



# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Mountain-Prairie Region



IN REPLY REFER TO:

NWRS/PBD  
MailStop 60130

MAILING ADDRESS:  
Post Office Box 24586  
Denver Federal Center  
Denver, Colorado 80225-0486

STREET LOCATION:  
134 Union Blvd.  
Lakewood, Colorado 80228-1807

SEP 15 2008

Memorandum

To: Project Leaders, National Wildlife Refuge System, Region 6

From: Assistant Regional Director, National Wildlife Refuge System, Region 6

Subject: FY 2009 Challenge Cost Share Proposals - Due COB, Friday, October 24, 2008

In FY 2008, \$543,900 was allocated to the Region 6 Challenge Cost Share (CCS) Program. A total of 49 proposals were received of which 30 were funded. The CCS program is designed to plan and implement projects on the ground, as well as bring in, perpetuate, and coordinate cooperator interest and involvement of partners. The 2008 projects leveraged \$1,087,250 of non-Federal funds. In addition, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) received \$78,550 from other Federal partners. This means that there was \$1,709,700 for application on the ground to support wildlife, their habitats, and the people that care for them! The Service realized over a 2:1 ratio for its investment on the financial side and an incalculable amount toward building coalitions, partners, and promoting sustainable stewardship.

Emphasis areas for the FY 2009 CCS program are invasive species inventory and control, habitat restoration monitoring and management (including prescribed fire), climate change effects, and outreach and visitor services.

Some examples of successful projects are: a tamarisk survey and treatment with a local water supply company; a native grass and forbs interseeding project to assist with a species recovery plan; a study on the effects of shelterbelts and habitat fragmentation; or a visitor services related project in cooperation with a local conservation group that would educate participants about conservation on National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS) lands.

Projects funded through the CCS program require a **minimum** non-Federal match of at least 50 percent. This matching contribution may be in the form of funding or non-monetary contributions such as in-kind service, supplies, equipment, expertise, etc. Projects requiring Engineering or Contracting services (i.e., construction) are not eligible for funding under this program.

The cap for each Region 6 CCS project is \$30,000. All project funds must be obligated or expended within FY 2009. We recommend obligating the funds to the partners whenever possible. Please note that you cannot obligate funds to other Federal agencies through the CCS agreement. Obligation or expenditure of funds may be done as soon as you receive a fully signed copy of the CCS agreement. This is also the point where the funds will be fund-targeted to your station.

The program and proposal information will be available for interested cooperators at <http://www.grants.gov> as well as the Region 6 Challenge Cost Share website. Potentially, with this new avenue of advertising, you may have new groups contacting you about project opportunities. These potential cooperator groups will be able to review the information on the Region 6 CCS website; however, applications will be made through a sponsoring field station. The one-page proposal form (attached) is due to Amy Thornburg, Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) by Friday, October 24, 2008. Ms. Thornburg has kindly volunteered to coordinate the selection of projects this year. The Project Leaders must sign the one-page proposal showing concurrence regarding the proposal. You may submit the proposal via e-mail, forwarding through the Project Leader for concurrence is acceptable.

There will be a committee of Regional Office and field staff to rank and select proposals. Successful project applicants will be notified and then the station will complete a CCS agreement using the template found on the Region 6 website. This agreement will be submitted via e-mail to the CCS Coordinator, Tina Dobrinsky. Proposals that are ranked by the committee, but unfunded, will be held in the event that a funded proposal is cancelled during the year or other funding becomes available. If this occurs, funds will be used for the next available ranked project.

The FY 2009 ranking committee will be comprised of volunteers from the field and Regional Office. Please encourage volunteers to contact Amy Thornburg. Each committee member will independently review the project applications and then the committee will teleconference to sort out any issues.

Additional information, examples, and guidance are available on the web, (<http://mountain-prairie.fws.gov/challengecostshare/>). If you have any questions, please contact Amy Thornburg via e-mail or at (907) 723-8202, extension 5, or Tina Dobrinsky, CCS Coordinator by e-mail or at (303) 236-4346.

Attachment

cc: Management Team  
Tina Dobrinsky  
Susan Reimer



**CHALLENGE COST SHARE PROPOSAL – Fiscal Year 2009**

Station: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Leader Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Description:

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Funding Proposal: FWS \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Identified and Potential Partners - and their contributions in dollars or in-kind

**PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS**

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)

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Special Considerations:

IF MULTIPLE PROPOSALS ARE SUBMITTED - PRIORITY OF PROPOSAL \_\_\_\_\_

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