

GOVERNOR'S SAGE GROUSE CONSERVATION TEAM

Funding Subcommittee

GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR SAGE GROUSE/SAGEBRUSH STEPPE RESTORATION

Abstract: Per request of Local Area Conservation Planning Groups, the Funding Subcommittee to the Governor's Sage Grouse Conservation Team is providing a compilation of available grants that can potentially be used for Sage Grouse conservation. There is a wide range of grants available to private landowners, agencies, local governments and tribal governments. This leaflet is meant as a guide and represents just a few of the funding opportunities available at the present time, certainly other possibilities may arise in the future.

Purpose: The purpose of this informational leaflet is to inform the LACP groups of the types of activities that may be eligible for a grant award. Finally, provide the timetable and grant application assistance if desired by the LACP groups.

1. State of Nevada Question 1 Monies (Administered by the Division of State Lands):

Nevada voters approved Question 1 November 5, 2002 at the general election. The bond issue provides \$200,000,000 for conservation and natural resources. Of the overall authorization, the Division of State Lands is administering \$65,500,000, of which, \$3,000,000 is available for grants for conservation/habitat planning for counties with populations of less than 100,000, or municipalities located within those counties, or state agencies to carry out projects for the development of habitat conservation plans. Solicitations for grant applications will be January 21, 2004 with a closing date of March 1, 2004. A grant application package will be available January 21, 2004.

Program: "Question 1 is a landmark environmental initiative designed to benefit, protect and preserve Nevada's state, regional and local natural resources. It authorizes the state to issue general obligation bonds up to \$200,000,000 for natural resource projects. Funds generated by the bond sales will be used to conserve valuable environmental assets of the state and to support recreational and cultural facilities that further the enjoyment of those assets by the public."



GOVERNOR'S SAGE GROUSE CONSERVATION TEAM

Funding Subcommittee

The State Lands Administrator shall coordinate with the Nevada Department of Wildlife and the Nevada Natural Heritage Program for any grants awarded to carry out projects for the development of habitat conservation plans. This grant has a 5% match requirement.

Action: The Funding Committee of the Governor's Sage-Grouse Conservation Team encourages all Local Area Conservation Planning groups to begin developing a comprehensive list of activities associated with **habitat conservation planning** that you would like to have funded by Question 1. LACP teams should have a short narrative and cost estimate for each element. There are two options for grant applications. The first is to consolidate all of the grant requests into a single application. The second option is for the LACP teams to submit applications singly or in aggregate with other LACPs. Either approach is valid; however, the Governor's team would like to maintain coordination with each group so there is no confusion on grant applications.

Contact: Nevada Division of State Lands:
Kevin Hill
(775) 687-8306

Website: <http://lands.nv.gov/program/q1facts.htm>

2. State of Nevada Question 1 Monies (Nevada Department of Wildlife Portion):

Assembly Bill 9 (Legislative Authorization for Question 1) directs the *administration of the \$27.5 million allocation for the Department of Wildlife as follows:*

Sec. 2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 9 of section 3 of this act, a total bond issue, if approved pursuant to section 1 of this act:

2. An amount of \$27,500,000 must be allocated to the Nevada Department of Wildlife for the following purposes:

(a) For the acquisition of real or personal property or interest in real or personal property to enhance, protect, and manage wildlife and wildlife habitat or enhance recreational opportunities related to wildlife, or both; or



GOVERNOR'S SAGE GROUSE CONSERVATION TEAM

Funding Subcommittee

(b) For the development and renovation of facilities or the improvement of existing habitats for fish and other wildlife.

AB 9 also legislates the following conditions on land and water rights acquisitions under Question 1 as follows:

- Sec. 3.6. Any interests in land or water acquired by the state pursuant to this act:*
- (a) Must be acquired and held by the Division of State Lands pursuant to chapter 321 of NRS.*
 - (b) Must not be acquired by condemnation or the power of eminent domain. The acquisition of any water rights pursuant to this act must not have a negative impact on the distribution of water of other persons who hold valid water rights.*

7. Any property acquired pursuant to the provisions of this act may include easements and other interest in land. Before acquiring any interest in land pursuant to this act, recipients of money pursuant to this act must consider such alternatives to the acquisition of fee simple title as may be available, including, without limitation, the acquisition of easement and remainders after life estates.

The first round of project proposals has been submitted and eighteen were approved at a cost of just over \$10 million. It is anticipated that the first round of projects will take eighteen months to complete.

NDOW has six years to sell the bonds and a total of nine years to complete all projects. As manpower and resources allow, project proposals will be considered for future bond sale rounds.

For more information regarding projects that were selected for the first round of Question 1 projects or to download project proposal forms for ideas that you may have along with an explanation of the project evaluation process, please visit the website below.

Contact: Nevada Department of Wildlife
Laura Richards
(775) 688-1500

Website: <http://www.ndow.org/wild/q1/index.shtm>



GOVERNOR'S SAGE GROUSE CONSERVATION TEAM

Funding Subcommittee

3. Wildlife Heritage Trust Account

The Nevada State Board of Wildlife Commissioners seeks project proposals annually for Wildlife Heritage Trust Account funds. The objective of the Wildlife Heritage Program is to provide short-term funding to projects or activities that enhance the protection, propagation, restoration, transplantation, introduction and management of any game mammal, game bird, game fish, or furbearing mammal in Nevada.

In December of each year, grant application notifications are made and project applications are accepted from January 1st to March 1st of each year. Project proposals are then summarized and provided to the County Wildlife Advisory Boards and the public for review. The Commission then conducts a public review and approval of project funding is made at the May Commission meeting. Successful applicants are required to sign a binding contract that is presented to the State Board of Examiners (BOE).

Contact: Nevada Department of Wildlife
Gabe A. Pincolini
(775) 688-1571

4. Nevada Wildlife Foundation

The Nevada Wildlife Foundation is being organized for charitable and educational purposes to assist individuals, organizations, educational facilities and agencies in carrying out wildlife and wildlife habitat conservation programs through corporate and individual sponsorships, donations of real property, water rights, easements, estates, or cash to benefit a variety of wildlife projects and programs.

This program is still in its developmental phase and is written as a proposal at this point in time.

Contact: Nevada Department of Wildlife
Sandy Canning
(775) 688-1500



GOVERNOR'S SAGE GROUSE CONSERVATION TEAM

Funding Subcommittee

5. **USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service - Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**

EQIP offers financial and technical help to assist eligible participants install or implement structural and management practices on eligible agricultural land. These contracts provide incentive payments and cost-shares to implement conservation practices. Persons who are engaged in livestock or agricultural production on eligible land may participate in the EQIP program. EQIP activities are carried out according to an environmental quality incentives program plan of operations developed in conjunction with the producer that identifies the appropriate conservation practice or practices to address the resource concerns. The practices are subject to NRCS technical standards adapted for local conditions.

Contact: Sign up at your local USDA Service Center, or call the NRCS State Office at (775) 784-5863.

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

6. **USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service - Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)**

This is a USDA-NRCS program that reimburses private and Tribal landowners, and in some cases State Lands, for up to 75% of the cost of wildlife habitat improvement practices. Unlike EQIP, this program does not require one to be an agricultural producer to qualify. Contracts usually run from 5 to 10 years. Cost share rates exceeding 75% are available for longer term contracts (15 years).

Contact: Sign up at your local USDA Service Center, or call the NRCS State Office at (775) 784-5863.

Website: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/whip.html>

7. **Intermountain West Joint Venture**

“The Joint Ventures that were established through the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) are rapidly becoming an opportunity for all bird conservation...” The Intermountain West Joint Venture website proclaims, “IWJV habitats support nearly 100% of the range of all high priority sagebrush steppe



GOVERNOR'S SAGE GROUSE CONSERVATION TEAM

Funding Subcommittee

landbird species, such as: Sage Sparrow, Sage Thrasher, Sage Grouse (Greater and Gunnison) and Brewer's Sparrow." The purpose of Cost-Share is "long term conservation of bird habitat through partnerships within the bounds of the Intermountain West Joint Venture. Joint Venture funds will be provided where funding is required to initiate or complete funding of projects (1) which support the mission and objectives of the Joint Venture, and (2) exhibit a broad-based partnership. The Mission for the Intermountain West Joint Venture is to provide for the long-term conservation of key avian habitats to plan, fund, and develop habitat projects that benefit all biological components of Intermountain ecosystems.

A minimum pool of \$200,000 is anticipated to be available for distribution to partners in FY2004. The maximum amount that may be applied for a particular project is \$50,000.

Project proposals are accepted at any time, but must be submitted to the respective Joint Venture State Steering Committee by June 1st.

Contact: Kevin Kritz, Nevada State Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
Reno, NV (775) 861-6300

Website: <http://iwjv.org/costshare.htm>

8. National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – General Challenge Grant

"A conservation grant program that awards challenge grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible grant recipients, including federal, tribal, 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 \$10,000-150,000.00 based upon need."

Contact: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Kristen Paratore, Project Administrator
(415) 778-0999

Website: <http://www.nfwf.org/programs/guidelines.htm>

9. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Landowner Incentive Program



GOVERNOR'S SAGE GROUSE CONSERVATION TEAM

Funding Subcommittee

The Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) is designed to assist States by providing grants to establish or supplement landowner incentive programs that protect and restore habitats on private land, to benefit Federally listed, proposed or candidate species or other species determined to be at-risk, and provide technical and financial assistance to private landowners for habitat protection and restoration. State agencies with primary responsibility for fish and wildlife may submit proposals. Other agencies, organizations or individuals may partner with or serve as a subgrantee of that fish and wildlife agency.

Website: <http://federalaid.fws.gov/lip/lip.html>

10. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Cooperative Conservation Initiative (Private Landowners)

The intent of this program is to foster innovative and creative cooperative efforts to restore natural resources and establish or expand wildlife habitat. This program encourages private landowners to implement conservation projects with public land managers and local communities. Partners include state and local governments, tribes, conservation organizations, agricultural interests, sportsmen's groups, corporations, small businesses, non-government organizations, educational institutions, volunteer organizations, and the science community.

Maximum Federal Share – 50%

Website: <http://www.grants.fws.gov/private.html>

11. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Tribal Landowner Incentive Program (Tribal Government Assistance)

This program is directed at federally recognized tribal governments. The Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) is designed to assist tribes by providing grants to establish or supplement landowner incentive programs that protect and restore habitats on tribal land, to benefit Federally listed, proposed or candidate species or other species determined to be at-risk, and provide technical and financial assistance to tribes for habitat protection and restoration. Tribes must provide 25% cost share. Maximum Federal Share – 75%

Contact: Scott Aikin Native American Tribal Affairs Liaison (530) 231-6123



GOVERNOR'S SAGE GROUSE CONSERVATION TEAM

Funding Subcommittee

Website: <http://www.grants.fws.gov/tribal.html>

12. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service- Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program –

This program is a voluntary partnership program that helps private landowners restore wetlands and other important fish and wildlife habitats on their own lands. The Service provides financial and technical assistance to private landowners through voluntary cooperative agreements. The philosophy of the program is to work proactively with private landowners for the mutual benefit of declining Federal trust species and the interests of the landowners involved. Cost share - 50%/50%

Contact: Bridget Nielsen U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Reno, NV (775) 861-6300

Website: <http://partners.fws.gov>

13. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service- Private Stewardship Grants Program -

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. The program is available to private landowners and their partners and the emphasis is on protecting and restoring imperiled species and their habitat. The program is open to a wide variety of projects except land acquisition. A cost share of at least 10% of the total project cost is required. The share can be cash or through in-kind contributions such as time, equipment, materials, operations, or maintenance costs.

Contact: Bridget Nielsen U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Reno, NV (775) 861-6300

Website: http://endangered.fws.gov/grants/private_stewardship/index.html

14. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Tribal Wildlife Program (Tribal Government Assistance)

This grant program provides for the development and implementation of programs



GOVERNOR'S SAGE GROUSE CONSERVATION TEAM

Funding Subcommittee

that benefit wildlife and their habitat, including species that are not hunted or fished. The intent of this program is to support the efforts of federally recognized tribal governments in projects that develop or augment the capacity to conserve, manage, or protect fish and wildlife resources through the provision of funding and technical support. Tribes submitting proposals must provide 10% cost share.

Contact: Scott Aikin, Native American Tribal Affairs Liaison, (530) 231-6123

Website: <http://grants.fws.gov/tribal.html>

15. National Wildlife Federation - Species Recovery Fund

The National Wildlife Federation's Species Recovery Fund encourages habitat restoration, species reintroduction, private land conservation activities, and other creative endeavors that directly improve conditions for species listed under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. During the past four years, the National Wildlife Federation has awarded over forty grants to support innovative species conservation efforts.

The Species Recovery Fund invites applications from any organization, agency, tribe, university, or individual working to improve on-the-ground conditions for imperiled species. Preference will be given to local grassroots organizations.

Grant awards will range from \$3,000 to \$7,000. Key criteria are the degree to which the project will improve on-the-ground conditions of listed species and the degree to which the project will involve people that have not previously been involved with species and habitat conservation. The deadline for submission of grant applications is February 16, 2004.

Contact: Colleen Fahey at fahey@nwf.org

Website: <http://www.nwf.org/keepthewildalive/speciesrecoveryfund.cfm>

