



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Mountain-Prairie Region



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9/21/2009

Memorandum

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

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

Subject: FY 2010 Challenge Cost Share Proposals - Due COB, Friday, October 30, 2009

The purpose of this memo is to solicit interest and encourage participation in the FY 2010 Challenge Cost Share (CCS) Program. In FY 2009, the allocated budget for the Region 6 CCS Program increased by 38% to approximately \$750,900. The allocation for FY 2010 and future years will remain the same. Several proposals were submitted to the Regional Office (RO) in FY 2009 of which 45 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 2009 projects leveraged approximately \$1,402,376 of non-federal government funds. This means that \$2,153,276 was provided for application on the ground to support wildlife, their habitats, and the people that care for them. The Service realized a ratio of over 2:1 for its financial investment and an incalculable amount toward building coalitions, partners, and promoting sustainable stewardship.

Areas of emphasis for the FY 2010 CCS program are invasive species, habitat restoration monitoring and management (including prescribed fire), climate change effects, increasing youth participation in nature conservation, plus outreach and visitor services.

Some successful examples of projects approved in FY 2009 include providing public education and outreach services to remove invasive species and to promote outdoor ecology education programs for high school seniors.

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The funding cap for each project (previously \$30,000) has been rescinded. Funding maximums will be determined on a case-by-case basis but the intent is still to disseminate funding for as many projects as possible. All project funds must be obligated or expended within FY 2010. Please note that you cannot obligate funds to other Federal agencies through the CCS agreement (CCSA). Obligation or expenditure of funds may be done as soon as you receive a fully signed copy of the CCSA. This is also the point where the funds will be fund-targeted to your station.

The program and proposal information is available at <http://www.grants.gov> as well as the Region 6 CCS website (<http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/challengecostshare/>).

Although potential cooperator groups may be able to review and extract the information on the internet, applications (proposals) will need to be made through a sponsoring field station.

The one-page proposal form (attached to this memo and available on the CCS website) is due to James Graves via e-mail by Friday, October 30, 2009. Mr. Graves is the new CCS Program Coordinator and can be reached at (303)-236-4376. Project officers must obtain the signature of their project leaders on the proposal for concurrence purposes. A proposal submitted via e-mail and forwarded through the project leader will also constitute an acceptable concurrence.

In the near future, a committee will be established comprised of volunteers from the field and regional office. Please encourage volunteers. Each committee member will independently review the project proposals forwarded to them by the CCS Coordinator. The committee will eventually teleconference to sort out any issues, rank, and select proposals for approval.

After the committee ranks the proposals, successful project applicants will then be notified and instructed to prepare a CCSA using the template found on the CCS website for Region 6. The completed agreements must be forwarded back to the CCS coordinator via e-mail within 30 days of approval notification. 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.

Additional information, examples, and guidance are available on the web at (<http://mountain-prairie.fws.gov/challengecostshare/>). If you have any questions, please contact the CCS Coordinator (James Graves) at james_graves@fws.gov or (303)-236-4376.

Attachment

/S/ Richard A. Coleman

CHALLENGE COST SHARE PROPOSAL – Fiscal Year 2010

Station: _____ Date: _____

Phone: _____ Submitted by: _____

Project Leader Signature: _____

Project Description:

Funding Proposal: FWS \$ _____

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

PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS

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

Special Considerations:

IF MULTIPLE PROPOSALS ARE SUBMITTED - PRIORITY OF PROPOSAL _____