



OCONEE COUNTY
CONSERVATION BANK BOARD

415 South Pine Street
Walhalla, SC 29691
c/o Clerk to Council

Treasurer's Report

Community First Bank Account: *****183

Period Ending: October 30, 2015

DEPOSITS

Opening Balance	\$ 3,295.00
Deposit	\$ 0.00
TOTAL DEPOSITS	\$ 3,295.00

EXPENDITURES

Expenditures	\$ 0.00
TOTAL DEPOSITS	\$ 0.00

BALANCE IN ACCOUNT
AS OF PERIOD ENDING DATE

\$ 3,295.00

Report Submitted by: _____

Oconee County Conservation Bank Board Treasurer



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Report Submitted by: _____

Marvin Prater
Oconee County Conservation Bank Board Treasurer



OCONEE COUNTY
CONSERVATION BANK BOARD

415 South Pine Street
Walhalla, SC 29691
c/o Clerk to Council

Treasurer's Report

Community First Bank Account: *****183

Period Ending: December 31, 2015

DEPOSITS

Opening Balance	\$ 3,295.00
Deposit	\$ 0.00
TOTAL DEPOSITS	\$ 3,295.00

EXPENDITURES

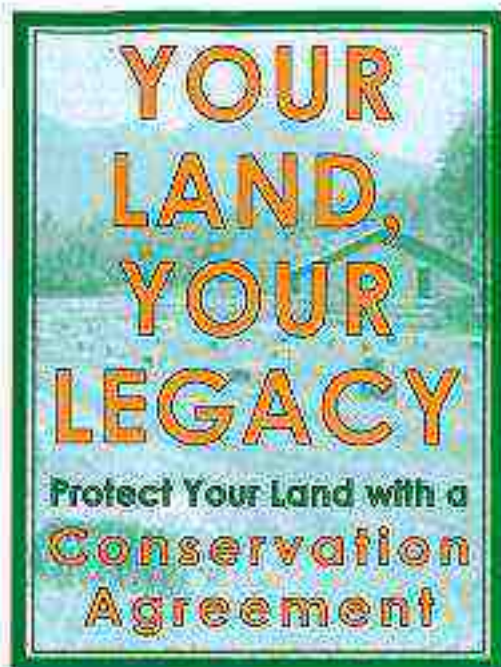
Expenditures	\$ 0.00
TOTAL DEPOSITS	\$ 0.00

BALANCE IN ACCOUNT
AS OF PERIOD ENDING DATE

\$ 3,295.00

Report Submitted by: _____

Marvin Prater
Oconee County Conservation Bank Board Treasurer



Upstate Forever

www.upstateforever.org

**A WORKSHOP IN FOUR
UPSTATE SC LOCATIONS
FOR OWNERS OF SPECIAL
PLACES AND THEIR
PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS**

QUESTIONS? CONTACT
ERIN KNIGHT OR PATRICIA
CARSON AT 864-250-0600

[LANDTRUST@UPSTATEFOR
EVER.ORG](mailto:LANDTRUST@UPSTATEFOREVER.ORG)

UPSTATE FOREVER

IF YOU OWN LAND WITH IMPORTANT NATURAL RESOURCES, A VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION AGREEMENT CAN PROTECT THE LAND YOU LOVE WHILE YOU CONTINUE TO OWN AND MANAGE IT FOR TRADITIONAL USES. YOU MAY ALSO REALIZE SIGNIFICANT TAX BENEFITS.

A CONSERVATION AGREEMENT (ALSO CALLED A CONSERVATION EASEMENT) IS A CONTRACT BETWEEN A LANDOWNER AND A QUALIFIED LAND TRUST, WHICH ALLOWS THE OWNER TO PERMANENTLY RESTRICT CERTAIN UNDESIRABLE USES ON THEIR PROPERTY. THE AGREEMENT IS BINDING ON ALL FUTURE OWNERS AND THEREFORE IS A USEFUL TOOL TO LANDOWNERS WHO PLAN TO GIVE AWAY OR SELL THEIR LAND.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE AND EXPLORING WHETHER A CONSERVATION AGREEMENT IS RIGHT FOR YOU, YOUR FAMILY AND YOUR LAND, PLEASE JOIN US FOR ONE OF THE FOLLOWING WORKSHOPS (ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED). A MEAL IS INCLUDED.

CONFERENCE AGENDA:

-WELCOME

-CONSERVATION AGREEMENTS: THE VOLUNTARY PROTECTION OF LAND
THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

-“WHY WE DID IT” LANDOWNER PANEL

-BREAK: MEAL/LUNCH SERVED

-KEYNOTE: WHY CONSERVATION MATTERS FOR YOU, YOUR FAMILY AND
OUR REGION

-CLOSING REMARKS

MARCH 3, 2016, 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

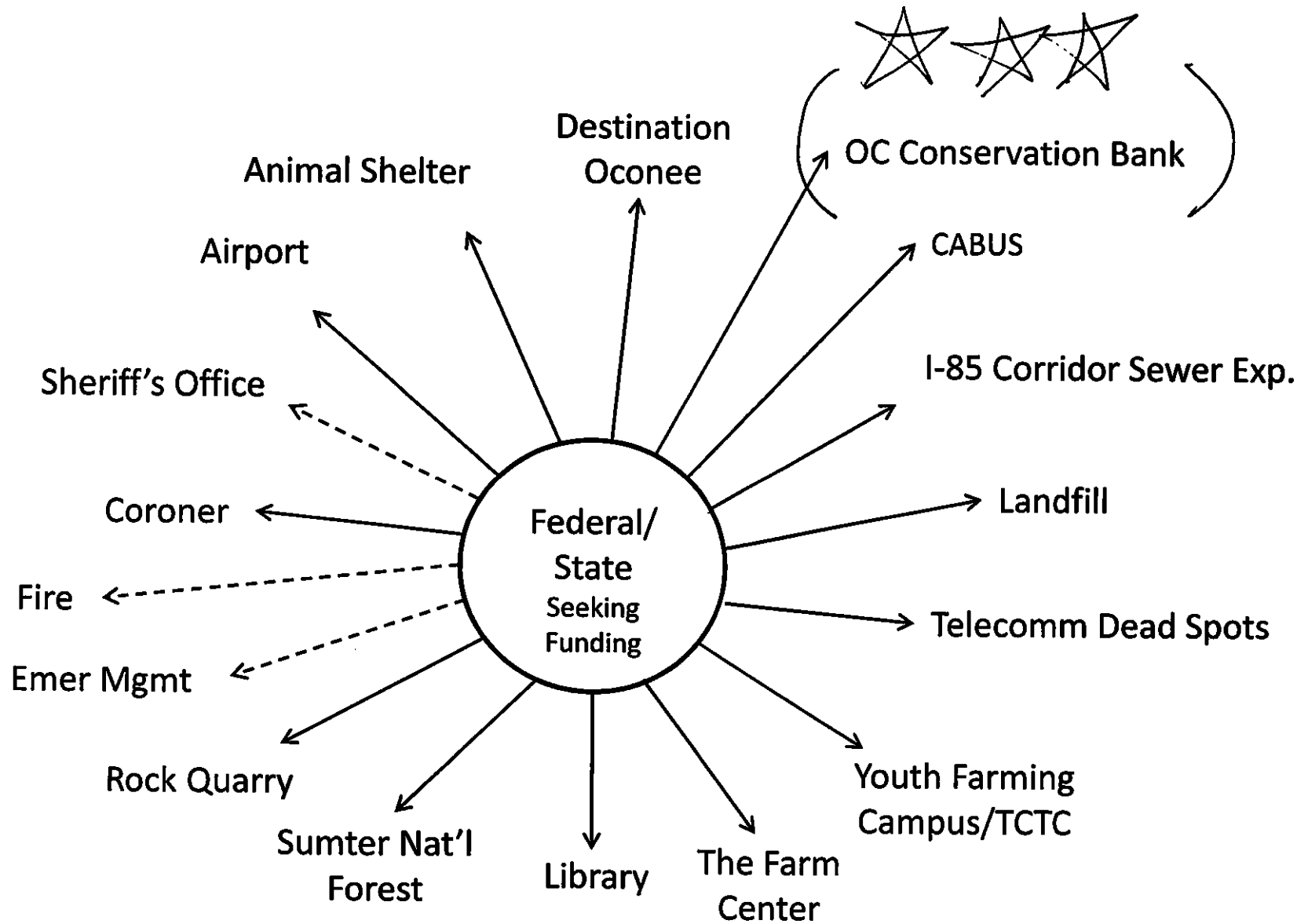
LIGHTHOUSE RESTAURANT, 1290 DOUG HOLLOW RD. SENECA, SC 29672

LUNCH: FRIED BONE-IN CHICKEN OR VEGETABLE LASAGNA, GARDEN SALAD,
GREEN BEANS ALMANDINE AND PEACH COBBLER

COST:

\$20 FOR LANDOWNERS

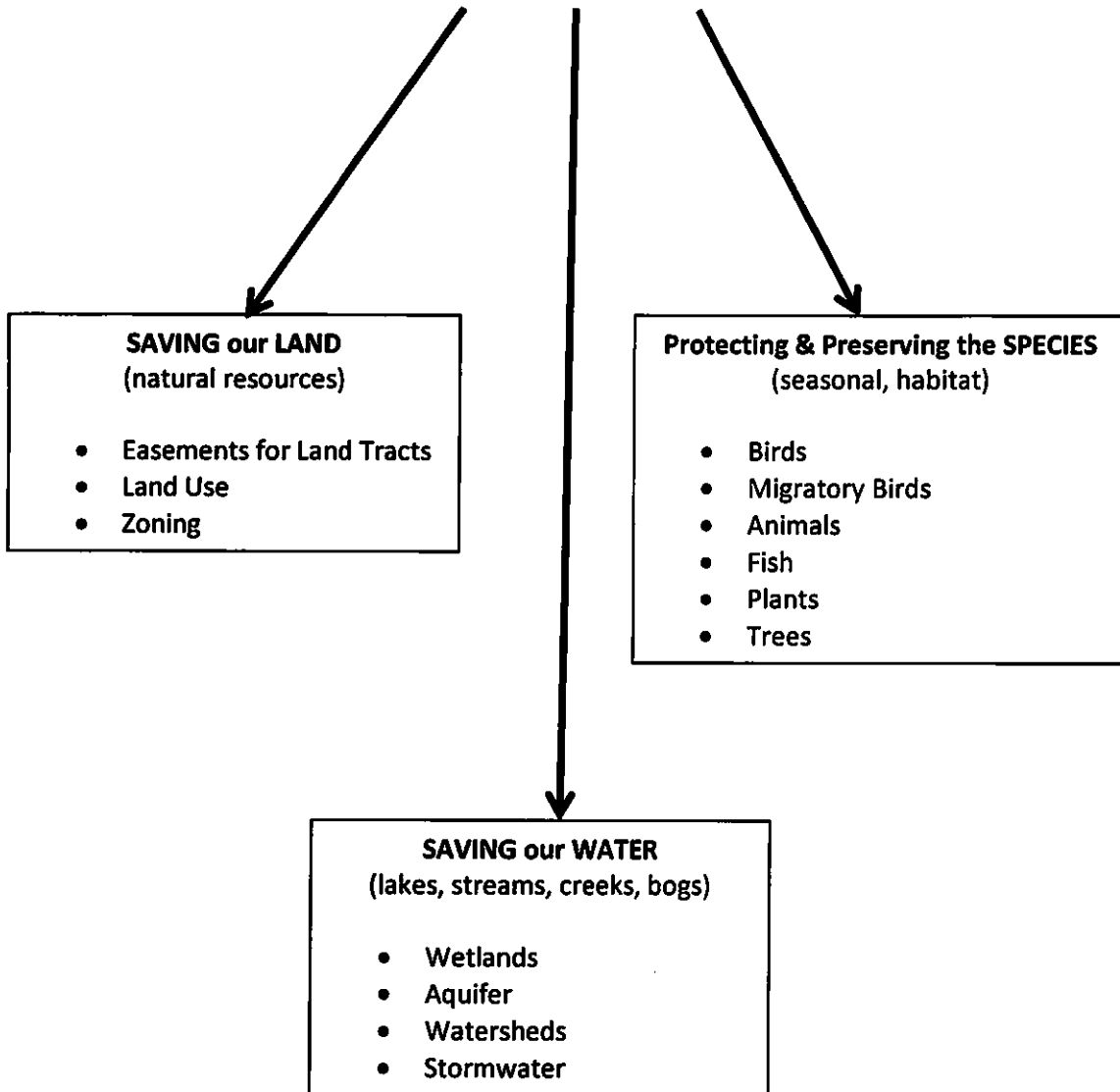
\$75 FOR PROFESSIONALS SEEKING CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS



---> Dept. seems to work mainly on their own for grants.

Feb. 2016

Three Approaches to Funding



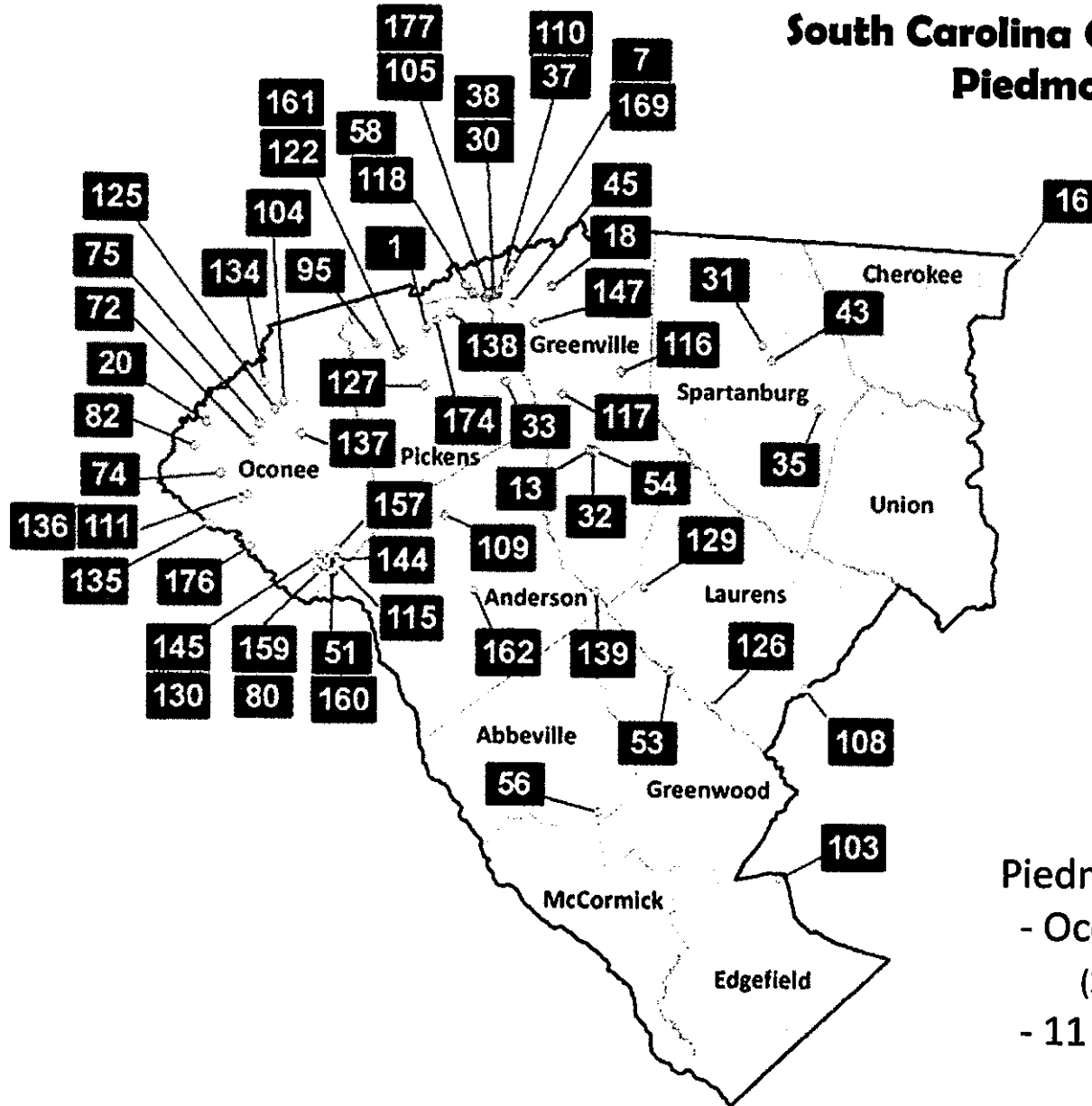
Primary Management Objectives

Maintaining the natural character of Oconee County includes but is not limited to:

- Securing habitat acquisition of tracts of land (farm, ranch, mountain) , water-shorelines, basins, riparian regions so as not to have future encroachment of residential or commercial developments
- Ensuring the protection of Oconee County landscape
- Securing, enhancing and protecting the habitat needs of wildlife and plant species
- Providing for protection and refuge for endangered, threaten, petitioned (to SC state), and species of concern
- Providing for sound forest management to achieve a healthy, diverse forest within the context of the designated Sumter National Forest, State and County Parks and private owner lands
- Reducing the timeframe from start (Landowner consideration) to final land tract having a conservation easement. (currently 3-5 year process)

Consortium Members: SC Conservation Bank, Upstate/Oconee Forever, SC Parks, The Nature Conservancy, The Forest Service, SC Forestry Commission, SCDNR, USDA-Soil & Water, Naturaland Trust, US Endowment for Forestry and Communities Inc., private and business stakeholders.

South Carolina Conservation Bank Piedmont Region



Piedmont 67 Properties:
 - Oconee Cty = 25 (37%)
 (20-active now)
 - 11 Other Ctys = 42 (63%)

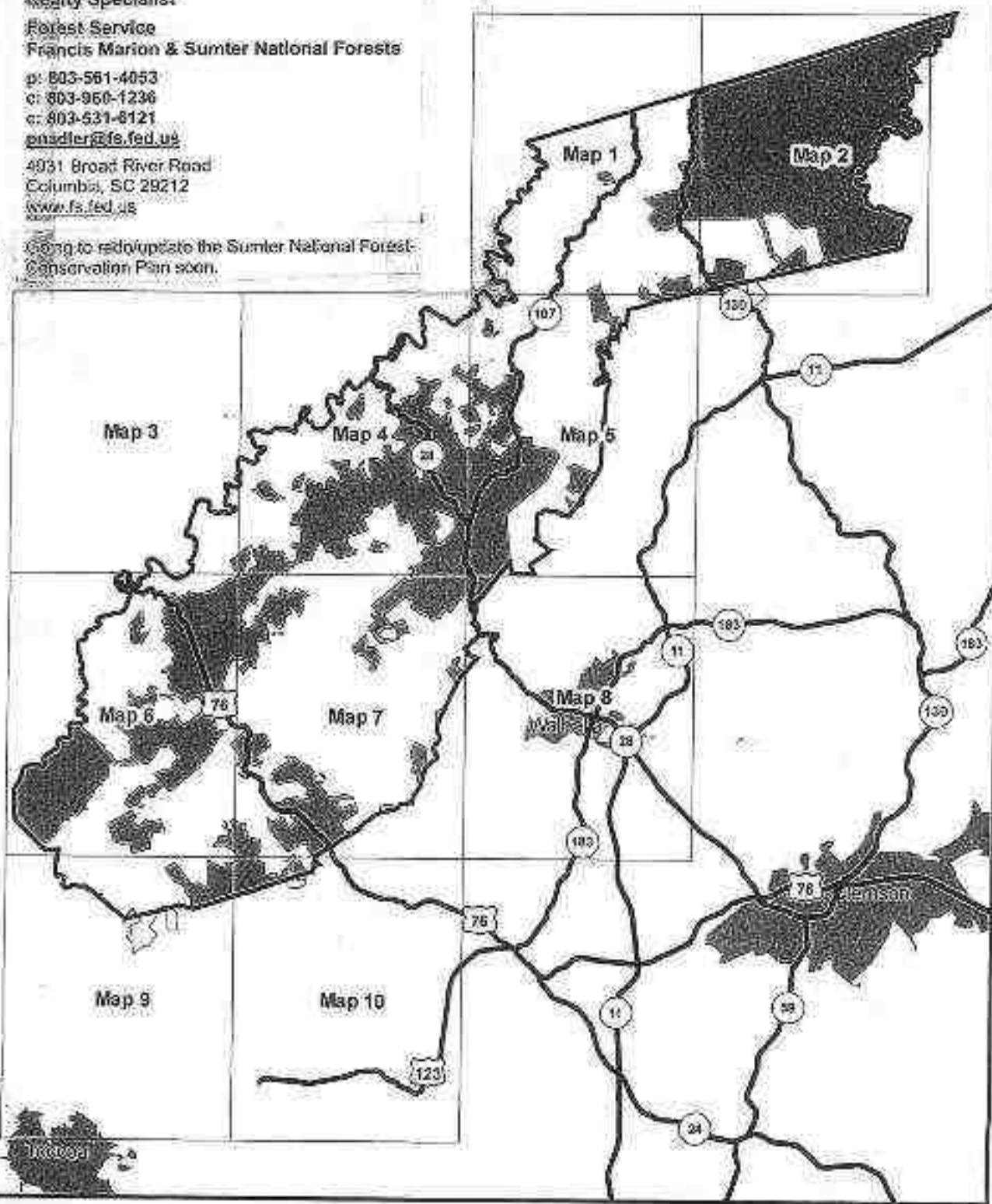
Sumter National Forest Andrew Pickens District MVUM Index

Peggy Jo Nadler
Realty Specialist
Forest Service
Francis Marion & Sumter National Forests

p: 803-561-4053
c: 803-950-1236
c: 803-531-8121
pnadler@fs.fed.us

4931 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212
www.fs.fed.us

Going to reduplicate the Sumter National Forest
Conservation Plan soon.



-----your Email today-----

The National Forests, as well as most federal land management agencies such as the US Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service all receive purchase money from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). This is a national fund established by Congress in 1964, currently in the process of being renewed. Similar to grants, applications are submitted for funding, and the process is competitive among all the various programs. We don't receive funding every year. The fund is also used by the NRCS for land protection programs such as the "Farm and Ranchland Protection Program" that you may have heard about. LWCF is also used by states for land protection through the Forest Legacy Program. In South Carolina, the DNR is in charge of this program and, like the SC Conservation Bank, it has protected thousands of acres across the state. This link has lots of information about LWCF. I'm sure other agencies have similar information on their websites.

<http://www.fs.fed.us/land/staff/LWCF/>

We are in the process of updating our Land Ownership Adjustment Strategy. We will be reaching out to Oconee County and Oconee Forever as we craft a new strategy for our land adjustment work, and hope that we can establish mutual goals for land protection in this Golden Corner of the state!

Sharon

Sharon DeRidder
Grants Administrator
Ph. 864-364-5194
Fx. 864-638-4246



Peggy Nadler

Options...

As you develop a conservation plan and/or conservation system that is right for your land, you will consider a number of options. Below are some examples of individual practices that could be incorporated into your plan to help you reach the natural resource goals and objectives you have identified within your plan.

Conservation Cover Crops, Critical Area Planting, Crop Residue Management, Crop Rotation, Diversions, Field Borders, Filter Strips, Grassed Waterway, Grazing Management, Nutrient Management, Pest Management, Forest Management, Irrigation Water Management, Buffers, Water Storage, Spring Development, Streambank Protection, Terrace, Riparian Buffers, Wetland Enhancement/Restoration, Sediment Control, Wildlife Upland Habitat, and more...

When selecting conservation measures you and the planner will carefully consider how each treatment will function with the unique characteristics, land uses, and additional conservation treatments in place on your property.

Voluntary Technical And Financial Assistance

Once you have evaluated all of your conservation options, you may choose to seek technical or financial assistance. NRCS works with a growing conservation partnership offering a variety of technical and financial assistance to help you implement your conservation plan. This partnership includes local, private, state and federal entities.

NRCS Farm Bill programs are voluntary. Talk with your local NRCS Field Staff to learn more about programs and which types of assistance will work best to help reach the goals outlined within your conservation plan.

Learn More...

To learn More about USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), conservation planning, eligibility, and technical and financial assistance, contact your local USDA NRCS Field Office today and schedule an appointment to speak with our staff. You can also visit us on the Web at www.sc.nrcs.usda.gov.

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD)."



2012/2013

Conservation Planning in South Carolina



Your guide to conserving, enhancing
and protecting natural resources on
your land...and Farm Bill

Conservation Technical and
Financial Assistance



Talk with NRCS TODAY!

What is Conservation Planning?

Whether it's a large scale farming operation or a small acreage hobby farm, conservation planning is an important — and voluntary — first step that owners and operators can take to meet their land management goals. For many producers, conservation planning serves as a fundamental starting point for maintaining and improving the natural resources that support productive and profitable agricultural operations. Every farm has its own unique resource problems or concerns.

At your request, conservation planners with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and local conservation districts can provide planning assistance to help producers identify options that provide the greatest conservation benefit while meeting production goals.

Benefits of developing a customized conservation plan for your farm:

- Identifies immediate or potential resource problems that could hinder your production.
- Helps you comply with environmental regulations.
- Is required for you to qualify for most USDA NRCS Farm Bill conservation programs.
- Adapts to your changing operational goals.
- Establishes a reasonable schedule for you to apply needed conservation practices.
- Can save you time, labor and energy.

What's included in Your Plan?

- Your objectives and goals
- Aerial photographs
- Soils maps and soils descriptions
- Resource inventory and analysis data, which may include:

- Forage or crop production potential
- Forage-livestock balance calculations
- Soil erosion calculations or estimates
- Wildlife habitat assessments
- Surface and groundwater quality assessments
- Agricultural waste management assessment
- And more ...

- Conservation plan alternatives for solving identified resource concerns
- Documentation of your decisions
- Tools, such as job sheets, to help you successfully implement your decisions
- A schedule for applying conservation practices
- Plan of operation and maintenance for your conservation practices and systems

The Roadmap to Farm Bill Conservation Assistance

A conservation plan is required for you to qualify for most USDA NRCS Farm Bill Programs in South Carolina. Your plan will serve as a roadmap to a variety of technical and financial assistance available to you from your local USDA Service Center.

Once you and the conservation planner have evaluated all of your conservation options, you may choose to seek technical or financial assistance. Your plan will help you identify the types of assistance options available to you that will best address your conservation and operational goals.

A Conservation System

The combination of different treatments that work together to address the overall natural resource needs on a farm is called a conservation system.

Conservation systems are sets of land treatments that, when properly planned and applied, work in tandem to provide the greatest overall conservation and production benefits. When designing an overall conservation system, land managers must consider all of the resources and activities on the land.

Depending on the operation, your farm may benefit from a simple conservation system or a combination of different systems to meet all of your natural resource needs and operational goals. This will depend on the landscape, resource concerns, type of operation, and landowner objectives.

NRCS employees will present to you alternative conservation systems to meet your unique objectives and resource concerns.

Federal Funding

The Land and Water Conservation Fund

– <http://www.fs.fed.us/land/staff/LWCF/> Federal Forest Service

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is the largest source of federal money for parks, wildlife, and open space land acquisition. Its funding comes primarily from offshore oil and gas drilling receipts, with an authorized expenditure of \$900 million each year. Under the act, a portion of the money is intended to go to federal land purchases and a portion to the states as matching grants for state and local park projects.

Environmental Protection Agency

Various grants are available through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for watershed planning, restoration and stewardship studies for state, tribal and local governments. Grants are also available for environmental justice issues, pollution prevention, brownfields assessment, community/economic development and environmental education. EPA organizes grant opportunities by region.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries)

The NOAA Community-based Restoration Program

(CRP) provides funding to catalyze the implementation of locally-driven, grass-roots habitat restoration projects that will benefit living marine resources, including anadromous fish. Projects funded through the CRP have strong on-the-ground habitat restoration components that provide educational and social benefits for people and their communities in addition to long-term ecological habitat improvements for NOAA trust resources.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA- SC dept)

NRCS offers voluntary programs to eligible landowners and agricultural producers to provide financial and technical assistance to help manage natural resources in a sustainable manner. Through these programs the agency approves contracts to provide financial assistance to help plan and implement conservation practices that address natural resource concerns or opportunities to help save energy, improve soil, water, plant, air, animal and related resources on agricultural lands and non-industrial private forest land.

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation conserves healthy populations of fish, wildlife and plants, on land and in the sea, through creative and respectful partnerships, sustainable solutions, and better education. The Foundation meets these goals by awarding matching grants to projects benefiting conservation education, habitat protection and restoration, and natural resource management.

North American Wetlands Conservation Act

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) provides federal funds specifically to “conserve North American wetland ecosystems and waterfowl and the other migratory birds and fish and wildlife that depend on such habitats.” NAWCA and matching funds may only be used for wetlands acquisition, creation, enhancement, and/or restoration. Proposals require at least a 50/50 nonfederal match.

~~U.S. Standard Grants Deadlines: **Feb 26, 2016** (Oconee ~~NOT~~ eligible, ~~NOT~~ Coastal)~~

~~A North American Wetlands Conservation Act standard grant proposal is a 4-year plan of action supported by a NAWCA grant and partner funds to conserve wetlands and wetlands-dependent fish and wildlife through acquisition (including easements and land title donations), restoration and/or enhancement, with a grant request between \$50,001 and \$1,000,000.~~

~~U.S. Standard Grants proposals: Stacy Sanchez, (stacy_sanchez@fws.gov), 703/358-2017~~

U.S. Small Grants Deadlines: **Nov 3, 2016**

In conjunction with the Standard Grants program, the North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Council) has created a Small Grants program. The objective is to promote long-term wetlands conservation activities through encouraging participation by new grantees and partners who may not otherwise be able to compete in the Standard Grants program. Small grants (up to \$75,000) are administered separately. Match must be non-Federal and at least equal the grant request (referred to as a 1:1 match). Match is eligible up to 2 years prior to the year the proposal is submitted and grant and match funds are eligible after the proposal is submitted and through the project period.

Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act

Check for next year's FY deadline

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Deadlines vary-check site

PREPARING A PROPOSAL

Applicants submit project proposals to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of Bird Habitat Conservation for either of the program's two funding cycles per year. To qualify for a NAWCA grant, the SF 424 and SF 424D forms must be submitted through Grants.Gov. In order to apply for a grant, you and/or your organization must complete the Grants.Gov registration process. The registration process for an organization or an individual can take between three to five business days. Below are files for you to use in preparing your proposal:

- **Proposal Instructions (1.5MB)** (<http://www.migratorybirds/pdf/grants/ProposalInstructions.pdf>): Describes changes from the 2015 instructions, gives required information for a proposal, and provides examples. These instructions are applicable to proposals submitted through July 14, 2016.
- **Word Proposal Outline (324.5KB)** (<http://www.migratorybirds/pdf/grants/ProposalOutline.doc>): Provides "fill-in-the-blank" proposal outlines, including Technical Assessment Questions and species lists.
- **Excel Financial Plan (Budget Table) (22.5KB)** (<http://www.migratorybirds/pdf/grants/ExcelFinancialPlanTable.xls>): Provides an alternative to the Word financial plan tables.
- **Eligibility Criteria and Processes (209.4KB)** (<http://www.migratorybirds/pdf/grants/EligibilityCriteria.pdf>): Describes eligible activities and costs for NAWCA projects and gives links to cost principles that apply to all Federal grants programs. All NAWCA proposals must comply with these cost principles. Steps in the proposal funding process are also described.
- **U.S. Grant Administration Standards (468.6KB)** (<http://www.migratorybirds/pdf/grants/USGrantStandards.pdf>): Describes policies applicable to all U.S. NAWCA grants.

U.S. SMALL GRANTS APPLICATION

Deadline: Small Grants Program proposals (narrative proposal, SF424, and SF424D) may be submitted at any time prior to the deadline, but must be received by **4pm EST on November 5, 2015** in order to be eligible for consideration.

THE BASICS

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act (Act) Grants Program is a competitive grant program with a competitive and thorough application process. The Small Grants Program application process, while simpler than the Standard Grants application process, still takes time and effort, so please plan accordingly and do not hesitate to contact us for assistance. Before you write the proposal, think carefully about how you will implement your project. If funded, your proposal will become the basis of your official Assistance Award and you will be expected to produce *all* of the acres *AND* *all* of the match dollars described in the proposal. Keep the following basic principles in mind as you plan your project and complete your application:

- All eligible costs must be directly linked to eligible acquired, restored, or established acres that are completed DURING the project period. This means that each grant and match dollar, except for indirect costs, must be linked to an acre acquired, restored, and/or enhanced.
- Partners must match their grant request at no less than a 1-to-1 ratio. For example, applicants requesting a \$75,000 grant would also need to contribute at least \$75,000 in partner funds (from nonfederal sources) towards the project. Funds that pass through a nonfederal partner but originate from the Federal government are not eligible as match.
- In general, laws and requirements that apply to activities funded with NAWCA dollars also apply to items either funded with match dollars or provided as in-kind match (i.e. real property interests). There are very few differences in grant and match for grant administration purposes.
- Grantees are held accountable for both acres and match, as defined in the proposal (as revised) and grant agreement. Without prior approval, accomplishing less than 100 percent of acres or match will result in a reduction of the award amount. This means that you may have to return grant funds if, for example, you do not acquire all the acres you propose to buy, even with match dollars.

In addition, be aware of the following grant selection criteria that are specific to the Small Grants Program:

- Proposals must be for on-the-ground projects.
- Proposals that keep grant costs not directly associated with acquisition, restoration, enhancement or establishment activities (e.g., grant administration, overhead, indirect costs) below 20% of the grant request are generally more competitive. As an exception, if your organization has an officially negotiated indirect cost rate agreement with a US federal agency, you may use your negotiated rate even when it exceeds 20%. However, having a cost that is lower than the negotiated rate may make your proposal more competitive.
- One important factor in evaluating the anticipated benefits of a project to wetlands and wildlife resources is whether or not the proposed project is part of, or complements, another project, or if it is part of a broader conservation initiative.
- If wetland-associated uplands are included in the proposed project, there should be a reasonable balance between the uplands' acreage and that of wetlands.

ADVANCE PLANNING

USDA Announces \$150 Million Available in Funding for Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) for Ranchers and Farmers

Assistance in South Carolina Available through Conservation Stewardship Program as part of \$150 Million USDA Investment

USDA Offers Renewal Options for Producers with Expiring Contracts

COLUMBIA, S.C., Feb. 5, 2016 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced Thursday \$150 million in funding is available for agricultural producers through the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), the largest USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) conservation program that helps producers voluntarily improve the health and productivity of private and Tribal working lands.

South Carolina is eligible to provide assistance for approximately 136,416 acres of agricultural and non-industrial private forestland, and will be accepting applications for CSP throughout the year. Producers should **submit applications by March 31** to ensure they are considered for enrollment in 2016.

The individual land owner has to take the initiative on this program, make the determination whether they can live with the participation guidelines set forth in the program, and then sent to our cooperators through the Farm Service Agent in this office.



HELPING PEOPLE HELP THE LAND
www.sc.nrcs.usda.gov



United States Department of Agriculture

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- Technical Resources
 - Conservation Planning
 - Ecological Science
 - Natural Resources Assessment
 - Data, Maps & Analysis
 - Tools & Applications
 - Technical References
 - Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG)
 - Engineering
 - Economics
 - Environmental Markets
 - Alphabetical Listing

Conservation Reserve Program

The Silver Lining - 25 Years of the Conservation Reserve Program

This video highlights the history of USDA's The Conservation Reserve Program and how the program has played a major role in helping improve the lands, soil and water quality throughout the years.

The Silver Lining - 25 Years of the Conservation Re...



The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) provides technical and financial assistance to eligible farmers and ranchers to address soil, water, and related natural resource concerns on their lands in an environmentally beneficial and cost-effective manner. The program provides assistance to farmers and ranchers in complying with Federal, State, and tribal environmental laws, and encourages environmental enhancement. The program is funded through the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC). CRP is administered by the Farm Service Agency, with NRCS providing technical land eligibility determinations, conservation planning and practice implementation.

The Conservation Reserve Program reduces soil erosion, protects the Nation's ability to produce food and fiber, reduces sedimentation in streams and lakes, improves water quality, establishes wildlife habitat, and enhances forest and wetland resources. It encourages farmers to convert highly erodible cropland or other environmentally sensitive acreage to vegetative cover, such as tame or native grasses, wildlife plantings, trees, filterstrips, or riparian buffers. Farmers receive an annual rental payment for the term of the multi-year contract. Cost sharing is provided to establish the vegetative cover practices.

Program Information

The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), the purpose of this MOA is to provide for the implementation, cooperation, expectations and responsibilities between Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), and Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) in carrying out the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). This agreement is in effect until December 31, 2012.

The document below requires Acrobat Reader

Memorandum of Agreement (PDF; 270KB)

Farm Service Agency's Conservation Reserve Program

CRP Program Results Data, FY2009 - 2014

CRP programs results for FY2009 - 2014 are available in the RCA Data Viewer as HTML and as CSV.

11

Dept of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service of South Carolina

Protecting and Enhancing our Natural Resources

NRCS offers easement programs to landowners who want to maintain or enhance their land in a way beneficial to agriculture and/or the environment. All NRCS easement programs are voluntary. We provide technical help and financial assistance, but local landowners and organizations are needed to make NRCS easement programs successful.

Easement Programs

The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) provides financial and technical assistance to help conserve agricultural lands and wetlands and their related benefits. Under the Agricultural Land Easements component, NRCS helps Indian tribes, state and local governments and non-governmental organizations protect working agricultural lands and limit non-agricultural uses of the land. Under the Wetlands Reserve Easements component, NRCS helps to restore, protect and enhance enrolled wetlands.

The Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP) helps landowners restore, enhance and protect forestland resources on private lands through easements and financial assistance. Through HFRP, landowners promote the recovery of endangered or threatened species, improve plant and animal biodiversity and enhance carbon sequestration.

Wetland Reserve Enhancement Partnership (WREP). WREP is a voluntary conservation program that works through partnership agreements with states, non-governmental organizations and tribes, as defined in section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. WREP is a component of the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) through which NRCS enters into agreements with eligible partners to leverage resources to carry out high-priority wetland protection and improve wildlife habitat.

2015 WREP Announcement of Program Funding (WORD; 79 KB)

Former Easement Programs

The Grasslands Reserve Program (GRP) protected, restored, and enhanced grassland, including rangeland, pastureland, shrub land, and certain other lands.

The Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program (FRPP) helped purchase development rights which kept productive farm and ranch land in agricultural uses.

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) protected, restored and enhanced wetlands. It had the goal of achieving the greatest wetland functions and optimum wildlife habitat on every acre enrolled in it.

2

Federal Pass Thru and State Funding

USDA – Ranch Lands & Grass Lands Protection Acts

Various grants are available through these acts.

Dept. of the Interior – Fish & Wildlife Service

Competitive State Wildlife Grants (C-SWG) Program. Only State governments can apply, \$500K/grant, 14 grants across the country (might be pretty competitive but did/will SC apply)

Others: \$s

- Charities
- Foundations
- Endowments

Duke Energy 50-year Relicensing

Public Recreation (section 6.0)

- Island Ownership – Retain Duke Energy ownership of all islands for term of New License for public recreation use

Land Conservation (section 6.0)

- Nine Times Tract – will provide \$1,044,000 to support acquisition of 1,648 ac by Naturaland Trust
- OC Conservation Bank - \$600,000 Will this \$\$ be restricted?
- Leased Land Areas: low-cost leases to SCDNR for Licklog, Dismal Creek, Fishers Knob, Eastatoe Creek and Laurel Preserve
- Land Purchase Opportunitites- SCDNR will have opportunity to purchase Jocassee East, Laurel Preserve, Licklog, Bad Creek South, Eastatoe Creek, Dismal Creek “IF” Duke Energy no longer needs the properties

Species Protection (section 8.0, Appendix H)

- ❖ Project Headwaters Restoration – habit and species research and restoration \$100K to SCDNR
- ❖ Protecting Special Species- study the area’s aquatic, botanical and wildlife species and habitats which could be threatened, endangered or petitioned species found within the Project Boundaries.
- ❖ Habitat Enhancement Program (HEP)- Duke Energy will provide \$1M initially to establish a program to create, enhance, and protect aquatic and wildlife habitat within the watershed flowing into the Project Reservoirs.



An FY 2015 grant will enable the acquisition and permanent protection of up to 326 acres of longleaf pine habitat in the Sandhills region of North Carolina used by the federally endangered red-cockaded woodpecker. Photo credit: Eric Sponagiste

Contact Us

For more information on how to apply for Federal grants to assist States, Territories, and landowners in conserving species on non-Federal lands, please contact the FWS Regional office from the list below with responsibility for the State or Territory in which the proposed project would occur:

Additional information is also available at <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/grants/index.html>. You may also access www.grants.gov and search the site using the program title Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund or by the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number 15.625. This information is posted in accordance with OMB Control Number 1058-0108.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ecological Services
Branch of Recovery and State Grants
5216 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-368-2171
<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/>
August 2015

Regional Office Boundaries

Region One — Pacific
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Eastside Federal Complex
911 N.E. 11th Avenue
Portland, OR 97232-4181
Program Contact: David Leonard,
503/231-2372 OR
Colleen Henson, 503/231-0288

Region Two — Southwest
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
500 Gold Avenue SW, Room 6078
Albuquerque, NM 87102
Program Contact: Brady McGee,
505/248-6657

Region Three — Great Lakes—Big Rivers
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ecological Services
5600 American Blvd. West
Suite 900
Bloomington, Minnesota 55437-1458
Program Contact: Tom Magnuson,
612/713-3292

Region Four — Southeast
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 200
Atlanta, GA 30345
Program Contact: Kelly Bibb,
404/679-7132 OR
David Dell, 404/679-7318

Region Five — Northeast
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
300 Westgate Center Drive
Hadley, MA 01035-9589
Program Contact: Sadie Stevens,
413-233-8672

Region Six — Mountain-Prairie
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
134 Union Blvd., Suite 645
Lakewood, CO 80228
Program Contact: Amelia Orton-Palmer,
303/286-4211

Region Seven — Alaska
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1011 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, AK 99503-6199
907/786-3559

Region Eight — Pacific Southwest
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Federal Building
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2606
Sacramento, CA 95825-1846
Program Contact: Karen (Kiti) Jensen
916/414-6557, OR Dan Cox,
916/414-6589





U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund Grants

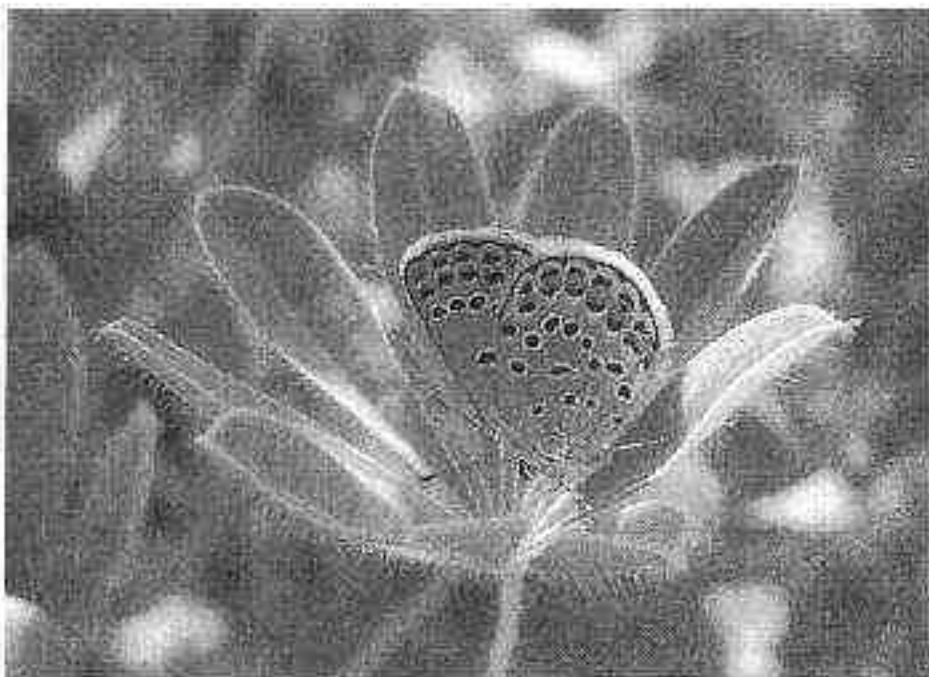
(Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act)

Because more than half of all species currently listed as endangered or threatened spend at least part of their life cycle on privately owned lands, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) recognizes that success in conserving species will ultimately depend on working cooperatively with landowners, communities, and Tribes to foster voluntary stewardship efforts on private lands. States play a key role in catalyzing these efforts.

A variety of tools are available under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to help States and landowners plan and implement projects to conserve species. One of the tools, the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (section 6 of the ESA), provides grants to States and Territories to participate in a wide array of voluntary conservation projects for candidate, proposed, and listed species.

The program provides funding to States and Territories for species and habitat conservation actions on non-Federal lands. States and Territories must contribute a minimum non-Federal match of 25% of the estimated program costs of approved projects, or 10% when two or more States or Territories implement a joint project. A State or Territory must currently have, or enter into, a cooperative agreement with the Secretary of the Interior to receive grants. Most States and Territories have entered into these agreements for both plant and animal species.

The FWS awarded approximately \$48.7 million in Federal funding in FY 2015 under four grant programs that are available through the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund.



An FY 2015 grant will allow the State of Michigan to acquire an 18-acre property that fills a critical role in the life cycle of the Karner blue butterfly, as it contains the larval host plant wild lupine, the only food consumed by butterfly caterpillars. Photo credit: Melissa Cox

Conservation Grants (\$11.5 M) provide financial assistance to States and Territories to implement conservation projects for listed species and at-risk species. Funded activities include habitat restoration, species status surveys, public education and outreach, captive propagation and reintroduction, nesting surveys, genetic studies, and development of management plans.

Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grants (\$4.7 M) provide funds to States and Territories to support the development of Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) through support of baseline surveys and inventories, document preparation, outreach, and similar planning activities.

HCP Land Acquisition Grants (\$20.3 M) provide funding to States and Territories to acquire land associated with approved HCPs. Grants do not fund the mitigation required of an HCP permittee; instead, they support land acquisition by the State or local governments that complement mitigation.

Recovery Land Acquisition Grants (\$12.2 M) provide funds to States and Territories for the acquisition of habitat for endangered and threatened species in support of draft and approved recovery plans. Acquisition of habitat to secure long-term protection is often an essential element of a comprehensive recovery effort for a listed species.



F16AS00038
Competitive State Wildlife Grants Program
 Department of the Interior
 Fish and Wildlife Service

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- [Related Documents](#)
- [Package](#)

[Print Synopsis Details](#)

The synopsis for this grant opportunity is detailed below, following this paragraph. This synopsis contains all of the updates to this document that have been posted as of 11/20/2015. If updates have been made to the opportunity synopsis, update information is provided below the synopsis.

If you would like to receive notifications of changes to the grant opportunity click [send me change notification emails](#). The only thing you need to provide for this service is your email address. No other information is required.

Any inconsistency between the original printed document and the disk or electronic document shall be resolved by giving precedence to the printed document.

General Information

Document Type:	Grant Notice	Posted Date:	Nov 20, 2015
Funding Opportunity Number:	F16AS00038	Creation Date:	Nov 20, 2015
Funding Opportunity Title:	Competitive State Wildlife Grants Program	Original Closing Date for Applications:	Feb 19, 2016
Opportunity Category:	Discretionary	Current Closing Date for Applications:	Feb 19, 2016
Funding Instrument Type:	Grant	Archive Date:	Mar 15, 2016
Category of Funding Activity:	Environment Natural Resources	Estimated Total Program Funding:	\$5,500,000
Category Explanation:		Award Ceiling:	\$500,000
Expected Number of Awards:	14	Award Floor:	\$25,000
CFDA Number(s):	15.631 - State Wildlife Grants		

Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement: Yes

Eligibility

Eligible Applicants: State governments

ONLY State Agency

Additional Information on Eligibility:

Additional Information

Agency Name: Fish and Wildlife Service

Description: The Competitive State Wildlife Grants (C-SWG) Program provides States, the District of Columbia, Commonwealths, and territories (States) Federal grant funds for the development and implementation of programs for the benefit of wildlife and their habitats, including species that are not hunted or fished. Eligible activities include planning and conservation implementation. Planning activities must contribute directly to the development or modification of a State Wildlife Action Plan (Plan) approved by the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service). Implementation activities are activities that a State carries out to execute their Plan. Priority for use of these funds must be placed on identified species of greatest conservation need and should take into consideration the relative level of funding available for the conservation of these species. The C-SWG Program prioritizes and supports projects that are designed, implemented, and evaluated within an explicit adaptive management framework. The C-SWG Program is funded through annual appropriations of Congress.

Link to Additional Information: <http://grants.gov/>

Contact Information: If you have difficulty accessing the full announcement electronically, please contact:

Paul VanRyzin, Fish and Wildlife Administrator, 7033581849 paul.vanryzin@fws.gov
 paul_vanryzin@fws.gov



F16AS00007
Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program
 Department of the Interior
 Fish and Wildlife Service

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[Print Synopsis Details](#)

The synopsis for this grant opportunity is detailed below, following this paragraph. This synopsis contains all of the updates to this document that have been posted as of 10/14/2015. If updates have been made to the opportunity synopsis, update information is provided below the synopsis.

If you would like to receive notifications of changes in the grant opportunity click [and we change notification emails](#). The only thing you need to provide for this service is your email address. No other information is requested.

Any inconsistency between the original printed document and the disk or electronic document shall be resolved by giving precedence to the printed document.

General Information

Document Type:	Grants Notice	Posted Date:	Oct 14, 2015
Funding Opportunity Number:	F16AS00007	Creation Date:	Oct 14, 2015
Funding Opportunity Title:	Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program	Original Closing Date for Applications:	Sep 30, 2016
Opportunity Category:	Discretionary	Current Closing Date for Applications:	Sep 30, 2016
Funding Instrument Type:	Cooperative Agreement	Archive Date:	Oct 7, 2016
Category of Funding Activity:	Environment Natural Resources	Estimated Total Program Funding:	\$32,000,000
Category Explanation:		Award Ceiling:	\$500,000
Expected Number of Awards:	5000	Award Floor:	50
CFDA Number(s):	15.631 - Partners for Fish and Wildlife		

Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement: No

Eligibility

Eligible Applicants: City or township government
 Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education
 Private institutions of higher education
 Native American tribal organizations (other than Federally recognized tribal governments)
 State governments
 Small businesses
 Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized)
 County governments
 Individuals
 Public and State controlled institutions of higher education
 For profit organizations other than small businesses
 Nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education

Additional Information on Eligibility:

Additional Information

Agency Name: Fish and Wildlife Service

Description: The Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) Program is a voluntary, incentive-based program that provides direct technical assistance and financial assistance in the form of cooperative agreements to private landowners to restore and conserve fish and wildlife habitat for the benefit of federal trust resources. The PFW Program is delivered through more than 250 full-time staff, active in all 50 States and territories. Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program staff coordinate with project partners, stakeholders and other Service programs to identify geographic focus areas and develop habitat conservation priorities within these focus areas. Geographic focus areas are where the PFW

directs resources to conserve habitat for federal trust species.



Funding Sources & How to Apply

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

The Migratory Bird Program operates several conservation grants programs. Each has its own purpose, regulations, and application processes. Select a program from the list below to learn more about the grants process and how to apply for project funding.

NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION ACT (NAWCA) GRANTS



- Next Deadline: February 27, 2015
- Requests above \$75,000
- Requires 1:1 Match
- [How to Apply for a U.S. Standard NAWCA Grant \(north-american-wetland-conservation-act/how-to-apply-for-a-nawca-grant.php#u-s-standard\)](#)
- [North American Wetlands Conservation Act U.S. Standard Grants Program \(north-american-wetland-conservation-act/standard-grants/united-states.php#u-s-standard-and-data/bird-loading.php\)](#)



- Next Deadline: November 5, 2015
- Requests up to \$75,000
- Requires 1:1 Match
- [How to Apply for a U.S. Small NAWCA Grant \(north-american-wetland-conservation-act/how-to-apply-for-a-nawca-grant.php#u-s-small\)](#)
- [North American Wetlands Conservation Act U.S. Small Grants Program \(north-american-wetland-conservation-act/small-grants.php\)](#)



- Next Deadline: September 7, 2015
- Restricted to projects in Canada



- Next Deadline: June 1, 2015
- Restricted to projects in Mexico

- Requires 1:1 Match
- [North American Wetlands Conservation Act-Canada Standard Grants Program \(north-american-wetlands-conservation-act/standard-grants/canada.php\)](#)
- Requires 1:1 Cash Match
- [How to Apply for a NAWCA Mexico Grant \(en-Espanol/north-american-wetlands-conservation-act/how-to-apply-for-a-mexico-grant.php/mexico\)](#)
- [North American Wetlands Conservation Act-Mexico Standard Grants Program \(north-american-wetlands-conservation-act/standard-grants/mexico.php\)](#)

NEOTROPICAL MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION ACT (NMBCA) GRANTS



- Next Deadline: TBD
- Restricted to Neotropical migratory species
- Requires 2:1 Match
- [How to Apply for a NMBCA Grant \(neotropical-migratory-bird-conservation-act/how-to-apply.php\)](#)
- [Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act Program \(neotropical-migratory-bird-conservation-act.php\)](#)

3:1 Match

URBAN BIRD TREATY GRANTS



- Next Deadline: February 1, 2016
- Restricted to urban areas working with partners (see program website for eligibility requirements)
- Requires at least 1:1 Match
- [Urban Bird Treaty Program \(birds/grants/urban-bird-treaty.php\)](#)



Last Updated: December 7, 2015

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**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ecological Services Program**

FY 2016 Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (CESCF) Grants
Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 15.615

Notice of Funding Opportunity

I. Description of Funding Opportunity

Because more than half of all species currently listed as endangered or threatened spend at least part of their life cycle on privately-owned lands, the Service recognizes that success in conserving species will ultimately depend on working cooperatively with landowners, communities, and tribes to foster voluntary stewardship efforts on private lands. States and Territories (hereafter, "States") play a key role in catalyzing these efforts. A variety of tools are available under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to help States and landowners plan and implement projects to conserve species. The CESCF provides grants to States to participate in a wide array of voluntary conservation projects for candidate, listed, and recently recovered species.

Four grant programs are available through the CESCF; they include the "Traditional" Conservation Grants and the Nontraditional Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Land Acquisition, Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance, and Recovery Land Acquisition (RLA) Grants.

"Traditional" Conservation Grants: The "Traditional" Conservation Grants program provides financial assistance to States to implement conservation projects for candidate, listed, and recently recovered species. Funded activities include habitat restoration, species status surveys, public education and outreach, captive propagation and reintroduction, nesting surveys, genetic studies, and development of management plans.

Nontraditional Programs:

- **Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grants** - Through the development of regional HCPs, local governments incorporate species conservation into local land use planning, which streamlines the project approval process and facilitates economic development. Established in fiscal year 2001, the Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grants program provides funding to States to support the development of HCPs. Planning assistance grants may support planning activities such as document preparation, outreach, baseline surveys, and inventories. Proposals for amendments to existing HCPs will not be accepted.
- **Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition Grants** - The HCP Land Acquisition Grant program was established by Congress in fiscal year 1997. This program was designed to reduce conflicts between the conservation of listed species and land uses on specific parcels of land. Under this program, the Service provides grants to States for land acquisitions (both in fee simple and conservation easements) that are associated with approved (permitted) HCPs. The Service considers the use of Federal acquisition dollars by States

for habitat protection adjacent to HCP areas to be an important and effective mechanism to promote the recovery of threatened and endangered species.

The HCP Land Acquisition program has three primary purposes: 1) to fund land acquisitions that complement, but do not replace, Federal mitigation responsibilities contained in HCPs, 2) to fund land acquisitions that have important benefits for listed and candidate species, and 3) to fund land acquisitions that have important benefits for ecosystems that support listed and candidate species.

The HCP Land Acquisition program supports both single-species and multiple-species HCPs. For fiscal year 2016, 10 percent of the funding available through the HCP Land Acquisition program will be targeted to support single-species HCP land acquisition projects.

- **Recovery Land Acquisition Grants** - Loss of habitat is the primary threat to most listed species and land acquisition is often the most effective and efficient means of protecting habitats essential for recovery of listed species before development or other land use changes impair or destroy key habitat values. Land acquisition is costly and often neither the Service nor the States individually have the necessary resources to acquire habitat essential for recovery of listed species. Recovery Land Acquisition grant funds are matched by States and other non-Federal entities to acquire (both in fee simple and conservation easements) this habitat from willing sellers in support of approved or draft species recovery plans. The Recovery Land Acquisition program was established in fiscal year 2001.

As in previous fiscal years, in order to support high priority efforts of the Service and States, a process has been implemented whereby the Service Regional Directors are provided with 25 points total in each of the Nontraditional programs to distribute among project proposals to reflect the collective priorities of the States and the Service. We ask that the States and Service Regional Directors consider project readiness and how a proposal may address conservation in the context of climate change when assigning these points to a proposal.

The CESCOF programs are authorized through Endangered Species Act of 1973, 16 U.S.C. 1531 - 1534 et seq., as amended. The codified program regulations can be found at 50 CFR 81.

II. Award Information

For fiscal year 2016, the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund is funded at \$53.495 million, including \$9.485 million for Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grants, \$11.162 million for Recovery Land Acquisition Grants, and \$19.638 million for Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Land Acquisition Grants.

“Traditional” Conservation Grants: The award announcements for the fiscal year 2016 “Traditional” grants will be determined by our Regional Offices. Funding is allocated by

formula to the Service Regions based on the number of species covered in the cooperative agreements with the States within that Region. Regional offices then further allocate the funding to the States within that Region by formula or through a competitive process. Awards for the "Traditional" Conservation Grants will be announced through regional press releases and direct notification of the applicant from the Regional Offices of the Service. An applicant should not initiate a project in expectation of CESCOF funding, nor should they purchase materials or begin work until such time as they receive the final grant award document signed by an authorized Service official. The Service awarded approximately \$11.5 million in fiscal year 2015 through the "Traditional" Conservation Grant Program.

Nontraditional Grant Programs: Funding for the HCP Land Acquisition and Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance programs is awarded based on a national competition. Following a regional "target" allocation from the Headquarters Office, funding for the Recovery Land Acquisition program is awarded based on regional competitions.

The Service awarded approximately \$37.2 million in fiscal year 2015 funding to Nontraditional Program projects through the CESCOF. Of that amount, approximately \$4.7 million was awarded through the Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance program to fully fund 11 out of 11 eligible proposals from 9 States. Approximately \$20.3 million fully funded 12 out of 12 eligible proposals through the HCP Land Acquisition program. The Recovery Land Acquisition program awarded approximately \$12.2 million in funding to 22 projects in 11 States. Information on the fiscal year 2015 grant awards can be found at:

http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/FY%2015_Press_Release_Statements%20Combined.pdf

The Service will make award selections for the competitive programs based upon the proposals submitted for consideration through this announcement. The range of grant awards has been between \$1,000 and \$24,000,000, but varies greatly by program. This year we are maintaining a \$2 million cap on HCP Land Acquisition grants and increasing the cap on Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance grants to \$1 million. The Service anticipates making award announcements for the fiscal year 2016 grant programs in fiscal year 2016 following final budget appropriations.

Awards for the nontraditional grants will be announced through a national press release and a memorandum to the Regional Directors of the Service for further notification of the applicants' selection for an award. Notification of an award through a press release or letter from a Regional Office is not an authorization to begin performance. The final exact amount of funds, the scope of work, and terms and conditions of a successful award will be determined in pre-award negotiations between the prospective grantee and the Service's representatives. An applicant should not initiate a project in expectation of CESCOF funding, nor should they purchase materials or begin work until such time as they receive the final grant award document signed by an authorized Service official.

III. Basic Eligibility Requirements

Eligible Applicants:

State administrative costs must either be assumed by the State or included in the proposal in accordance with Federal requirements. Grants may not be submitted to cover administrative costs alone.

Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance: To be eligible for funding under the Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance program, a proposal must meet all of the mandatory conditions listed below. If a proposal does not meet these conditions, do not submit the proposal for consideration.

1. Proposals involving ongoing projects will not be accepted for HCPs that have open CESCO grants awarded in or prior to FY 2011. All CESCO grants for a specific HCP planning effort awarded in FY2011 or earlier must be closed prior to the submission of an FY 2016 proposal for the same planning effort in order to be considered for funding. Service policy is to allow for up to three years from the date of obligation for the expenditure of CESCO funds. Grants awarded in or before FY2011 are expired and will require an extension that must be approved from the Director of the Service.
2. For proposals involving an ongoing project, evidence of progress made to date must be provided. The proposal must discuss any prior CESCO grant funding awarded to the HCP and the progress that has been made toward completion of the previous grant(s).
3. Proposals must include a list of discrete activities to be funded and each activity in the proposal must have an identified starting point and end point. Examples of discrete activities include developing public outreach brochures, gathering baseline data for an HCP, or preparing a draft HCP or associated National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents. For proposals involving an ongoing project, funding cannot be sought to support activities to meet deliverables that were identified for completion through prior year funding. For example, if a prior planning assistance grant was awarded to an HCP to complete a draft NEPA document, funding cannot be sought to complete a draft NEPA document in FY2016. However, funding can be sought to complete a final NEPA document in FY2016 unless this activity was specified as a deliverable of a previous grant award.
4. The proposal must be for activities to develop a new HCP. Proposals for amendments to existing approved HCPs will not be accepted.

Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition: To be eligible for funding under the HCP Land Acquisition program, a land acquisition proposal must meet all of the mandatory conditions listed below. If a land acquisition proposal does not meet all of these conditions, do not submit the proposal for consideration.

1. The land acquisition complements, but does not replace, Federal mitigation requirements contained in the HCP.
2. The land acquisition must be associated with approved (permitted) HCPs.

3. Proposals involving ongoing projects will not be accepted for HCPs that have open CESCOF grants awarded in or prior to FY 2011. All CESCOF grants awarded in or before FY2011 under a specific HCP must be closed prior to the submission of an FY 2016 proposal under the same HCP in order for it to be considered for funding. Service policy is to allow for up to three years from the date of obligation for the expenditure of CESCOF funds. Grants awarded in or before FY2011 are expired and will require an extension that must be approved from the Director of the Service.
4. For proposals involving an ongoing project, evidence of progress made to date must be provided. The proposal must discuss any prior CESCOF grant funding awarded to the HCP and the progress that has been made toward completion of previous grant(s).
5. The specific parcel(s) to be acquired with the grant is/are identified. NOTE: Evidence demonstrating that the landowners are willing sellers (i.e., a letter or other form of written acknowledgment) will be required prior to transfer of funds.

Federal land acquisition grant programs fund the purchase of land at market value, from willing sellers. Market value must be determined by appraisals performed in accordance with the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions, and all other applicable laws and regulations. Appraisals are not required to be submitted with the grant proposals, but are required prior to expenditure of funds if the project is selected for funding. Please be aware that if an appraisal to Federal standards is not provided with the grant application, the amount specified in the award announcement will be based on the estimate of the property's value as provided in the grant proposal. However, the actual purchase price will not be greater than the current market value as determined by an appraisal completed to Federal standards and appraisal review completed to Federal standards. States or other non-Federal partners will be responsible for ensuring that appraisal and title work are completed. The cost of conducting an appraisal(s) and completing title work, in accordance with Federal requirements, must either be assumed by the State or a non-Federal subgrantee, or included in the total cost of the proposal.

6. The 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.
7. Only one proposal per HCP may be submitted. However, a proposal may include more than one parcel for funding consideration. For regional HCPs with subarea plans, please submit multiple acquisition proposals under the one regional plan title. The proposal must specifically identify the parcel to be acquired in order to be considered. We encourage you to include more than one parcel in the proposal in the event the transaction for the highest priority acquisition cannot be completed; subject to the outcome of fund reassignment procedures, funding of the next highest priority parcel acquisition identified in the proposal may be approved. In addition, acquisition of more than one parcel per HCP may be funded. If you submit more than one parcel for consideration in your proposal, you must include the relative acquisition priorities for each parcel, the price of each parcel, and the amount of the request (purchase price minus the non-Federal match)

for each parcel.

8. A proposal may not be submitted for funding consideration in both the Recovery Land Acquisition Grant Program and the HCP Land Acquisition Grant Program.

Recovery Land Acquisition Grants: To be eligible for funding under the Recovery Land Acquisition program, a land acquisition proposal must meet all of the mandatory conditions listed below. If a land acquisition proposal does not meet all of these conditions, do not submit the proposal for consideration.

1. Proposals involving ongoing projects will not be accepted for RLA projects that have open CESCO grants awarded in or prior to FY 2011. All CESCO grants awarded in FY2011 and earlier for a specific project must be closed prior to the submission of an FY 2016 proposal for the same project in order for it to be considered for funding. Grants awarded in or before FY2011 are expired and will require an extension that must be approved from the Director of the Service before the funds can be drawn down.
2. For proposals involving an ongoing project, evidence of progress made to date must be provided. The proposal must discuss any prior CESCO grant funding awarded to the project and the progress that has been made toward completion of previous grant(s).
3. Habitat must be set aside in perpetuity for the purposes of conservation (this can include easements deeded in perpetuity or other similar instruments).
4. The funds must contribute to the implementation of an approved final or draft recovery plan for at least one listed species. An exception will ONLY be made with sufficient justification, according to the following: (1) newly listed species where sufficient time (2 ½ years) for development of a recovery plan has not passed, (2) if the species is exempt from the requirement for development of a recovery plan, or (3) if a recovery plan has not been developed, but the species conservation planning efforts have identified land acquisition priorities. All exceptions will require a narrative justification.
5. The specific parcel(s) to be acquired with the grant is identified. NOTE: Evidence demonstrating that the landowners are willing sellers (i.e., a letter or other form of written acknowledgment) will be required prior to transfer of funds.

Federal land acquisition grant programs fund the purchase of land at market value, from willing sellers. Market value must be determined by appraisals performed in accordance with the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions, and all other applicable laws and regulations. Appraisals are not required to be submitted with the grant proposals, but are required prior to expenditure of funds if the project is selected for funding. Please be aware that if an appraisal to Federal standards is not provided with the grant application, the amount specified in the award announcement will be based on the estimate of the property's value as provided in the grant proposal. However, the actual purchase price will not be greater than the current market value as determined by an appraisal completed to Federal standards and appraisal review completed to Federal

standards. States or other non-Federal partners will be responsible for ensuring that appraisal and title work are completed. The cost of conducting an appraisal(s) and completing title work, in accordance with Federal requirements, must either be assumed by the State or a non-Federal subgrantee, or included in the total cost of the proposal.

6. The 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.
7. A proposal may not be submitted for funding consideration in both the Recovery Land Acquisition Grant Program and the HCP Land Acquisition Grant Program.

IV. Application Requirements

To be considered for funding under this funding opportunity, an application must contain:

A. Application for Federal Assistance Form

A completed, signed and dated Application for Federal Assistance form. This form can be found at <http://apply07.grants.gov/apply/FormLinks?family=16>. Do not include other Federal sources of funding, requested or approved, in the total entered in the "Federal" funding box on the Application for Federal Assistance form. Enter only the amount being requested under this program in the "Federal" funding box. Include any other Federal sources of funding in the total funding entered in the "Other" box.

B. Project Narrative

The narrative description of your project proposal should specifically address each of the eligibility criteria described above and each of the ranking criteria included in the evaluation forms found in Section VI (Application Review.) Project descriptions that clearly address the specific ranking criteria in an organized manner will facilitate proposal review and scoring. We recommend the following format for the project narrative:

NEED: Why is the project being undertaken?

OBJECTIVE: What is to be accomplished during the period of the project pursuant to the stated need? (Specify fully what is to be accomplished within the time, money, and staffing allocated and specify end point.)

EXPECTED RESULTS OR BENEFITS: How will the project improve fish and wildlife resources or benefit the public? Try to provide quantifiable or verifiable resource benefits.

APPROACH: How will the objective be attained? Include specific procedures, schedules, key cooperators and respective roles.

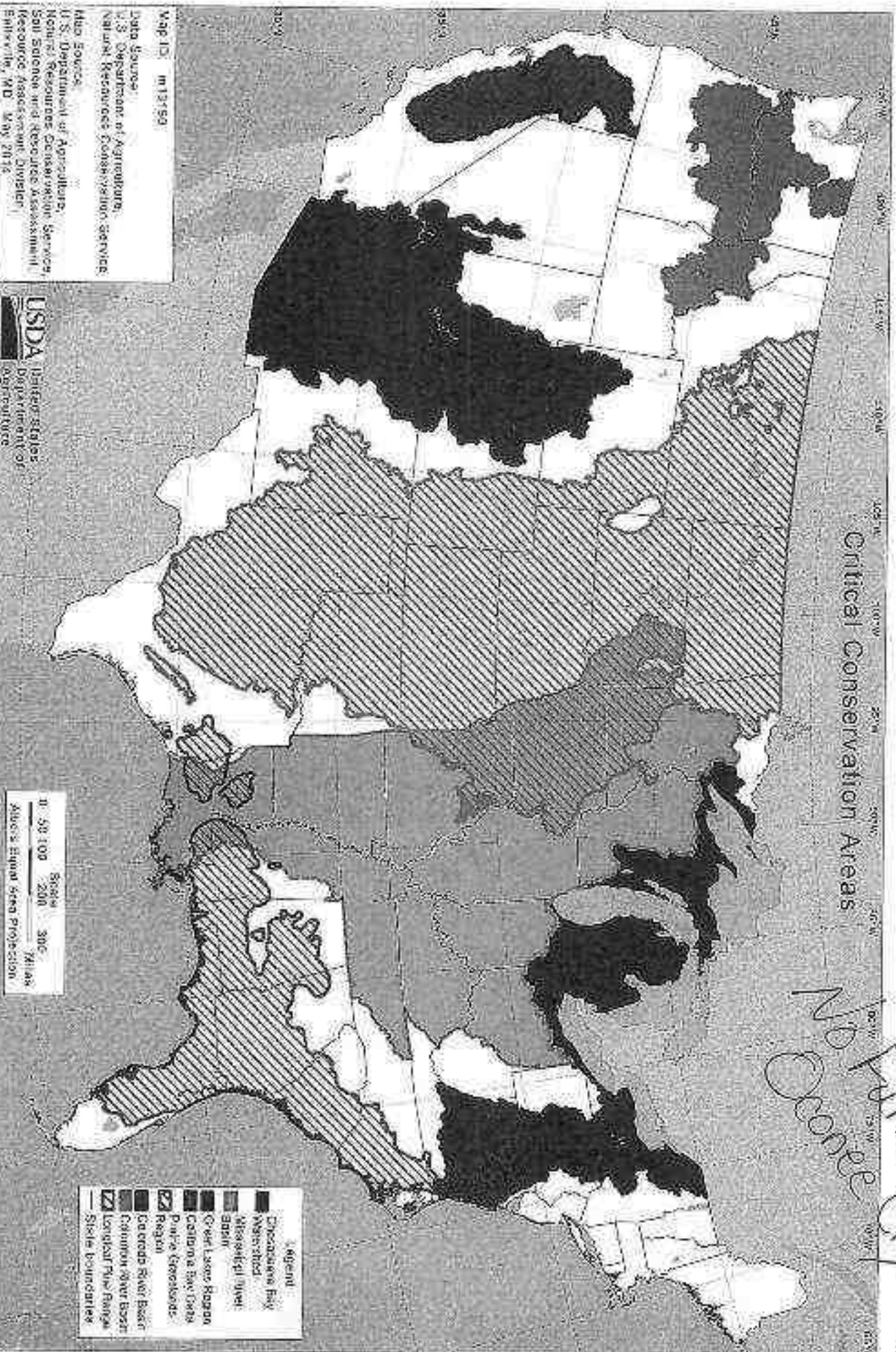
LOCATION: Where will the work be done? Describe habitat type(s) to be affected and relevant ecosystem/watershed characterization.

ESTIMATED COST: Provide a detailed breakdown of what it will cost to attain each

Critical Conservation Areas

No Funding
for
Coonee

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Another Funding for: Regional Cons. Partnership Program



Oconee County
Council Office



Oconee County
Administrative Offices
415 South Pine Street
Walhalla, SC 29691

Phone: 864 718 1023
Fax: 864 718 1024

E-mail:
info@oconee-sc.com

Edda Carmick
District I

Wayne McCall
District II

Paul Cain
District III

Joel Thrift
District IV

Reg Dexter
District V

.....LEGAL AD.....

**PLEASE ADVERTISE IN THE NEXT ISSUE
OF YOUR NEWSPAPER**

The Oconee County Conservation Bank Board will hold meetings in 2015 on August 11th and November 10th at 9:00 a.m. in Council Chambers, Oconee County Administrative Offices, 415 S. Pine Street, Walhalla, SC.

Additionally, the Oconee County Conservation Bank Board will hold a meeting February 9, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in Council Chambers, Oconee County Administrative Offices, 415 S. Pine Street, Walhalla, SC.



Beth Hulse

From: Beth Hulse
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2015 10:11 AM
To: Beth Hulse; classadmgr@upstatetoday.com
Subject: OCCB 2015 - 2-16 mtg schedule
Attachments: 042815 - OCCB 2015 schedule - 2-2016 mtg.doc

Please run at your earliest convenience.
Thaks.

Elizabeth G. Hulse, CCC
Clerk to Council
Oconee County Administrative Offices
415 South Pine Street
Walhalla, SC 29691
864-718-1023
864-718-1024 [fax]
bhulse@oconeesc.com
www.oconeesc.com/council

Beth Hulse

From: Beth Hulse
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2015 10:12 AM
To: Beth Hulse; Carlos Galarza; Chad Dorsett; DJM News Editor; Fox News; Greenville News (localnews@greenvillenews.com); Kevin; Norman Cannada (ncannada@upstatetoday.com); Ray Chandler; Steven Bradley (sbradley@upstatetoday.com); Westminster News / Keowee Courier (westnews@bellsouth.net); WGOG (dickmangrum@wgog.com); WSPA TV - Channel 7 (assignmentdesk@wspa.com); WYFF 4 News
Subject: Oconee County Conservation Bank Board 2015, February 2016 meeting schedules

The Oconee County Conservation Bank Board will hold meetings in 2015 on August 11th and November 10th at 9:00 a.m. in Council Chambers, Oconee County Administrative Offices, 415 S. Pine Street, Walhalla, SC.

Additionally, the Oconee County Conservation Bank Board will hold a meeting February 9, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in Council Chambers, Oconee County Administrative Offices, 415 S. Pine Street, Walhalla, SC.

Elizabeth G. Hulse, CCC

Clerk to Council

Oconee County Administrative Offices

415 South Pine Street

Walhalla, SC 29691

864-718-1023

864-718-1024 [fax]

bhulse@oconeesc.com

www.oconeesc.com/council