

Funding Availability for Partners in Sage Grouse Conservation Efforts *(This document will be changed as new or different information becomes available)*

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

<http://grants.fws.gov/>

<http://Partnerships.fws.gov/>

Natural Resource Assistance Grants:

Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program – Provides assistance to private landowners who want to restore or improve habitat on their property. The project is developed, often with help from USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, state fish and game agency or other conservation organizations. The landowner is reimbursed based on the cost sharing formula in the agreement, after project completion.

Private Stewardship Program – Provides grants or other assistance on a competitive basis to individuals and groups engaged in private conservation efforts that benefits species listed or proposed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act, candidate species, or other at-risk species on private lands within the United States. Maximum Federal share is 90%.

Cooperative Conservation Initiative - To support efforts to restore natural resources and establish or expand wildlife habitat. Maximum Federal share is 50%.

Multistate Conservation Grant Program - To support sport fish and wildlife restoration projects identified by the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Maximum Federal share is 100%.

Tribal Landowner Incentive Program - For actions and activities that protect and restore habitats that benefit Federally listed, proposed, or candidate species, or other at-risk species on tribal lands. Maximum Federal share is 75%.

Tribal Wildlife Grants - For development and implementation of programs for the benefit of wildlife and their habitat, including species that are not hunted or fished. Maximum Federal share is 100%.

Conservation Grants - Provides financial assistance to States and Territories to implement conservation projects for listed and non listed species, such as habitat restoration, species status surveys, public education and outreach, captive propagation and reintroduction, nesting surveys, genetic studies and development of management plans. Maximum Federal share is 75 % for a single state or 90% for two or more states implementing a joint project.

Landowner Incentive Grant - To establish or supplement existing landowner incentive programs that provide technical or financial assistance, including habitat protection and restoration, to private landowners for species at risk. Maximum Federal share is 75%.

U.S. Bureau of Land Management

Contact your local BLM Office for more information

<http://www.blm.gov>

Challenge Cost Share – This program is designed to leverage funds with partners and other external funding sources to monitor and inventory resources; implement habitat improvement projects; partnership capacity building; develop recovery plans; protect or document cultural resources; provide enhanced recreational experiences; and to better manage wild horse and burro populations. A minimum of 1:1 match through new cash or in-kind goods and services is required for each project.

Cooperative Conservation Initiative – The CCI program was a new initiative in the President’s 2003 budget request to Congress to remove barriers to citizen participation in the stewardship of our natural resources and to help people take conservation into their own hands by undertaking projects at the local level. Projects must seek to achieve the actual restoration of natural resources and/or the establishment or expansion of habitat for wildlife. Funding must be matched through new cash, materials, or in-kind service.

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation - The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation provides grants for projects to develop and implement environmental education, natural resource management, habitat protection and restoration and conservation policy. Approved projects are funded at a one-to-one ratio, with the Foundation matching each Federal dollar with one or more dollars of non-Federal funds.

U.S. Geological Survey

<http://www.usgs.gov>

Information for applicable funding availability being researched

USDA, Natural Resource Conservation Service

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs>

Conservation Innovation Grants - Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) is a voluntary program intended to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies while leveraging Federal investment in environmental enhancement and protection, in conjunction with agricultural production. Under CIG, Environmental Quality Incentives Program funds are used to award competitive grants to non-Federal governmental or non-governmental organizations, Tribes, or individuals. CIG enables NRCS to work with other public and private entities to accelerate technology transfer and adoption of promising technologies and approaches to address some of the Nation’s most pressing natural resource concerns.

Conservation Reserve Program – The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) provides technical assistance to eligible farmers and ranchers to address soil, water, and related natural resource concerns on their lands in an environmentally beneficial and cost-effective manner. The program provides assistance to farmers and ranchers in complying with Federal, State, and tribal environmental laws, and encourages environmental enhancement.

Conservation Technical Assistance - The Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) program provides voluntary conservation technical assistance to land-users, communities, units of state and local government, and other Federal agencies in planning and implementing conservation systems. This assistance is for planning and implementing conservation practices that address natural resource issues. It helps people voluntarily conserve, improve and sustain natural resources.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program - The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) was reauthorized in the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Farm Bill) to provide a voluntary conservation program for farmers and ranchers that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible national goals. EQIP offers financial and technical help to assist eligible participants install or implement structural and management practices on eligible agricultural land.

Grasslands Reserve Program - The Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) is a voluntary program offering landowners the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance grasslands on their property. The Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency and Forest Service are coordinating implementation of GRP, which helps landowners restore and protect grassland, rangeland, pastureland, shrubland and certain other lands and provides assistance for rehabilitating grasslands.

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) – The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program for people who want to develop and improve wildlife habitat primarily on private land. Through WHIP USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service provides both technical assistance and up to 75 percent cost-share assistance to establish and improve fish and wildlife habitat. WHIP agreements between NRCS and the participant generally last from 5 to 10 years from the date the agreement is signed.

U.S. Forest Service

<http://www.fs.fed.us>

Forest Legacy Program (FLP) - The Forest Legacy Program (FLP) is a voluntary federal program in partnership with states to protect environmentally important private forest lands threatened to conversion to non-forest uses to help maintain the integrity and traditional uses of private forestlands. FLP directly supports property acquisition as well as the purchase of conservation easements. FLP funded acquisitions serve public purposes identified by participating states and agreed to by the landowner. To qualify, landowners are required to prepare a multiple resource management plan as part of the conservation easement acquisition. The federal government may fund up to 75% of program costs, with at least 25% coming from private, state or local sources.

Forest Stewardship Program (FSP) - The Forest Stewardship Program (FSP) provides technical assistance to private forest landowners to develop plans for the sustainable management of their forests. The primary focus of the FSP is the development of comprehensive, multi-resource management plans that provide landowners with the information they need to manage their forests for a variety of products and services. Participation in the Forest Stewardship program is voluntary and available to any non-industrial private forest landowner committed to the active management and stewardship of their forested properties for at least ten years. The FSP is not a cost share program. Cost-share assistance for plan implementation may be available through other programs such as the Forest Land Enhancement Program

The Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP) - The Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP) is a voluntary program for non-industrial private forest (NIPF) landowners that provides technical, educational, and cost-share assistance to promote sustainable forestry management practices. FLEP State Forestry Agencies in coordination with their State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committees will develop a State Priority Plan for FLEP. Landowners must develop a forest management plan (Forest Stewardship Program) to be eligible for cost-share. The practices to be cost-shared and the cost-share rate will be described in the State Priority Plan.

<http://www.partnershipresourcecenter.org/resource/funding/index.php>

Partnerships provide expanded opportunities for obtaining grants. Many funding sources prefer or require them because projects involving partnerships have an increased potential for success. In addition, funds available for grants can be “leveraged” as they extend farther among partners. Attention to appropriate, effective strategies that match the requirements of potential funding sources during project planning and development can lead to successful grant procurement. A sample of funding opportunities is listed at our web address.

Department of Defense

Legacy Resource Management Program

<http://www.dodlegacy.org>

In 1990, Congress passed legislation establishing the Legacy Program to manage, protect and conserve natural and cultural resources on military lands while supporting military readiness. Three principles guide the Legacy program — stewardship, leadership, and partnership. In order to support these principles, the Legacy Program emphasizes the following areas: Readiness and Range Sustainment; Integrated Natural Resources Management; Regional Ecosystem Management Initiatives; National and International Initiatives; Invasive Species Control; Monitoring & Predicting Migratory Patterns of Birds and Animals; Cultural Resources Management; Historic Preservation and Force Protection; Native American Issues; and Curation of DoD-owned and Controlled Archaeological Collections, and Associated Records and Documents.

Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program (SERDP)

<http://www.SERDP.org>

SERDP funds basic and applied research and development efforts that address DoD user requirements. Conservation objectives include providing innovative methods, techniques, and tools to inventory and manage resources more efficiently and effectively. Areas of interest include: ecological forecasting (e.g., to benefit readiness and range preservation), ecosystem processes, threatened and endangered species, ecosystem restoration and mitigation (e.g., invasive species control), and cultural resources. Proposals based on specific Statements of Need (SONs) are solicited through an annual Call for Proposals and Broad Agency Announcement.

Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative - President Bush’s FY 2005 budget includes \$20 million in the Defense Department budget to launch a new effort to sustain test and training space for our troops while assisting in the protection of valuable habitat and open space. The initiative will focus on dedicated funding to support new partnership projects working through cooperative agreements to acquire key conservation easements and other activities to prevent incompatible development around bases by protecting additional habitat. If funded, projects may use the “preserving habitat” authority under Section 2684a(2). Such projects would need to show a conservation benefit to the installation or range and consistency with the installation’s or range’s integrated natural resource management plan (INRMP), as well as contributing benefit to the broader regional ecosystem and landscape.

Department of Energy

<http://www.doe.gov>

Information for applicable funding availability being researched

State Game and Fish Agency Programs

State game and fish agencies have a wide variety of grant and partnership programs specific to their state. Some of the general programs available to the states through a Federal partnership include the following:

Wildlife Restoration Program - To support restoration and management of wildlife populations and provide public use opportunities and hunter safety programs.

Hunter Education Enhancement Program - To enhance existing hunter education programs. Maximum Federal share is 75%.

State Wildlife Grants - To develop wildlife conservation plans and on-the-ground conservation projects. Maximum Federal share for planning grants is 75% and implementation projects are 50%.

Non-governmental Organizations

Many non-governmental organizations have assisted in species and habitat conservation over the years. Participation in specific projects require planning and discussion with the local, state, regional or national representative of the non-governmental organization you wish to partner with. Some examples of organizations that have been involved in sage grouse/sage brush efforts include but are not limited to:

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation - Answer the Call

http://www.nfwf.org/programs/unified_rfp_2003.htm#atc

“a partnership program coordinated by Quail Unlimited (QU) to improve the distribution and abundance of upland game birds and other wildlife resources on public land. Projects must involve work that will significantly benefit upland game birds. Required criteria include: 1) involvement by local QU and local FS or BLM unit(s); and 2) a minimum fifty percent of match to federal funds provided by local QU chapters. Additional criteria not required, but considered when rating projects, include: inclusion of partners in addition to the BLM, FS, and QU; a ratio of challenge to federal funds exceeding 1:1; visibility potential; youth involvement; and educational/demonstration value.”

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation - General Matching Grant Program

<http://www.nfwf.org/programs/programs>

The Foundation awards matching grants 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 Foundation-provided funding, and evaluate project outcomes. Federal, state, and local governments, educational institutions, and nonprofit organizations are welcomed to apply for a general matching grant throughout the year, using the General Matching Grant Guidelines. Grants typically range from \$10,000-\$150,000, based upon need.

National Wildlife Federation - Keep the Wild Alive

<http://www.nwf.org/keepthewildalive/apply.cfm>

“an education, advocacy, outreach, and on-the-ground conservation project designed to raise awareness of and improve conditions for endangered species....Keep the Wild Alive’s Species Recovery Fund (SRF) was created to spur habitat restorations, species reintroductions, private land conservation activities, and other creative endeavors that directly improve conditions for endangered species. During the past two years, National Wildlife Federation has awarded nearly thirty grants - each between \$3,000 and \$7,000 - to support innovative species conservation efforts.”

Partners in Flight

http://www.partnersinflight.org/resources/project_funding.htm

“There are many opportunities for funding PIF-related bird conservation projects depending on the type of project – land acquisition, habitat management, research, monitoring, education, etc. This is not intended to be a comprehensive list of funding opportunities. Below are just a few opportunities that are particularly applicable to PIF-related projects or have come to our attention. We will try to update this section to keep you aware of funding opportunities.”

Patagonia - Enviro Action Grants

http://www.patagonia.com/enviro/grants_app.shtml

“We are most interested in making grants to organizations that identify and work on the root causes of problems and that approach issues with a commitment to long-term change. We look for programs with a clear agenda for change and a strategic plan for achieving the organization’s goals. Because we believe that true change will occur only through a strong grassroots movement, our funding focuses on organizations that build a strong base of citizen support. We fund work that is action-oriented; builds public involvement and support; is strategic; focuses on root causes; accomplishes specific goals and objectives; takes place in communities in which we do business. Most grants are in the range of \$3,000 to \$8,000.”

Sierra Club Foundation - Wildlife Grants Program

http://www.sierraclub.org/foundation/programs/wildlife_grants.asp

“in support of scientific, educational, charitable, and literary efforts to preserve, protect and restore the natural environment....The Foundation offers annual funding for small wildlife projects through three grant programs specifically targeted for the support of charitable, wildlife related projects.

Intermountain West Joint Venture - Joint Venture Cost-Share

<http://iwjv.org/costshare.htm>

“IWJV habitats support nearly 100% of the range of all high priority sagebrush steppe landbird species, such as: Sage Sparrow, Sage Thrasher, Sage Grouse (Greater and Gunnison’s) and Brewer’s Sparrow.” The purpose of Cost-Share is “long-term conservation of bird habitat through partnerships within the bounds of the Intermountain West Joint Venture. Joint Venture funds will be provided where funding is required to initiate or complete funding of projects (1) which support the mission and objectives of the Joint Venture, and (2) exhibit a broad-based partnership. Maximum per project is \$50,000.

The Nature Conservancy

<http://nature.org>

To preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. The Nature Conservancy works with conservation supporters and partner organizations to create funding for conservation worldwide using a variety of creative methods. We seek to create market incentives for conservation, such as debt for nature swaps. We also strive to increase funding for public land acquisition and management through appropriations and public finance campaigns. TNC is a leader in conservation planning and technical assistance in ecosystem restoration and management

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

<http://www.rmef.org>

RMEF is a wildlife conservation organization with an emphasis on elk. It defines conservation as a state of harmony between people, land and wildlife, and acknowledges that good conservation often is a fluid and elusive balance. It advocates sustainable, ethical use of resources and seeks common ground among stakeholders. RMEF celebrates outdoor and rural lifestyles and values within a North American culture growing

ever more distant from the land. RMEF funds hundreds of habitat restoration and improvement projects, acquires land or conservation easements.

Mule Deer Foundation

<http://www.muledeer.org>

Through chapter fundraising events, MDF volunteers raise thousands of dollars to help fund habitat and conservation projects throughout the West. MDF's goals center on restoring, improving and protecting mule deer habitat, which result in self-sustaining, healthy, free-ranging, and huntable mule deer populations. MDF achieves its goals through partnering with state and federal wildlife agencies, conservation groups, businesses and individuals to fund and implement habitat enhancement projects on both public and private lands.

North American Pronghorn Foundation

<http://www.antelope.org>

The NAPF's mission is to preserve, conserve, and enhance both Pronghorn Antelope and their ecosystems.

SUSTAIN continued research through donations or grants, scholarships, workshops, computer databases, library dedications, and by funding study projects about Pronghorn.

SERVE public education as a forum for the presentation, collection, and dissemination of scientific information and issues debate thorough publications about Pronghorn. **SPONSOR** inter-agency cooperation and coordination between local, state, and federal agencies and private, corporate, or other entities engaged in projects involving Pronghorn.

SECURE habitat development through the proper maintenance, improvement, and financial aid in procurement of suitable lands to be managed both for other wildlife and Pronghorn.

SUPPORT sound management practices based on scientifically developed appropriate population manipulations designed to ensure both utilization and public enjoyment of Pronghorn.

STRENGTHEN issues advocacy through protective legislative policy by supporting laws dealing with enforcement, lands use, game codes, and other issues pertaining to Pronghorn.