Multistate Conservation Grant Program Overview

The Multistate Conservation Grant Program (MSCGP) funds projects that address the regional or national level priorities of state fish and wildlife agencies.

The MSCGP was established in 2000 by the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act, which amended the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act and the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act.

The Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) cooperatively administer the Multistate Conservation Grant Program.

The Association solicits grant applications and makes "priority list" recommendations to the USFWS, which can only fund projects from the Association's list. Once the USFWS makes its final selection, AFWA notifies the successful applicants and then manages and monitors grant awards. Each year, up to $6 million is available to fund MSCGP projects. Projects may be funded for one, two or three years on a calendar year basis.

Eligibility Requirements

- Projects must benefit sport fish, wild birds or wild mammals since the funding comes from the Sport Fish Restoration Account and the Wildlife Restoration Fund.
- Projects must benefit (a) more than 26 states; (b) a majority of the states in a region of the USFWS; or (c) a regional association of state fish and wildlife agencies.
- A project must address a National Conservation Need (NCN), which are selected each year to establish the states' funding priorities for the grant program.
- Eligible grant recipients are (a) a state or group of states; (b) a non-governmental organization; and (c) the USFWS only for the purpose of conducting the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation.
- Any non-governmental organization that applies for a grant is required to certify that grant funds will not be used to fund any activity, project or program that promotes or encourages opposition to the regulated hunting or trapping of wildlife, or to the regulated taking of fish.

Multistate Conservation Grant Cycle

At the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference, state agency directors adopt National Conservation Needs (NCN) for the annual cycle, through AFWA Committee's.

LOIs are evaluated by AFWA's National Grants Committee, which will invite selected LOI applicants to submit a full proposal. Applicants will be notified in late June whether they are invited to submit a proposal. Full proposals will be due in early August for final selection at AFWA's Annual Meeting in September.