



ASSOCIATION *of*
FISH & WILDLIFE
AGENCIES

**Request for Letters of Intent
for the
2010 Multistate Conservation Grant Program**



Deadline: Midnight (EDT) Wednesday, May 6, 2009

**The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
is soliciting Letters of Intent for the 2010 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 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. 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 2010 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).
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 2008 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 2009 North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference by the National Grants Committee (NGC).

Of the 13 proposed NCNs, seven were adopted by the State Directors of fish and wildlife agencies for the 2010 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 Integration of fish and wildlife needs as the conservation 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, and conservation related recreational activities. (Submitted by the Angler/Boating Participation and Hunting and Shooting Sports Committees).....p. 6

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Submitted by the Agricultural Conservation Committee

Subject 1: Integration of fish and wildlife needs as the conservation provisions of the 2008 Farm Bill are implemented.

Statement of Need: Enhance fish and wildlife habitat on private lands through implementation of the provisions of the Food, Energy and Conservation Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill).

The Conservation Title of the Federal Farm Bill is the single most important legislation for providing fish and wildlife habitat on millions of acres of the nation's private lands. Every state receives farm bill conservation program funds that provide opportunities to address fish and wildlife resource needs on private lands. It is extremely important to maintain a strong cooperative bridge with USDA as rulemaking continues, adjustments are made during implementation, and as operational, logistical, and technical issues arise. Continued examination and refinement of conservation programs will assure that program benefits are optimized and accrue to the states, producers and fish and wildlife resources. Additionally, the advancement of renewable energy and biofuels initiatives will increasingly affect fish, wildlife, and their habitats across all of the nation's agricultural landscapes. Creative approaches are needed to advance these energy initiatives without jeopardizing fish and wildlife conservation efforts.

Proposals submitted under this NCN should:

- Examine how fish, wildlife, and their habitat needs can best be integrated into farm bill programs, rules, policies, procedures, standards, practices, guidelines and plant materials used to implement farm bill provisions. This includes proposals that address effective delivery of fish and wildlife technical assistance and provide outreach opportunities to educate current and potential program participants.
- Provide training opportunities for conservation professionals working with private landowners to increase effectiveness of conservation program delivery.
- Examine and develop scientifically sound methods for research, monitoring, and assessment of fish and wildlife resource benefits derived from implementation of the 2008 Farm Bill and provide recommendations for improvement and adaptive management.
- Examine the affects, benefits, risks, threats and successful approaches associated with the advancement of renewable energies/ biofuels to fish, wildlife, soil, and water conservation.
- At the national level, work with State fish and wildlife agencies, conservation NGOs, producer groups, USDA, FWS and others to optimize fish and wildlife resource benefits from implementation of the 2008 Farm Bill. Improve the communication of societal benefits derived from these provisions to the conservation community, program participants, the public, and others benefiting from farm bill conservation practices and programs.

To benefit member state agencies and NGOs, desired outcomes of successful proposals might include the coordination and development of national rules, policies, standards, guidelines and plant materials that improve fish and wildlife resources; collect and disseminate information on program implementation; enhance participation in and benefits from conservation programs, technical assistance and outreach; develop effective communication tools and training workshops for conservation professionals working with private land owners/managers; and increase the ability to meet fish and wildlife conservation needs with advancing renewable energy initiatives and technologies.

**Jointly Submitted by AFWA's Angling and Boating Participation Committee
and Hunting and Shooting Sports Participation Committee**

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

Statement of Need

Generally, participation rates in hunting and recreational fishing 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 the related benefits, 2) a direct loss of funding to fish and wildlife conservation programs, and 3) detrimental affects on critical industries that support and are supported by hunting, recreational fishing, and the shooting sports. Reversing the downward trend in participation is key to strengthening the ability of state fish and wildlife agencies' to protect the nation's natural resources and preserve choice and opportunity for future generations. Individual state efforts are important, but success lies in the ability of many partners to implement regional and national scale programs, and to share best practices and the financial and intellectual resources necessary to create needed innovations.

Desired Proposals

Proposals submitted under this NCN should address needs directly related to participation, recruitment, and retention of people in hunting, recreational fishing, and the shooting sports. Specifically, proposals should address one or more of the following: a) innovative tools and actions that foster initiation and recruitment of new participants, retention of existing participants, and re-recruitment of past participants; b) partnerships and cooperation between or among successful recruitment/retention programs and related industries; c) new approaches to outreach that promote the social and economic benefits of hunting, fishing, and related recreational activities; d) tools to assist hunter and recreational fishing education instructors in communicating the history and role of hunters and anglers in the conservation of North 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 public access to land for hunting; and f) actions that engage related recreational industries in enhancing and promoting the important role they play in fish and wildlife conservation to the public at large.

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, and shooting sports; 2) a steady and reliable source of revenue to state fish and wildlife agencies via licenses 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, and recreational shooters; 5) strategic guidance to state wildlife agencies to assist them in meeting demands in their state for public shooting facilities, angler access to public waters, and public access to land for hunting; 6) enhanced networking 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 sustained future for our North American hunting and fishing heritage.

**Submitted by the Climate Change Committee and
the Midwestern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies**

Subject 3: Regional Climate Change Workshops for State Fish & Wildlife Managers on current information and tools for management of fish and wildlife.

Statement of Need: State fish and wildlife agencies have an extensive history of managing natural resources for the “public trust” which is an integral component of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. State agencies need to continue to demonstrate management of healthy and robust ecosystems as a viable and valuable strategy for providing for fish and wildlife resources and their uses in the face of climate change. Although there are gaps in research, tools, and resources, on the ground managers are currently dealing with the effects of climate change on wildlife on a daily basis. There is a need to transfer the current information and tools on natural resource climate change management from researchers and practitioners to state wildlife managers. This could be done by staging regional workshops based on aspects of AFWA’s guidance document for implementing climate change to state wildlife action plans: adaptation strategies, vulnerability assessments, monitoring. Climate change will impact all ecosystems, habitats, and species not just those considered rare. Strong, science-based management strategies are required for all wildlife species in order to reduce the effects of climate change.

This NCN is applicable to all 50 states and addresses several strategies identified in the Association’s Strategic Plan including: 1) Improve coordination of research needs and research capabilities between state and provincial fish and wildlife agencies, federal agencies and universities; and 2) Provide leadership, consolidation and assistance to Association members in their data collection, sharing and technology initiatives.

Desired Proposals: 1.) Create comprehensive regional workshops to guide state wildlife action plan coordinators on how to implement climate change into State Wildlife Action Plan revisions based on the AFWA guidance document. 2.) Create comprehensive regional workshops to guide fish and wildlife biologists on recent information and tools to manage game species, as well as related recreational issues, for climate change. 3.) Use existing teleconference technology during these regional workshops to allow those state managers under travel restrictions to participate.

Desired Outcomes/ Expected Benefits: The wildlife community is just beginning to grapple with the challenges climate change could bring to the ecosystems that they manage. Through out the country there are climate change adaptation projects and research currently in progress but the communication of those efforts is somewhat limited beyond a certain geographic or institutional range. Regional climate change workshops could develop capacity among state fish and wildlife managers to include climate change adaptation strategies when managing fish and wildlife. By focusing on regional issues through place-based strategies and techniques, case studies, and tools (ex. regional models) these workshops could assist managers to properly manage and conserve natural resources in response to climate change. Additionally these workshops could foster regional and national partnerships and collaborations as habitats shift, which is vital for landscape-level conservation.

Submitted by the Executive Committee

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.

Submitted by the Fish and Wildlife Health Committee

Subject 5: A National Fish and Wildlife Health Initiative

Statement of Need: The importance of maintaining healthy populations has long been recognized by fish and wildlife managers, and several disease issues are of growing concern to fish and wildlife, animal health, and public health professionals and the publics they serve. Significant diseases, such as plague, viral hemorrhagic septicemia, hemorrhagic disease, pasteurellosis, chronic wasting disease, botulism, West Nile virus, whirling disease, and others have been found in wild and farmed fish or wildlife populations in North America and can have a significant impact on resources. Reservoirs of economically important diseases like bovine brucellosis and bovine tuberculosis have inadvertently become established in native wildlife and threaten livestock industries in some areas. Foreign animal diseases, such as foot and mouth disease, which was eradicated decades ago, and highly pathogenic avian influenza, which never has been reported in North American wildlife, also are of concern. The intentional or accidental introduction of these diseases could significantly impact wildlife, domestic animal, or human populations and would require a coordinated multi-agency response. In view of the increasing need for fish and wildlife managers to effectively address disease issues, the AFWA resolved in 2005 to develop and implement a National Fish and Wildlife Health Initiative, in cooperation with appropriate governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations (see goal 2(f) of AFWA Strategic Plan). Although national in scope, the Health Initiative will not mandate programs at the state, tribal, or local level. The goal of the initiative is to protect fish and wildlife health through the enhancement of capabilities of state fish and wildlife management agencies to prevent, detect, manage, research, and educate the public about disease issues.

Proposals Solicited: Proposals are requested that explore and facilitate methods for implementation of the Health Initiative. Successful proposals should support the national initiative either through 1) the development of state expertise and capacity in fish health through fish disease training and outreach programs, or 2) the development of a comprehensive gap analysis of both state capacities (i.e., personnel, facilities, stakeholders, financial, regulatory, and emergency response) and state roles, responsibilities, and authorities related to wildlife and aquatic animal health issues.

Desired Outcomes: Desired outcomes will be identification of key issues required for the development and support of the national fish and wildlife health plan, as well as progress toward its implementation.

Submitted by the Fisheries and Water Resources Policy Committee

Subject 6: 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 interjurisdictional 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 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.

Submitted by the International Relations Committee

Subject 7: Protect State Wildlife Agencies' Authority to Manage Wildlife Resources in Concert With Federal Actions Required by International Treaties and Conventions

Statement of Need: Insure the interests of state fish and wildlife agencies are represented in proposals considered by international treaties. Rules established under international treaties often supersede state authority and limit how states manage their wildlife. State agency representatives must work with the federal agencies and be engaged in international fora where these actions are taken. Added regulations and burdensome oversight results from restrictions adopted through international treaties such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). For example, state management and harvest decisions for **bobcats** stem from federal restrictions resulting from CITES actions 30+ years ago. The recent collapse of the Caspian sturgeon fishery, proposed reactions by the European Union and possible Federal regulatory actions may have significant impact on states' regulatory authority and harvest of **paddlefish**. Both are examples of international actions that have significant impact on state's authority. Understanding issues and developing working relationships over a sustained period by the Technical Work Group (TWG) are essential for effectively resolving these issues and requires a thorough working knowledge of the treaties and routine engagement with international colleagues. CITES was originally intended to ensure globally sustainable use of natural resources. However, today this arena is a place for extremists to promote preservation over sustainable use.

The present system, using the regional Association representation, was initiated in 1994 and has proven both effective and efficient. **Without funding, this coordinated approach to state participation in international fora will effectively end in 2009.**

Objectives:

1. Continue regional participation, on behalf of the 50 states in international treaties.
2. Enhance and strengthen our federal partnership so state interests receive proper consideration when federal policy is developed resulting from international treaties.
3. Ensure the federal government understands and reacts positively to the needs and authority of state fish and wildlife agencies on these issues.
4. Minimize unnecessary oversight and restrictions to state fish and wildlife agency authority resulting from international treaty actions.
5. Ensure the North American Conservation Model is recognized and considered in the international conservation arena.

Desired Proposals: Funds for one representative from each Regional Association to participate in international treaties, conventions, and associated meetings.

Desired Outcomes/Expected Benefits: 1) An efficient, effective approach for AFWA member agencies to have input into federal policy direction on international treaties, 2) a means whereby all state fish and wildlife agencies may be apprised of pending developments and respond appropriately, 3) a streamlined approach to requesting changes in federal and/or international policies, procedures and rules to better accommodate state wildlife agency needs, 4) a mechanism to provide biological and administrative information to assist the federal government in executing its international responsibilities, 5) a viable method to minimize unnecessary oversight and restrictions to state fish and wildlife agency authority and 6) support of sustainable use principles in international arenas where preservation is becoming the most pronounced message.

LETTER OF INTENT REQUIREMENTS

DEADLINE: Letters of Intent (LOIs) must be received no later than midnight EDT on **Wednesday, May 6, 2009**. 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, Christina Zarrella at czarrella@fishwildlife.org – you will receive a confirmation within 48 business hours. If you do not receive a confirmation after 48 hours please contact Christina immediately at the e-mail address above or 202-624-7821. Please contact Christina if you have any questions.

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) Addresses one (or more) of the seven 2010 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)

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 NCN addressed
 - Project length (1-3 years)
 - States, USFWS regions, or Regional Associations of fish and 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 to 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 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.

LOIs will be reviewed by the National Grants Committee, who will select the most competitive submissions to invite for full proposals. LOIs are evaluated based on five criteria: responsiveness to NCNs, scientific quality, practical relevance to state fish and wildlife agencies, value and qualifications. Applicants will be notified by Friday, June 26, 2009 whether or not their LOI has been invited to submit a full proposal. Full proposals will be due in late July (date TBD).

ATTACHMENT A

**ESTIMATE OF FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR THE
2010 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. Therefore, the estimated* available funds for the 2010 MSCGP cycle is:

YEAR	WR	SFR	TOTAL
2010	\$3,205,165	\$3,262,994	\$6,468,160
2010[†]	\$1,761,205	\$1,819,034	\$3,580,239

* Please note: These are the estimated available funds for the 2010 MSCGP cycle. The actual funds available may differ from this initial estimate.

[†] This is the 2010 total deducting \$1,443,960 million each from WR and SFR for a total of \$2.8+ million, which has been reserved for the 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Associated Recreation.

ATTACHMENT B**Schedule for the 2010 Cycle of the
Multistate Conservation Grant Program (MSCGP)****2008:****November**

- The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (Association) 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.
- The Association hosts an informational meeting for interested NGOs, states, and other potential applicants to review the MSCGP's processes, answer questions, get feedback, and solicit proposed NCNs. NGOs submit proposed NCNs directly to appropriate Association committee chairs. States can work with Association committees or their Regional Association.

2009:**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 Wednesday, February 18th.

March (North American Wildlife & Natural Resources Conference; March 16-21, Arlington, VA)

- 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.

April

- The Association distributes an Announcement of Opportunity to solicit Letters of Intent (LOIs) to address the selected NCNs. LOIs are due Wednesday, May 6, 2009.

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 26, 2009 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 13-18, Austin, TX)

- 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.

2009:**January to December**

- USFWS manages recipients and their implementation of Multistate Conservation grants.
- The Association initiates the process for the 2011 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 Christina Zarrella, MSCGP Coordinator, at czarrella@fishwildlife.org or 202-624-7821.

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 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 Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies)
- Economic Impacts of Sportfishing, 2006 (the American Sportfishing Association)
- Management Assistance Team (conducted by the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies)

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

http://www.fishwildlife.org/multistate_grants.html.

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.

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
2008	38	9
2007	22	11
2006	59	23
2005	38	21
2004	57	18
2003	54	25
2002	53	25
2001	42	14

Starting in the 2009 MSCGP Cycle a Letter of Intent (LOI) process was used. During this cycle, 112 LOIs were submitted and 20 were invited to submit full proposals. Out of the 20 projects submitted, 14 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 subrecipients of MSCGP funds?

Yes, federal agencies and federal personnel can be, and often are, involved in MSCGP projects (through contracts, subawards 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.