

## **L-SOHC Questionnaire**

**Program Request Title:** Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program

**Program Manager:** Leslie Tannahill

**Telephone Number:** 651-259-5242

### **A. REQUEST FOR FUNDING OVERVIEW:**

#### **1. Why there is an urgent need to act NOW?**

The intent of this program is to involve local organizations and governments in local projects to restore, enhance, or protect habitat. These groups often know of good, nearby projects and are able to act more quickly, with more local support and involvement, than larger organizations or governments.

By acting now to fund this proposal, local groups can start to plan projects and coordinate match (either cash or in-kind) so they are ready to develop applications when a new Request for Proposal (RFP) is posted. There has been a high level of interest in the FY 2010 grants, and that interest is expected to continue.

### **B. CONSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT FOR PROGRAM ACTIVITIES**

#### **1. Tell the Council how much of your proposal is acquisition and how much restoration/enhancement?**

The Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program (CPL) is open to applications for acquisition, restoration, and enhancement projects. There is no pre-determined goal for each specific activity. While the program will strive to find a balance between types of projects funded, much depends upon the applications submitted. The ultimate goal is to fund good projects that can be completed in a timely manner, and that follow the priorities set by the LSOHC.

#### **2. How will the public be able to use the all the projects in this program and enjoy the benefits of this public investment?**

Projects that acquire land in fee title must be open to public hunting and fishing during open seasons unless otherwise provided by state law. These lands may be open for other uses at other times of the year, depending on the management guidelines of the appropriate public agency.

Projects that acquire land using permanent conservation easements are open to hunting and fishing with the permission of the private landowner. These easements may also be open to other uses by the public with permission from the private landowner.

Restoration/enhancement work that occurs on lands under public ownership will be open for public use as appropriate for the type of work, and as allowed under the management guidelines of the appropriate public agency.

Restoration/enhancement projects done on lands under permanent conservation easement may or may not be open to the public for various uses; this will vary by landowner. The habitat benefits provided are the same as if the work was done on public lands, and will extend beyond the property boundary. In some locations, working on private lands is the only way to improve habitat.

## **C. PRIORITIES**

### **1. Specifically, how does your program address the Council's statewide and/or regional priorities?**

The FY11 CPL RFP will include the Council's statewide and/or regional priorities and require applicants to address them. Reviewers will use these priorities in making recommendations for applications to fund as well.

### **2. Tell the Council how do you set priorities among the opportunities available to this program? Be SPECIFIC**

The CPL program will use the priorities laid out in the LSOHC's FY11 Call for Funding Requests (CFR), Office of Grants Management policies, DNR criteria (such as cost effectiveness and DNR program requirements), and previous experience with this grant program to set priorities.

### **3. Tell the Council how you define "science-based strategic planning"**

Science-based strategic planning employs a four-part circular sequence that includes assessment of current conditions (Where are we?), identification of desired conditions (Where do we want to go?), determining challenges and needed strategies to attain the desired conditions (How do we get there?), and assessment of accomplishments (Did we make it?).

The CPL program fits in this sequence by implementing on-the-ground local projects (submitted by CPL applicants) that are designed to achieve measurable biological outcomes to attain the desired conditions.

## **D. PROGRAM DETAILS:**

### **1. The Work**

#### **a. Enumerate the specific kinds of action you plan to take to protect, enhance, and/or restore natural systems.**

The CPL program will fund small grants to local organizations and governments to protect, enhance, and restore local natural systems. Applicants will be required to provide the specific actions they will take and the outcomes to be achieved in their application, as well as how they fit into a specific ecoregion.

#### **b. What species will be helped?**

Applicants will be required to provide this information in their application.

#### **c. Do you currently have the capacity to get the work done that you are requesting dollars for in FY 2011? -- Explain**

No. An additional 1 FTE Grant Assistant is requested in the FY11 application.

### **2. Program Work Location**

#### **a. What percent of your work will be prairie?**

This will depend upon the applications submitted.

#### **b. What percent of your work will be wetland?**

This will depend upon the applications submitted.

#### **c. What percent of your work will be forest?**

This will depend upon the applications submitted.

#### **d. What percent of your work will be aquatic systems?**

This will depend upon the applications submitted.

- e. Is it part of a larger habitat complex? If yes BRIEFLY describe the complex.**

This will depend upon the applications submitted.

**3. How We Plan to Use the Funds Requested**

- a. What percent reduction could you accept without rendering your project inoperable?**

To an extent, the CPL program is scalable. Staff levels cannot be reduced below FY 10 levels (1.5 FTEs) without compromising the program and putting excessive, unfunded workloads on DNR field staff. If the amount of funds going out as grants were reduced, there would be less on-the-ground work done by local organizations and governments.

- b. Have you also applied to the Outdoor Heritage Fund Conservation Partners Grant Program operated by DNR? N/A**

- c. Where else might you get money for this project? N/A**

**4. Personnel Details**

- a. Describe the personnel duties. Are they office staff or field staff – existing or new positions?**

CPL staff will perform overall grant management and grant assistant work, with some overlap of duties, for a total staff of 2.5 FTEs. In addition, DNR Fish and Wildlife staff are committed to supporting the CPL program by providing technical guidance to applicants and grantees. DNR Real Estate Management Services staff time will be billed on a professional services basis and paid by the grant recipient as either a grant or in-kind cost.

Grant management staff will be primarily responsible for developing and implementing the grant program, including soliciting, reviewing, and administering applications and grants. These positions will be primarily office staff. These positions are currently filled by permanent DNR employees at 1.5 FTE.

The grant assistant staff person will help applicants in identifying, developing, and implementing projects, and meeting administrative and environmental requirements. This person will be located in a field office and also assist public land managers in developing projects for grantees. This position is a new request at 1 FTE.