



Florida's State Wildlife Grants Program: Oyster Restoration Funding Opportunities

Dan O'Malley

Florida's Wildlife Legacy Initiative

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Florida's Wildlife Legacy Initiative

- Administers Florida's State Wildlife Grant Program
- Revises State Wildlife Action Plan
- Maintain and develop partnerships



State Wildlife Grants

- Federal program
- Annually apportioned by Congress
- Each state receives money
 - formula based on population and land area
- Florida ~\$2.5 M annually



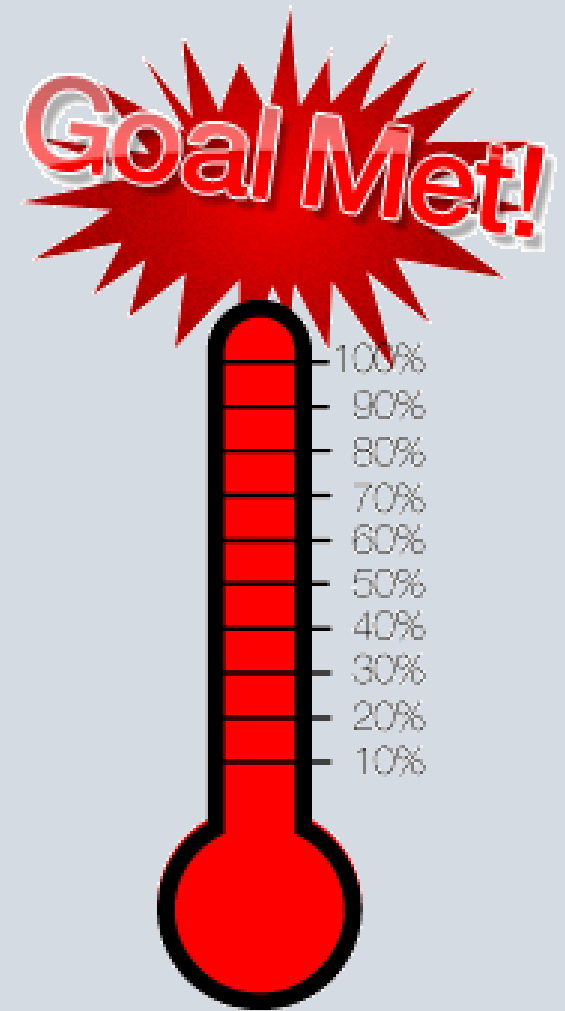
State Wildlife Action Plan

- Required document to receive SWG funding
- Must be approved by USFWS
- Must be updated at least once every ten years
- Projects must contribute to the implementation of the SWAP to be eligible for SWG funding
- 2018 Action Plan soon to be released



Implementation Goals

- The Action Plan is state-wide and comprehensive
- SWG funding is limited
- Implementation Goals are stepped down priorities
- Avoids spreading money too thinly



Past Marine Implementation Goals

- 2007-2012: Facilitate habitat conservation efforts on the following high priority habitat categories to improve their health and resiliency and to achieve their long term ecological sustainability statewide:
 - Coral reef
 - Seagrass
- 2012-2018: To improve coral reef restoration through planning and research
 - Objective 1: By 2014, develop a comprehensive coral reef restoration plan for Florida that will outline the essential strategies necessary to affect a well-coordinated, comprehensive coral reef restoration effort in Florida.
 - Objective 2: By 2018, support 18 projects designed to fill either, a) information gaps such as those identified in the coral reef plan from Objective 1 or, b) priority activities such as those identified in the coral reef plan from Objective 1.



2018 Marine Implementation Goal

- Goal: Improve marine and estuarine ecosystem habitat quality for the benefit of Species of Greatest Conservation Need.
- **Objective 1: Complete at least 4 acres of high priority coastal habitat improvement by creating or restoring habitat in each of oyster reef, mangrove, salt marsh, and upland buffer.**
- Objective 2: Increase coral cover by at least 25% on no fewer than 60 reefs through the repeated outplanting of no less than 60,000 colonies of reef-building elkhorn, brain, boulder, and star corals and monitor outplant success for at least a five-year period.
- Priority habitats: saltmarsh, mangrove, oyster reef, seagrass, coral reef



Marine Goal Team

- TNC
- SCCF
- FL DEP AP
- NOAA
- FWC
- FWC
- FWC

Caitlin Lustic
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SWG funding process

- Late April deadline for Goal Team to select project ideas
 - General: project ideas turned into RFP
 - Targeted: project ideas developed into proposal directly
- General projects submission period **June through mid-July: Check website!**
- Finalized proposals due in November
- Funding received following July (State Fiscal Year)



The Nitty Gritty

- 35% [non-federal](#) match required (of total project cost)
- \$440,000 available for marine projects in 2018
- Designed to be split between coral and coastal over 5 cycles
- Maximum project length is three years



How do I apply?

- Check Florida's Wildlife Legacy Initiative website for RFP ~May 29th
- The only way to be considered for targeted funding is to send in your project ideas (never too early, 1 March 2019 deadline for application form)

- Dan O'Malley
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Recovering America's Wildlife Act

- Seeks to provide dedicated funding for nongame species conservation
 - Dedicated model similar to Dingell-Johnson and Pittman-Robertson
- Bipartisan co-sponsorship
- \$1.3 billion proposed, FL ~\$56 million
- Source of revenue is fees from mineral extraction on federal lands
- Based on recommendation of “Blue Ribbon Panel”
 - Business and government leaders



Other funding sources

- NOAA Coastal Resilience Grants
 - Naples Bay Oyster Restoration: \$484,000
- NOAA Coastal and Marine Habitat Restoration Grants
 - Pamlico Sound Oyster Restoration: \$4.2 million
- RESTORE/NRDA/GEBF: <https://floridadep.gov/wra/deepwater-horizon>
 - Lone Cabbage Reef ~\$8.3 Million
- USFWS Coastal Program
- USFWS National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grants Program
- NFWF Gulf Coast Conservation Grants Program
- IRL NEP : Restoration (\$860,000), Science and Innovative Technologies (\$300,000) Citizen Engagement and Education (\$100,000)
- FWC Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Restoration: Marine and Estuarine Subsection
 - Similar to SWG targeted process, program members in attendance
 - Great resource regarding alternate funding sources as well



Questions?



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