

Funding Healthy Watershed Protection 2014

USFWS

- **North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) Standard Grants Program**
 - Protects and restores habitat for wetland associated migratory birds like waterfowl
 - Proposals due in March and July
 - Fee or easement
 - \$1 million per grant
 - Need large acreage to be competitive - at least 700 acres
 - Requires large wetland component (at least 1/3)
 - Need 2:1 non-federal to federal match to be competitive
 - <http://www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/Grants/NAWCA>
- **North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) Small Grants Program**
 - Protects and restores habitat for wetland associated migratory birds like waterfowl
 - Proposals due in November
 - Fee or easement
 - \$100,000 per grant
 - Need 1:1 non-federal to federal match
 - <http://www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/Grants/NAWCA>
- **National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program**
 - Protects and restores wetlands and adjacent uplands in tidal coastal areas
 - Grants must go to states
 - Proposals due in June
 - Fee or easement
 - \$1 million per grant
 - Requires large wetland component (at least 1/3)
 - Project must be in tidal zone of a watershed
 - Need 25% non-federal match in Maryland and Virginia
 - <http://www.fws.gov/coastal/CoastalGrants>
- **Endangered Species Section 6 Recovery Land Acquisition Grant Program**
 - Protects Habitat for Federally-listed threatened and endangered species
 - Grants must go to states
 - Time of year varies
 - Fee or easement
 - \$1 million per grant, sometimes more
 - Must benefit a federally-listed species
 - Need 25% non-federal match
 - <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/grants>
- **Refuge Funding**

- Patuxent National Wildlife Refuge Acquisition Boundary expanded to 800,000 acres
- USFWS must first complete a Land Protection Plan sometime in 2015
- Fee or easement
- Target watersheds include the Patuxent River, South and Severn River Headwaters, Mattawoman Creek, Nanjemoy Creek with Potomac Shoreline, Zekiah Swamp, and McIntosh Run

State of Maryland

- **MD DNR Program Open Space**
 - Conservation Easements and Fee Simple
 - **Stateside** – Funds projects in Targeted Ecological Areas (TEA; see www.greenprint.maryland.gov for interactive map with TEAs)
 - **Local side** – Provides Funds to local communities to purchase land for outdoor recreation and open space
 - www.dnr.maryland.gov/land
- **MD DNR Rural Legacy Program**
 - Protects natural, cultural, agricultural, and forest resources
 - Conservation Easements and Fee Simple
 - Must be located in a Rural Legacy Area (Map available on MD DNR website)
 - www.dnr.maryland.gov/land
- **MDA Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation**
 - Purchases Easements on Prime Farmland & Woodland
 - www.malpf.info

Farm Bill

- **Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) – www.nrcs.usda.gov/farmbill**
 - **Agricultural Land Easements (ALE)** – Formerly FRPP and GRP; Protects Working Farms by paying up to 50% of easement value (75% for grasslands of special significance)
 - **Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE)** – Formerly WRP; Protects wetlands and upland buffers and restores wetlands on farms; Pays 100% of perpetual easement value and 75% of restoration costs (30-year easements pay 50 to 75% of easement value and restoration costs)

Forest Legacy

- Federal program in partnership with states to protect environmentally sensitive forest
- Focus on protecting land that is at least 75% forested in designated Forest Legacy Areas (FLAs) using conservation easements or fee-simple purchase (see <http://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/forestlegacy.asp> for a map of the FLAs)
- Forest Legacy Areas were determined to have some of the highest economic and environmental values
- Contact: tculbreth@dnr.state.md.us

Section 319 Clean Water Act

- Non-Point Source Management Program

- EPA grants to states
- Funds can be used to purchase conservation easements
- Grantees must show how project reduces nutrient and sediment loads to water bodies
- **Ten watersheds in Maryland are currently eligible:** Antietam Creek, Casselman River, Corsica River, Lower Jones Falls, Lower Monocacy River, Sassafras River, Spring Branch, Tidal Back River, Upper Back River, Upper Choptank River
- Watersheds must have an EPA-approved watershed plan
- More Information: eric.ruby@maryland.gov

NFWF

- Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund
 - Small Watershed Grants \$20,000 to \$200,000
 - Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Grants \$200,000 to \$500,000
 - Requires 1:1 non-federal match
 - Awards funds to many organizational categories (NGOs, academic, state, local)
 - Current RFP Due: May 15, 2014
 - 9 Conservation and restoration objectives including - preserving forests, riparian corridors, wetlands, and farmland

CELCP

- Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) – NOAA
www.coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/land
 - Provides funds to state and local governments to protect coastal and estuarine habitat
 - Fee-title acquisition to be held by state or local government
 - Requires 1:1 federal to non-federal match
 - Must be located in one of the 16 state-designated coastal counties and Baltimore City
 - Must have high ecological value
 - Must allow public access
 - Contact: cmccall@dnr.state.md.us

Other

- Counties
- Conservation NGOs (TNC, ESLC)
- Chesapeake Bay Funders Network – www.chesbayfunders.org
 - Check this website for a list of potential additional funders
- Chesapeake Bay Trust - www.cbtrust.org

More Info

Daniel Murphy - Chief, Division of Habitat Conservation, USFWS Chesapeake Bay Field Office, Annapolis, MD, 21401; (410) 573-4521; dan_murphy@fws.gov