



REQUEST FOR PRE-PROPOSALS Columbia River Estuarine Coastal Fund

TO: LOWER COLUMBIA RIVER AND COASTAL INTERESTS
FROM: Krystyna U. Wolniakowski, Director, Northwest Region,
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
DATE: August 11, 2004
DEADLINE: September 17, 2004

In Spring 2004, the owners of the marine vessels named Spring Drake, Hoegh Minerva and Agia Erini were charged with violating federal pollution laws. As part of these settlements, the courts ordered \$1,300,000 in community service payments to be made to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (Foundation) to be invested in conservation projects in the area of environmental impact. Together with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), the Foundation used the funds to establish the Columbia River Estuarine Coastal Fund (Fund) as a grant making program to be used to finance: a) on the ground habitat conservation, restoration and management projects in and along the Columbia River below the Bonneville Dam and the adjacent Coasts of Oregon (up to and including Tillamook Bay) and Washington (up to and including Willapa Bay) that may be affected by estuarine flows to benefit the fish and wildlife resources and the habitats upon which they depend; b) landowner outreach and incentive programs for restoration and management of natural resources in the same geographic area; c) public use and natural/cultural projects that benefit the Service's National Wildlife Refuge System; d) collaborative projects from local communities seeking environmentally and economically sustainable solutions to natural resource problems; and e) applied research that is directly related to improvement of natural resources management in the same geographic area. It is anticipated that approximately one-half of the available funds will be granted through this RFP and that a second RFP for the balance of the available funds will be released in the Spring of 2005.

Pre-proposals are now being invited for projects to be funded by: 1) grants for more than \$5,000 and up to \$200,000 and 2) small grants of \$5,000 or less for local conservation or education projects. While matching funds are not required in either category, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation encourages applicants to include matching funds with cash or in-kind contributions where possible.

An approved project should be completed within two years of the award of the grant. These funds are an opportunity for Lower Columbia River and coastal conservationists to form local/state partnerships for ecosystem conservation and make a significant contribution in protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and habitat resources in the above described geographic area.

Who is eligible to apply?

- non-profit conservation organizations
- counties and cities
- state government agencies

- tribes
- federal agencies
- schools

What types of projects can be considered?

Pre-Proposals should address one or more of these program purposes:

- education to enhance public understanding of ecosystem and environmental conservation
- public outreach activities and information to promote conservation activities and ethics
- on the ground habitat restoration/improvement to enhance fish, wildlife and habitat resources
- fee simple acquisition and/or conservation easements on high conservation value lands
- landowner outreach and incentive programs for management and restoration of natural resources
- public use and natural/cultural projects that benefit the Service's National Wildlife Refuge System
- collaborative projects from local communities seeking environmentally and economically sustainable solutions to natural resource problems
- development of resource information data systems to better evaluate/monitor river and coastal water impacts and past restoration efforts
- applied ecological studies and assessments to advance knowledge and improve management practices for conservation
- address issues related to protection and enhancement of threatened or endangered fish and wildlife species and other species at risk (such as seabirds)
- development of multi-partner local community initiatives for guiding coastal watershed conservation activities
- control and management of invasive species that directly impact the water and riparian areas of the Lower Columbia River and coastal ecosystems

Funds cannot be used for:

- political advocacy, litigation expenses, mitigation or terrorist activities
- equipment purchases not primarily related to the direct completion of the project
- website development or videos

Criteria for evaluation/selection of projects for funding:

- Addresses the program purposes stated above
- Has quantifiable / measurable benefits for fish, wildlife or habitat
- Includes two or more partners in the project implementation
- Includes community volunteer efforts
- Defines success/outcomes clearly
- Can be accomplished within two years
- Is innovative and creative
- Provides an opportunity to replicate a successful project in another geographic area
- Minimizes indirect administrative costs

How to apply?

Pre-proposals should be concise and not exceed three pages in length, but must include the following information:

1. Name and type of applicant organization.
2. Purpose and background of organization.
3. Project manager contact information (name, address, telephone, email and fax).
4. Title of project and two line summary of project.
5. Project location (including a map of the project area, watershed name and congressional district).
6. Expected products and results.
7. Quantifiable/measurable benefits for estuarine and marine species or habitats at risk.
8. Project partners and their roles.
9. Community/volunteer involvement (*to date and planned*).
10. Procedure for monitoring and reporting on results.
11. Project schedule (anticipated start date, major milestones, completion date).
12. Funding requested and proposed use of funds.
13. Type and source of other contributions (and whether cash (C) or inkind (IK) and pending (P) or confirmed (Co)).

Applicants submitting Pre-Proposals determined to fit the criteria may be asked to submit Full Proposals to the Foundation for additional consideration or, in the sole discretion of the Service, they may be asked to work with the Foundation for a more expedited consideration of their respective Projects.

Pre-Proposal Deadline: September 17, 2004 by 5:00 pm

Please send Pre-Proposal by mail or overnight courier to:

**Jennifer Taylor, Grants Program Manager
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation-Pacific Northwest
806 SW Broadway, Suite 750
Portland, OR 97205**

AND by e-mail to: taylor@nfwf.org
503-417-8700 x21