



# The Targeted Watersheds Grant Program

## *What is the Targeted Watersheds Grant Program?*

The Targeted Watersheds Grant Program is a competitive grant program to encourage the protection and restoration of the country's water resources. The program supports environmental stewardship and action by providing needed funding to watershed organizations for on-the-ground restoration and protection efforts designed to achieve quick, measurable, environmental results. The goal of the Targeted Watersheds program is to build on the successes of existing partnerships and coalitions that have evaluated and assessed their watersheds, devised a technically sound watershed plan, and are ready to embark on steps to implement their plan.

Congress recently approved \$10 million for these grants, and EPA plans to use this money to support up to ten promising watershed-based approaches to improving water quality throughout the country. Grants will range from \$600,000 to \$900,000 and a 25% non-Federal match is required.

"Much of the work over the past decade has been focused on point sources. This watershed grant has enabled us to expand our existing partnership even further to tackle nonpoint sources."

—Diane Williams, Executive Director  
Tri-State Watershed Council, Idaho

## *When are nominations due for 2005?*

EPA is now accepting nominations of proposals for watershed projects and activities. The Agency published the Call for Nominations in the February 18, 2005 issue of the *Federal Register*. The *Federal Register* Notice and other information pertaining to the Targeted Watersheds Grant Program, including regional contacts, can be found on the web at <http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/initiative>. The deadline for submitting nomination proposals is May 19, 2005.

## *How can a group get nominated?*

Nominations must be submitted by a Governor or Tribal Leader. States and tribes may prepare or solicit watershed proposals in a manner most appropriate to their state and nominate the most meritorious to EPA. Therefore, watershed organizations interested in pursuing a Targeted Watershed grant should contact their State or Tribe as soon as possible to ascertain its internal procedures. Governors and Tribal Leaders are limited to two watershed nominations within their jurisdiction, yet may nominate an unlimited number of watersheds that cross state, tribal, or national boundaries.



### What We Are Looking For?

EPA is looking to provide funding to watershed organizations who have an in-depth knowledge of their watershed's ecology; who propose an innovative and sound approach for combating threats and impairments; and who possess a clear set of performance measures with identified, measurable environmental indicators. Watershed nominations will be reviewed, evaluated, and scored based on the following criteria: Innovation (10 points); Tangible Solutions (30 points); Broad Support (10 points); Outreach (5 points); and Financial Integrity (5 points) for a possible total score of 60 points. EPA will not use Targeted Watershed funds for projects that directly support regulatory activities under the Clean Water Act, or for the construction of buildings, purchase of major equipment or machinery, or large pass-through grant programs.



### What Needs to be Submitted?

In preparing nomination materials, nominees are advised that EPA will exercise strict adherence to the components and format outlined in the *Federal Register* announcement. Failure to submit your nomination accordingly will ultimately result in disqualification and removal from the selection process. Each nomination package must contain: (1) a nominating letter signed by the Governor or Tribal Leader, (2) a title page with prescribed information, (3) an abstract of the project, (4) a detailed description of the project, (5) a completed budget form, (6) a description of grants management experience, (7) letter(s) and certification(s) of support, and (8) a map. The checklist below is provided to assist groups in preparing and submitting the required materials.

### NOMINATION CHECKLIST

- 1. Package Components:**
  - Nominating letter signed by the Governor or Tribal Leader
  - Title page
  - 150-word Abstract
  - 10-page Project Description
  - Budget form
  - 1-page Grant Management Experience
  - Letter(s) signed by active partners
  - Letter(s) committing matching funds
  - Letters(s) supporting inter-jurisdictional nominations (if applicable)
  - Map
- 2. Project Description Format**
  - 12-point font size
  - Double-spaced (10 pages maximum)
  - 1" Margins
  - 8½ x 11" paper
- 3. Match Requirement**
  - 25% Minimum match
  - Match includes federal funds and applicant has cited authority
  - Waiver of match requested due to undue hardship (tribal only)
- 4. Submission:**
  - 1 hard copy of all materials sent to EPA Washington, DC Office
  - 1 hard copy of all materials sent to EPA Regional Office
  - Electronic copy of narrative text only sent to: [initiative.watershed@epa.gov](mailto:initiative.watershed@epa.gov)**
  - (subject line: STATE-Watershed Name, e.g., Virginia-- Shenandoah)