Announcement of Financial Assistance- Fiscal Year 2010

The US Fish & Wildlife Service Coastal Program is a non-regulatory, voluntary program capable of providing both technical and financial assistance for on-the-ground habitat restoration projects. We are looking for project ideas and proposals to help us accomplish our program objectives. The Coastal Program is an assistance program rather than a grant program, therefore it is important to engage in dialogue regarding project ideas prior to proposal submission. This will allow us to assess the restoration needs of south Florida and ensure that proposals are appropriate for funding consideration. Please contact the Coastal Program Coordinator for further details, to discuss project ideas, and request additional proposal guidance information (see contact information below).

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- To develop cooperative agreements that provide funding for technically sound and cost effective projects that restore or enhance degraded coastal wetlands, uplands, estuaries, and riparian corridors; including the removal of exotic vegetation from coastal areas; and promoting public awareness of south Florida’s ecological issues; and
- To form partnerships in south Florida in joint effort to conserve, restore, and enhance coastal resources and habitat.
- To implement the Service’s Strategic Habitat Conservation (SHC) framework focused on population objectives and take the next steps in our conservation work across a suite of challenging issues including the most compelling one of our time -- accelerating climate change.

PROJECT GOALS

Projects should:

- Ultimately result in on-the-ground restoration or enhancement of coastal habitats, focusing on landscape level initiatives
- Improve habitat for fish and wildlife resources, including federally protected species
- Collaborate with partners to combine resources and increase effectiveness
- Leverage additional funding or other in-kind goods and/or services towards the total project cost
- Incorporate SHC (http://www.fws.gov/southeast/shc/pdf/LandscapeConservationQA-10232008.pdf) into projects with consideration of potential climate change effects and resiliency of restoration activities to factors including, but not limited to, sea level rise.

Selected projects are funded from annual appropriations to the Coastal Program. Although project ideas may be developed and proposals may be submitted throughout the year, please bear in mind that our final funding allocations are typically distributed in mid-spring. Therefore, in order to be considered for funding in FY 2010, please ensure that project proposals are submitted no later than April 9, 2010. Projects will be evaluated by staff in the South Florida Ecological Services Office and those selected will enter into cooperative agreements. During the cooperative agreement process, project contacts may be asked to provide additional details of the work to be accomplished.

FAQs:

Who is eligible to receive funding from the Coastal Program? Federal, state, and local government agencies, academic institutions, nongovernmental organizations, nonprofit groups, and citizens are eligible to apply for funding.

Where in south Florida may projects occur? The area of coverage for this office includes Indian River, Osceola, Polk, and Sarasota counties and all other counties south to the Florida Keys in Monroe County.
**How much funding can I request?** There is not a set limit for monetary requests, however, funding levels average around $50K and range from $10K to $100K.

**If my project is funded, when would I be able to start?** Most agreements are ready to go by October of the same year.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with questions or project ideas. Also, please let me know if you'd like to be removed from my distribution list.

Thanks!
Debbie

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