

STRATEGIES FOR FUNDING IMPLEMENTATION

LCBP



Many diverse funding sources help implement Plan actions. For example, funding from the North American Wetlands Conservation Act helped implement the Lake Champlain Wetlands Acquisition Strategy.

Each action in *Opportunities for Action* has an estimated cost and potential funding sources associated with it. The identified potential funding sources reflect the most probable sources of funding for the action, but do not indicate a monetary commitment from any organization. As various groups take responsibility for implementing actions, the funding sources available to these organizations and the actual costs of the actions will become more clear. For many actions, the cost of implementation changes, such that new estimates will be necessary from time to time.

In several instances in the Plan, specific funding sources are identified for actions. For example, in the section on “Protecting Wetlands,” Action 1, “Continue to Secure Funding and Implement the Lake Champlain Wetlands Acquisition Strategy,” lists the USFWS North American Wetlands Conservation Act funding as a potential source of funding for the action. This source was identified because it has been used effectively for the first two phases of funding for wetland acquisition in the Lake Champlain Basin. However, in addition to such specific funding sources, the action also lists general funding sources, such as state and private funds. By listing these general funding sources, the Plan recognizes the need for innovation wherever possible and does not limit itself to seeking funding from traditional, earmarked sources.

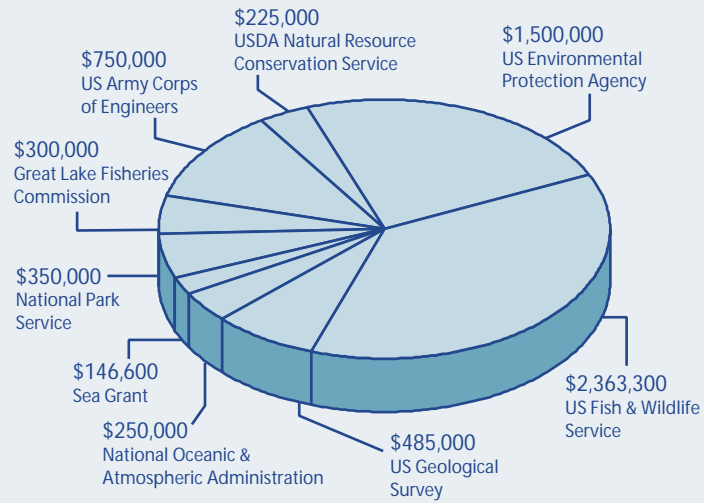
The Institutional Arrangements report (Yellow Wood Associates, 1995) suggested four principles to guide successful funding of watershed programs: 1) the sources and products of funding should be clearly understood by the public; 2) funding should be flexible and not solely tied to political sources; 3) funding sources should be diversified to reduce dependence on specific organizations; and 4) funding must be adequate to fully carry out the intended purpose of the action.

Opportunities for Action provides benchmarks under each action which are indications of what will be accomplished when the action is implemented. The public can refer to these benchmarks to understand how the funding for each action will be used. For several actions, the cost-estimate also outlines what the funding will provide (e.g., \$50,000 to hire a wetland biologist and coordinator of state programs). Each action also lists an expected timeframe for implementation.

Opportunities for Action seeks diverse funding sources and does not limit itself to money allocated by traditional federal and state programs, local costshare contributions, foundation grants, and costs borne directly by the private sector. Several actions in the Plan call for the formation of public/private partnerships as a key means to reducing dependence on one source of funding. For example, private entities could help maintain or improve public

parks or Lake accesses in exchange for publicity and other incentives (see section on “Managing Recreation,” Actions 1, 8).

Because of its evolving nature, *Opportunities for Action* is intended to be updated and evaluated every five years, at which time new priority actions and sources of funding may emerge and be incorporated. Actions have built in flexibility with a range of potential key partners and funding sources identified. If funding from one source diminishes, other sources will be tapped. Also, because the Plan covers a wide range of issues which have different funding sources, many of the actions will not compete with each other for scarce financial resources. Financing options can be mixed and matched to fund the priority actions in the Plan successfully.



Note: Additional funding includes \$1,000,000 through the USEPA for the Montgomery Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade. The Lake Champlain Basin Science Center received \$500,000 through the US EPA and \$500,000 through the Institute for Museum and Library Sciences. Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge received \$2,000,000 for a new headquarters and visitor center through the USFWS.

Figure 13. Fiscal year 2001 federal Lake Champlain appropriations.