

**US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
**Grant Programs to Address Threats to Coral Reef Resources**

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**Wetlands Program Development Grants**

1. Overview/Summary

a. Agency contact information:

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b. Description of Grant Program as it Relates to Coral Ecosystem Conservation

The Wetland Program Development Grants (WPDGs), initiated in FY90, provide eligible applicants an opportunity to conduct projects that promote the coordination and acceleration of research, investigations, experiments, training, demonstrations, surveys, and studies relating to the causes, effects, extent, prevention, reduction, and elimination of water pollution. While WPDGs can continue to be used by recipients to build and refine any element of a comprehensive wetland program, priority will be given to funding projects that address the three priority areas identified by EPA: Developing a comprehensive monitoring and assessment program; improving the effectiveness of compensatory mitigation; and refining the protection of vulnerable wetlands and aquatic resources. States, Tribes, local governments (S/T/LGs), interstate associations, intertribal consortia, and national non-profit, non-governmental organizations are eligible to apply.

c. Eligibility

In order to provide greater assistance to S/T/LGs, non-profit, non-governmental organizations that undertake activities to advance wetland programs on a national basis are eligible. Activities must help S/T/LGs develop and refine wetland programs. For example, projects and tasks can involve advancing science or collecting and disseminating information through publications and other appropriate means, such as training, on how various wetland programs across the nation protect, manage and restore their wetland resources and about initiatives to improve S/T/LG wetland programs.

d. Grant Schedules/Cycles

This year's applications were due by April 20, 2005.

e. Grants Management

i. What are the rules?

As provided in 40 CFR 35.107 and 35.507, for States, Tribes, local governments, interstate and intertribal agencies, work plans must include:

(1) A summary of key objectives, outcomes, and final products;

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- (2) A detailed description of project tasks, an explanation of environmental results of the project and how the project will contribute to developing or improving the wetland program;
- (3) Address the selection criteria specified in Section V
- (4) A strategy for transferring the knowledge or techniques gained through this effort to other areas and a description of how the results can be adapted to other areas;
- (5) A project monitoring and evaluation component including performance evaluation measures and reporting schedule;
- (6) A time-line or period of performance estimating activities from the start of the grant. Qualify if some work is seasonal or tied to a specific date;
- (7) A budget and estimated funding amounts for each work plan component - the budget should correspond to the SF424 Grant Application form budget categories. Budgets must include all items in the total project costs, not just those for the Federal Share. Remember to include the required match to the budget;
- (8) A description of roles and responsibilities of the recipient and any major partners in carrying out the work plan commitments;
- (9) Contact information for the Program Manager, Grant Project Lead Manager, and Account Manager who will be responsible for the project;
- (10) Grant applicants are required to provide a Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number when applying for Federal grants or cooperative agreements. Organizations can receive a DUNS number in one day, at no cost, by calling the dedicated toll-free DUNS Number request line at 1-866-705- 5711 or by visiting <http://www.dnb.com>.

In order for proposals to be considered, proposals must not exceed five (5) single sided pages (8.5 x 11 inches), using 11-pitch font or larger. Proposals that do not meet these limitations and requirements will be eliminated from the competition.

- ii. Accountability and auditable trail.  
The general award and administration process for all WPDGs is governed by regulations at 40 CFR Part 31 (“Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments”) and 40 CFR Part 35, Subpart A (“Environmental Program Grants for State, Interstate, and Local Government Agencies”) and Subpart B (“Environmental Program Grants for Tribes”).
- f. List - History (recent) of projects titles/abstracts that have been funded.

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The WPDG database provides project information for all of the grants funded through this program since it began in 1990. The database can be found at: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/water/grant.nsf>

The following projects have been funded in Puerto Rico and in the US Virgin Islands:

- Caño Tiburones Hydrologic-Hydraulic Study – PR
- Protection of Caño Boquilla Wetlands – PR
- Wetlands Conservation Plan – PR
- US Virgin Islands Wetlands Protection Plan – USVI

**g. Matching Fund Requirements.**

The applicant must provide a minimum of 25% of the total cost of the work plan in accordance with 40 CFR 31.24, 35.385, and 35.615. To determine if the minimum match is met, EPA will use the following formula:

amount (\$) of federal funds requested from EPA = minimum match (\$) 3

For example, if the applicant requests \$75,000 of federal funds for the three-year project period, it must be able to provide \$25,000 in matching funds or services. A reduced match may be available for Tribal grantees that place the WPDG grant funds in a Performance Partnership Grant. (See regulations at 40 CFR 536(c)). Please contact your EPA Headquarters contact person listed in Section VII if you have any questions about calculating the match requirement. Applicants can provide a larger share of the project's cost whenever possible (i.e., in excess of the required 25% of total project costs).

Award recipients can meet the match requirement with contributions from entities other than themselves. However, other Federal money cannot be used as the match for this grant program unless authorized by the statute governing the award of the other Federal funds. Matching funds are considered grant funds. They must be used for the reasonable and necessary expenses of carrying out the assistance agreement work plan. Any restrictions on the use of grant funds (i.e., prohibition of land acquisition with grant funds) also apply to the matching funds.

**h. Specific Criteria on How Proposals are Scored**

For the national competitive WPDG funding, proposals will be evaluated using the following general categories of criteria (250 points total):

**1. Potential Environmental Results (50 points total)**

A. Demonstrate potential environmental results, i.e., will it result in the protection of wetland resources and what are the anticipated results? (20 points)

B. Demonstrate that there is a need for the project that will help a S/T/LG develop a wetland program; explain whether the project fits into an existing S/T/LG wetland program or adds a component to the program (20 points);

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- C. Propose how project effectiveness will be analyzed and measured (10 points)
2. Program Area Priorities - Priority in the selection process will be given to projects which: 1) strengthen state/tribal comprehensive wetland programs, 2) develop a comprehensive monitoring and assessment program; 3) improve the effectiveness of compensatory mitigation; and/or 4) refine the protection of vulnerable wetlands and aquatic resources. (50 points)
  3. Broad EPA Goals - Demonstrate how the project supports broad agency wetland goals (e.g., Government Performance Results Act (GPRA) Goals, EPA Strategic Plan (<http://www.epa.gov/water/waterplan/documents/wetlands-sip.pdf>) and (<http://www.epa.gov/water/waterplan/pams/index.htm#wetlands>), or Core Elements of a Comprehensive Wetland Program (<http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/initiative/fy02elements.html>) and describe the linkage between the work intended to be accomplished under the assistance agreement and EPA's Strategic Plan/GPRA Goals Architecture. (50 points)
  4. Transferability - describe how you will transfer the Results and/or Methods to S/T/LGs. (40 points)
  5. Clarity of Work Plan - Proposals should be clear and detailed. (20 points total)
    - A. Identify the purpose of the project and how it addresses one or more of the three priorities; explain how the state, tribal, local wetland programs will benefit from the project (10 points);
    - B. Provide clear and sufficient detail on the tasks, level of effort and the project activities; identify specific deliverables; explain who will conduct the project (5 points);
    - C. Identify target audiences and needs of audience; explain recruitment plans to attract an audience; establish a strategy, realistic goals and objectives, for an effectively reaching the audience (5 points);
  6. Commitment of Applicant - Describe the involvement and commitment of the applicant to the project and the financial and personnel contribution and involvement of partners (20 points).
  7. Organization's Experience - Describe the expertise/qualifications and knowledge, resources, and facilities of the organization and its staff, or the ability to obtain them, to successfully achieve the goal of the project (10 points).
  8. Past Performance - Describe past performance on federally and/or nonfederally funded projects similar in size, scope, and relevance to the proposed project, e.g., completion, meeting reporting requirements, submitting final technical reports, and reporting outcomes. (10 points)

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2. Supplemental Information

i. Grant Application or FFO

The Headquarters Office will conduct the competitive process for awarding national WPDG grants. Headquarters will accept proposal submissions only for projects from eligible applicants. Interested applicants should review information on the WPDG at:

<http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/grantguidelines/>. Applicants can also receive a copy of the current competitive announcement by calling the EPA HQ Coordinator. Interested applicants should review information on the WPDG at: <http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/grantguidelines/>.

Applicants do not need to submit EPA grant application forms when responding to the HQ solicitation. All applicants will be notified by the HQ Office on whether or not the applicant has been selected for funding. The notification is not an authorization to begin performance. The Grant Award document signed by the appropriate grant official in the EPA HQ Office is the authorizing document. Applicants selected for funding must submit a final work plan and grant application forms. Application forms are available at <http://www.epa.gov/ogd/AppKit/index.htm> and by mail upon request to the Grants Administration Division at (202) 564-5305. Completed applications should be submitted to HQ Agency Contact at the address provided in Section VII.

j. Samples of successful grant proposals that were funded.

The following two grants were given by Region 9 for coral reef work:

1) University of Hawaii, Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology. Under this grant, which was awarded pursuant to a competitive process under the Wetlands Grants Program, we are providing \$86,354 and the University is providing \$28,792 for the assessment, mapping, and monitoring the health of coral reefs. The areas selected are coral reefs adjacent to streams and water bodies impaired by pollutants as identified under section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. The grantee will document baseline conditions of the reefs so that changes as a result of management activities taken in the TMDL process can be monitored. The grant money will fund studies under the Hawaii Coral Reef Assessment and Monitoring Program (CRAMP), an ongoing statewide coral reef assessment project. Region 9's grant will enable the program to assess additional reefs in areas where pollutants such as sediments and nutrients may affect the health of the coral reef ecosystems.

2) Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Aquatic Resources. Under this grant, which was also awarded under the Region's competitive Wetlands Grant Program, EPA is providing \$103,145, and the State of Hawaii is providing \$37,975 to address alien seaweed. Alien species invasions of Hawaii's coral reefs are a major

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threat to the survival of these reefs. In some areas, alien seaweeds are overgrowing coral reefs and the ecosystem is rapidly shifting from diverse coral reefs to a seaweed dominant community. The only control mechanism currently available to address seaweed present in the reefs is labor intensive hand removal of the plants in such a way which does not damage the coral and does not fragment the seaweed which results in its spread to new sites. Under the grant program, DLNR will train volunteer groups to eradicate alien seaweeds. Educational displays warning the public about alien seaweeds will be developed for the airports and Waikiki Aquarium.