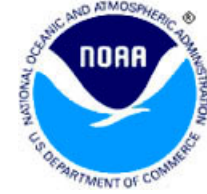




General Matching Grants Program



The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation operates a conservation grants program that awards matching grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible grant recipients, including federal, tribal, state, and local governments, educational institutions, and non-profit conservation organizations. Project proposals are received on a year-round, revolving basis with two decision cycles per year. Grants typically range from \$10,000-\$150,000, based upon need.

What Is The Foundation?

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is a private, non-profit, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization established by Congress in 1984. The Foundation fosters cooperative partnerships to conserve fish, wildlife, plants, and the habitats on which they depend. The Foundation works with its grantees and conservation partners to stimulate private, state, and local funding for conservation through matching grants.

What Does the Foundation Fund?

Matching grants are awarded to projects that:

- Address priority actions promoting fish and wildlife conservation and the habitats on which they depend;
- Work proactively to involve other conservation and community interests;
- Leverage available funding; and
- Evaluate project outcomes.

What Doesn't the Foundation Fund?

- Political advocacy or litigation of any kind;
- Shortfalls in government agency budgets;
- General administrative overhead or indirect costs;
- Multi-year grants (recipients may reapply);
- Basic research (including graduate research).

Where Does the Foundation Fund Projects?

The Foundation funds projects throughout the United States and its territories. Projects in Canada, Mexico, and other international areas that host migratory wildlife and other U.S. trust resources (marine mammals, threatened and endangered species, anadromous and marine fish) are also considered.

Where Do Funds Come From?

The Foundation awards matching grants utilizing federal funds provided by annual Congressional appropriations and agreements with federal agencies including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Agency for International Development, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and USDA-Forest Service. The Foundation also receives and awards contributions from select foundations, corporations, and other non-federal entities.

What Are Matching Grants?

The Foundation is mandated by Congress to ensure that each federal dollar awarded is leveraged with a non-federal dollar or equivalent goods and services. The Foundation refers to these funds as "matching funds." As a policy, the Foundation seeks to achieve at least a 2:1 return on its project portfolio -- \$2 raised in matching funds to every federal dollar awarded. To be eligible, matching funds must be:

- Non-federal in origin (federally appropriated or managed funds are ineligible; e.g., Pittman-Robertson, Dingell-Johnson, Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act);
- Raised and dedicated specifically for the project;
- Voluntary in nature (mitigation, restitution, or other permit or court-ordered settlements are ineligible); and
- Applied only to the Foundation grant and not to any other federal matching programs.

How Do I Apply for a General Matching Grant?

Submit a pre-proposal via the NFWF Pre-proposal website (<https://collective.nfwf.org/pre-proposal/Preproposal.php>). 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.

Project pre-proposals are accepted throughout the year and slated for review and action within the following cycles:

Project Pre-Proposal Received By:*	Project Full Proposal Due:*	Board of Directors Decision:
September 17, 2004	October 29, 2004	March 31, 2005
January 7, 2005	February 18, 2005	July 31, 2005
May 16, 2005	June 29, 2005	November 30, 2005

**If a deadline falls during a weekend or holiday, then the proposal is due on the next business day.* Proposals received after a deadline may be postponed to the next decision cycle at the Foundation's discretion. The Foundation's Board of Directors may elect to fund, postpone, or decline funding for any proposal.

What Makes a Good Pre-Proposal?

A successful pre-proposal is brief, to-the-point, and descriptive. Ensure that the pre-proposal addresses:

- 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.

Additional Questions

If, after careful review of these guidelines, you have additional questions, please contact the appropriate regional office. A list of regional offices can be found at <http://www.nfwf.org/contact.htm>.