Multistate Conservation Grant Program Overview

The Multistate Conservation Grant Program (MSCGP) funds projects that address the regional or national level priorities of state fish and wildlife agencies.

The MSCGP was established in 2000 by the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act, which amended the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act and the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act.

The Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) cooperatively administer the Multistate Conservation Grant Program.

The Association solicits grant applications and makes "priority list" recommendations to the USFWS, which can only fund projects from the Association's list. Once the USFWS makes its final selection, AFWA notifies the successful applicants and then manages and monitors grant awards. Each year, up to $6 million is available to fund MSCGP projects. Projects may be funded for one, two or three years on a calendar year basis.

Eligibility Requirements

- Projects must benefit sport fish, wild birds or wild mammals since the funding comes from the Sport Fish Restoration Account and the Wildlife Restoration Fund.
- Projects must benefit (a) more than 26 states; (b) a majority of the states in a region of the USFWS; or (c) a regional association of state fish and wildlife agencies.
- A project must address a National Conservation Need (NCN), which are selected each year to establish the states' funding priorities for the grant program.
- Eligible grant recipients are (a) a state or group of states; (b) a non-governmental organization; and (c) the USFWS only for the purpose of conducting the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation.
- Any non-governmental organization that applies for a grant is required to certify that grant funds will not be used to fund any activity, project or program that promotes or encourages opposition to the regulated hunting or trapping of wildlife, or to the regulated taking of fish.

Multistate Conservation Grant Cycle

At the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference, state agency directors adopt National Conservation Needs (NCN) for the annual cycle, through AFWA Committee's.

LOIs are evaluated by AFWA's National Grants Committee, which will invite selected LOI applicants to submit a full proposal. Applicants will be notified in late June whether they are invited to submit a proposal. Full proposals will be due in early August for final selection at AFWA's Annual Meeting in September.

Multistate Conservation Grant Program (MSCGP)
Grant Cycle – Schedule

November	• The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (Association) solicits National Conservation Needs (NCNs) from each Association committee and the four Regional Associations of state fish and wildlife agencies.
February	• Each committee or Regional Association may submit <u>one</u> proposed NCN. NCN's are due to the MSCGP Coordinator.
March - April **North American Wildlife & Natural Resources Conference**	• During the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference, the National Grants Committee convenes to review the proposed NCNs and prepare a list of recommended NCNs for the State Directors' approval. • State Directors approve NCNs during the Association's business meeting at the North American Conference. The selected NCNs establish the states' funding priorities for the upcoming grant cycle. • The Association distributes an Announcement of Opportunity to solicit Letters of Intent (LOIs) to address the selected NCNs.
May	• LOIs are due to the MSCGP Coordinator.
June -July	• The National Grants Committee and other appropriate Association Committees review the submitted LOIs. • The National Grants Committee invites the most competitive applicants to submit full proposals. Successful and unsuccessful applicants should direct any questions to the MSCGP Coordinator.

August	• Full proposals along with required federal forms are due to the Association's MSCGP Coordinator. • MSCGP grant proposals are reviewed by the National Grants Committee. The MSCGP Coordinator reviews the proposals for eligibility and consults with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). • A grants specialist at the USFWS reviews the grant proposals to conduct a debarment and suspension and audit records check, ensure NEPA and ESA compliance, and review financial management systems of applicants.
September **Association's Annual Meeting**	• The National Grants Committee convenes, reviews the comments and scores of each proposal, and prepares a recommended "priority list" of projects for the State Director's approval. The National Grants Committee may request changes to a proposal. Grant applicants may attend this meeting. • During the Association's Business Meeting, the State Directors approve the "priority list" of projects to be funded through the Multistate Conservation Grant Program.
October-November	• The Association submits its list of priority projects and the final proposals to the USFWS by the mandated October 1 deadline. • Priority List projects are reviewed and processed by the USFWS.
December	• The USFWS notifies and awards the Multistate Conservation grants to successful applicants.
January through December	• The USFWS manages recipients and their implementation of Multistate Conservation grants. • The Association initiates the process for the next cycle of the MSCGP.