



ASSOCIATION of  
FISH & WILDLIFE  
AGENCIES

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## 2020 Multistate Conservation Grant Program

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### Guidelines for Submitting a National Conservation Need



#### **BACKGROUND:**

The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (“Association”) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (“USFWS”) cooperatively administer the Multistate Conservation Grant Program (“MSCGP”).<sup>1</sup> The MSCGP funds projects that address regional or national level funding priorities of state fish and wildlife agencies. 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.

The Association oversees the grant application process and prepares a “priority list” of recommended projects for the USFWS. The USFWS selects projects from the Association’s priority list to fund and notifies successful applicants of their grant award. Then, the USFWS manages and monitors the grant awards.

#### **NCN GUIDELINES:**

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

- 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.
- Nongovernmental organizations may submit proposed NCNs directly to appropriate Association Committee Chairs for their consideration.
- State agencies are allowed to work with Association committees or their Regional Association(s) to develop proposed NCNs for the 2020 cycle.
- NCNs 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

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<sup>1</sup> The MSCGP was established in 2000 by the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act, which amended the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669h-2) and the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 777m).

and wildlife agencies. They must also benefit sport fish, wild birds, and/or wild mammals).

- NCNs must reflect an obvious, continuous, and pressing resource management problem or a recently identified problem that is significant and urgent.
- NCNs must address a funding priority or need of the State fish and wildlife agencies that cannot practically be addressed by a single state or small group of states or is not fully addressed by a current project or initiative.
- NCNs must be drafted so that grant applicants can address conservation needs by implementing a practical and economically feasible management approach that will result in improved resource management or environmental quality.
- NCNs should address the Association's updated Strategic Plan when possible and appropriate.

**Content:** 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).

**Format:** Please submit your proposed NCN by e-mail in the following format:

- **Format:** Microsoft Word document
- **Length:** please do not exceed one page in length.
- **Margins:** 1" margins
- **Spacing:** Single-spaced
- **Font:** 12-point Times New Roman font or 11-point Arial font.

**DEADLINE:**

Association Committees and Regional Associations must submit their proposed NCNs by the **close of business on Friday, January 25, 2019** to Silvana Yaroschuk, [syaroschuk@fishwildlife.org](mailto:syaroschuk@fishwildlife.org).