

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

Agency Point of Contact

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Description of Program

On December 8, President Bush signed into law the Fiscal Year 2005 Consolidated Appropriations Act. This [bill](#) included \$22* million for conservation efforts on private lands to States, the District of Columbia, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Territories (hereinafter called "States") and Tribes under the Landowner Incentive Program (LIP). The Service anticipates this and future bills will continue to direct the apportionment of funds on a competitive basis. Tribes will be allocated 10%, 90% will be allocated to the States, and 3% from both the Tribe and the State portions will be used for Federal Assistance administration. No State may receive more than 5 percent of the total amount available to the States.

The goals of LIP identified in the appropriations language are:

"to establish or supplement existing, landowner incentive programs that provide technical assistance, including habitat protection and restoration, to private landowners for the protection and management of habitat to benefit federally listed, proposed, or candidate species or other at risk species on private lands.

Applicant Eligibility

For the nontribal portion, only State agencies with primary responsibility for fish and wildlife may submit proposals. Other agencies, organizations or individuals may partner with or serve as a subgrantee of that fish and wildlife agency. The Service allocated 10% of the total funds appropriated under LIP to Tribes for a competitive grant program.

Program Objectives

LIP (nontribal portion) is designed to assist States by providing grants to establish or supplement landowner incentive programs that protect and restore habitats on private lands, to benefit Federally listed, proposed or candidate species or other species determined to be at-risk, and provide technical and financial assistance to private landowners for habitat protection and restoration.

Eligible Purposes

The Grant program is competitive. Eligible projects include those by landowners and their partners that need technical and financial assistance to improve habitat or implement other activities on private lands for the benefit of endangered, threatened, proposed, candidate, or other at-risk species (plants and animals).

Tier 1 grants serve as the administrative framework for the program and are designed to:

- deliver technical and financial assistance to landowners
- provide for appropriate administrative functions such as fiscal and contractual accountability
- supplement and not replace existing funds
- distribute funds to landowners through a fair and equitable manner/system
- provide outreach and coordination that assist in administering the program
- describe a process for identification of species at risk and a process for the clear identification of clear obtainable and quantifiable goals and performance measures that will help achieve the management goals and objectives of LIP

The LIP Tier II grants support on-the-ground conservation actions as opposed to planning or research activities.

Fundable Projects

Examples of the types of projects that may be funded include prescribed burning, stream shoreline restoration, removal of alien species that threaten the recovery of native species, construction of fencing to exclude animals from sensitive habitats, or the planting of native vegetation to restore a rare plant community.

Matching Requirements

The ten States in the Southeast and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico must provide a minimum 25 percent nonfederal match. The U.S. Virgin Islands does not have a minimum nonfederal matching share. One of the current proposal ranking criteria for Tier II, however, addresses the amount of nonfederal match above the minimum required.

Determination of Project Eligibility

Proposals must meet the goals and objectives listed above. Contact the Regional Office to discuss eligibility. For further information please see: [LIP Implementation Guidelines for FY2005](#)

Grant schedule or cycle

Eligible participants are notified of the availability of funds and provided guidelines for proposal development each year. States may submit one proposal each for Tier 1 and Tier 2. The proposals go through a competitive process. Applications are reviewed and ranked by a committee made up of FWS personnel. Successful proposals are selected based on scores they received. Final approval is based on selection criteria and final approval of the Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks.