



The Wildlife Conservation Society

Wildlife Action Opportunities Fund For Implementing State Wildlife Action Plans

2006 Grants Program – A Request for Proposals

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Program Overview

With funding provided by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and managed by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), The Wildlife Action Opportunities Fund provides competitive grants to conservation organizations that are focused on implementing priority actions and strategies identified in State Wildlife Action Plans. Grants are limited to nonprofit conservation organizations with 501(c)(3) status that are operating in any of the 50 states or six U.S. territories. More information on these plans is available at the *Teaming with Wildlife* website www.teaming.com.

The Wildlife Action Opportunities Fund will provide a total of \$2 million in grants over a two-year period with approximately \$1 million in 2006 and \$1 million in 2007. These grants will be awarded through two separate competitive award processes, one for 2006 and one for 2007. **This Request for Proposals, detailed below, is for 2006 awards only.**

Funding Priorities

Eight types of projects will be considered for funding in 2006:

- Projects that integrate State Wildlife Action Plan priorities with other land-use or natural resource planning efforts at the local, state, or federal level including conservation planning efforts of non-profit organizations;
- Projects that apply funding from various state or federal incentive programs (e.g., National Resource Conservation Service Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program) toward the priority actions of State Wildlife Action Plans;
- Projects that publicize and raise the profile of State Wildlife Action Plans with elected officials, decision and policy makers, interested parties (e.g., land trusts), and the general public;

- Projects aimed towards changes in natural resource policy at the local, state, or federal government level that support implementation of State Wildlife Action Plans;
- High profile, on-the-ground stewardship or restoration projects that both implement the priorities of State Wildlife Action Plans and can serve as demonstration or model projects that may be replicated in other places;
- Projects to improve existing State Wildlife Action Plans so as to better facilitate successful implementation of the plan (e.g., maps of focal conservation areas, prioritized sets of actions or strategies aligned with threats, state wildlife habitat maps);
- Projects to direct mitigation funds or payments of natural resource and environmental damage awards toward priority actions of State Wildlife Action Plans (e.g., mitigation funds from highway projects or from settlements reached at EPA Superfund sites);
- and citizen science projects that engage the public in implementation of one or more high priority actions of a State Wildlife Action Plan.

The Wildlife Action Opportunities Fund **cannot** be used to fund projects that propose to undertake: land acquisition or conservation easements, political lobbying or advocacy, capacity building of institutions or organizations, or the gathering of additional information/data for a State Wildlife Action Plan through biological inventory, monitoring, or research (unless the proposed data gathering is a minor component of a project addressing one of the eight funding priorities).

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the range of project funding? From \$20,000 to \$200,000 per project

Can the same project be funded in both cycles of the grant program? No, a project can only receive funding in one cycle of the Opportunity Fund program. However, any organization funded in the first grant cycle is eligible to apply for a different project(s) in the second grant cycle, which will begin in 2007.

Who will evaluate preproposals and full proposals and make decisions on the grant awards? The Wildlife Conservation Society is responsible for the evaluation of proposals and final decision on grant awards. An Advisory Committee will evaluate preproposals and full proposals and make recommendations for funding to WCS. The Advisory Committee members for the Wildlife Action Opportunities Fund are: Naomi Edelson (Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies), Bill Geer (Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership), Monty Fischer (National Wildlife Federation), Rocky Beach (Washington Department of Wildlife), David Whitehurst (Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries), Mark Humpert (Nebraska Game and Parks Commission), Emily Jo Williams (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), and Chris Killingsworth (Wyss Foundation).

What is the duration of funding for projects? 12-18 months

What is the source of funding for the Wildlife Action Opportunities Fund? A grant to WCS from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

Will preproposals that fall outside the funding priorities be considered? No, preproposals and proposals are restricted to those topics outlined in this RFP.

How does the grant proposal process work? WCS is using a 2-step process: 1) an open call for preproposals, and 2) based on review of the preproposals, a number of applicants will be asked to submit full proposals.

What is the deadline for submission of preproposals? November 17, 2006 at 5:00 PM Mountain Standard Time.

Where should preproposals be submitted? By email attachment only as a MS Word document to Darren Long (dlong@wcs.org) at the Wildlife Conservation Society. Please follow the detailed instructions below on submission of preproposals.

When will award decisions be made for full proposals? Full proposals will be requested of prospective grantees on December 4, full proposals are due to WCS on January 5, 2007 and we expect to notify grantees of their awards in February.

Can a single organization submit multiple preproposals (for different projects)? Yes

Are partnerships encouraged? Yes, partnerships, especially between a conservation organization and a state wildlife agency, are encouraged

Are matching funds required? No, they are not required but they are encouraged and will be looked upon favorably

What are the evaluation criteria? Preproposals will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria: 1) feasible and practical in 1-2 year time periods, 2) closely aligned with the priority actions and strategies of a State Wildlife Action Plan, 3) within the scope of the eight funding priorities identified in this RFP, 4) qualifications and experience of organization and individuals involved in project, and 5) demonstrated coordination with the state wildlife agency responsible for implementing the State Wildlife Action Plan. In addition to these criteria, projects that propose to have direct matching funds, involve multiple organizations, may leverage additional conservation results beyond the individual project, or may serve as models for conservation that can be replicated elsewhere are encouraged.

How can I find out information about my state's wildlife action plan? Contact your state fish and wildlife agency or go to the www.teaming.com web site to download the plan and obtain contact information for each state.

How do we get more information? This website (www.wcs.org/wildlifeopportunity) provides detailed information on the grant program and the preproposal process. Please

read it carefully and completely. If you have questions, please contact Darren Long at (406) 522-9333 x103 or email: dlong@wcs.org

Instructions for Submission of Preproposals

Please read these instructions carefully as well as all the information provided above.

1. Preproposals must be submitted as email attachments in MS Word format to dlong@wcs.org no later than November 17, 2006 at 5:00 PM Mountain Standard Time.
2. The preproposal is limited to a total of 5 pages:
 - Page 1 is a single cover page with contact information (see details in section #3 below)
 - Pages 2-4 are three pages of text about the proposed project, including budget (see details in section #4 below)
 - Page 5 is a single page outlining the qualifications of the individuals and organization involved.

Font size should be 12 point or larger and margins should be at least 1 inch on all sides. Any material submitted beyond these 5 pages or not in this format will not be considered.

3. The cover page should provide the following information:
 - Title of Project
 - Name of project director and job title
 - Institution Name
 - Email address
 - Physical mailing address
 - Telephone and Fax Numbers
 - Other principal individuals involved (name, title, institution, email, phone)
 - Two references (name, email, phone number) who can speak to successful implementation of the project described in the preproposal
4. Three pages of explanatory text are the principal component of the preproposal and should be written as clearly and concisely as possible, address the following questions, and provide the following information (note that tables, graphs, photos can be included in the preproposal but they must be contained within the three pages of text):
 - a) Which of the funding priorities does your preproposal address?
 - b) In what area, state, or region will your project be conducted?
 - c) What is the conservation problem or issue that your project will address?

- d) What is the goal(s) of your project and what major objectives or tasks will you undertake to achieve that goal? (Note: Goals should be written as outcome oriented. For example, “By 2008, we propose to make changes to state policy that will enhance the conservation of riparian areas on state forest lands.”)
- e) What are the methods (briefly) by which you propose to carry out your work?
- f) What measurable products or outcomes will result from your project?
- g) To what extent will your proposed project be able to take advantage of existing resources (e.g., funding, teams, conservation areas, partnerships)?
- h) What is the proposed total budget of your project (divided into three categories – salary/benefits, operating expenses, capital expenses)? Approximately how much funding of the total project cost will you be requesting from the Wildlife Action Opportunities Fund? (Overhead or indirect costs may be included in your budget, but are limited to 10% of direct costs requested.)

Schedule

Request for Proposals Announced	October 16, 2006
Preproposals Due to WCS	November 17, 2006
Full Proposals Requested	December 4, 2006
Full Proposals Due to WCS	January 5, 2007
Notification of Grant Awards	February 2007

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