



# 2010 *Wildlife Habitat Protection and Improvement Grants:* **GRANT GUIDELINES**

## Wildlife Habitat Protection and Improvement Grants

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The 2010 Wildlife Habitat Protection and Improvement Grants support local community involvement in projects that address habitat restoration and wildlife connectivity in the Lake Champlain Basin as well as the implementation of the LCBP comprehensive management plan, *Opportunities for Action: An Evolving Plan for the Future of the Lake Champlain Basin*.

PLEASE NOTE: These guidelines are not applicable to other LCBP grant programs. Great Lakes Fishery Commission funds supporting this grant category were secured by Senator Leahy.

A description of this grant category is provided below. The purpose, eligibility information, and selection criteria are clearly listed. This information is followed by general information that pertains to all LCBP grants. These guidelines are provided to help you prepare competitive grant applications. We encourage you to contact the LCBP if you need further explanation of the requirements and policies summarized.

No more than one unique application may be submitted by the same organization under any LCBP grant category. Organizations with current LCBP contracts must be in good standing (this means that all deliverables that are due have been received by LCBP) to be eligible to apply for additional funds. New projects must be for work that is distinct from currently contracted work in both objectives and deliverables. Extensions of ongoing projects with new tasks and deliverables will also be considered, but groups must demonstrate satisfactory progress on the current grant before a contract will be amended to include additional work.

**PLEASE NOTE: Applications should be submitted in electronic format and ten (10) hardcopies of each application MUST be received in the LCBP office in Grand Isle, VT by 4:30 PM, March 1, 2010. Faxed submissions will *not* be accepted.**

**Successful applicants will be notified by April 16, 2010.**

## Lake Champlain Basin Program and *Opportunities for Action*

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The Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP) is a partnership among the States of New York and Vermont, the Province of Quebec, the US Environmental Protection Agency, the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission, other federal and local government agencies, and many local groups, both public and private. Created by the Lake Champlain Special Designation Act of 1990 and reauthorized in 2002, the LCBP's goal is to work cooperatively to protect and enhance the environmental integrity and the social and economic benefits of the Lake Champlain Basin, primarily through implementation of *Opportunities for Action*. Successful implementation of the plan is achieved by developing partnerships among natural resource agencies, citizens, and other lake and watershed stakeholders throughout the Basin. Since 1992, the LCBP has sponsored a variety of local projects.

*Opportunities for Action* calls for actions addressing water quality, toxic substances, living natural resources, recreation and cultural heritage resources, economics, education and outreach, monitoring, and data management. The plan also calls for the active involvement of local communities. The four highest priorities in the plan are to:

- reduce the amount of phosphorus entering the Lake;
- prevent and control the release and effects of toxic substances;
- establish a comprehensive program for managing aquatic invasive species; and
- protect humans from water-related health hazards.

*Opportunities for Action* is available from the LCBP Office or online at <http://www.lcbp.org/>

# **Wildlife Habitat Protection and Improvement Grant Guidelines**

## **PURPOSE:**

This grant category supports larger projects that address habitat restoration and wildlife connectivity in the Lake Champlain Basin with grant awards up to \$10,000. Requests for more than \$10,000 will not be considered. Projects that address the following areas will rank higher in the review process:

- Restore and maintain a healthy and diverse community of fish and wildlife for the people of the Lake Champlain Basin.
- Protect, conserve, and restore Lake Champlain Basin wetlands, streams, and riparian habitats and the functions and values they provide.

**Anticipated Number of Awards:** Approximately ten (10)

## **ELIGIBILITY:**

- Local government entities including municipal boards, commissions, or committees;
- Public or private schools or other educational institutions;
- Natural Resource Conservation Districts (VT) and Soil and Water Conservation Districts (NY);
- Organizations with 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation status, or citizen groups such as watershed or lake associations working in coordination with such an organization, that applies on their behalf and will manage the grant funds; and
- Private businesses, individuals, and state government agencies may collaborate with one of the above groups, but are not eligible to be the primary applicant under this grant program.

## **SELECTION CRITERIA:**

Applications will be evaluated according to the following criteria, based on the information provided in your application. An external peer review committee will evaluate and rank applications for funding, and make award recommendations to the Lake Champlain Basin Program Steering Committee. The LCBP Steering Committee will make all decisions on project awards. The decisions of the LCBP Steering Committee are final and may not be appealed.

1. (25 points) Extent to which the project objectives address fish and/or wildlife habitat protection, restoration, or improvement as outlined in *Opportunities for Action*. Proposals addressing habitat restoration and connectivity will score highest for this criterion.
2. (25 points) Merit of the project and the extent to which the project will result in tangible benefits or improvements that can be clearly measured. Projects taking place on private land should show a clear benefit to the surrounding community.
3. (20 points) Feasibility of the proposed methods and capacity of the organization for carrying out the project.
4. (20 points) Extent to which the applicant demonstrates the commitment to work with other partners and/or leverage other funding sources to achieve project goals.
5. (10 points) Appropriateness and clarity of the proposed budget, relative to project objectives. The total funding request must be within the limit of the grant category. Vague or inflated budgets will not be competitive.