



**Funding Research Memo:
Riparian, Meadow, and Aquatic Habitat Restoration**

Last updated: February 2017

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.

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
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service North American Wetlands Conservation Act Programs	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
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for Fish and Wildlife Endangered Species Program	Cost-share reimbursements depend on project.	Private landowners conserving habitat for rare, declining, or protected species	Ongoing	Discuss with field staff.
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Sacramento District In-Lieu Fee Program	No match required, but cost-effectiveness is a factor	On-the-ground wetland and/or water restoration, establishment, and/or enhancement	Ongoing	Acquisition, project planning, project implementation, management, monitoring, and maintenance

Funding Research Memo: Riparian, Meadow, and Aquatic Habitat Restoration

Last updated: February 2017

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National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Bring Back the Natives/More Fish	\$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
NFWF – Sierra Nevada Meadow Restoration	Not stated. 1:1 match is preferred.	Implement Sierra Meadow Restoration Business Plan	December	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
Wildlife Conservation Board CA Streamflow Enhancement Program	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	Planning, implementation, acquisition, monitoring, assessment, and scientific studies. Planning funding can include environmental review.
CA Department of Fish and Wildlife Wetlands Restoration for Greenhouse Gas Reduction	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

Funding Research Memo: Riparian, Meadow, and Aquatic Habitat Restoration

Last updated: February 2017

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CA Department of Fish and Wildlife Proposition 1 Watershed Restoration and Delta Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration Grant Programs	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.	No Request for Proposals (RFP) anticipated for 2017	Planning, implementation, acquisition, and scientific studies/monitoring/assessments Indirect costs not to exceed 20% Planning grants can include funding for environmental review.
Environmental Enhancement Fund Grant Program	\$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.	No RFP is anticipated for 2017.	Projects can acquire, restore, or improve habitat, water quality, and ecosystem function above baseline conditions.
Urban Rivers Grant Program	No minimum or maximum. No match required.	Funding for multi-benefit watershed and urban rivers enhancement projects in urban watersheds, with the goal of increasing regional and local water self-sufficiency	October	Projects can be acquisition or development but not both. Eligible development costs include project management, personnel or employee services, labor and construction activities, etc. Eligible acquisition costs include the purchase price of the property, appraisals, surveys, and other fees. Direct staff and consultant costs are limited to \$10,000 per grant.
California Duck Stamp Projects for Waterfowl Conservation	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).

Funding Research Memo: Riparian, Meadow, and Aquatic Habitat Restoration

Last updated: February 2017

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Bureau of Reclamation/ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Central Valley Project Conservation Program and Central Valley Project Improvement Act Habitat Restoration Program	\$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	Funding is for land acquisition, habitat restoration, or research in the areas impacted by the Central Valley Project. See http://www.usbr.gov/mp/cvpcp/species/index.html for priority species list.
CA Resources Agency Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program	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.
CA Dept. of Parks and Recreation Habitat Conservation Fund	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.
CA Dept. of Parks and Recreation Land and Water Conservation Fund	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

Funding Research Memo: Riparian, Meadow, and Aquatic Habitat Restoration

Last updated: February 2017

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CA Dept. of Parks and Recreation off-highway vehicle (OHV) Grants	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
State Water Resources Control Board 319(h) Nonpoint Source Grants	\$250,000 – \$750,000. 25% match required, but may be waived for disadvantaged communities.	Addresses nonpoint source water pollution. Provides restoration funding for waterbodies that are impaired and have established Total Maximum Daily Loads as targeted by the 319(h) program. These priorities are listed in the grant guidelines.	September	Implementation projects may include project-level planning, design, construction, construction management, implementation, and monitoring.
Non-Point Source Grant Program - Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Funds	Grants range from \$250,000 to \$1 million. A 25% match is required.	Implements forest management measures to improve water quality on forest lands within the State Responsibility Area	September	Eligible forest management measures include streamside management areas, road reconstruction and management, timber harvesting, revegetation, wetlands management, outreach and education, etc.
Department of Water Resources Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Grants	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. Different solicitations fund planning and implementation projects. There is also a special program to fund the involvement of disadvantaged communities.

Funding Research Memo: Riparian, Meadow, and Aquatic Habitat Restoration

Last updated: February 2017

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U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Watershed and Wetlands Programs	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: http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=CA .
Environmental Protection Agency/NFWF 5 Star Restoration	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
National Forest Foundation Matching Awards Program	\$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
Hind Foundation	Up to \$100,000. Preference for projects with most of the funding in place.	Ecosystem conservation and plant and wildlife protection	Ongoing	Project implementation
Patagonia Foundation	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.
Bella Vista Foundation	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
Kern Community Foundation	Depends on yearly funding	Restoring fish populations in Upper Kings River Basin	See web site.	Planning, assessment, research, monitoring, etc.

Funding Research Memo: Riparian, Meadow, and Aquatic Habitat Restoration
Last updated: February 2017

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Sierra Fund				No grant programs, but can act as fiscal sponsor for project related to their mission. Particularly interested in the impacts of abandoned mines on water quality. Call program officer for more information. http://www.sierrafund.org/contact-us/ .



Funding Research Memo: Riparian, Meadow, and Aquatic Habitat Restoration

Last updated: February 2017

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: 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 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 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. Eligible projects 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.

Funding Research Memo: Riparian, Meadow, and Aquatic Habitat Restoration
Last updated: February 2017

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 their 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 Service biologist to develop a project plan addressing the goals and objectives of the landowner and the Service 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.

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's (NFWF) Sacramento District In-Lieu Fee Program

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

The NFWF Sacramento District In-Lieu Fee Program (ILF Program) currently has \$10 million available for wetland and stream restoration projects in the ILF Program Area, which generally includes the California Central Valley, Sierra Foothills, and Sierra Nevada. ILF Projects must generally provide on-the-ground wetland and/or waters restoration (re-establishment or rehabilitation), establishment (creation), and/or enhancement. However, in certain circumstances acquisition and preservation projects may be acceptable, particularly in cases of difficult-to-replace resources such as fens and vernal pools. Applications are currently being accepted on a rolling basis; however, check the ILF Program web site for the most up-to-date information and deadlines. Eligible applicants include nonprofit organizations, federal government agencies, state government agencies, local governments, municipal governments, Indian tribal entities, educational institutions, and private businesses.

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.

Funding Research Memo: Riparian, Meadow, and Aquatic Habitat Restoration
Last updated: February 2017

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 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

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 meadow 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.

Wildlife Conservation Board CA Stream Flow 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.

Funding Research Memo: Riparian, Meadow, and Aquatic Habitat Restoration
Last updated: February 2017

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
- 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. 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 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.

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 [CO₂], methane [CH₄], and nitrous oxide [N₂O]) and how those are anticipated to change over time following implementation of the proposed project.

Funding Research Memo: Riparian, Meadow, and Aquatic Habitat Restoration
Last updated: February 2017

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

This program relies on an allocation from GHG reduction funds. There have been no recent allocations and no solicitation is anticipated in 2017, but it is worth checking in periodically to see if the program has been re-funded.

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. 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. Funding is also 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 do not appear to be limited against doing project work on federal lands. The applicant, however, must have site control of the property for at least 25 years.

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

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,

Funding Research Memo: Riparian, Meadow, and Aquatic Habitat Restoration

Last updated: February 2017

California 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. No request for proposals is anticipated for 2017.

Urban Rivers Grant Program

<http://resources.ca.gov/grants/california-urban-rivers/>

Projects must be multi-benefit watershed and urban rivers enhancement projects in urban watersheds, with the goal of increasing regional and local water self-sufficiency. Projects must meet at least **two** of the following five statutory objectives:

- Promote groundwater recharge and water reuse
- Reduce energy consumption
- Use soils, plants, and natural processes to treat runoff
- Create or restore native habitat
- Increase regional and local resiliency and adaptability to climate change

Projects must also be located in an urban area, as designated or defined by an applicable plan, such as a general or community plan. At least 25 percent of the program funds available will be allocated for projects that benefit disadvantaged communities. Projects may be either acquisition or development, but not both. There is no minimum or maximum grant and no match is required, though leverage provides additional points.

The 2016 deadline was October 3.

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 is usually in January. There is no stated maximum grant, but funding is limited

Funding Research Memo: Riparian, Meadow, and Aquatic Habitat Restoration
Last updated: February 2017

by the 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., cash or in-kind services provided by the entities that 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. Further information about the ratings may be found [here](#). A spreadsheet showing the CVP Priority Species, their ratings, and other criteria may be found [here](#).

CA Resources Agency Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program

<http://resources.ca.gov/grants/environmental-enhancement-and-mitigation-eem/>

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

Funding Research Memo: Riparian, Meadow, and Aquatic Habitat Restoration
Last updated: February 2017

(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:

- 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. Matching funding is not required, but contributes to the competitiveness of the project. The 2016 deadline was July 12.

CA Department of Parks and Recreation – Habitat Conservation Fund
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 that 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). The deadline is early October. A 1:1 match is required from local, private, non-state sources. Matching 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,

Funding Research Memo: Riparian, Meadow, and Aquatic Habitat Restoration
Last updated: February 2017

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

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.

- Acquisition project (e.g., to create a new wildlife corridor)
- Development project (e.g., parking lots or restrooms)
- The application must only be for 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; 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 and 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

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.

Funding Research Memo: Riparian, Meadow, and Aquatic Habitat Restoration
Last updated: February 2017

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 and/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 Type	Ground Operations	Planning	Restoration
Cities and counties	X	X	X
U.S. Forest Service	X	X	X
U.S. Bureau of Land Management		X	X
Other federal agencies	X	X	X
Federally recognized Native American tribes	X	X	X
Educational institutions			
Nonprofit organizations	X		X
State agencies			X
Districts	X	X	X

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 also 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 – 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.

State Water Resources Control Board 319(h) Nonpoint Source Grant Program
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/nps/solicitation_notice.shtml

The California Nonpoint Source (NPS) Program allocates funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to support implementation and planning projects that address water quality problems in surface and ground water resulting from NPS

Funding Research Memo: Riparian, Meadow, and Aquatic Habitat Restoration
Last updated: February 2017

pollution¹. The goal of these projects is to ultimately lead to restoring the impacted beneficial uses in these water bodies. Projects are required to be located in a watershed that has an adopted or nearly adopted Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the constituent of concern and that has been identified in the NPS Program Preferences. These priority watersheds and problems are listed in the grant guidelines.

Eligible projects may include project-level planning, design, construction, construction management, implementation, and monitoring to implement full-scale on-the-ground management measures and practices. Outreach and education is also eligible. Grants range from \$250,000 to \$750,000. All grants require a minimum 25 percent match (individual septic system upgrades require a match of 75 percent).

The solicitation process is conducted in two phases: Concept Proposal and Full Proposal. The two-phase process takes approximately ten months. Typically, the solicitation process for a §319(h) grant runs from August (of the previous year) through May of the following year.

Eligible applicants include local public agencies, public agencies, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, federally recognized Native American tribes, state agencies, public colleges, and federal agencies. Applicants must work with the appropriate Regional Water Board grant contact when developing their proposals. Grant contacts are identified in the Grant Program Guidelines.

Non-Point Source (NPS) Grant Program - Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Funds

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/nps/grant_program.shtml

In addition to the general non-point source 319(h) funding, the state in 2016 appropriated funding for the Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund (Timber Fund) to fund existing restoration grant programs. The Timber Fund funds projects that implement forest management measures on forest lands to improve water quality. These forest management measures include streamside management areas, road reconstruction and management, timber harvesting, revegetation, wetlands management, outreach and education, etc. The projects must be within the State Responsibility Area. Project proposals must address one or more of the NPS program preferences provided in the grant guidelines, which target areas where surface and groundwater quality has been significantly impacted by non-point source contamination. The minimum funding amount is \$250,000 and the maximum is \$1 million. A 25 percent match is required.

¹ Unlike pollution from industrial and sewage treatment plants (point sources), nonpoint source (NPS) pollution comes from many diffuse sources. NPS pollution is caused by rainfall or snowmelt moving over and through the ground. As the runoff moves, it picks up and carries away natural and human-made pollutants, finally depositing them into lakes, rivers, wetlands, coastal waters and ground waters. See <http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/whatis.cfm>.

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

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

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 implementation grants are expected to be released in early 2017. 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, a 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. Matching funds 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.

U.S. Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Programs

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

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. You can find more information on programs [here](#).

The most popular NRCS program is the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). EQIP 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. More on EQIP can be found [here](#).

Funding Research Memo: Riparian, Meadow, and Aquatic Habitat Restoration
Last updated: February 2017

The funding opportunities can be accessed by talking to staff in the local NRCS offices. To find your local office, go to <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=CA>.

Environmental Protection Agency Five Star Restoration Grant Program
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) that 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
- Measurable results
- Sustainability

FOUNDATION FUNDING

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 at least one of the following means:

- 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 at least one of the following:

Funding Research Memo: Riparian, Meadow, and Aquatic Habitat Restoration
Last updated: February 2017

- 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.

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.

Our Ecosystem Conservation program funds projects and programs that focus on the enhancement of habitats in which plants and wildlife thrive. We know that proper conservation and restoration of our 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, our stewardship of their populations and habitat is critical to the survival of all species.

Our Plant and Wildlife Protection program funds private organizations that desire to see plant 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 online application process. Applicants must be 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, must receive the majority of their

Funding Research Memo: Riparian, Meadow, and Aquatic Habitat Restoration
Last updated: February 2017

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.

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. From their web site:

We support small, grassroots, activist organizations with provocative direct-action agendas, working on multi-pronged campaigns to preserve and protect our environment. We help local groups working to protect local habitat, and think the individual battles to protect a specific stand of forest, stretch of river, or indigenous wild species are the most effective in raising more complicated issues – particularly those of biodiversity and ecosystem protection – in the public mind. We look for innovative groups that produce measurable results, and we like to support efforts that force the government to abide by its own – our own – laws. Your efforts should be quantifiable, with specific goals, objectives, and action plans, and should include measures for evaluating success. Because we're a privately held company, we have the freedom to fund groups off the beaten track, and that's where we believe our small grants are most effective. We support the use of creative methods to engage communities to take action, including film, photography, and books. However, media projects will only be successful in our proposal process if they are tightly linked to a direct-action campaign on the issue, with specific goals that go beyond education and awareness.

One priority area for Patagonia grants is protecting and restoring native fish populations and the habitat on which they depend. Our World Trout Initiative addresses this.

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

Funding Research Memo: Riparian, Meadow, and Aquatic Habitat Restoration
Last updated: February 2017

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, the 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 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.

Kern Community Foundation

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.

Funding Research Memo: Riparian, Meadow, and Aquatic Habitat Restoration
Last updated: February 2017

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/>