



ASSOCIATION of  
FISH & WILDLIFE  
AGENCIES

# Multistate Conservation Grant Program



## Frequently Asked Questions

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Below is a list of questions frequently asked by MSCGP applicants. If your question is not addressed, or you require further clarification, please contact Silvana Yaroschuk, Multistate Conservation Grant Program Manager, at [syaroschuk@fishwildlife.org](mailto:syaroschuk@fishwildlife.org).

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### Program Information

#### What is MultiState Conservation Grant Program?

The Sport Fish Restoration Act and the Wildlife Restoration Act, as amended by the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106-408, 114 STAT. 1766 §112 et seq.; Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act, 16 U.S.C. §777 et seq.; and Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act, 16 U.S.C. §669 et seq.) authorize the Secretary of the Interior to make up to \$6,000,000 available annually under the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR) to fund multistate conservation project grants.

In addition to the regular (traditional) annually available funds of \$6,000,000, the President signed the Modernizing the Pittman-Robertson Fund for Tomorrow's Needs Act (Modernizing PR Act) (Public Law (Pub. L.) 116-94) into law on December 20, 2019, as part of the larger Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020. This law amends the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (WR Act, 16 U.S.C. 669) to, among other measures, create a new Modern Multistate Conservation Grant Program (R3 MSCGP).

#### How is R3 MSCGP different from Traditional MSCGP?

The traditional MSCGP makes available \$6,000,000 annually under the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR) to fund multistate conservation project grants, \$3 million from Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund and \$3 million from the Wildlife Restoration Account. The funds made available from these two accounts are from excise taxes collected on fishing equipment, motorboat and small engine fuels, import duties, firearms, ammunition, archery equipment, and arrow components and interest.

The Modernizing PR Act makes available to the Secretary of the Interior, not more than \$5 million annually to be used exclusively for making hunter recruitment and recreational shooter recruitment grants that promote a national hunting and shooting sports recruitment program, including related communication and outreach activities. The funds come from the authority at 26 U.S.C. 4161(b) of the IRS code of 1986 (Bows and arrows, etc.)

#### Will R3 MSCGP be administered differently from the traditional MSCGP?

Administratively, the M-MSCGP will function similarly to the traditional Multistate Conservation Grant Program (MSCGP), with the Association providing the Service with a priority list of projects to be considered for award. However, the M-MSCGP awards are targeted exclusively for hunter recruitment and recreational shooter recruitment grants that promote a national hunting and shooting sports recruitment program.

## **Can R3 programs related to Sportfishing still be funded, and if so, how?**

Yes, R3 related to Sportfishing will be funded under Strategic Priority #5, although they will be funded through the Traditional MSCGP program using available Sportfishing funding (DJ funds).

## **Eligibility Criteria**

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

Eligible applicants are the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, or a State or group of States, to carry out the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation. The State governments' designation refers to Agencies with lead management responsibility for fish and wildlife resources in each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia (Sport Fish Restoration only), the Commonwealths of Puerto Rico and the Northern Mariana Islands, and the territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, or a group of these agencies. Eligible proposals must benefit:

1. At least 26 states, or
2. Most of the States in a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service region. Please list the Regions and States in each Region that will benefit (use State abbreviations), or
3. Most states in a regional association of State fish and wildlife agencies (click each association for the state members, [WAFWA](#), [MAFWA](#), [NEAFWA](#), [SEAFWA](#)). Please indicate the regional fish and wildlife association that will benefit and list each region's States.

### **Are universities considered NGOs?**

Yes.

### **Will the project fit better under the Traditional MSCGP or the R3 MSCGP?**

To answer those questions, you must look at the strategic priorities and funding sources.

### **What are Strategic Priorities, and how do I find them?**

Proposals must address one or more of the Strategic Priorities to be eligible. These priorities are updated annually with input from the Association's Technical Committees, Nonprofits, and Federal partners.

The Strategic Priorities are reviewed and updated ANNUALLY. You can find them on MSCGP page

<https://fishwildlife.org/afwa-informs/multi-state-conservation-grants-program>

## **The Process**

Applying for funding through the T-MSCGP and R3-MSCGP requires a two-part process managed in partnership with AFWA. Please specify which program you are applying for in your application. In part one, applicants submit their Full Grant Proposals (no Federal Forms) through the [AFWA MSCGP portal](#) by the deadline (which changes yearly). ***No proposals should be submitted through GrantSolutions at this point.*** Full Grant Proposal requirements and deadline information are available from the [AFWA MSCGP webpage](#). Full Grant Proposals must address one or more MultiState Conservation Grant Program Strategic Priorities on this webpage. AFWA MSCGP Technical Review Teams will review the proposals and recommend them to the National Grants Committee for consideration.

USFWS will only post in GrantSolutions a Direct Announcement by the deadline (check the timeline) for the selected applicants. AFWA will invite the selected applicants to submit a Final Full Grant Proposal package through GrantSolutions by a set deadline. GrantSolutions will have the Federal Forms you are required to complete. It's recommended to complete the Federal Forms online. This will avoid errors while completing the forms. Using the “Search Grants” tab, enter the Funding Opportunity Number. Submit completed applications electronically through GrantSolutions.gov by September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023. A complete copy of your application in PDF format should also be submitted through the [AFWA MSCGP portal](#).

## Budget

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

Applicants should 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 costs approximately \$7.4 million, and funds are deducted from the Traditional MSCGP’s annual funding. The range of funding for other projects has been between \$50,000 - \$1,000,000 depending on the type of project, its scope, and duration. The average per grant is \$250,000. Applicants are encouraged to request the minimum funds required to complete the project.

### How much money is available for the upcoming Multistate Conservation Grant Program Cycle?

Annually \$11,000,000 is available, \$5,000,000 of which is allocated *exclusively for hunter recruitment and recreational shooter recruitment grants* that promote a national hunting and shooting sports recruitment program, including related communication and outreach activities.

The funding changes annually as the amount allocated to the National Survey changes and additional recoveries from previous grants (when funds are returned when grants close). The amount will be updated and available as we get closer to approving the Priority List.

### How competitive is the MSCGP?

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

MSCGP Cycle	LOIs /Initial Proposals Submitted	Proposals Invited	Projects Funded
2022	121	54	42
2021	85	52	38
2020*	110	74	64
2019	55	41	39
2018	25	20	18
2017	24	18	17
2016	30	17	14
2015	33	19	14

\*In 2020, \$5,000,000 were added to MSCGP funding

**Can I charge Indirect Cost under MSCGP, and if so, what is the right amount?**

Yes. The best source how for calculating Indirect Cost is 2CFR200. *The MSCGP program has traditionally asked applicants to voluntarily cap their overhead at 20% to make more funds available for programmatic activity. Please contact the Association if you have any questions or concerns about this.*

The Indirect costs are calculated based on the Modified Total Direct Cost for the MSCGP.

Please refer to the Initial Proposals/Full Grant Proposals Guidelines on how to calculate MTDC.

**Is there a matching requirement?**

No match is required.

**Can I request Multiyear Funding?**

MSCGP grants are traditionally approved for one year of funding. Applicants whose projects are expected to last for more than one year are encouraged to let the Grants Committee know that they will apply for a subsequent year(s) of funding for the project and will need to report on progress made in the first year as part of the justification for subsequent/supplemental funding. Subsequent funding is not guaranteed and will depend on the project's merits, available funding, and progress.

Under special circumstances, the Grants Committee will consider approving multiple years of funding (multi-year funding). The criteria for multiyear funding established by the National Grants Committee are included in the application package. Please note that there is a very high bar to justify multi-year funding, and most applicants will be requested to apply for one year of funding at a time.

**Performance**

**What is the timeframe in which projects should be completed?**

The performance period is one year, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 20XX – December 31<sup>st</sup>, 20XX.

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

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

**Where do I find more information about MSCGP?**

Below are the resources you can use to find more information and answer your questions

*MSCGP WebPage:*

<https://www.fishwildlife.org/afwa-informs/multi-state-conservation-grants-program>

*GrantsSolution WebSite*

[www.grantsolutions.gov](http://www.grantsolutions.gov)

*U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

<https://www.fws.gov/wsfrprograms/Subpages/GrantPrograms/Multistate/MS.htm>

*Contact AFWA staff before and during the submission:*

[syaroschuk@fishwildlife.org](mailto:syaroschuk@fishwildlife.org)

*Contact WSFR Staff after October 1<sup>st</sup>:*

[john\\_stremple@fws.gov](mailto:john_stremple@fws.gov)