

Land Acquisition and Habitat Protection: Funding Mechanisms For Southern Arizona

January 2005



The Arizona Open Land Trust (AOLT) is a private non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and protecting Southern Arizona's vanishing western landscapes and wildlife habitat by acquiring and managing sensitive lands. We believe the preservation of Southern Arizona's landscapes and ecosystems to be vital to the well being of all residents, present and future. As part of our large-scale open space conservation goals, AOLT works with private landowners, other conservation organizations, and government agencies to protect, enhance and restore wildlife habitat.

Arizona Open Land Trust
1915 E. Camino Miraval
Tucson, Arizona 85718

Telephone: (520) 577-8564
Fax: (520) 577-8574

Email:
Diana Barnes Freshwater, Executive Director
dbfreshwater@aolt.org

Vanessa Bechtol, Project Planner
vbechtol@aolt.org

This publication was made possible by a generous donation from the MET Foundation.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	3
CONSERVATION FUNDING MECHANISMS	4
FUNDING FOR PRIVATE LANDOWNERS	4
GRASSLAND RESERVE PROGRAM.....	4
WETLANDS RESERVE PROGRAM.....	5
WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVES PROGRAM.....	6
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM	6
CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANTS	7
CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM.....	7
CONSERVATION SECURITY PROGRAM.....	8
LIVESTOCK AND CROP CONSERVATION PROGRAM	8
PRIVATE STEWARDSHIP GRANT	9
NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION ACT	9
PARTNER’S FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE PROGRAM.....	10
LANDOWNER INCENTIVE PROGRAM.....	11
FUNDING FOR JURISDICTIONS AND NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.....	11
FARM AND RANCH LANDS PROTECTION PROGRAM.....	11
RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM	12
NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAYS GRANTS PROGRAM	13
TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT	13
COOPERATIVE ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND	14
CONSERVATION ON PRIVATE LANDS GRANT	15
NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION	16
MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVANCY GRANT FUND	16
FIVE-STAR RESTORATION MATCHING GRANTS PROGRAM.....	17
LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND	17
GROWING SMARTER GRANT.....	18
HERITAGE FUNDS	19
WATER PROTECTION FUND.....	19
SUMMARY OF CONTACTS	21

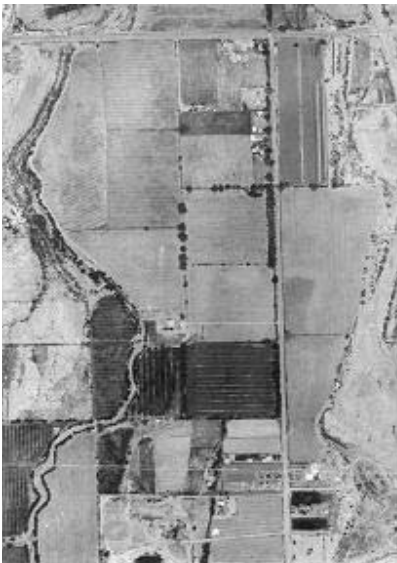
INTRODUCTION

Growth patterns throughout Southern Arizona, coupled with concerns of decreasing wildlife habitat, indicate that there is a growing need for protecting land with high biological diversity. Land acquisition permanently protects our most biologically diverse lands that are at risk of future development. Urban encroachment, subdividing rural parcels, and improvements to interstate highways continue to threaten wildlife throughout rural southern Arizona. The Arizona Open Land Trust, with our conservation partner The Nature Conservancy, is identifying rural areas subject to land use changes and increased development and is prioritizing conservation targets that have not yet been degraded and can still be purchased before land acquisition becomes unaffordable or impossible due to land conversion.

Current growth trends are leading to rapid loss of wildlife habitat and movement corridors. As such, land acquisition for habitat conservation is time sensitive. The urgency to acquire threatened wildlife habitat is evident by Pima County's growth rate of 27%, which is twice the national average (U.S. Census Bureau). Population projections for 2010 put Pima County's population at more than 1 million (Arizona Department of Economic Security). Similar growth patterns in Cochise (21%), Graham (26%), Pinal (54%) and Santa Cruz (29%) counties are threatening wildlife habitat, which currently provides connected movement linkages between protected areas, as well as migration corridors that cross State and Interstate highways (U.S. Census Bureau).

Land acquisition is a necessary means to protect rural areas that are threatened by urban development and habitat fragmentation. Acquiring rural parcels with diverse wildlife habitat prevents the subdivision and further fragmentation of habitat and guides development to more appropriate areas. Growth should continue to focus around existing urban boundaries and not within rural communities with important wildlife habitat. As Southern Arizona continues to grow at rates double the national average, the Arizona Open Land Trust's efforts to help local jurisdictions acquire priority wildlife habitat is increasingly important.

Southern Arizona's open spaces are rapidly being lost to lot splitting and development. *Source:* Pima County.



1957



2002

CONSERVATION FUNDING MECHANISMS

Federal and State government, and non-profit organizations offer numerous opportunities for financial and technical support for habitat conservation efforts. Private landowners benefit from a variety of federal conservation programs afforded by the 2002 Farm Bill, the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (Section 6), and the North American Wetlands Conservation Act. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, a private, non-profit organization, also offers an array of funding sources for conservation efforts, and often partners with federal programs to increase funding opportunities. State funding sources are also available for conservation purposes, ranging from large-scale land conservation to habitat restoration projects on individual private properties. Arizona currently utilizes only a small percentage of the federal funds available for conservation. While some funding programs receive fewer applications than the funds available, other programs have never been implemented in Arizona. An objective of large-scale conservation efforts is to increase conservation funding allocations and awards throughout Southern Arizona.

This funding manual provides an outline of various sources of conservation funds that should be taken advantage of in order to maximize conservation efforts in southern Arizona. Private landowners, non-profit organizations, and local governments can utilize this guide to conservation funding to enable them to address the pressing concerns of habitat fragmentation. Included in this funding guide is a detailed list of funding mechanisms (organized by eligible applicant) that are useful for working lands throughout Southern Arizona. Funding sources that do not require matching funds are listed first, followed by those requiring matching funds. Additional information for each program can be obtained from the Arizona Open Land Trust or the agency contact listed after each funding program and in the Summary of Contacts.

FUNDING FOR PRIVATE LANDOWNERS

GRASSLAND RESERVE PROGRAM

Program Description:

The Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) serves to restore, enhance and protect grasslands through easements, while maintaining existing grazing practices. The program conserves vulnerable grasslands from conversion to cropland or other uses and conserves valuable grasslands by helping maintain viable ranching operations. Landowners can choose between perpetual or 30-year conservation easements, rental agreements, or restoration agreements. Restoration agreements may be used in conjunction with easements or rental agreements if restoration is deemed necessary. Conservation easements and rental agreements prohibit the production of crops (other than hay), fruit trees and vineyards that require breaking the soil surface, and any other activity that disturbs the surface of the land, except for appropriate land management activities included in a conservation plan.

- **Permanent Easement:** Conservation easement payments equal the fair market value, less the grazing value of the land. Values are determined by appraisal.

- 30-year Easement: Conservation easement payments equal 30% of the fair market value of the land, less the grazing value of the land, for the 30-year duration of the easement.
- Rental Agreement: 10 year, 15 year, 20 year or 30 year contracts. USDA provides annual payments up to 75% of the grazing value of the land covered by the agreement, for the life of the agreement.

Restoration Agreement: 90% of restoration costs are covered for land never cultivated; 75% of restoration costs are covered for restored grasslands.

Eligibility:

Private landowners with at least 40 contiguous acres of grassland, rangeland, or pastureland (or areas historically covered by grasslands) can apply for the GRP. Landowners can apply year-round to their local USDA Service Center.

Funding:

In fiscal year 2003 \$49.9 million was available nationwide, with \$900,000 available for Arizona. Arizona received \$725,000 for fiscal year 2004.

Contact:

Arizona NRCS: <http://www.az.nrcs.usda.gov/>

Jeff Schmidt, Program Manager, (602) 280-8818

For local NRCS office locations, see Summary of Contacts on page 32.

WETLANDS RESERVE PROGRAM

Program Description:

For the purpose of conserving wetlands by retiring marginal land from agriculture, landowners participating in the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) establish perpetual or 30-year conservation easements, or can enter 10-year restoration cost-share agreements. In exchange for establishing a permanent easement, the landowner receives payment for 75% of the agricultural value of the land and 100% of the restoration costs for restoring the wetland. The restoration cost-share agreements cover 75% of the restoration costs and the protection and restoration of wetlands must be the primary land-use for the duration of the agreement.

Eligibility:

Lands of interest for WRP funds include privately owned agricultural lands adjacent to wetlands, farmed wetland pasture, and riparian areas that link protected wetlands. For conservation easements, the owner must own the land for at least one year, unless it was inherited. Enrollment in WRP is on a continuous sign-up process at local USDA Service Centers.

Funding:

Funding for this program is increasing in Arizona, with \$110,000 available in fiscal year 2003 and \$320,000 available in fiscal year 2004. The national enrollment limit is based on acreage enrolled in WRP, not in a fixed dollar amount.

Contact:

Arizona NRCS: <http://www.az.nrcs.usda.gov/>

Steve Smarik, Environmental Coordinator, (602) 280-8785

For local NRCS office locations, see Summary of Contacts on page 32.

WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVES PROGRAM

Program Description:

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) provides technical assistance and financial assistance of up to 75% to private landowners for improvements to wildlife habitat in uplands, wetlands, riparian, and aquatic areas. An emphasis is placed on projects that improve habitat for declining species, practices beneficial to fish and wildlife that would otherwise not be funded, and wildlife and fishery habitats identified by local and state partners and Indian tribes. Contract agreements for this program can range from 5-10 years. For particular circumstances, landowners can enter into agreement for 15 years or longer and will receive greater cost-share assistance than the 5-10 year agreements.

Eligibility:

All land is eligible for WHIP projects. Land enrolled in another USDA conservation program is not eligible for WHIP. Example projects include fish ponds, plantings, wildlife water facilities, installing wells, and managing invasive species. Landowners can apply on a continuous basis to the local USDA Service Center.

Funding:

Funds for this program more than doubled for Arizona, with \$200,000 allocated in fiscal year 2003 and \$450,000 in 2004.

Contact:

Arizona NRCS: <http://www.az.nrcs.usda.gov/>

Steve Smarik, Environmental Coordinator, (602) 280-8785

For local NRCS office locations, see Summary of Contacts on page 32.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM

Program Description:

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides financial and technical assistance of up to 75% for private landowners to apply structural and management conservation practices on agricultural land. Proposals must address one of the following concerns: Water Quantity, Water Quality, Soil Quality, Grazing Lands Health, Air Quality, or Quality Habitat for Animals. Plans solely for wildlife habitat should be evaluated under the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program.

Eligibility:

Eligible lands include cropland, rangeland, pastureland, private non-industrial forestland, and other farm and ranch lands as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture. Some eligible practices include fencing, water development, irrigation systems, wells, or brush management. Applications by landowners are due in January of each year, but may be submitted at any time for consideration during the following fiscal year.

Funding:

For the fiscal year 2003, \$627 million was available nationwide, with \$8.8 million in Arizona. Arizona received \$14.3 million of the \$908 million available nationwide for fiscal year 2004.

Contact:

Arizona NRCS: <http://www.az.nrcs.usda.gov/>

Sherman Reed, Farm Bill Specialist, (602) 280-8786

For local NRCS office locations, see Summary of Contacts on page 32.

CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANTS

Program Description:

As a part of EQIP, Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) provide 50% of the cost to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies. Not more than 25% of the matching funds can be in-kind donations. Emphasis is placed on projects that benefit large geographic areas, such as watershed-based, regional, multi-state, or national projects.

Eligibility:

Private landowners, non-profit organizations, and local or state governments who can provide the necessary technical assistance required to successfully complete the project are eligible to apply for CIG. Lands must also meet the eligibility requirements under EQIP. Commonly used technologies and approaches to conservation are *ineligible* and should be used under EQIP.

Funding:

For fiscal year 2004, \$15 million was available nationwide. Grants typically range from \$75,000 to \$500,000 per project, with \$1 million being the maximum per project. Projects compete at the national level, not at the state level.

Contact:

Arizona NRCS: <http://www.az.nrcs.usda.gov/>

Kari Cohen, (202) 720-2335

For local NRCS office locations, see Summary of Contacts on page 32.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM

Program Description:

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) aims to retire highly erodible cropland and plant long term, resource conserving covers to improve the quality of water, control soil erosion, and enhance wildlife habitat on private property. Landowners may apply for 10 or 15 year contracts to retire cropland and receive annual rental payments based on the agricultural rental value of the land. CRP also provides 50% of the cost for landowners to plant vegetation.

Eligibility:

To be eligible, privately owned cropland must be highly erodible, contribute to water quality problems, or provide important wildlife habitat. Eligible land must be either cropland that is planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity four of the previous six crop years from 1996 to 2001, or certain marginal pastureland that is enrolled in the Water Bank Program.

The applicant must have owned or operated the land for at least one year prior to close of the CRP sign-up period. In addition to the eligible land requirements, cropland must meet one of the following criteria: have a weighted average erosion index of 8 or higher; be expiring CRP acreage; or be located in a national or state CRP conservation priority area. Landowners can apply for CRP enrollment through local Farm Service Agency offices, which are within local USDA Service Centers.

Funding:

\$725,000 was allocated for Arizona for fiscal year 2004.

Contact:

Arizona NRCS: <http://www.az.nrcs.usda.gov/>

Sherman Reed, Farm Bill Specialist, (602) 280-8786

For local NRCS office locations, see Summary of Contacts on page 32.

CONSERVATION SECURITY PROGRAM

Program Description:

The Conservation Security Program (CSP) provides financial and technical assistance to private landowners for the purpose of promoting the conservation and improvement of soil, water, air, energy, plant and animal life, and other conservation purposes on working lands in selected watersheds. Working lands include cropland, grassland, prairie land, improved pasture, and range land.

Eligibility:

The CSP identifies watersheds in which to direct funding each fiscal year. Private landowners in selected watershed are eligible to apply for CSP. Furthermore, eligible landowners must be in compliance with highly erodible land and wetland provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985. Interested landowners can complete an online self-assessment worksheet at <http://csp.sc.egov.usda.gov/> and submit a full application to a local USDA Service Center.

Funding:

\$41 million was allocated for the 18 selected watersheds in 22 states. For the fiscal year 2004 cycle there are not any CSP designated watersheds in Arizona.

Contact:

Arizona NRCS: <http://www.az.nrcs.usda.gov/>

Sherman Reed, Farm Bill Specialist, (602) 280-8786

For local NRCS office locations, see Summary of Contacts on page 32.

LIVESTOCK AND CROP CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Program Description:

Authorized by the Growing Smarter initiative and administered by the Arizona Department of Agriculture, the Livestock and Crop Conservation Program funds the implementation of conservation based management alternatives, such as reducing livestock or crop production, to provide wildlife habitat and open space.

Eligibility:

Private landowners and grazing and agricultural lessees of state and federal land are eligible for this program. The program guidelines and application are currently going through a public comment period and are expected to be available for funding requests in mid- 2005.

Funding:

\$2 million is available annually. Not more than 50% may be used for projects in any one county.

Contact:

Kathleen Ryan, Arizona Department of Agriculture (602) 542-4494.

PRIVATE STEWARDSHIP GRANT**Program Description:**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Private Stewardship Grant offers 90% of the costs for projects that support local, private, and voluntary on-the-ground conservation efforts that benefit federally listed, proposed, or candidate species, or other at-risk species.

Eligibility:

Eligible projects include, but are not limited to, managing non-native species, planting native species, and restoring streams. Funds cannot be used for land acquisition or conservation easements. Landowners or non-profit organizations can apply to regional U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service office. Applications are typically due in March each year.

Funding:

\$9.4 million was available nationwide in fiscal year 2003. For fiscal year 2004, \$7 million is available.

Contact:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service http://endangered.fws.gov/grants/private_stewardship/

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 2 – Southwest

Mike McCullum

500 Gold Avenue, SW, Room 4012

Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102

(817) 277-1108

NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION ACT**Program Description:**

Congress passed the North American Wetlands Conservation Act for the purpose of protecting habitat for migratory birds, fish and wildlife. The North American Wetlands Conservation Fund provides 50% of the cost for wetlands conservation projects involving acquisition, restoration, and enhancement of wetlands and habitat for fish and wildlife dependant on wetlands.

Eligibility:

Grant eligibility is open to individuals and public or private organizations. Project proposals must include a four year plan of action to conserve wetlands and wetlands-dependant fish and

wildlife. Landowners should contact a Regional Joint Venture Coordinator for assistance with developing a project proposal.

Funding:

The standard grant program funds projects between \$50,000 and \$1 million. The small grants program supports projects under \$50,000 and aims to encourage new applicants. For fiscal year 2004, \$37.5 million was available. Both the small and the standard grant program require matching grants that are equal or larger than the funds requested. Standard grant applications are due in March and July, and small grant applications are due in December, both to the local U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service office.

Contact:

NAWCA Grants website: <http://birdhabitat.fws.gov/NAWCA/grants.htm>

Southern Arizona Joint Venture Coordinator:

Robert Mesta, robert_mesta@fws.gov

PARTNER'S FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE PROGRAM

Program Description:

The Partner's for Fish and Wildlife program sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provides funds to private landowners to protect, enhance and restore wildlife habitat for federally listed threatened or endangered species. The program supports on-the-ground habitat restoration, not planning or research.

Eligibility:

Private landowners are eligible to apply. Landowner's interested in this program may contact the Arizona Partner's coordinator at any time, as there are not specific application deadlines.

Funding:

\$28 million was available in fiscal year 2003. In fiscal year 2004, \$32 million was available. Up to \$25,000 is available per project. Landowners receive payment as a reimbursement for project expenses. This is a cost-share program where landowners are expected to contribute in-kind donations.

Contact:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service <http://partners.fws.gov>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Kris Randall
2321 West Royal Palm Rd., Suite 103
Phoenix, Arizona 85021
(602) 242-0210 ext. 250

LANDOWNER INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Program Description:

The Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) provides funds to establish or supplement existing state landowner incentive programs that protect and restore habitats on private lands to benefit Federally listed, proposed or candidate species or other species determined to be at-risk, and provide technical and financial assistance to private landowners for habitat protection and restoration. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service awards LIP funds to State Game and Fish Departments. Game and Fish then provides funding of up to 75% of the costs for private landowners to protect, enhance or restore habitats that benefit at risk species. LIP funds can be used for conservation easements, but not for fee title acquisition.

Eligibility:

Private landowners are eligible to receive funding from the state LIP administered by the Game and Fish Department. Applications are due January 1st, April 1st, July 1st, and October 1st each year.

Funding:

Arizona receives approximately \$1.4 million per year for LIP.

Contact:

Debbie Wright, AZ Game & Fish, LIP Coordinator, (602) 789-3495

Arizona Game and Fish Dept.
2221 W. Greenway Rd.
Phoenix, AZ 85023
(602) 942-3000

Arizona Game and Fish Dept., Region V
555 N. Greasewood Rd.
Tucson, AZ 85745
(520) 628-5376

FUNDING FOR JURISDICTIONS AND NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

FARM AND RANCH LANDS PROTECTION PROGRAM

Program Description:

The Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) provides matching funds to help acquire perpetual conservation easements to keep productive farm and ranchland in agricultural uses. The U.S. Department of Agriculture provides up to 50% of the fair market easement value. In exchange for easement payments, landowners agree not to convert their land to non-agricultural uses and to develop and implement a conservation plan for any highly erodible land.

Eligibility:

State, tribal, or local governments and non-governmental organizations are eligible to apply on behalf of private landowners. To be eligible, land must contain at least 50% prime, unique, statewide or locally important soils, or have historic or archaeological significance. Cropland, rangeland, grassland, and pastureland that are part of an agriculture operation are eligible. Ineligible land includes land that cannot be converted to non-agricultural uses because of existing deed restrictions or other legal constraints. Qualifying farmland must also have a conservation plan for highly erodible land, be large enough to sustain agricultural production, be accessible to markets for what the land produces, have adequate infrastructure and agricultural support services, and have surrounding parcels of land that can support long-term agricultural production.

To participate, landowners submit an application to a State, tribal, or local government or non-governmental organization that has an existing farm or ranch land protection program in place. Applications are typically due early May each year.

Funding:

Arizona's funding allocation dropped from \$1 million in fiscal year 2003 to \$830,00 in fiscal year 2004.

Contact:

Arizona NRCS: <http://www.az.nrcs.usda.gov/>

Jeff Schmidt, Community Assistance Coordinator, (602) 280-8818

For local NRCS office locations, see Summary of Contacts on page 32.

RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**Program Description:**

The Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Program provides financial assistance of up to 25% for the protection of agricultural land from conversion to other uses, the protection of farmland, and the protection of fish and wildlife habitats. The purpose of the RC&D program is to accelerate the conservation, development and utilization of natural resources, improve the general level of economic activity, and to enhance the environment and standard of living in designated RC&D areas. Current program objectives focus on improvement of quality of life achieved through natural resources conservation and community development. RC&D areas are locally sponsored areas designated by the Secretary of Agriculture for RC&D technical and financial assistance program funds.

Eligibility:

Rural communities in designated RC&D areas can utilize this program to plan and implement programs for resource conservation.

Contact:

Arizona NRCS: <http://www.az.nrcs.usda.gov/>

Jon Hall, Assistant State Conservationist, (602) 280-8781

For local NRCS office locations, see Summary of Contacts on page 32.

NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAYS GRANTS PROGRAM

Program Description:

The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) provides funding for scenic byways acquisition. Re-authorization of TEA-21 is currently in progress and may impact the availability of funding. The Scenic Byways Acquisition grant program provides funding for projects on National Scenic Byways, All-American Roads, or State Scenic Byways.

Eligibility:

Projects eligible for funding must be located on a National Scenic Byway, All-American Road, or State Scenic Byway. Eligible projects include, among others, corridor management plans, byway facilities, and natural resource protection via the acquisition of scenic easements.

Funding:

In fiscal year 2002, \$337,000 was awarded for Arizona projects. Funding applications for 2005 are available at the National Scenic Byways website www.bywaysonline.org/grants and are due January 5, 2005.

Contact:

Kathie Knapp, Scenic Byways Coordinator
Transportation Enhancement and Scenic Roads Section
Arizona Department of Transportation
205 S. 17th Avenue, MD 609E, Room 201
Phoenix, Arizona 85007
(602) 712-8628

TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT

Program Description:

The Transportation Enhancement program, authorized by TEA-21, funds projects in 12 categories, including the acquisition of property to protect scenic views or historic sites. The properties acquired should possess significant aesthetic, natural, visual, or open space values. In addition to scenic acquisitions, these funds may also be used for projects that reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality while maintaining habitat connectivity, such as the construction of wildlife underpasses or bridges or fences.

Eligibility:

States and local governments may apply. Applications are due to the local Metropolitan Planning Organization or Council of Government each summer.

Funding:

The Transportation Enhancement program is a reimbursement program for States and local governments - grants are not up front. Local projects may be awarded up to \$50,000 and State projects up to \$1.5 million. All projects require a minimum 5.7% hard cash match. Arizona's allocation of funds ranges from \$10-\$14 million annually.

Contact:

Pima Association of Governments,
Transportation Enhancement Coordinator
177 N. Church Avenue, Suite 405
Tucson, Arizona 85701
(520) 792-1093 ext. 503

Southeastern Arizona Governments Organization
118 Arizona St.
Bisbee, Arizona 85603
(520) 432-5301

COOPERATIVE ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND**Project Descriptions:**

Authorized by Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service offers several grants for voluntary conservation projects that protect candidate, proposed and listed species on non-federal lands.

1. Conservation Grants

Conservation grants fund the implementation of conservation projects that benefit federally listed species. Eligible activities include habitat restoration, species status surveys, public education, captive propagation and reintroduction, nesting surveys, genetic studies, and development of management plans.

2. Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance:

The Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance program aids in the development of Habitat Conservation Plans. Planning assistance grants may support planning activities such as document preparation, outreach, and baseline surveys.

3. Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition:

This grant program provides funding for the acquisition of land associated with Habitat Conservation Plans (HCP). The three primary purposes of the grant program are to fund land acquisitions that 1) complement, but do not replace, private mitigation responsibilities contained in HCPs, 2) have important benefits for listed, proposed, and candidate species, and 3) have important benefits for ecosystems that support listed, proposed and candidate species. \$51.1 million was available nationwide for HCP Land Acquisitions in fiscal year 2003.

4. Recovery Land Acquisition:

Recovery Land Acquisition funds help to acquire habitat in support of approved species recovery plans. These funds cannot be used for land acquisitions associated with permitted HCPs. Specific conditions for this program include the following: 1) Habitat must be set aside in perpetuity for conservation; 2) Funds should contribute to the implementation of an approved final or draft recovery plan for at least one species (some exceptions apply); 3) Specific parcels to be acquired must be identified, and evidence of willing sellers should be provided; and 4) Proposal must state a commitment to funding for, and implementation of,

management of the habitat in perpetuity, consistent with the conservation needs of the species. Applicants cannot apply for both the Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition grant and the Recovery Land Acquisition grant. \$12.7 million was available nationwide for Recovery Land Acquisitions in fiscal year 2003.

Eligibility:

Applicants must be States or Territories that have entered into cooperative agreements with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for endangered and threatened species conservation. Applications are due to the Regional Fish and Wildlife Service office in May each year.

Funding:

Grants range from \$1,000 to \$14 million, but awards vary greatly by project. Applicants are responsible for 25% of estimated project cost. \$80 million was available for fiscal year 2004.

Contact:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 2 – Southwest
Tracy Scheffler, Division of Endangered Species
P.O. Box 1306, Room 4012
500 Gold Avenue, SW
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102
(505) 248-6665

CONSERVATION ON PRIVATE LANDS GRANT

Program Description:

Offered in partnership with the National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) offers this grant program to support high quality projects that engage private landowners, primarily farmers and ranchers, in the conservation and enhancement of fish and wildlife and natural resources on their lands. Projects in partnership with NRCS Resource Conservation and Development areas and local conservation districts are given special consideration for funding.

Eligibility:

State and local jurisdictions, education institutions, and non-profit organizations are eligible to apply. Project pre-proposals are available at the NFWF website and are due January, April and September of each year. Upon review of the pre-proposals, the NFWF requests full proposals from selected projects. Projects must have a strong on-the-ground restoration component and funds cannot be used for land acquisition.

Funding:

\$3 million is available for this program. Grants range from \$10,000 to \$150,000 and require a 2:1 non-federal match.

Contact:

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation: www.nfwf.org/programs/nrcsnacd.htm

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation - Southwest Regional Office
28 Second Street, 6th Floor
San Francisco, California 94105
(415) 778-0999

NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

Program Description:

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) is a private, non-profit organization that works with conservation organizations to stimulate funding for conservation through a matching grants program. General matching grants are awarded by NFWF to support projects that promote fish and wildlife habitat conservation and involve other conservation and community interests.

Eligibility:

Government entities and non-profit conservation organizations are eligible to apply. Project pre-proposals are available at the NFWF website and are due January, April and September of each year. Upon review of the pre-proposals, the NFWF requests full proposals from selected projects.

Funding:

Grants range from \$10,000 to \$150,000 and require a 2:1 non-federal match.

Contact:

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation: www.nfwf.org

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation - Southwest Regional Office
28 Second Street, 6th Floor
San Francisco, California 94105
(415) 778-0999

MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVANCY GRANT FUND

Program Description:

Administered through the NFWF, the Migratory Bird Conservancy grant fund provides 50% of the cost for projects that directly address conservation of priority bird habitats, such as land acquisition, habitat restoration, and improved habitat management.

Eligibility:

Government entities and non-profit conservation organizations are eligible to apply. Project pre-proposals are available at the NFWF website and are due January, April and September of each year. Upon review of the pre-proposals, the NFWF requests full proposals from selected projects.

Funding:

Each grant cycle has \$100,000 available. Individual grants range from \$20,000 to \$70,000.

Contact:

Applicants are strongly urged to contact Peter Stangel at the NFWF (404-679-7099) to discuss their project idea prior to submitting a pre-proposal.

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation - Southwest Regional Office
28 Second Street, 6th Floor
San Francisco, California 94105
(415) 778-0999

FIVE-STAR RESTORATION MATCHING GRANTS PROGRAM

Program Description:

The Five-Star Restoration program supports on-the-ground, community-based wetland and riparian habitat restoration projects that involve a partnership with five organizations contributing funding, land, technical assistance, and work support. Projects can include training, education, outreach, monitoring, and community stewardship components. Projects involving research, planning and monitoring are not eligible unless they are strongly supported by on-the-ground restoration.

Eligibility:

Any public or private entity is eligible to apply. Applications are due March 1st each year and are available at

<http://www.nfwf.org/programs/5star-rfp.htm>

Funding:

Grants range from \$5,000 to \$20,000 and average at \$10,000.

Contact:

Sarah Ellgen, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, (202) 857-0166

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation: Five-Star Restoration Program
1120 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. Suite 900
Washington, DC 20036

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

Program Description:

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), administered through the Arizona State Parks department, provides funding to support land acquisitions for parks and recreation. LWCF allocates funds for federal and state programs. The federal program funds the acquisition of land and water areas for conservation and recreation purposes through the Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service and National Park Service. The state matching grants program provides funds to states for planning, developing and acquiring land and water areas for state and local parks and recreation areas.

Eligibility:

States with a Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan are eligible to apply. Applications for this program are available on the Arizona State Parks website and are due February 28, 2005.

Funding:

In fiscal year 2003 there was \$94 million available for state programs, with \$1.7 million allocated to Arizona

Contact:

Pat Dutrack, LWCF Grants Coordinator, pdutrack@pr.state.az.us
(602) 542-7129

Application: <http://www.pr.state.az.us/partnerships/forms/lrspmanual.pdf>

Arizona State Parks
1300 W. Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007
(602) 542-4174

GROWING SMARTER GRANT**Program Description:**

Growing Smarter grants come from the Land Conservation Fund and are used for the acquisition of State Trust Land for the purpose of conserving open spaces in areas experiencing high growth pressures. Funds can be used to cover 50% of the appraised value of land.

Eligibility:

State and local agencies and non-profit organizations that preserve open space are eligible for these funds. To be eligible, state trust land must be classified for conservation under the Arizona Preserve Initiative. Grant applications can be obtained from the Arizona State Parks website, and are due in March.

Funding:

\$18 million is available for Arizona each fiscal year.

Contact:

Doris Pulsifer, Arizona State Parks, (602) 542-7127

Application:

<http://www.pr.state.az.us/partnerships/growingsmarter/growing.html>

Arizona State Parks
1300 W. Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007
(602) 542-4174

HERITAGE FUNDS

Program Description:

The Local, Regional, and State Parks Heritage Funds are derived from the Arizona Lottery for the purpose of promoting outdoor recreation and open space. Heritage funds can be used for projects such as park development to serve outdoor recreation needs, or land acquisition for outdoor recreation and open space.

Eligibility:

Government entities are eligible to apply for Heritage Funds. Applications can be downloaded from the Arizona State Parks website and are due in February each year.

Funding:

The Heritage Fund receives approximately \$3.5 million annually from the Lottery. Grants vary by project proposal.

Contact:

Pat Dutrack, Arizona State Parks, (602) 542-7129

Application:

http://www.pr.state.az.us/partnerships/grants/lrsp_lwcf.html

Arizona State Parks
1300 W. Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

WATER PROTECTION FUND

Program Description:

The Arizona Water Protection Fund (WPF) supports projects that protect, rivers, streams, and riparian habitats. Projects supported by WPF fall under three categories: 1) Capital Projects, Water Acquisition, Feasibility Studies, and other specific measures that directly maintain, enhance and restore rivers, streams and riparian habitats; 2) Water Conservation, including measures to develop, promote and implement programs to conserve water; and 3) Research and data collection, compilation and analysis. Due to limited funding any given year, eligible projects may be limited to only one of the above categories. For the 2005 grant cycle, only projects in the first category will be funded. Funding *cannot* be used for land acquisition or conservation easements.

Eligibility:

Any person, entity or organization is eligible to apply for WPF grants. Applications are on the Water Protection Fund website and are due in June each year.

Funding:

Approximately \$5 million per fiscal year has been allocated for WPF.

Contact:

Arizona Water Protection Fund: <http://www.awpf.state.az.us/>

Rodney Held, (602) 417-2400 x7012

Arizona Water Protection Fund
c/o Department of Water Resources
500 North Third Street
Phoenix, AZ 85004

SUMMARY OF CONTACTS

USDA/NRCS offices

USDA Tucson Service Center
4650 N. Highway Dr.
Tucson, Arizona 85705-1914
(520) 887-4505 ext. 4

USDA Sells Service Center
P.O. Box 577
Sells, Arizona 85634-0577
(520) 383-2851

USDA Willcox Service Center
654 N. Bisbee Avenue,
Willcox, Arizona 85643-1437
(520) 384-2229

USDA Douglas Service Center
3081 N. Leslie Canyon Rd.
Douglas, Arizona 85607
(520) 364-2001

USDA Casa Grande Service Center
520 N. Camino Mercado Bldg 2F
Casa Grande, Arizona 85222
(520) 836-2048

USDA Safford Service Center
305 E. 4th Street
Safford, Arizona 85546
(928) 428-0635

Livestock and Crop Conservation Program:

Kathleen Ryan, Arizona Department of Agriculture (602) 542-4494

USFWS Private Stewardship Program:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 2 – Southwest
Mike McCullum
500 Gold Avenue, SW, Room 4012
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102
(817) 277-1108

North American Wetlands Conservation Act

Robert Mesta, Joint Venture Coordinator
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
738 North Fifth Ave Suite 215
Tucson, Arizona 85705

Partners for Fish and Wildlife

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Kris Randall
2321 West Royal Palm Rd., Suite 103
Phoenix, Arizona 85021
(602) 242-0210 ext. 250

Landowner Incentive Program

Debbie Wright, LIP Coordinator, (602) 789-3495

Arizona Game and Fish Department
2221 W. Greenway Rd.
Phoenix, AZ 85023
(602) 942-3000

Arizona Game and Fish Department, Region V
555 N. Greasewood Rd.
Tucson, AZ 85745
(520) 628-5376

National Scenic Byways

Kathie Knapp, ADOT Scenic Roads Section
205 S. 17th Avenue, MD 609E, Room 201
Phoenix, Arizona 85007
(602) 712-8628

Transportation Enhancement

Pima Association of Governments
Transportation Enhancement Coordinator
177 N. Church Avenue, Suite 405
Tucson, Arizona 85701
(520) 792-1093 ext. 503

Southeastern Arizona Governments Organization
118 Arizona St.
Bisbee, Arizona 85603
(520) 432-5301

ESA Section 6 Funds

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 2 – Southwest
Tracy Scheffler, Division of Endangered Species
P.O. Box 1306, Room 4012
500 Gold Avenue, SW
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102
(505) 248-6665

Nation Fish and Wildlife Foundation

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation - Southwest Regional Office
28 Second Street, 6th Floor
San Francisco, California 94105
(415) 778-0999

Five Star Restoration

NFWF – Five Star Restoration Program
1120 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. Suite 900
Washington, DC 20036

Land and Water Conservation Fund

Arizona State Parks
Grants and Recreation Programs
1300 W. Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007
(602) 542-4174

Growing Smarter and Heritage Funds

Arizona State Parks
1300 W. Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007
(602) 542-4174

Water Protection Fund

Arizona Water Protection Fund: Rodney Held,
(602) 417-2400 x7012