

Coral Reef Grants Workshop, August 2005
Challenge Cost Share Program
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Agency Contact Information

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Program Description

The objective of the program is to encourage partnerships with non-federal entities for projects that further the conservation, protection, and enhancement of fish, wildlife, and plants for the continuing benefit of present and future generations. Projects focus on restoration of natural resources, the establishment or expansion of wildlife habitats and wildlife-oriented recreational and education programs. The program will assist in the conservation of coral reef ecosystems through the protection and restoration of upland and wetland coastal habitats.

Eligibility

Challenge Cost Share funds are appropriated funds that may be used to pay for no more than 50% of the cost of Challenge Cost Share (CCS) projects on Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) or on private lands. The matching 50% cost share is provided by non-Federal sources including state/local governments, private individuals/organizations, business enterprises, educational institutions, non-profit organizations, and philanthropic and charitable groups. The cooperator share may be a non-monetary contribution.

Grant Schedules/Cycles and Grant Management

Application submittal dates are announced on a yearly basis by the Service Regional Office. Interested parties should contact the local National Wildlife Refuge, Partners for Wildlife, or other Fish and Wildlife Service Office to design a project that will support the mission of the Service. Proposals, including the Standard Form 424 or “Application for Federal Assistance” are submitted to the cooperating Service office and are forwarded to the servicing Regional Office. The Regional Challenge Cost Share Coordinator assembles a committee of Service employees from a variety of disciplines to review, rank and select the proposals for funding.

Challenge Cost Share Agreements are written for the funds and are normally written for one year. However, agreements may be extended beyond the one year period.

In fiscal year 2003, more than 1,400 partners provided approximately \$10.5 million in dollars and in-kind matches. Cost share projects range per project from \$300 to \$25,000 and the average cost per project is \$7,800.

Proposals are evaluated on the lasting effect on conservation, enhancement, and protection. They will also be evaluated on the scope of the effect, the number of partners involved, the importance of resource values, feasibility, and cost effectiveness.

Recent Projects

Projects funded in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands have included restoration of subtropical dry forest on refuges within the Caribbean Islands National Wildlife Refuge complex, restoration of Laguna Cartagena National Wildlife Refuge wetlands and coral reef inventories and monitoring/education activities at the Navassa National Wildlife Refuge. Partners have included volunteer labor, scientists conducting research, local botanical gardens, municipal governments, and local universities. Examples of projects elsewhere in the Southeast Region include the control of invasive exotic species, development of interpretative trails, surveys of rare species, hydrologic modeling of watersheds, restoration of threatened/endangered species habitat.



