

EPA Region 9 Wetland Program Development Grants

2-Year Funding Cycle
Information Session

Objectives

- Understand the changes from an annual to a biennial funding cycle.
- Review the FY 2015 Request for Proposals (RFP) basic information.
- Address some major concepts for the RFP.
- Answer remaining questions.

What a 2-year funding cycle means to you

- An opportunity to financially plan further into the future for Wetland Program Plan (WPP) development and core element implementation.
- Proposals for less than 2 years will still be accepted.
- Proposals will be incrementally funded over the two year period.
- The next opportunity to apply for a R9 Wetland Program Development Grant will be FY17.
- Awards may still be added to a Performance Partnership Grant (PPG), provided the PPG is open through the funding period.

The second year of funding

- All proposals will be incrementally funded.
 - Increments will be determined from the work plan budgets and how best to support the work under the two year cycle.
- If the Region receives less than the estimated funding in the second year, the incremental funds will be cut by the percentage of the difference.

Benefits to applicants

- May increase stability of WPP planning by allowing funding for two years.
- Reduced workload by preparing an application every other year, rather than each year.
- Potentially increase the number of proposals awarded.
- Could increase the dollar amount for awards.

Benefits to EPA Region 9

- Reduce the workload for Region 9 staff by conducting the RFP and proposal review every other year.
- No additional workload for project officers to secure the second year of funding for grantees.

FY 2015 RFP overview

- Closing Date: **May 15, 2015**
- Two-year funding cycle begins
 - Next RFP will be announced in FY17
- Duration of projects ~ 1-4 years
- Funds available: \$3,151,700 (estimate)
 - FY2015: \$1,575,850 (estimate)
 - FY2016: \$1,575,850 (estimate)
- **All submissions must be done through grants.gov unless a waiver is obtained**
 - **If this is your first time, start process NOW!**

RFP concepts to review

- What's a wetland and what are the grants for
- Partnerships
- Track One and Track Two
- WPP Minimum Components
- Critical Element Framework
- Matching Requirements
- Work Plan Requirements

What is a wetland?

An area with:

- Surface **water** for at least part of the year
- Hydric (wetland) **soils**
- Water-loving **plants**



What are the Wetland Grants for?

- To “build or refine” a wetland program
(monitor and assess, start up, prioritize, develop, improve, design, revise...)
- Not for day-to-day wetland program “implementation” or “continuing” program work (such as CWA 106 program)
- For all types of wetlands, except constructed wetlands for wastewater treatment. Coral reefs are also eligible.

Partnerships

- Proposals will be evaluated on how well the applicant demonstrates partnerships including:
 - A clear description of roles of specific partners in the project's components/tasks.
 - How these partnerships will contribute to building a State/Tribal/local government's wetland program.
- **State/Tribal** applicants may also describe how they will partner within their organization, or if appropriate, describe how having no partners is the best approach.
- **Interstate agency, intertribal consortium, or university** applicants should describe how they will partner with the State/Tribe/local government in which the project is physically located.

How does the competition work?

- RFP is posted for 45 days.
- Applicants develop and submit proposals(s) that fall under one or both Tracks.
- ❖ **Track One:** Tribes and States
 - Develop a Wetland Program Plan and carry out eligible actions,
 - or just carry out eligible actions from an existing Plan
- ❖ **Track Two:** Tribes and States
 - PLUS local governments, interstate agencies, intertribal consortia, state universities
 - Carry out eligible actions from an existing Wetland Program Plan
 - Or carry out core elements that will help develop/refine a local (nontribal or nonstate) wetland program

Wetland Program Plan (WPP) Minimum components

1. An overall **goal** statement(s) for the program over the time period covered by the WPP.
2. An overall **timeframe** for the WPP, with a minimum timeframe of three years and a maximum of six years, starting from the time of WPP submittal to EPA.
3. A list of **planned actions** consistent with the Core Element Framework that the program intends to carry out over the WPP's timeframe, and which, if collectively met, will accomplish the overall WPP goal(s).
4. An intended **schedule** for the achievement of each action.
5. A listing of more **specific activities** to be accomplished under each action.

Core Elements of Wetland Programs

1. Monitoring and Assessment
2. Regulatory Activities
3. Voluntary Restoration and Protection
4. Water Quality Standards for Wetlands



- All program activities need to fit into these elements
- Details of actions and associated activities can be found at http://water.epa.gov/grants_funding/wetlands/cef_full.cfm
All “Program Building” activities listed are eligible for WPDG funding.

Core Element Examples

- Monitoring and Assessment

- Action

- Identify long-term outcomes that will benefit from a wetlands monitoring and assessment program

- Activities

- Document program's long-term goals
 - Identify how wetland data can be used in watershed planning

- Action

- Establish a reference condition

- Activities

- Define reference condition (gradient from unimpaired to impaired)
 - Select reference sites using a systematic approach

Project Activity examples

- Writing a Wetland Program Plan (WPP) that addresses at least 1 of the 4 Core Elements
- Creating and testing a wetland monitoring and assessment program
- Using existing wetlands data to figure out priorities for wetlands restoration and protection; writing restoration design plans

More Examples of Eligible Activities:

- Completing a wetland restoration demonstration project using “new or experimental technologies, methods, or approaches”, then incorporating lessons learned into new or revised wetland program plans.
- Training staff how to monitor wetland condition and water quality associated with wetlands.



Wetland Grants Funding and Match Requirements:

- Awards will range from about \$50,000 to \$500,000
- 25% match requirement
- or 5% if it will be part of a tribal Performance Partnership Grant (PPG). After the first two years, the matching contribution may increase up to 10%.
- Typical project length is 2 to 3 years, can be up to 4

What to include in your Work Plan:

- Work plan components to be funded under the assistance agreement
- Estimated work years and the estimated funding amounts for each work plan component
- Work plan commitments/ outputs for each work plan component and a timeframe for their accomplishment;
 - For example, include the following for each work plan component :
“Task 1, Delineate all wetlands on tribal lands; Deliverables: Wetland map and wetland GIS database; **Estimated work years:** 0.1 FTE; **Timeline:** 10/01/13 – 02/28/14; **Amount:** \$38,000”
- Performance evaluation process and reporting schedule
- Roles and responsibilities of the recipient and partners in carrying out the work plan commitments.

Helpful Websites

- R9 Wetland Grants Page:

www.epa.gov/region9/water/wetlands/grants

- Approved WPPs:

water.epa.gov/type/wetlands/wpp.cfm

- Wetland Grant Database (link is on R9 wetland grants page)

iaspub.epa.gov/pls/grts/f?p=101:1

- Core Element Framework:

water.epa.gov/grants_funding/wetlands/cefintro.cfm

Other sources of funds

Fisheries Restoration Grant Program

to restore anadromous salmonid habitat with the goal of ensuring the survival and protection of the species in coastal areas of California.

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/fish/Administration/Grants/FRGP/>

Historic Preservation Fund Grants to Indian Tribes

for culturally significant sites

<http://www.nps.gov/history/hpg/index.html>

Other Sources of Funds

EPA Five Star Wetland Grants

Bring together students, conservations corps, citizen groups, corporations, landowners and government agencies to provide training and environmental education through projects that restore wetlands and streams.

http://water.epa.gov/grants_funding/wetlands/restore/index.cfm

Landscape Conservation Cooperatives

<http://www.fws.gov/landscape-conservation/lcc.html>

<http://www.usbr.gov/WaterSMART/lcc/>

support on-the-ground conservation efforts through applied science for resource management decision makers

Questions?



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