



Funding Research Memo: Habitat Preservation & Restoration

Last updated: August 2017

THIS MEMO WILL BE UPDATED PERIODICALLY. IF YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING RESOURCES, PLEASE CONTACT THE SNC FUND DEVELOPMENT TEAM: sncfundingteam@sierranevada.ca.gov.

CAVEAT – Grant guidelines and deadlines are subject to periodic change. Please check the program web sites for new information. The deadlines listed are projected from the last funding round and can be unreliable. Check the program’s web site!

FUNDING SUMMARY TABLE

(*Hyperlinks to more complete information later in memo, including links to program web sites)

Grant*	Funding Range	Funding Focus	Estimated Deadline <i>(most recent deadline)</i>	Eligible Costs
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) North American Wetlands Conservation Act Programs	Small Grant up to \$75,000, Standard Grant over \$75,000 1:1 non-federal match required	Protection, restoration, and/or enhancement of wetlands and associated uplands habitats for the benefit of all wetlands-associated migratory birds.	February and July for Standard Grant Program, November for Small Grant program <i>(July 14 & Oct. 19, 2017)</i>	Acquisition, restoration, and enhancement costs.
USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Endangered Species Program	Cost-share reimbursements depend on project.	Private landowners conserving habitat for rare, declining, or protected species.	Ongoing	Discuss with field staff.
USFWS Fish and Wildlife Management Assistance Program	\$5,000 – \$300,000 Match not required but 1:1 cost share will increase competitiveness.	Aquatic habitat conservation projects which protect, restore, and enhance fish and aquatic habitats, as outlined in the National Fish Habitat Action Plan.	May <i>(May 31, 2017)</i>	Direct costs plus indirect costs if negotiated rate has been established.
US FWS National Fish Passage Program	\$500 to \$2 million 1:1 cost share is required on a regional basis, though not for each project.	Supporting fish passage and restoring aquatic connectivity for the benefit of federal trust resources; promoting biological diversity.	September <i>(September 30, 2017)</i>	Direct costs plus indirect costs if negotiated rate has been established.

Funding Research Memo: Habitat Preservation & Restoration

Last updated: August 2017

Grant*	Funding Range	Funding Focus	Estimated Deadline (most recent deadline)	Eligible Costs
USFWS Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance	Unspecified. 25% match required.	Support development of Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) benefitting federally listed threatened or endangered species, proposed and candidate species, and unlisted species proposed to be covered by the HCP.	Proposals due to California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) regional staff in October	Proposals are submitted through CDFW as part of their ESA Nontraditional Section 6 Grants program . Check with CDFW program staff for more details.
USFWS Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Land Acquisition	Unspecified	Acquisition of land associated with approved HCPs benefitting federally listed threatened or endangered species, proposed and candidate species, and unlisted species proposed to be covered by the HCP.	Proposals due to CDFW regional staff in October	Proposals are submitted through CDFW as part of their ESA Nontraditional Section 6 Grants program . Check with CDFW program staff for more details.
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Bring Back the Natives/More Fish	\$50,000 - \$100,000 1:1 non-federal match required, 2:1 preferred	Protect and maintain intact and healthy aquatic systems; reverse declines in the quality and quantity of aquatic habitats to improve overall health of native fish and other aquatic organisms.	July (July 13, 2017)	Restoration assessment, planning, implementation, and monitoring; water conservation infrastructure; watershed protection; invasive species management.
NFWF – Sierra Nevada Meadow Restoration	Not stated. 1:1 match is preferred.	Implement Sierra Meadow Restoration Business Plan.	Varies by solicitation (December 1, 2016)	Quantifying ecosystem service benefits, building organizational capacity where restoration planning and implementation is limited, repairing meadow degradation, ensuring long-term protection, supporting land protection and deploying best management practices, garnering support of ranching community, and monitoring and documenting ecological and biological responses to meadow restoration.

Funding Research Memo: Habitat Preservation & Restoration

Last updated: August 2017

Grant*	Funding Range	Funding Focus	Estimated Deadline <i>(most recent deadline)</i>	Eligible Costs
NFWF – Pulling Together Initiative	\$25,000 - \$200,000. 1:1 non-federal match required, cash or in-kind.	To encourage the development of cooperative weed management areas (CWMAs), support significant advance of existing CWMAs, develop or strengthen prevention and early detection/rapid response efforts, enhance education, and assist awareness projects to reduce or eliminate invasive plant species.	Pre-proposals due in July or August <i>(July 12, 2017)</i>	Establishing a CWMA, acceleration of high-performing CWMAs, comprehensive early detection and rapid response approaches, or significant on-the-ground management/restoration projects
Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Programs	Wide range of funding, no specific limits. Some landowner contribution required.	Riparian restoration, inland wetlands, and other habitat restoration and improvement projects.	On-going. Board meets quarterly. Contact Program Officer.	Acquisition, restoration, and enhancement.
WCB CA Streamflow Enhancement Program	No maximum or minimum. Match not required, but adds to score.	Projects that enhance stream flows and are consistent with the CA Water Plan, with an emphasis on providing and protecting enhanced stream flow, especially in those streams that support anadromous fish; special status, threatened, endangered, or at-risk species; or provide resilience to climate change.	September <i>(August 31, 2017)</i>	Planning, implementation, acquisition, monitoring, assessment, and scientific studies. Planning funding can include environmental review.
CA Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Proposition 1 Watershed Restoration and Delta Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration Grant Programs	Not stated. Match not required, but adds to score.	The focus of the Watershed Restoration Grant Program is watershed restoration and protection projects outside of the Delta. The Delta Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration Grant Program focuses on water quality, ecosystem restoration, and fish protection facilities that benefit the Delta.	June or July <i>(July 14, 2017)</i>	Planning, implementation, acquisition, and scientific studies/monitoring/ assessments. Indirect costs not to exceed 20 percent.

Funding Research Memo: Habitat Preservation & Restoration

Last updated: August 2017

Grant*	Funding Range	Funding Focus	Estimated Deadline (most recent deadline)	Eligible Costs
Department of Water Resources Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Grants	Depends on solicitation. General match requirement is 50%, but can be waived for disadvantaged communities.	Very broad – the project must address statewide priorities and be listed in the region’s IRWM Plan.	Set periodically – see the web site. Implementation grant solicitation expected early 2018.	Very broad. Includes removal of invasive non-native species, the creation and enhancement of wetlands, and the acquisition, protection, and restoration of open space and watersheds.
State Water Resources Control Board 319 (h) Nonpoint Source grants	\$250K – \$750K. 25% match but may be waived for disadvantaged communities.	The Timber Fund will fund projects that implement forest management measures on forest lands to improve water quality. Examples of projects include ownership-wide erosion control, road management, riparian restoration, groundwater dependent ecosystems, nutrient management, riparian fuel management, and/or post fire rehabilitation.	Various (January 21, 2016)	The only planning funding remaining in this program for the next few years is for Timber Fund projects. Applications must be for planning <u>and</u> implementation of projects. The planning work can include CEQA/NEPA documentation.
California State Duck Stamp Projects for Waterfowl Conservation	Not stated	Protect, restore, enhance, and develop migratory waterfowl breeding and wintering habitat.	January (January 27, 2017)	The funds can only be used for projects approved by the Fish and Game Commission for waterfowl conservation purposes (acquisition, restoration, enhancement, creation, and research).
Bureau of Reclamation/USFWS Central Valley Project Conservation Program and Central Valley Project Improvement Act Habitat Restoration Program	\$25,000 to \$1 million. Contribution from other sources is expected.	Protect, restore, and enhance special-status species and their habitats affected by the Central Valley Project, with a special emphasis on federally listed species.	March (Next due date is expected to be in March, 2018)	Funding is for land acquisition, habitat restoration, or research in the areas impacted by the Central Valley Project. See http://www.usbr.gov/mp/cvpcp/species/index.html for priority species list.

Funding Research Memo: Habitat Preservation & Restoration

Last updated: August 2017

Grant*	Funding Range	Funding Focus	Estimated Deadline (most recent deadline)	Eligible Costs
USFWS Tribal Wildlife Grant Program	Grants up to \$200,000. Match is not required, but improves score.	Programs that benefit wildlife and habitat, including species of Native American cultural or traditional importance and species that are not hunted or fished.	September (September 1, 2017)	Planning, implementation, monitoring, public education, and conservation easements. Funds may be used for salaries, equipment, consultant services, subcontracts, acquisitions, and travel.
CA Resources Agency Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program	Grants up to \$500,000 for enhancement projects, \$1 million for acquisitions. Match is not required, but makes the application more competitive.	Resource lands project category is for the acquisition or enhancement of resource lands near transportation improvements.	July (June 21, 2017)	Direct project-related costs incurred during the project performance period. Indirect costs are not covered.
CDFW Environmental Enhancement Fund Grant Program	\$200,000 maximum. No match required.	To support environmental enhancement projects located within or immediately adjacent to waters of the state. Enhancement projects must benefit fish and wildlife.	August (August 31, 2016) <i>No solicitation is expected in 2017</i>	Projects can acquire, restore, or improve habitat, water quality, and ecosystem function above baseline conditions.
CA Dept. of Parks and Recreation Habitat Conservation Fund	No grant minimum or maximum. 1:1 match required from private, non-state sources.	Several categories of programs: deer and lion habitat; rare, endangered, threatened and protected habitat; anadromous, salmonid, and trout habitat; riparian habitat; wetlands; trails; and wildlife area activities.	October (October 2, 2017)	Funding is for land acquisition, habitat restoration, trail construction, and wildlife/nature activities.
CA Dept. of Parks and Recreation Land and Water Conservation Fund	Grants up to \$2 million. 1:1 match required.	Acquisition or development of outdoor recreation areas and facilities.	February (February 5, 2018)	Can fund acquisition or development projects, but not both.
CA Dept. of Parks and Recreation Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Grants	Depends on program category. 25% match required.	Planning, development, maintenance, operation, enforcement, programs, restoration, and conservation of trails, trailheads, areas, and other facilities associated with the use of OHVs.	March (April 6, 2017)	Very broad – all direct costs plus 15% indirect.

Funding Research Memo: Habitat Preservation & Restoration

Last updated: August 2017

Grant*	Funding Range	Funding Focus	Estimated Deadline (most recent deadline)	Eligible Costs
Environmental Protection Agency/NFWF 5 Star Restoration	Up to \$50,000. Substantial match required.	Environmental education and training through projects that restore wetlands and streams.	February (Jan 31, 2017)	Acquisition or development of outdoor recreation areas and facilities.
National Forest Foundation Matching Awards Program	\$500 - \$100,000. Requires 1:1 cash match of non-federal funds.	Focus areas are forest health and outdoor experiences.	January and June (June 26, 2017)	On-the ground activities including habitat protection and enhancement, conservation projects, and stewardship projects.
Wildlife Conservation Society North America Program: Climate Adaptation Fund	\$50,000 - \$250,000. Requires 1:1 match, some of which can be in-kind.	Projects that manage dynamic ecological processes, landscape functionality, and species assemblages.	April (New applicant guidelines distributed in February 2018)	Grants are provided to nonprofit conservation organizations for applied, on-the-ground projects focused on implementing priority conservation actions for climate adaptation at a landscape scale.
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Watershed and Wetlands Programs	Cost-share with landowner. Amount varies by program.	Programs for watershed protection, riparian restoration, and wetlands restoration on private property. Contact your local NRCS office for available program information.	Ongoing	Varies by program. Contact your local NRCS office for information: http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=CA .
Hind Foundation	Up to \$100,000. Preference for projects with most of the funding in place.	Ecosystem conservation and plant and wildlife protection.	Ongoing	Project implementation.
Patagonia Foundation	\$5,000 to \$20,000	Local groups working to protect local habitat.	April and August (August 31, 2017) Projects located near Patagonia stores are reviewed on a rolling basis by store employees.	On-the-ground restoration work and direct-action campaigns.
Bella Vista Foundation	Up to \$150,000. Other sources of funding are important.	Riparian restoration with the goal of enhancing and maintaining self-sustaining watershed ecosystems.	Fall and spring solicitation windows. See website.	Restoration work and conservation easements.
Kern Community Foundation	Depends on yearly funding.	Restoring fish populations in Upper Kings River Basin.	See web site.	Planning, assessment, research, monitoring, etc.



Funding Research Memo: Habitat Preservation & Restoration

Last updated: August 2017

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), North America Wetlands Conservation Act Standard or Small Grants Program

<http://www.fws.gov/birds/grants/north-american-wetland-conservation-act.php>

<https://www.fws.gov/birds/grants/north-american-wetland-conservation-act/how-to-apply-for-a-nawca-grant.php>

These projects must involve long-term protection, restoration, or enhancement of wetlands and associated uplands habitats for the benefit of all wetlands-associated migratory birds. Restoration is defined as the manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site, with the goal of returning natural/historic functions to a former or degraded wetland. Enhancement involves the manipulation of these characteristics to improve specific functions of the wetland. These grants require a 1:1 non-federal match; however, applicants can count funds expended during the last two years before the application is submitted.

Standard Grants Program for requests over \$75,000 - Contact the program officers to discuss the process. The deadlines are generally February and July. Check the web site for more details.

Small Grants Program for requests under \$75,000 - The program supports the same types of projects and has the same guidelines as the Standard Grants Program. However, project activities are usually smaller in scope and involve fewer project dollars. Grant requests may not exceed \$75,000, and funding priority is given to grantees or partners new to the Act's Grants Program. The deadline is generally in November.

Discussions with program officers are recommended. See the web site for more details.

U.S. Partners for Fish and Wildlife Endangered Species Program

<http://www.fws.gov/partners/aboutus.html>

The Partners Program provides technical and financial assistance to private landowners and tribes who are willing to work with the USFWS and other partners on a voluntary basis to help meet the habitat needs of Federal Trust Species. Through voluntary agreements, the Partners program provides expert technical assistance and cost-share incentives directly to private landowners to restore fish and wildlife habitats.

The Partners Program can assist with projects in all habitat types which conserve or restore native vegetation, hydrology, and soils associated with imperiled ecosystems such as longleaf pine, bottomland hardwoods, tropical forests, native prairies, marshes, rivers, and streams, or otherwise provide an important habitat requisite for a rare, declining, or protected species.

To initiate the process, contact your [state's coordinator](#). Locally-based field biologists work one-on-one with private landowners and other partners to plan, implement, and monitor

Funding Research Memo: Habitat Preservation & Restoration

Last updated: August 2017

projects. Partners Program field staff help landowners find other sources of funding and help them through the permitting process, as necessary. The landowner works one-on-one with a local USFWS biologist to develop a project plan addressing the goals and objectives of the landowner and the USFWS to benefit fish and wildlife species on the affected land.

To implement a project, a cooperative agreement with a minimum duration of 10 years is signed. The landowner is reimbursed after project completion, based on the cost-sharing formula in the agreement.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Fish Wildlife Management Assistance

<https://www.fws.gov/grants/programs.html>

The Fish and Wildlife Management Assistance Program provides technical and financial assistance to federal agencies, states, local governments, Native American tribes, non-governmental organizations, citizen groups, and landowners for the conservation and management of fish and wildlife resources. This includes minimizing the establishment, spread, and impact of aquatic invasive species. Specifically, aquatic habitat conservation projects under this program must protect, restore, and enhance fish and aquatic habitats, as outlined in the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (Action Plan). Funded projects may be carried out by Fish Habitat Partnerships (FHPs) recognized by the National Fish Habitat Board (Board) or the partners of Board recognized FHPs. More information about the FHPs and their partners can be found online at www.fishhabitat.org.

Recipients under this program may be federal, state, or local government agencies; Native American governments; interstate, intrastate, public, and private nonprofit institutions and organizations; or any other organization with interests that support the mission of the Service and the goals of the Action Plan. Entities seeking funding must be associated with an FHP recognized by the Board by December 2012. Two of these FHPs are in California: the [California Fish Passage Forum](#), and the [Western Native Trout Initiative](#).

Cost sharing is not required; however, a cost share of at least 1:1 or more is recommended to increase the competitiveness of a proposal. Cost share may include monetary and/or in-kind contributions from the applicant or other partners.

Proposed projects must first be submitted to a Fish Habitat Partnership (FHP) for review. The FHP will review and prioritize proposed projects based on their respective project selection criteria.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) National Fish Passage Program

<https://www.fws.gov/grants/programs.html>

The purpose of this program is to provide direct technical assistance and financial assistance to partners to support fish passage and to restore aquatic connectivity for the benefit of federal trust resources. Supported projects must promote biological diversity and be based upon sound scientific biological principles. Services are delivered through [Fisheries and Aquatic Conservation \(FAC\) field offices](#). FAC staff coordinate with project partners, stakeholders, and

Funding Research Memo: Habitat Preservation & Restoration

Last updated: August 2017

other service programs to identify and collaboratively implement projects within regional priority areas.

Conservation activities and projects are selected on a regional basis based upon regional focus areas. Priorities are based on the following criteria:

- Federal trust or other priority species: Proposed conservation activities and projects must improve passage for interjurisdictional fish; endangered, threatened, or candidate species or species proposed for listing; or other species of special concern and/or declining species.
- FAC and regional strategic plans and priorities: Fish passage projects that meet region-specific priorities will receive higher priority; however, the funding agency is not prohibited from implementing high-value habitat improvement projects outside geographic focus areas.
- Self-sustaining projects: Priority will be given to habitat improvement projects that establish a self-sustaining system and are not dependent on artificial structures.

All other considerations being equal, priority will be given to projects that have longer project duration, involve greater partnership support and cost sharing, and the greatest cost effectiveness. Applicants can be, but are not limited to: state and federal agencies, private lands, tribes, local municipalities, and non-governmental organizations.

USFWS Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance

<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Planning/NCCP/Grants>

<https://www.fws.gov/endangered/grants/grant-programs.html>

This program supports development of Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) benefitting federally listed threatened or endangered species, proposed and candidate species, and unlisted species proposed to be covered by the HCP. Grant applications are submitted through the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), so contact your [CDFW regional office](#) for more information.

USFWS Fish Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition

<https://www.fws.gov/endangered/grants/grant-programs.html>

This program has funding for acquisition of land associated with approved HCPs benefitting federally listed threatened or endangered species, proposed and candidate species, and unlisted species covered by the HCP. Grant applications are submitted through the CDFW, so contact your [CDFW regional office](#) for more information.

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Bring Back the Natives

<http://www.nfwf.org/bbn/Pages/home.aspx>

The Bring Back the Natives program invests in conservation activities that restore, protect, and enhance native populations of sensitive or listed fish species across the United States, especially in areas on or adjacent to federal agency lands. The program emphasizes

Funding Research Memo: Habitat Preservation & Restoration

Last updated: August 2017

coordination between private landowners and federal agencies, tribes, corporations, and states to improve the ecosystem functions and health of watersheds. Sierra Nevada priorities focus on McCloud River redband trout, Eagle Lake rainbow trout, California golden trout, and Little Kern golden trout recovery. Proposals should focus on protecting and maintaining intact and healthy aquatic systems, preventing further degradation of fish habitats that have been adversely affected, and increasing the quality and quantity of fish habitats that support a broad diversity of native fish and other aquatic species.

A broad range of activities has been funded, including restoration assessment, planning, implementation, and monitoring; water conservation infrastructure; watershed protection; and invasive species management.

Grant awards generally range from \$50,000 to \$100,000, although grants greater than \$100,000 will be considered. Applicants must provide at least a 1:1 non-federal match, though 2:1 is preferred. Eligible non-federal matching sources can include cash, in-kind donations, or volunteer labor.

NFWF – Sierra Nevada Meadow Restoration

http://www.nfwf.org/sierranevada/Pages/home.aspx#.VLQz_XsWct0

This program is a partnership between NFWF and the Wells Fargo Foundation. In 2009, NFWF launched its Sierra Nevada Meadow Restoration Program to replenish the health and biodiversity of the mountain meadow regions. The program focuses on creating the momentum to restore and protect thousands of acres of meadows in the Sierra Nevada. Key conservation actions for this program include:

- Quantifying ecosystem service benefits - conducting hydrologic and water quality assessments to predict and measure changes in groundwater levels and downstream flow
- Building organizational capacity - providing capacity-building in watersheds where restoration planning and implementation is limited
- Repairing meadow degradation - supporting restoration projects in meadow systems in which it will be possible to quantify benefits
- Ensuring long-term protection - supporting land protection and deploying best management practices
- Garnering support of ranching community - improving information flow and providing technical assistance
- Monitoring and documenting ecological and biological responses to meadow restoration

For more detail on priority activities, please see NFWF's Sierra Nevada Meadows Business Plan (the link for downloads is on the web page). There is no Request for Proposals for the program. Application Guidelines for NFWF Conservation Programs with a Business Plan can be found [here](#). A 1:1 match is preferred.

NFWF - Pulling Together Initiative

<http://www.nfwf.org/pti/Pages/home.aspx#.VZFhpUbokt0>

Funding Research Memo: Habitat Preservation & Restoration

Last updated: August 2017

NFWF's Pulling Together Initiative provides modest grants to help local communities effectively manage invasive weeds. Pulling Together Initiative grants are intended to help support the creation of local cooperative weed management area partnerships or to increase the capacity of these partnerships. Such partnerships bring together local landowners, citizens groups, and weed experts to develop and implement strategies for managing weed infestations on public lands, natural areas, and private working lands.

Grants range from \$10,000 to \$100,000 and a 1:1 non-federal match is required. Match may be cash or in-kind.

Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) Programs

<https://www.wcb.ca.gov/Programs>

The state WCB has several relevant programs, including its [Riparian](#), [Inland Wetlands](#), and [Habitat Enhancement and Restoration](#) Programs.

Riparian Program Project Examples

- Restoration of riparian vegetation and re-establishing floodplain connectivity
- Removal of non-native invasive plant species to restore (actively or passively) native riparian vegetation
- Installation of fencing along the riparian corridor to manage livestock or wildlife and reduce impacts to streams or riparian vegetation
- Reconfigure degraded, incised, or undefined streams to restore natural hydrology and encourage reestablishment of native riparian habitat

Inland Wetland Project Examples

Acquisition Projects

- Fee simple acquisitions
- Acquisition of perpetual conservation easements to protect privately-owned wetlands, wildlife-friendly agricultural lands, or open space to buffer existing wetlands from urban or residential development
- Long-term acquisition of water for wetlands
- Leases from landowners for specified period

Restoration and Enhancement Project Examples

- Restore wetland habitat by constructing levees, swales, and islands; developing water conveyance and drainage systems; installing water control structures; establishing upland grasslands; or planting desirable vegetation
- Develop waterfowl-friendly agricultural practices by fencing upland grasslands and riparian habitats, encouraging wildlife-friendly grazing practices, and promoting winter flooding of croplands
- Develop infrastructure to provide water to wetlands or wildlife-friendly agricultural lands: build water delivery systems, develop new groundwater sources, and provide fish-friendly water diversions for wetlands

Funding Research Memo: Habitat Preservation & Restoration

Last updated: August 2017

The WCB programs emphasize partnerships and have a great deal of flexibility. Each program web page has a link to the program officer. Contact the program officer for information on how to submit an application and how to maximize your chance of obtaining funding. Eligible applicants include 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, local governmental agencies, state departments, and federal agencies. More information on the grant process can be found at: <https://www.wcb.ca.gov/Applications>.

The WCB meets four times a year, typically in February, May, August, and November. Processing time for applications can vary depending on completeness of the application, project benefits, and funding availability.

WCB CA Streamflow Enhancement Program

<https://www.wcb.ca.gov/Programs/Stream-Flow-Enhancement>

This program allocates funds to projects that enhance stream flows, with an emphasis on providing and protecting enhanced stream flow in those streams that support anadromous fish; special status, threatened, endangered, or at-risk species; or provide resilience to climate change. Projects must measurably enhance stream flows at a time and location necessary to provide fisheries or ecosystem benefits that improve upon existing flow conditions. Proposals must identify the stream(s), reaches of those stream(s), and the watershed(s) in which they are found.

Examples of project habitat restoration projects include weed eradication, wet meadow restoration, restoration of entrenched streams, upper watershed restoration, or forest thinning that reshape stream hydrograph. Funding can be used for planning, implementation, acquisition, studies, monitoring, and assessments.

Eligible grantees are public agencies, nonprofit organizations, public utilities, federally recognized Indian tribes, state Indian tribes listed on the Native American Heritage Commission's California Tribal Consultation List, and mutual water companies.

Matching funds are not required, but leverage adds points in scoring.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Proposition 1 Watershed Restoration and Delta Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration Grant Programs

<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Watersheds/Restoration-Grants>

This listing covers two grant programs. The Watershed Restoration Grant Program focuses on watershed restoration and protection projects of statewide importance outside of the Delta, and the Delta Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration Grant Program focuses on water quality, ecosystem restoration, and fish protection facilities that benefit the Delta. Priorities include:

- Managing headwaters for multiple benefits
- Enhancing fish migration
- Restoring mountain meadow habitats

Funding Research Memo: Habitat Preservation & Restoration

Last updated: August 2017

- Protecting, restoring, and enhancing water-dependent habitats for fish and wildlife

Funding is available for planning, implementation, and acquisition projects. There is also funding available specifically for scientific studies, monitoring, and assessment projects, but these funds will only be awarded under the Delta Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration Grant Program. However, the Watershed Restoration Grant Program may include scientific studies, monitoring, and assessment activities as part of the work plan.

Eligible applicants are limited to public agencies (state agencies or departments, special districts, joint powers authorities, counties, cities, or other political subdivisions of the state), nonprofit organizations, public utilities, federally recognized Indian tribes, state Indian tribes listed on the Native American Heritage Commission's California Tribal Consultation List, and mutual water companies. Federal agencies may not be applicants, but there does not appear to be a limitation against doing project work on federal lands. The applicant, however, must have site control of the property for at least 25 years.

Match is not required, but provides additional points.

State Water Resources Control Board 319 (h) Nonpoint Source Grant Program

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/nps/solicitation_notice.shtml

The California Nonpoint Source (NPS) Program allocates funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to support implementation and planning projects that address water quality problems in surface and ground water resulting from NPS pollution¹. The goal of these projects is to ultimately lead to restoring the impacted beneficial uses in these water bodies. Projects are required to be located in a watershed that has an adopted/nearly adopted Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the constituent of concern and has been identified in the NPS Program Preferences. These priority watersheds and problems are listed in the grant guidelines.

In addition California appropriated the Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund (Timber Fund) for projects that implement forest management measures on forest lands to improve water quality. Examples of projects include ownership-wide erosion control, road management, riparian restoration, groundwater dependent ecosystems, nutrient management, riparian fuel management, and/or post fire rehabilitation.

The program used to include both planning and implementation grants, but for the general NPS grants the planning funding has been used up and the Water Board is only funding implementation projects. The new Timber Fund grants can be used for planning as long as the project also includes implementation, and the entire project can be completed within three years.

¹ Unlike pollution from industrial and sewage treatment plants (point sources), nonpoint source (NPS) pollution comes from many diffuse sources. NPS pollution is caused by rainfall or snowmelt moving over and through the ground. As the runoff moves, it picks up and carries away natural and human-made pollutants, finally depositing them into lakes, rivers, wetlands, coastal waters and ground waters. See <http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/whatis.cfm>.

Funding Research Memo: Habitat Preservation & Restoration

Last updated: August 2017

Eligible applicants include local public agencies, public agencies, nonprofit organizations (501[c][3]), federally recognized Native American tribes, state agencies, public colleges, and federal agencies. Applicants must work with the appropriate Regional Water Board Grant Contact when developing their proposals. Grant contacts are identified in the Grant Program Guidelines.

California State Duck Stamp (CSDS) Projects for Waterfowl Conservation

<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Grants/Duck-Stamp>

The purpose of this grant is protecting, preserving, restoring, enhancing, and developing migratory waterfowl breeding and wintering habitat; evaluating habitat projects; and conducting waterfowl resource assessments and other waterfowl-related research. There is no stated maximum grant, but funding is limited by state Duck Stamp revenue.

The CSDS solicits proposals in November or December of each year based on approved needs, topics, or themes which address the goals and objectives of the program. It is suggested that interested groups contact the program officer for more information.

Central Valley Project Conservation Program and Central Valley Project Improvement Act - Habitat Restoration Program

<http://www.usbr.gov/mp/cvpcp/>

This funding is for actions that will protect, restore, and enhance special-status species and their habitats affected by the Central Valley Project (CVP), with a special emphasis on federally listed species. Funding is for land acquisition, habitat restoration, or research.

The funding range is \$25,000 to \$1 million. There is no cost sharing requirement, but partnering (i.e., cost sharing provided by the entities, through cash or in-kind services, which are contributing towards the proposed project) is highly encouraged, and the level of partnering is considered during application evaluation.

Federally endangered and threatened species that have been impacted by the CVP have been rated “Low,” “Medium,” “High,” or “Very High,” and these priority ratings help determine selection of applications for funding. The CVP Priority Species rating is based on two factors: (a) the recovery priority assigned to the species, and (b) the extent to which that species is impacted, either directly or indirectly, from the CVP. A “Very High” rating means that the recovery priority for the species is rated high with an imminent threat of extinction, and CVP actions contributed significantly to the species decline, either directly or indirectly. A “High” rating means that the recovery priority for the species is high and CVP actions contributed significantly to the species decline, either directly or indirectly. In order for a project to be eligible for funding, at least one High or Very High rated species must benefit from the project. A spreadsheet showing the CVP Priority Species, their ratings, and other criteria may be found [here](#).

Funding Research Memo: Habitat Preservation & Restoration

Last updated: August 2017

The program officer has encouraged interested applicants to contact them about projects even if the project is outside the official Central Valley. As long as it impacts a species of concern, it might still be eligible.

USFWS Tribal Wildlife Grants

<http://www.fws.gov/nativeamerican/grants.html>

The goal of the Tribal Wildlife Grant Program is to develop and implement programs for the benefit of wildlife and their habitat, including species of Native American cultural or traditional importance and species that are not hunted or fished.

Tribal Wildlife Grants are used to provide technical and financial assistance to federally-recognized tribes for the development and implementation of programs that benefit fish and wildlife resources and habitat. Activities may include, but are not limited to, planning for wildlife and habitat conservation, fish and wildlife conservation and management actions, fish and wildlife-related laboratory and field research, natural history studies, management of invasive species, habitat mapping, field surveys and population monitoring, habitat preservation, conservation easements, and public education that is relevant to the project. The funds may be used for salaries, equipment, consultant services, subcontracts, acquisitions, and travel.

Grants are for up to \$200,000. No match is required, though leveraging of funds improves scoring.

CA Resources Agency Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program

<http://resources.ca.gov/grants/environmental-enhancement-and-mitigation-eem/>

The Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation (EEM) Program is designed to fund projects that contribute to mitigation of the environmental effects of transportation facilities. Eligible projects must be directly or indirectly related to the environmental impact of the modification of an existing transportation facility or construction of a new transportation facility. This means that the proposed project must be in the immediate vicinity or general area of work done on a public street, highway, mass transit guideway (trains, ports, light rail lines, city streets, airports, etc.) or their appurtenant features (park and ride facilities, high-occupancy vehicle lanes, transit stations, etc.). These are called Related Transportation Facilities (RTF). Not all road work qualifies; see the guidelines. Eligible RTFs can be identified by contacting the local city or county transportation department, regional transit agency, metropolitan transit authority, council of local governments, metropolitan planning organization, or Caltrans District Office. A lot of documentation will be needed from this transportation agency, so contact them early in the process.

Project categories are as follows:

- Urban forestry projects designed to offset vehicular emissions of carbon dioxide
- Resource lands projects for the acquisition or enhancement of resource lands to mitigate the loss of, or the detriment to, resource lands lying within or near the right-of-way acquired for transportation improvements

Funding Research Memo: Habitat Preservation & Restoration

Last updated: August 2017

- Mitigation projects beyond the scope of the lead agency responsible for assessing the environmental impact of the proposed transportation improvement

The EEM Program encourages projects that produce multiple benefits which reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase water use efficiency, reduce risks from climate change impacts, and demonstrate collaboration with local, state and community entities. Environmental review must be complete for the proposed project, and final compliance documents submitted to the state with the grant application. Eligible applicants are local, state, and federal governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations.

The maximum grant is \$500,000. Match funding is not required, but contributes to the competitiveness of the project. Optional one-page concept proposals may be submitted for review and feedback up until three weeks before the application due date.

CDFW Environmental Enhancement Fund (EEF) Grant Program

<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/OSPR/Science/Environmental-Enhancement-Fund/About>

The purpose of this program is to support environmental enhancement projects located within or immediately adjacent to waters of the state. For the purposes of this program, California waters are defined as any surface water, including saline waters, marine waters, and freshwaters, within the boundaries of the state. Groundwater is not included as a surface water. Enhancement projects must benefit fish and wildlife and be designed to acquire, restore, or improve habitat quality and ecosystem function above baseline conditions. Projects must have measurable outcomes within a predetermined time frame.

The EEF grant program is administered by the CDFW's Office of Spill Prevention and Response, and is funded by fines levied on entities which release oil and other substances into the state waterways. The amount of funding available each year depends on the fines that are collected. In years when the available funds are modest, smaller requests are more competitive. It is a good idea to call the program contact and discuss the targeted range for grants.

Eligible applicants include nonprofit organizations, cities, counties, districts, state agencies, and federal agencies. The maximum grant is \$200,000 and no match is required. No solicitations are expected for this program in 2017.

CA Department of Parks and Recreation (CA DPR)– Habitat Conservation Fund

http://www.parks.ca.gov/?Page_id=21361

The Habitat Conservation Fund program allocates approximately \$2 million each year for grants to cities, counties, and districts. Projects include:

- Nature interpretation and other programs which bring urban residents into park and wildlife areas
- Programs which protect various plant and animal species
- Acquisition or development of wildlife corridors and trails

Funding Research Memo: Habitat Preservation & Restoration

Last updated: August 2017

Eligible applicants are cities, counties, and districts (park and open space districts). Deadline is early October. A 1:1 match is required from local, private, non-state sources. Match funds must be committed at the time of the application and must be specifically for the project that is the subject of the grant.

There are several categories of funding, including deer and lion habitat, protected species habitat, anadromous salmonid and trout habitat, riparian habitat, wetlands, trails, and wildlife area activities. Funding can be for land acquisition, enhancement, restoration, trail development, or educational/interpretive activities, depending on the category of funding.

There is a requirement to use the CA Conservation Corps for restoration or trail-building activities if appropriate.

CA DPR Land and Water Conservation Fund

http://www.parks.ca.gov/?Page_id=21360

Eligible projects include acquisition or development of outdoor recreation areas and facilities. Priority development projects include trails, campgrounds, picnic areas, natural areas, and cultural areas for recreational use.

- Acquisition project (e.g., to create a new wildlife corridor)
- Development project (e.g., parking lots or restrooms)
- The application must be for either acquisition or development. Combination projects are not eligible.

Eligible applicants include cities, counties, and districts authorized to acquire, develop, operate, and maintain park and recreation areas. Property acquired or developed under the program must be maintained in perpetuity for public outdoor recreation use. This is a very difficult, technical application.

Grants are up to \$2 million, and a 1:1 match is required. The match may include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Funds from state local assistance programs
- Grantee's employee labor
- Local or private funds
- Gifts of real property, equipment, and consumable supplies
- Volunteer services directly related to project completion furnished by professional and technical personnel, consultants, and other skilled and unskilled labor
- Free or reduced-cost use of land, facilities, or equipment
- Bequests and income from wills, estates, and trusts

Due to the number of applications submitted for 2016 funding, the Department does not anticipate a 2017 solicitation for this grant. The funds will be used for 2016 applications that did not receive funding.

Funding Research Memo: Habitat Preservation & Restoration

Last updated: August 2017

CA DPR – Off Highway Vehicle Program

http://ohv.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=1164

This program supports the planning, acquisition, development, maintenance, administration, operation, enforcement, restoration, and conservation of trails, trailheads, areas, and other facilities associated with the use of off-highway motor vehicles (OHVs), and programs involving OHV safety or education. Relevant activities that can be funded include:

- Ground operations - maintenance and/or conservation of facilities, compliance with soil standards and habitat mitigation plans, and protection of natural or cultural resources
- Restoration - provide ecological restoration or repair to habitat damaged by authorized or unauthorized OHV use. Restoration projects also include scientific and cultural studies regarding OHV impacts and restoration planning efforts.

The proposed activity must be directly related to OHV recreation. In general, the more robust the OHV opportunities (more diverse OHV options, more developed facilities, signage, education programs, monitoring and enforcement, etc.), the higher the application will score. A great deal of information is required about the OHV project and the information must be well-documented by reports, statistics, plans, studies, and other records maintained by the land management agency proposing the project. More points will be awarded for projects with multiple partners actively involved in the proposed work, and for projects with public input. Projects will also score higher if they are part of an existing land management plan or help implement such a plan.

A 25 percent match (cash or in-kind) is required. This can include volunteer services. A higher match brings in higher scores in the evaluation criteria. Eligible project costs are very broad – including basically any costs directly related to the work identified in the project description. Additionally, the applicant may receive reimbursement up to 15 percent of the requested amount for indirect costs.

Environmental Protection Agency Five Star Restoration Grant Program

http://water.epa.gov/grants_funding/wetlands/restore/index.cfm

The Five Star Restoration Program brings together students, conservation corps, other youth groups, citizen groups, corporations, landowners, and government agencies to provide environmental education and training through projects that restore wetlands and streams. The program provides challenge grants, technical support, and opportunities for information exchange to enable community-based restoration projects. These are small grants (less than \$50,000) which are focused on education rather than restoration, but restoration projects have been funded. Eligible applicants include 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, state government agencies, local governments, municipal governments, Native American tribes, and educational institutions.

Competitive proposals should address each of the five priorities:

- On-the-ground restoration and planning
- Partnerships

Funding Research Memo: Habitat Preservation & Restoration

Last updated: August 2017

- Environmental outreach, education, and training
- Measurable results
- Sustainability

National Forest Foundation (NFF) Matching Awards Program

<http://www.nationalforests.org/consERVE/grantprograms/ontheground/map>

The NFF Matching Awards Program (MAP) is a grant program that provides matching funds for direct on-the-ground projects that have an immediate, quantifiable impact on America's National Forests and Grasslands. MAP supports the strategic focus areas of Forest Health and Outdoor Experiences.

The Forest Health program area includes the promotion of forest health through the removal or control of non-native invasive species, and/or reintroduction of native plants and trees. Projects that are consistent with, or supportive of, large-scale conservation initiatives receive weighted advantage.

Eligible applicants are 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, universities, and Native American tribes working on or adjacent to National Forests and Grasslands. Past awards range from \$500 to over \$100,000, with an average award of around \$25,000. A 1:1 cash match is required.

CA Department of Water Resources – Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Grants

<http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm/grants/prop1index.cfm>

While all of the Proposition 84 IRWM funding has been granted, Proposition 1 has allocated an additional \$510 million to the program. Make sure to check the web site for the most recent information.

IRWM grant applications must be approved by IRWM regions through the Regional Water Management Groups (RWMG) although they are submitted through individual agencies. In order to be approved, the proposed grant activity must be included in the IRWM Plan for that region. These Plans can be amended and modified by the RWMG. So if you are considering funding your project with IRWM funding, check the IRWM Plan for your region and if the project is not already part of the plan, take steps to have it added.

IRWM grants do not have a standard maximum amount; this is set in each solicitation. The general match requirement for a Proposition 1 grant is 50 percent, though that can be waived if the project addresses the needs of a disadvantaged community. Match must be from non-state sources.

The scope of IRWM grant projects is very large. Basically, they have to address statewide priorities, which are listed in the program solicitation. Eligible project types include removal of invasive non-native species, the creation and enhancement of wetlands, and the acquisition, protection, and restoration of open space and watershed lands.

Funding Research Memo: Habitat Preservation & Restoration

Last updated: August 2017

Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) North America Program: Climate Adaptation Fund

<http://wcsclimateadaptationfund.org/>

The WCS North America Program is dedicated to saving wildlife and wild places in North America. The WCS Climate Adaptation Fund, with funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, supports projects that demonstrate effective interventions for wildlife adaptation to climate change. Grants of \$50,000 to \$250,000 are provided to nonprofit conservation organizations for applied, on-the-ground projects focused on implementing priority conservation actions for climate adaptation at a landscape scale. A minimum 1:1 match is required, but some in-kind match is allowed. The Fund prioritizes projects that manage dynamic ecological processes, landscape functionality, and species assemblages, rather than those aimed at maintaining historic conditions or individual species. WCS prioritizes and evaluates projects based on their potential to communicate project results to others who might learn from and replicate similar adaptation actions. Project duration is limited to two years. Grants are provided to U.S.-based nonprofit conservation organizations for projects within the 50 states and six U.S. territories. WCS utilizes a two-step evaluation process: 1) an open call for pre-proposals, and 2) a larger full proposal invited from a select number of pre-proposal applicants.

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Programs

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ca/programs/financial/>

The NRCS has a [variety of programs](#) funding wetlands and riparian projects. These programs, and the funding authorized for them through the Farm Bill, change periodically. Usually they are cost-share programs focused on privately-owned land, though sometimes they can be applied to the watershed in general, particularly in emergency watershed restoration circumstances.

The most popular NRCS program is the [Environmental Quality Incentives Program](#) (EQIP), which provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers in order to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, reduced soil erosion and sedimentation, or improved or created wildlife habitat.

The funding opportunities can be accessed by talking to staff in your [local NRCS office](#).

FOUNDATION FUNDING

Hind Foundation:

<http://www.hindfoundation.org/>

This is a standard foundation grant. The Hind Foundation has several areas of interest. The most relevant areas are ecosystem conservation and plant and wildlife protection. The definitions from the web site are as follows:

Funding Research Memo: Habitat Preservation & Restoration

Last updated: August 2017

- Ecosystem Conservation - Abundant plant and wildlife populations are dependent on the ecosystems in which they live. Today, these essential habitats – made up of wetlands, estuaries, watersheds, and other sensitive areas – cannot be sustained on their own.

The Ecosystem Conservation program funds projects and programs that focus on the enhancement of habitats in which plants and wildlife thrive. Proper conservation and restoration of ecosystems can only be accomplished when like-minded organizations work together for this common goal.

- Plant and Wildlife Protection - Today's plants and wildlife are confronted with greater challenges than ever before. As a nation, stewardship of their populations and habitat is critical to the survival of all species.

The Plant and Wildlife Protection program funds private organizations that desire to see plants and wildlife flourish, and that work for the protection and conservation of endangered and threatened species.

Grants seem to be in the range of \$100,000. There is an on-line application process. Applicants must be 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organizations, must receive the majority of their funding support from our local community, must hold or sponsor at least one fundraising event annually, and must have been in operation for more than one year. The foundation prefers to fund organizations that have raised most of the funding needed to complete the project.

This grant has no deadline; the foundation accepts applications July 1 – June 30 until it runs out of funds.

Patagonia Foundation

<http://www.patagonia.com/us/patagonia.go?assetid=2942>

Patagonia funds environmental work, specifically for organizations that identify and work on the root causes of problems and that approach issues with a commitment to long-term change and a strong base of citizen support. The foundation focuses on small, grassroots, activist organizations with provocative direct-action agendas, working on multi-pronged campaigns to preserve and protect the environment. One priority area grants is protecting critical land and marine habitat.

The Foundation accepts one proposal per group, per fiscal year. The typical grant range is \$5,000 to \$20,000.

Bella Vista Foundation

<http://www.pfs-llc.net/foundations/bella-vista-foundation>

Under the Ecosystem Restoration Grant program, the foundation focuses on protecting, restoring, and revitalizing high-priority watershed ecosystems in California and Oregon. Within

Funding Research Memo: Habitat Preservation & Restoration

Last updated: August 2017

these watersheds, the priorities are promoting the sustainable management of forest and agricultural land, revitalizing streams, and restoring riparian areas, with the goal of enhancing and maintaining self-sustaining watershed ecosystems. Target watersheds in the Sierra Nevada include the Truckee River watershed, Yuba/Bear/American Rivers, and the North Fork Feather River watershed.

The Foundation targets projects that:

- Incorporate environmental, economic, and social equity factors because solutions that merge these factors tend to have long-term success
- Preserve and build natural capital by consuming the growth of the environmental resource, rather than the resource itself
- Support creative solutions to revitalization and restoration that have the potential to serve as models for similar projects
- Engage in projects that are part of a cluster of projects in a given watershed, involving one or more organizations over time. The Foundation believes this clustering of support at the watershed level will result in stronger partnerships and a greater impact in the long term.
- Foster collaborative partnerships even among groups with divergent interests
- Fund activities that governmental agencies do not normally fund

The foundation considers it a strong positive if a project has broad-based community involvement (financial support, volunteer support, and in-kind donations, etc.). The foundation will consider projects that include acquisition and restoration, but acquisition funding does not include fee title.

No specific match is required, but the foundation strongly prefers not to be the sole or primary source of funding. The foundation accepts proposals on-line during fall and spring solicitation submission windows.

Kern Community Foundation

http://www.kernfoundation.org/index.php?page_id=99

The relevant program is the Upper Kern Fisheries Enhancement Fund, a grantmaking initiative that supports conservation projects in the Upper Kern River Basin. It was established in 2005 as a requirement of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's relicensing of Southern California Edison's Kern River Number 3 Hydroelectric Project. The specific purpose of the Fund is to grant dollars to projects that support three priorities:

- Implementation of the Upper Kern Basin Fishery Management Plan
- Restoration of the native Kern River rainbow trout
- Other enhancement of fisheries resources in the Upper Kern Basin

Funding amounts vary yearly. See the web site for application deadlines.