate on an Executive Committee that makes decisions about the next year’s priorities and funding allocations.

2008 conservation priorities supported: At Risk Species; Water

Same Subject / Different Locations

The National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP) is an example of coordination occurring among agencies, nonprofit organizations, and others focusing on a single subject of mutual interest (fish habitat) spanning a broad geographical area. Although NFHAP is not administered by a Federal entity, multiple Federal agencies, most notably FWS, have been closely involved in this effort from its early stages. This initiative is exemplary of coordination occurring on a single subject in different locations. The National Fish Habitat Board administers NFHAP, and Fish Habitat Partnerships are its primary work units. These partnerships are either formed around important aquatic habitats and distinct geographic areas or “keystone” fish species.

2008 conservation priority supported: Healthy Habitat.

Same Location / Different Subjects

In the Klamath Basin, disparate and competing water uses (hydroelectric power, irrigation, species protection, and enhanced fishing rights) have resulted in agencies collaborating to direct their combined resources, normally used to achieve very different ends, towards reaching a mutually agreeable outcome in a single location.

Coordinated efforts arose in the Klamath Basin in response to concerns about sustainable management of watershed resources. FWS has worked closely with Reclamation on grants in the Klamath Basin by issuing joint requests for proposals and by allowing applicants to file a single application for numerous grant programs. This coordination allowed the bureaus to match proposed projects with the most appropriate funding source. For future years FWS and Reclamation are attempting to broaden grant coordination in the region to include NRCS, NOAA Fisheries, USACE, and State agencies, e.g., issuing a single announcement of funding availability and grant applicants may be able to submit a single application.

2008 conservation priorities supported: Water; Healthy Habitat; At-Risk Species.

Different Subjects / Different Locations

The “Different Subjects / Different Locations” scenario refers to situations in which commonalities exist among programs, although they are not immediately discernible. This can be considered a “landscape” approach, whereby many issues and distinct but interrelated “locations” in a given geographical area are addressed collectively, where they previously had not been.

The Great Lakes Regional Collaboration is an example of such coordination. The Great Lakes cover a vast area, including parts of both the U.S. and Canada. Within the U.S., the Environmental Protection Agency and nine other Federal agencies together administer more than 140 different Federal programs funding and implementing environmental restoration and management activities in the Great Lakes basin.

The Great Lakes Interagency Task Force was created in 2004 to bring the many Federal, State, and other actors in the region together to address their individual focal subject areas and locations as part of an interrelated whole. The Task Force brings together all ten agency and cabinet officers to provide strategic direction on Federal Great Lakes policies, priorities, and programs through a blueprint document from which regional and local projects can tier specific projects.

2008 conservation priority supported: Coastal Habitat

3 (c). Linking Individual Program Criteria and Conservation Priorities

Each of the following pages describes one grant or cooperative agreement program from the 2008 List in Section 1 in more detail. These pages provide specific criteria for each program, its Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number, and information on whether it is a competitive grant, formula/pass through grant, or cooperative agreement. Each page also reproduces the 2008 Conservation Priorities from Section 2, for easy reference. The bottom of each page states the suggested coordination action as drawn from the General Steps in Section 3(a).

BIA Water Resources on Indian Lands (CFDA: 15.037)

Type: Competitive grants and cooperative agreements (FY 2007 actual: \$7.1 million)

Grant Objectives: The textboxes below will help identify potential linkages between this grant program’s primary criteria/objectives and secondary/tertiary objectives (2008 conservation priorities).

Primary objectives of the program:

<p>BIA Water Resources on Indian Lands ²</p> <p>Objectives: Assist Tribes in the management, planning, and development of their water and related land resources Funds are available for :</p> <p>1) Collecting and analyzing baseline data and facilitating Water Rights Litigation and Negotiation activities - Proposals meeting the criteria in 25 CFR Part 900 are funded.³ These are general informational criteria and do not relate directly natural resource conservation.</p> <p>2) Water Management, Planning, and Development - Criteria include need, size, availability of historical studies, overall cost, potential benefit, capability of applicant to successfully conduct the project, and budget and its effective use.</p>

2008 Conservation Priorities:

<p>At-Risk Species Through this priority, the Department seeks to sustain biological communities by focusing on conserving the most imperiled components and improving the health of watersheds, landscapes, and marine resources. For listed species, bureaus can identify priority opportunities to enhance the condition of private lands consistent with restoration activities identified by the FWS recovery plans. The Department and its bureaus should also support State Comprehensive Wildlife Plans to benefit both Endangered Species Act-listed and candidate species.</p> <p>Wild Birds The Wild Birds initiative is intended to conserve birds and their habitats to assure healthy and sustainable populations. Three outcomes are envisioned: (1) Conserve priority bird habitat; (2) collect scientific data that support plans and guide management actions; and (3) educate citizens to understand the needs and stressors of birds.</p> <p>Healthy Habitats The goal of this priority is to enhance habitat on federally managed and adjoining lands. A prominent example of this priority being put into action is BLM’s Healthy Lands initiative. Outcomes envisioned by this priority include improving the condition of wildlife habitat, with a special emphasis on sage brush and sage grouse habitat, promoting the recovery of species, and helping assure continued access to and multiple-use of public lands while improving the ecological landscape. To achieve these outcomes, bureaus should continue to work with their Federal and non-Federal partners to address issues such as decreasing native vegetation for fish and wildlife, the influx of non-native species, and degraded water quality.</p> <p>Post-Fire Restoration Consistent with the National Fire Plan this conservation priority focuses on restoration and post-fire recovery of fire-prone and fire-adapted ecosystems. Goals under this banner include reducing the threat of catastrophic wildfire, improving forest and rangeland health, and restoring and recovering lands post-fire.</p> <p>Coastal Habitat This conservation priority is intended to promote policies and programs that engender responsible use and stewardship of U.S. coastal resources. The President’s Ocean Action Plan encompasses many of the concepts and goals of this priority. Strategies for success include effective management of coasts and their watersheds including coordination of bureau and agency activities; promotion of responsible and efficient use and conservation of ocean, coastal, and great lakes resources; and support for partnerships to develop and implement comprehensive management strategies.</p> <p>Water Successful natural resource conservation in the West depends heavily on reducing crises and conflict over water supply, and improving water supply and delivery. Efforts to improve water use efficiency through use of technology and alternative water use regimes will continue to be important. Water crises can be averted and mitigated by working with partners to settle water claims and manage or adjust water rights to achieve benefits to the Department’s trust resources in a mutually acceptable manner.</p> <p>Engage Today’s Youth in the Great Outdoors The goal of this priority is to enhance children’s interaction with nature. Projects under this priority should contribute to reconnecting our youth with their nation’s land and water. Better engaging our youth in the outdoors can create a new generation of stewards with a public service ethic; improve the mental and physical health of our nation; reduce the cost of health care; increase awareness of the important role that nature and science plays in our lives; strengthen America’s workforce; and ensure the perpetuation of the resources entrusted to our care. For more information, please see page 6 of this supplement, or visit www.nps.gov/ChildrenInNature/BestPractices.</p>

For guidance on specific coordination actions, see Section 3(a) of this Supplement

BLM Challenge Cost Share Program (CFDA: 15.224 and 15.225)

Type: National competition for cooperative agreements (FY 2007 funding: \$9.4 million)

Grant Objectives: The textboxes below will help identify potential linkages between this grant program's primary criteria/objectives and secondary/tertiary objectives (2008 conservation priorities).

Primary objectives of the program:

<p>BLM Challenge Cost Share Program⁴</p> <p>Seeks to enhance habitat conservation, recreation, and cultural resource conservation on BLM-administered lands through restoration projects, research, educational outreach, mapping, inventories and monitoring, and visitor services.</p> <p><u>Program priorities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Survey, monitor, and inventory resources- Support management of threatened and endangered species- Manage heritage resources- Enhance recreational experiences- Provide visitor services or facilities- Conduct public outreach and education projects- Support emerging partnership opportunities <p><u>Additional factors for funding decisions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Alignment with Departmental, bureau, and State priorities- Amount of matching contributions- Extent of partnerships created and fostered- Preparedness of applicants to undertake project

2008 Conservation Priorities:

<p>At-Risk Species</p> <p>Through this priority, the Department seeks to sustain biological communities by focusing on conserving the most imperiled components and improving the health of watersheds, landscapes, and marine resources. For listed species, bureaus can identify priority opportunities to enhance the condition of private lands consistent with restoration activities identified by the FWS recovery plans. The Department and its bureaus should also support State Comprehensive Wildlife Plans to benefit both Endangered Species Act-listed and candidate species.</p> <p>Wild Birds</p> <p>The Wild Birds initiative is intended to conserve birds and their habitats to assure healthy and sustainable populations. Three outcomes are envisioned: (1) Conserve priority bird habitat; (2) collect scientific data that support plans and guide management actions; and (3) educate citizens to understand the needs and stressors of birds.</p> <p>Healthy Habitats</p> <p>The goal of this priority is to enhance habitat on federally managed and adjoining lands. A prominent example of this priority being put into action is BLM's Healthy Lands initiative. Outcomes envisioned by this priority include improving the condition of wildlife habitat, with a special emphasis on sage brush and sage grouse habitat, promoting the recovery of species, and helping assure continued access to and multiple-use of public lands while improving the ecological landscape. To achieve these outcomes, bureaus should continue to work with their Federal and non-Federal partners to address issues such as decreasing native vegetation for fish and wildlife, the influx of non-native species, and degraded water quality.</p> <p>Post-Fire Restoration</p> <p>Consistent with the National Fire Plan this conservation priority focuses on restoration and post-fire recovery of fire-prone and fire-adapted ecosystems. Goals under this banner include reducing the threat of catastrophic wildfire, improving forest and rangeland health, and restoring and recovering lands post-fire.</p> <p>Coastal Habitat</p> <p>This conservation priority is intended to promote policies and programs that engender responsible use and stewardship of U.S. coastal resources. The President's Ocean Action Plan encompasses many of the concepts and goals of this priority. Strategies for success include effective management of coasts and their watersheds including coordination of bureau and agency activities; promotion of responsible and efficient use and conservation of ocean, coastal, and great lakes resources; and support for partnerships to develop and implement comprehensive management strategies.</p> <p>Water</p> <p>Successful natural resource conservation in the West depends heavily on reducing crises and conflict over water supply, and improving water supply and delivery. Efforts to improve water use efficiency through use of technology and alternative water use regimes will continue to be important. Water crises can be averted and mitigated by working with partners to settle water claims and manage or adjust water rights to achieve benefits to the Department's trust resources in a mutually acceptable manner.</p> <p>Engage Today's Youth in the Great Outdoors</p> <p>The goal of this priority is to enhance children's interaction with nature. Projects under this priority should contribute to reconnecting our youth with their nation's land and water. Better engaging our youth in the outdoors can create a new generation of stewards with a public service ethic; improve the mental and physical health of our nation; reduce the cost of health care; increase awareness of the important role that nature and science plays in our lives; strengthen America's workforce; and ensure the perpetuation of the resources entrusted to our care. For more information, please see page 6 of this supplement, or visit www.nps.gov/ChildrenInNature/BestPractices.</p>
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For guidance on specific coordination actions, see Section 3(a) of this Supplement

BIA, BLM, FWS, and NPS National Fire Plan – Rural Fire Assistance Program (CFDA: 15.242)

Type: National competition for grants (as opposed to cooperative agreements) among the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), BLM, FWS, and NPS (FY 2008 funding for all four bureaus: \$5.9 million)

Grant Objectives: The textboxes below will help identify potential linkages between this grant program’s primary criteria/objectives and secondary/tertiary objectives (2008 conservation priorities).

Primary objectives of the program:

Rural Fire Assistance Program⁵

Objectives: Provide funding to rural (population less than 10,000) or volunteer fire departments that help fight fires on or near DOI lands. The goal of the program is to improve the capacity and capability of local fire departments to protect their communities from the effects of wildfire.

Funds may be used for:

- Hazardous fuels reduction activities on Federal land or on adjacent non-Federal land for activities that benefit resources on Federal land
- Training and monitoring activities associated with such hazardous fuels reduction activities

The program targets rural and volunteer fire departments that routinely help fight fire on or near DOI lands

2008 Conservation Priorities:

At-Risk Species

Through this priority, the Department seeks to sustain biological communities by focusing on conserving the most imperiled components and improving the health of watersheds, landscapes, and marine resources. For listed species, bureaus can identify priority opportunities to enhance the condition of private lands consistent with restoration activities identified by the FWS recovery plans. The Department and its bureaus should also support State Comprehensive Wildlife Plans to benefit both Endangered Species Act-listed and candidate species.

Wild Birds

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Post-Fire Restoration

Consistent with the National Fire Plan this conservation priority focuses on restoration and post-fire recovery of fire-prone and fire-adapted ecosystems. Goals under this banner include reducing the threat of catastrophic wildfire, improving forest and rangeland health, and restoring and recovering lands post-fire.

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BLM National Fire Plan – Wildland Urban Interface Community Fire Assistance (CFDA: 15.228)

Type: National Competition (FY 2007 funding: \$8.5 million)

Grant Objectives: The textboxes below will help identify potential linkages between this grant program’s primary criteria/objectives and secondary/tertiary objectives (2008 conservation priorities).

Primary objectives of the program:

BLM National Fire Plan – Wildland Urban Interface Community Fire Assistance⁶

Objectives: Assistance to implement the National fire Plan and assist communities at risk from catastrophic wildland fires. Rural Fire Departments (serving communities of 10,000 or less) in the vicinity of Interior lands and that are party to a cooperative agreement with Interior, a State Forestry agency, or equivalent are eligible to receive funding Assistance may be provided for the following :

- Provide community programs that develop local capability, including: assessment and planning, mitigation activities, and community and homeowner education and action;
- Plan and implement hazardous fuels reduction activities, including the training, monitoring or maintenance associated with such hazardous fuels reduction activities, on Federal land, or on adjacent nonfederal land for activities that mitigate the threat of catastrophic fire to communities and natural resources in high risk areas;
- Enhance local and small business employment opportunities for rural communities; and
- Enhance the knowledge and fire protection capability of rural fire districts by providing assistance in education and training, protective clothing and equipment purchase, and mitigation methods on a cost share basis.

2008 Conservation Priorities:

At-Risk Species
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FWS Boating Infrastructure Grants Program (CFDA: 15.622)

Type: National competition for grants (FY 2007 actual: \$12.5 million)

Grant Objectives: The textboxes below will help identify potential linkages between this grant program's primary criteria/objectives and secondary/tertiary objectives (2008 conservation priorities).

Primary objectives of the program:

FWS Boating Infrastructure Grants Program Criteria ⁷

Objectives: Provide funding for construction, maintenance or renovation of facilities for recreational boats longer than 26 feet ("nontrailerable" boats)

Criteria:

- **Provide for public/private and public/public partnerships.** Will the project be completed with partners contributing to the overall project?
- **Use of innovative techniques.** Does the project use innovative techniques to increase the availability of tie-up facilities for transient "nontrailerable" boats?
- **Project cost share percentage.** Does the project include private, local or other State funds that reduce the overall Federal percentage participation in the project?
- **Cost efficient.** Does the proposal add-on to an existing facility or require the installation of most needed amenities?
- **Significant link to prominent destinations.** Does the project provide a significant link to prominent way points, such as metropolitan population centers, cultural or natural areas, or safe harbors?
- **Access opportunities of significance.** Does the project provide access to opportunities of national, regional, or local significance?
- **Economic benefits to a community.** Is the addition of the project expected to provide significant positive impacts to a community?
- **Multi-state efforts.** Does the overall project involve multi-State efforts to coordinate the location of tie-up facilities?

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At-Risk Species

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FWS Clean Vessel Act Program (CFDA: 15.616)

Type: National competition for grants (FY 2007 actual: \$12.5 million)

Grant Objectives: The textboxes below will help identify potential linkages between this grant program's primary criteria/objectives and secondary/tertiary objectives (2008 conservation priorities).

Primary objectives of the program:

FWS Clean Vessel Act Program⁸

Objectives: Survey and plan for installing pump-out and dump stations, to construct pump-out and dump stations, and to implement education programs to prevent recreational boat sewage from entering U.S. waters. Eligible recipients for funding include all States bordering the Atlantic, Gulf, and Pacific coasts, States bordering the Great Lakes, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Washington D.C., and American Samoa.

All entities are eligible for the following :

- Programs or projects to educate/inform recreational boaters about environmental pollution problems resulting from sewage discharges from vessels and to inform them of the location of pump-out and dump stations.
- Programs or projects to construct, renovate, operate, and maintain pump-out and dump stations, including floating restrooms used solely by boaters. Eligible grant activities also include any activity necessary to hold and transport boaters' sewage to treatment plants, such as holding tanks, piping, hauling costs, and any activity necessary to get sewage treatment plants to accept sewage, such as installing bleed-in facilities. Additionally, coastal States are eligible for the following:
 - Programs or projects that identify all operational pump-out and dump stations, and surveys of recreational vessels in coastal waters with holding tanks or portable toilets, and the areas where those vessels congregate in the coastal zone. Also eligible are costs of developing a list, of all operational pump-out and dump stations in the coastal zone of the State.
 - Plans for construction and renovation of pump-out and dump stations in the coastal zone of the State necessary to ensure that these stations are adequate and reasonably available to meet the needs of recreational vessels using the coastal waters of the State.

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FWS Coastal Program (CFDA: 15.630)

Type: Direct Federal assistance program that uses cooperative agreements (FY 2007 actual: \$13.5 million) to administer technical assistance and project implementation at the local level.

Program Objectives: The textboxes below will help identify potential linkages between this program's primary criteria/objectives and secondary/tertiary objectives (2008 conservation priorities).

Primary objectives of the program:

FWS Coastal Program²

The Coastal Program's foundation is partnerships resulting in voluntary habitat improvements. Coastal Program staff assist communities and other partners in conserving coastal resources through fish and wildlife habitat assessment, ecological restoration, and technical assistance regarding lands in need of protection. The Coastal Program facilitates coastal conservation projects on private, public, and Tribal lands.

The Coastal Program is guided by the following ecological planning principles:

- Maintain natural ecosystem diversity, functions, and productivity
- Promote self-sustaining populations of Federal Trust Species within their historic ranges
- Provide for ecologically sound levels of public use, economic benefits, and the enjoyment of natural values

2008 Conservation Priorities:

At-Risk Species

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FWS Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (CESCF): Conservation Grants (CFDA: 15.615)

Type: Formula/Pass-Through (FY 2007 actual: \$9.9 million)

Grant Objectives: The textboxes below will help identify potential linkages between this grant program's primary criteria/objectives and secondary/tertiary objectives (2008 conservation priorities).

Primary objectives of the program:

FWS CESCF: Conservation Grants¹⁰

Objective: Provide funding to States and Territories to implement conservation projects for listed species and species at-risk. Funded activities include habitat restoration, species status surveys, public education and outreach, captive propagation and reintroduction, nesting surveys, genetic studies, and development of management plans.

As with all CESCF funds, proposal must include 25 percent non-Federal cost share (the cost-share may be an in-kind contribution, including equipment, materials, operations, and maintenance costs). This cost share requirement decreases to 10 percent if two or more States or Territories are contributors to the proposal and its activities as per Section 6 of the ESA.

2008 Conservation Priorities:

At-Risk Species

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FWS Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund: Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition Grant Program (CFDA: 15.615)

Type: National competition for grants (as opposed to cooperative agreements) (FY 2007 actual: \$47.2 million)

Grant Objectives: The textboxes below will help identify potential linkages between this grant program's primary criteria/objectives and secondary/tertiary objectives (2008 conservation priorities).

Primary objectives of the program:

FWS CESCOF : Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition¹¹

Objective: Provide funding to States and Territories to acquire land associated with approved HCPs
The land acquisition complements, but does not replace, private mitigation responsibilities contained in the HCP.
The specific parcel(s) to be acquired with grant funds is identified. Acquisitions must come from willing sellers. Habitat must be set aside in perpetuity for the purposes of conservation (this can include easements deeded in perpetuity or other similar instruments).
The proposal must state a commitment to funding for, and implementation of, management of the habitat in perpetuity, consistent with the conservation needs of the species.
Benefits to species and ecosystems of proposed projects are weighted by FWS regional staff.
The extent to which the proposed project fosters partnerships is weighted by FWS regional staff.

2008 Conservation Priorities:

At-Risk Species

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FWS Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund: Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Program (CFDA: 15.615)

Type: National Competition (FY 2007 actual: \$7.5 million)

Grant Objectives: The textboxes below will help identify potential linkages between this grant program's primary criteria/objectives and secondary/tertiary objectives (2008 conservation priorities).

Primary objectives of the program:

FWS CESCOF: Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Program ¹²

Objectives: Provide funding to States and Territories that have entered into cooperative agreements with FWS for development of Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) for endangered or threatened species protection

Factors:

- Number of stakeholders
- Number of species benefitted
- Greatest benefit to species
- Lands that require little or no management
- Size of land
- Cost share

Proposals for amendments to existing HCPs are not accepted

2008 Conservation Priorities:

At-Risk Species

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FWS Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund: Recovery Land Acquisition Grant Program (CFDA: 16.615)

Type: National competition for grants (as opposed to cooperative agreements) (FY 2007 actual: \$14.0 million)

Grant Objectives: The textboxes below will help identify potential linkages between this grant program's primary criteria/objectives and secondary/tertiary objectives (2008 conservation priorities).

Primary objectives of the program:

FWS CESCFC: Recovery Land Acquisition¹³

Objective: Provide funds to States and Territories for acquisition of habitat for endangered and threatened species in support of approved recovery plans

The specific parcel(s) to be acquired with grant funds is identified. Acquisitions must come from willing sellers. Habitat must be set aside in perpetuity for the purposes of conservation (this can include easements deeded in perpetuity or other similar instruments).

The funds should contribute to the implementation of an approved final or draft recovery plan for at least one listed species, with limited exceptions for projects addressing species without recovery plans.

The proposal must state a commitment to funding for, and implementation of, management of the habitat in perpetuity, consistent with the conservation needs of the species.

Benefits to species and ecosystems of proposed projects are weighted by FWS regional staff.

2008 Conservation Priorities:

At-Risk Species

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Healthy Habitats

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Post-Fire Restoration

Consistent with the National Fire Plan this conservation priority focuses on restoration and post-fire recovery of fire-prone and fire-adapted ecosystems. Goals under this banner include reducing the threat of catastrophic wildfire, improving forest and rangeland health, and restoring and recovering lands post-fire.

Coastal Habitat

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Water

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Engage Today's Youth in the Great Outdoors

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FWS Hunter Education and Safety Program (CFDA: 15.626)

Type: Formula (FY 2007 actual: \$8 million)

Grant Objectives: The textboxes below will help identify potential linkages between this grant program's primary criteria/objectives and secondary/tertiary objectives (2008 conservation priorities).

Primary objectives of the program:

FWS Hunter Education and Safety Program¹⁴

Objectives: Enhance hunter, bow and archery education programs and the enhancement of construction of firearm shooting ranges and archery ranges

Funds are apportioned on the basis of State population. No State may receive more than 3 percent or less than 1 percent of the total hunter safety funds apportioned.

- Enhance hunter education programs, hunter and sporting firearms programs, and hunter development programs
- Enhance interstate coordination and development of hunter education programs
- Enhance bow hunter and archery education, safety, and development programs
- Enhance or develop shooting or archery ranges

2008 Conservation Priorities:

At-Risk Species

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FWS Multistate Conservation Grant Program (CFDA: 15.628)

Type: National Competition (FY 2007 actual: \$6.3 million)

Grant Objectives: The textboxes below will help identify potential linkages between this grant program’s primary criteria/objectives and secondary/tertiary objectives (2008 conservation priorities).

Primary objectives of the program:

FWS Multistate Conservation Grant Program¹⁵

Objectives: Provide funding for sport fish and wildlife restoration projects to States and State partners including non-governmental organizations and FWS (FWS is only eligible for funding for the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation)

Projects are evaluated for scope, significance, feasibility, and cost effectiveness

Projects must address one or more focus areas as described in the National Conservation Needs established annually by AFWA

Projects must benefit at least 26 States, a majority of States in an FWS region, or a regional association of State fish and game departments

2008 Conservation Priorities:

At-Risk Species

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FWS National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program (CFDA: 15.614)

Type: National competition for grants (as opposed to cooperative agreements) (FY 2007 actual: \$32.7 million)

Grant Objectives: The textboxes below will help identify potential linkages between this grant program's primary criteria/objectives and secondary/tertiary objectives (2008 conservation priorities).

Primary objectives of the program:

National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program¹⁶
<p>Objective: Work with eligible entities (listed above) to acquire, restore, manage, or enhance coastal wetlands through a matching grant program</p> <p>Wetlands conservation. Will the project reverse coastal wetland loss or habitat degradation in decreasing or stable coastal wetland types?</p> <p>Maritime forests on coastal barriers. Will the proposal significantly benefit maritime forests on coastal barriers?</p> <p>Long-term conservation. Does the project ensure at least 20 years of conservation of coastal wetland functions?</p> <p>Coastal watershed management. Would the completed project help accomplish the natural resource goals and objectives of one or more formal, ongoing coastal watershed management plan or effort?</p> <p>Conservation of threatened and endangered species. Will the project benefit any federally listed endangered or threatened species, species proposed for Federal listing, recently delisted species or designated or proposed critical habitat in coastal wetlands? Will it benefit State-listed species?</p> <p>Benefits to fish. Will the project provide, restore, or enhance important fisheries habitat?</p> <p>Benefits to birds. Will the project provide/restore/enhance important habitat for coastal-dependent or migratory birds?</p> <p>Prevent/reduce contamination. Will the project prevent/reduce input of contaminants to contaminated coastal wetlands and associated coastal waters?</p> <p>Catalyst for future conservation. Is the project designed to leverage other ongoing coastal wetlands conservation efforts in an area or provide additional impetus for conservation?</p> <p>Partners in conservation. Will the project receive financial support, including in-kind match, from private, local, or other Federal interests?</p> <p>Federal share reduced. Does the proposal significantly reduce the Federal share by providing more than the required match amount? (Only cash above the required match applies.)</p> <p>Education/outreach program or wildlife-oriented recreation. Is the project designed to increase environmental awareness and develop support for coastal wetlands conservation? Does it provide recreational opportunities that are consistent with the conservation goals of the site?</p>

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At-Risk Species

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Post-Fire Restoration

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FWS National Outreach (National Sportfishing and Boating Safety Act: National Outreach and Communication Program) (CFDA: 15.622)

Type: Competitive grants and cooperative agreements (FY 2007 actual: \$12.5 million)

Grant Objectives: The textboxes below will help identify potential linkages between this grant program's primary criteria/objectives and secondary/tertiary objectives (2008 conservation priorities).

Primary objectives of the program:

FWS National Outreach Program¹⁷

Objectives: Provide funding to improve communications with anglers, boaters, and the general public regarding angling and boating opportunities and to further safety in fishing and boating

Guiding Principles identified in the Strategic Plan for Outreach and Communication:

- Recognizing the importance of a sustainable aquatic habitat and natural resource conservation
- Emphasizing that boaters and anglers are conservationists
- Focusing efforts on urban boating and fishing needs and opportunities
- Championing a single coordinated effort, involving stakeholders to promote recreational boating and fishing
- Encouraging all stakeholders to implement the Strategic Plan

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At-Risk Species

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FWS National Wildlife Refuge System Challenge Cost Share Program (CFDA: 15.642)

Type: Regional competition for cooperative agreements. MOAs are also utilized in some cases. (FY 2007 actual: \$4.3 million)

Grant Objectives: The textboxes below will help identify potential linkages between this grant program's primary criteria/objectives and secondary/tertiary objectives (2008 conservation priorities).

Primary objectives of the program:

FWS Challenge Cost Share Program¹⁸

Objectives: Conserve, enhance, and/or protect fish, wildlife, and/or plants for the benefit of the public.

Projects may address :

- Habitat improvement
- Wildlife population management
- Public use enhancement
- Research studies that answer specific management questions

Projects may occur on or off National Wildlife Refuge lands (some regions specify that projects must benefit a Refuge, even if they do not occur on a Refuge)

2008 Conservation Priorities:

At-Risk Species

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FWS North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grant Program (CFDA: 15.623)

Type: International competition for grants (as opposed to cooperative agreements) (FY 2007 actual: \$39.4 million)

Grant Objectives: The textboxes below will help identify potential linkages between this grant program's primary criteria/objectives and secondary/tertiary objectives (2008 conservation priorities).

Primary objectives of the program:

North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grant Criteria¹⁹

Funds are provided to private or public entities or individuals in the United States, Canada, and Mexico to protect, restore, and enhance wetland ecosystems and other habitat for migratory birds and other fish and wildlife species.

Scoring Factors:- Conservation of waterfowl

- Conservation of other wetland-associated migratory birds
- Geographic priority wetlands for migratory birds
- Relation to the National status and trends of wetland types
- Long-term conservation of wetlands and associated habitats
- Conservation of Federal or State listed wetland-associated species or other wetland-associated fish and wildlife
- Achieving the partnership purpose of North American Wetlands Conservation Fund

2008 Conservation Priorities:

At-Risk Species

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FWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program (CFDA: 15.631)

Type: Direct Federal assistance program using cooperative agreements (FY 2007 actual: 45.8 million)

Program Objectives: The textboxes below will help identify potential linkages between this program's primary criteria/objectives and secondary/tertiary objectives (2008 conservation priorities).

Primary objectives of the program:

Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program Objectives²⁰

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program provides technical and financial assistance to private landowners, local governments, and Tribes on a voluntary basis to help meet the habitat needs of Federal Trust Species. The Program is locally-based and field staff work one-on-one with private landowners and other partners to plan, implement, and monitor projects. Program staff assist landowners in seeking additional resources and help them through the permitting process, as necessary.

Objectives: Protect, promote, enhance, and restore important fish and wildlife habitats on private lands through partnerships. The program provides funding and technical assistance to private landowners, Tribal governments, local governments, and non-governmental organizations to undertake activities on non-Federal lands to restore fish and wildlife habitat.

The Partners Program is guided by a national policy (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Manual, section 640 FW1) that has identified these objectives:

- Promote and implement habitat improvement projects that benefit Federal Trust Species
- Provide conservation leadership and promote partnerships
- Encourage public understanding and participation
- Work with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to implement conservation programs

2008 Conservation Priorities:

At-Risk Species

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The goal of this priority is to enhance children's interaction with nature. Projects under this priority should contribute to reconnecting our youth with their nation's land and water. Better engaging our youth in the outdoors can create a new generation of stewards with a public service ethic; improve the mental and physical health of our nation; reduce the cost of health care; increase awareness of the important role that nature and science plays in our lives; strengthen America's workforce; and ensure the perpetuation of the resources entrusted to our care. For more information, please see page 6 of this supplement, or visit www.nps.gov/ChildrenInNature/BestPractices.

For guidance on specific coordination actions, see Section 3(a) of this Supplement

FWS Sport Fish Restoration Program (CFDA: 15.605)

Type: Formula/Pass-Through (FY 2007 actual: \$348.2 million)

Grant Objectives: The textboxes below will help identify potential linkages between this grant program's primary criteria/objectives and secondary/tertiary objectives (2008 conservation priorities).

Primary objectives of the program:

FWS Sport Fish Restoration Program²¹

The objectives of the Sport Fish Restoration Program, supported by non-appropriated funding to State Fish and Wildlife agencies and administered by FWS, are: to support activities designed to restore, conserve, manage, or enhance sport fish populations and the public use and benefits from these resources; and to support activities that provide boating access to public waters.

Criteria for projects:

- Projects having as their purpose the restoration, conservation, management, and enhancement of sport fish
- Projects having as their purpose the provision for public use and benefits from sport fish

2008 Conservation Priorities:

At-Risk Species

Through this priority, the Department seeks to sustain biological communities by focusing on conserving the most imperiled components and improving the health of watersheds, landscapes, and marine resources. For listed species, bureaus can identify priority opportunities to enhance the condition of private lands consistent with restoration activities identified by the FWS recovery plans. The Department and its bureaus should also support State Comprehensive Wildlife Plans to benefit both Endangered Species Act-listed and candidate species.

Wild Birds

The Wild Birds initiative is intended to conserve birds and their habitats to assure healthy and sustainable populations. Three outcomes are envisioned: (1) Conserve priority bird habitat; (2) collect scientific data that support plans and guide management actions; and (3) educate citizens to understand the needs and stressors of birds.

Healthy Habitats

The goal of this priority is to enhance habitat on federally managed and adjoining lands. A prominent example of this priority being put into action is BLM's Healthy Lands initiative. Outcomes envisioned by this priority include improving the condition of wildlife habitat, with a special emphasis on sage brush and sage grouse habitat, promoting the recovery of species, and helping assure continued access to and multiple-use of public lands while improving the ecological landscape. To achieve these outcomes, bureaus should continue to work with their Federal and non-Federal partners to address issues such as decreasing native vegetation for fish and wildlife, the influx of non-native species, and degraded water quality.

Post-Fire Restoration

Consistent with the National Fire Plan this conservation priority focuses on restoration and post-fire recovery of fire-prone and fire-adapted ecosystems. Goals under this banner include reducing the threat of catastrophic wildfire, improving forest and rangeland health, and restoring and recovering lands post-fire.

Coastal Habitat

This conservation priority is intended to promote policies and programs that engender responsible use and stewardship of U.S. coastal resources. The President's Ocean Action Plan encompasses many of the concepts and goals of this priority. Strategies for success include effective management of coasts and their watersheds including coordination of bureau and agency activities; promotion of responsible and efficient use and conservation of ocean, coastal, and great lakes resources; and support for partnerships to develop and implement comprehensive management strategies.

Water

Successful natural resource conservation in the West depends heavily on reducing crises and conflict over water supply, and improving water supply and delivery. Efforts to improve water use efficiency through use of technology and alternative water use regimes will continue to be important. Water crises can be averted and mitigated by working with partners to settle water claims and manage or adjust water rights to achieve benefits to the Department's trust resources in a mutually acceptable manner.

Engage Today's Youth in the Great Outdoors

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For guidance on specific coordination actions, see Section 3(a) of this Supplement

FWS State Wildlife Grant Program (CFDA: 15.634)

Type: Formula/Pass-Through (FY 2007 actual: \$67.5 million)

Grant Objectives: The textboxes below will help identify potential linkages between this grant program's primary criteria/objectives and secondary/tertiary objectives (2008 conservation priorities).

Primary objectives of the program:

State Wildlife Grants²²

Objective: To assist States and Territories by providing annually appropriated Federal funds for the development and implementation of programs that benefit wildlife and their habitat.

Address conservation needs, such as research, surveys, species and habitat management, and monitoring, identified within a State's Comprehensive Conservation Plan or Wildlife Action Plan.

SWG funds may not be used for projects that will specifically initiate, encourage, or enhance wildlife-associated recreation.

SWG funds may be used to address nuisance wildlife or situations involving damage caused by wildlife only if their emphasis is the conservation of species of greatest conservation need and/or their habitats as indicated within a State's Wildlife Action Plan.

SWG funds may be used to respond to emerging or crisis situations that are not represented within a State's Action Plan.

2008 Conservation Priorities:

At-Risk Species

Through this priority, the Department seeks to sustain biological communities by focusing on conserving the most imperiled components and improving the health of watersheds, landscapes, and marine resources. For listed species, bureaus can identify priority opportunities to enhance the condition of private lands consistent with restoration activities identified by the FWS recovery plans. The Department and its bureaus should also support State Comprehensive Wildlife Plans to benefit both Endangered Species Act-listed and candidate species.

Wild Birds

The Wild Birds initiative is intended to conserve birds and their habitats to assure healthy and sustainable populations. Three outcomes are envisioned: (1) Conserve priority bird habitat; (2) collect scientific data that support plans and guide management actions; and (3) educate citizens to understand the needs and stressors of birds.

Healthy Habitats

The goal of this priority is to enhance habitat on federally managed and adjoining lands. A prominent example of this priority being put into action is BLM's Healthy Lands initiative. Outcomes envisioned by this priority include improving the condition of wildlife habitat, with a special emphasis on sage brush and sage grouse habitat, promoting the recovery of species, and helping assure continued access to and multiple-use of public lands while improving the ecological landscape. To achieve these outcomes, bureaus should continue to work with their Federal and non-Federal partners to address issues such as decreasing native vegetation for fish and wildlife, the influx of non-native species, and degraded water quality.

Post-Fire Restoration

Consistent with the National Fire Plan this conservation priority focuses on restoration and post-fire recovery of fire-prone and fire-adapted ecosystems. Goals under this banner include reducing the threat of catastrophic wildfire, improving forest and rangeland health, and restoring and recovering lands post-fire.

Coastal Habitat

This conservation priority is intended to promote policies and programs that engender responsible use and stewardship of U.S. coastal resources. The President's Ocean Action Plan encompasses many of the concepts and goals of this priority. Strategies for success include effective management of coasts and their watersheds including coordination of bureau and agency activities; promotion of responsible and efficient use and conservation of ocean, coastal, and great lakes resources; and support for partnerships to develop and implement comprehensive management strategies.

Water

Successful natural resource conservation in the West depends heavily on reducing crises and conflict over water supply, and improving water supply and delivery. Efforts to improve water use efficiency through use of technology and alternative water use regimes will continue to be important. Water crises can be averted and mitigated by working with partners to settle water claims and manage or adjust water rights to achieve benefits to the Department's trust resources in a mutually acceptable manner.

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For guidance on specific coordination actions, see Section 3(a) of this Supplement

FWS Tribal Wildlife Grant Program (CFDA: 15.639)

Type: National Competition for Grants (FY 2007 actual: \$6 million, part of State Wildlife Grant Program)

Grant Objectives: The textboxes below will help identify potential linkages between this grant program's primary criteria/objectives and secondary/tertiary objectives (2008 conservation priorities).

Primary objectives of the program:

Tribal Wildlife Grants²³

Objective: Provide Federal funds to federally-recognized Tribal governments to develop and implement programs for the benefit of wildlife and their habitat, including species of Native American cultural or traditional importance and species that are not hunted or fished.

Only federally-recognized Tribes in all parts of the U.S. are eligible to receive grants under this program, including federally-recognized Tribes, pueblos, rancherias, and Alaska native villages or traditional councils as defined by the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

Address conservation needs, such as research, surveys, species and habitat management, and monitoring, identified within a State's Strategy

SWG funds may not be used for projects that will specifically initiate, encourage, or enhance wildlife-associated recreation. Eligible projects include those to develop and implement programs for the benefit of wildlife and their habitat, including species of Native American cultural or traditional importance and species that are not hunted or fished.

2008 Conservation Priorities:

At-Risk Species

Through this priority, the Department seeks to sustain biological communities by focusing on conserving the most imperiled components and improving the health of watersheds, landscapes, and marine resources. For listed species, bureaus can identify priority opportunities to enhance the condition of private lands consistent with restoration activities identified by the FWS recovery plans. The Department and its bureaus should also support State Comprehensive Wildlife Plans to benefit both Endangered Species Act-listed and candidate species.

Wild Birds

The Wild Birds initiative is intended to conserve birds and their habitats to assure healthy and sustainable populations. Three outcomes are envisioned: (1) Conserve priority bird habitat; (2) collect scientific data that support plans and guide management actions; and (3) educate citizens to understand the needs and stressors of birds.

Healthy Habitats

The goal of this priority is to enhance habitat on federally managed and adjoining lands. A prominent example of this priority being put into action is BLM's Healthy Lands initiative. Outcomes envisioned by this priority include improving the condition of wildlife habitat, with a special emphasis on sage brush and sage grouse habitat, promoting the recovery of species, and helping assure continued access to and multiple-use of public lands while improving the ecological landscape. To achieve these outcomes, bureaus should continue to work with their Federal and non-Federal partners to address issues such as decreasing native vegetation for fish and wildlife, the influx of non-native species, and degraded water quality.

Post-Fire Restoration

Consistent with the National Fire Plan this conservation priority focuses on restoration and post-fire recovery of fire-prone and fire-adapted ecosystems. Goals under this banner include reducing the threat of catastrophic wildfire, improving forest and rangeland health, and restoring and recovering lands post-fire.

Coastal Habitat

This conservation priority is intended to promote policies and programs that engender responsible use and stewardship of U.S. coastal resources. The President's Ocean Action Plan encompasses many of the concepts and goals of this priority. Strategies for success include effective management of coasts and their watersheds including coordination of bureau and agency activities; promotion of responsible and efficient use and conservation of ocean, coastal, and great lakes resources; and support for partnerships to develop and implement comprehensive management strategies.

Water

Successful natural resource conservation in the West depends heavily on reducing crises and conflict over water supply, and improving water supply and delivery. Efforts to improve water use efficiency through use of technology and alternative water use regimes will continue to be important. Water crises can be averted and mitigated by working with partners to settle water claims and manage or adjust water rights to achieve benefits to the Department's trust resources in a mutually acceptable manner.

Engage Today's Youth in the Great Outdoors

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For guidance on specific coordination actions, see Section 3(a) of this Supplement

FWS Wildlife Restoration Program (CFDA: 15.625)

Type: Formula/Pass-Through (FY 2007 actual: \$266.0 million)

Grant Objectives: The textboxes below will help identify potential linkages between this grant program’s primary criteria/objectives and secondary/tertiary objectives (2008 conservation priorities).

Primary objectives of the program:

<p>FWS Wildlife Restoration Program²⁴</p> <p>The objectives of the Wildlife Restoration Program, supported by non-appropriated funding to State Fish and Wildlife agencies and administered by FWS, are: To restore or manage wildlife populations and the provision of public use of these resources, and provide facilities and services for conducting a hunter safety program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Projects having as their purpose the restoration, conservation, management, and enhancement of wild birds and wild mammals, and the provision for public use of and benefits from these resources - Projects having as their purpose the education of hunters and archers in the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary to be a responsible hunter or archer
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2008 Conservation Priorities:

<p>At-Risk Species</p> <p>Through this priority, the Department seeks to sustain biological communities by focusing on conserving the most imperiled components and improving the health of watersheds, landscapes, and marine resources. For listed species, bureaus can identify priority opportunities to enhance the condition of private lands consistent with restoration activities identified by the FWS recovery plans. The Department and its bureaus should also support State Comprehensive Wildlife Plans to benefit both Endangered Species Act-listed and candidate species.</p> <p>Wild Birds</p> <p>The Wild Birds initiative is intended to conserve birds and their habitats to assure healthy and sustainable populations. Three outcomes are envisioned: (1) Conserve priority bird habitat; (2) collect scientific data that support plans and guide management actions; and (3) educate citizens to understand the needs and stressors of birds.</p> <p>Healthy Habitats</p> <p>The goal of this priority is to enhance habitat on federally managed and adjoining lands. A prominent example of this priority being put into action is BLM’s Healthy Lands initiative. Outcomes envisioned by this priority include improving the condition of wildlife habitat, with a special emphasis on sage brush and sage grouse habitat, promoting the recovery of species, and helping assure continued access to and multiple-use of public lands while improving the ecological landscape. To achieve these outcomes, bureaus should continue to work with their Federal and non-Federal partners to address issues such as decreasing native vegetation for fish and wildlife, the influx of non-native species, and degraded water quality.</p> <p>Post-Fire Restoration</p> <p>Consistent with the National Fire Plan this conservation priority focuses on restoration and post-fire recovery of fire-prone and fire-adapted ecosystems. Goals under this banner include reducing the threat of catastrophic wildfire, improving forest and rangeland health, and restoring and recovering lands post-fire.</p> <p>Coastal Habitat</p> <p>This conservation priority is intended to promote policies and programs that engender responsible use and stewardship of U.S. coastal resources. The President’s Ocean Action Plan encompasses many of the concepts and goals of this priority. Strategies for success include effective management of coasts and their watersheds including coordination of bureau and agency activities; promotion of responsible and efficient use and conservation of ocean, coastal, and great lakes resources; and support for partnerships to develop and implement comprehensive management strategies.</p> <p>Water</p> <p>Successful natural resource conservation in the West depends heavily on reducing crises and conflict over water supply, and improving water supply and delivery. Efforts to improve water use efficiency through use of technology and alternative water use regimes will continue to be important. Water crises can be averted and mitigated by working with partners to settle water claims and manage or adjust water rights to achieve benefits to the Department’s trust resources in a mutually acceptable manner.</p> <p>Engage Today’s Youth in the Great Outdoors</p> <p>The goal of this priority is to enhance children’s interaction with nature. Projects under this priority should contribute to reconnecting our youth with their nation’s land and water. Better engaging our youth in the outdoors can create a new generation of stewards with a public service ethic; improve the mental and physical health of our nation; reduce the cost of health care; increase awareness of the important role that nature and science plays in our lives; strengthen America’s workforce; and ensure the perpetuation of the resources entrusted to our care. For more information, please see page 6 of this supplement, or visit www.nps.gov/ChildrenInNature/BestPractices.</p>
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For guidance on specific coordination actions, see Section 3(a) of this Supplement

MMS Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CFDA: 15.426)

Type: Formula grants (FY 2007 actual: \$250.0 million)

Grant Objectives: The textboxes below will help identify potential linkages between this grant program’s primary criteria/objectives and secondary/tertiary objectives (2008 conservation priorities).

Primary objectives of the program:

MMS Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP)¹
CIAP authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to disburse funds to Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) oil and gas producing States to undertake activities that mitigate the impacts of OCS oil and gas activities. States must have an MMS-approved State Plan to be eligible for funds
Project proposals must be consistent with the State Plan and may consist of one or more of the following:
- Projects and activities for the conservation, protection, or restoration of coastal areas, including wetlands
- Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife, or natural resources
- Planning assistance and the administrative costs of complying with program requirements.
- Implementation of a federally-approved marine, coastal or comprehensive conservation management plan
- Mitigation of the impact of Outer Continental Shelf activities through funding or onshore infrastructure projects and public service needs

2008 Conservation Priorities:

At-Risk Species
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Wild Birds
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Healthy Habitats
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Post-Fire Restoration
Consistent with the National Fire Plan this conservation priority focuses on restoration and post-fire recovery of fire-prone and fire-adapted ecosystems. Goals under this banner include reducing the threat of catastrophic wildfire, improving forest and rangeland health, and restoring and recovering lands post-fire.

Coastal Habitat
This conservation priority is intended to promote policies and programs that engender responsible use and stewardship of U.S. coastal resources. The President’s Ocean Action Plan encompasses many of the concepts and goals of this priority. Strategies for success include effective management of coasts and their watersheds including coordination of bureau and agency activities; promotion of responsible and efficient use and conservation of ocean, coastal, and great lakes resources; and support for partnerships to develop and implement comprehensive management strategies.

Water
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NPS Challenge Cost Share Program (CFDA: N/A)

Type: Regional competition for program funds requiring 50:50 match from non-Federal sources. Procurement contracts are also utilized in some cases. (FY 2007 actual: \$2.4 million)

Grant Objectives: The textboxes below will help identify potential linkages between this grant program's primary criteria/objectives and secondary/tertiary objectives (2008 conservation priorities).

Primary objectives of the program:

NPS Challenge Cost Share Program²⁵

Objectives: Support increased participation by communities that neighbor NPS units and qualified partners in the preservation and improvement of NPS natural, cultural, and recreational resources; and in all other authorized NPS programs and activities--both outside or inside park lands

Program criteria:

- Proposed project meets a critical NPS need regarding preservation and improvement of NPS-administered resources as well as resources related to authorized NPS programs and activities
- Active and full support from project partners
- The proposal adequately addresses the outcomes and products of the project
- Cost effectiveness
- Regional directors may add additional region-specific criteria

2008 Conservation Priorities:

At-Risk Species

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Healthy Habitats

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Post-Fire Restoration

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Coastal Habitat

This conservation priority is intended to promote policies and programs that engender responsible use and stewardship of U.S. coastal resources. The President's Ocean Action Plan encompasses many of the concepts and goals of this priority. Strategies for success include effective management of coasts and their watersheds including coordination of bureau and agency activities; promotion of responsible and efficient use and conservation of ocean, coastal, and great lakes resources; and support for partnerships to develop and implement comprehensive management strategies.

Water

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For guidance on specific coordination actions, see Section 3(a) of this Supplement

NPS Heritage Partnership Program (CFDA: N/A)

Type: Regional Formula / Pass-through to States and non profit organizations in the form of cooperative agreements, direct payments, and technical assistance (FY 2007 actual: \$13.2 million)

Grant Objectives: The textboxes below will help identify potential linkages between this grant program’s primary criteria/objectives and secondary/tertiary objectives (2008 conservation priorities).

Primary objectives of the program:

<p>NPS Heritage Partnership Program²⁶</p> <p>Objectives: Conserve nationally important landscapes and their natural, recreational, and historic resources as outlined in National Heritage Areas’ management plans</p> <p>Funding supports :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Historic preservation, cultural and ecotourism, local and regional preservation planning, and heritage education and tourism - Reimbursement for technical assistance and training provided by NPS
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2008 Conservation Priorities:

<p>At-Risk Species</p> <p>Through this priority, the Department seeks to sustain biological communities by focusing on conserving the most imperiled components and improving the health of watersheds, landscapes, and marine resources. For listed species, bureaus can identify priority opportunities to enhance the condition of private lands consistent with restoration activities identified by the FWS recovery plans. The Department and its bureaus should also support State Comprehensive Wildlife Plans to benefit both Endangered Species Act-listed and candidate species.</p> <p>Wild Birds</p> <p>The Wild Birds initiative is intended to conserve birds and their habitats to assure healthy and sustainable populations. Three outcomes are envisioned: (1) Conserve priority bird habitat; (2) collect scientific data that support plans and guide management actions; and (3) educate citizens to understand the needs and stressors of birds.</p> <p>Healthy Habitats</p> <p>The goal of this priority is to enhance habitat on federally managed and adjoining lands. A prominent example of this priority being put into action is BLM’s Healthy Lands initiative. Outcomes envisioned by this priority include improving the condition of wildlife habitat, with a special emphasis on sage brush and sage grouse habitat, promoting the recovery of species, and helping assure continued access to and multiple-use of public lands while improving the ecological landscape. To achieve these outcomes, bureaus should continue to work with their Federal and non-Federal partners to address issues such as decreasing native vegetation for fish and wildlife, the influx of non-native species, and degraded water quality.</p> <p>Post-Fire Restoration</p> <p>Consistent with the National Fire Plan this conservation priority focuses on restoration and post-fire recovery of fire-prone and fire-adapted ecosystems. Goals under this banner include reducing the threat of catastrophic wildfire, improving forest and rangeland health, and restoring and recovering lands post-fire.</p> <p>Coastal Habitat</p> <p>This conservation priority is intended to promote policies and programs that engender responsible use and stewardship of U.S. coastal resources. The President’s Ocean Action Plan encompasses many of the concepts and goals of this priority. Strategies for success include effective management of coasts and their watersheds including coordination of bureau and agency activities; promotion of responsible and efficient use and conservation of ocean, coastal, and great lakes resources; and support for partnerships to develop and implement comprehensive management strategies.</p> <p>Water</p> <p>Successful natural resource conservation in the West depends heavily on reducing crises and conflict over water supply, and improving water supply and delivery. Efforts to improve water use efficiency through use of technology and alternative water use regimes will continue to be important. Water crises can be averted and mitigated by working with partners to settle water claims and manage or adjust water rights to achieve benefits to the Department’s trust resources in a mutually acceptable manner.</p> <p>Engage Today’s Youth in the Great Outdoors</p> <p>The goal of this priority is to enhance children’s interaction with nature. Projects under this priority should contribute to reconnecting our youth with their nation’s land and water. Better engaging our youth in the outdoors can create a new generation of stewards with a public service ethic; improve the mental and physical health of our nation; reduce the cost of health care; increase awareness of the important role that nature and science plays in our lives; strengthen America’s workforce; and ensure the perpetuation of the resources entrusted to our care. For more information, please see page 6 of this supplement, or visit www.nps.gov/ChildrenInNature/BestPractices.</p>
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For guidance on specific coordination actions, see Section 3(a) of this Supplement

NPS Land and Water Conservation Fund – Outdoor Recreation-Acquisition, Development, and Planning Grant Program (CFDA: 15.916)

Type: Formula/Pass-Through (FY 2007 actual: \$28.0 million)

Grant Objectives: The textboxes below will help identify potential linkages between this grant program’s primary criteria/objectives and secondary/tertiary objectives (2008 conservation priorities).

Primary objectives of the program:

NPS Land and Water Conservation Fund – Outdoor Recreation-Acquisition, Development, and Planning Grant Program²⁷

Objectives: Provide funding to States, their political subdivisions, and eligible Tribes. Funds may be used for acquisition, development, and improvement of public outdoor recreation areas (“acquisition and development grants”), as well as for the purpose of statewide recreation planning

States must have a SCORP to be eligible for funding other than for recreation planning.

The SCORP:

- Identifies capital investment priorities for acquiring, developing, and protecting outdoor recreation resources
- Assures continuing opportunity for local units of government and private citizens to take part in their State's outdoor recreation and environmental planning programs
- Provides a practical tool for coordinating all State outdoor recreation and environmental conservation programs

Acquisition and development grants must be consistent with the SCORP and may be used for a wide range of outdoor recreation projects, such as picnic areas, inner city parks, campgrounds, tennis courts, boat launching ramps, outdoor swimming pools, and support facilities such as roads, water supply, etc. Facilities must be open to the general public and not limited to special groups.

2008 Conservation Priorities:

At-Risk Species

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Post-Fire Restoration

Consistent with the National Fire Plan this conservation priority focuses on restoration and post-fire recovery of fire-prone and fire-adapted ecosystems. Goals under this banner include reducing the threat of catastrophic wildfire, improving forest and rangeland health, and restoring and recovering lands post-fire.

Coastal Habitat

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Water

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For guidance on specific coordination actions, see Section 3(a) of this Supplement

OSM Abandoned Mine Land Grant Program (CFDA: 15.252)

Type: Formula/Pass-Through (FY 2007 actual: \$145.4 million)

Grant Objectives: The textboxes below will help identify potential linkages between this grant program's primary criteria/objectives and secondary/tertiary objectives (2008 conservation priorities).

Primary objectives of the program:

Office of Surface Mining (OSM) Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Grant Program²⁸

The AML grant program, administered by OSM, provides funding to eligible States and Tribes for reclamation of abandoned mine lands

Projects must consist of one or more of the following:

- Project costs for construction work to reclaim abandoned mine sites
- Projects to develop local partnerships for acid mine drainage reclamation
- Emergency mine land reclamation projects
- Overall administration costs for the AML program
- A Subsidence Insurance Program to establish self-sustaining programs for insurance against coal mining-related subsidence

2008 Conservation Priorities:

At-Risk Species

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Healthy Habitats

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Reclamation California Bay Delta Program CALFED (CFDA: 15.533)

Type: Competitive cooperative agreements (FY 2007 actual: \$6.1 million)

Grant Objectives: The textboxes below will help identify potential linkages between this grant program's primary criteria/objectives and secondary/tertiary objectives (2008 conservation priorities).

Primary objectives of the program:

California Bay Delta Program CALFED²⁹

CALFED's Water Quality Program is to invest in projects that improve the state's water quality from source to tap. Resources of CALFED's Levee System Integrity Program protect water supplies needed for ecosystems, cities, industry and farms by reducing the threat of levee failures that would lead to seawater intrusion.

Together and in partnership with local and regional agencies, this program allows for the increase of water supplies and more efficient and flexible use of water resources.

Ecosystem Restoration and Watershed Program Elements combine to improve the ecological health of the Bay-Delta watershed. Through CALFED implementing agencies, ERP works to restore and protect habitats, ecosystem functions and native species and the Watershed Program provides funding and offers technical support for local watershed activities.

2008 Conservation Priorities:

At-Risk Species

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Reclamation Colorado River Basin Salinity Control (CFDA: 15.509)

Type: Competitive cooperative agreements (FY 2007 actual: \$16.4 million)

Grant Objectives: The textboxes below will help identify potential linkages between this grant program's primary criteria/objectives and secondary/tertiary objectives (2008 conservation priorities).

Primary objectives of the program:

Colorado River Basin Salinity Control³⁰

Criteria include: The type and severity of salinity problems; the need to correlate on the farm conservation treatment with canal and lateral improvement; estimated cost; extent of the salinity problem; proximity to water bodies; land use charges; offsite effects; onsite environmental effects; other resource problems; seasonal nature of salinity reduction practices to be installed; applicants' ability to complete practices in the shortest time practical; and positive or negative effects on wildlife.

2008 Conservation Priorities:

At-Risk Species

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Reclamation Upper Colorado and San Juan River Endangered Fish Recovery Program (CFDA: 15.529)

Type: Competitive grants and cooperative agreements (FY 2007 actual: \$11.5 million)

Grant Objectives: The textboxes below will help identify potential linkages between this grant program's primary criteria/objectives and secondary/tertiary objectives (2008 conservation priorities).

Primary objectives of the program:

Upper Colorado and San Juan River Endangered Fish Recovery Program³¹

The Recovery Implementation Programs are designed to help recover the Colorado Pikeminnow, the Razorback Sucker, Bonytail, and the Humpback Chub while allowing water development to continue in the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins.

The types of projects authorized by these Cooperative Agreements include Administration of Water Right; Oversight of the Development of Water Resources; Protection and Management of Fish and Wildlife Resources; Projects related to Tribal Sovereignty; Long Range Plan and Program Goal Development; Protection, Management and Augmentation of Habitat; Interactions Between Native and Non-Native Fish Species; and Monitoring and Data Management.

2008 Conservation Priorities:

At-Risk Species

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Reclamation Water 2025 Challenge Grant Program (CFDA: 15.507)

Type: National competition for cooperative agreements. (FY 2007 actual: \$9.2 million in earmarks. Reclamation reprogrammed \$1.3 million into the program)

Grant Objectives: The textboxes below will help identify potential linkages between this grant program's primary criteria/objectives and secondary/tertiary objectives (2008 conservation priorities).

Primary objectives of the program:

Reclamation Challenge Grant Program³²

Conservation, Efficiency and Markets

- The extent to which the project involves water marketing or water banking
- The amount of water conserved and extent to which the proposed project will improve the applicant's delivery efficiency
- The improvement of water management

Relevance to Water 2025

- Likelihood that the proposed work will reduce conflict over water
- The proposed work is located in a "hot spot" ("hot spots" are geographic problem areas)
- Evidence of collaboration and stakeholder involvement in the project
- The proposed work has a connection to a Reclamation project or activity.

Demonstrated Result

- Planning effort supports the proposed project
- Identifies the direct benefits of the proposed work, i.e., acre-feet of water conserved, better management and/or marketing, and any expected improvement to the applicant's delivery efficiency
- Provides support for performance measure to quantify actual project benefits upon completion of the project

2008 Conservation Priorities:

At-Risk Species

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Reclamation Water Conservation Field Services Program (CFDA: 15.530)

Type: Competitive grants and cooperative agreements (FY 2007 actual: \$5.5 million)

Grant Objectives: The textboxes below will help identify potential linkages between this grant program's primary criteria/objectives and secondary/tertiary objectives (2008 conservation priorities).

Primary objectives of the program:

Reclamation Water Conservation Field Services Program³³

Objectives: Encourage water conservation, assist water agencies to develop and to implement effective water management and conservation plans, coordinate with State and other local conservation program efforts, and generally foster improved water management on a regional, statewide, and watershed basis

This program provides technical help for water agencies and users to begin implementing conservation measures.

Local programs provide cost-sharing, generally on a 50-50 basis, through cooperative agreements or grants.

Activities include:

- Assisting water agencies with implementing water conservation plans and management practices
- Providing funds for implementation through cost-sharing activities
- Facilitating partnerships with other organizations to conduct implementation activities

2008 Conservation Priorities:

At-Risk Species

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Reclamation Water Reclamation and Reuse Program (Title XV1) (CFDA: 15.504)

Type: Formula/Pass-Through (FY 2007 actual: \$10.1 million)

Grant Objectives: The textboxes below will help identify potential linkages between this grant program's primary criteria/objectives and secondary/tertiary objectives (2008 conservation priorities).

Primary objectives of the program:

Water Reclamation and Reuse Program³⁴

Reclamation will place priority on funding projects that are economically justified and environmentally acceptable in a watershed context, not eligible for funding under another Federal program, and that directly address Administration priorities for the Reclamation program, such as providing instream flows for Federally endangered or threatened species, meeting the needs of Native American communities, and meeting international commitments.

2008 Conservation Priorities:

At-Risk Species

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Reclamation Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Program (CFDA: 15.531)

Type: Formula/Pass-Through (FY 2007 actual: \$9.9 million)

Grant Objectives: The textboxes below will help identify potential linkages between this grant program’s primary criteria/objectives and secondary/tertiary objectives (2008 conservation priorities).

Primary objectives of the program:

Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Program (YRBWEP)³⁵
Protect, mitigate, and enhance fish and wildlife through improved water management; improved instream flows; improved water quality; protection, creation and enhancement of wetlands; and by other appropriate means of habitat improvement.
Improve the reliability of water supply for irrigation.
Improve the efficiency of water delivery and use; enhance basin water supplies; improve water quality; protect, create and enhance wetlands, and determine the amount of basin water needs that can be met by water conservation measures.
Realize sufficient water savings from the Yakima River Basin Water Conservation Program so that not less than 40,000 acre-feet of water savings per year are achieved by the end of the fourth year of the Basin Conservation Program.
Encourage voluntary transactions among public and private entities which result in the implementation of water conservation measures, practices and facilities.
Provide for the implementation by the Yakima Indian Nation at its sole discretion of (A) an irrigation demonstration project on the Yakima Indian Reservation using water savings from system improvements to the Wapato Irrigation Project, and (B) a Toppenish Creek corridor enhancement project integrating agricultural, fish, wildlife, and cultural resources.

2008 Conservation Priorities:

At-Risk Species
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This conservation priority is intended to promote policies and programs that engender responsible use and stewardship of U.S. coastal resources. The President’s Ocean Action Plan encompasses many of the concepts and goals of this priority. Strategies for success include effective management of coasts and their watersheds including coordination of bureau and agency activities; promotion of responsible and efficient use and conservation of ocean, coastal, and great lakes resources; and support for partnerships to develop and implement comprehensive management strategies.

Water
Successful natural resource conservation in the West depends heavily on reducing crises and conflict over water supply, and improving water supply and delivery. Efforts to improve water use efficiency through use of technology and alternative water use regimes will continue to be important. Water crises can be averted and mitigated by working with partners to settle water claims and manage or adjust water rights to achieve benefits to the Department’s trust resources in a mutually acceptable manner.

Engage Today’s Youth in the Great Outdoors
The goal of this priority is to enhance children’s interaction with nature. Projects under this priority should contribute to reconnecting our youth with their nation’s land and water. Better engaging our youth in the outdoors can create a new generation of stewards with a public service ethic; improve the mental and physical health of our nation; reduce the cost of health care; increase awareness of the important role that nature and science plays in our lives; strengthen America’s workforce; and ensure the perpetuation of the resources entrusted to our care. For more information, please see page 6 of this supplement, or visit www.nps.gov/ChildrenInNature/BestPractices.

For guidance on specific coordination actions, see Section 3(a) of this Supplement

Endnotes:

¹ Sources of information about grant programs include bureau websites and publications, the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance, grants.gov, and communications with bureau staff that occurred from October 2006 through November 2007.

² The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance:

http://12.46.245.173/pls/portal30/CATALOG.SEARCH_PGM_TXT_DYN.SHOW?p_arg_names=prog_nbr_in&p_arg_values=15.037&p_arg_names=keyword_in&p_arg_values=15.037%20Water%20Resources%20on%20Indian%20Lands&p_arg_names=title&p_arg_values=

³ http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_03/25cfr900_03.html

⁴ Source: BLM staff

⁵ <http://www.blm.gov/natacq/FIRE/RuralAssistance.pdf> and

http://www.dsca.osd.mil/programs/LPA/2005/getdoc.cgi_dbname=108_cong_public_laws&docid=f_publ447.108.pdf

⁶ http://12.46.245.173/pls/portal30/CATALOG.PROGRAM_TEXT_RPT.SHOW?p_arg_names=prog_nbr&p_arg_values=15.228

⁷ <http://federalasst.fws.gov/Big/big%20application%20fy2008.pdf>

⁸ <http://federalaid.fws.gov/cva/CVA%20Grants.gov%20apply%20documentation%20FY2008.pdf>

⁹ Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance:

http://12.46.245.173/pls/portal30/CATALOG.SEARCH_PGM_TXT_DYN.SHOW?p_arg_names=prog_nbr_in&p_arg_values=15.630&p_arg_names=keyword_in&p_arg_values=coastal%20program&p_arg_names=title&p_arg_values=

Also, the Strategic Plan for the Coastal Program (2006-2010): <http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/coastal/web/pdf/785.pdf>

¹⁰ <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/pdfs/Sec6/08GrantAnnouncementStandardFormatFINAL.pdf> and

<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/grants/section6/>

¹¹ Endangered Species Program Fiscal Year 2008 Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act) Grant Program Notice of Availability of Federal Assistance

<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/pdfs/Sec6/08GrantAnnouncementStandardFormatFINAL.pdf>

¹² <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/pdfs/Sec6/08GrantAnnouncementStandardFormatFINAL.pdf> and

<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/grants/section6/>

¹³ Endangered Species Program Fiscal Year 2008 Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act) Grant Program Notice of Availability of Federal Assistance

<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/pdfs/Sec6/08GrantAnnouncementStandardFormatFINAL.pdf>

¹⁴ <http://federalasst.fws.gov/wr/s10hesp.html>

¹⁵ The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance:

http://12.46.245.173/pls/portal30/CATALOG.PROGRAM_TEXT_RPT.SHOW?p_arg_names=prog_nbr&p_arg_values=15.628

¹⁶ National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program FY 2008 Notice of Availability of Federal Assistance:

http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/coastal_grants/web/pdf/1141.pdf

¹⁷ [Strategic Plan for the National Outreach and Communication Program:](http://www.fws.gov/sfbpc/strategicoutreachplan1998.ppt#256,1,Slide%201)

<http://www.fws.gov/sfbpc/strategicoutreachplan1998.ppt#256,1,Slide%201>

¹⁸ FWS (2007) “Challenge Cost-Share Program. Southeast Region. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service” and Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance:

http://12.46.245.173/pls/portal30/CATALOG.SEARCH_PGM_TXT_DYN.SHOW?p_arg_names=prog_nbr_in&p_arg_values=15.642&p_arg_names=keyword_in&p_arg_values=CHALLENGE%20COST%20SHARE&p_arg_names=title&p_arg_values=

¹⁹ North American Wetlands Conservation Council; Standard Grant Application Instructions, F.R. 65 (No. 49), 13296, March 13, 2000: <http://www.fws.gov/policy/library/00fr13296.html>

²⁰ Partners for Fish and Wildlife Grants: 640 FW 1 Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program

<http://www.fws.gov/policy/640fw1.html>

²¹ <http://federalasst.fws.gov/wr/50%20CFR%2080.pdf>

²² 2007 Administrative Guidelines for State Wildlife Grants <http://federalasst.fws.gov/swg/2007%20SWG%20Guidelines.pdf>

²³ http://12.46.245.173/pls/portal30/CATALOG.PROGRAM_TEXT_RPT.SHOW?p_arg_names=prog_nbr&p_arg_values=15.639

²⁴ http://www.mms.gov/offshore/CIAP/PDFs/CIAPfinalGuidelinesAmendedMay2007_6-21-07.pdf and

<http://federalasst.fws.gov/wr/50%20CFR%2080.pdf>

²⁵ <http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/ccsp/07%20CCSP%20Guidelines.doc>

²⁶ http://www.doi.gov/budget/2008/data/greenbook/FY2008_NPS_Greenbook.pdf

²⁷ <http://www.nctreasurer.com/LGC/compsup2006/federal/15.916-2006.pdf> and the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance: http://12.46.245.173/pls/portal30/CATALOG.SEARCH_PGM_TXT_DYN.SHOW?p_arg_names=prog_nbr_in&p_arg_values=15.916&p_arg_names=keyword_in&p_arg_values=Land%20and%20water%20conservation%20fund&p_arg_names=title&p_arg_values=

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- ²⁸ Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance: http://12.46.245.173/pls/portal30/CATALOG.SEARCH_PGM_TXT_DYN.SHOW?p_arg_names=prog_nbr_in&p_arg_values=15.252&p_arg_names=keyword_in&p_arg_values=Abandoned%20Mine%20Land&p_arg_names=title&p_arg_values=
- ²⁹ http://calwater.ca.gov/calfed/objectives/calfed_objectives.html
- ³⁰ Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance: http://12.46.245.173/pls/portal30/CATALOG.PROGRAM_TEXT_RPT.show
- ³¹ Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance: http://12.46.245.173/pls/portal30/CATALOG.PROGRAM_TEXT_RPT.show
- ³² <http://www.doi.gov/water2025/criteria.html>
- ³³ <http://www.usbr.gov/waterconservation/>
- ³⁴ Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance: http://12.46.245.173/pls/portal30/CATALOG.PROGRAM_TEXT_RPT.show
- ³⁵ Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance: http://12.46.245.173/pls/portal30/CATALOG.PROGRAM_TEXT_RPT.show