

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service****North American Wetlands
Conservation Act: Request for Small
Grants Proposals for Year 2000**

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service,
Interior.

ACTION: Notice of request for proposals.

SUMMARY: The purpose of this notice is to advise the public that we, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and the North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Council), are currently entertaining proposals that request match funding for wetland conservation projects under the Small Grants program. Projects must meet the purposes of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act of 1989, as amended. We will give funding priority to projects from new grant applicants with new partners, where the project ensures long-term conservation benefits. However, previous Act grantees are eligible to receive funding, and can compete successfully on the basis of strong project resource values.

DATES: Proposals must bear postmarks no later than Friday, December 3, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Address proposals to: North American Waterfowl and Wetlands Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 110, Arlington, Virginia 22203, Attn: Small Grants Coordinator.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Keith A. Morehouse, Small Grants Coordinator, or Ms. Heather Poindexter, Office Secretary, North American Waterfowl and Wetlands Office, 703/358-1784; facsimile 703/358-2282.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The purpose of the 1989 North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) is, through partnerships, to promote long-term conservation of North American wetland ecosystems and the waterfowl and other migratory birds, fish and wildlife that depend upon such habitats. Principal conservation actions supported by NAWCA are acquisition, enhancement and restoration of wetlands and wetlands-associated uplands habitat.

Initiated in 1996, the underlying objective of the Small Grants program 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 regular grants program. We also hope that successful participants in the Small Grants program will be encouraged to participate in the NAWCA-based

Standard Grants program. Over the first four years of the program, about 326 proposals requesting a total of approximately \$10.1 million competed for funding. Ultimately, 55 projects were funded over this period. For 2000, with the approval of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, we have again made the Small Grants program operational at a base level of \$500,000. Up to \$1 million in quality Small Grants projects may be funded.

To be considered for funding in the 2000 cycle, proposals must have a grant request no greater than \$50,000. All wetland conservation proposals are accepted that meet the requirements of the Act. However, considering appropriate proposal resource values, funding priority is given to projects from new grant applicants (individuals or organizations who have never received a NAWCA grant) with new partners, where the project ensures long-term conservation benefits. As suggested by the former, this does not preclude former NAWCA grant recipients from receiving Small Grants funding; ultimately, project resource value is the critical factor in deciding which projects receive funding. Too, projects are likely to receive a greater level of attention if they are part of a broader related or unrelated effort to bring or restore wetland or wetland-associated upland conservation values to a particular area or region.

In addition, proposals must represent on-the-ground projects, and any overhead in the project budget must constitute 10 percent or less of the grant amount. The anticipated magnitude of wetlands and wildlife resources benefits that will result from project execution is an important factor in proposal evaluation, and there should be a reasonable balance between acreages of wetlands and wetland-associated uplands.

Please keep in mind that NAWCA and matching funds may only be applied to wetlands acquisition, creation, enhancement, and/or restoration; they may not be applied to signage, displays, trails or other educational features, materials and equipment, even though the goal of the project may ultimately be to support wetland conservation education curricula. Projects oriented toward education are not ordinarily eligible for NAWCA funding because education is not a primary purpose of the Act. However, useful project outcomes can include educational benefits resulting from conservation actions. Research is also not a primary purpose of the Act, and research proposals are not considered for funding.

Even though requiring less total information than those submitted for the regular grants program, Small Grant proposals must have clear explanations and meet the basic purposes given above and the 1:1 or greater non-Federal matching requirements of the NAWCA. Small Grants projects must also be consistent with Council-established guidelines, objectives and policies. All non-Federal matching funds and proposed expenditures of grant funds must be consistent with Appendix A of the Small Grants instructions, "Eligibility Requirements for Match of NAWCA Grant and Non-Federal Funds." Applicants must submit a completed Standard Form 424, Application For Federal Assistance. Small Grants instructional booklets contain forms and instructions for the Standard Form 424; booklets are available at the address provided or by E-mail, as explained later in this notice.

Small Grants proposals may be submitted prior to the due date but must bear postmarks no later than Friday, December 3, 1999. Address submitted proposals as follows: North American Waterfowl and Wetlands Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 110, Arlington, VA 22203, Attn: Small Grants Coordinator.

It is essential that applicants submit complete grant request packages to the North American Waterfowl and Wetlands Office (NAWWO), including *all* of the documentation of partners (partner letters) with funding pledge amounts. Information on funding in partner letters, i.e., amounts and description regarding use, must correspond with budget amounts in the budget table and any figures provided in the narrative.

With the volume of proposals received, we are not usually able to contact proposal sources to verify and/or request supplemental data and/or materials. Thus, those proposals lacking required information or containing conflicting information are subject to being declared ineligible and not further considered for funding.

For more information, and/or to request the Small Grants instructional booklet, call the NAWWO office secretary at (703) 358-1784, facsimile (703) 358-2282, or send E-mail to R9ARW_NAWWO@FWS.GOV. Small Grant application instructions are also available by E-mail as a WordPerfect® file, upon request.

In conclusion, we require that upon arrival in the NAWWO, proposal packages must be complete with regard to the information requested, in the format requested, and on time.

The Service has submitted information collection requirements to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104-13. On May 26, 1999, OMB gave its approval for this information collection and confirmed the approval number as 1018-0100. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The information collection solicited: is necessary to gain a benefit in the form of a grant, as determined by the North American Wetlands Conservation Council and the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission; is necessary to determine the eligibility and relative value of wetland projects; results in an approximate paperwork burden of 80 hours per application; and does not carry a premise of confidentiality. The information collections in this program will not be part of a system of records covered by the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552(a)).

Dated: July 1, 1999.

John G. Rogers,

Acting Director, Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 99-17468 Filed 7-8-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

North American Wetlands Conservation Act: Request for Evaluation Grant Proposals for Year 2000

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of information collection; correction.

SUMMARY: The purpose of this notice is to correct an Office of Management and Budget (OMB) information collections clearance number cited erroneously in a previous **Federal Register** announcement requesting proposals for evaluation grants, as provided for by the North American Wetlands Conservation Act.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Keith A. Morehouse, Small Grants Coordinator, North American Waterfowl and Wetlands Office, 703/358-1784; facsimile 703/358-2282.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On Wednesday, May 26, 1999, the Service published a **Federal Register** notice of request for proposals for the evaluation grants program (64 FR 28504) to be conducted under the authority of

section 19 of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act of 1989, as amended. The evaluation grants program seeks to evaluate the wetland conservation effectiveness of the ongoing Small and Standard Grants programs. The referenced notice signaled the initiation of the new program but cited incorrectly that the OMB clearance number is 1018-0100. The OMB information collections clearance number 1018-0100 is in fact that for the Small and Standard Grants programs, approved on May 26, 1999. The emergency clearance number provided by OMB, on 06/04/99, for information collections under the evaluation grants program, and the one that should have been cited in the request for proposals, is 1018-0104. This emergency approval expires on November 30, 1999. Also, the May 26 notice should have advised that the anticipated paperwork burden for applicants is 8 hours for a preproposal and 40 hours for a proposal.

Dated: June 28, 1999.

Daniel Ashe,

Assistant Director—Refuges and Wildlife, Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 99-17469 Filed 7-8-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[ID-065-1220-00]

Notice of Restriction Orders for BLM Lands within the Lower Salmon River Recreation Area from Vinegar Creek to Hammer Creek, Orders No. ID-060-16 and ID-060-17

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Upper Columbia-Salmon Clearwater District, Idaho.

SUMMARY: By order, the following restrictions apply to all public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management within the Lower Salmon River Recreation Area from Vinegar Creek (river mile 112) to Hammer Creek (river mile 53), Idaho County, Idaho.

The following acts are prohibited yearlong:

1. Building, maintaining, or using a fire or campfire.

The following persons are exempt from this order:

A. A person with a burning permit for fires other than campfires, cooking fires, or warming fires;

B. A person using any of the following types of equipment:

1. **FIREPAN, INCLUDING PORTABLE BARBECUE WITH GRILL:** A device

made of fire-resistant material or metal, with raised edges of a height sufficient to contain all ash and residue from a wood or charcoal fire. All ash and wood or charcoal residue must be packed out, including partially consumed briquets.

2. **GAS STOVES:** Pressurized liquid or gas stoves including space heating devices.

3. **PERMANENTLY INSTALLED FIRE RINGS AND GRILLS IN DEVELOPED RECREATION SITES:** For the purposes of this closure, developed recreation sites are Spring Bar, Allison Creek, Shorts Bar, Riggins City Park, Lucile, Slate Creek, Skookumchuck, and Hammer Creek.

4. **ENCLOSED WOOD STOVE:** A fully enclosed stove for burning wood or charcoal. The stove must be enclosed on six sides with 1/4 inch or smaller screening covering the chimney opening. Ash and wood residue must be packed out.

C. A person on public land more than 200 feet from the edge of the Salmon River.

2. Operating non-valid watercraft on the Salmon River between Vinegar Creek (river mile 112) and Hammer Creek (river mile 53). The area between the Lucile Bridge (river mile 76.5) and the Deer Creek Bridge (river mile 53.7) is exempt from this restriction between the dates of April 1 and September 15 each year.

Non-valid watercraft on the Lower Salmon River are those types of equipment that were not traditionally and commonly being used for recreational purposes on this section of the river prior to 1999 when the Recreation Area Management Plan Revision for the Lower Salmon River Recreation Area was approved.

Non-valid Types of Watercraft

Include: Personal water vehicles such as jet skis, air boats, motorized surf boards, wind surf boards, sailboats, hover craft, winged watercraft, any powerboats equipped with an over the transom exhaust system, amphibious craft, mini submarines, powerboats under 12 feet in length and designed to carry a maximum of two passengers, watercraft that must be straddled when ridden by the operator and/or passengers, devices towed behind a powerboat for recreational purposes (such as water skis, kneeboards, and various types of tubes), and devices attached to a fixed point on the bank for purposes of surfing or water skating.

Authorized Float Boats Include: Sweep boats, pontoons, catarafts, inflatable rafts, rigid hull and inflatable kayaks, canoes, dories, drift boats, and inner tubes. They may be propelled by paddles, oars, motors, or other devices,