

Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act 2008 Request for Project Proposals

1) Funding Opportunity Description

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) requests interested entities to submit proposals for the restoration of Great Lakes fish and wildlife resources, as authorized under the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act (16 USC 941c). Eligible applicants include the States, Federally Recognized Indian Tribal Governments, and Native American Treaty Organizations within the Great Lakes basin. Non-governmental organizations and conservation organizations (both within and outside of the Great Lakes basin) may receive funding if sponsored by an institution listed above. Sponsorship is not required at the pre-proposal stage. This request is being presented by the USFWS through the U.S. Government's Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA # 15.608) and via the U.S. Government's internet portal for federal funding opportunities at www.grants.gov.

All proposals should focus on the restoration of fish and/or wildlife resources in the Great Lakes Basin and should be consistent with the [goals of the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act of 2006](#) and the recommendations of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration's "[Strategy to Restore and Protect the Great Lakes](#)". When appropriate, all proposals should be consistent with:

- a. The goals of the [Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement](#);
- b. The [Non-indigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act](#) as reauthorized by the National Invasive Species Act;
- c. The recommendations from the [Great Lakes Fishery Resources Restoration Study of 1995](#);
- d. The [fish community objectives](#) identified by the [lake committees](#) and the Council of Lake Committees;
- e. The [Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries](#);
- f. The [Joint Strategic Plan for Management of Great Lakes Fisheries](#); and
- g. The [Upper Mississippi River and Great Lakes Region Joint Venture 2007 Implementation Plan](#).

All proposals require a 25% non-federal match. Proposals submitted are reviewed and recommended for funding by the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Proposal Review Committee under the guidance of the USFWS. Since 1998, 72 restoration proposals totaling close to \$6.6 million, including \$3.9 million in federal funds, have been implemented. More than 60 organizations have contributed matching funds and expertise.

2) Award Information

Available funding is subject to final Congressional appropriations for Fiscal Year 2008. Recently, successful proposals have ranged from \$8,000 to \$174,000, with the average proposal at \$55,000. Accepted proposals will be awarded funding via a cooperative or grant agreement between the recipient and the USFWS. Funding will be made available once agreements are signed by each party. The USFWS will provide up to 75% of required project funds and, depending on the project, may be able to provide technical assistance. Proposals to continue aspects of projects funded in previous fiscal years are eligible to compete with proposals for new projects. All awards are contingent upon availability of funding.

3) Eligibility Information

a) Eligible Applicants

The States, Federally Recognized Indian Tribal Governments, and Native American Treaty Organizations within the Great Lakes basin are eligible. Non-governmental organizations and conservation organizations (both within and outside of the Great Lakes basin) may receive funding if sponsored by an institution listed above. Sponsorship is not required at the pre-proposal stage.

b) Cost Sharing

All proposals require a 25% non-federal match. The required match is 25% of the total project costs (funding request + non-federal match). For example, if the funding request is \$50,000, the minimum required non-federal match is \$16,666.66 ($\$50,000 / 0.75 = \$66,666.66 - \$50,000.00 = \$16,666.66$).

c) Other

Any proposals received after the submission deadline (see below) will not be considered.

4) Application Submission Information

a) Application Process Overview

One-page project pre-proposals are submitted to the USFWS. Pre-proposals are reviewed and ranked by the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Proposal Review Committee. Successful applicants are invited to submit full proposals based on pre-proposal merit.

b) Obtaining application materials

Pre-proposal submission instructions and a one-page Project Pre-Proposal form can be downloaded by [clicking here](#).

c) Content and Form of Application

Pre-proposal-

Pre-proposals are limited to one page and include the following information: project title, project leader(s); costs; project description; objectives; methods; project relevance; and deliverables/products. Pre-proposals must also include a separate one-page curriculum vitae for each project leader.

Full proposal-

Those invited to submit full proposals will be required to submit the same information as included in the pre-proposals, adjusted to respond to any comments/suggestions of the proposal review committee which will be provided via email. In addition, the following information must be included in detail: source of the non-federal match; budget (including direct and indirect costs); background and rationale; project objectives; methods; project relevance; deliverables; schedule for completion; past and current funding support; references and suggested reviewers.

Additional information-

Once successful proposals are announced, applicants may be required to provide further information, such as information which the USFWS may need to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (42 USC 4321-4347), Endangered Species Act (16 USC 1531-1544), or other requirements as referenced in part 6(b) below.

d) Submission Dates and Times

Pre-proposals are due on March 28, 2008 at 5:00 PM CST. An email will be sent to confirm receipt of pre-proposals. Pre-proposals received after this deadline will not be considered.

e) Intergovernmental Review

This program is excluded from coverage under E.O. 12372.

f) Funding Restrictions

Construction and engineering costs are allowed for restoration projects which directly benefit fish and wildlife resources in the Great Lakes. Equipment purchases are allowable for those items necessary to meet the stated objectives of the project. We strive to hold

indirect costs to a maximum of 5% in order to put as much funding as possible into actual research or on the ground work. Funding is not available for salaries of permanent or tenured staff. The development of management plans is not eligible for funding; however, gathering information important for the development of management plans and implementing actions listed in management plans are eligible for funding. Travel funding to attend and present results at conferences is limited to \$1,000 per person, up to a maximum of \$2,000 per award. Reimbursement of pre-award costs may be requested in special fully-justified situations.

Reimbursement payments on funded proposals will not be released to the Recipient unless all required annual reports have been received. The USFWS will withhold payment of the final 20% of the total funds until all identified reports, products and other deliverables have been received and approved.

g) Other Submission Requirements

Electronic versions of pre-proposals must be submitted to the USFWS via email to Rick_Westerhof@fws.gov. Applicants are also required to submit paper copies of pre-proposals to:

Mr. Rick Westerhof
Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act Pre-Proposal
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Green Bay National Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office
6644 Turner Road
Elmira, Michigan 49730

5) Application Review Information

a) Criteria

All proposals:

All proposals should focus on the restoration of fish and/or wildlife resources in the Great Lakes Basin and should be consistent with the [goals of the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act of 2006](#) and the recommendations of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration's "[Strategy to Restore and Protect the Great Lakes](#)". When appropriate, all proposals should be consistent with:

- a. The goals of the [Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement](#);
- b. The [Non-indigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act](#) as reauthorized by the National Invasive Species Act;
- c. The recommendations from the [Great Lakes Fishery Resources Restoration Study of 1995](#);

- d. The [fish community objectives](#) identified by the [lake committees](#) and the Council of Lake Committees;
- e. The [Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries](#);
- f. The [Joint Strategic Plan for Management of Great Lakes Fisheries](#); and
- g. The [Upper Mississippi River and Great Lakes Region Joint Venture 2007 Implementation Plan](#).

Level of cost sharing (beyond 25% non-federal match) will not be considered in the proposal evaluation.

b) Review and Selection Process

Pre-proposals are reviewed and ranked by the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Proposal Review Committee. Applicants are invited to submit full proposals based on pre-proposal merit. Full proposals are subject to a scientific peer review. Upon further review of full proposals, the Proposal Review Committee recommends to the USFWS any of those proposals that should be funded. This grants program is subject to Federal Advisory Committee Act regulations and the Proposal Review Committee will comply with those regulations.

The selection process is guided by a preference for projects which address fish and wildlife resources and habitat needs across the Great Lakes, or site-specific projects which generate results applicable to more than one of the Great Lakes. An effort is made to balance geographic distribution of projects such that fish and wildlife resources within each of the Great Lakes benefit. Both large geographic scale and local projects will be considered.

c) Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates

Projects are recommended by the Proposal Review Committee to the USFWS within approximately 90 days of submission of full-proposals. The USFWS will issue a press release announcing project selections within approximately 90 days following receipt of recommendations.

6) Award Administration Information

a) Award Notices

In August or September 2008, successful project officers will receive an official signature-ready copy of a cooperative or grant agreement between the project officer's institution and the USFWS. This agreement serves as the official notice of award to the recipient and provides information on requesting reimbursement of costs.

b) Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Recipients of Federal funds are required to comply with all applicable Federal laws, regulations and guidelines.

General information on grant requirements including cost principles, administrative requirements, and audit requirements can be found in the following Office of Management and Budget (OMB) circulars: for State and Local Governments: A-87, A-102, A-133; for Educational Institutions A-21, A-110, A-133; and for Non-Profit Organizations: A-122, A-110, A-133. These circulars are available on the [OMB website](#). Additional U.S. Department of the Interior guidance can be found in [43 CFR 12](#).

Information on specific non-discrimination, environmental, and historic and cultural preservation compliance requirements can be found in the [Federal Assistance Toolkit](#).

c) Reports / Deliverables / Products

All projects and activities are monitored for progress and compliance with the agreed upon scope of work. Annual reports describing progress are due each year on or before the date the agreement was originally finalized. Final reports, deliverables and other products are due on or before the project end date.

7) Agency Contact

Mr. Rick Westerhof
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Green Bay National Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office
6644 Turner Road
Elmira, Michigan 49730

Email: Rick_Westerhof@fws.gov
Phone: 231-584-3553
Fax: 231-584-2462