

Habitat Protection

North American Wetlands Conservation Act.

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) of 1989 provides matching grants to organizations and individuals who have developed partnerships to carry out wetlands conservation projects in the United States, Canada, and Mexico for the benefit of wetlands-associated migratory birds and other wildlife.

There is a Standard and a Small Grants Program. Both are competitive grants programs and require that grant requests be matched by partner contributions at no less than a 1-to-1 ratio. Funds from U.S. Federal sources may contribute towards a project, but are not eligible as match.

The Standard Grants Program supports projects in Canada, the United States, and Mexico that involve long-term protection, restoration, and/or enhancement of wetlands and associated uplands habitats. A standard grant proposal is a 4-year plan of action supported by a NAWCA grant and partner funds to conserve wetlands and wetlands-dependent fish and wildlife with a grant request between \$50,001 and \$1,000,000. The 2008 application deadlines for this grant program are March 7 and August 1.

The Small Grants Program operates only in the United States; it supports the same type of projects and adheres to the same selection criteria and administrative guidelines as the U.S. Standard Grants Program. However, project activities are usually smaller in scope and involve fewer project dollars. Grant requests may not exceed \$75,000, and funding priority is given to grantees or partners new to NAWCA's Grants Program. The next application deadline for this grant program is November 2008. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.acjv.org/funding.htm>.

National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program.

Through the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program, the USFWS provides matching grants to States for acquisition, restoration, management or enhancement of coastal wetlands. States provide 50 percent of the total costs of a project. If, however, the State has established and maintains a special fund for acquiring coastal wetlands, other natural areas or opens spaces, the Federal share can be increased to 75 percent (as is the case in South Carolina). Grants awarded under the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program cannot exceed \$1 million for an individual project. Projects will be given priority if they are: consistent with the National Wetlands Priority Conservation Plan; located in States with dedicated land acquisition programs; and located in maritime forests on coastal barrier islands. The next application deadline for this grant program is June 27, 2008. Additional information can be found at: http://ecos.fws.gov/coastal_grants/viewContent.do?viewPage=home.

Neotropical Migratory Bird Act.

The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA) establishes a matching grants program to fund projects in the United States, Latin America, and the Caribbean that promote the conservation of migratory birds. Funded projects will perpetuate healthy populations of neotropical migratory birds; assist in the conservation of these birds by supporting conservation initiatives in the United States, Latin America, and the Caribbean, and provide financial resources and foster international cooperation for those initiatives. This grant program is open to any individual, corporation, partnership, trust, association, or other private entity; local, state and Federal government agencies; any other entity subject to the jurisdiction of the United States or of any foreign country; international organizations; academic institutions; nonprofit or nongovernmental organizations; or any combination of the above. Project activities must foster sustainable, effective, long-term initiatives to conserve Neotropical migratory birds. NMBCA defines conservation as: protection and management of neotropical migratory bird populations; maintenance, management, protection, and restoration of habitats of these birds; research and monitoring; law enforcement; or community outreach and education. For every \$1 received in grant funds, the applicant must commit \$3 in partner funds. Match contributions must not have been used previously to match a U.S. Federal project. The maximum award for FY2008 will be US\$250,000. The average award has been about US\$96,000, with a range of US\$9,000 to US\$250,000. Requests under US\$15,000 are discouraged. The next application deadline for this grant program is November 13, 2008. Additional information can be found at:

<http://www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/Grants/NMBCA/index.shtm>.

Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program.

The Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) provides matching funds to help purchase development rights to keep productive farm and rangeland in agricultural uses. Working through existing programs, NRCS partners with state, tribal or local governments and non-governmental non-profit organizations to acquire conservation easements or development rights on prime, unique or other productive farmland. The program also provides assistance for farms containing significant historical or archaeological resources. NRCS provides up to 50 percent of the fair market easement value.

To qualify, farmland must: be part of a pending offer from a state, tribe, or local farmland protection program; be privately owned; have a conservation plan for highly erodible land; be large enough to sustain agricultural production; be accessible to markets for what the land produces; have adequate infrastructure and agricultural support services; and have surrounding parcels of land that can support long-term agricultural production. Depending on funding availability, proposals must be submitted by the eligible entities to the appropriate NRCS State Office during the application window. The most recent request for proposals was due April 27, 2007. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.sc.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/>.

Forest Legacy Program.

The Forest Legacy Program (FLP) supports State efforts to protect environmentally sensitive forest lands. The program focuses on the acquisition of partial interests in privately owned forest lands by encouraging and supporting acquisition of conservation easements. FLP helps the States develop and carry out their forest conservation plans. Most FLP conservation easements restrict development, require sustainable forestry practices, and protect other values. Participation in Forest Legacy is limited to private forest landowners. 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 project costs, with at least 25% coming from private, State or local sources. Additional information can be found at:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/flp.shtml>.

Wetlands Reserve Program.

The Wetlands Reserve Program is a voluntary program offering landowners the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands on their property. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical and financial support to help landowners with their wetland restoration efforts. The NRCS goal is to achieve the greatest wetland functions and values, along with optimum wildlife habitat, on every acre enrolled in the program. This program offers landowners an opportunity to establish long-term conservation and wildlife practices and protection. South Carolina pays up to \$1500 an acre for permanent easements and \$1125 per acre for 30-year easements.

Additional information can be found at: <http://www.sc.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/>.

The Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelly Foundation.

The Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelly Foundation funds organizations and projects in the Lowcountry that:

- (1) Preserve, restore and protect strategic lands that contribute to the health of the regional ecosystem. And
- (2) Support land stewardship by:
 - a. promoting sustainable land uses
 - b. limiting urban sprawl
 - c. preserving threatened, historically rural landscapes
 - d. including underrepresented groups in land use dialogues; and
 - e. fostering a regional approach to land use planning preserve, restore and protect strategic lands that contribute to the health of the regional ecosystem.

The Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelly Foundation funds both specific projects and general operating expenses. There are two deadlines for submission of proposals in 2008: March 11 and August 15. Additional information can be found at:

<http://www.gddf.org/index.asp>.

South Carolina Conservation Bank.

The mission of the South Carolina Conservation Bank is to improve the quality of life in South Carolina through the conservation of significant natural resource lands, wetlands, historical properties, and archeological sites. The South Carolina Conservation Bank funds the acquisition of real estate interests from willing sellers and encourages cooperation and innovative partnerships among landowners, state agencies, municipalities, and non-profit organizations to work together. Eligible recipients include: the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources; South Carolina Forestry Commission; South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism, South Carolina municipalities and any agency, commission, or Instrumentality of such a municipality; and not-for-profit charitable corporations or trusts authorized to do business in South Carolina whose principal activity is the acquisition and management of interests in land for conservation or historic preservation purposes and which has tax-exempt status as a public charity under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. Application deadlines occur twice a year. The deadline dates are March 31 and July 31. Additional information can be found at: <http://sccbanc.sc.gov/>.

Charleston County Rural & Urban Grants Program.

The Charleston County Rural & Urban Grants Program funds greenspace conservation and limited improvements in Charleston County. The Program is funded by the Greenbelt portion of the Charleston County's Transportation "Half-Cent" Sales Tax. The purpose of the Rural Grants Program is to promote rural land conservation, wetlands protection, historic and cultural preservation, parkland acquisition, greenway and trail acquisition, waterway access acquisition, and limited minor improvements. Urban grant funds can be used for the acquisition of land and/or purchase of development rights on property within the urban area, and limited minor improvements. The next deadline for the grant programs is March 31, 2008. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.smallchangeformbigchange.org/greenbelt.html>.

The Conservation Fund.

The Conservation Fund's Revolving Fund provides ready capital to acquire conservation lands. Loans from the Revolving Fund are used to pay for options, land acquisitions, and conservation easements. In addition, The Conservation Fund uses its Revolving Fund to provide bridge financing through its Land Trust Loan Program to local organizations for their land conservation priorities. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.conservationfund.org/>.

Acres for America.

The Acres for America program is a partnership between NFWF and Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. for conservation projects that result in the preservation of key tracts of land for fish, wildlife and plants. Wal-Mart has committed \$35 million over 10 years to permanently conserve at least one acre of priority wildlife habitat for every developed acre of Wal-Mart Stores' current footprint, as well as the company's future development throughout

the 10-year commitment (anticipated total of 138,000 acres). Due to the highly competitive nature of the program, applicants are encouraged to contact Dr. Peter Stangel, Regional Director of the NFWF in Atlanta, Georgia (404 679-7099), to discuss the potential project. The next preproposal deadline is April 1, 2008. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.nfwf.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Grants>.

More Fish Partnership Fund.

The More Fish Partnership Fund is a partnership between the B.A.S.S. Federation and NFWF whose purpose is to build the capacity of the B.A.S.S. Federation and other organizations in on-the-ground implementation of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (Plan). B.A.S.S. Clubs and other angler/community non profit organizations are eligible to apply for funding for community-based fisheries conservation projects that involve state fish and wildlife and other agencies, Federal agencies, youth interests, anglers, volunteers, and other experts who partner and demonstrate their capacity to achieve one or more goals of the Plan. The goal is to improve awareness about aquatic resources by supporting both grassroots capacity building with the ability to measure that performance and successfully plan and implement habitat conservation projects. Grants of up to \$50,000 will be awarded on a competitive basis. Eligible activities include aquatic habitat restoration, enhancement and protection that protect and improve water quantity/quality, aquatic vegetation, landowner/water user conservation, outreach and stewardship training, and conservation watershed planning and management. Priority will be given to projects that directly implement the recommendations of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan and/or state wildlife action plans. A minimum of 1:1 match is required. The most recent application deadline was November 1, 2007. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.nfwf.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Grants>.

Wildlife Forever.

Wildlife Forever supports habitat restoration and acquisition, research and management, and educational projects. Special emphasis is placed upon grassroots programs that involve local conservation, sportsmen's or outdoor recreation groups. Wildlife Forever favors supports projects that: enhance wildlife and fish populations through acquisition, research, and management; conserve and enhance wildlife and aquatic habitat; promote wildlife and fish habitat and quality; and relate to Watchable Wildlife. Wildlife Forever supports three grant programs. Wildlife Forever Challenge Grants are open to all North American wildlife projects by nonprofit conservation organizations and government agencies. These grants typically range is \$1,000 to \$10,000 dollars, but there is no set grant minimum or maximum. Sportsmen's Challenge Grants support small conservation projects in local communities. The grant maximum is \$2,500 per project. Friend's Challenge Grants help conservation projects on National Wildlife Refuges. They are primarily directed at Refuge "Friends Groups". The grant maximum is \$2,500 per project. A minimum match of 1:1 is required for all Wildlife Forever grants. Application deadlines are January 1st and July 1st of each year. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.wildlifeever.org/grants/overview.aspx>.

USFWS Coastal Program.

The Coastal Program in South Carolina is one of a nationwide network of 22 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Program offices focused on protection, restoration, and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat in the Nation's coastal areas. The Coastal Program in South Carolina works cooperatively through public-private partnerships that seek innovative landscape scale solutions to protect and restore South Carolina's coastal ecosystems. The Program achieves this goal by providing technical and financial assistance for: habitat protection, restoration and management; outreach; and private lands stewardship programs. For more information, contact Craig Aubrey of the Charleston Ecological Services Office at (843)727-4707. Additional information can be found at: <http://ecos.fws.gov/coastal/viewContent.do?viewPage=home>.

Native Plant Conservation Initiative.

NFWF is partnering with the Plant Conservation Alliance to promote the conservation of native plants and pollinators. This initiative will be provide non-profit organizations and government agencies funds to protect, enhance, and/or restore native plant communities on public and private lands. The Native Plant Conservation Initiative will be offered in 2008. No additional information was available as of March 2008, as NFWF was preparing a revised Request for Proposals. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.nfwf.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Grants>.

Heritage Trust Program.

These funds are available to the State to protect unique and outstanding natural or cultural areas and features in South Carolina. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.scstatehouse.net/code/t51c017.htm>.

Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (Section 6) Grants to States & Territories.

The Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (CESCF) (Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended [Act]) provides funding to States and Territories for species and habitat conservation actions on non-Federal lands. These funds may, in turn, be awarded to private landowners and groups for conservation projects. Four grant programs are available through the CESCF. They include "Traditional" Conservation Grants and "Nontraditional" Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition, Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance, and Recovery Land Acquisition Grants. States and Territories must contribute a minimum non-Federal match of 25% for the estimated program costs of approved projects, or 10% when two or more States or Territories implement a joint project. A State or Territory must currently have, or enter into a cooperative agreement with the Secretary of the Interior to receive grant funds.

Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition Grants - Under the Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition Grants Program, the USFWS provides grants to States for land

acquisitions that are associated with approved Habitat Conservation Plans (HCP). The Service considers the use of Federal acquisition dollars by States for habitat protection within and adjacent to HCP areas to be an important and effective mechanism to promote the recovery of threatened and endangered species.

Recovery Land Acquisition Grants - Loss of habitat is the primary threat to most listed species and land acquisition is often the most effective and efficient means of protecting habitats essential for recovery of listed species before development or other land use changes impair or destroy key habitat values. Recovery Land Acquisition grant funds are matched by States and non-federal entities to acquire these habitats from willing sellers in support of approved species recovery plans. Because the existing HCP Land Acquisition Grants Program provides substantial funding for land acquisitions associated with HCPs, the Recovery Land Acquisition Grants Program will not be used to fund land acquisitions associated with permitted HCPs.

The most recent deadline for Habitat Conservation Plan and Recovery Plan Acquisition grants was August 24, 2007. Additional information can be found at:

<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/grants/section6/>.

The Merck Family Fund.

The Merck Family Fund's Protecting the Natural Environment program supports programs that: (1) recognize the need for and practice of sustainable forestry; (2) include the support and participation of people living in or near the impacted area; and (3) protect and preserve ecologically valuable land. In South Carolina, Ecosystem grants are restricted to Appalachian spruce-fir and hardwood forests and coastal forests and wetlands. Letters of inquiry are accepted at any time. Proposals are by invitation with two funding cycles per year. Additional information can be found at:

http://www.merckff.org/programs_protecting.html.

Bring Back the Natives.

The Bring Back the Natives program is a partnership between the NFWF, in USFWS, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), USFS, and Trout Unlimited (TU) that funds on-the-ground efforts to restore, protect, and enhance native aquatic species to their historic range, especially on lands on or adjacent to federal agency lands. Projects should involve partnerships between communities, agencies, private landowners, and organizations, and should focus on habitat needs of species such as fish, invertebrates, and amphibians.

Supported activities include in-stream, riparian, and wetland restoration, protection and enhancement, fish passage improvements and barrier removals, watershed management plan development, applied research, survey and inventory, monitoring, and public and landowner outreach. Eligible applicants include: nonprofit organizations, universities, Native American tribes, and local, state, and federal agencies. A minimum 2:1 non-Federal match is required. The most recent preproposal deadline was December 1, 2007. Additional information can be found at:

<http://www.nfwf.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Grants>.

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Keystone Initiative Grants.

NFWF Keystone Initiative Grants are intended to achieve measurable outcomes in the conservation of fish, wildlife, plants and the habitats on which they depend. The following initiative areas are considered priorities for the program: Bird Conservation, Fish Conservation, Marine and Coastal Conservation, and Wildlife and Habitat Conservation. Other areas of interest include: controlling invasive species, enhancing delivery of ecosystem services in agricultural systems, minimizing the impact on wildlife of emerging energy sources, and developing future conservation leaders and professionals. Eligible grant recipients include 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 generally range from \$50,000-\$300,000 and typically require a minimum 2:1 non-Federal match. The next pre-proposal application deadline is April 1, 2008. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.nfwf.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Grants>.

Habitat Restoration, Enhancement, and Management

National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program.

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North American Wetlands Conservation Act.

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USFWS Coastal Program.

The Coastal Program in South Carolina is one of a nationwide network of 22 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Program offices focused on protection, restoration, and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat in the Nation's coastal areas. The Coastal Program in South Carolina works cooperatively through public-private partnerships that seek innovative landscape scale solutions to protect and restore South Carolina's coastal ecosystems. The Program achieves this goal by providing technical and financial assistance for: habitat protection, restoration and management; outreach; and private lands stewardship programs. For more information, contact Craig Aubrey of the Charleston Ecological Services Office at (843)727-4707. Additional information can be found at: <http://ecos.fws.gov/coastal/viewContent.do?viewPage=home>.

USFWS Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program.

The Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program provides technical and financial assistance to private landowners and Tribes who are willing to work with us and other partners on a voluntary basis to help meet the habitat needs of our Federal Trust Species. The Partners Program can assist with projects in all habitat types which conserve or restore native vegetation, hydrology, and soils associated with imperiled ecosystems such as longleaf pine, bottomland hardwoods, tropical forests, native prairies, marshes, rivers and streams, or otherwise provide an important habitat requisite for a rare, declining or protected species. For more information, contact Joe Cockrell of the Charleston Ecological Services Office at (843)727-4707. Additional information can be found at: <http://ecos.fws.gov/partners/viewContent.do?viewPage=home>.

Neotropical Migratory Bird Act.

The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA) establishes a matching grants program to fund projects in the United States, Latin America, and the Caribbean that promote the conservation of migratory birds. Funded projects will perpetuate

healthy populations of neotropical migratory birds; assist in the conservation of these birds by supporting conservation initiatives in the United States, Latin America, and the Caribbean, and provide financial resources and foster international cooperation for those initiatives. This grant program is open to any individual, corporation, partnership, trust, association, or other private entity; local, state and Federal government agencies; any other entity subject to the jurisdiction of the United States or of any foreign country; international organizations; academic institutions; nonprofit or nongovernmental organizations; or any combination of the above. Project activities must foster sustainable, effective, long-term initiatives to conserve Neotropical migratory birds. NMBCA defines conservation as: protection and management of neotropical migratory bird populations; maintenance, management, protection, and restoration of habitats of these birds; research and monitoring; law enforcement; or community outreach and education. For every \$1 received in grant funds, the applicant must commit \$3 in partner funds. Match contributions must not have been used previously to match a U.S. Federal project. The maximum award for FY2008 will be US\$250,000. The average award has been about US\$96,000, with a range of US\$9,000 to US\$250,000. Requests under US\$15,000 are discouraged. The next application deadline for this grant program is November 13, 2008. Additional information can be found at:

<http://www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/Grants/NMBCA/index.shtm>.

Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (Section 6) Grants to States & Territories.

The Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (CESCF) (Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended [Act]) provides funding to States and Territories for species and habitat conservation actions on non-Federal lands. These funds may, in turn, be awarded to private landowners and groups for conservation projects. Four grant programs are available through the CESCF. They include "Traditional" Conservation Grants and "Nontraditional" Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition, Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance, and Recovery Land Acquisition Grants. States and Territories must contribute a minimum non-Federal match of 25% for the estimated program costs of approved projects, or 10% when two or more States or Territories implement a joint project. A State or Territory must currently have, or enter into a cooperative agreement with the Secretary of the Interior to receive grant funds.

"Traditional" Conservation Grants - The Conservation Grants program provides financial assistance to States to implement conservation projects for listed species and species at-risk. Funded activities include habitat restoration, species status surveys, public education and outreach, captive propagation and reintroduction, nesting surveys, genetic studies, and development of management plans. The project selection process is generally conducted by USFWS Endangered Species staff in conjunction with the States. Funding is allocated by formula to the Service Regions based on the number of species covered in the cooperative agreements with the States within that Region. Regional offices then further allocate the funding to the States within that Region by formula or through a competitive process. Additional information can be found at:

<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/grants/section6/>.

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Keystone Initiative Grants.

NFWF Keystone Initiative Grants are intended to achieve measurable outcomes in the conservation of fish, wildlife, plants and the habitats on which they depend. The following initiative areas are considered priorities for the program: Bird Conservation, Fish Conservation, Marine and Coastal Conservation, and Wildlife and Habitat Conservation. Other areas of interest include: controlling invasive species, enhancing delivery of ecosystem services in agricultural systems, minimizing the impact on wildlife of emerging energy sources, and developing future conservation leaders and professionals. Eligible grant recipients include 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 generally range from \$50,000-\$300,000 and typically require a minimum 2:1 non-Federal match. The next pre-proposal application deadline is April 1, 2008. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.nfwf.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Grants>.

Wildlife Forever.

Wildlife Forever supports habitat restoration and acquisition, research and management, and educational projects. Special emphasis is placed upon grassroots programs that involve local conservation, sportsmen's or outdoor recreation groups. Wildlife Forever favors supports projects that: enhance wildlife and fish populations through acquisition, research, and management; conserve and enhance wildlife and aquatic habitat; promote wildlife and fish habitat and quality; and relate to Watchable Wildlife. Wildlife Forever supports three grant programs. Wildlife Forever Challenge Grants are open to all North American wildlife projects by nonprofit conservation organizations and government agencies. These grants typically range is \$1,000 to \$10,000 dollars, but there is no set grant minimum or maximum. Sportsmen's Challenge Grants support small conservation projects in local communities. The grant maximum is \$2,500 per project. Friend's Challenge Grants help conservation projects on National Wildlife Refuges. They are primarily directed at Refuge "Friends Groups". The grant maximum is \$2,500 per project. A minimum match of 1:1 is required for all Wildlife Forever grants. Application deadlines are January 1st and July 1st of each year. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.wildlifeforever.org/grants/overview.aspx>.

Coastal Counties Restoration Initiative.

The National Association of Counties (NACo) is partnering with NOAA to fund restoration in coastal streams and rivers, estuaries and other marine areas that will improve habitat for NOAA trust resources. The Program provides financial assistance for county-led or supported initiatives. Grants that are community-based in nature and willing to work in partnership with NOAA will be given special consideration. A priority area for the Program is the removal of fish passage barriers in coastal streams and rivers. Grants will range from \$50,000-\$100,000. Approximately \$500,000 is expected to be available for CCRI projects in 2008. Applicant Eligibility NACo member counties and

organizations working in partnership with a NACo member county are eligible for funding. All applicants must include a letter of support from their chief elected county official. The next application deadline is March 24, 2008. Additional information can be found at:

http://www.naco.org/Template.cfm?Section=New_Technical_Assistance&template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=26051.

American Sportfishing Association's FishAmerica Foundation.

The American Sportfishing Association's FishAmerica Foundation partned with NOAA to fund local efforts to accomplish on-the-ground restoration of marine, estuarine and riparian habitats, including salt marshes, seagrass beds, mangrove forests, and freshwater habitats important to anadromous fish species. Emphasis is on using a hands-on, grassroots approach to restore fisheries habitat across coastal America and U.S. Territories of the Caribbean. Projects must result in on-the-ground habitat restoration, clearly demonstrate significant benefits to marine, estuarine or anadromous fisheries resources, particularly sportfish, and must involve community participation through an educational or volunteer component tied to the restoration activities. Eligible applicants include non-profit organizations, educational institutions, and local and state governments. Applicants may be required to provide at least a 1:1 non-federal match. Match may consist of cash, in-kind services, and/or volunteer time. The most recent application deadline was February 11, 2008. Additional information can be found at: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration/projects_programs/crp/partners/fishamerica.html.

Community-based Restoration Matching Grants Program.

The Community-based Restoration Matching Grants Program is a partnership between The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and NOAA that brings together citizens, public and non-profit organizations, watershed groups, industry, corporations and businesses, youth conservation corps, students, landowners, and local government, state, and Federal agencies to implement habitat restoration projects to benefit NOAA trust resources (anadromous, estuarine, and marine species and their habitats). Projects at TNC priority sites are eligible to compete for these grants to restore or enhance estuarine, marine, and anadromous species and their habitats. Priority sites are identified through Marine Ecoregional Assessments (available at <http://conserveonline.org/workspaces/MECA/>) and other TNC priority setting approaches at the state level. The Program will support any innovative restoration project nationwide that supports NOAA trust resources, and particularly those projects that have a multi-species benefit or emphasize Ecosystem-Based Management. A focal area of particular interest is native shellfish restoration projects nationwide that emphasize ecosystem services (e.g., water filtration, shoreline protection, provision of fish habitat).

TNC provides 15% of the funds for each grant awarded by the program. No match is needed for the TNC portion of the grant award. However, a non-Federal match of at least 1:1 is needed for the Federal portion of the grant award, resulting in the need to provide

at least a 0.85:1 minimum non-Federal match for the total amount awarded by the grant. Typical grant award amounts range \$25,000-\$85,000. The next application deadline for this grant is March 28, 2008. Additional information can be found at:

http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration/projects_programs/crp/partners/tnc.html.

NOAA Marine Debris Program.

The NOAA Marine Debris Program (MDP) provides funding to catalyze the implementation of locally driven, community-based marine debris prevention and removal projects that will benefit coastal habitat, waterways, and NOAA trust resources including diadromous fish. Projects funded through the MDP have strong on-the-ground habitat components involving the removal of marine debris and derelict fishing gear that will provide educational and social benefits for people and their communities in addition to long-term ecological habitat improvements for NOAA trust resources. Funding of up to \$2,000,000 is expected to be available for Community-based Marine Debris Prevention and Removal Project Grants in FY 2008. The NOAA MDP anticipates that typical awards will range from \$15,000 to \$150,000. The most recent application deadline (for 2008 projects) was October 31, 2007. Additional information can be found at:

http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration/projects_programs/crp/partners_funding/callforprojects2.html.

NOAA Open Rivers Initiative.

The NOAA Open Rivers Initiative (ORI) provides funding to catalyze the implementation of locally-driven projects to remove dams and other barriers, in order to benefit living marine and coastal resources, particularly diadromous fish. Projects funded through the Open Rivers Initiative have strong on-the-ground habitat restoration components that foster economic, educational, and social benefits for citizens and their communities in addition to long-term ecological habitat improvements for NOAA trust resources. Funding of up to \$6,000,000 is expected to be available for ORI Project Grants in FY 2008. NOAA anticipates that typical awards will range from \$50,000 to \$250,000. Project proposals requesting less than \$30,000 or greater than \$1,000,000 will not be accepted or reviewed. The most recent application deadline (for 2008 projects) was October 31, 2007. Additional information can be found at:

http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration/projects_programs/crp/partners_funding/callforprojects3.html.

National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Community-based Restoration Program Project Grants.

The NOAA Community-based Restoration Program (CRP) provides funding and technical expertise to catalyze the implementation of locally-driven, grass-roots habitat restoration projects that will benefit living marine and coastal resources, including diadromous fish. Projects funded through the CRP have strong on-the-ground habitat restoration components that provide educational and social benefits for people and their

communities in addition to long-term ecological habitat improvements for NOAA trust resources. Funding of up to \$3,000,000 is expected to be available for Community-based Habitat Restoration Project Grants in FY 2008. The NOAA Restoration Center (RC) anticipates that typical awards will range from \$50,000 to \$200,000. Applicants are encouraged to demonstrate a 1:1 non-Federal match for CRP funds requested to conduct the proposed project. The most recent application deadline (for 2008 projects) was September 27, 2007. Additional information can be found at:

http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration/projects_programs/crp/partners_funding/callforprojects.html.

USFWS Southeast Region Endangered Species Conservation Actions.

The Endangered Species Program provides financial assistance or procurement contracts on a competitive basis to states, other federal agencies, landowners, educators, non-profit organizations, researchers and other potential partners interested in endangered, threatened or candidate species in three main areas: (1) Section 7 Consultation and Habitat Conservation Planning; (2) Recovery Implementation; and (3) Candidate Conservation. It is a goal of this program that funding is to be used towards the conservation and recovery of federally-listed and candidate species, to undertake or assess planning and evaluations related to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and to improve conservation conditions for candidate species. Specific criteria apply for each of these opportunities. The overall goal of this opportunity is based on cooperative relationships with states, non-profit organizations, private landowners and those interested in habitat restoration or undertaking endangered species research, surveys, monitoring, or educational outreach efforts. Funding availability varies by year. The most recent application deadline was July 2, 2007. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.fws.gov/southeast/grants/>.

American Forests Global ReLeaf Forests Ecosystem Restoration Program.

This program provides funding for the planting of trees in areas trees that have been damaged by natural or human causes. Funding is directed towards public lands or certain private lands that meet specific criteria for projects that would not be possible under existing programs and budgets. Pertinent evaluation criteria include, but are not limited to: (1) the plantable area is 20 acres or larger or has the potential to be 20 acres or more; (2) presence of matching funds; (3) proposal includes efforts to build local partnerships; and (4) recognition and consideration given for the protection of endangered or threatened plant and animal species or ecosystems. Submission deadlines are January 15 and July 1. Additional information can be found at:

http://www.americanforests.org/global_releaf/.

Pulling Together Initiative.

The Pulling Together Initiative is a partnership between NFWF, USFWS, BLM, USFS, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), and NRCS intended benefit efforts by non-profit organizations and government agencies to manage invasive and

noxious plant species. The Initiative supports the formation of local Weed Management Area (WMA) partnerships. These partnerships engage Federal resource agencies, state and local governments, private landowners, and other interested parties in developing long-term weed management projects within the scope of an integrated pest management strategy. A minimum non-Federal match of 1:1 is required. The average grant award is between \$35,000-\$45,000. The most recent request for preproposals was October 26, 2007. Additional information can be found at:

<http://www.nfwf.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Grants>.

Native Plant Conservation Initiative.

NFWF is partnering with the Plant Conservation Alliance to promote the conservation of native plants and pollinators. This initiative will provide non-profit organizations and government agencies funds to protect, enhance, and/or restore native plant communities on public and private lands. The Native Plant Conservation Initiative will be offered in 2008. No additional information was available as of March 2008, as NFWF was preparing a revised Request for Proposals. Additional information can be found at:

<http://www.nfwf.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Grants>.

Bring Back the Natives.

The Bring Back the Natives program is a partnership between the NFWF, in USFWS, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), USFS, and Trout Unlimited (TU) that funds on-the-ground efforts to restore, protect, and enhance native aquatic species to their historic range, especially on lands on or adjacent to federal agency lands. Projects should involve partnerships between communities, agencies, private landowners, and organizations, and should focus on habitat needs of species such as fish, invertebrates, and amphibians. Supported activities include in-stream, riparian, and wetland restoration, protection and enhancement, fish passage improvements and barrier removals, watershed management plan development, applied research, survey and inventory, monitoring, and public and landowner outreach. Eligible applicants include: nonprofit organizations, universities, Native American tribes, and local, state, and federal agencies. A minimum 2:1 non-Federal match is required. The most recent preproposal deadline was December 1, 2007. Additional information can be found at:

<http://www.nfwf.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Grants>.

Conservation Reserve Program.

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) provides technical and financial 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. CRP encourages farmers to convert highly erodible cropland or other environmentally sensitive acreage to vegetative cover, such as tame or native grasses, wildlife plantings, trees, filterstrips, or riparian buffers. CRP is administered by the Farm Service Agency, with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) providing technical land eligibility determinations, conservation planning and practice implementation. Farmers

receive an annual rental payment for the term of the multi-year contract. Cost sharing is provided to establish the vegetative cover practices. An explanation of CRP is provided at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=copr&topic=crp>.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program.

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary conservation program from the NRCS. It supports production agriculture and environmental quality as compatible goals. Through EQIP, farmers may receive financial and technical help with structural and management conservation practices on agricultural land. In South Carolina, EQIP will pay 50 percent of the costs of eligible conservation practices under the general sign-up. Small scale farmers are eligible for 75 percent cost share. Limited Resource and Beginning Farmers are eligible for 90 percent cost share. Incentive payments may be made to encourage a farmer to adopt land management practices, such as nutrient management, manure management, integrated pest management, and wildlife habitat management. Incentive payments are capped at \$40,000 per operation. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.sc.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/>.

Wetlands Reserve Program.

The Wetlands Reserve Program is a voluntary program offering landowners the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands on their property. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical and financial support to help landowners with their wetland restoration efforts. The NRCS goal is to achieve the greatest wetland functions and values, along with optimum wildlife habitat, on every acre enrolled in the program. This program offers landowners an opportunity to establish long-term conservation and wildlife practices and protection. South Carolina pays up to \$1500 an acre for permanent easements and \$1125 per acre for 30-year easements. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.sc.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/>.

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program.

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program that encourages creation of high quality wildlife habitats that support wildlife populations of National, State, Tribal, and local significance. Through WHIP, NRCS works with private landowners and operators, conservation districts, and Federal, State, and Tribal agencies to establish and improve fish and wildlife habitat on their property. NRCS provides technical and financial assistance (up to 75 percent cost-share assistance), and agreements generally last from 5 to 10 years. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/whip/> and http://www.sc.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/whip_08.html.

Forest Stewardship Program.

The Forest Stewardship Program (FSP) provides technical assistance to nonindustrial private forest (NIPF) owners to encourage and enable active long-term forest

management. A primary focus of 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 open to any non-industrial private forest landowners who are committed to the active management and stewardship of their forested properties for at least ten years. The FSP is not a cost share program. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/fsp.html>.

The Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelly Foundation.

The Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelly Foundation funds organizations and projects in the Lowcountry that:

- (3) Preserve, restore and protect strategic lands that contribute to the health of the regional ecosystem. And
- (4) Support land stewardship by:
 - a. promoting sustainable land uses
 - b. limiting urban sprawl
 - c. preserving threatened, historically rural landscapes
 - d. including underrepresented groups in land use dialogues; and
 - e. fostering a regional approach to land use planning preserve, restore and protect strategic lands that contribute to the health of the regional ecosystem.

The Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelly Foundation funds both specific projects and general operating expenses. There are two deadlines for submission of proposals in 2008: March 11 and August 15. Additional information can be found at:

<http://www.gddf.org/index.asp>.

Five Star Restoration Challenge Grant Program.

The Five-Star Restoration Matching Grants Program is a partnership between the National Association of Counties, NFWF, Wildlife Habitat Council, EPA, Southern Company, and Pacific Gas and Electric Company that supports community-based wetland, riparian, and coastal habitat restoration projects that build diverse partnerships and foster local natural resource stewardship through education, outreach and training activities. A non-Federal match of at least 1:1 is strongly encouraged. In 2007, 42 projects of 194 applications received grants averaging \$14,500 per grant. The most recent application deadline was February 15, 2008. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.nfwf.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Grants>.

More Fish Partnership Fund.

The More Fish Partnership Fund is a partnership between the B.A.S.S. Federation and NFWF whose purpose is to build the capacity of the B.A.S.S. Federation and other organizations in on-the-ground implementation of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (Plan). B.A.S.S. Clubs and other angler/community non profit organizations are eligible

to apply for funding for community-based fisheries conservation projects that involve state fish and wildlife and other agencies, Federal agencies, youth interests, anglers, volunteers, and other experts who partner and demonstrate their capacity to achieve one or more goals of the Plan. The goal is to improve awareness about aquatic resources by supporting both grassroots capacity building with the ability to measure that performance and successfully plan and implement habitat conservation projects. Grants of up to \$50,000 will be awarded on a competitive basis. Eligible activities include aquatic habitat restoration, enhancement and protection that protect and improve water quantity/quality, aquatic vegetation, landowner/water user conservation, outreach and stewardship training, and conservation watershed planning and management. Priority will be given to projects that directly implement the recommendations of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan and/or state wildlife action plans. A minimum of 1:1 match is required. The most recent application deadline was November 1, 2007. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.nfwf.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Grants>.

Proactive Species Conservation Program.

NOAA's Proactive Species Conservation Program (PSCP) supports voluntary conservation efforts designed to conserve marine and anadromous species before they reach the point at which listing as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act) becomes necessary. The ultimate goal of the Proactive Species Conservation Program is to demonstrate success in conserving species of concern, obviating the need to list them under the ESA. Successful applications will be those that demonstrate a direct benefit to the species or its habitat. Management projects should demonstrate a high probability of contributing to recovery of the species, especially through mitigation of existing threats or factors inhibiting recovery of the species. The FY2008 request for proposals stated that approximately \$500,000 may be available for distribution in FY 2008 under the PSCP. The most recent application deadline was February 12, 2008. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/concern/grant.htm>.

Estuary Habitat Restoration Program.

The Estuary Habitat Restoration Program is a cost-share program with the US Army Corps of Engineers that funds projects that achieve cost-effective restoration of ecosystems while promoting increased partnerships among agencies and between public and private sectors. Projects are evaluated for their support of the Estuary Habitat Restoration Strategy, which was developed in accordance with the requirements of the Estuary Restoration Act of 2000. The Estuary Habitat Restoration Strategy aims to: ensure a comprehensive approach to restoration activities, foster the coordination of federal and non-federal efforts, and restore 1,000,000 acres of estuary habitat. Types of projects funded include, but are not limited to: improvement of estuarine wetland tidal exchange or reestablishment of historic hydrology; dam or berm removal; improvement or reestablishment of fish passage; appropriate reef/substrate/habitat creation; planting of native estuarine wetland and submerged aquatic vegetation; reintroduction of native species; control of invasive species; and establishment of riparian buffer zones.

Proposals requesting less than \$100,000 or more than \$1,000,000 are not accepted. A minimum 35% non-Federal share is required. The most recent application deadline was August 20, 2007. Additional information can be found at:

http://era.noaa.gov/htmls/era/erainfo_main.html.

State Wildlife Grant Program.

The State Wildlife Grants Program provides federal grant funds for developing and implementing programs that benefit wildlife and their habitats, including species not hunted or fished. Priority is placed on projects that benefit species of greatest conservation concern. Grant funds must be used to address conservation needs, such as research, surveys, species and habitat management, and monitoring, identified within a State's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan/Strategy (South Carolina's Wildlife Conservation Plan may be viewed at <http://www.dnr.sc.gov/cwcs/overview.html>). These funds may also be used to update, revise, or modify a State's Strategy. Funds appropriated under the State Wildlife Grants program are allocated to the states according to a formula that takes into account each state's size and population. Additional information can be found at:

<http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/Subpages/GrantPrograms/SWG/SWG.htm>.

Wildlife Restoration Program.

The Wildlife Restoration Program (WR) provides grant funds to the states, the District of Columbia and insular areas fish and wildlife agencies for projects to restore, conserve, manage and enhance wild birds and mammals and their habitat. Projects also include providing public use and access to wildlife resources, hunter education and development and management of shooting ranges. Excise taxes on firearms, ammunition, archery equipment and arrow components are collected and appropriated from the Wildlife Restoration Account. These funds are apportioned to states, the District of Columbia and insular areas based on a formula. The formula for apportioning WR Funds is based on land area, number of paid license holders, minimums and maximums. States, the District of Columbia and the U.S. Insular Areas fish & wildlife agencies may apply for WR grants. Additional information can be found at:

<http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/Subpages/GrantPrograms/WR/WR.htm>

Landowner Incentive Program.

The Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) provides federal grant funds to the states, the District of Columbia and insular areas to protect and restore habitats on private lands, to benefit Federally listed, proposed or candidate species or other species determined to be at-risk. Grant funds must be used to establish or supplement State landowner incentive programs to benefit species identified in the State's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (State Wildlife Action Plan) or classified as Special Concern by the State, or Federally listed, proposed, or candidate species or other species determined to be at-risk. These grant funds may also be used to provide technical and financial assistance to private landowners for habitat protection and restoration. The LIP Program

includes two funding tiers, Tier One (non-competitive) and Tier Two (nationally competitive). Under Tier One, each state may receive funding for eligible projects up to \$200,000 annually and the District of Columbia and insular areas up to \$75,000 annually. If there is adequate funding in the appropriation, Tier Two grants will be ranked and awarded to the states through a national competition. The competition will be announced separately. States, the District of Columbia and the U.S. Insular Areas fish and wildlife agencies may apply for grants. Additional information can be found at: <http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/Subpages/GrantPrograms/LIP/LIP.htm>.