



ASSOCIATION *of* FISH & WILDLIFE AGENCIES

MULTISTATE CONSERVATION GRANT PROGRAM



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BACKGROUND

- In 2000, the Traditional Multistate Conservation Grant Program (T-MSCGP) was created, authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to make up to \$6 million annually available for grants.
 - \$3 million from Wildlife Restoration &
 - \$3 million from Sport Fish Restoration
- In 2019, the Hunter Recruitment and Recreational Shooter Recruitment (R3) MSCGP was created, authorizing up to \$5 million annually for grants that promote a national hunting and shooting sports recruitment program.



MSCGP PURPOSE AND ADMINISTRATION

“To fund projects that address regional or national priority needs of State fish and wildlife agencies and their partners that are beyond the scale, scope, and capabilities of a single State.”

- The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) and the USFWS work cooperatively to manage MSCGP.
 - AFWA manages/reviews grant applications and provides oversight, coordination, and guidance
 - USFWS announces funding, awards funding, and manages grants



QUICK FACTS

- ☐ To date, about 500 grants have been awarded through MSCGP since its inception, which adds up to about \$150 M

- ☐ MSCGP grants annually
 - Traditional: 20-25
 - R3: 20 - 30

- ☐ Grants range
 - R3: \$100,000 – \$ 1,000,000, Average grant \$350,000
 - T: \$ 50,000 - \$ \$250,000, Average grant \$200,000

- ☐ 100% Federal Funds (no matching funds required)

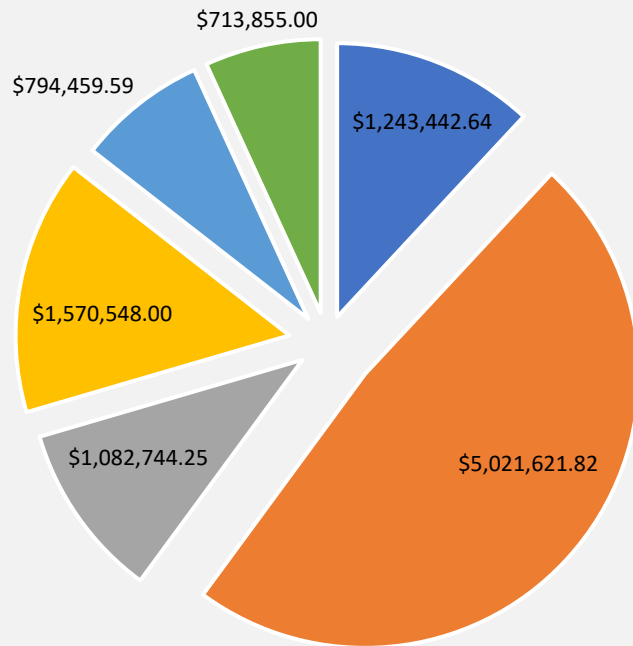
- ☐ Performance Period is January 1 - December 31

MSCGP Cycle	LOIs /Initial Proposals Submitted	Proposals Invited	Projects Funded
2023	103	63	55
2022	121	54	42
2021	85	52	38
2020*	110	74	64
2019	55	41	39
2018	25	20	18
2017	24	18	17
2016	30	17	14
2015	33	19	14
2014	50	23	13

*In 2020, \$5,000,000 were added to MSCGP funding

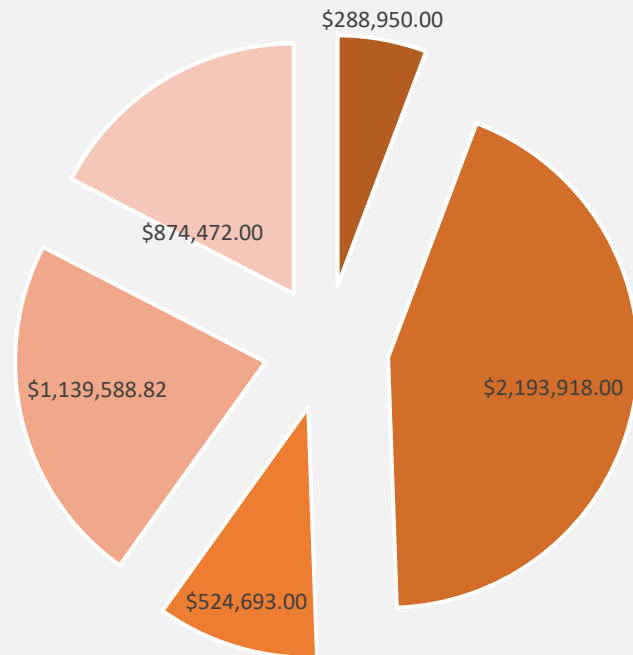


2023 MSCGP AWARDED GRANTS



■ AFWA Priorities
■ Conservation and Science
■ Coordination
■ R3 Grants
■ Relevancy and Inclusion
■ Trust Fund Stewardship

Recruitment, Retention, Reactivation (R3) Priorities



■ Monitoring and Evaluation
■ Mentoring
■ R3 Capacity and Infrastructure
■ Marketing
■ Engaging New Audiences

AFWA Strategic Priorities

1. Conservation & Science*

- A. Climate Change
- B. Fish and Wildlife Health (*One Health)
- C. Human Dimensions & Conservation Social Science
- D. Invasive Species
- E. Emerging Technologies for fish and wildlife management

2. Expanding Relevancy and Engagement (ERE)

- A. Enhancing Conservation Through Broader Engagement
- B. Implementing and/or Expanding Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Efforts
- C. Research

3. Capacity Building, Conservation Education, and Coordination of Conservation Policies

- A. Leadership Development
- B. Conservation Education
- C. Coordination of Conservation Policies
- D. Integration of Law Enforcement

4. AFWA Priorities Identified in AFWA Funding Principles (submitted by ExCom)

- A. Management Assistance Team
- B. Management of the MSCGP Program
- C. CITES and International Conservation Programs and Their Impact on State Agencies
- D. Coordination of Conservation on a National Scale
- E. National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation

MultiState Conservation Grant Prioritization & Solicitation Process

NORTH AMERICAN

National Grants Committee Approves Priorities to be used in Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFO)

MARCH / APRIL

NOFO is posted by USFWS. AFWA solicits applications for priority needs emphasizing how project addresses identified priorities, needs or knowledge gaps.

JUNE / JULY

Full Grant Proposals are reviewed and scored by Technical Review Teams which represent States, NGOs, Industry Trade Associations, e.g., Wildlife Society, Fisheries Society...etc.

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

Technical Review Teams provide feedback and a Draft Priority List to National Grants Committee for review. National Grants Committee reviews recommendations and votes on a Draft Priority List which is finalized and approved from the majority of State Directors at AFWA Annual Meeting.

5. Recruitment, Retention, Reactivation (R3)

- A. Marketing
- B. Engaging Participants
- C. Monitoring and Evaluation
- D. Hunting and Shooting Sports Access and Infrastructure

November/December

Possible Additional Refinement

Priority needs are submitted to AFWA Committees/Technical Review Teams for refinement and gap analysis.

The perfection statements must identify gaps in knowledge to be addressed.



WHO IS ELIGIBLE

1. Applicants:

- A State or a group of States;
- Nonprofit organizations
- Public Institutions of higher education (IHE)
- USFWS, a State or a group of States, to carry out the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation;

2. Beneficiaries:

- At least 26 States;
- A majority (over 50%) of the States in a USFWS Region; or
- A majority of States in an AFWA Region.

3. Address one of MSCGP Strategic Priorities

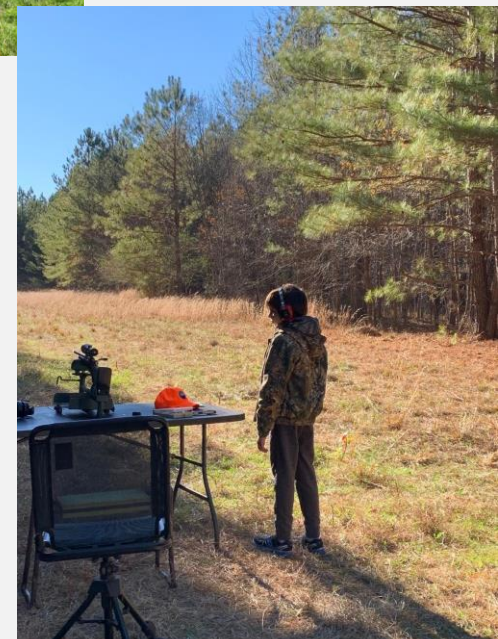




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STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1. Conservation & Science
2. Relevancy & Inclusion & Participation
3. Capacity Building, Conservation Education, and Coordination of Conservation Policies
4. AFWA Priorities Identified in AFWA Funding Principles (submitted by ExCom)
5. Recruitment, Retention, Reactivation (R3)





2024 ESTIMATED BUDGET

- Traditional Wildlife Restoration: \$3.2M
- Traditional Sport Fish Restoration: \$3M
- R3 – Wildlife Restoration: \$4.5M
- Average Budget: \$250,000
- Typical number of Grants Awarded: 55
- Mostly funded for a single year with few exceptions (only for up to 3 years) – refer to National Grants Committee approved criteria





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2024 MSCGP TIMELINE

- **April 2023** NOFO Published/Request for Full Proposals sent out.
- **June 15th** **Full Grant Proposals Due to AFWA Portal (no Federal Forms)**
- June 16th -19th AFWA Reviews Full Grant Proposals
- June 20th - July 28th Full Grant Proposals Review by Technical review teams
- August 1st – 11th Technical Review Teams Meetings
- **August 15th** **Applicants are notified and asked to address Technical Review Teams Concerns**
- **Direct Announcement posted for the selected FGP**
- August 21st Draft Priority List and Summary sent to National Grants Committee for review before the approval at AFWA Annual Meeting.
- **September 5th** **Grants and Required Federal Forms uploaded and submitted in GrantSolutions.**
- September 24-27 AFWA Annual Meeting
- October 1st t Priority List submitted to USFWS for Director approval
- October 1st-December 31st USFWS reviews/awards the grants



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RESOURCES – AFWA WEBSITE WWW.FISHWILDLIFE.ORG



In addition to the regular annually available funds of \$6,000,000, the President signed the modernizing the Pittman-Robertson Fund for Tomorrow's Needs Act (Modernizing PR Act) (Public Law (Pub. L.) 116-94) into law on December 20, 2019, as part of the more significant Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020. This law amends the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (WR Act, 16 U.S.C. 669) to, among other measures, create a new "Modern Multistate Conservation Grant Program (M-MSCGP or as we refer to it, R3 MSCGP)." This will include up to an additional \$5 million annually *beginning with 2020 for Wildlife Restoration eligible grants as defined by the legislation.*

Training/webinar recording (External links)

MSCGP Full Grant Proposal Application/budget training (May 17th, 2023)

TRACS Training for MSCGP

WSFR MultiState Conservation Grant Program Webinar: TRACS and Financial Reporting (new)

Data Dashboard *2001 - Present MSCGP Grants*

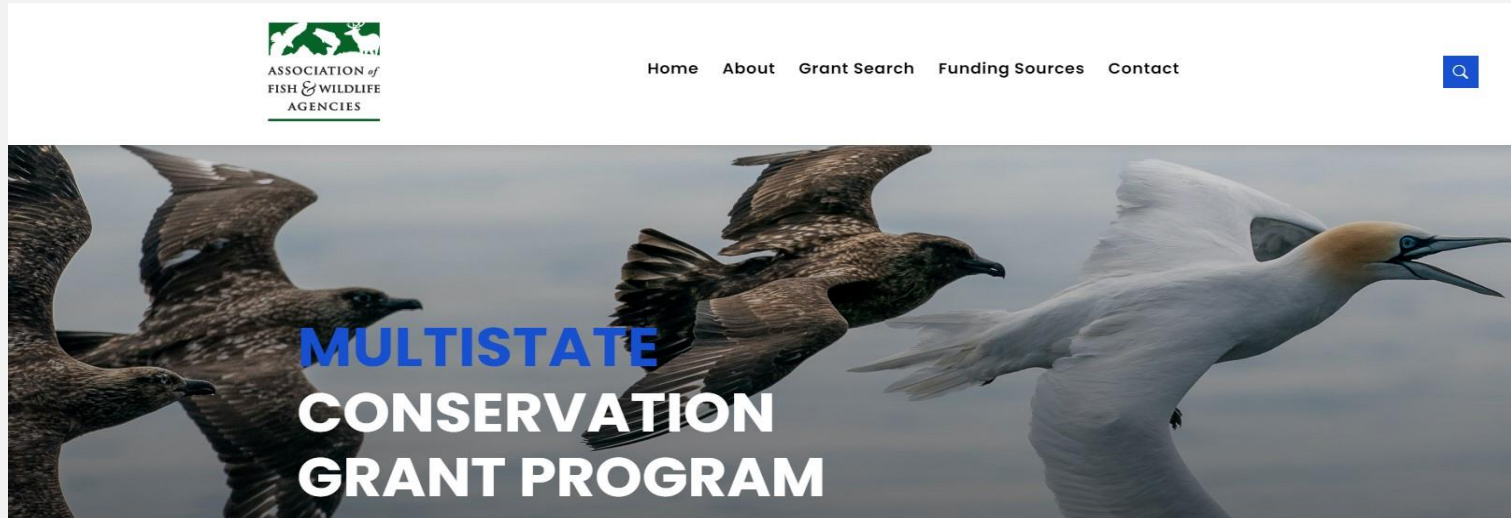


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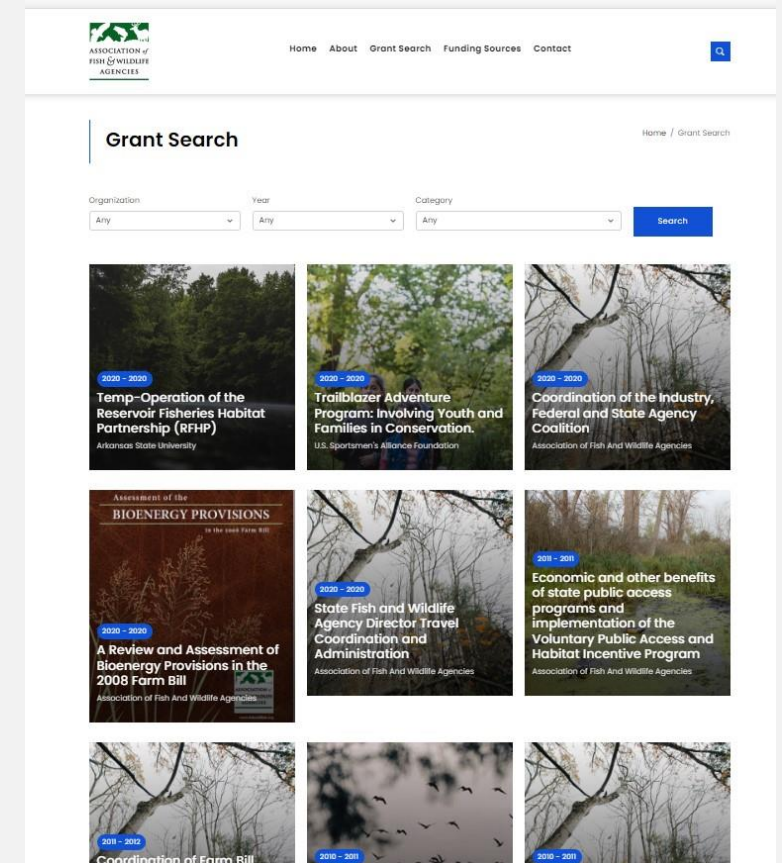


MSCGP DATA DASHBOARD



1. Features MultiState Conservation Grants 2001- Current Year (work in progress)
2. Search features:
 - Organization
 - Year
 - Priority

www.fishwildlife.org/mscgp





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