



**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
South Carolina Coastal Program
Guidelines
Fiscal Year 2011**



PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- To develop cooperative agreements that provide funding for technically sound and cost effective projects that protect coastal lands or restore or enhance degraded coastal wetlands, uplands, estuaries, and riparian corridors;
- To form partnerships in South Carolina in joint effort to conserve, restore, and enhance coastal resources and habitat; and
- To implement the Service's Strategic Habitat Conservation (SHC) framework focused on population objectives and take the next steps in our conservation work across a suite of challenging issues including the most compelling one of our time -- accelerating climate change.

PROJECT GOALS

Projects should:

- Ultimately result in on-the ground restoration or enhancement or protection of coastal habitats, focusing on landscape level initiatives
- Improve habitat for fish and wildlife resources, including but not limited to federally protected species
- Collaborate with partners to combine resources and increase effectiveness
- Leverage additional funding or other in-kind goods and/or services towards the total project cost
- Incorporate SHC (<http://www.fws.gov/southeast/SHC/pdf/LandscapeConservationQA-10232008.pdf>) into projects with consideration of potential climate change effects and resiliency of restoration activities to factors including, but not limited to, sea level rise.
- Coastal Program funds cannot be used to provide compensatory mitigation or directly acquire real property.

Selected projects are funded from annual appropriations to the Coastal Program advertised on grants.gov. Although project ideas may be developed and project descriptions may be submitted throughout the year, please bear in mind that our final funding allocations are typically distributed in mid-spring. All projects will be evaluated by staff in the Charleston Ecological Services Office and high ranking projects selected will enter into cooperative agreements.

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS

Cooperative Agreements are used by the Coastal Program to legally enter into a partnership and transfer funding. A cooperative agreement specifically lists the expectations of the partnership and reporting requirements. In these agreements both partners have substantial involvement in one or potentially all of the following: project development, technical assistance or review, or project execution. The following guidelines have been developed to assist partners in organizing and developing concise project information needed prior to entering into a cooperative agreement with the Coastal Program. Due to the cooperative nature of our agreements, it is recommended that you contact the Coastal Program Coordinator to discuss a project before submitting information about a project (see contact information below).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project Title

Contact Information: Include name, affiliation, mailing address, telephone, fax, and e-mail address for each principal investigator and co-investigator. Clearly indicate who the applicant is and what form of entity it is (*e.g.*, Federal, state, or local government; academic institution; non-governmental organization; non-profit group; or citizen).

Project Objectives: Outline the plan of action and detail how the proposed work will be accomplished. Projects may be multi-year in scope or a phased approach (up to 3 years). If a project will occur over more than 1 year, indicate specifically what accomplishments (including acres restored, enhanced or protected) will be completed each year.

Project Location and Description: Provide a figure of the project area (include latitude and longitude) and clearly describe the approach and specific methods required to accomplish the project. Include the following: (1) geographic extent of the benefits, including those that go beyond the project boundaries (*e.g.*, landscape level benefits); (2) type of habitat and

amount of area to be restored or permanently protected (*e.g.*, linear feet of shore line, acres); and (3) background on any problems the project seeks to resolve and the project's relevance to South Carolina's coastal ecosystems. Clearly quantify the amount of restoration (*e.g.*, acreage per habitat type such as wetlands, riparian, uplands, etc.) and indicate whether ownership of the project area is public or private.

Project Benefits to Coastal Ecosystems: (1) Describe how any state or federally protected species will benefit from the project; (2) provide background information on any problems the project seeks to resolve and the project's relevance to South Carolina's coastal ecosystem; and (3) outline the anticipated long-term and permanent results.

Contributing Partners: Identify each partner and what type of entity it is, define its role and responsibilities in completing the project, and clearly itemize what each will contribute (*e.g.*, funds, staff hours, volunteer hours, technical support) and the dollar value. Please list all partners associated, even those not contributing financial assistance. The SC Coastal Program should be included in this section with expectations of how the program will be substantially involved either in one of the one or all of the following: project development, technical assistance, funding match or review or project execution. A funding request alone does not qualify as substantial involvement.

Project Costs: Indicate the total cost to complete the project and provide a detailed budget itemizing individual component costs, including all indirect and overhead costs. Indicate how much funding is being requested from the Coastal Program and what project components this funding will pay for. In addition, indicate the amount of cash and in-kind contributions each partner will contribute.

Statement of Products: Identify each product that will result from the project, in addition to quantifying the amount of restoration (in acres per habitat type, stream miles, linear feet of shoreline, etc.). For multi-year projects, please specify how many acres will be restored or enhanced during each year of the agreement.

Time Frame: Provide a detailed schedule of project implementation, duration, monitoring, reporting (semiannual and annual), and milestones. Identify anticipated completion date for each product.

Actions to Date (if any): Describe past or current activities that are relevant to the project, such as previously initiated or completed projects that could affect project initiation or offset the total project cost.

Permits: Projects that require Federal, state, local, or private authorization (*e.g.*, permits, permission to access or conduct activities on public or private lands) must demonstrate that they have or will have the necessary authorizations necessary to complete the project. Additional environmental compliance documentation may be requested from those projects selected for funding.

OTHER INSTRUCTIONS

- Applicants are asked to submit one hard copy of each project description and one electronic copy (.DOC file) to the addresses below. The electronic files may be sent via email, but please pay attention to the file size and send multiple emails if necessary. Please limit project information, excluding attachments, to five pages in length with fonts no smaller than 10 point;
- Other attachments should be limited to literature cited, aerial images, maps, project design schematics, and other figures;
- For more information or if you have any questions, please contact:

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