



**Request for Letters of Intent  
For the  
2012 Multistate Conservation Grant Program**

**Deadline: Midnight (EST) Wednesday, May 4, 2011**

**The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies  
is soliciting Letters of Intent for the 2012 cycle of the  
Multistate Conservation Grant Program (MSCGP)**

Before submitting a Letter of Intent for a Multistate Conservation grant, please carefully review all information and instructions contained in this announcement. The following sections are included:

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## **BACKGROUND**

The Multistate Conservation Grant Program (MSCGP) is intended to address regional or national level priorities of state fish and wildlife agencies. The Multistate Conservation Grant Program was established by the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act of 2000 (Improvement Act), which amended the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act and the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act. Up to \$6,000,000 is available each calendar year to fund Multistate Conservation Grants (Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 15-628).

The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (Association) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) cooperatively administer the Multistate Conservation Grant Program. The Association solicits Letters of Intent and invites Full Proposals from eligible applicants and recommends to the USFWS a “priority list” of projects to be funded. The USFWS selects projects from the “priority list” and awards and manages grants (see **Attachment B** for the Schedule for the 2012 MSCGP Cycle).

Legal requirements are as follows:

1. Up to \$6 million is available each calendar year – \$3 million from Sport Fish Restoration (SFR) and \$3 million from Wildlife Restoration (WR) funds. Each year’s funds are only available for the current year and the following year; any remaining funds are apportioned among the states. *(Please note that SFR and WR funds can only be spent on projects that benefit sport fish, wild birds, and wild mammals.)*
2. A proposed project is only eligible for a grant if the project will benefit:
  - At least 26 states;
  - A majority of the states in a region of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Visit: <http://www.fws.gov/where/>); or
  - A regional association of state fish and wildlife agencies (Visit: [http://www.fishwildlife.org/part\\_Regionals.html](http://www.fishwildlife.org/part_Regionals.html)).
3. Grants may be awarded by the Secretary of the Interior only for projects identified on a priority list of wildlife or sport fish restoration projects submitted by the Association.
4. The Association’s annual priority list must be prepared through a committee comprised of the heads of State fish and wildlife agencies (or their designees), in consultation with nongovernmental organizations that represent conservation organizations; sportsmen organizations; and industries that support or promote fishing, hunting, trapping, recreational shooting, bow hunting, or archery.
5. The priority list must be approved by vote of a majority of the heads of State fish and wildlife agencies (or their designees); and must be submitted no later than October 1 of each fiscal year to the Assistant Director for Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
6. The Secretary of Interior may make grants only to:
  - A State or group of States;
  - The U.S Fish and Wildlife Service, or a State or group of States, for the purpose of carrying out the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife Associated Recreation; and

- A nongovernmental organization.
7. Any nongovernmental organization that is invited to submit a full proposal and applies for a Multistate Conservation Grant must submit with the application to the Association a certification that:
- 1) The organization will not use the grant funds to fund, in whole or in part, any activity of the organization that promotes or encourages opposition to the regulated hunting or trapping of wildlife, or to the regulated taking of fish; and
  - 2) The grant will not be used, in whole or in part, for an activity, project, or program that promotes or encourages opposition to the regulated hunting and trapping of wildlife or the regulated taking of fish.

*For the current law, refer to the United States Code (16 U.S.C. 669h-2 and 16 U.S.C. 777m) at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/uscode/index.html> or click on “Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act” and “Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act” at <http://epw.senate.gov/envlaws/envlaws.htm>.*

Please see **Attachment C** for Frequently Asked Questions.

**NATIONAL CONSERVATION NEEDS**

Grant proposals submitted for funding must address a National Conservation Need. National Conservation Needs (NCNs) are annually solicited and selected by the Association to establish the states fish and wildlife agencies’ conservation priorities, and they are used to guide proposal development and grant selection for the upcoming cycle of the Multistate Conservation Grant Program. NCNs are generally continuous, pressing resource management problems; or recently identified problems that are significant, urgent, can be met by a practical and economically feasible management approach, and will result in improved resource management or environmental quality.

NCNs were solicited starting in November 2010 from the Association’s committees and the four Regional Associations of state fish and wildlife agencies. Nongovernmental organizations were encouraged to participate in the NCN process by working with the Association’s committees and Regional Associations. NCNs were selected during the March 2011 North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference by the National Grants Committee (NGC).

Of the 14 proposed NCNs, six were adopted by the State Directors of fish and wildlife agencies for the 2012 MSCGP cycle. The below list includes full descriptions on subsequent pages. (Please read the entire NCN to ensure your proposal addresses the specified need.)

Subject 1 Improve benefits for fish, wildlife and their habitats as provisions of the 2008 Farm Bill are implemented *(Submitted by the Agricultural Conservation Committee)*.....p. 5

Subject 2: Outdoor heritage - participation, recruitment, and retention in hunting, fishing, boating and conservation related recreational activities. *(Jointly submitted by the Angler & Boating Participation and Hunting and Shooting Sports Committees)*.....p. 6

Subject 3: Incorporating fish and wildlife considerations into energy development decisions *(Submitted by the Energy & Wildlife Policy Committee)*.....p.7

Subject 4: State Fish and Wildlife Agency Coordination and Administration. *(Submitted by the Executive Committee)*.....p.8

Subject 5: Formation and Operations of Fish Habitat Partnerships to Facilitate National Fish Habitat Action Plan Implementation. *(Submitted by the Fisheries & Water Resources Policy Committee)*....p.9

Subject 6: Multistate Conservation Grant Program Coordination *(Submitted by the National Grants Committee)*.....p.10

**Subject 1: Improve benefits for fish, wildlife, and their habitats as provisions of the 2008 Farm Bill are implemented.**

**Statement of Need:** The Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) is the single most important legislation for providing fish and wildlife habitat on millions of acres of privately owned and managed lands. Continued examination and refinement of conservation programs, delivery systems, and implementation processes will assure that program efficacy and benefits are optimized and accrue to the states, producers and fish and wildlife resources. Additionally, the robust advancement of bioenergy initiatives will increasingly affect fish, wildlife, and their habitats across all of the nation's agricultural landscapes and forests. Creative approaches are needed to advance these bioenergy initiatives without jeopardizing fish and wildlife conservation efforts.

**Proposals submitted under this NCN should:**

- Provide recommendations on how fish, wildlife, and their habitat needs can best be integrated into farm bill programs, rules, policies, practices, and guidelines used to implement farm bill provisions. Also proposals that increase the capacity to effectively deliver fish and wildlife expertise/technical assistance while providing outreach to educate current and potential program participants.
- Develop scientifically sound recommendations for increasing the availability and improving the establishment techniques of native plant materials used across the country in conservation practices to improve the quality of fish and wildlife habitat.
- Assess the economic and/or fish and wildlife benefits associated with implementation of the Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program.
- Provide training opportunities for fish and wildlife professionals working with private landowners to increase effectiveness of conservation program delivery.
- Develop and coordinate scientifically sound methods for research, monitoring, assessment, and reporting outcomes of fish and wildlife initiatives. Facilitate information and data sharing, evaluation of conservation strategies, and identification of information needs and success stories in support of strategic delivery of Farm Bill programs.
- Examine the affects, benefits, risks, threats, and successful approaches to wildlife, soil, and water conservation associated with the advancement of bioenergy's in Farm Bill provisions.
- At the national level, work with State fish and wildlife agencies, NGOs, producers, USDA, FWS, the forestry community and others to optimize fish and wildlife benefits from 2008 Farm Bill implementation and improve communication of societal benefits to these groups.
- Identify/evaluate approaches to maintaining conservation benefits on expiring CRP acres and improve efforts to apply the best CRP mid-contract management practices.
- Examine and implement ways to expand farm bill programs/practices to regions of the nation where they are not available or are under-utilized.
- Develop materials on fish, wildlife and habitat conservation benefits and other values derived from Farm Bill provisions to appropriately inform development of the next Farm Bill.

**Desired Outcomes:** Successful proposals will improve Farm Bill benefits for fish, wildlife, and their habitats and improve State fish and wildlife agencies' ability to manage these resources in the public interest.

**Subject 2: Outdoor heritage - participation, recruitment, and retention in hunting, fishing, boating, and conservation related recreational activities.**

**Statement of Need:** Participation in outdoor and conservation related recreational activities is key to strengthening the ability of state fish and wildlife agencies to protect the nation's natural resources and preserve opportunities for future generations. Generally, participation rates in traditional outdoor recreational activities are on the decline, and this trend is expected to continue into the immediate future. The reasons for declining participation are varied and complex; however, all states recognize a need for action to stabilize or reverse this trend. Ramifications of declining participation include 1) a citizenry further disassociated from our conservation heritage, nature, and all related benefits, 2) a direct loss of funding to conservation programs, and 3) detrimental effects on critical industries that support and are supported by hunting, recreational fishing, boating, and the shooting sports. Successful recruitment and retention efforts rely on maximizing crossover opportunities in outdoor recreation, developing partnerships to implement state, regional, and national programs, and sharing best practices and the financial and intellectual resources necessary to create needed innovations.

**Desired Proposals:** Proposals submitted under this NCN should address needs related to participation, recruitment, and retention of people in hunting, recreational fishing, boating, and the shooting sports. This NCN also takes into consideration outdoor activities with valuable crossover applications. For example, approximately 73 million Americans participated in boating activities in 2006, and more than half of all anglers in 2006 fished from a boat. Proposals submitted under this NCN should address one or more of the following: a) innovative tools and actions that foster initiation, recruitment, and retention, including efforts to increase opportunities for target markets; b) partnerships and cooperation between or among successful recruitment/retention programs and related industries; c) new approaches to marketing that document and promote the social and economic benefits of hunting, fishing, boating, and related recreational activities; d) tools to assist hunting, fishing, and boating education instructors in communicating the history and role of hunters, anglers, and boaters in the conservation of America's fish and wildlife; e) methods to assist state fish and wildlife agencies in assessing and meeting the demands for public shooting facilities, access to public waters for recreational fishing and boating, and public access to land for hunting; f) actions that help related recreational industries understand and enhance the important role they play in fish and wildlife conservation and promoting these benefits to the public at large; and g) efforts to evaluate the efficacy of R&R programs and strategies.

**Desired Results/Expected Benefits:** Desired results and expected benefits of proposals would be: 1) successfully implemented strategies that increase participation and retention rates in hunting, recreational fishing, boating, and shooting sports; 2) a steady and reliable source of revenue to state fish and wildlife agencies from license sales, registration fees, taxes, and associated federal aid; 3) national policies and programs to help recruit and retain participants; 4) continued long-term social and economic benefits through participation and increased recruitment of new hunters, anglers, boaters, and recreational shooters; 5) strategic guidance to state wildlife agencies to assist them in meeting demands in their state for public shooting facilities, boating and fishing access to public waters, and public access to land and public waters for hunting; 6) enhanced networking and understanding among agencies, related industries, and other committed partners; and 7) an improved conservation ethic among outdoor recreational participants, and a more understanding and supportive public – all of which will help ensure a bright and sustainable future for our North American hunting, fishing, and boating heritage.

### **Subject 3: Incorporating Fish & Wildlife Considerations into Energy Development Decisions**

**Statement of Need:** Energy development has been one of the dominant adverse influences on our nation's fish and wildlife resources over the past decade, and will continue to cause major landscape disturbances over the next decade. Our ability to direct the development of energy facilities and sources—whether for fossil, renewable or nuclear fuels and generation, pipelines or transmission lines—while maintaining fish and wildlife populations and habitats is limited by: 1) inadequate fish and wildlife resource information and tools to effectively use it in informing decisions concerning energy development; 2) planning, leasing, siting, and mitigation processes that do not provide a means for wildlife considerations to be addressed before irreversible development decisions are made; and 3) a shortage of personnel and financial resources to administer and influence energy development programs without diverting resources from other fish and wildlife conservation programs. Energy development decisions affect every regional association and virtually every state and province; hence, this NCN is intended to directly address the Critical Issues and Program/Project Coordination Goals in the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA's) Strategic Plan.

**Desired proposals:** This NCN seeks proposals in the following four areas: 1) research on the relationships between energy development practices and impacts on fish and wildlife populations and habitat (e.g., influences of wind turbine design and placement on sage grouse, other birds, bats and big game, effects of well-pad spacing on sage grouse and prairie chicken occupancy, etc.); 2) evaluation and refinement of current BMPs and guidelines for energy development practices; 3) joint efforts to incorporate fish and wildlife data into decision support systems designed to inform landscape conservation planning efforts, and 4) increased coordination with organizations and processes affecting energy facilities development and regulation.

**Desired Outcomes and Benefits:** Over the past two years, AFWA has been involved in several initiatives undertaken to improve interstate and interagency coordination, and processes to integrate fish and wildlife resources conservation into energy development (e.g., Energy and Wildlife Policy Committee recommendations, Western Governors Association's Wildlife Corridors Initiative, Sportsmen for Responsible Energy Development symposium, Executive Order 13443, and formation and participation in the American Wind Wildlife Institute). These have produced recommendations to improve the conservation of fish and wildlife resources during energy development. To realize those objectives, states and provinces must continue to support research into the impacts of energy development on fish and wildlife that will inform mitigation recommendations, and improve their participation in the planning, leasing, siting, and mitigation of energy development, with the desired outcome of no net loss to fish and wildlife resources during energy development.

**Subject 4: State Fish and Wildlife Agency Coordination and Administration**

**Statement of Need:** State fish and wildlife agencies are facing a host of issues that are impacting their ability to manage trust resources, most notably the massive budget reductions in most states due to the current economic downturn. State agencies need to collectively address these and other emerging issues to ensure they can continue to meet their management responsibilities and sustain the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation.

**Desired Proposals:** Proposals will be considered that demonstrate how MSCGP funds would be used to assist state agencies with the coordination and administration of programs and efforts that address important issues facing fish and wildlife conservation. Applicants must demonstrate they have a history of collaboration and the ability to coordinate work with all fifty state fish and wildlife agencies.

**Desired Outcomes:** A proposal funded under this NCN would provide states with valuable technical, administrative and professional expertise and services. Detailed coordination and administrative objectives should be included along with an explanation of how these efforts will assist state agencies.

## **Subject 5: Formation and Operations of Fish Habitat Partnerships to Facilitate National Fish Habitat Action Plan Implementation.**

**Statement of Need:** The National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP) was adopted by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA), and Departments of Interior and Commerce on April 24, 2006 to arrest and reverse declines to the quality and quantity of our nation's fish habitat in freshwater, estuarine and marine waters. The Action Plan seeks to bring together diverse partners under state fish and wildlife agency leadership to form Fish Habitat Partnerships (Partnerships) with the capacity to develop and implement landscape scale strategic plans to conserve (protect, restore and enhance) priority fish habitats (natural and manmade) across the country. Action Plan implementation is administered and coordinated by a National Fish Habitat Board (Board) which includes AFWA and Regional Association representation. Additional funding is required to supplement other temporary federal, state and private resources until federal legislation is passed or other funding secured to provide long-term and stable funding similar to that established by the North American Wetlands Conservation Act.

Grant resources will aid state, federal, tribal, private and other local partners to coordinate, form and operate Partnerships. It will also enable Partnerships to identify, prioritize, and implement habitat conservation activities across inter-jurisdictional species ranges and ultimately obtain Board recognition. Partnerships will also contribute to implementation of habitat-based conservation strategies and actions established by the Board (in addition to those contained in many State Wildlife Action Plans) and ultimately compliment local regional, and other national priorities. Six Partnerships have been formally recognized by the Board to date and 14 partnerships are considered as Candidates. See [www.fishhabitat.org](http://www.fishhabitat.org) and click on NFHAP Fish Habitat Partnership Profiles and Status for updates and current status of Partnerships.

**Desired Proposals:** Grant recipients would compete for these resources to: 1) establish Partnerships and seek recognition as a Candidate and/or a fully recognized Partnership pursuant to NFHAP Fish Habitat Partnership Guidance/definitions; 2) support actions by all categories of Partnerships and the Board that contribute to and benefit implementation of Action Plan goals and objectives and Board guidelines; and/or 3) support coordination between and among all categories of Partnerships and with the Board.

**Desired Outcomes:** Desired outcomes of successful proposals will include: 1) Board recognition, support, coordination, and implementation of existing and additional Fish Habitat Partnerships; 2) coordinated implementation of interim NFHAP Conservation Strategies and Targets adopted by the Board for rivers, lakes, reservoirs, and other aquatic habitats by all categories of Partnerships 3) coordinated *Action Plan* implementation by all categories of Partnerships with other aquatic habitat strategies and actions identified in State Wildlife and other complimentary action plans; 4) development and implementation of coordinated outreach strategies to engage all organizations and individuals with interest in the conservation and stewardship of target aquatic habitats within a Partnership and with other Partnerships and the Board; 5) support for and development of Partnership capacity to achieve goals and objectives outlined by the *Action Plan*, its *Science and Data Framework* NFHAP Science and Data Report Supplement 2008 and Board and; 6) coordinated Partnerships and Board actions resulting in successful achievement of all 2010 Action Plan goals and objectives.

**Subject 6: Multistate Conservation Grant Program Coordination**

**Statement of Need:** The Multistate Conservation Grant Program was established in 2000 by the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act of 2000 (Improvement Act), which amended the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act and the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act. The Improvement Act authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to make up to \$6,000,000 available each calendar year under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Federal Assistance Program to fund Multistate Conservation Grants (CFDA Number 15-628). These grants may be awarded by the Secretary of the Interior only for projects identified on a priority list of wildlife or sport fish restoration projects submitted by the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies by the mandated October 1st deadline. To ensure MSCGP funds are used to address important concerns of state fish and wildlife agencies, the Association has developed detailed requirements for the grant program applicants. The Act that established the MSCGP did not provide administrative funds for the Association to use for administration and implementation of its responsibilities. In 2009, the Association was awarded a three-year Multistate Conservation Grant that currently supports the Multistate Conservation Grant Program Coordinator responsible for implementing the grant program, which expires December 31, 2011.

**Desired Proposals:** The Multistate Conservation Grant Program Coordinator will continue to coordinate with Association Committees and interested NGOs regarding the solicitation of NCNs and proposals, review of proposals, and selection of priority projects. The Coordinator is responsible for disseminating information and responding to inquiries about the grant program. The Coordinator is responsible for ensuring that the Association's responsibilities for executing the grant program are met; and for managing the resultant Multistate Conservation Grants administered by the Association. The Coordinator is responsible for continuous improvement of program processes; and evaluation and communication of the accomplishments of the MSCGP.

**Desired Outcomes:** This project will enable the Association to meet its responsibilities under the Act, and ensure grant funds are used for projects that provide maximum benefits to state fish and wildlife agencies and the wildlife resources they manage. It will provide necessary resources to the Association for the administration and coordination of the Multi-State Conservation Grant program, which is jointly managed with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

## **LETTER OF INTENT REQUIREMENTS**

DEADLINE: Letters of Intent (LOIs) must be received no later than midnight EDT on **Wednesday, May 4, 2011**. LOIs received after the deadline will not be considered. LOIs must be emailed (in MS Word, NOT PDF) to the Multistate Conservation Grant Program Coordinator, Chad Klinkenborg at [cklinkenborg@fishwildlife.org](mailto:cklinkenborg@fishwildlife.org) – you will receive a confirmation within 24 business hours. If you do not receive a confirmation after 24 hours please contact Chad immediately at the e-mail address above.

Only eligible LOIs will be processed so please ensure your proposal:

- 1) Meets the MSCGP's legal requirements as outlined in the Background section (e.g., eligible organization type; benefits appropriate states/regions; benefits sport fish, wild birds, and/or wild mammals);
- 2) Specifically addresses one (or more) of the seven 2012 National Conservation Needs; and
- 3) Adheres to the format and requirements, which are outlined below

Projects selected to receive Multistate Conservation grants are funded on a *calendar-year* basis. Applicants may request funding for one, two, or three years. Match/cost-share is not required, although “partnership funds” are encouraged and awarded bonus points during the review process. See **Attachment A** for funding availability.

## **LETTER OF INTENT FORMAT (FOUR PAGES) – Please Follow Explicitly**

A LOI is a total of four pages including any images and literature references (both of which are discouraged.) Due to the page limit, cover letters, letters of support and any additional materials **will NOT be accepted**. LOIs must have 1 inch, or larger, margins and be submitted in either a Times New Roman 12-point font or Arial 11-point font. The following information must be included:

### **a) Cover Page (1 page)**

- Project Title
- Applicant name (ONE person), affiliation, address and contact information including phone, mailing address and e-mail address (this will be the primary contact)
- Name, position and organizational affiliation of co-investigators or partners
- MSCGP Requirements:
  - Primary 2012 NCN addressed
  - Project length (1,2 or 3 years)
  - States, USFWS regions, or Regional Associations of Fish & Wildlife agencies benefited
  - Estimated amount of MSCGP funding request
  - Funding source (Wildlife Restoration, Sport Fish Restoration, or both)
- Brief summary of request (5 lines or less)

### **b) Explanatory text (2 pages)**

- This is the substance of the LOI and addresses how the applicant will approach the project. The following questions should be addressed:
  - i. How will this project meet the needs of the NCN?
  - ii. What states and/or USFWS regions or Regional Associations are targeted?
  - iii. What are the goals of this project? (Goals should be written as outcome oriented.)

- iv. What activities or actions will this project undertake to achieve the stated goals?
- v. Provide a specific timeline of the project activities.
- vi. Project Budget (a detailed budget is not required, only a general one). Please include:
  - The total cost of the project broken into three general categories
    1. Salaries and benefits broken down by staff (include staff name or position title)
    2. Project related expenses (includes travel, communications, supplies, consultants etc.)
    3. Equipment (purchases of tangible, personal property over \$5,000.00 that will be used for a year or more)  
(Note: There is a 20% cap on indirect costs)
  - The amount of funds you are requesting from the MSCGP and the source (Wildlife or Sport Fish Restoration, or both)
  - An estimate of partnership funds or existing assets that will be leveraged, if any (this is not a requirement for the MSCGP)
- vii. What are the measurable outcomes or products that will result from this project? How will these benefit state fish and wildlife agencies?
- viii. What ideas do you have that could enhance the usefulness, quality, and communication of the project's results?
- ix. Summarize the most important strength of your proposal in the last paragraph.

**c) Qualifications (1 page)**

- Include a brief abstract of relevant qualifications for the Primary Investigator and most important team members.

**EVALUATION OF LETTERS OF INTENT**

Letters of Intent are reviewed by appropriate Association committees and the National Grants Committee. LOIs are evaluated based upon the five following criteria:

- 1) responsiveness to NCNs
- 2) scientific quality
- 3) practical relevance to State Fish & Wildlife Agencies
- 4) Value
- 5) Qualifications

Applicants will be notified by Friday, June 24, 2011 whether or not their LOI has been invited to submit a full proposal. Full proposals will be due in late July (date TBD).

To ensure fairness and equality to all applicants, a LOI will be judged only on its merits and how well it addresses a National Conservation Need, adheres to formatting and content requirements, relative ranking determined by subject committees' reviews and the National Grants Committee review. Therefore, any attempt to discuss a LOI with a Committee member outside of a committee meeting is considered lobbying and is strictly prohibited.

**ATTACHMENT A****ESTIMATE OF FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR THE  
2012 MULTISTATE CONSERVATION GRANT PROGRAM**

Although \$3 million is available annually from both the Wildlife Restoration (WR) and Sport Fish Restoration (SFR) accounts, there is not always \$6 million available for new grants. This is because some funds have been previously committed to use for multi-year projects. However, starting in the MSCGP 2008 cycle, the National Grants Committee reserves the total funds for a project (whether it is a multi-year project or not) out of that cycle's funding. Unspent funds from closed grants are returned to the MSCGP pot, and additional SFR funds have been added by the Transportation Equity Act of 2005.

Therefore, the estimated available funds for the 2012 MSCGP cycles are below. Note that the 2012 estimate does not include any recovered funds because this amount cannot be projected.

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>WR</b>	<b>SFR</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
2012	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$6,000,000
<b>2012*</b>	<b>\$1,254,157</b>	<b>\$1,254,157</b>	<b>\$2,508,314</b>

\* This is the 2012 total deducting \$1,745,843 million each from WR and SFR for a total of \$3.4+ million, which has been reserved for the 2012 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Associated Recreation.

## **ATTACHMENT B**

### **Schedule for the 2012 Cycle of the Multistate Conservation Grant Program (MSCGP)**

#### **2010:**

##### **November**

- The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies solicits National Conservation Needs (NCNs) from each Association committee and the four Regional Associations of state fish and wildlife agencies. Criteria for NCNs are distributed with requests.

#### **2011:**

##### **February**

- The Association's committees and the four Regional Associations develop proposed NCNs. Each may submit one proposed NCN to the Association's MSCGP Coordinator by Friday, February 11<sup>th</sup>.

##### **March (North American Wildlife & Natural Resources Conference; March 14-18, Kansas City, MO)**

- The Association's MSCGP Coordinator compiles and distributes proposed NCNs to members of the Association's National Grants Committee. The Committee consists of the four Regional Association Presidents (or designees), and the Association's Fish & Wildlife Trust Funds Committee Chair, Executive Committee Vice Chair, Executive Committee Chair (Vice Chair of National Grants Committee), and the Association's Vice President (Chair of National Grants Committee).
- During the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference, the Committee will convene to review proposed NCNs and prepare a list of recommended NCNs for the State Directors' approval.
- State Directors approve NCNs at the Association's Business Meeting at the Conference for the upcoming grant cycle.
- The Association distributes an Announcement of Opportunity to solicit Letters of Intent (LOIs) to address the selected NCNs. LOIs are due Wednesday, May 4, 2011.

##### **May**

- The National Grants Committee and other appropriate Association Committees review the submitted Letters of Intent. The National Grants Committee selects the most competitive to invite to submit full proposals.

##### **June**

- Applicants are notified by June 24, 2011 whether or not their LOI has been selected to submit a full proposal.

##### **July**

- Full proposals along with required federal forms are due to the Association's MSCGP Coordinator (deadline TBD.)

**August**

- MSCGP grant proposals are submitted and reviewed by the National Grants Committee. The Coordinator will review proposals for eligibility, and consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The USFWS reviews proposals to conduct a debarment and suspension and audit records check; ensure NEPA and ESA compliance; and review financial management systems of applicants.

**September (Association's Annual Meeting; September 11-14, Omaha, NE)**

- The National Grants Committee convenes; reviews the comments and scores of each proposal; and prepares a recommended "priority list" of projects for the State Director's approval. The Committee may request changes to a proposal. Grant applicants may attend this meeting.
- During the Association's Business Meeting, the State Directors approve the "priority list" of projects to be funded through the Multistate Conservation Grant Program.
- The Association submits its list of priority projects, and the final proposals, to the USFWS by the mandated October 1 deadline.
- The Association's MSCGP Coordinator notifies submitters of proposal status – all applicants are provided with reviewers' comments and scores.

**October-November**

- Priority projects are reviewed and processed by the USFWS, which is required by law to only fund projects on the Association's priority list, although there is no requirement to fund all recommended projects.

**December**

- USFWS awards Multistate Conservation grants to successful applicants.

**2012:****January to December**

- USFWS manages recipients and their implementation of Multistate Conservation grants.
- The Association initiates the process for the 2013 cycle of the MSCGP.

## **ATTACHMENT C**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

Below is a list of questions frequently asked by MSCGP applicants. If your question is not addressed, or you require further clarification please contact Chad Klinkenborg, MSCGP Coordinator, at [cklinkenborg@fishwildlife.org](mailto:cklinkenborg@fishwildlife.org)

#### **Can you clarify if my project meets the criteria for states benefited? Does my project really need to involve 26 states?**

There are three options for a project to meet the criteria for state involvement. A project must benefit states using ONE of these criteria:

- 1) 26 states
- 2) The majority (over 50%) of states in a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service region (visit: <http://www.fws.gov/where/> to review these regions.)
- 3) The majority (over 50%) of states in a regional association of fish and wildlife agencies (visit: [http://www.fishwildlife.org/part\\_Regionals.html](http://www.fishwildlife.org/part_Regionals.html) to review a list of states in each regional association.)

#### **Can you provide some examples of projects that benefitted 26 states?**

Yes. Some projects that benefitted 26 states include:

- 2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation (conducted by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)
- Data-Driven Strategies to Recruit and Retain Anglers (conducted by the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies and the American Sportfishing Association)
- Economic Impacts of Hunting, 2006 (conducted by the Southwick and Associates)

More information about past projects can be found on the MSCGP website at:

[http://jjcdev.com/~fishwild/?section=previous\\_mscgp\\_grant\\_cycles](http://jjcdev.com/~fishwild/?section=previous_mscgp_grant_cycles).

#### **What is the amount of funding that can be requested?**

Applicants should first review the guidelines to determine how much funding is available for the current MSCGP Cycle, and consider if the project will require funds from Sport Fish Restoration, Wildlife Restoration, or both programs.

The most expensive project supported by the MSCGP is the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation. The project currently costs approximately \$13 million and funds are deducted from the MSCGP's annual funding, which is reflected in the estimate provided in the guidelines. The range of funding for other projects has been between \$30,000 - \$1.5 million depending on the type of project, its scope and duration. Applicants are encouraged to request the minimum amount of funds required to complete the project. Due to the MSCGP's particularly small budget for 2011 applicants should consider requesting as small amounts of money as possible.

### How competitive is the MSCGP?

Below is a table of MSCGP Cycles and the number of proposals submitted and projects funded:

MSCGP Cycle	Proposals Submitted	Projects Funded
2011	17	12
2010	21	13
2009	20	14
2008	38	9
2007	22	11
2006	59	23
2005	38	21
2004	57	18
2003	54	25
2002	53	25
2001	42	14

To make the MSCGP more efficient the NGC decided to adopt the LOI process in 2009; the goal of this process was to sift out projects that did not meet the necessary requirements before full proposals could be submitted. During the 2011 MSCGP cycle 96 LOIs were submitted and only 17 were invited to submit full proposals. Out of the 17 projects submitted, 12 were selected to recommend to USFWS for funding.

### Are universities considered NGOs?

Yes.

### I am submitting a Letter of Intent and have partners involved. Should I include statements of support?

No. The Letter of Intent is only four pages and there is no room for letters of support. It is sufficient to list your partners where appropriate within the text.

### Can I include potential partners in my Letter of Intent or only confirmed partners?

Only confirmed partners should be included in your submission.

### Can federal agencies be contractors or sub--recipients of MSCGP funds?

Yes, federal agencies and federal personnel can be, and often are, involved in MSCGP projects (through contracts, sub-awards or partnership funds.) Federal agencies cannot be primary recipients of MSCGP funds, except for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to conduct the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation.

### Is there a matching requirement?

No match is required. However, “partnership funds” are considered by the National Grants Committee and given bonus points during the review.

### Can in-kind services be included in my budget as “partnership funds”?

Yes. Any services or funds leveraged from partner organizations can be included in the “partnership funds” category.