Many communities and private landowners are grappling with how to best protect their existing wetland resources or restore some of the thousands of acres the nation has already lost. In addition to its federal regulatory role in protecting wetlands, EPA helps states, tribes, and local governments develop their own programs for wetland protection and restoration by providing funds to help them get started. There are never enough public funds available, however, EPA also works with communities to leverage non-federal funding for their wetland projects.

Federal Funding Programs
A number of federal programs are specifically designed to help support wetland projects, including the following:

- Wetland Program Development Grants. Support state, tribal, and local government efforts to develop new or enhance existing wetland protection, management, and restoration programs (EPA). [www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/grantguidelines](http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/grantguidelines)
- Five-Star Restoration Program. Through partner organizations, provides funds to support community-based wetland and riparian education/restoration projects (EPA). [www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/restore/5star](http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/restore/5star)
- National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program. Provides matching grants for the acquisition, restoration, management, or enhancement of coastal wetlands (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service). [www.fws.gov/CEP/cwgcover.html](http://www.fws.gov/CEP/cwgcover.html)
- NOAA Restoration Center Programs. Uses money received from various damage claims to restore saltmarshes and other wetlands. They also have a community-based restoration grant program. (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration). [www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration)

Many other broad-based federal programs fund wetland projects if they meet the program requirements.
State Funding Programs
Funds to support wetland projects are frequently available at the state level. Many states, for instance, receive State Revolving Fund loans for water quality management and source water protection activities. States also receive federal funds under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act that they award to local governments, nonprofit organizations, or tribes for implementation of nonpoint source projects. For more information, contact the agency in your state that is responsible for natural resources management.

Other Funding Sources
Funding for wetland projects is by no means limited to government funding. Many different organizations and corporations support wetland projects across the country. The sources can be divided into the following categories:

- **Philanthropic and community foundations** are legally required to give away at least 5 percent of their assets annually to qualify for foundation status. Several foundation directories are available over the Internet or at your local library.
- **Not-for-profit organizations** sometimes have programs to provide financial or in-kind support for projects that help them to fulfill their goals.
- **Public/Private partnerships** combine public and private efforts to fund projects or meet environmental goals.
- **Corporations** give funds through two mechanisms—corporate foundations and operating funds. Corporate foundations operate in a manner similar to other foundations and are frequently listed in foundation directories. Corporate operating funds are usually allocated through their community relations office.

These are just a few of the many sources of public and private funding for wetland protection and restoration projects. To best protect and manage wetland resources, states, tribes, and local governments should look beyond traditional sources of funding and use their available resources to best leverage funds for their wetland and watershed programs.

THE WETLAND FACT SHEET SERIES

- **Wetlands Overview**
- **Types of Wetlands**
- **Functions & Values of Wetlands**
- **Threats to Wetlands**
- **Wetland Restoration**
- **Funding Wetland Projects**
- **Wetland Monitoring & Assessment**
- **Sustainable Communities**
- **Volunteering for Wetlands**
- **Teaching about Wetlands**

For more information, visit [www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands](http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands).

WETLAND RESOURCES

**On the Internet**

- The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance ................................................................. [www.cdfa.gov](http://www.cdfa.gov)
- The Foundation Center ................................................................................ [fdncenter.org](http://fdncenter.org)
- National Network of Grantmakers ................................................................. [www.nng.org](http://www.nng.org)
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant Programs.......................... [www.nfwf.org/programs/programs.htm](http://www.nfwf.org/programs/programs.htm)

**In Print and Related Fact Sheets**

- Private Landowner's Wetlands Assistance Guide: Voluntary Options for Wetlands Stewardship in Maryland. For a copy, contact EPA Region 3 at (215) 566-2718.
- The Oregon Wetlands Conservation Guide: Voluntary Wetlands Stewardship Options for Oregon's Private Landowners. For a copy, contact the Oregon Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Division, at (503) 292-9451.
- **Funding Wetland Projects: Wetland Program Development Grants Fact Sheet**, EPA 843-F-01-0021.