

Bulletin

Office of Public Affairs
5275 Leesburg Pike, MS-EA
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803
Phone: 703-358-2220
Fax: 703-358-2245
<http://www.fws.gov>



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Contact: Christina Meister, christina_meister@fws.gov, (703) 358-2284

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Seeks Proposals from States For FY 2016 Endangered Species Grants

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is seeking proposals from states and U.S. territories for nearly \$54 million in federal financial assistance for conservation activities that benefit the nation's most imperiled species.

The Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (CESCF), authorized under Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act, provides grants to support voluntary conservation projects for listed species and species that are candidates for listing. Funding for the program is partly derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which uses a portion of the revenue from offshore oil and gas leasing in federal waters for conservation.

The Service is seeking proposals in three categories: *Recovery Land Acquisition Grants*, which provide funds for the acquisition of habitat in support of approved and draft species recovery plans; *Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grants*, which provide funds to support the development of Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) that protect habitat for listed species while providing for economic growth and development; and *HCP Land Acquisition Grants*, which provide funds to acquire habitat for listed species associated with approved HCPs.

To receive a CESCF grant, a state or territory must have a current cooperative agreement with the Secretary of the Interior and contribute at least 25 percent of the total project cost, or 10 percent when two or more states or territories undertake a joint project. Proposals must be submitted electronically through grants.gov or to the appropriate Service regional offices by March 18, 2016.

For more information and application requirements, contact: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Branch of Recovery and State Grants, 5275 Leesburg Pike MS: ES, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803; tel: 703-358-2171. The CESCF is number 15.615 in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance. Learn more about the grants, including details of grants awarded in FY 2015, at www.fws.gov/endangered/grants.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service works with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. For more information, visit www.fws.gov, or connect with us through any of these social media channels:

