



National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

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Five-Star Restoration Matching Grants Program

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The National Association of Counties, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and the Wildlife Habitat Council, in cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Community-Based Restoration Program within NOAA Fisheries, and other sponsors (e.g., Office of Surface Mining), are pleased to solicit applications for the Five-Star Restoration Matching Grants Program. The Five-Star Restoration Program provides modest financial assistance on a competitive basis to support community-based wetland, riparian, and coastal habitat restoration projects that build diverse partnerships and foster local natural resource stewardship through education, outreach and training activities. In 2004, 50 projects received grants of on average \$10,000 out of approximately 180 applications received.

Matching Grant Guidelines

- The stars in "Five-Star" are the partners, funders, and/or participants necessary to complete the project including:
 - Schools or youth organizations (e.g., state or local youth conservation corps, county job training programs);
 - Local or tribal governments (e.g., boards of county commissioners, departments of planning, environment or parks and recreation);
 - Local businesses or corporations;
 - Conservation organizations or local citizens groups;
 - State and federal resource management agencies; and
 - Foundations or other funders.

Projects must therefore involve diverse partnerships of ideally five organizations that contribute funding, land, technical assistance, workforce support, and/or other in-kind services.

- Awards are between \$5,000 and \$20,000; **the average grant is \$10,000.**
- Projects must include a strong on-the-ground wetland, riparian, or coastal habitat restoration component and should also include training, education, outreach, monitoring, and community stewardship components. Projects involving **only** research, monitoring, or planning are not eligible for funding.
- Applicants must demonstrate that measurable ecological, educational, social, and/or economic benefits are expected to result from the completion of the project.
- Projects may be a discrete part of a larger restoration effort but must be ready to complete within a one-year time-frame upon receipt of funding.
- Preference will be given to projects that:
 1. Are part of a larger watershed or community stewardship effort;
 2. Include specific provisions for long-term management, monitoring, and protection; and
 3. Demonstrate the value of innovative, collaborative approaches to restoring the nation's waters.
- Projects that are part of a mitigation requirement are **not** eligible for funding.
- Organizations or projects that have received funding under this program are eligible to reapply; however, preference will be given to those that have not previously received support.

How to Apply

The Five-Star Restoration Matching Grants Program is open to any public or private entity. Applicants should complete the attached [application form](#), including project narrative and budget request. For Frequently Asked Questions about the program, please click [here](#). **Applications must be postmarked by March 1, 2005.** Projects will be evaluated to the extent by which the above guidelines are met. Applicants will be notified of their awards in mid-June.

For more information, please visit [EPA's website](#).

We make conservation your best business decision - Partnerships that work - Solutions that last

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