

CHAPTER 5

CONSERVE WILDLIFE MATCHING
GRANTS PROGRAM

Authority

N.J.S.A. 39:3-33.11.

Source and Effective Date

R.2001 d.344, effective September 17, 2001.
See: 32 N.J.R. 3517(a), 33 N.J.R. 3349(b).

Chapter Expiration Date

Chapter 5, Conserve Wildlife Matching Grants Program, expires on September 17, 2006.

Chapter Historical Note

Chapter 5, Office of Environmental Services Matching Grants Program for Local Environmental Agencies, was adopted as R.1990 d.577, effective November 19, 1990. See: 22 N.J.R. 2392(a), 22 N.J.R. 3505(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 5, Office of Environmental Services Matching Grants Program for Local Environmental Agencies, was readopted as R.1995 d.646, effective November 16, 1995, and Appendix A, Model Resolution Recommending Approval of Application for Funding Under the OES Matching Grant Program, was repealed by R.1995 d.646, effective December 18, 1995. See: 27 N.J.R. 3264(a), 27 N.J.R. 5014(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 5, Office of Environmental Services Matching Grants Program for Local Environmental Agencies, was readopted as R.2000 d.498, effective November 16, 2000, and Chapter 5, Office of Environmental Services Matching Grants Program for Local Environmental Agencies, was recodified as N.J.A.C. 7:6 by R.2000 d.498, effective December 18, 2000. See: 32 N.J.R. 3520(a), 32 N.J.R. 4446(a).

Chapter 5, Conserve Wildlife Matching Grants Program, was adopted as new rules by R.2001 d.344, effective September 17, 2001. See: Source and Effective Date.

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SUBCHAPTER 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

7:5-1.1 Scope and authority

This chapter constitutes the rules of the Division of Fish and Wildlife in the Department of Environmental Protection for the Conserve Wildlife Matching Grant Program for nonprofit organizations in accordance with N.J.S.A. 39:3-33.11 et seq. The Conserve Wildlife Matching Grant Program shall be administered through the Endangered and Nongame Species Program within the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

7:5-1.2 Construction

This chapter shall be liberally construed to allow the Department to fully effectuate the purposes of the Act.

7:5-1.3 Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

“Act” means P.L. 1993, c.119 as amended by P.L. 1995, c.241, N.J.S.A. 39:3-33.11 et seq.

“Applicant” means the nonprofit organization that submits an application for a matching grant in accordance with this chapter.

“Commissioner” means the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection.

“Department” means the Department of Environmental Protection.

“Division” means the Division of Fish and Wildlife in the Department.

“ENSP” means the Endangered and Nongame Species Program in the Division.

“Grant” means a grant awarded pursuant to the Act and this chapter.

“Grant agreement” means a document executed by the Department and the grant recipient that provides grant assistance in an amount and for a project approved by the ENSP.

"Grantee" means an applicant that has received a grant pursuant to P.L. 1995, c.241 and this chapter and that has fully executed a grant agreement document.

"In-kind support" means salary, fringe benefits and materials used only for the purpose of carrying out an approved project.

"Nongame wildlife" means any wildlife for which a legal hunting or trapping season has not been established by the New Jersey Fish and Game Council.

"Nonprofit organization" means an organization with an Internal Revenue Service 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) exemption.

"Program" means the Conserve Wildlife Matching Grant Program.

7:5-1.4 Severability

If any section, subsection, provision, clause or portion of this chapter is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this chapter shall not be affected thereby.

SUBCHAPTER 2. ELIGIBILITY FOR CONSERVE WILDLIFE MATCHING GRANTS

7:5-2.1 Eligible applicants

Any nonprofit organization as defined at N.J.A.C. 7:5-1.3 shall be eligible to submit an application for Conserve Wildlife matching grants.

7:5-2.2 Eligible projects

(a) Projects eligible to qualify for a grant through the Conserve Wildlife Matching Grants Program shall benefit New Jersey's nongame wildlife through education, outreach, research, conservation, species protection or habitat management or a combination of these. Eligible projects may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Education/outreach projects, such as classroom wildlife programs, interpretive signage or public outreach programs;
2. Research projects, such as animal surveys or censuses, habitat monitoring or public attitude surveys;
3. Management projects, such as habitat development, improvement or restoration; or
4. Habitat protection projects, such as establishing and maintaining urban wildlife corridors or wardening sensitive wildlife breeding areas.

(b) Grant funding shall be expended only on projects located in New Jersey.

(c) Projects shall be completed within one year of notification of grant approval and a final project report shall be submitted to the ENSP at the completion of the project. The project report shall include, but not be limited to, a description of the final product as described in the scope of work, any documentation supporting the completion of the grant project (that is, photographs, newspaper articles), the manner in which the funds were expended and all associated receipts.

SUBCHAPTER 3. ALLOCATION OF CONSERVE WILDLIFE MATCHING GRANT FUNDING

7:5-3.1 Funding availability

The Department shall express its intent to fund a project through a letter of award to the applicant. Funding is guaranteed only after a project agreement has been executed by the Department and funds are subsequently obligated by the Department to the nonprofit organization for a particular project.

7:5-3.2 Ranking of grant applications

(a) Each year, available Conserve Wildlife matching grant funds shall, for the purpose of determining priority for funding, be ranked on the basis of the degree to which the proposed project:

1. Has the broad support of local or county agencies, civic groups, etc. Letters of endorsement may be submitted to ENSP as evidence of such support;
2. Is responsive to regional as well as local needs;
3. Conforms to project criteria;
4. Shall raise awareness of the public's responsibility to actively conserve wildlife; and
5. Demonstrates a strong likelihood of tangible results.

7:5-3.3 Grant amount

The minimum matching grant shall be \$1,000; the maximum matching grant shall be \$3,500. The contribution by the ENSP shall not exceed 50 percent of the cost of an eligible project that qualifies for funding under the Act and this chapter.

7:5-3.4 Grant payment

The entire grant amount shall be released to the grantee in one sum following receipt and acceptance by ENSP of all agreed upon work product of a project, and upon compliance with all terms of the grant agreement required under N.J.A.C. 7:5-4.3.