New Method for Allocating NFHAP Project Funds

For Implementation in FY 2014

Introduction

- Beginning FY14, the FWS will implement a competitive, performance-based process to allocate NFHAP project funds

- Project funds distributed in two categories:
  - Stable Operational Support
  - Competitive, Performance-based Support

Components of New Allocation Method

- Stable Operational Support
  - $75,000 available to each FHP for operations or habitat projects
  - FHP must meet minimum eligibility requirements*

- Competitive, Performance-based Support
  - Remaining project funds will be spread across three performance levels
  - Performance levels assigned based on:
    - Accomplishments report describing how FHP implemented projects in the previous three years and
    - Work plan detailing how the FHP and partners propose to use FWS project funds

*See NFHAP Project Funding Allocation Methodology for details

Performance Levels

- Total of 8 criteria used to determine FHP's performance level
- An FHP must meet all criteria to in order to qualify for a particular performance level
- Performance levels correspond to a particular funding amount
- Funding amount at each level is dependent upon the amount of NFHAP funding available each year *and* number of FHPs at each level

Performance Level Criteria

1. Basic FHP Requirements
2. FHP Priority Areas/Species
3. FWS Priority Species/Trust Resources
4. Project Completion and Success
5. Monitoring and Evaluation
6. Leveraging of FWS NFHAP Project Funds
7. Strategic Implementation
8. Conservation Actions and Project Outcomes

Example Performance Criteria and Level*

Criteria	Performance Levels		
	Level 1	**Level 2**	**Level 3**
Leveraging of FWS NFHAP Project Funds	Leverage funding over a 3 year period of at least 1:1	Leverage funding over a 3 year period of at least 2:1	Leverage funding over a 3 year period of at least 3:1
FHP Priority Areas / Species	75% of projects focus on FHP priority species or priority areas	85% of projects focus on FHP priority species or priority areas	95% of projects focus on FHP priority species or priority areas

*Example taken from allocation document, see NFHAP Project Funding Allocation Methodology for full list of performance criteria at each level

Funding at each Performance Level

$F = N_1(X) + N_2 (3X) + N_3 (5X)$

Where:

F = Amount of funding available in a given year after stable operational support is met

N_1 = Number of FHPs at Performance Level 1

N_2 = Number of FHPs at Performance Level 2

N_3 = Number of FHPs at Performance Level 3

X = Amount of funding an FHP in performance level 1 receives

3X = Amount of funding an FHP in performance level 2 receives

5X = Amount of funding an FHP in performance level 3 receives

Work Plan and Accomplishment Report

- Section 1 –Stable Operational Support
  - ***Concise overview*** of all projects and activities over the previous three years and anticipated projects and activities over the next three years
  - Show full context of FHP efforts supported by FWS funds and/or all other sources of funds and in-kind contributions

- Section 2 –Accomplishment Report (3-year reporting period)
  - ***Detailed description*** of all projects and activities of the FHP over the previous three years
  - Checklist of competitive, performance-based criteria with narrative evidence to support each response

- Section 3 –Work Plan (1-year planning horizon)
  - List of new or ongoing habitat projects over the next year
  - Narrative specifically identifies measurable goals and objectives and proposed conservation actions