



NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE



National Funding Opportunity

Funding available for projects that will address coastal natural resource injuries from oil spills, hazardous substance releases, and ship groundings

NOAA expects to release this funding announcement at the beginning of January 2012, with proposals due 45 days later. For the full funding opportunity, description, and application, please visit Grants.gov. The funding opportunity number will be NOAA-NMFS-HCPO-20112-2003241.

Natural Resource Damage Assessment Multi-Year Implementation Grants

The principal objective of the Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) 2012 Multi-year Implementation Grants is to administer funds for sub-awarded coastal habitat conservation and restoration projects. The funded projects will be selected through NRDA restoration planning processes in response to natural resource injuries and lost use of natural resources due to those injuries. NOAA acts as a trustee on behalf of the public to protect and restore coastal and marine resources.

For almost 20 years, NOAA has worked cooperatively with responsible parties and teams of state, tribal, and other federal agencies (called trustees) to implement remedial actions that protect NOAA trust resources from additional injury.

If an incident diminishes the services that natural resources provide, including human services (e.g., fishing, beach-going,) and ecological services (e.g., providing habitat, nutrient cycling), the trustees will seek to implement projects to restore those lost services. Since 1992, we have recovered more than \$600 million from responsible parties to protect and restore coastal resources, including

migratory fish, marine mammals, wetlands, reefs, and other coastal habitats.

Applicants selected through this federal funding opportunity will be those capable of implementing trustee-selected NRDA restoration projects, or competitively soliciting projects to meet specific restoration goals determined by the trustee council. Projects selected by the trustees may be implemented through a subcontract to a specified organization, or may be directly implemented by the grantee requiring significant oversight, provided the trustees determine the applicant has relevant expertise. Selected applicants will **not** become trustees.

Award Information

NOAA anticipates that approximately \$750,000-\$15,000,000 may be available to fund the awarded grants over the life of any selected awards. Funding is expected to be provided on an as-available basis to maintain the grants for up to seven years, and is dependent upon the level of funding made available by trustee councils. The earliest start date for Implementation Grant awards is anticipated to be May 1, 2012.

NOAA anticipates that typical awards will range from \$350,000 to \$2,000,000 within the first year. NOAA will not accept proposals with a first year budget less than \$300,000 or more than \$5,000,000 under this solicitation. Any funds provided to successful applicants will be at the discretion of the NOAA Restoration Center Chief. The Chief will make funding determinations for each grantee, in consultation with trustees, based on past performance and capacity of the grantee



organization to generate quality projects, and based on their highlighted areas of expertise. For reference, between FY07 and FY11, the NOAA Restoration Center used grants to provide approximately \$23,000,000 to implement projects selected by eight trustee councils.

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants must have managed at least \$500,000 of federal funds per year over three or more of the past five years. NOAA will verify this eligibility requirement based on presence of three audits for the years 2006-2010 posted to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse (<http://harvester.census.gov/sac/>).

Eligible applicants are institutions of higher education, non-profits, and commercial (for-profit) organizations. Applications from federal, state, tribal, or local government agencies will not be considered, due to their potential role as trustee council members. Organizations with a financial relationship to a responsible party may apply, but funds will not be awarded if a conflict of interest based on financial interests or reputation is determined.

Desirable Capabilities

Implementation Grant applications that incorporate a combination of the capabilities identified below will be a higher priority for funding consideration. NOAA seeks recipients that:

- demonstrate effective ability to manage funds
- demonstrate capacity to manage multiple sub-awards
- document experience in soliciting projects
- demonstrate technical knowledge of coastal resources, restoration activities, and the NRDA process.

Examples of Existing Cases

The types of projects that the selected applicant may need to oversee include: habitat restoration or creation, habitat protection, species protection, public access to coastal properties, land acquisition, removal of debris, removal of

invasive/exotic species, enhancing species reproduction, stocking and transplanting target species, and recreational and educational projects.

Examples of past funded project types:

Cosco Busan (CA): The Cosco Busan Trustee Council will use most of the funds from a \$36.8 million settlement to restore natural resources injured by the 2007 oil spill in San Francisco Bay and improve Bay Area recreational opportunities impacted by the spill. The spill killed nearly 7,000 birds, impacted 14-29 percent of the herring spawn that winter, oiled more than 3,000 acres of shoreline habitat, and resulted in the loss of more than 1 million recreational user-days. NOAA expects to award approximately \$3 million for habitat restoration related to native oysters, eelgrass, and rockweed habitat over the next five years.

Mulberry (FL): In December 1997, a breach occurred in the wall of a phosphogypsum stack located at the MPI phosphoric acid/fertilizer production facility in Mulberry, Florida. Approximately 50 million gallons of acidic water overflowed into the Alafia River. Injuries were caused to freshwater wetlands, fish, crab and shrimp, surface waters, oysters, and birds. Today, the Trustee Council is using settlement funds to plan, design, and implement an estuarine wetland habitat restoration project and create oyster reef. These two efforts will cost approximately \$730,000 and restore approximately four acres of oyster reef and 30 acres of estuarine wetlands.