

# SECTION XII SOURCES FOR CONNECTIVITY RESOLUTION



Potential funding and sources for connectivity resolution opportunities are provided in this section that may be used for projects. For each prospective source, an overview is given that has been copied directly from its website, which is also included. Some of these funds or incentives may not historically been used for connectivity specifically, but because the funds or incentives provide for either land acquisition or habitat conservation, connectivity should not necessarily be precluded, as long as all other requirements are met. These are listed as "potential" funding sources and should be further investigated to identify whether a particular activity qualifies and meets all legal requirements.

While laws and regulations are important, they alone are insufficient to affect the conservation and restoration necessary to accomplish our environmental goals because they tend to focus on prohibiting degradation rather than promoting better land stewardship. Conservation of farms, ranches and private forestlands often takes money and requires expertise to write management plans that most landowners don't possess. Thus, a combination of funding and educational assistance is needed to make progress protecting America's most vital resources: land, water and a diversity of life. This is where conservation programs fit in.

Conservation incentives have proven to be a critical and effective tool in enabling landowners to become better stewards of their lands. These programs and agreements -- all voluntary -- can take the form of financial payments for conservation activities, technical assistance from conservation experts, agreements that remove disincentives (such as the fear of additional regulation when a landowner commits to habitat restoration), or other forms.

<http://environmentaldefense.org/page.cfm?tagID=126&campaign=cci>

## Acres for America

<http://www.nfwf.org/programs/acresforamerica/>

Created in 2005, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation with founding partner Wal-Mart, "Acres for America" is a groundbreaking program to conserve the nation's critical wildlife habitat for future generations. As one of the largest ever public-private partnerships, it sets a bold new model for conservation in the United States.

Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. has committed \$35 million over 10 years to permanently conserve at least one acre of priority wildlife habitat for every developed acre of Wal-Mart Stores' current footprint, as well as the company's future development throughout the 10-year commitment - an expected total of 138,000 acres. By the end of 2006, the Acres for America program will permanently conserve more than 360,000 acres, helping connect conservation landscapes totaling nearly 4 million acres.

## Arizona Game and Fish Commission Heritage Fund Title 17 Chapter 2 Article 6

<http://www.azleg.state.az.us/ArizonaRevisedStatutes.asp?Title=17>

and

[http://www.gf.state.az.us/w\\_c/heritage\\_program.shtml](http://www.gf.state.az.us/w_c/heritage_program.shtml)

[17-298. Expenditures from fund; purpose and amounts; annual report](#)

A. Five per cent of the monies received pursuant to section 5-522 shall be spent on public access, including maintenance and operation expenses.

B. Sixty per cent of the monies received pursuant to section 5-522 shall be spent on the identification, inventory, acquisition, protection and management, including maintenance and operations, of sensitive habitat. At least forty per cent of the monies available under this subsection shall be spent on the acquisition of sensitive habitat utilized by endangered, threatened and candidate species. The commission may dispose of any lands acquired for use as habitat by an endangered, threatened or candidate species under this subsection when the species no longer qualifies as an endangered, threatened or candidate species. The Arizona game and fish commission shall dispose of the land in a manner consistent with the preservation of the species of concern. The disposal may include conservation easements and fee simple transfers with associated instruments of protection. The commission shall follow the guidelines established pursuant to section 37-803 relating to the disposition of real property by a state agency. In addition, disposal shall include a written agreement between the commission and the purchaser requiring the purchaser to incorporate management actions to ensure proper maintenance of the species of concern. Management actions may include maintenance of habitat, selective control of nonnative species, maintenance of genetic viability, monitoring of populations and habitat, coordinating conservation activities, funding conservation actions and assessing conservation progress.

C. Fifteen per cent of the monies received pursuant to section 5-522 shall be spent on habitat evaluation or habitat protection.

D. Fifteen per cent of the monies received pursuant to section 5-522 shall be spent on urban wildlife and urban wildlife habitat programs.

E. Five per cent of the monies received pursuant to section 5-522 shall be spent on environmental education.

F. All monies earned as interest on monies received pursuant to section 5-522 shall be spent only in the percentages and for the purposes described in subsections A through E of this section or for costs of administering the Arizona game and fish commission heritage fund in such amounts as determined by the Arizona game and fish commission.



The Arizona Game and Fish Commission administers the fund for the conservation of sensitive wildlife and sensitive wildlife habitat. The following sub-programs comprise the Heritage Fund Grant Program:

#### **IIAPM - (Identification, Inventory, Acquisition, Protection and Management of Sensitive Habitats)**

"Habitat protection" means the process of protecting the quality, diversity, abundance, and serviceability of habitats for the purposes of maintaining or recovering populations of Arizona wildlife.(ARS17-296.9)

"Sensitive habitat" means the specific areas within the geographical area historically or currently occupied by a species or community of species in which are found those physical or biological features essential to the establishment or continued existence of the species and which may require special management, conservation or protection considerations.(ARS17-296.2)

Fund Description - Funds will be available under the Heritage IIAPM grant funding source for projects that will preserve and enhance Arizona's natural biological diversity. The funding focus is directed annually toward species and habitat objectives that will give the greatest return for the Heritage funds invested.

#### **Environmental Education**

"Environmental education" means educational programs dealing with basic ecological principles and the effects of natural and man related processes on natural and urban systems and programs to enhance public awareness of the importance of safeguarding natural resources.(ARS17-296.7)

Fund Description - Funds will be available under the Environmental Education grant fund for projects that develop awareness, appreciation and understanding of Arizona's wildlife and its environment and to increase responsible actions toward wildlife and their habitat. Project proposals should request a minimum of \$1,000.00 and a maximum of \$10,000.00.

#### **Schoolyard Grants**

Fund Description - Funds will be available under the Schoolyard Habitat Program for projects that encourage wildlife education on school sites through the development or enhancement of urban wildlife habitats. Project proposals should request a minimum of \$1,000.00 and a maximum of \$10,000.00.

#### **Urban Wildlife and Urban Habitat**

"Urban wildlife" means the wildlife that occurs within the limits of an

incorporated area or in close proximity to an urban area that receives significant impact from human use.(ARS17-296.6)

Fund Description - Funds will be available under the Urban Wildlife/Urban Wildlife Habitat grant funding source for projects that conserve, enhance and establish wildlife habitats and populations in harmony with urban environments, and that increase public awareness of and support for urban wildlife resources.

#### **Public Access**

"Public access" means providing entry to publicly held lands for recreational use where such entry is consistent with the provisions establishing those lands.(ARS17-296.1)

Fund Description - Funds will be available under the Heritage Public Access grant fund to increase, maintain or reduce public access as needed, for recreational use in cooperation with Federal land managers, local and State governments, private landowners and public users.

## **Arizona Growing Smarter Grant Program**

<http://www.azparks.gov/partnerships/growingsmarter/growing.html>

Currently, the Growing Smarter Grant Programs are on hold.

The Growing Smarter Act consists of a number of statutory changes designed, "to further the best interests of our citizens by protecting our natural heritage and wisely managing the growth of our communities." The Growing Smarter Grants programs, administered by Arizona State Parks with monies from the state Land Conservation Fund, were established through this act.

Proposition 303, passed by Arizona voters in November, 1998, provides \$20 million per year for eleven years, beginning in state fiscal year 2001, to award grants for the acquisition of State Trust Lands. The goal of these grants is "to conserve open spaces in or near urban areas and other areas experiencing high growth pressures." Conservation may occur through permanent or temporary acquisitions, such as leases of up to 50 years in length, purchases of a parcel's development rights, or "fee simple" purchase of a parcel. Grants may be made by the Arizona State Parks Board for up to 50% of the appraised value of a land parcel. Eligible applicants defined in state law are:

1. State Agencies;
2. Political Subdivisions of the State, defined per A.R.S. § 38-431, and including without limitation all:
  - o Counties,
  - o Incorporated Cities or Towns,
  - o School Districts,
  - o Special Districts; and
3. Non-Profit organizations that are exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code and that have the purpose of preserving open space.

Lands eligible for acquisition through this program are defined in statute and this process is handled by the Arizona State Land Department (ASLD), as authorized by the Arizona Preserve Initiative. On petition, the State Land Commissioner may reclassify lands as suitable for conservation. Once reclassified, the lands may be acquired from the ASLD at public auction.

The Growing Smarter Act also authorizes the Arizona State Parks Board to award grants, that do not require matching funds, "to individual landowners or grazing or agricultural lessees of state or federal land who contract with the Parks Board to implement conservation-based management alternatives using livestock or crop production practices, or reduce livestock or crop production, to provide wildlife habitat or other public benefits that preserve open space." The amount of grants for this purpose may not exceed 10% of the monies in the Public Conservation Account in any fiscal year. As of September 2003, the administration of this program is conducted by the Arizona Department of Agriculture.

The Growing Smarter Act established the Conservation Acquisition Board (CAB) to oversee these grant programs by soliciting donations, consulting with entities such as private land trusts, state land lessees, the Arizona State Land Department, the Arizona State Parks Board and other to identify conservation areas that are reclassified pursuant to A.R.S. § 37-312, and recommending to the Arizona State Parks Board appropriate grants from the land conservation fund.



## Arizona Wildlife Conservation Fund Title 17 Chapter 2 Article 7

<http://www.azleg.state.az.us/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/ars/17/00299.htm&Title=17&DocType=ARS>

17-299. [Arizona wildlife conservation fund](#)

(Caution: 1998 Prop. 105 applies)

A. The Arizona wildlife conservation fund is established consisting of monies deposited pursuant to section 5-601.02(H)(3)(b)(iii) and interest earned on those monies. The Arizona state game and fish commission shall administer the fund. The fund is not subject to appropriation, and expenditures from the fund are not subject to outside approval notwithstanding any provision of sections 17-241 or 17-261 or any other statutory provisions to the contrary.

B. Monies received pursuant to section 5-601.02 shall be deposited directly with the Arizona wildlife conservation fund. On notice from the Arizona state game and fish commission, the state treasurer shall invest and divest monies in the fund as provided by section 35-313, and monies earned from investment shall be credited to the fund. No monies in the Arizona wildlife conservation fund shall revert to or be deposited in any other fund, including the state general fund. Monies in the Arizona wildlife conservation fund are exempt from the provisions of section 35-190 relating to the lapsing of appropriations. Monies provided from the Arizona wildlife conservation fund shall supplement, not supplant, existing monies.

C. All monies in the Arizona wildlife conservation fund shall be spent by the Arizona state game and fish commission to conserve, enhance, and restore Arizona's diverse wildlife resources and habitats for present and future generations, and which may include the acquisition of real property. The commission may grant monies to any agency of the state or any political subdivision, Indian tribe, or non-profit organization exempt from federal income taxation under section 501(c) of the internal revenue code for the purpose of conservation of wildlife or wildlife habitat or acquisition of real property or interest in real property that is wildlife habitat. A grant of money under this subsection to a nonprofit organization is conditioned on the organization providing reasonable public access to any land that is wholly or partly purchased with that money.

## Arizona Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation

<http://www.reptilesfaz.com/h-about.html>

AZ PARC is a State Working Group within the Southwest Regional Working Group of Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC), which is a national-level, multi-sector partnership dedicated to the conservation of reptiles and amphibians and their habitats.

The key to PARC's success will be the inclusion of all individuals, organizations, and agencies with an interest in amphibian and reptile conservation. The great potential of PARC was demonstrated at the first PARC organizational meeting, attended by more than 200 individuals from over 170 organizations and agencies, including representatives from federal and state agencies, conservation organizations, museums, nature centers, universities, research laboratories, the forest products industry, the pet trade industry, and environmental consultants and contractors. Attendance included participants from 33 states, the District of Columbia, Canada, and Mexico. The Atlanta meeting has been called the "most significant meeting on the conservation of reptiles and amphibians ever held." PARC is not a funding organization or a policy maker. PARC will increase communication and cooperation among many diverse groups who are interested in the conservation of reptiles and amphibians. PARC will enable each and every person and group involved to become more aware of national and regional issues confronting amphibians and reptiles. PARC also will give individuals a better idea of how their agency or organization can contribute to conservation of herpetofauna and their habitats. The diversity of participants makes PARC the most comprehensive conservation effort ever undertaken for amphibians and reptiles.

## Arizona Water Protection Fund

<http://www.awpf.state.az.us/>

The Arizona Water Protection Fund was established in 1994 by the Arizona Legislature, along with the Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission to administer the expenditure of monies. The purpose of the Fund is to provide monies for the development and implementation of measures to protect water of sufficient quality and quantity to maintain, enhance and restore rivers and streams and associated riparian habitats. This also includes fish

and wildlife resources that are dependent on these important habitats.

The Fund, which is administered by the director of ADWR and the State Land Commissioner, is earmarked for supporting projects that will enhance riparian areas. The authorizing legislation calls for "a coordinated effort for the restoration and conservation of the water resources of this state. This policy is designed to allow the people of this state to prosper while protecting and restoring this state's rivers and streams and associated riparian habitats, including fish and wildlife resources that are dependent on these important habitats." The legislation that created the Arizona Water Protection Fund falls within Chapter 12 of Title 45 of the Arizona Revised Statutes.

Grants from the Fund may be used to:

- develop and implement capital projects or specific measures to maintain, enhance and restore rivers and streams and associated riparian resources.
- acquire CAP water or effluent for the purpose of protecting or restoring rivers and streams.
- develop, promote and implement water conservation programs outside of the five active management areas.
- support research and data collection, compilation and analysis.

Man-made water resource projects may be funded, if the project benefits a river or stream and creates or restores riparian habitat.

## Bring Back the Natives: A Public-Private Partnership for Restoring Populations of Native Aquatic Species

<http://www.nfwf.org/programs/bbn.cfm>

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S.D.A. Forest Service, and Trout Unlimited (TU), is pleased to request pre-proposals from nonprofit organizations, universities, Native American tribes, and local, state, and federal agencies interested in restoring native populations of sensitive or listed aquatic species. Funding for the BBN program is administered through NFWF from federal agencies cooperating to support this program. This funding requires a \$2 non-federal match for each federal dollar requested by applicants. Since 1991, BBN



has supported 244 projects and benefited over 120 species, 29 of which are federally listed as threatened or endangered.

The BBN program seeks projects that initiate partnerships with private landowners, demonstrate successful collaborative efforts, address watershed health issues that would lead to restoring habitats and are key to restoring native aquatic species and their migration corridors, promote stewardship on private lands, and that can demonstrate a 2:1 non-federal to federal match.

The Bring Back the Natives initiative (BBN) funds on-the-ground efforts to restore native aquatic species to their historic range. Projects should involve partnerships between communities, agencies, private landowners, and organizations that seek to rehabilitate streamside and watershed habitats. Projects should focus on habitat needs of species such as fish, invertebrates, and amphibians that originally inhabited the waterways across the country. Special emphasis is placed on cutthroat trout restoration with specific preference given to projects that will protect or re-establish migration corridors between breeding populations such as Lahontan cutthroat trout and Yellowstone cutthroat trout. Other eligible species include bull trout, redband trout, Apache trout, steelhead trout, desert pupfish, Pacific tree frog, and several species of salamanders and salmon, that are keystone or indicator species of the health of aquatic communities. Preference will also be given to support projects that will keep sensitive or declining species off of the Endangered Species List, or for listed species that have a chance for recovery and de-listing within five to ten years.

The BBN program will award between 12-15 matching grants annually evaluated on a national competitive basis by a BBN Review Committee. The average grant size is about \$60,000 and can support direct project-related salaries, contractual services and materials needed for on-the-ground restoration.

## Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances

<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/candidates/ccaahandbook.html>

Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances (CCAA) give non-federal landowners regulatory (not financial) incentives. In return for voluntary land management to benefit wildlife that is declining (but not under Endangered Species Act protection), the landowner receives future regulatory certainty. If a species covered by a CCAA

is later listed, the landowner enrolled in that agreement has no legal obligations beyond what he or she committed to do in the CCAA.

The ultimate goal of a CCAA is to eliminate the need to list a plant or animal. These agreements cover candidate species, which are declining plants or animals that the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has identified as likely needing threatened or endangered status in the future. Other at-risk plants and animals are also eligible. CCAAs are formal agreements between U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and one or more other parties. As of March 2005, landowners were helping 24 species under 10 CCAAs, with other agreements under development.

Under a CCAA a landowner may commit to any of several possible management actions, such as creating or restoring habitat for declining wildlife, providing habitat for reintroduction of wildlife or establishing buffers for areas that protect rare species.

## Conservation Innovation Grants

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/cig/>

Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) is a voluntary program intended to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies while leveraging Federal investment in environmental enhancement and protection, in conjunction with agricultural production. Under CIG, Environmental Quality Incentives Program funds are used to award competitive grants to non-Federal governmental or non-governmental organizations, Tribes, or individuals. CIG enables the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to work with other public and private entities to accelerate technology transfer and adoption of promising technologies and approaches to address some of the Nation's most pressing natural resource concerns. CIG will benefit agricultural producers by providing more options for environmental enhancement and compliance with Federal, State, and local regulations. NRCS administers CIG.

## Conservation Reserve Program

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/crp/>

or

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=copr&topic=crp>

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) provides technical and financial assistance to eligible farmers and ranchers to address soil, water, and related natural resource concerns on their lands in an environmentally beneficial and cost-effective manner. The program provides assistance to farmers and ranchers in complying with Federal, State, and tribal environmental laws, and encourages environmental enhancement. The program is funded through the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC). CRP is administered by the Farm Service Agency, with NRCS providing technical land eligibility determinations, conservation planning and practice implementation. The Conservation Reserve Program reduces soil erosion, protects the Nation's ability to produce food and fiber, reduces sedimentation in streams and lakes, improves water quality, establishes wildlife habitat, and enhances forest and wetland resources. It encourages farmers to convert highly erodible cropland or other environmentally sensitive acreage to vegetative cover, such as tame or native grasses, wildlife plantings, trees, filterstrips, or riparian buffers. Farmers receive an annual rental payment for the term of the multi-year contract. Cost sharing is provided to establish the vegetative cover practices.

## Conservation Banking

Conservation Banking is a tool similar to wetland mitigation banking in which credits are accumulated and marketed for the benefit of preserving or restoring large contiguous areas of land. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 requires mitigation in accordance with CFR 40 § 1508.20:

"Mitigation" includes:

- a) avoiding the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action
- b) minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation.
- c) rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment.
- d) reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action.



- e) compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.

The NEPA mitigation requirement represent an ordered approach known as "sequencing" and involves understanding the affected environment and assessing transportation effects throughout project development. Effective mitigation starts at the beginning of the NEPA process, not at the end. Mitigation must be included as an integral part of the alternatives development and analysis process. (FHWA, <http://environment.fhwa.dot.gov/projdev/tdmmitig2.htm>)

Conservation banking is a way landowners can make money by helping endangered species. When a conservation bank is established, a landowner who conserves habitat for a federally listed species is making a "deposit" in the conservation bank and receives "credits." Another landowner who wants to develop habitat of the same species purchases a credit from the conservation bank. The money goes to the first landowner, and the second landowner who purchased the credit is allowed to develop his or her land. The listed species gains permanently protected, secure habitat managed for its benefit.

Also known as "mitigation banking," conservation banking began in California. Though still in its infancy, this conservation tool is being used by several non-federal landowners, including state agencies and businesses, to avoid conflicts between the needs of landowners and those of endangered species.

In addition, traditional on-site mitigation, although a beneficial tool to conserve habitat has its disadvantages. Mitigation areas are chosen ad-hoc or may be divided into smaller more manageable projects, rather than as part of a large-scale planning effort, of which both scenarios are rarely effective for the environment and can prove to be costly (Second Nature). Mitigation Banking evolved as a tool that allows for large, contiguous land areas to be created or restored. As a result, mitigation credits are earned and can be marketed to those entities that have mitigation requirements associated with their projects. Private investors can establish banks and anticipate future demands for compensatory mitigation. Therefore consolidation of mitigation measures can occur at one site representing widely dispersed activities (Second Nature).

Where mitigation banking was specifically created for wetland mitigation, conservation banking is now being applied to habitats other than wetlands (Second Nature). Conservation banking is similar to wetland banking in that wide areas of contiguous land may be preserved. Besides providing for the conservation of important habitats and/or linkages, they also provide an opportunity to

incorporate a mitigation project into a larger landscape-scale planning effort. Conservation banking has other benefits including: taking advantage of economies of scale; providing significant incentives for private landowner participation, representing an example of effective private/public partnerships; creating a funding opportunity for the creation of an ecosystem preserve under a regional conservation plan; simplifying the regulatory compliance process while achieving greater conservation goals (State of California's Official Policy on Conservation Banks, April 7, 1995).

## Conservation Security Program

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp/>

The Conservation Security Program (CSP) rewards farmers and ranchers who conserve and enhance natural resources on working agricultural lands. Designed to be very different from other agricultural conservation programs, CSP has great potential for environmental progress.

CSP stands out in three main ways. First, while Congress later imposed funding limitations on the program, it was designed as an entitlement program without a specific budget limit. Second, it marks the first time a Farm Bill program has rewarded farmers and ranchers who have already established their own high standards for environmental performance. So, for instance, landowners already strip-cropping (which protects soil against erosion and helps keep sediment and farm chemicals out of watersheds) could receive payments. Finally, CSP is very broad -- it can address nearly any environmental issue related to land management on any type of farm or ranch in any state.

## Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (Section 6) Grants to States and Territories

<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/grants/section6/index.html>

Grants offered through the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (authorized under [section 6 of the Endangered Species Act](#)) fund participation in a wide array of voluntary conservation projects for candidate, proposed and listed species. These funds may in turn be awarded to private landowners and

groups for conservation projects. Catalog of Domestic Federal Assistance Number 15.615.

This table shows the different grant programs funded through the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund. Applicants must be States or Territories that have entered into cooperative agreements with the Service for endangered and threatened species conservation.

Grant Program	Purpose	Species Benefiting
Conservation Grants	implementation of conservation projects	federally listed threatened or endangered species
Recovery Land Acquisition	acquisition of habitat in support of approved recovery goals or objectives	federally listed threatened or endangered species
Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance	support development of Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs)	federally listed threatened or endangered species, proposed and candidate species, and unlisted species proposed to be covered by the HCP**
Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Land Acquisition	acquisition of land associated with approved HCPs	federally listed threatened or endangered species, unlisted (including State-listed species), proposed and candidate species covered by the HCP**

\*As required under Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act, grants to States and Territories must include a minimum contribution by the project's non-Federal partners. These contributions can be in-kind, through staff time or use of non-Federal equipment, or financial assistance.

\*\*A species covered by the HCP is any species (listed or unlisted) that is included in the section 10(a)(1)(B) permit, thus receiving incidental take authorization.





## Doris Duke Charitable Foundation

<http://www.ddcf.org/>

The mission of the Environmental Program is to preserve wildlife in the United States, both flora and fauna, by accelerating the conservation of essential habitats.

The Environmental Program seek to accomplish its mission through three strategic initiatives:

- ❖ *Identify Critical Lands* – This initiative supports states efforts to develop and implement wildlife action plans that identify priority lands for habitat conservation.
- ❖ *Implement Land Protection* – This initiative supports the protection of priority areas identified in state wildlife action plans, the development of new sources of conservation funding, and the integration of state wildlife action plans into local, regional and notional planning efforts.
- ❖ *Build Conservation Knowledge* – This initiative supports training, research and education initiatives that advance the Environmental Program's mission.

As of December 31, 2005, the Environmental Program has approved approximately 101 grants totaling more than \$123 million. The foundation's grantees, in turn, have leveraged roughly \$557 million in public and private conservation funding to protect more than 1.4 million acres of habitat.

## Environmental Quality Incentives Program

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/>

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) offers agricultural producers financial, educational and technical assistance for conservation practices, such as better managing manure and poultry litter, reducing fertilizer and pesticide use or creating habitat for at-risk species.

EQIP is one of the largest landowner incentive programs with an annual budget of approximately \$1 billion. Administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), EQIP pays up to 75% of project costs and up to 90% for limited resource and beginner farmers. It designates 60% of program funds to help farmers address natural resource issues related to animal agriculture. EQIP funding can also be used to underwrite activities on rangeland, cropland and forestland.

EQIP activities, carried out according to a locally developed conservation plan, are site-specific for each farm or ranch. The allocation of EQIP funding is heavily influenced by NRCS's state offices and by state technical committees that advise NRCS staff in every state.

## Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/frpp/>

The Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program (FRPP) provides federal matching funds for purchasing development rights to keep farms and ranches up and running. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) joins with state, tribal or local governments (and sometimes non-governmental efforts) to prevent agricultural land from being converted to non-agricultural uses. USDA provides up to 50 percent of the fair market easement value. Between 2002-2004 FRPP helped protect 300,000 acres of land.

FRPP gives farmers and ranchers a real choice between agriculture and urban development. As each acre of farm and ranchland is lost, rivers lose their ability to support life, air quality declines, wildlife

habitat is fragmented, and a major source of fresh produce and dairy products is threatened. Once land is converted, the cost of environmental improvements increases dramatically. Buying development rights from farmers in the path of sprawl is among the most cost-effective ways to preserve high quality farmland and provide safe food supplies to nearby communities.

Participating landowners choose to keep their land in agriculture and agree not to convert the land for nonagricultural use. Farmers retain all rights to use the property for agriculture.

NRCS distributes FRPP funds to states in block grants based on an analysis of state farmland protection plans submitted by each state to NRCS headquarters. These plans are developed by the State Conservationist working with the State Technical Committee. The state NRCS office then accepts applications and distribute the FRPP funds it received.

## FishAmerica Foundation

<http://www.fishamerica.org/>

The FishAmerica Foundation unites the sport fishing industry with conservation groups, government natural resource agencies, corporations, and charitable foundations to invest in fish and habitat conservation and research across the country.

We support fisheries conservation and research in the best way by providing matching grants that empower citizen conservationists in their own communities.

Our grants are an important part of broader efforts to conserve the outdoors and ensure millions of Americans will be able to enjoy fishing in the future.



## Fish and Wildlife Habitat Improvement Grants

[http://www.az.nrcs.usda.gov/news/releases/fish\\_wildlife\\_grants.html](http://www.az.nrcs.usda.gov/news/releases/fish_wildlife_grants.html)

These are competitive grants to develop and evaluate technological tools for fish and wildlife habitat improvements. This grant competition provides an opportunity to enhance critical fish and wildlife habitat on private agricultural lands. With most of the nation's nearly 1.4 billion acres of privately owned land involved in agriculture, these grants underscores the importance of cooperative conservation efforts to enriching fish and wildlife habitat. An announcement of funding is available on the federal e-Grants Web site at <http://grants.gov>.

Individual grants will range from \$10,000 to \$200,000. Selected applicants may receive up to 50 percent of the project cost. Applicants must provide nonfederal matching funds for at least 50 percent of the project cost, up to half of which may come from in-kind contributions. An exception allows for limited resource and beginning farmers and ranchers, tribes, and community-based organizations representing these groups to obtain up to 75 percent of project matching funds from in-kind contributions.

NRCS will distribute the funds through a national competitive process. These fiscal year funds will come from NRCS' existing conservation operations budget. Potential applicants include state and local governments; federally recognized tribes; and non-governmental organizations, including colleges and universities. In their project proposals, applicants will be asked how they will develop, test, implement and transfer innovative solutions that benefit fish and wildlife on cropland, grassland, forestland, rangeland, riparian areas, wetlands, streams, rivers, vernal pools and areas where farmland and urban land meet.

Projects can be single- or multi-purpose and can run from one to three years. They must address the following natural resource concerns on working agricultural land:

- effects of buffers, field borders and riparian areas on fish and wildlife;
- improvements to wetland restoration and management practices;
- grassland establishment and management for wildlife;

- evaluation of fisheries habitat, stream restoration and management;
- use of electronic technology, including Geographic Information Systems, to measure fish and wildlife response to conservation practices; and;
- improvements of fish and wildlife management systems for limited resource and beginning farmers and ranchers and Native American tribes.

## Five-Star Restoration Matching Grants Program

<http://www.nfwf.org/programs/5star-rfp.cfm>

The National Association of Counties, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the Wildlife Habitat Council, in cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and our newest partner, Southern Company, are pleased to solicit applications for the Five-Star Restoration Matching Grants Program. The Five-Star Restoration Program provides modest financial assistance on a competitive basis to support community-based wetland, riparian, and coastal habitat restoration projects that build diverse partnerships and foster local natural resource stewardship through education, outreach and training activities.

The President's Wetlands Initiative calls for collaborative approaches by federal, state, tribal, and local governments, the private sector, and the public to restore, improve, and protect 3 million acres of wetlands by 2009. Wetlands help our communities protect themselves against devastating floods, improve local water quality and provide critical wildlife habitat. The Five-Star Restoration Program contributes to the achievement of one of several initiatives undertaken to help meet the President's wetlands restoration goal.



## Grassland Reserve Program

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/PROGRAMS/GRP/>

The Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) is a voluntary program offering landowners the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance grasslands on their property. Section 2401 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-171) amended the Food Security Act of 1985 to authorize this program. The Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency and Forest Service are coordinating implementation of GRP, which helps landowners restore and protect grassland, rangeland, pastureland, shrubland and certain other lands and provides assistance for rehabilitating grasslands. The program will conserve vulnerable grasslands from conversion to cropland or other uses and conserve valuable grasslands by helping maintain viable ranching operations. The GRP offers landowners the opportunity to protect, restore and enhance grasslands on their property through long-term and permanent easements and shorter-term rental agreements. The GRP is a working-lands conservation program; grazing on enrolled lands is allowed as long as it is done in a manner consistent with the program's conservation objectives.

Landowners may enroll larger grassland parcels (generally, 40 contiguous acres or more) in the program through:

- 10-, 15- or 20-year rental agreements or
- 30-year or permanent easements.

Both existing grasslands and former grasslands that could be restored to provide habitat for animal or plant species of significant ecological value are eligible. In selecting offers of land for the GRP, U.S. Department of Agriculture must consider three factors: (1) support for grazing operations; (2) biodiversity; and (3) grassland under the greatest threat of conversion to other uses -- including conversion to cropland as well as development. USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) share administration of the GRP.

Grasslands make up the largest land cover on America's private lands. Privately-owned grasslands and shrublands cover more than 525 million acres in the United States. For the first time, the U.S. Department of Agriculture will direct financial resources and technical expertise to help landowners protect and restore these lands.



## Healthy Forests Reserve Program

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/PROGRAMS/HFRP/ProgInfo/Index.html>

The Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP) is a voluntary program established for the purpose of restoring and enhancing forest ecosystems to: 1) promote the recovery of threatened and endangered species, 2) improve biodiversity; and 3) enhance carbon sequestration.

## Land and Water Conservation Fund

<http://www.azparks.gov/partnerships/grants/lwcfgrantinfo.html>  
<http://www.nps.gov/lwcf/>

The LWCF program provides matching grants to States and local governments for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. The program is intended to create and maintain a nationwide legacy of high quality recreation areas and facilities and to stimulate non-federal investments in the protection and maintenance of recreation resources across the United States.

In 1965, Congress created the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) to preserve habitat, assure that all Americans have access to quality outdoor recreation, and strengthen the health and vitality of all Americans. It was a simple idea, a "pay as you go" program using revenues from resource use to support the creation of parks, forests, clean water, open spaces, guarantee outdoor opportunities, and a clean environment for the nation.

In the 30 years since its creation, LWCF has been responsible for the acquisition of nearly seven million acres of park land, open space, and the development of more than 37,000 parks and recreation projects. From playgrounds and ball fields to national historical sites, scenic trails, and nature preserves, LWCF has been the key to providing places for all Americans to recreate, relax, and get outdoors. Until 1980, allocations from the fund closely matched annual revenues.

LWCF is authorized by Congress to receive \$900 million each year. However, since the early 1980's, the funds have nearly been zeroed out. In 1996, LWCF hit an all time low when less than 15% of the fund was used for its intended purpose. So, in 1997, Americans for Our Heritage and Recreation (AHR) and its coalition partners fought

to revitalize LWCF, successfully funding the federal side of the program at its highest level in two decades.

AHR and Arizona State Parks are committed to revitalizing LWCF--to renew and strengthen our nation's investments in places that conserve our natural and cultural heritage and provide recreational opportunities for all Americans.

## Landowner Incentive Program

[http://www.doi.gov/initiatives/landowner\\_incentive\\_program.html](http://www.doi.gov/initiatives/landowner_incentive_program.html)

Through the Landowner Incentive Program (LIP), the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service provides funding to state wildlife agencies to staff and fund their own individual programs to help private landowners create and improve wildlife habitat for endangered, threatened, candidate and other at-risk species. Once state wildlife agencies receive funding to operate a program, they are able to provide grants to private landowners to restore, enhance or manage rare species habitat on private land.

Working with private landowners to enhance the protections available for imperiled species has been a priority for this Administration. To meet that goal, the Department initiated a partnership grant program to assist private landowners in working to conserve and restore the habitat of endangered species and other at-risk plants and animals.

These cost share grants, support innovative partnerships across the United States. To be eligible, state fish and wildlife agencies, landowners, or non-profit groups must put up at least 25 percent of the cost of projects.

The Landowner Incentive Program supports the Administration's overall Cooperative Conservation Initiative, which includes a number of conservation grant programs to assist states, Tribes, conservation organizations, private landowners and others in conservation projects and programs.



Trisha White, Defenders of Wildlife

## Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation

<http://www.leonardodicaprio.org/aboutus/index.htm>

Established in 1998, the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation has actively fostered awareness of environmental issues through participation with such organizations as Natural Resources Defense Council, Global Green, USA, the International Fund For Animal Welfare, and National Geographic Kids, to name a few.

In order to reach, inform, and entertain a wider global audience about these issues, the environmental website [www.leonardodicaprio.org](http://www.leonardodicaprio.org) was created.

The Foundation places particular emphasis on the issues of global warming, alternative and renewable energy sources, and the preservation of the planet's amazing biodiversity.

To this end, it supported the efforts made by the Dian Fossey Foundation, Reef Check, Oceana, Santa Monica's Heal The Bay, and the U'wa Defense Project.

TreePeople and the Foundation, along with Tree Muskateers joined forces to promote the incorporation of trees into urban neighborhoods and also to help reforest the decimated Southern California mountains.

Environment Now honored the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation with its prestigious Martin Litton Environmental Warrior Award in 2001.





## Local, Regional and State Parks Heritage Fund and Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Programs

[http://www.azparks.gov/partnerships/grants/lrsp\\_lwcf.html](http://www.azparks.gov/partnerships/grants/lrsp_lwcf.html)

The Local, Regional and State Parks (LRSP) Heritage Fund and the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grant Programs provide funding assistance to cities, towns, counties and tribal governments for outdoor recreation and open space projects. Revenue for the LRSP program is derived from the Arizona Lottery. Annually, the Arizona State Parks Board receives up to \$3.5 million from the Lottery. The LWCF grant program comes from the National Park Service, which provides approximately \$1.5 million each year for this program. Both of these grant programs are administered by the Arizona State Parks Board through the Grants Section.

## More Fish Partnership Fund

[http://www.nfwf.org/programs/morefish/partnership\\_fund\\_rfp.cfm](http://www.nfwf.org/programs/morefish/partnership_fund_rfp.cfm)

The 47-state B.A.S.S. Federation Nation and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (Foundation) announced a new partnership to reach out and build the capacity of the B.A.S.S. Federation Nation in on-the-ground implementation of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan.

The Foundation and BASS, through its State Federation Nation Program, are launching a grant program called the More Fish Partnership Fund. BASS Clubs and other community organizations are eligible to apply for funding for community-based aquatic restoration projects that involve volunteers, youth, and other anglers. The goal is to improve awareness about aquatic resources by supporting both grassroots capacity building (define) and habitat conservation projects.

Under this program, small grants of between \$10,000 and \$30,000, and leadership grants of up to \$100,000 will be awarded competitively by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Proposed activities eligible for funding will include aquatic habitat restoration

and protection, water quality improvement, aquatic vegetation management, landowner outreach and stewardship training, and watershed planning and management. The program will provide a significant opportunity to demonstrate on-the-ground commitment to improving conditions for fisheries nationwide. Priority will be given to projects that directly implement the recommendations of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan and/or state wildlife action plans. Matching funds will be required on a 1:1 basis or higher. The Foundation will review proposals submitted by the November 1, 2006 deadline, and will announce and award the first grants at the CITGO Bassmaster Classic at Lay Lake in Birmingham, Alabama, in February 2007. More details can be found on the Foundation's website at [www.nfwf.org](http://www.nfwf.org) as well as on the B.A.S.S. website at [www.bassmaster.com/federation](http://www.bassmaster.com/federation).

The National Fish Habitat Action Plan, developed through a collaborative effort by agencies and organizations and approved in April 2006 by the Secretaries of Interior and Commerce, is a call for action to improve degraded fish habitat nationwide. The plan promotes local and regional partnerships and cooperative actions by engaging local conservation groups and implementing on-the-ground projects to reverse the decline of habitat quality and increase conservation of healthy fish populations.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation launched the More Fish Campaign in 2006 to attract partners and funding in support of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. The joint public/private More Fish Partnership Fund is one of the first important vehicles through which federal and state agencies, foundations, individual donors, and corporations can provide financial support to projects aimed at fulfilling priority conservation objectives for sport fish habitat restoration with conservation-minded organizations like the B.A.S.S. Federation Nation. The B.A.S.S. Conservation program and the B.A.S.S. Federation Nation organizations have been National Fish Habitat Action Plan partners since its inception.

The Foundation's Executive Director, Jeff Trandahl said, "As anglers and conservationists, we cannot stand by and accept the dramatic loss of our fish populations. Our nation's top biologists from state and federal agencies have developed a non-regulatory, science-based action plan to reverse the declines seen across the country. The B.A.S.S. Federation Nation and the Foundation will reach out to anglers, industry, and conservation groups to join us in achieving the goals of this plan."

"BASS and the B.A.S.S. Federation Nation conservation programs view this partnership as an opportunity to identify and implement grassroots fish habitat programs on a variety of levels. As avid

anglers, B.A.S.S. Federation Nation members are acutely aware of the need for restoration and conservation of declining reservoirs and other aquatic habitats," said Noreen Clough, BASS Conservation Director.

The goals of the More Fish Partnership Fund are to:

- Fund aquatic habitat restoration and protection projects that have a substantial benefit to aquatic resource health and are consistent with the local watershed, reservoir or lake management plans, water quality improvement, aquatic vegetation management, landowner outreach and stewardship training, and watershed, reservoir or lake management (where applicable)
- Engage landowners, business owners, B.A.S.S. Federation clubs and other community groups to carry out these projects and care for them in the long run.
- Stimulate creativity and leadership to address restoration needs among various constituencies, including farmers, rural forest owners, suburban homeowners, local governments, tribes, and owners of businesses and industries.

The More Fish Partnership Fund will award small grants of up to \$30,000 for local on the ground restoration projects, and up to \$100,000 for leadership grants that address larger watershed areas. The program's primary focus is smaller, community-based restoration projects, but larger requests for funds will be considered on a competitive basis. The following costs are eligible:

- Enhancement & restoration of habitat within and along rivers and streams, lakes, reservoirs, ponds, etc. the upland areas affecting them
- Training workshops and roundtables
- Project design and development that is anticipated to lead to an on-the-ground restoration project within 18 months.

## Multistate Conservation Grants Program

[http://www.iafwa.org/multistate\\_grants\\_Introll.html](http://www.iafwa.org/multistate_grants_Introll.html)

The Multistate Conservation Grant Program (MSCGP) funds projects that address regional or national level priorities of state fish and wildlife agencies. It 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 and 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 its "priority list" recommendations to the USFWS, who can only fund projects from the Association's list and manages and monitors grant awards. Each year, up to \$6,000,000 is available to fund MSCGP projects. Projects may be funded for one, two, or three years on a calendar year basis.

## National Fish Passage Program

<http://www.fws.gov/fisheries/FWSMA/FishPassage/fpprgs/GetInvolved.htm>

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Fish Passage Program is a voluntary, non-regulatory program that provides funding and technical assistance toward removing or bypassing barriers to fish movement.

Millions of culverts, dikes, water diversions, dams, and other artificial barriers were constructed to impound and redirect water -- all changing natural features of rivers and streams. Many dams are obsolete and no longer serve their original purpose. Culverts that funnel water beneath roads and train tracks often pose insurmountable barriers to fish.

Barriers prevent natural fish migrations, keeping them from important habitats for spawning and growth. As a result, some populations of native fish are gone and others are in serious decline.

The National Fish Passage Program is looking for partners. They depend on good will and solid working relationships with community-minded organizations, agencies and individuals to conduct fish passage projects.

A fish passage project can be any activity that directly improves the ability of fish or other aquatic species to move by reconnecting habitat that has been fragmented by barriers. Any individual, organization, or agency, in cooperation with the Service's Fish and Wildlife Management Assistance Offices, may initiate fish passage project proposals.

Fish passage projects are not eligible for funding if they are for any Federal or State compensatory mitigation, or if fish passage is a condition provided by existing Federal or State regulatory programs.

## National Fish and Wildlife Foundation General Matching Grants Program

<http://www.nfwf.org/guidelines.cfm>

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation operates a conservation grants program that awards matching grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible grant recipients, including federal, tribal, state, and local governments, educational institutions, and non-profit conservation organizations. Project proposals are received on a year-round, revolving basis with two decision cycles per year. Grants typically range from \$25,000-\$250,000, based upon need.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is a private, non-profit, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization established by Congress in 1984. The Foundation fosters cooperative partnerships to conserve fish, wildlife, plants, and the habitats on which they depend. The Foundation works with its grantees and conservation partners to stimulate private, state, and local funding for conservation through matching grants.

Matching grants are awarded to projects that:

- Address priority actions promoting fish and wildlife conservation and the habitats on which they depend;
- Work proactively to involve other conservation and community interests;
- Leverage available funding; and
- Evaluate project outcomes.



Susan Hagood, The Humane Society of the United States

## National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in Partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service Matching Grants for Conservation on Private Lands

<http://www.nfwf.org/programs/nrcsnacd.cfm>

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (Foundation) is working to expand and strengthen our partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to support innovative and effective conservation and stewardship of our country's private lands. The goal of the partnership is to support high quality projects that engage private landowners, primarily farmers and ranchers, in the conservation and enhancement of fish and wildlife and natural resources on their lands. A new focus added for this program is on grassland nesting birds, particularly sage grouse, and their associated habitats.

The Foundation has received \$3 million from the NRCS in support of this partnership. The Foundation will devote 100% of these dollars to a matching grant program to support conservation projects. Matching grants will be awarded through a competitive process to eligible grant recipients including state and local governments, education institutions, and nonprofit organizations. Grants to, or in partnership with, the NRCS, Resource Conservation and Development Areas, and local conservation districts will be given special consideration. Grants typically range from \$10,000-\$150,000, based upon need.



## National Scenic Byways Grants Program

[http://www.azdot.gov/highways/SWProjMgmt/enhancement/scenic\\_roads/grants.asp](http://www.azdot.gov/highways/SWProjMgmt/enhancement/scenic_roads/grants.asp)

National Scenic Byways grants are available as discretionary funds to undertake eligible projects along highways designated as National Scenic Byways, All-American Roads, or as State-designated scenic byways. Eligible activities include, among others, corridor management plans, byway facilities and resource protection.

## Native Plant Conservation Initiative

<http://www.nfwf.org/programs/npci.cfm>

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, in partnership with the Plant Conservation Alliance, is pleased to announce a Request for Proposals for the **Native Plant Conservation Initiative** (NPCI). Through this initiative, grants of federal dollars will be provided to non-profit organizations and agencies at all levels of government\* to promote the conservation of native plants. This Request for Proposals includes two separate grant cycles, with pre-proposal submission dates of February 17 and August 25, 2006.

The NPCI grant program is conducted in cooperation with the Plant Conservation Alliance (PCA), a cooperative partnership between the Foundation, ten federal agencies, and nearly 200 non-governmental organizations. PCA provides a framework and strategy for linking resources and expertise in developing a coordinated national approach to the conservation of native plants. All NPCI proposals are reviewed by members of the PCA National Steering Committee.

NPCI grants are modest, ranging from \$5,000 to \$40,000 with an average grant size of \$15,000. It is expected that all grant funds will be matched by non-federal contributions from project partners. In-kind contributions of goods or services are eligible as match for this program.

There is a strong preference for "on-the-ground" projects that involve local communities and citizen volunteers in the restoration of native plant communities. Projects that include a pollinator conservation component are also encouraged.

## Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act Grants Program

<http://www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/Grants/index.shtm>

The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (Act, or NMBCA) of 2000 establishes a competitive, matching grants program that supports public-private partnerships carrying out projects in the United States, Canada, Latin America, and the Caribbean that promote the long-term conservation of Neotropical migratory birds and their habitats. The goals of the Act include perpetuating healthy populations of these birds, providing financial resources for bird conservation initiatives, and fostering international cooperation for such initiatives.

## North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grants Program

<http://www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/Grants/index.shtm>

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act (Act, or NAWCA) of 1989 provides matching grants to organizations and individuals who have developed partnerships to carry out wetlands conservation projects in the United States, Canada, and Mexico for the benefit of wetlands-associated migratory birds and other wildlife.

There is a Standard and a Small Grants Program. Both are competitive grants programs and require that grant requests be matched by partner contributions at no less than a 1-to-1 ratio. Funds from U.S. Federal sources may contribute towards a project, but are not eligible as match.

The Standard Grants Program supports projects in Canada, the United States, and Mexico that involve long-term protection, restoration, and/or enhancement of wetlands and associated uplands habitats. In Mexico, partners may also conduct projects involving technical training, environmental education and outreach, organizational infrastructure development, and sustainable-use studies.

The Small Grants Program operates only in the United States; it supports the same type of projects and adheres to the same selection criteria and administrative guidelines as the U.S. Standard

Grants Program. However, project activities are usually smaller in scope and involve fewer project dollars. Grant requests may not exceed \$75,000, and funding priority is given to grantees or partners new to the Act's Grants Program.

## North American Bat Conservation Fund

<http://www.batcon.org/bcigrants/profundintro.asp>

The North American Bat Conservation Fund provides grants of up to \$5,000 to help support projects that most effectively aid bats in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

## Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program

<http://ecos.fws.gov/partners/viewContent.do?viewPage=home>

The Partners Program was established in 1987 with a core group of biologists and a small budget for on-the-ground wetland restoration projects on private lands. This successful, results-oriented program has garnered support through the years and has grown into a larger and more diversified habitat restoration program assisting thousands of private landowners across the Nation.

Migratory birds, inter-jurisdictional fish, Federally-listed endangered, threatened or other declining or imperiled species are public resources, which by their migratory nature or declining numbers on a national scale, have been identified as Federal Trust Species. It is estimated that 73% of our Nation's land is privately owned and that the majority of our fish and wildlife resources occur on those lands. Consequently, the conservation lands held by Federal and state agencies and other conservation groups cannot completely provide for fish and wildlife needs. Because the habitat needs of all Trust Species cannot be met solely on public lands, public funds are also expended on private lands to accomplish habitat improvements through cooperative conservation programs such as the Partners Program.

The Partners Program provides technical and financial assistance to private landowners and Tribes who are willing to work with us and other partners on a voluntary basis to help meet the habitat needs of our Federal Trust Species.



The Partners Program can assist with projects in all habitat types which conserve or restore native vegetation, hydrology, and soils associated with imperiled ecosystems such as longleaf pine, bottomland hardwoods, tropical forests, native prairies, marshes, rivers and streams, or otherwise provide an important habitat requisite for a rare, declining or protected species.

The Partners Program locally-based field biologists work one-on-one with private landowners and other partners to plan, implement, and monitor their projects. Partners Program field staff help landowners find other sources of funding and help them through the permitting process, as necessary. This personal attention and follow-through is a significant strength of the Program that has led to national recognition and wide support.

The Partners Program is guided by a national policy (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Manual, section 640 fw1) that has identified these objectives:

- Promote and implement habitat improvement projects that benefit Federal Trust Species
- Provide conservation leadership and promote partnerships
- Encourage public understanding and participation
- Work with U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to implement conservation program

In addition, the Partners Program policy has established priority-ranking factors to help guide project selection. These priorities are stepped down to the state and local levels as field staff collaborate with our stakeholders to further refine habitat priorities and geographic focus areas, described further in Part 2 of this Strategic Plan.

National priority ranking factors for the Partners Program are used to assign funding priority status to proposed projects that meet these conditions:

- Improve habitat for Federal Trust Species, including migratory birds; threatened and endangered species; inter-jurisdictional fish; marine mammals; and, other declining species.
- Complement activities on National Wildlife Refuge System lands, or contribute to the resolution of problems on refuges that are caused by off-refuge practices.
- Address species and habitat priorities that have been identified through Service planning teams (with our partners), or in collaboration with state fish and wildlife agencies.

- Reduce habitat fragmentation or serve as buffers for other important Federal or state conservation lands.
- Result in self-sustaining systems that are not dependent on artificial structures.

If other considerations are generally equal, then priority is directed to those projects that link private lands to important Federal lands (such as Refuges), have cooperative agreements of longer duration, multiple partners, cost sharing, and the greatest cost effectiveness. The overall goal of Partners Program projects is to return a site to the ecological condition that likely existed prior to loss or degradation.

## Private Stewardship Grant

[http://www.fws.gov/endangered/grants/private\\_stewardship/index.html](http://www.fws.gov/endangered/grants/private_stewardship/index.html)

The Private Stewardship Program provides grants and other assistance on a competitive basis to individuals and groups engaged in local, private, and voluntary conservation efforts that benefit federally listed, proposed, or candidate species, or other at-risk species. Diverse panels of representatives from State and Federal Government, conservation organizations, agriculture and development interests, and the science community assess applications and make recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior, who awards the grants. The Private Stewardship Program was initiated during Fiscal Year 2002, with grants first awarded during Fiscal Year 2003.

## Pulling Together Initiative Public-Private Partnerships to Manage Invasive Weeds

<http://www.nfwf.org/programs/pti.cfm>

The Pulling Together Initiative (PTI) provides support on a competitive basis for the formation of local Weed Management Area (WMA) partnerships. These partnerships engage federal resource agencies, state and local governments, private landowners, and other interested parties in developing long-term weed management projects within the scope of an integrated pest management strategy. The goals of PTI are:

- To prevent, manage, or eradicate invasive and noxious plants through a coordinated program of public/private partnerships.
- To increase public awareness of the adverse impacts of invasive and noxious plants.

PTI grants are financed by funds from federal agencies, which must be matched by cash or in-kind contributions from state, local, and private partners on at least a 1:1 basis.

## Resource Conservation and Development Program

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Programs/rcd/>

The purpose of the Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) program is to accelerate the conservation, development and utilization of natural resources, improve the general level of economic activity, and to enhance the environment and standard of living in designated RC&D areas. It improves the capability of State, tribal and local units of government and local nonprofit organizations in rural areas to plan, develop and carry out programs for resource conservation and development. The program also establishes or improves coordination systems in rural areas. Current program objectives focus on improvement of quality of life achieved through natural resources conservation and community development which leads to sustainable communities, prudent use (development), and the management and conservation of natural resources. RC&D areas are locally sponsored areas designated by the Secretary of Agriculture for RC&D technical and financial assistance program funds.

## Riparian Trust Fund

<http://www.azleg.state.az.us/ars/37/01156.htm>

37-1156. [Riparian trust fund: acquisition and management of riparian lands](#)

A. The riparian trust fund is established consisting of monies received from the sale or use of sovereign streambed lands and resources under this chapter, damages collected from the United States pursuant to section 37-1131 and any other appropriations, gifts, grants or donations designated by the donor for that purpose. The state shall maintain the fund separate and apart from all other funds. On notice from the commissioner the state treasurer shall



invest and divest monies in the riparian trust fund as provided by section 35-313, and monies earned from investment shall be credited to the riparian trust fund.

B. The state land commissioner shall use the income, other proceeds and not more than seventy-five per cent of any added principal of the fund in a fiscal year pursuant to this section:

1. To acquire, from willing sellers, land or interests in land located in riparian areas in this state for public purposes consistent with conservation of wildlife and recreation.

2. For such other expenditures as promote the purposes of the public trust.

C. The state land commissioner shall consult with and receive advice from the Arizona state parks board and the Arizona game and fish department regarding the acquisition and management of land and interests in land under this section.

## Rockefeller Brothers Fund

<http://www.rbf.org/programs/sustainprog.html>

Human activity is causing the depletion of essential resources, global warming, rapid loss of biodiversity, and accelerating degradation of Earth's life support systems. These developments threaten the livelihoods, health, and security of people in all nations and cultures as well as the well-being of the greater community of life. The RBF's sustainable development grantmaking endeavors to address these challenges by supporting environmental stewardship that is ecologically based, economically sound, socially just, culturally appropriate, and consistent with intergenerational equity. The Fund encourages government, business, and civil society to work collaboratively on environmental conservation and to make it an integral part of all development planning and activity. Recognizing the global nature of many environmental problems, the Fund also promotes international cooperation in addressing these challenges. Some of the Fund's sustainable development strategies are pursued at the global level, while others are pursued primarily in North America. In all regions where the RBF is engaged in sustainable development grantmaking, it monitors the social and environmental effects of development programs and fiscal policies that are associated with global economic integration and seeks to integrate activities across geographic areas to promote maximum impact.

## Safe Harbor Agreements

<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/recovery/harborqa.pdf>

Safe Harbor agreements encourage private landowners to volunteer to restore and maintain habitat for endangered species. The concept was created and developed by Environmental Defense, other private organizations, state agency staff and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS). Property owners commit to manage their land to benefit an endangered or threatened species, and in return USFWS or the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) absolves the landowners of any increased restrictions should the landowner's management actions bring that endangered species to his or her land. If a landowner accomplishes the agreed-upon voluntary actions, he or she is only responsible for protecting "the baseline" -- the endangered species population or habitat present at the time the agreement was signed.

## State Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Support Program

<http://www.nfwf.org/programs/SCWCSP.cfm>

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is accepting proposals for projects that develop and implement regional (multi-state) or national conservation approaches based on the State Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategies (SCWCs), with an emphasis on strategic coordination. The State Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Support Program is a three-year grant program to enhance the effectiveness of the SCWCs by:

- targeting resources to groups of states where strategic regional or national coordination and implementation will improve conservation results,
- funding the development of a comprehensive National Report based on the SCWCs as part of a national communication strategy, and
- creating a dedicated source of funding for cross-border collaboration on conservation actions identified in the state strategies and national report.

**Project Area:** Nationwide. Projects must involve the coordination of conservation objectives/actions among at least two states, and should address priorities identified by at least two State

Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategies (draft or final) developed by the respective participating states.

**Grant Size:** Not to exceed \$100,000. Projects may not exceed 18 months in duration with preference given to projects that do not exceed 12 months (note – project time span is initiated at execution of grant agreement).

**Match:** Matching funds will not be required for awards granted through this program. However, grantees will be encouraged to voluntarily provide and identify in-kind matching support so as to maximize leverage and distribution of grant funds from the program.

Eligible uses of grant funds include:

- Staff salaries or contractual services
- Workshops
- Data collection/sharing/synchronization
- Creation of reports
- Creation of geo-spatially specific map products
- Information sharing
- Plan development
- Assessments of habitat conditions, population demographics
- Risk analyses
- On-the-ground actions to conserve, manage, and/or enhance habitats or populations

The State Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Support Program will invest in projects that:

- support collaboration among state fish and wildlife agencies, partner non-governmental organizations, the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, and Regional Associations of Fish and Wildlife Agencies for the integration and cross-boundary coordination of the SCWCs,
- support the integration and dissemination of the key findings of the SCWCs through a comprehensive National Report (with associated supporting documents), and
- enhance implementation and overall effectiveness of the prescribed conservation actions identified in the SCWCs and National Report, via coordinated and collaborative multi-state data management and synchronization, action plan development, execution of conservation activities, and monitoring of outcomes.



## State Lake Improvement Fund Grant Program

<http://www.azparks.gov/partnerships/grants/slif.html>

The State Lake Improvement Fund (SLIF) grant program provides funding assistance to cities, towns, counties and tribal governments for water-based recreation and open space projects. Revenue for the SLIF program is derived from a percentage of motor vehicle fuel tax and watercraft license tax.

The Arizona State Parks Board (Board), through the State Parks Grants Section, is responsible for the administration of State Lake Improvement Fund (SLIF) grant applications and approved projects. This is accomplished through the development of application guidelines and a priority rating system, the execution of participant agreements with grantees, and the subsequent monitoring of project work and grant expenditures.

To assist the Board with this responsibility, Arizona State Parks (ASP) staff works with the Arizona Outdoor Recreation Coordinating Commission (AORCC) to develop application policies and criteria for the equitable distribution of grant funds. AORCC reviews eligible project applications, and makes funding recommendations for Board consideration and final action.

## Surdna Foundation

[http://www.surdna.org/programs/programs\\_show.htm?doc\\_id=314245&attrib\\_id=12037](http://www.surdna.org/programs/programs_show.htm?doc_id=314245&attrib_id=12037)

Our Grantmaking Principles include:

- Supporting government, private and voluntary actions;
- Preferring redesign to eliminate problems rather than amelioration to deal with them after-the-fact;
- Building bridges, defusing conflict and bringing diverse constituencies together;
- Encouraging a diversity of people and interests to participate in addressing environmental concerns;
- Supporting multi-sectoral approaches and partnerships, and recognizing the interdependence of sectors and disciplines;
- Fostering a population of environmentally informed, responsible, activist citizens;
- Respecting community and grassroots perspectives.

The prevailing land use and transportation systems of the U.S. are wasteful of natural resources and damaging to the structure and health of ecosystems, human communities and individual lives. It is increasingly recognized that reforms in these areas are also a high-impact and valuable climate change mitigation strategy. With primary focus on reducing vehicle miles traveled and maximizing accessibility over mobility, examples of our interests are: Analyzing government policies and subsidies regarding the automobile and fostering alternative solutions; strengthening efforts to improve public policy that produces locally sensitive solutions; supporting community involvement on transportation and land use reform; supporting programs that foster open space, park land creation, urban conservation, and broadly, livability; advocating consumer choice in the marketplace.

## Transportation Enhancement Grants

<http://www.azdot.gov/highways/SWProjMgmt/enhancement/index.asp>

This funding source allows for the enrichment of the transportation environment through funding projects such as landscaping, creating multi-use paths, acquisition of scenic easements and a multitude of other activities. One little-used category of the Enhancement program is for reducing vehicle-caused wildlife mortality while maintaining habitat connectivity.

## Tribal Landowner Incentive Program

<http://www.fws.gov/grants/TLIPKIT07.pdf>

To establish or supplement existing programs that provide technical or financial assistance including habitat protection and restoration, to Federally recognized Indian tribes for the protection and management of habitat to benefit Federally listed, proposed, or candidate species, or other at-risk species.

## Tribal Wildlife Grants

<http://www.fws.gov/grants/TWGKIT07.pdf>

To develop and implement programs for the benefit of wildlife and their habitat, including species that are not hunted or fished.

## United States Golf Association Wildlife Links

[http://www.nfwf.org/programs/nfwfusga\\_rfp.cfm](http://www.nfwf.org/programs/nfwfusga_rfp.cfm)

Wildlife Links is a partnership between the United States Golf Association ([www.usga.org/turf](http://www.usga.org/turf)) and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Wildlife Links provides grants for cutting-edge research, management, and education projects that improve golf courses as habitat for wildlife, while also enhancing playing conditions for golfers.

The purpose of the Wildlife Links program is to fund research, management, and education projects that will enhance wildlife management on golf courses on at least a statewide, and preferably a region-wide or national basis. Funding is not available for habitat improvements on individual courses (butterfly gardens, nest box trails, etc.).

The overall goal of the program is to protect and enhance - through proper planning and management - the wildlife, fish, and plant resources found on golf courses. This aim includes providing golf courses designers and superintendents with information they need to promote the wildlife on their golf facilities, while still providing quality playing conditions for the game of golf. Golf courses, especially in more developed regions, hold great potential as hospitable areas for many species of animals and plants. The Wildlife Links program represents golf's best mechanism to examine these issues and to develop appropriate strategies.

Research projects must be applied in nature and hold the promise of practical outcomes that will benefit wildlife conservation through golf course design and management. Applicants should clearly demonstrate communication with appropriate representatives within the golf industry to ensure the practicality of proposed projects.



## Wetlands Reserve Program

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/PROGRAMS/wrp/>

The Wetlands Reserve Program is a voluntary program offering landowners the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands on their property. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical and financial support to help landowners with their wetland restoration efforts. The NRCS goal is to achieve the greatest wetland functions and values, along with optimum wildlife habitat, on every acre enrolled in the program. This program offers landowners an opportunity to establish long-term conservation and wildlife practices and protection.

## Wilburforce Foundation

[http://www.wilburforce.org/grant\\_guidelines/index.html](http://www.wilburforce.org/grant_guidelines/index.html)

Wilburforce makes investments that contribute to the following types of outcomes:

- Increasing the amount of protected critical wildlife habitat.
- Assuring the quality and extent of key connective lands between core habitat areas.
- Lessening immediate threats to critical wildlife habitat.
- Improving management programs that preserve the ecological integrity of existing or proposed protected areas.
- Increasing knowledge of wildlife populations and/or improving management plans that ensure the viability of focal species in a region.
- Building the capacity of our grantees that are working to protect our priority areas.

## Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/PROGRAMS/whip/>

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program for people who want to develop and improve wildlife habitat primarily on private land. Through WHIP USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service provides both technical assistance and up to 75 percent cost-share assistance to establish and improve fish and wildlife habitat. WHIP agreements between NRCS and the participant generally last from 5 to 10 years from the date the agreement is signed.

WHIP has proven to be a highly effective and widely accepted program across the country. By targeting wildlife habitat projects on all lands and aquatic areas, WHIP provides assistance to conservation minded landowners.

The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 reauthorized WHIP as a voluntary approach to improving wildlife habitat in our Nation. Program administration of WHIP is provided under the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

## Wildlife Action Opportunities Fund

<http://www.wcs.org/wildlifeopportunity>

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.

## Wildlife Habitat Policy Research Program

<http://ncseonline.org/WHPRP/>

The Wildlife Habitat Policy Research Program (WHPRP) is a results oriented program with the mission to develop and disseminate objective information and practical tools to accelerate the conservation of wildlife habitat in the United States.

The program emphasis is on developing the knowledge and tools relevant to conserving terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitat, including both public and privately owned property. The WHPRP serves the needs of policy makers, administrators, resource managers, practitioners, and landowners. The results of the program are useful to all levels of government, as well as in the private sector, including private companies, conservation groups, professional organizations, and foundations. The WHPRP maintains an objective credibility by not engaging in the advocacy or implementation of any specific conservation policy or practice.

WHPRP includes research, analyses, assessments, syntheses, and the identification of new approaches for habitat conservation through sponsorship of specific projects in the natural sciences and social sciences including economics, law, and planning. The WHPRP focus is on work where the results can be used to directly improve practice, management, and policy.

The WHPRP's outputs are relevant to the implementation of the statutory State Wildlife Action Plans, which have the potential to help diverse constituencies work together to envision and protect a system of wildlife habitat in each state.



## Excerpts from the Highway Transportation Bill SAFETEA-LU

### P. 67: Sec.1401 HIGHWAY SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

A project described in the State strategic highway safety plan that addresses a hazardous road location or feature; or addresses a highway safety problem; includes a project for: the addition or retrofitting of structures or other measures to eliminate or reduce accidents involving vehicles and wildlife.

State Strategic Highway Plan; means a plan developed by the State transportation department that: analyzes and makes effective use of State, regional, or local crash data; or describes a program of projects or strategies to reduce or eliminate safety hazards.

### p. 88: Sec.1502 CONSULTATION BETWEEN TRANSPORTATION AGENCIES AND RESOURCE AGENCIES IN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

A long-range transportation plan shall include a discussion of:

1. types of potential habitat, hydrological, and environmental mitigation activities that may assist in compensating for loss of habitat, wetland, and other environmental functions; and
2. potential areas to carry out these activities, including a discussion of areas that may have the greatest potential to restore and maintain the habitat types and hydrological or environmental functions affected by the plan.
3. consultation; the discussion shall be developed in consultation with Federal, State, and tribal wildlife, land management, and regulatory agencies.

Consultation: MPO shall consult with State and local agencies (inc. natural resources) concerning the development of a long-range transportation plan; and

Improved consultation with local agencies (incl. Natural Resources);

That consultation shall involve:

1. comparison of transportation plans with State conservation plans or with maps, if available,

2. comparison of transportation plans to inventories of natural or historic resources, if available, or
3. consideration of areas where wildlife crossing structures may be needed to ensure connectivity between wildlife habitat linkages areas.

### p. 92 Sec. 1505 PROJECT MITIGATION

A State should establish a habitat, streams, and wetlands mitigation fund.

A State may deposit into a State fund (mitigation fund) part of the funds apportioned to the State under: 104 (b) (1) for the National Highway System; and 104 (b) (3) for the surface transportation program

A State shall give consideration to mitigation projects, on-site or off-site, that restore and preserve the best available sites to conserve biodiversity and habitat for: T&E species of plants and animals; plant or animal species warranting listing as T&E

### p. 94 Sec. 1511 TRANSPORTATION PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The Department of Transportation shall be the lead Federal Agency in the environmental review process for a project.

The Lead Agency shall:

Identify and invite cooperating agencies in accordance with subsection (d);  
Convene dispute-avoidance and decision resolution meetings and related efforts in accordance with subsection (h);  
Etc.

The Lead Agency shall:

Identify other agencies that have an interest in the project; including agencies with jurisdiction over environmentally-related matters.

Invite the agencies to become cooperating agencies in the environmental review process for that project;

Etc.

### RESPONSES:

The deadline for receipt of a response from an agency that receives an invitation;

Shall be 30 days after the date of receipt by the agency of the invitation; but may be extended by lead agency for good cause

### COORDINATION PLAN:

The lead agency shall establish a coordination plan, which may be incorporated into a MOU to coordinate agency and public participation in and comment on the environmental review process for a project or category of projects.

### DEVELOPMENT OF PROJECT PURPOSE AND NEED STATEMENT:

With respect to the environmental review process for a projects; the purpose shall be defined in accordance with:

Factors to consider: the lead agency may determine that any of the following factors and documents area appropriate for consideration in determining the purpose of and need for a project:

Environmental Protection Plans that include; habitat needs of plants and animals; T&E species; invasive species; other environmental resources, etc.

### DETERMINING ALTERNATIVES:

The lead agency may determine that any of the following factors are appropriate for consideration in determining the alternatives for a project:

Environmental protection plans, including plans for the protection or treatment of: habtat needs of plants and animals; T&E; invasive species; other environmental resources, etc.

### OUTLINES ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES REGARDING TIMELINESS

### ISSUE RESOLUTION:

On identification of a major issue of concern, the lead agency shall convene a meeting;

### NOTIFICATION:

If resolution of a major issue of concern cannot be achieved within 30 days of the meeting; notification of the failure to resolve the major issue of concern to: the heads of all cooperating agencies; the project sponsor; the Governor involved; the Committee on Environment and Public Works of





the Senate; the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives; and the Council on Environmental Quality.

#### PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS:

The Secretary shall establish a program to measure and report on progress toward improving and expediting the planning and environmental review process.

The Secretary shall biennially conduct a survey of agencies participating in the environmental review process under this section to assess the expectations and experiences of each surveyed agency with regard to the planning an environmental review process for projects reviewed under this section.

#### **p. 104 Sec. 1512 ASSUMPTION OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS**

The Secretary may assign, and a State may assume, responsibility for determining whether certain designated activities are included with classes of action identified in regulation by the Secretary that are categorically excluded from the requirements for environmental assessments or EIS pursuant to CEQ regulations.

Secretary and State will enter into an MOU after providing public notices and opportunity for comment.

#### **p. 110 Sec. 1514 PARKS, RECREATION AREAS, WILDLIFE & WATERFOWL REFUGES, AND HISTORIC SITES**

##### De Minimis Impacts:

The Secretary may make a finding of de minimis impact only if:

1. the transportation program or project will have no adverse effect on the historic site; or
2. there will be no historic properties affected by the transportation program or project

etc.

#### IMPLEMENTATION STUDY:

The Secretary shall conduct a study on the implementation of this section and the amendments made by this section; and

Commission an independent review of the study plan and methodology and any associated conclusions, by the Transportation Research Board of the National Academy of Sciences.

#### **p. 180 Sec. 1806 FEDERAL LANDS HIGHWAYS PROGRAM**

##### SAFETY ACTIVITIES:

funds made available for safety under this title shall be used by the Secretary and the head of the appropriate Federal land management agency only to pay the costs of carrying out: activities to eliminate high-accident locations etc.

#### **p. 196 Sec. 1813 TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNITY AND SYSTEM PRESERVATION PROGRAM**

The Secretary shall establish a comprehensive program to facilitate the planning, development, and implementation of strategies by States, MPOS, etc. The goals of the program are to:  
Reduce the impacts of transportation on the environment,  
Etc.

##### ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

The Secretary shall give priority to applicants that have instituted preservation or development plans and programs that;  
Are intended to promote cost-effective and strategic investments in transportation infrastructure that minimize adverse impacts on the environment.

#### **p. 203 Sec. 1817 NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM ROADS**

##### PASSAGES FOR AQUATIC SPECIES:

Of the amounts made available for National Forest System roads, \$14,079,433 for each fiscal year shall be used by the Secretary of Agriculture to pay the costs of facilitating the passage of aquatic species beneath roads in the National Forest System, including the costs of constructing, maintaining, replacing, or removing culverts and bridges, as appropriate.

#### **p. 218 Sec. 1833 COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT STUDY**

The Secretary shall conduct a study on:

The role of well-designed transportation projects in: protecting public health, safety, and the environment,  
Etc.

##### CONTENTS:

The degree to which the well-designed transportation project; has positive economic, cultural, aesthetic, scenic, architectural, and environmental benefits for communities;  
*Etc.*

#### **p. 226 Sec. 2101 RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM**

##### CONTENTS:

The Secretary shall include as priority areas of effort with the surface transportation research program:  
The multimodal applications of GIS and remote sensing, including such areas of application as;  
Environmental decision-making and project delivery; and  
Environmental research;  
Etc.





Photo courtesy of Kerry R. Foresman, University of Montana



Some examples of wildlife crossing measures

