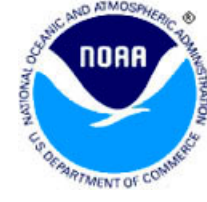




## National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in Partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



### Announces an Opportunity for Matching Grants for Conservation in 2005

#### Background

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (Foundation) is working to expand and strengthen our partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to support innovative and effective conservation and stewardship of our country's marine and coastal areas. The goal of the partnership is to support high quality projects that produce concrete solutions to advance conservation and restoration of coastal and marine resources.

Matching grants will be awarded through a competitive process to eligible grant recipients including state and local governments, educational institutions, and nonprofit organizations. Grants that work in partnership with NOAA and are community-based in nature will be given special consideration. Grants typically range from \$10,000-\$100,000, based upon need.

#### What Are Matching Grants?

The Foundation awards matching grants - each dollar awarded by the Foundation must be matched with one non-federal dollar or goods and services of equal value. However, the Foundation strives to increase resources directed to conservation and encourages applicants to achieve at least a 2:1 ratio - two dollars raised in non-federal funds, goods, or services for every one dollar awarded by the Foundation.

The Foundation refers to funds raised by the grantee as matching funds. Matching funds must be:

- Non-federal in origin - federally appropriated or managed funds cannot be used to match a Foundation grant;
- Voluntary in nature - permit or court-ordered settlements are generally ineligible;
- Raised and dedicated specifically for the project in question; and
- Applied only to the Foundation grant and not to any other federal matching programs.

#### Grant Criteria

All proposals will be evaluated on the following criteria. Qualified projects that meet the criteria described below will be considered and funded based upon grant money available and the level of competition.

- *Results and Community Driven:* The Foundation seeks both innovative and proven projects that are hands on and engage local stakeholders in conservation stewardship to the benefit of NOAA trust resources.
- *Demonstrated Value for Coastal and Marine Resources:* Project proponents must clearly define the conservation problem they are seeking to address and explain how their project will provide measurable benefits for coastal and marine resources, including fish, wildlife and/or critical ecosystems (coral reefs, sea grass beds, etc.). Projects that restore or protect habitat of NOAA trust resources, including candidate, threatened or endangered species, are particularly encouraged. Where possible, projects should demonstrate a link to other NOAA programs and activities.

- *Partnerships*: Successful projects will demonstrate diverse partnerships among a variety of stakeholders. Special consideration will be given to projects which unite conservation and community/industry interests and develop true "win-win" solutions.
- *Leverage*: Projects must provide match to the Foundation's federal grant award of at least 1:1, with 2:1 or greater strongly encouraged. Projects which bring matching contributions from third parties will be favorably considered.
- *On-The-Ground*: In general, only those proposals with a strong on-the-ground or in-the-water component will be considered, although capacity building, community development and other goals may be included in the projects.
- *Watershed Scale*: Preference will be given to those proposals that address marine and coastal conservation at the watershed or ecosystem scale.
- *Immediacy of Need*: Proposals must demonstrate a clear need for funding and should define a time-line for project implementation. We expect our grants to be completed roughly one year after they are approved.

### **Special Partnership Opportunities**

The Foundation and NOAA also partner on several priority habitat and species concerns. If your grant falls under any of the topics below, please visit [http://www.nfwf.org/programs/grant\\_apply.htm](http://www.nfwf.org/programs/grant_apply.htm) for more information on applying for these special funds:

- Large Whales
- Atlantic Salmon
- Sea Turtles (Caribbean and Latin America)
- Tropical Coral Reefs
- Chesapeake Bay Watershed
- Delaware Bay Watershed
- Long Island Sound Watershed
- Pinellas County Watershed
- North Gulf Coast Habitat Restoration

### **Geographic and Programmatic Focus Areas**

This program aims to support a diverse array of projects from across the entire country, including the Great Lakes Region, Western Pacific Basin (US & International) and the Caribbean. The Foundation/NOAA partnership priorities for 2005 include the following:

- **Innovative** demonstration projects
- Projects which seek to **engage resource users and/or managers** in efforts to promote conservation practices that benefit fish, wildlife and coastal/marine ecosystems
- Projects that address conservation needs while **improving the economic sustainability** of coastal communities.
- **NEW IN 2005** - Projects that will result in benefits to living marine resource habitats and navigational waterways through the **removal and/or prevention of marine debris**, including projects that are coupled with a **best management practice** that **limits the re-accumulation of debris**.

### **Restrictions**

NOAA funds cannot be used for fundraising, political advocacy, or litigation purposes. NOAA offices and employees can not be recipients of these funds unless they qualify for a special studies agreement.

### **How to Apply for a Matching Grant**

Submit a pre-proposal via the Foundation's website at <https://collective.nfwf.org/pre-proposal/Preproposal.php> to the appropriate regional contact (see map in on-line application). Upon receipt and evaluation of the pre-proposal, the Foundation will invite successful applicants to submit a full proposal. Access to the Foundation's general matching grant application form will be provided to successful applicants at that time. Conservation needs and benefits of proposed action(s);

- Conservation need and benefit of proposed action(s);
- Opportunities for substantive multi-sector involvement and coordination;
- Staff qualifications and organization's track record;
- Integration of program monitoring and evaluation; and
- Ability to use Foundation grant to leverage additional non-federal resources.

### **When Are Proposals Due?**

Please note that pre-proposals must be received electronically. Full proposals will only be accepted by invitation based upon initial review of the applicant's pre-proposal.

**Pre-Proposal Due:** May 16, 2005

**Full Proposal Due (Invitation Only):** June 29, 2005

**Foundation Board of Director's Decision:** November 30, 2005

### **What If I Have Additional Questions?**

If, after careful review of these guidelines, you have additional questions, please contact the appropriate Foundation regional office. The Project Manager for the Latin American / Caribbean office, Maria Cuartas, can be reached at 202-857-0166.