



## Great Lakes Watershed Restoration Program Request for Proposals

### Applicant Eligibility:

Eligible applicants are either non-profit 501 (c) organizations, tribes, or state and local governments (i.e., counties, townships, cities, boroughs, conservation districts, planning districts, utility districts, school districts or other units of local government) from the Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, or Wisconsin portions of the Great Lakes watershed. Individuals, federal government agencies, and private for-profit firms are not eligible for grants under this program.

### Eligible Projects

To be eligible for consideration, a project must 1) be located within the Great Lakes watershed **or** 2) support the development or implementation of local watershed management plans that address the water quality and living resource needs in the Great Lakes. In addition, projects must also directly address **at least one** of the priority areas identified by the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration's Habitat/Species Strategy Team:

- Restore, enhance, and protect near shore and off shore native fish communities and other living resources, their habitats, and ecological relationships to sustain all fisheries and provide for a balanced ecosystem.
- Preserve, protect, and restore the wetlands that are vital to the survival and diversity of the living resources of the Great Lakes.
- Preserve, protect, and restore the tributaries and their watersheds that support the living resources of the Great Lakes ecosystem.
- Restore, enhance, and protect the Great Lakes shoreline and upland habitats.
- Promote individual stewardship and assist individuals, community-based organizations, businesses, local governments, and schools to undertake initiatives to achieve the above goals.

Projects that seek funding for land or easement acquisition, political advocacy, lobbying, or litigation are not eligible.

### Grant Guidelines

In making award decisions, the Foundation seeks to represent the geographic diversity and the variety of communities and organizations in the Great Lakes watershed. The following guidelines will be used by an advisory team of experts from the Great Lakes region to evaluate proposals requesting support under the Great Lakes Watershed Restoration Grants Program.

- Grants range between \$35,000 and \$100,000.

- A 1:1 match is required for this program. Matching funds must be non-federal and may be generated through contributions of funds, goods or services (including in-kind contributions) from project partners. In exceptional cases, the review committee may consider projects that have less than the required match. See application form for additional details.
- Projects should demonstrate broad partnerships, in particular demonstrating strong community and/or local government support; letters documenting the support/contributions of project partners (including local, state and federal agency partners) are strongly encouraged.
- Projects must be ready to complete within approximately eighteen months upon receipt of grant award; however, projects may be a discrete part of a multi-year planning or habitat restoration project, so long as there are definable outcomes for the proposed phase of the overall effort. The project narrative should include a clear timetable or schedule for project completion.
- Projects must be technically sound and feasible and carried out by qualified organizations. Documentation of technical assistance received or review by appropriate state and federal agencies is encouraged.
- Preference will be given to projects that 1) demonstrate measurable ecological or environmental benefits resulting from completion of the project, 2) include specific provisions for long-term management and protection, as appropriate, 3) support implementation of a local or regional habitat plan, and 4) include education, training and public outreach components to enhance the benefits of the project. Projects that only seek funding for citizen monitoring activities are less competitive than projects combining citizen monitoring with other priority activities.
- If applicable, successful applicants will be required to provide sufficient documentation that the project expects to receive or has received all necessary permits and clearances to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, and any other Federal, state or local ordinances. In addition, successful applicants may be required to develop a Quality Assurance Plan, monitoring plan, or other documentation.

### **Technical Assistance**

For assistance with questions regarding the application, contact Moira McDonald at the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation at [Moira.Mcdonald@nfwf.org](mailto:Moira.Mcdonald@nfwf.org).

### **Submission**

A complete application package should include the following:

- A completed and signed original application form;
- A proposal narrative not to exceed 7 pages (see application for details);
- A map indicating the location of the project (e.g., USGS quadrangle map);
- Letters documenting partner contributions; and
- Additional materials as appropriate (e.g., letters of support, figures, photos).

Please include one original and **two copies** of the application package. **Applications must be postmarked no later than November 15, 2005**, and should be sent to:

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
Attn: Great Lakes Watershed Restoration Grants Program  
1 Federal Drive  
Ft. Snelling, MN 55409

### **Timeline**

Applications must be postmarked: November 15, 2005

Anticipated announcement of awards: March 15, 2006

### **General Procedures for Recipients**

After project selection, Foundation staff will prepare grant agreements and other necessary paperwork. Additional information about the project as well as the grantee's organization and its finances will be solicited during this time. Please note that preparation of grant agreements will take approximately 6-10 weeks after receipt of the additional information by the Foundation. However, the Foundation will work with grant recipients on a case-by-case basis to expedite grant awards as necessary. Funds will be advanced to qualified grantees based on immediate cash needs of the project; some awards may be made on a reimbursable basis. Grantees will be expected to submit interim and final financial and programmatic reports. Grantees must also include 35mm slides or digital images that depict the accomplishments of the project made under this grant. Additional information on the grant process will be provided to successful applicants after project selection.

### **Partner Information**

For additional information on the partners involved in this program and their work in the Great Lakes see the following links:

EPA – <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/fund/glf.html>

NOAA – <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration/>

FWS – <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/greatlakes/glcoastal.htm>