

Sacramento District Wetlands Conservation Fund

Request for Proposals

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: March 15, 2013

General Information:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District, is soliciting proposals to fund projects that result in the rehabilitation, re-establishment, establishment, or enhancement of aquatic resources in the California Central Valley and Sierra Nevada.

Background:

In 2007, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District established the Sacramento District Wetlands Conservation Fund (Fund) through a Memorandum of Agreement with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). The primary purpose of the Fund is to collect monies generated by in-lieu fee funding requirements under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act or Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act for authorized activities, as well as monies generated by enforcement and compliance actions initiated by the Sacramento District, and to serve as a funding source for the rehabilitation, re-establishment, establishment, enhancement, or in exceptional circumstances preservation of wetlands and other aquatic resources, and their associated habitats.

Those Eligible to Apply:

- Federal, State and Local government agencies
- Tribes
- Private non-profit and for-profit organizations
- Individuals, community groups, and educational institutions

Proposal Requirements:

Proposals must meet these administrative requirements:

- Projects must be implemented within the California boundaries of the 6-digit hydrologic unit codes identified below.
- Projects must be scheduled to be initiated within one year and completed within two years of the award.
- While matching funds are not required, applicants are encouraged to include matching funds using cash or in-kind contributions where possible.
- The requested funding amount may not exceed the following:

<u>Hydrologic Unit code</u>	<u>Funding Limit</u>
180200 -	\$400,000

180201 -	\$425,000
180300 -	\$580,000
180400-	\$330,000

Proposals must address at least one of these program objectives:

- On-the-ground aquatic resource establishment, re-establishment, rehabilitation, or enhancement (see 33 CFR 332.2 for definitions).
- Preservation of aquatic habitats in accordance with 33 CFR 332.3 (h).

Evaluation/Selection Parameters:

Projects will be evaluated by an interagency review team consisting of representatives from federal and state resource agencies. The panel will use the following criteria to evaluate and select proposals:

- Level of aquatic function increase
- Regional importance of habitat type
- Adequacy of land protection and habitat management measures
- Connectivity to existing preserves or open space areas
- Technical credibility of project's methods
- Clarity of project's logic framework, e.g. linking objectives with watershed needs and activities, project outputs and post-project outcomes
- Quality of proposed performance standards for assessing project outputs and post-project outcomes
- Experience, expertise and past performance of the principal technical lead and organization in performing similar projects
- Cost effectiveness
- Outreach or educational potential

Submittal Instructions:

Submit one original and four paper copies of the proposal and an electronic copy on CD. Applications must be submitted as a complete package. Materials that arrive separately will not be included in the application package for consideration. Proposals must be submitted by **March 15, 2013** to:

William Ness
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District
 Regulatory Division
 1325 J Street, Room 1350
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Proposal Submission Requirements:

Proposals should be 20 pages or less, excluding figures, maps, photographs, tables and any supporting surveys or studies. All information critical to the evaluation must be contained in the text of the proposal. All maps, figures, tables, etc. should be individually numbered and clearly titled. Each proposal should follow the format below:

- **Project Title**
- **Project Proponent(s):** Provide name, address, phone number and e-mail of the primary/main technical point(s) of contact.
- **Abstract:** Provide a short (2-3 paragraphs) summary of the project.
- **Project Location:** All proposals must include a clear and detailed location map, preferably based on a 7.5-minute quadrangle USGS map. Include aerial photographs (internet-based photos are acceptable) of the project site.
- **Watershed:** Provide the 6 and 8-digit hydrologic unit code (HUC) for the project area.
- **Baseline Conditions:** Describe the project site(s)'s aquatic features and their expected functions and services. Provide photographs. Include any biological/ecological surveys completed in support of the funding request or otherwise. Discuss the soils, hydrology, and any other parameters critical to the success of the project.
- **Project Objectives:** Clearly state the objective(s) that the project is expected to achieve when implemented. Discuss how the project would benefit the watershed in which it is located.
- **Proposed Activities:** Provide a detailed description and defined list of tasks to be accomplished. State the type and number of acres of aquatic resource(s) that would be restored, established, enhanced and/or preserved. Discuss the methods that would be used to accomplish the project's objectives. Include planting or design plans as applicable.
- **Timeline:** Include start and end times, as well as milestones, such as dates of certain pertinent tasks.
- **Monitoring Plan:** Describe how the results of the proposed project would be measured. Include the types of measurements and timing/frequency, as well as the contents of monitoring reports. Performance standards should be identified in this section.
- **Management and Legal Protection:** Discuss the proposed long-term management and legal protection of the property site. Provide drafts of management plans and conservation easements if available.
- **Funding Requested:** Include a spreadsheet or other data viewing method to describe the amount of funds requested for capital costs and activities (i.e., a line item budget). Include in this section any cost-share amounts, in-kind funding, etc.
- **Experience:** Discuss and provide references for any similar efforts the organization and principal technical lead has undertaken.
- **Outreach:** Discuss any educational or community benefits the project is expected to provide.

Review Process:

Proposals will be reviewed and evaluated by an interagency review team. Additional information may be requested by the review team. Project proponents, whether successful or

not, will receive written notification. A representative from NFWF will then contact awardees to initiate the contracting process and get approved projects underway.

Timeline: *Submission Deadline: **March 15, 2013***
 *Expected Award Notification: **June 1, 2013***