

Wetland Program Development Grants for Tribes



Wetland Program Development Grants

- What are the funds for?
- How does the Wetland grant program fit with the nonpoint source pollution control program?
- Information on Wetland proposals and grant competition
- Program Contact at EPA Region 9

What is a Wetland?

- An area with water (sometimes), wetland plants and soils
- Wetlands can include:
 - Seeps and springs,
 - Salt and freshwater marshes,
 - Riparian corridors and arroyos,
 - Playas and cienegas,
 - Vernal pools,
 - and more.
- EPA is especially interested in helping tribes protect their “isolated”, “seasonal”, “ephemeral”, and “spring-fed” wetlands.

3

What are the funds for?

- To “develop and refine” (initiate, build, improve, design, revise) a wetland protection program.
- Not for wetland protection program “implementation”.
- Official title is “Wetland Program Development Grants” (WPDG).
- Since 1990, EPA has given the WPDG grant funds to Tribes, States, and local governments.

4

What are the funds for?

- To “develop and refine” wetland protection programs, by ...(for example) ...
 - Creating and testing a wetland monitoring and assessment program;
 - Completing a wetland restoration demonstration project using a new method, monitoring the change in wetland condition and water quality, and incorporating lessons learned into new wetland program plans;
 - Using existing wetlands data to figure out priorities for wetlands restoration and protection;
 - Developing an official definition of a “wetland”;
 - Training staff how to monitor wetland condition and water quality associated with wetlands.

5

What do wetlands have to do with nonpoint source pollution control?

- Each wetland is part of a watershed.
- Actions upstream can impact a wetland (surface or underground).
- Too much erosion upstream can fill in a wetland.
- Too much chemical pollution upstream can kill wetland plants and animals (sometimes leaving only invasive species).

6

What do wetlands have to do with nonpoint source pollution control?

- Good wetlands = good water quality
- A wetland can also filter out some sediment and chemical/biological pollution (if not overwhelmed)
- Good water quality = good wetlands
- If you want to protect and restore your wetlands, you need to control nonpoint source pollution
- Developing a strong wetlands protection program is tied to developing a strong nonpoint source pollution control program

7

What does this have to do with nonpoint source pollution control?

Leveraging Resources

- Wetland Program Development Grants are focused on developing and refining your wetland protection program.
- Wetland monitoring and assessment *may also* give you more information on nonpoint source pollution and water quality improvements.

8

What does this have to do with nonpoint source pollution control?

Leveraging Resources

- Examples:
 - Assessing a watershed to determine priorities for wetland restoration, may also give you information on nonpoint source pollution control priorities.
 - Monitoring a demonstration wetland restoration site for effectiveness, may also give you information on changes in nonpoint source pollution levels.

9

Wetland Program Development Grant Funding

- A competitive project grant program
- Tribes, States, and local governments are eligible
- Annual competition (timing varies). **No information is available about the next competition cycle.**
- 2008 Competition Cycle:
 - \$1,700,000 available in Region 9
 - RFP was issued February 7th.
 - Proposals were due March 25th.
 - 22 applicants, many good proposals
 - 10 selected (5 were tribes)

10

Wetland Program Development Grant Funding

- MATCH: 25% match of total project costs requirement (If part of a PPG, match is 5%).
- Typical award amounts \$50,000 to \$300,000.
- Typical project length is 1 to 3 years.

11

Wetland Program Development Grant Competition Info

- What projects are eligible?
 - Those which “develop and refine” (initiate, build, improve, design, revise) a wetland protection program.
 - Not those which just “implement” a wetland protection program.
 - Must show how this project will be used to improve your program.

12

Wetland Program Development Grant Competition Info

- Look at the new RFP and ranking criteria (when they come out). They change every year.
- Follow the suggested outline.
- Make the answers easy to find.
- Be as specific as you can within the page limit. Give examples.

13

Wetland Program Development Grant Competition Info

- Must show a strong need for your project. Do others think it is needed, too?
- Must show how you will use results to improve your wetland program. Show environmental results and outputs.
- Show who you have worked with on this issue in your tribe, in your region and beyond.
- Show how you will actively be a mentor and share your information with other tribes, others in your watershed and beyond. Give examples.

14

US EPA Wetland Links

Last year's Request for Proposals (RFP):
<http://www.epa.gov/region09/funding/wetlands-08.html>

Examples of projects funded in 2006 & 2007:
<http://www.epa.gov/region09/funding/wetlands-08.html>

EPA's National Wetlands Program Website:
<http://www.epa.gov/wetlands/>

EPA's Wetlands Monitoring & Assessment Website:
<http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/monitor/>

15

US EPA Region 9 Contact Information

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16