Endangered and threatened species, as well as many other imperiled species, depend upon privately owned lands for their survival.

_Half of the species listed as endangered or threatened have 80 percent or more of their habitat on private lands._
—1993 study by the Association for Biodiversity Information and The Nature Conservancy

Often the costs associated with implementing conservation actions for imperiled species are greater than a private landowner can undertake without assistance. Through the Private Stewardship Grants Program (PSGP), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) provides financial assistance to individuals and groups to support voluntary conservation efforts on private lands for the benefit of imperiled species.

In 2003, the Service awarded approximately $9.4 million under this program to landowners and their partners to protect and restore imperiled species and their habitats. For 2004, the Service will award approximately $7.0 million for similar conservation projects.

Excluding land acquisition, the PSGP is open to a wide variety of projects. Typical projects may include managing nonnative competing species, implementing measures to minimize risk from disease, restoring streams that support imperiled species, or planting native vegetation to restore a rare plant community.

**How the PSGP Works**
To apply for a grant, an individual or group prepares a proposal that describes their project and its benefits for the target species. Proposals then compete at a regional level for funding.

Each year the FWS announces a request for project proposals to be considered for that year’s funding.

**Summary of the Eligibility Requirements**
To be considered for funding, individuals or groups must submit project proposals that include:
- only voluntary conservation efforts on private lands;
- benefits to species listed, proposed, or candidates for listing under the Endangered Species Act, or other at-risk species native to the U.S.;
- cost-share of at least 10% of total project cost (may be met by in-kind contributions, including time, equipment, materials, operations, or maintenance costs);
- landowner participation information;
- budget information; and
- measures to evaluate the project.

For a detailed description of the eligibility and other program requirements see the Request for Proposals, published in the Federal Register on January 6, 2004, or visit our web site at: http://endangered.fws.gov/grants/private_stewardship.html.

**Stewardship:** the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one’s care.
Assistance in Planning and Implementing Projects

The FWS may be able to assist landowners in planning or implementing projects. Through multiple programs, we offer a variety of expertise to assist landowners in planning and implementing projects on private lands. Among others, the FWS Endangered Species program and the Fish and Wildlife Management and Habitat Restoration program have worked hand-in-hand with a variety of partners on private lands.

The FWS ability to assist landowners will depend upon the type of project proposed and upon our existing workloads and priorities. For additional information on how we may be able to assist you, call or write the program contact in the list of Regional Offices below. Information is also available from the FWS web site at http://www.fws.gov.

Related Programs

The PGSP builds upon other FWS efforts to encourage the conservation of imperiled species on private lands.

The Safe Harbor Policy encourages voluntary management for listed species to promote recovery on non-Federal lands by giving assurances to the landowners that no additional future regulatory restrictions will be imposed.

The Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances Policy provides incentives for non-Federal property owners to conserve candidate species, thus potentially making listing unnecessary.

Other Resources

The FWS administers a variety of other programs to provide natural resource grants to governmental, public, and private organizations, other groups, and individuals. Additional information on these programs is available on our web site at: http://grants.fws.gov/.

Contact Us

For more information on the PSGP please contact the FWS Regional office with responsibility for the State or Territory in which the proposed project would occur from the list below.

Additional information is also available at: http://endangered.fws.gov/grants/private_stewardship.html or send e-mail to: Privatestewardship@fws.gov.

You may also access www.grants.gov and search using the program title: Private Stewardship Grant Program or by the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number: 15.632.