

Private Stewardship Grants

Appropriations Language

For expenses necessary to carry out the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, as amended (16 U.S.C. 4601-4 through 11), including administrative expenses, and for private conservation efforts to be carried out on private lands, [\$7,000,000] *\$10,000,000*, to be derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, to remain available until expended; *Provided*, That the amount provided herein is for the Private Stewardship Grants Program established by the Secretary to provide grants and other assistance to individuals and groups engaged in private conservation efforts that benefit federally listed, proposed, or candidate species, or other at-risk species. *Provided further*, That balances from amounts previously appropriated under the heading "Stewardship Grants" shall be transferred to and merged with this appropriation and shall remain available until expended. (*Department of Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2005.*)

Authorizing Statutes

Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). Prohibits the import, export, or taking of fish and wildlife and plants that are listed as threatened or endangered species; provides for adding species to and removing them from the list of threatened and endangered species, and for preparing and implementing plans for their recovery; provides for interagency cooperation to avoid take of listed species and for issuing permits for otherwise prohibited activities; provides for cooperation with States, including authorization of financial assistance; and implements the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES). Authorization of Appropriations: Expired September 30, 1992

Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, as amended, (16 U.S.C. 742(a)-754). Establishes a comprehensive national fish and wildlife policy and authorizes the Secretary to take steps required for the development, management, advancement, conservation, and protection of fisheries resources and wildlife resources through research, acquisition of refuge lands, development of existing facilities, and other means.

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, as amended, (16 U.S.C. 661-666(e)). The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to provide assistance to, and cooperate with, Federal, State, and public or private agencies and organizations in the development, protection, rearing, and stocking of all species of wildlife, resources thereof, and their habitat, in controlling losses of the same from disease or other causes, in minimizing damages from overabundant species, in providing public shooting and fishing areas, including easements across public lands for access thereto.

Private Stewardship Grants	2004 Actual	2005 Actual	Uncontrollable & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	2006 Budget Request	Change From 2005 (+/-)
Private Stewardship Grants \$(000) FTE	7,408 2	6,903 4		+3,097 -	10,000 4	+3,097 -
Administration	[370]	[345]			[500]	
Total, Private Stewardship Grants \$(000) FTE	7,408 2	6,903 4		+3,097 -	10,000 4	+3,097 -

Program Overview

Private Stewardship Grants fund conservation actions for imperiled species on private lands. Grants are available to individuals and groups to implement private land conservation actions to benefit federally listed, proposed, or candidate species, or other at-risk species. The participation of private landowners is essential for successful imperiled species conservation efforts because most listed species depend on habitat found on private lands. This grant assistance is crucial to garnering private landowner participation.

The Department has finalized its Strategic Plan, and the Service has proposed mission goals and associated long-term goals consistent with the Strategic Plan. The Private Stewardship Grants Program contributes directly to the Department’s Strategic Plan goals to sustain biological communities by focusing on the conservation of the most imperiled components of these communities, and to improve the health of watersheds, landscapes, and marine resources, under the Resource Protection mission component. The Service’s associated proposed mission goal is “Conservation Leadership for Fish, Wildlife and their Habitats.” The Department’s relevant end outcome measures are the percent of species listed a decade or more that are in stable or improving condition and the number of candidate and at-risk species not listed due to conservation efforts.

Use of Cost and Performance Information

- Private Stewardship grants are awarded through competition. The established eligibility and ranking criteria for the program, and the regional competitions conducted to select grants, allow the Service to focus the program on its overall goals and ensure that program performance goals are achieved.
- We continue to analyze results from previous years of the program in order to further refine program elements to better meet our performance goals.
- Awarded 97 projects in 39 states in FY 2004.

2004 Program Performance Accomplishments

The Service issued a request for proposals on January 6, 2004, that included eligibility criteria and ranking factors. An outreach strategy was implemented to encourage individuals and groups engaged in local, private, and voluntary conservation efforts to apply for these grants. The Endangered

Species and Partners for Fish and Wildlife Programs worked collectively to inform individuals and groups about the availability of these grants, and provided technical assistance to the individuals and groups who received the grant awards. Representatives from state governments, other Federal agencies, conservation organizations, agriculture and development interests, and the science community were identified to serve as members of the diverse panels that made project funding recommendations to the Service. Project selections were announced in August 2004.

In FY 2004, the Service made awards to 97 projects in 39 states totaling more than \$7 million. Typical projects included managing nonnative, competing species; implementing measures to minimize risk from disease; restoring streams that support imperiled species; and planting native vegetation to restore a rare plant community. Several projects funded in FY 2004 through the program are listed below.

Select 2004 Program Awards

Dooley Creek Restoration Project (Application by Bioengineering Institute) California (\$38,351) - To restore riparian and instream habitat and stabilize banks along a 2,734-foot stretch of Dooley Creek. Salmonid habitat will be enhanced by structures that increase native riparian vegetative cover and pool habitat and reduce sediment from eroding banks.

Auwahi Dryland Forest Restoration (Application by Ulupalakua Ranch) Hawaii (\$26,000) - To assist the continued community-based restoration of especially diverse tracts of dryland forest at Auwahi, Ulupalakua Ranch, Maui by embarking on an 8-hectare enclosure. This enclosure will protect five endangered plant species, *Xanthoxylum hawaiiense*, *Melicope knudsenii*, *Melicope adscendens*, *Alectryon macrococcus* var. *auwahiensis*, and *Santalum freycinetianum* var. *lanaiense*. Funds will be used toward collecting, germinating, and propagating the endangered plants; controlling non-native invasive plants; and irrigating to ensure outplanting success.

Voluntary Removal and Marking of Selected Fences to Reduce Collisions by Lesser Prairie-Chickens (Application by George Miksch Sutton Avian Research) Oklahoma, and Texas (\$53,800) - To remove and mark selected fences in Beaver and Ellis Counties, Oklahoma and Lipscomb County, Texas to reduce collisions and mortality of lesser prairie-chickens, an "at-risk" species in the High Plains portion of the Southwest Region.

Southeastern Minnesota Prairie and Savanna Restoration Project (Application by Prairie Smoke Chapter, The Prairie Enthusiasts) Minnesota (\$70,300) - The habitat in the identified prairie remnants will be recovered, enhanced, and expanded to benefit at-risk species. Management activities include prescribed fire, invasive plant removal, and seed harvesting and planting. There are 10 state listed species that will benefit from stewardship activities including timber rattlesnake, Blanding's turtle, rough-seeded fameflower, prairie bush clover, Hill's thistle, and cliff goldenrod. The long-term conservation of these rare habitats and the associated species will be fostered by the private landowners through the stewardship plan.

Restoring the Native Prairie Ecosystem and Reducing Non-point Source Pollution on Private Lands in the Blackland Prairie (Application by Mississippi Fish and Wildlife Foundation) Mississippi and Alabama (\$232,000) - The Mississippi Fish and Wildlife Foundation will work with private landowners to restore prairie habitat and show how such restoration can benefit aquatic species within the Tombigbee River System of the Mobile River Basin. At least 3 landowners have indicated interest in native prairie restoration and the project will result in 750 to 1000 acres of prairie restored.

Glacial Lake Albany Karner blue butterfly habitat restoration proposal (Application by The Nature Conservancy) New York (\$69,047) - The objective of this project is to employ forestry and land clearing practices to facilitate Karner blue butterfly habitat restoration of currently forested acres within the Glacial Lake Albany Federal Karner blue butterfly recovery unit.

Private Lands Habitat Enhancement for Grassland Species at Risk (Application by Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory) Colorado and South Dakota (\$114,675) To restore shortgrass prairie rangelands to benefit grassland and riparian species at risk, principally declining grassland birds. The six individual projects vary in the type of management proposed and include reseeding cropland to native prairie, invasive species removal, and altering livestock grazing management.

2005 Planned Program Performance

The request for proposals was published/announced to the public on January 18, 2005, and we expect to make grant award announcements by June 2005.

Justification of 2006 Program Changes

Subactivity		2006 Budget Request	Program Changes(+/-)
Private Stewardship Grants	\$(000)	10,000	+3,097
	FTE	4	-

The FY 2006, budget request for the Private Stewardship Grants program is \$10,000,000 and 4 FTE, a net program increase of \$3,097,000 and 0 FTE from the 2005 enacted level. Additional resources for the Private Stewardship Grants program will increase the Service’s ability to provide funds to individuals and groups to implement private land conservation actions to benefit federally listed, proposed, or candidate species, or other at-risk species. Because most listed species depend on habitat found on private lands, the participation of private landowners is essential for successful imperiled species conservation efforts.

Private Stewardship Grants (+\$3,097,000)

Additional resources for the Private Stewardship Grants program will support greater involvement of individuals and groups in imperilled species conservation efforts. This \$3,097,000 increase is a significant increase to a program aimed at assisting individuals with conservation actions on private lands; it will support many priority on-the-ground projects and studies, and will highlight the value of working with individuals in our partnerships for imperilled species conservation and recovery. In contrast to other grant programs, which usually support projects of third parties, groups and individuals themselves use the funds provided through the Private Stewardship Grants program for on-the-ground projects to conserve species on their property. Private stewardship grants are an important source of funds for individuals and groups, many of whom have limited funding for imperilled species work, to undertake high priority needs and respond to unique opportunities. The use of Private Stewardship Grants funding is also critical to promoting voluntary conservation of “at risk species” (species not listed or officially identified as candidates under the ESA).

Interest from private landowners in this program remains high; in fiscal year 2004, private landowners submitted 281 eligible proposals requesting approximately \$32,961,408 in funding. This level of request reflects the increasing need to support voluntary, private conservation efforts throughout the country. To be eligible for private stewardship grant funds, a minimum of 10 percent of the cost of the project must be shared by a non-federal entity. The requested funds are leveraged through matching dollars to maximize the conservation benefit to imperiled species. This increase

will support the Service in meeting the long-term goal of habitat conservation at both the species and landscape level, and the long-term goal of supporting fish, wildlife and plant populations.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
PRIVATE STEWARDSHIP GRANTS PROGRAM

Program and Financing (in thousands of dollars)

Identification code 14-5495-0	2004 Actual	2005 Estimate	2006 Estimate
Obligations by program activity:			
00.01 Private Stewardship Grants Program	3,695	7,553	10,200
00.02 Administration	240	400	400
10.00 Total new obligations	3,935	7,953	10,600

Budgetary resources available for obligation:			
21.40 Unobligated balance available, start of year	2,486	5,985	4,935
22.00 New budget authority	7,408	6,903	10,000
22.10 Resources available from recoveries of prior year obligations	26	0	0
23.90 Total budgetary resources available for obligation	9,920	12,888	14,935
23.95 New obligations (-)	-3,935	-7,953	-10,600
24.40 Unobligated balance available, end of year	5,985	4,935	4,335

New budget authority (gross) detail:			
Discretionary:			
40.20 Appropriation (special fund, LWCF) [14-5005-0-N-0507]	7,500	7,000	10,000
40.37 Appropriation temporarily reduced [14-5005-0-N-0520]	-92	-97	0
43.00 Appropriation (total discretionary)	7,408	6,903	10,000

Change in obligated balances:			
<i>Unpaid obligations, start of year:</i>			
72.40 Obligated balance, start of year	6,904	7,276	9,065
73.10 New obligations	3,935	7,953	10,600
73.20 Total outlays, gross (-)	-3,563	-6,164	-6,898
<i>Unpaid obligations, end of year:</i>			
74.40 Obligated balance, end of year	7,276	9,065	12,768

Outlays, (gross) detail:			
86.90 Outlays from new current authority	2,222	2,071	3,000
86.93 Outlays from current balances	1,341	4,093	3,898
87.00 Total, outlays (gross)	3,563	6,164	6,898

Net budget authority and outlays:			
89.00 Budget authority	7,500	7,000	10,000
90.00 Outlays	3,563	6,164	6,898

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Object classification (in thousands of dollars)

Identification code 14-5495-0	2004 Actual	2004 Estimate	2005 Estimate
Direct obligations:			
Personnel compensation:			
11.1 Full-time permanent	187	243	245
11.3 Other than full-time permanent	3	3	3
11.5 Other personnel compensation	-3	7	7
11.9 Total personnel compensation	187	253	255
12.1 Civilian personnel benefits	49	51	52
21.0 Travel and transportation of persons	1	9	10
23.3 Communications, utilities, and miscellaneous charges	0	8	10
24.0 Printing	0	2	2
25.2 Other services	0	55	60
25.3 Purchases of good and services from government accts	2	35	35
26.0 Supplies and materials	1	6	7
31.0 Equipment	0	34	34
41.0 Grants, susidies, and contributions	3,695	7,500	10,135
99.0 Subtotal, direct obligations	3,935	7,953	10,600

Personnel Summary

Identification code 14-5495-0	2004 Actual	2005 Estimate	2005 Estimate
Total compensable workyears:			
1001 Full-time equivalent employment	3	4	4
Average salary per FTE	62,333	63,250	63,750

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