



## Funding Research Memo: Habitat Preservation & Restoration

Last updated: August 2016

THIS MEMO WILL BE UPDATED PERIODICALLY. IF YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING RESOURCES, PLEASE CONTACT THE SNC FUND DEVELOPMENT TEAM: [sncfundingteam@sierranevada.ca.gov](mailto:sncfundingteam@sierranevada.ca.gov).

***CAVEAT – Grant guidelines and deadlines are subject to periodic change. Please check the program web sites for new information. The deadlines listed are projected from the last funding round and are particularly unreliable. Check the program’s web site!***

### **FUNDING SUMMARY TABLE**

(\*Hyperlinks to more complete information later in memo, including links to program web sites)

Grant*	Funding Range	Funding Focus	Estimated Deadline	Eligible Costs
<a href="#">U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) North American Wetlands Conservation Act Programs</a>	Small Grant up to \$75,000, Standard Grant over \$75,000  1:1 non-federal match required	Protection, restoration, and/or enhancement of wetlands and associated uplands habitats for the benefit of all wetlands-associated migratory birds.	February and July for Standard Grant Program, November for Small Grant program	Acquisition, restoration, and enhancement costs.
<a href="#">USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Endangered Species Program</a>	Cost-share reimbursements depend on project.	Private landowners conserving habitat for rare, declining, or protected species.	Ongoing	Discuss with field staff.
<a href="#">USFWS Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance</a>	Unspecified. 25% match required.	Support development of Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) benefitting federally listed threatened or endangered species, proposed and candidate species, and unlisted species proposed to be covered by the HCP.	Proposals due to California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) regional staff in October	Proposals are submitted through CDFW as part of their <a href="#">ESA Nontraditional Section 6 Grants program</a> . Check with CDFW program staff for more details.
<a href="#">USFWS Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Land Acquisition</a>		Acquisition of land associated with approved HCPs benefitting federally listed threatened or endangered species, proposed and candidate species, and unlisted species proposed to be covered by the HCP.	Proposals due to CDFW regional staff in October	Proposals are submitted through CDFW as part of their <a href="#">ESA Nontraditional Section 6 Grants program</a> . Check with CDFW program staff for more details.

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<a href="#">National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Bring Back the Natives/More Fish</a>	\$50,000 - \$100,000  1:1 non-federal match required, 2:1 preferred	Protect and maintain intact and healthy aquatic systems; reverse declines in the quality and quantity of aquatic habitats to improve overall health of native fish and other aquatic organisms.	Depends on focus area. See web site.	Restoration assessment, planning, implementation, and monitoring; water conservation infrastructure; watershed protection; invasive species management.
<a href="#">NFWF – Sierra Nevada Meadow Restoration</a>	Not stated. 1:1 match is preferred.	Implement Sierra Meadow Restoration Business Plan.	Pre-proposals due November and June	Quantifying ecosystem service benefits, building organizational capacity where restoration planning and implementation is limited, repairing meadow degradation, ensuring long-term protection, supporting land protection and deploying best management practices, garnering support of ranching community, and monitoring and documenting ecological and biological responses to meadow restoration.
<a href="#">NFWF – Pulling Together Initiative</a>	\$25,000 - \$200,000. 1:1 non-federal match required, cash or in-kind.	To encourage the development of cooperative weed management areas (CWMAs), support significant advance of existing CWMAs, develop or strengthen prevention and early detection/rapid response efforts, enhance education, and assist awareness projects to reduce or eliminate invasive plant species.	Pre-proposals due in August	Establishing a CWMA, acceleration of high-performing CWMAs, comprehensive early detection and rapid response approaches, or significant on-the-ground management/restoration projects
<a href="#">Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program</a>	Wide range of funding, no specific limits. Some landowner contribution required.	Riparian restoration, inland wetlands, and other habitat restoration and improvement projects.	On-going. Board meets quarterly. Contact Program Officer.	Acquisition, restoration, and enhancement.

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<a href="#">WCB CA Streamflow Enhancement Program</a>	No maximum or minimum. Match not required, but adds to score.	Projects that enhance stream flows and are consistent with the CA Water Plan, with an emphasis on providing and protecting enhanced stream flow, especially in those streams that support anadromous fish; special status, threatened, endangered, or at-risk species; or provide resilience to climate change.	August 31	Planning, implementation, acquisition, monitoring, assessment, and scientific studies. Planning funding can include environmental review.
<a href="#">CA Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Wetlands Restoration for Greenhouse Gas Reduction</a>	No maximum or minimum. Match not required, but adds to score.	Achieve net greenhouse gas emission reductions through restoration or enhancement of wetlands or mountain meadows.	December	Planning, implementation, indirect.
<a href="#">CDFW Proposition 1 Watershed Restoration and Delta Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration Grant Programs</a>	Not stated. Match not required, but adds to score.	The focus of the Watershed Restoration Grant Program is on watershed restoration and protection projects outside of the Delta. The Delta Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration Grant Program focuses on water quality, ecosystem restoration, and fish protection facilities that benefit the Delta.	June	Planning, implementation, acquisition, and scientific studies/monitoring/ assessments.  Indirect costs not to exceed 20 percent.  Planning grants can include funding for environmental review.
<a href="#">Department of Water Resources Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Grants</a>	Depends on solicitation. General match requirement is 50%, but can be waived for disadvantaged communities.	Very broad – the project must address statewide priorities and be listed in the region's IRWM Plan.	Set periodically. Proposition 1 implementation funding announcement is expected in early 2017.	Very broad. Includes removal of invasive non-native species, the creation and enhancement of wetlands, and the acquisition, protection, and restoration of open space and watersheds.

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<a href="#">California State Duck Stamp Projects for Waterfowl Conservation</a>	Not stated	Protect, restore, enhance, and develop migratory waterfowl breeding and wintering habitat.	January	The funds can only be used for projects approved by the Fish and Game Commission for waterfowl conservation purposes (acquisition, restoration, enhancement, creation, and research).
<a href="#">Bureau of Reclamation/USFWS Central Valley Project Conservation Program and Central Valley Project Improvement Act Habitat Restoration Program</a>	\$25,000 to \$1 million. Contribution from other sources is expected.	Protect, restore, and enhance special-status species and their habitats affected by the Central Valley Project, with a special emphasis on federally listed species.	September or October deadline	Funding is for land acquisition, habitat restoration, or research in the areas impacted by the Central Valley Project. See <a href="http://www.usbr.gov/mp/cvpcp/species/index.html">http://www.usbr.gov/mp/cvpcp/species/index.html</a> for priority species list.
<a href="#">USFWS Tribal Wildlife Grant Program</a>	Grants up to \$200,000. Match is not required, but improves score.	Programs that benefit wildlife and habitat, including species of Native American cultural or traditional importance and species that are not hunted or fished.	October	Planning, implementation, monitoring, public education, and conservation easements. Funds may be used for salaries, equipment, consultant services, subcontracts, acquisitions, and travel.
<a href="#">CA Resources Agency Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program</a>	Grants up to \$500,000 for enhancement projects, \$1 million for acquisitions. Match is not required, but makes the application more competitive.	Resource lands projects for the acquisition or enhancement of resource lands near transportation improvements; additional mitigation related to the environmental impact of the transportation improvement.	July	Direct project-related costs incurred during the project performance period. Indirect costs are not covered.
<a href="#">Environmental Enhancement Fund Grant Program</a>	\$200,000 maximum. No match required.	To support environmental enhancement projects located within or immediately adjacent to waters of the state. Enhancement projects must benefit fish and wildlife.	August	Projects can acquire, restore, or improve habitat, water quality, and ecosystem function above baseline conditions.

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<a href="#">CA Dept. of Parks and Recreation Habitat Conservation Fund</a>	No grant minimum or maximum. 1:1 match required from private, non-state sources.	Several categories of programs: deer and lion habitat; rare, endangered, threatened and protected habitat; anadromous, salmonid, and trout habitat; riparian habitat; wetlands; trails; and wildlife area activities.	October	Funding is for land acquisition, habitat restoration, trail construction, and wildlife/nature activities.
<a href="#">CA Dept. of Parks and Recreation Land and Water Conservation Fund</a>	Grants up to \$2 million. 1:1 match required.	Acquisition or development of outdoor recreation areas and facilities.	February	Can fund acquisition or development projects, but not both.
<a href="#">CA Dept. of Parks and Recreation Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Grants</a>	Depends on program category. 25% match required.	Planning, development, maintenance, operation, enforcement, programs, restoration, and conservation of trails, trailheads, areas, and other facilities associated with the use of OHVs.	March	Very broad – all direct costs plus 15% indirect.
<a href="#">Environmental Protection Agency/NFWF 5 Star Restoration</a>	Up to \$50,000. Substantial match required.	Environmental education and training through projects that restore wetlands and streams.	February	Acquisition or development of outdoor recreation areas and facilities.
<a href="#">National Forest Foundation Matching Awards Program</a>	\$500 - \$100,000. Requires 1:1 cash match of non-federal funds.	Focus areas are forest health and outdoor experiences.	January and June	On-the ground activities including habitat protection and enhancement, conservation projects, and stewardship projects.
<a href="#">Wildlife Conservation Society North America Program: Climate Adaptation Fund</a>	\$50,000 - \$250,000 Requires 1:1 match, some of which can be in-kind.	Projects that manage dynamic ecological processes, landscape functionality, and species assemblages.	April	Grants are provided to nonprofit conservation organizations for applied, on-the-ground projects focused on implementing priority conservation actions for climate adaptation at a landscape scale.
<a href="#">U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Watershed and Wetlands Programs</a>	Cost-share with landowner. Amount varies by program.	Programs for watershed protection, riparian restoration, and wetlands restoration on private property. Contact your local NRCS office for available program information.	Ongoing	Varies by program. Contact your local office for information: <a href="http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=CA">http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=CA</a> .

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<a href="#">Hind Foundation</a>	Up to \$100,000. Preference for projects with most of the funding in place.	Ecosystem conservation and plant and wildlife protection.	Ongoing	Project implementation.
<a href="#">Patagonia Foundation</a>	Up to \$12,000	Local groups working to protect local habitat.	April and August	On-the-ground restoration work and direct-action campaigns. Key initiative is focused on trout habitat.
<a href="#">Bella Vista Foundation</a>	Up to \$150,000. Other sources of funding are important.	Riparian restoration with the goal of enhancing and maintaining self-sustaining watershed ecosystems.	Online application	Restoration work and conservation easements.
<a href="#">Nature's Path EnviroKidz Giving Back Program</a>	Up to \$20,000	Wildlife and endangered species conservation, habitat restoration and conservation, environmental education for youth.	January	Education, conservation, and restoration activities. Project must work directly with school-aged youth in the community.
<a href="#">Kern Community Foundation</a>	Depends on yearly funding.	Restoring fish populations in Upper Kings River Basin.	See web site.	Planning, assessment, research, monitoring, etc.
<a href="#">Sierra Fund</a>	No grant programs, but can act as fiscal sponsor for project related to organization mission. Particularly interested in the impacts of abandoned mines on water quality. Call program officer for more information. <a href="http://www.sierrafund.org/contact-us/">http://www.sierrafund.org/contact-us/</a> .			



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### **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), North America Wetlands Conservation Act Standard or Small Grants Program**

<http://www.fws.gov/birds/grants/north-american-wetland-conservation-act.php>

These projects must involve long-term protection, restoration, or enhancement of wetlands and associated uplands habitats for the benefit of all wetlands-associated migratory birds. Restoration is defined as the manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site, with the goal of returning natural/historic functions to a former or degraded wetland. Enhancement involves the manipulation of these characteristics to improve specific functions of the wetland. These grants require a 1:1 non-federal match; however, applicants can count funds expended during the last two years before the application is submitted.

Standard Grants Program for requests over \$75,000 - Contact the program officers to discuss the process. The deadlines are generally February and July. Check the web site for more details.

Small Grants Program for requests under \$75,000 - These projects must involve long-term protection, restoration, or enhancement of wetlands and associated uplands habitats for the benefit of all wetlands-associated migratory birds. The program supports the same types of projects and has the same guidelines as the Standard Grants Program. However, project activities are usually smaller in scope and involve fewer project dollars. Grant requests may not exceed \$75,000, and funding priority is given to grantees or partners new to the Act's Grants Program. The deadline is generally in November.

Discussions with program officers are recommended. See the web site for more details.

### **U.S. Partners for Fish and Wildlife Endangered Species Program**

<http://www.fws.gov/partners/aboutus.html>

The Partners Program provides technical and financial assistance to private landowners and tribes who are willing to work with the USFWS and other partners on a voluntary basis to help meet the habitat needs of Federal Trust Species. Through voluntary agreements, the Partners program provides expert technical assistance and cost-share incentives directly to private landowners to restore fish and wildlife habitats.

The Partners Program can assist with projects in all habitat types which conserve or restore native vegetation, hydrology, and soils associated with imperiled ecosystems such as longleaf pine, bottomland hardwoods, tropical forests, native prairies, marshes, rivers, and streams, or otherwise provide an important habitat requisite for a rare, declining, or protected species.

To initiate the process, contact your [state's coordinator](#). Locally-based field biologists work one-on-one with private landowners and other partners to plan, implement, and monitor

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projects. Partners Program field staff help landowners find other sources of funding and help them through the permitting process, as necessary. The landowner works one-on-one with a local USFWS biologist to develop a project plan addressing the goals and objectives of the landowner and the USFWS to benefit fish and wildlife species on the affected land.

To implement a project, a cooperative agreement with a minimum duration of 10 years is signed. The landowner is reimbursed after project completion, based on the cost-sharing formula in the agreement.

### Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance

<https://www.fws.gov/endangered/grants/grant-programs.html>

This program supports development of Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) benefitting federally listed threatened or endangered species, proposed and candidate species, and unlisted species proposed to be covered by the HCP. Grant applications are submitted through the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), so contact your [CDFW regional office](#) for more information.

### HCP Land Acquisition

<https://www.fws.gov/endangered/grants/grant-programs.html>

This program has funding for acquisition of land associated with approved HCPs benefitting federally listed threatened or endangered species, proposed and candidate species, and unlisted species covered by the HCP. Grant applications are submitted through the CDFW, so contact your [CDFW regional office](#) for more information.

### National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Bring Back the Natives/More Fish

<http://www.nfwf.org/bbn/Pages/home.aspx>

The Bring Back the Natives/More Fish program invests in conservation activities that restore, protect, and enhance native populations of sensitive or listed fish species across the United States, especially in areas on or adjacent to federal agency lands. The program emphasizes coordination between private landowners and federal agencies, tribes, corporations, and states to improve the ecosystem functions and health of watersheds. Sierra Nevada priorities focus on McCloud River redband trout, Eagle Lake rainbow trout, California golden trout, and Little Kern golden trout recovery. Proposals should focus on protecting and maintaining intact and healthy aquatic systems, preventing further degradation of fish habitats that have been adversely affected, and increasing the quality and quantity of fish habitats that support a broad diversity of native fish and other aquatic species.

A broad range of activities has been funded, including restoration assessment, planning, implementation, and monitoring; water conservation infrastructure; watershed protection; and invasive species management.

Grant awards generally range from \$50,000 to \$100,000, although grants greater than \$100,000 will be considered. Applicants must provide at least a 1:1 non-federal match, though



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2:1 is preferred. Eligible non-federal matching sources can include cash, in-kind donations, or volunteer labor.

### **NFWF – Sierra Nevada Meadow Restoration**

[http://www.nfwf.org/sierranevada/Pages/home.aspx#.VLQz\\_XsWct0](http://www.nfwf.org/sierranevada/Pages/home.aspx#.VLQz_XsWct0)

This program is a partnership between NFWF and the Wells Fargo Foundation. In 2009, NFWF launched its Sierra Nevada Meadow Restoration Program to replenish the health and biodiversity of the mountain meadow regions. The program focuses on creating the momentum to restore and protect thousands of acres of meadows in the Sierra Nevada. Key conservation actions for this program include:

- Quantifying ecosystem service benefits - conducting hydrologic and water quality assessments to predict and measure changes in groundwater levels and downstream flow
- Building organizational capacity - providing capacity-building in watersheds where restoration planning and implementation is limited
- Repairing meadow degradation - supporting restoration projects in meadow systems in which it will be possible to quantify benefits
- Ensuring long-term protection - supporting land protection and deploying best management practices
- Garnering support of ranching community - improving information flow and providing technical assistance
- Monitoring and documenting ecological and biological responses to meadow restoration

For more detail on priority activities, please see NFWF's Sierra Nevada Meadows Business Plan (the link for downloads is on the web page). There is no request for proposals for the program. Application Guidelines for NFWF Conservation Programs with a Business Plan can be found [here](#). A 1:1 match is preferred. There are two grant cycles per year, with pre-proposals due in November and June.

### **NFWF - Pulling Together Initiative**

<http://www.nfwf.org/pti/Pages/home.aspx#.VZFhpUbokt0>

NFWF's Pulling Together Initiative provides modest grants to help local communities effectively manage invasive weeds. Pulling Together Initiative grants are intended to help support the creation of local cooperative weed management area partnerships. Such partnerships bring together local landowners, citizens groups, and weed experts to develop and implement strategies for managing weed infestations on public lands, natural areas, and private working lands.

Funding priorities for this program include:

- Projects that focus on a particular well-defined weed management area, such as a watershed, ecosystem, landscape, or county
- Projects supported by private landowners, state and local governments, and the regional/state offices of federal agencies

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- Projects with a steering committee composed of local cooperators who are committed to working together to manage invasive and noxious plants across their jurisdictional boundaries
- Long-term weed management plans which are based on an integrated pest management approach using the principles of ecosystem management
- Inclusion of a public outreach and education component, as appropriate

The 2016 deadline for pre-proposals was August 3. Grants range from \$25,000 to \$200,000 and a 1:1 non-federal match is required.

### Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) Programs

<https://www.wcb.ca.gov/Programs>

The state WCB has several relevant programs, including its Riparian, Inland Wetlands, and Habitat Enhancement Restoration Programs.

#### Riparian Program Project Examples

- Restoration of riparian vegetation and re-establishing floodplain connectivity
- Removal of non-native invasive plant species to restore (actively or passively) native riparian vegetation
- Installation of fencing along the riparian corridor to manage livestock or wildlife and reduce impacts to streams or riparian vegetation
- Reconfigure degraded, incised, or undefined streams to restore natural hydrology and encourage reestablishment of native riparian habitat

#### Inland Wetland Project Examples

##### Acquisition Projects

- Fee simple acquisitions
- Acquisition of perpetual conservation easements to protect privately-owned wetlands, wildlife-friendly agricultural lands, or open space to buffer existing wetlands from urban or residential development
- Long-term acquisition of water for wetlands
- Leases from landowners for specified period

##### Restoration and Enhancement Projects

- Restore wetland habitat by constructing levees, swales, and islands; developing water conveyance and drainage systems; installing water control structures; establishing upland grasslands; or planting desirable vegetation
- Develop waterfowl-friendly agricultural practices by fencing upland grasslands and riparian habitats, encouraging wildlife-friendly grazing practices, and promoting winter flooding of croplands
- Develop infrastructure to provide water to wetlands or wildlife-friendly agricultural lands: build water delivery systems, develop new groundwater sources, and provide fish-friendly water diversions for wetlands

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### Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Project Examples

- Moss Landing Wildlife Area Wetland Restoration
- Salmon and steelhead restoration projects throughout the state
- Grasslands Regional Park Habitat Restoration
- San Pablo Bay Pepperweed Removal and Habitat Restoration
- Topanga State Park Rodeo Grounds Stream Restoration
- Dos Palmas Area Saltcedar Removal and Habitat Restoration
- Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area Wetland Restoration

The WCB programs emphasize partnerships and have a great deal of flexibility. Each program web page has a link to the program officer. Contact the program officer for information on how to submit an application and how to maximize your chance of obtaining funding. Eligible applicants include 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, local governmental agencies, state departments, and federal agencies. More information on the grant process can be found at: <https://www.wcb.ca.gov/Applications>.

The WCB meets four times a year, typically in February, May, August, and November. Processing time for applications can vary depending on completeness of the application, project benefits, and funding availability.

### **WCB CA Streamflow Enhancement Program**

<https://www.wcb.ca.gov/Programs/Stream-Flow-Enhancement>

This program allocates funds to projects that enhance stream flows, with an emphasis on providing and protecting enhanced stream flow, especially in those streams that support anadromous fish; special status, threatened, endangered, or at-risk species; or provide resilience to climate change. Projects must measurably enhance stream flows at a time and location necessary to provide fisheries or ecosystem benefits that improve upon existing flow conditions. Proposals must identify the stream(s), reaches of those stream(s), and the watershed(s) in which they are found.

Examples of project types include (see guidelines for full list):

- Water transactions (e.g., changes to a stream's hydrograph through lease, transfer, or seasonal exchange of water)
- Acquisition of water from willing sellers - permanent and long-term (not less than 20 years) dedications for the purpose of instream flow
- Acquisition of land or interests in land that provide direct and measurable enhancement of stream flow
- Habitat restoration projects (e.g., weed eradication, wet meadow restoration, restoration of entrenched streams, upper watershed restoration, or forest thinning) that reshape stream hydrograph
- Studies to evaluate instream flow needs, identify priority streams and watersheds, or evaluate habitat suitability and temperature needs
- Streamflow gauging

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- Water efficiency generally – irrigation efficiency and water infrastructure improvements (e.g., diversion, conveyance, and on-farm projects) that save water and enable reshaping of the stream hydrograph
- Reconnecting flood flows with restored flood plains

Funding can be used for planning, implementation, acquisition, studies, monitoring, and assessments.

- Implementation grants fund final design and construction of restoration and enhancement projects and new or enhanced facilities that will provide direct and measurable enhancement of stream flow. They are intended to support high-priority "shovel ready" projects that have advanced to the stage where planning, land tenure, and engineering are largely completed.
- Acquisition grants fund purchases of land, water rights, and interests in land or water that provide a direct and measurable enhancement of stream flow to support the goals of the grant program. Acquisitions must be from willing sellers and at a price that does not exceed fair market value.
- Planning, scientific studies, monitoring, and assessment grants fund specific activities necessary for the successful design, selection, and implementation of projects, such as preliminary design and environmental review, implementation strategies to develop future projects, assistance with the development of policy to guide decisions regarding future stream flow enhancement projects, and for the collection of baseline data to support effectiveness monitoring.

Eligible grantees are public agencies, nonprofit organizations, public utilities, federally recognized Indian tribes, state Indian tribes listed on the Native American Heritage Commission's California Tribal Consultation List, and mutual water companies.

Matching funds are not required, but leverage adds points in scoring. The deadlines are generally the end of August or September.

### California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Wetlands Restoration for Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction

<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Wetlands-Restoration>

The intent of this grant program is to contribute to the goals of Assembly Bill (AB) 32 and the California Water Action Plan while restoring or enhancing important wildlife and fish habitat (co-benefits). All proposed projects must outline plans to achieve net GHG reductions through restoration or enhancement of wetlands or mountain meadows, and be able to demonstrate how project success will be monitored and reported. Proposals must also consider if and how expected climatic changes in California may impact project planning, implementation, and long-term sustainability of the project investment. Projects may include planning, but must have an on-the-ground restoration component. Linkages to other restoration activities and co-benefits are a plus for scoring.

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Each proposal submitted for consideration must present a conceptual model that describes how the proposed restoration or enhancement activities are expected to result in net GHG reductions. The conceptual model should describe projected emissions and/or sequestration of relevant GHGs (i.e., carbon dioxide [CO<sub>2</sub>], methane [CH<sub>4</sub>], and nitrous oxide [N<sub>2</sub>O]), and how those are anticipated to change over time following implementation of the proposed project.

There is no minimum or maximum funding amount. Match is not required, though it adds to points. Grant period is five years. Entities eligible to apply for grants are limited to public agencies, recognized tribes, and qualified nonprofit organizations.

### **CDFW Proposition 1 Watershed Restoration and Delta Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration Grant Programs**

<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Watersheds/Restoration-Grants>

This listing covers two grant programs. The Watershed Restoration Grant Program focuses on watershed restoration and protection projects of statewide importance outside of the Delta, and the Delta Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration Grant Program focuses on water quality, ecosystem restoration, and fish protection facilities that benefit the Delta. Priorities include:

- Managing headwaters for multiple benefits
- Enhancing fish migration
- Restoring mountain meadow habitats
- Protecting, restoring, and enhancing water-dependent habitats for fish and wildlife

Funding is available for planning, implementation, and acquisition projects. There is also funding available specifically for scientific studies, monitoring, and assessment projects, but these funds will only be awarded under the Delta Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration Grant Program. However, the Watershed Restoration Grant Program may include scientific studies, monitoring, and assessment activities as part of the work plan.

Eligible applicants are limited to public agencies (state agencies or departments, special districts, joint powers authorities, counties, cities, or other political subdivisions of the state), nonprofit organizations, public utilities, federally recognized Indian tribes, state Indian tribes listed on the Native American Heritage Commission's California Tribal Consultation List, and mutual water companies. Federal agencies may not be applicants, but there does not appear to be a limitation against doing project work on federal lands. The applicant, however, must have site control of the property for at least 25 years.

Match is not required, but provides additional points. The deadline in 2016 was June 24.

### **California State Duck Stamp (CSDS) Projects for Waterfowl Conservation**

<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Grants/Duck-Stamp>

The purpose of this grant is protecting, preserving, restoring, enhancing, and developing migratory waterfowl breeding and wintering habitat; evaluating habitat projects; and conducting waterfowl resource assessments and other waterfowl-related research. The deadline for the

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2014-15 grant year was January 16, 2015. There is no stated maximum grant, but funding is limited by state Duck Stamp revenue, which was \$1.4 million in the most recent funding round.

The CSDS solicits proposals in November or December of each year based on approved needs, topics, or themes which address the goals and objectives of the program. It is suggested that interested groups contact the program officer for more information.

### Central Valley Project Conservation Program and Central Valley Project Improvement Act - Habitat Restoration Program

<http://www.usbr.gov/mp/cvpcp/>

This funding is for actions that will protect, restore, and enhance special-status species and their habitats affected by the Central Valley Project (CVP), with a special emphasis on federally listed species. Funding is for land acquisition, habitat restoration, or research.

The funding range is \$25,000 to \$1 million. There is no cost sharing requirement, but partnering (i.e., cost sharing provided by the entities, through cash or in-kind services, which are contributing towards the proposed project) is highly encouraged, and the level of partnering is considered during application evaluation.

Federally endangered and threatened species that have been impacted by the CVP have been rated “Low,” “Medium,” “High,” or “Very High,” and these priority ratings help determine selection of applications for funding. The CVP Priority Species rating is based on two factors: (a) the recovery priority assigned to the species, and (b) the extent to which that species is impacted, either directly or indirectly, from the CVP. A “Very High” rating means that the recovery priority for the species is rated high with an imminent threat of extinction, and CVP actions contributed significantly to the species decline, either directly or indirectly. A “High” rating means that the recovery priority for the species is high and CVP actions contributed significantly to the species decline, either directly or indirectly. In order for a project to be eligible for funding, at least one High or Very High rated species must benefit from the project. A spreadsheet showing the CVP Priority Species, their ratings, and other criteria may be found [here](#).

### Tribal Wildlife Grants

<http://www.fws.gov/nativeamerican/grants.html>

The goal of the Tribal Wildlife Grant Program is to develop and implement programs for the benefit of wildlife and their habitat, including species of Native American cultural or traditional importance and species that are not hunted or fished.

Tribal Wildlife Grants are used to provide technical and financial assistance to federally-recognized tribes for the development and implementation of programs that benefit fish and wildlife resources and habitat. Activities may include, but are not limited to, planning for wildlife and habitat conservation, fish and wildlife conservation and management actions, fish and wildlife-related laboratory and field research, natural history studies, management of invasive species, habitat mapping, field surveys and population monitoring, habitat preservation,

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conservation easements, and public education that is relevant to the project. The funds may be used for salaries, equipment, consultant services, subcontracts, acquisitions, and travel.

Grants are for up to \$200,000. No match is required, though leveraging of funds improves scoring. The 2016 deadline is September 2.

### CA Resources Agency Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program

[http://resources.ca.gov/bonds\\_and\\_grants/eemp/](http://resources.ca.gov/bonds_and_grants/eemp/)

The Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation (EEM) Program is designed to fund projects that contribute to mitigation of the environmental effects of transportation facilities. Eligible projects must be directly or indirectly related to the environmental impact of the modification of an existing transportation facility or construction of a new transportation facility. This means that the proposed project must be in the immediate vicinity or general area of work done on a public street, highway, mass transit guideway (trains, ports, light rail lines, city streets, airports, etc.) or their appurtenant features (park and ride facilities, high-occupancy vehicle lanes, transit stations, etc.). These are called Related Transportation Facilities (RTF). Not all road work qualifies; see the guidelines. Eligible RTFs can be identified by contacting the local city or county transportation department, regional transit agency, metropolitan transit authority, council of local governments, metropolitan planning organization, or Caltrans District Office. A lot of documentation will be needed from this transportation agency, so contact them early in the process.

Project categories are as follows:

- Urban forestry projects designed to offset vehicular emissions of carbon dioxide
- Resource lands projects for the acquisition or enhancement of resource lands to mitigate the loss of, or the detriment to, resource lands lying within or near the right-of-way acquired for transportation improvements
- Mitigation projects beyond the scope of the lead agency responsible for assessing the environmental impact of the proposed transportation improvement

The EEM Program encourages projects that produce multiple benefits which reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase water use efficiency, reduce risks from climate change impacts, and demonstrate collaboration with local, state and community entities. Environmental review must be complete for the proposed project, and final compliance documents submitted to the state with the grant application. Eligible applicants are local, state, and federal governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations.

The maximum grant is \$500,000. Match funding is not required, but contributes to the competitiveness of the project. The 2016 deadline was July 12.

### Environmental Enhancement Fund (EEF) Grant Program

<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/OSPR/Science/Environmental-Enhancement-Fund/About>

The purpose of this program is to support environmental enhancement projects located within or immediately adjacent to waters of the state. For the purposes of this program, California

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waters are defined as any surface water, including saline waters, marine waters, and freshwaters, within the boundaries of the state. Groundwater is not included as a surface water. Enhancement projects must benefit fish and wildlife and be designed to acquire, restore, or improve habitat quality and ecosystem function above baseline conditions. Projects must have measurable outcomes within a predetermined time frame.

The EEF grant program is administered by the CDFW's Office of Spill Prevention and Response, and is funded by fines levied on entities which release oil and other substances into the state waterways. The amount of funding available each year depends on the fines that are collected. In years when the available funds are modest, smaller requests are more competitive. It is a good idea to call the program contact and discuss the targeted range for grants.

Eligible applicants include nonprofit organizations, cities, counties, districts, state agencies, and federal agencies. The maximum grant is \$200,000 and no match is required.

### CA Department of Parks and Recreation – Habitat Conservation Fund

[http://www.parks.ca.gov/?Page\\_id=21361](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?Page_id=21361)

The Habitat Conservation Fund program allocates approximately \$2 million each year for grants to cities, counties, and districts. Projects include:

- Nature interpretation and other programs which bring urban residents into park and wildlife areas
- Programs which protect various plant and animal species
- Acquisition or development of wildlife corridors and trails

Eligible applicants are cities, counties, and districts (park and open space districts). Deadline is early October. A 1:1 match is required from local, private, non-state sources. Match funds must be committed at the time of the application and must be specifically for the project that is the subject of the grant.

There are several categories of funding, including deer and lion habitat, protected species habitat, anadromous salmonid and trout habitat, riparian habitat, wetlands, trails, and wildlife area activities. Funding can be for land acquisition, enhancement, restoration, trail development, or educational/interpretive activities, depending on the category of funding.

There is a requirement to use the CA Conservation Corps for restoration or trail-building activities if appropriate.

### CA Department of Parks and Recreation Land and Water Conservation Fund

[http://www.parks.ca.gov/?Page\\_id=21360](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?Page_id=21360)

Eligible projects include acquisition or development of outdoor recreation areas and facilities. Priority development projects include trails, campgrounds, picnic areas, natural areas, and cultural areas for recreational use.



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- Acquisition project (e.g., to create a new wildlife corridor)
- Development project (e.g., parking lots or restrooms)
- The application must be for either acquisition or development. Combination projects are not eligible.

Eligible applicants include cities, counties, and districts authorized to acquire, develop, operate, and maintain park and recreation areas. Property acquired or developed under the program must be maintained in perpetuity for public outdoor recreation use. This is a very difficult, technical application.

Grants are up to \$2 million, and a 1:1 match is required. The match may include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Funds from state local assistance programs
- Grantee's employee labor
- Local or private funds
- Gifts of real property, equipment, and consumable supplies
- Volunteer services directly related to project completion furnished by professional and technical personnel, consultants, and other skilled and unskilled labor
- Free or reduced-cost use of land, facilities, or equipment
- Bequests and income from wills, estates, and trusts

Due to the number of applications submitted for 2016 funding, the Department does not anticipate a 2017 solicitation for this grant. The funds will be used for 2016 applications that did not receive funding.

### CA Department of Parks and Recreation – Off Highway Vehicle Program

[http://ohv.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=1164](http://ohv.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=1164)

This program supports the planning, acquisition, development, maintenance, administration, operation, enforcement, restoration, and conservation of trails, trailheads, areas, and other facilities associated with the use of off-highway motor vehicles (OHVs), and programs involving OHV safety or education. Relevant activities that can be funded include:

- Ground operations - maintenance and/or conservation of facilities, compliance with soil standards and habitat mitigation plans, and protection of natural or cultural resources
- Restoration - provide ecological restoration or repair to habitat damaged by authorized or unauthorized OHV use. Restoration projects also include scientific and cultural studies regarding OHV impacts and restoration planning efforts.

Eligible Applicants by Project Types	Development	Ground Operations	Planning	Restoration
Cities and counties	X	X	X	X
U.S. Forest Service	X	X	X	X
U.S. Bureau of Land Management	X		X	X

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Other federal agencies	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
Federally recognized Native American tribes	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
Educational institutions				
Nonprofit organizations		<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>
State agencies				<b>X</b>
Districts	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>

The proposed activity must be directly related to OHV recreation. In general, the more robust the OHV opportunities (more diverse OHV options, more developed facilities, signage, education programs, monitoring and enforcement, etc.), the higher the application will score. A great deal of information is required about the OHV project and the information must be well-documented by reports, statistics, plans, studies, and other records maintained by the land management agency proposing the project. More points will be awarded for projects with multiple partners actively involved in the proposed work, and for projects with public input. Projects will also score higher if they are part of an existing land management plan or help implement such a plan.

A 25 percent match (cash or in-kind) is required. This can include volunteer services. A higher match brings in higher scores in the evaluation criteria. Eligible project costs are very broad – including basically any costs directly related to the work identified in the project description. Additionally, the applicant may receive reimbursement up to 15 percent of the requested amount for indirect costs.

### **Environmental Protection Agency Five Star Restoration Grant Program**

[http://water.epa.gov/grants\\_funding/wetlands/restore/index.cfm](http://water.epa.gov/grants_funding/wetlands/restore/index.cfm)

The Five Star Restoration Program brings together students, conservation corps, other youth groups, citizen groups, corporations, landowners, and government agencies to provide environmental education and training through projects that restore wetlands and streams. The program provides challenge grants, technical support, and opportunities for information exchange to enable community-based restoration projects. These are small grants (less than \$50,000) which are focused on education rather than restoration, but restoration projects have been funded. Eligible applicants include 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, state government agencies, local governments, municipal governments, Native American tribes, and educational institutions.

Competitive proposals should address each of the five priorities:

- On-the-ground restoration and planning
- Partnerships
- Environmental outreach, education, and training

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- Measurable results
- Sustainability

### National Forest Foundation (NFF) Matching Awards Program

<http://www.nationalforests.org/conserve/grantprograms/ontheground/map>

The NFF Matching Awards Program (MAP) is a grant program that provides matching funds for direct on-the-ground projects that have an immediate, quantifiable impact on America's National Forests and Grasslands. MAP supports the strategic focus areas of Forest Health and Outdoor Experiences.

Projects that fit into the Forest Health program area are results-oriented, on-the-ground, citizen-involved projects that maintain and/or restore forest resiliency by:

- Promoting forest structural complexity, function, and diversity over time
- Promoting forest health through the removal or control of non-native invasive species, and/or reintroduction of native plants and trees

Projects that are consistent with, or supportive of, large-scale conservation initiatives receive weighted advantage.

Projects that fit into the Outdoor Experiences program area are results-oriented, on-the-ground, projects that improve the quality, condition, and care of outdoor experiences on National Forests by one or more of the following:

- Improving or maintaining recreation resource connectivity including, and similar to, trail maintenance, bridge and crossing construction or repair, and installation of trail drainage structures
- Engaging youth, volunteers, or diverse, underserved or under-engaged populations in hands-on stewardship activities
- Employing youth and/or veterans crews to implement on-the-ground conservation, stewardship and/or restoration work

Outdoor Experiences projects that generate tangible conservation outcomes while enhancing high-quality recreational experiences for the users of the National Forest System receive weighted advantage. Funds cannot support improvements of hardened facilities, including campgrounds, parking lots, restrooms, visitor centers, and major signage. Forest health projects that are supportive of large-scale conservation initiatives receive weighted advantage.

Eligible applicants are 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations and Native American tribes working on or adjacent to National Forests and Grasslands throughout the U.S. Past awards range from \$500 to over \$100,000, with an average award of around \$25,000. Deadlines are twice a year in January and June.

### CA Department of Water Resources – Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Grants

<http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm/grants/index.cfm>

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While all of the Proposition 84 IRWM funding has been granted, Proposition 1 has allocated an additional \$510 million to the program. The guidelines for the new Proposition 1 grant program are being finalized during 2016. Make sure to check the web site for the most recent information.

IRWM grant applications must be approved by IRWM regions through the Regional Water Management Groups (RWMG) although they are submitted through individual agencies. In order to be approved, the proposed grant activity must be included in the IRWM Plan for that region. These Plans can be amended and modified by the RWMG. So if considering funding your project with IRWM funding, check the IRWM Plan for your region and if the project is not already part of the plan, take steps to have it added.

IRWM grants do not have a standard maximum amount; this is set in each solicitation. The general match requirement for a Proposition 1 grant is 50 percent, though that can be waived if the project addresses the needs of a disadvantaged community. Match must be from non-state sources.

The scope of IRWM grant projects is very large. Basically, they have to address statewide priorities, which are listed in the program solicitation. Eligible project types include removal of invasive non-native species, the creation and enhancement of wetlands, and the acquisition, protection, and restoration of open space and watershed lands.

### **Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) North America Program: Climate Adaptation Fund** <http://wscclimateadaptationfund.org/>

The WCS North America Program is dedicated to saving wildlife and wild places in North America. The WCS Climate Adaptation Fund, with funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, supports projects that demonstrate effective interventions for wildlife adaptation to climate change. Grants of \$50,000 to \$250,000 are provided to nonprofit conservation organizations for applied, on-the-ground projects focused on implementing priority conservation actions for climate adaptation at a landscape scale. A minimum 1:1 match is required, but some in-kind match is allowed. The Fund prioritizes projects that manage dynamic ecological processes, landscape functionality, and species assemblages, rather than those aimed at maintaining historic conditions or individual species. WCS prioritizes and evaluates projects based on their potential to communicate project results to others who might learn from and replicate similar adaptation actions. Project duration is limited to two years. Grants are provided to U.S.-based nonprofit conservation organizations for projects within the 50 states and six U.S. territories. WCS utilizes a two-step evaluation process: 1) an open call for pre-proposals, and 2) a larger full proposal invited from a select number of pre-proposal applicants. In 2016 pre-proposals were due April 8.

### **U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Programs**

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ca/programs/financial/>

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The NRCS has a [variety of programs](#) funding wetlands and riparian projects. These programs, and the funding authorized for them through the Farm Bill, change periodically. Usually they are cost-share programs focused on privately-owned land, though sometimes they can be applied to the watershed in general, particularly in emergency watershed restoration circumstances.

The most popular NRCS program is the [Environmental Quality Incentives Program](#) (EQIP), which provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers in order to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, reduced soil erosion and sedimentation, or improved or created wildlife habitat.

The funding opportunities can be accessed by talking to staff in your [local NRCS office](#).

### FOUNDATION FUNDING

#### Hind Foundation:

<http://www.hindfoundation.org/>

This is a standard foundation grant. The Hind Foundation has several areas of interest. The most relevant areas are ecosystem conservation and plant and wildlife protection. The definitions from the web site are as follows:

- Ecosystem Conservation - Abundant plant and wildlife populations are dependent on the ecosystems in which they live. Today, these essential habitats – made up of wetlands, estuaries, watersheds, and other sensitive areas – cannot be sustained on their own.

The Ecosystem Conservation program funds projects and programs that focus on the enhancement of habitats in which plants and wildlife thrive. Proper conservation and restoration of ecosystems can only be accomplished when like-minded organizations work together for this common goal.

- Plant and Wildlife Protection - Today's plants and wildlife are confronted with greater challenges than ever before. As a nation, stewardship of their populations and habitat is critical to the survival of all species.

The Plant and Wildlife Protection program funds private organizations that desire to see plants and wildlife flourish, and that work for the protection and conservation of endangered and threatened species.

Grants seem to be in the range of \$100,000. There is an on-line application process. Applicants must be 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organizations, must receive the majority of their funding support from our local community, must hold or sponsor at least one fundraising event annually, and must have been in operation for more than one year. The foundation prefers to fund organizations that have raised most of the funding needed to complete the project.

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This grant has no deadline; the foundation accepts applications July 1 – June 30 until it runs out of funds.

### Patagonia Foundation

<http://www.patagonia.com/us/patagonia.go?assetid=2942>

Patagonia funds environmental work, specifically for organizations that identify and work on the root causes of problems and that approach issues with a commitment to long-term change and a strong base of citizen support. The foundation focuses on small, grassroots, activist organizations with provocative direct-action agendas, working on multi-pronged campaigns to preserve and protect the environment. One priority area grants is protecting and restoring native fish populations and the habitat on which they depend.

The Foundation accepts one proposal per group, per fiscal year (May 1 – April 30). The typical grant range is up to \$12,000. Deadlines are April 30 and August 31.

### Bella Vista Foundation

<http://www.pfs-llc.net/foundations/bella-vista-foundation>

Under the Ecosystem Restoration Grant program, the foundation focuses on protecting, restoring, and revitalizing high-priority watershed ecosystems in California and Oregon. Within these watersheds, the priorities are promoting the sustainable management of forest and agricultural land, revitalizing streams, and restoring riparian areas, with the goal of enhancing and maintaining self-sustaining watershed ecosystems. Target watersheds in the Sierra Nevada include the Truckee River watershed, Yuba/Bear/American Rivers, and the North Fork Feather River watershed.

The Foundation targets projects that:

- Incorporate environmental, economic, and social equity factors because solutions that merge these factors tend to have long-term success
- Preserve and build natural capital by consuming the growth of the environmental resource, rather than the resource itself
- Support creative solutions to revitalization and restoration that have the potential to serve as models for similar projects
- Engage in projects that are part of a cluster of projects in a given watershed, involving one or more organizations over time. The Foundation believes this clustering of support at the watershed level will result in stronger partnerships and a greater impact in the long term.
- Foster collaborative partnerships even among groups with divergent interests
- Fund activities that governmental agencies do not normally fund

The Foundation considers it a strong positive if a project has broad-based community involvement (financial support, volunteer support, and in-kind donations, etc.).

The Foundation will fund strong restoration projects that have an environmental education component, but only if the restoration is the main focus and is part of a longer term restoration

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program or plan. The Foundation will consider projects that include acquisition and restoration, but acquisition funding does not include fee title.

No specific match is required, but the foundation strongly prefers not to be the sole or primary source of funding.

### **Nature's Path EnviroKidz Giving Back Program**

<http://us.envirokidz.com/about/giving-back-program>

The mission of the Nature's Path EnviroKidz Giving Back Program is to empower the children of today to change their present and future world and to protect endangered species and environments. The program provides grants of up to \$20,000 to nonprofit organizations in the U.S. and Canada that address one of the following project action areas: wildlife and endangered species conservation, habitat restoration and conservation, education of children and youth about environment issues, and helping at-risk kids through environmental or conservation-based programming. Funded projects must be run through or in partnership with a K-12 school/classroom, or the project must work directly with school-aged youth in the community. The application deadline is generally December or January. Visit the Nature's Path web site to review the application guidelines.

### **Kern Community Foundation**

[http://www.kernfoundation.org/index.php?page\\_id=99](http://www.kernfoundation.org/index.php?page_id=99)

The relevant program is the Upper Kern Fisheries Enhancement Fund, a grantmaking initiative that supports conservation projects in the Upper Kern River Basin. It was established in 2005 as a requirement of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's relicensing of Southern California Edison's Kern River Number 3 Hydroelectric Project. The specific purpose of the Fund is to grant dollars to projects that support three priorities:

- Implementation of the Upper Kern Basin Fishery Management Plan
- Restoration of the native Kern River rainbow trout
- Other enhancement of fisheries resources in the Upper Kern Basin

Funding amounts vary yearly. See the web site for application deadlines.

### **Sierra Fund**

<http://www.sierrafund.org/>

The Sierra Fund's mission is to increase and organize investment in protecting and restoring the natural resources and communities of the Sierra Nevada Region. The Sierra Fund serves two roles in the Region:

- As a community foundation, it provides philanthropic services to donors and organizations.
- It identifies and initiates critically needed programs in the Region. Currently, its main program is a 'Reclaiming the Sierra' initiative, which works to address the legacy of historic mining in California.

For more information, contact the Sierra Fund: <http://www.sierrafund.org/contact-us/>