



ASSOCIATION of
FISH & WILDLIFE
AGENCIES

2011 Multistate Conservation Grant Program

Guidelines for Submitting a National Conservation Need



BACKGROUND:

The Multistate Conservation Grant Program (MSCGP) funds projects that address regional or national level priorities of state fish and wildlife agencies. It was established in 2000 by the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act, which amended the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act and the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act. 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 oversees the grant application process and makes its "priority list" recommendations to the USFWS. USFWS can only fund projects from the Association's list, and manages and monitors grant awards. Each year, up to \$6,000,000 is available to fund MSCGP projects that benefit sport fish, wild birds, and/or wild mammals. State agencies and non-governmental organizations are eligible to receive grants for one, two, or three years on a calendar year basis.

In order to establish the states' priorities for a grant cycle, National Conservation Needs (NCNs) are annually solicited and selected by the Association. NCNs are the foundation of the MSCGP, as all grant applications must address a NCN.

Each Association committee and the four Regional Associations of fish and wildlife agencies may submit one NCN. Nongovernmental organizations may submit proposed NCNs directly to appropriate Association committee chairs for their consideration. State agencies can work with Association committees or their Regional Association(s).

NCNs must be written to include a clear and specific statement of need, and articulate desired outcomes to be realized by Multistate Conservation Grant projects. Meeting these conditions will allow the Association to continue to ensure that MSCGP funds are effectively directed toward the highest national and regional conservation priorities of the state fish and wildlife agencies.

Additional guidelines and format requirements are provided below. Also attached are the 2010 cycle NCNs and a timeline for the 2011 MSCGP.

DEADLINE:

Proposed NCNs must be submitted electronically by Association Committees and Regional Associations by **Friday, February 12, 2009** to Carol Bambery at cbambery@fishwildlife.org.

For information or questions, contact MSCGP Coordinator, Chad Klinkenborg, at 202-624-7821 / cklinkenborg@fishwildlife.org. Visit: http://www.fishwildlife.org/multistate_grants.html for more details on the Multistate Conservation Grant Program.

GUIDELINES:

- Each Association committee or Regional Association may submit one NCN. Please note that NCNs submitted on behalf of multiple committees/Regional Associations will receive equal treatment as other NCNs submitted by one committee or Regional Association.
- The NCN must reflect national or regional fish and wildlife needs. (As required by law, MSCGP projects must benefit (a) at least 26 states; or (b) a majority of the States in a region of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; or (c) a regional association of State fish and wildlife agencies. They must also benefit sport fish, wild birds, and/or wild mammals).
- The NCN is an obvious, continuous, and pressing resource management problem or a recently identified problem that is significant and urgent.
- The NCN is a priority and need of the State fish and wildlife agencies, and it cannot practically be addressed by a single state or small group of states or is not fully addressed by a current project or initiative.
- The NCN can be met by a practical and economically feasible management approach that will result in improved resource management or environmental quality.
- The NCN should address the Association's updated Strategic Plan (approved by State Directors in September 2008) when possible and appropriate. View the plan at [http://www.fishwildlife.org/about StrategicPlan.html](http://www.fishwildlife.org/about_StrategicPlan.html).

FORMAT REQUIREMENTS:

Please make every effort to craft an NCN that is as clear and concise as possible. It is unnecessary to include historical or background information.

- Each NCN submission must include the following narrative components:
 - A brief subject/title (<20 words);
 - A Statement of Need (summarize the problem or need to be addressed in one or two sentences);
 - Desired Proposals (specify the type of grant proposals requested in order to sufficiently address the fish and/or wildlife conservation need); and
 - Desired Outcomes/Expected Benefits (summarize the desired outcome(s) and benefits to the state fish and wildlife agencies and the resources they manage).
- The NCN may not exceed one page with 1" margins, and can be single-spaced. NCNs must use either a 12-point Times New Roman font or an 11-point Arial font.