



THE STATE OF ARIZONA
GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

5000 W. CAREFREE HIGHWAY
PHOENIX, AZ 85086-5000
(602) 942-3000 • WWW.AZGFD.GOV

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July 24, 2009

Dear Partner in Bird Conservation:

The Arizona Bird Conservation Initiative (ABCI) is pleased to announce the availability of State funds for bird conservation work, and hereby requests project proposals.

Proposals should address any one of these three areas;

- Specific priority actions as identified in the Arizona Partners in Flight Bird Conservation Plan (APIF Plan). The APIF Plan identifies priority species and habitats, and establishes objectives for bird populations and habitats in Arizona. It also delineates specific areas of concern for management, inventory/monitoring, research, and education.
- Conservation actions to address stressors of Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) classified as Tier 1a or 1b in the State's Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). These tier 1 species are designated to have the highest priority for conservation management.
- Priority conservation objectives of any of the four major bird initiatives (encompassed within the North American Bird Conservation Initiative) and/or the regional joint venture plans (Sonoran and Intermountain West).

The following guidelines are important to consider when preparing the project proposal.

1. Projects must address priority bird species and/or priority habitats, as provided in the APIF Plan or SWAP (or secondarily, other regional/national initiatives), and must have a demonstrable benefit to birds in the state of Arizona. Projects proposed seeking to implement conservation actions for priority birds and/or priority habitats should fall into the following basic categories:

Habitat Restoration and Enhancement: These projects should be conducted to restore or enhance habitat(s).

Monitoring: These projects should be conducted to determine current bird distribution, long term population trends, seasonal bird habitat associations and/or to evaluate the effects of land management actions.

Projects that contribute to the Survey Design and Implementation of the Arizona Coordinated Bird Monitoring Program are also encouraged.

ABCI Request for Proposals Announcement

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Projects must identify how the monitoring data collected will be incorporated into a National database (i.e., Avian Knowledge Network, eBird, etc.) to contribute to understanding the patterns and dynamics of bird populations across the Western Hemisphere.

Education and Outreach: These projects should promote education/outreach activities and educational materials that heighten general public awareness of birds and their habitats.

Research: These projects should be conducted to facilitate adaptive management.

2. Projects will be evaluated using several ranking factors as discussed in the Project Ranking Factors Sheet (page 1 of application package).
3. Funding source, State funds; up to \$70,000.00 may be allocated (subject to funds availability). Multiple awards may be made. Projects may be partially funded.
4. Application must be submitted electronically to ejvarez@azgfd.gov by **14 September 2009**, and a signed hard copy sent by regular mail (or Fax: 623-236-7926) to:

Edwin Juarez
ABCI Coordinator
Arizona Game and Fish Department/WMNG
5000 W. Carefree Hwy.
Phoenix, AZ 85086

5. We anticipate the announcement of the awards will be made in mid October, 2009.
6. Note: All information in project application other than applicant's name will remain confidential during the evaluation process. Once grants are awarded, the applications will become available for public inspection. Trade secrets or other proprietary information will remain confidential even after grants are awarded.

Thank you for your interest in bird conservation in Arizona.

Sincerely,



Edwin Juarez
ABCI Coordinator

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Enclosures

ARIZONA BIRD CONSERVATION INITIATIVE GRANTS PROGRAM



Project Ranking Factors

This call for proposals seeks to allocate funding for projects that encompass the following ranking criteria:

- *Project Need/Biological Importance.* Projects that address priority actions identified in the APIF Plan or SWAP (or secondarily, other regional/national bird initiatives); projects that fill important conservation needs by— providing information necessary to recover and manage priority species, benefiting priority habitats, addressing imminent threats, raising public awareness of birds, or preventing species from becoming endangered. All projects must demonstrate tangible benefits to resource management.
- *Project Objectives.* Projects with objective(s) that: 1) promote a landscape/ecosystem approach; 2) provide needed information and/or initiate management practices to conserve multiple species of conservation concern, or; 3) yield multiple resource management benefits (such as habitat protection efforts with both terrestrial and aquatic benefits, etc). Projects whose outcomes will resolve a significant, documented need, issue, or concern.
- *Project Strategies.* Project proposals should clearly and completely describe need, objectives, methodologies, expected outcomes, deliverables, and expected benefits.
 - Habitat Restoration/Enhancement projects: outcomes to benefit multiple species, rare species, rare habitats, projects that result in direct habitat conservation are preferred.
 - Research/Monitoring projects: outcomes that contribute to adaptive management objectives for species or habitat(s) are preferred.
 - Outreach/Education projects: outcomes that directly support and raise awareness of bird and habitat conservation or address a communications, education, or outreach need. Results must be measurable.
- *Project Impact and Timeliness.* Impact: Projects that produce tangible “on-the-ground” benefits in terms of conservation effectiveness and/or in terms of visibility. Timeliness: Projects must be ready or near ready to implement. Does the project represent a critical and timely conservation opportunity?
- *Partnerships/Coordination.* Projects that include multi-partner and multi-agency involvement (e.g. federal, state, local governments, communities, corporations, non-profit organizations, conservation organizations, sporting organizations, private landowners, etc.) are preferred.
- *Total Cost.* Projects that demonstrate cost effectiveness and provide matching funding are preferred (however, match is not required). Cost effectiveness includes having little or no indirect (overhead) costs.

Project Application – Coversheet Instructions

Each Project Application MUST include a coversheet. The Department and AZGFD refer to the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

Project Information

Project Title – A brief title describing the project.

AZGFD Region – Specify the AZGFD Region(s) in which the project will occur or apply. Please contact Edwin Juarez (ABCI Coordinator) if you are unsure.

Date Submitted – date application is submitted electronically.

Project Description – a brief description (≤ 200 words) of the project including main objectives.

Priority Bird Species or Habitats to benefit (list) – List priority bird species and/or habitats targeted in this project as identified in the APIF Plan (www.azgfd.gov/w_c/abci_plan.shtml) and/or SWAP (www.azgfd.gov/w_c/cwcs_downloads.shtml). The SWAP identifies important stressors and associated conservation actions for Tier 1a & 1b species on pg. 257 (the species list is found on pg. 716).

Priority Action(s) to be addressed – Clearly specify the linkages between the proposed work and the priority actions/recommendations from the appropriate plan.

Project Category – Select the category that best describes the proposed work (check only one).

Project Funding

ABCI Grant Amount Requested – List amount of ABCI funds requested. Projects typically must be completed within the State's Fiscal Year in which awards are made. Multi-year projects are considered, however, each phase (year) of the project must be submitted annually for funding consideration.

Other Cost Share Funds – Briefly list total of other cost-share from each funding source.

Total Project Cost – Total of ABCI funds and all matching/partner funds.

Participant Information

Organization – Provide the name of the applicant's organization.

Applicant – Identify the specific contact person (the person most familiar with the project). Include mailing and email addresses, and telephone and fax numbers. This individual must be authorized by his or her agency or organization to receive and administer project money.

AZGFD coordination (if any) – The proposal should be coordinated with a representative of AZGFD, preferably the ABCI coordinator or the ABCI regional coordinator. Give name.

Applicant's Signature – Proposal must be signed by the agency or individual(s) that will be responsible for completing the project and administering the funds.

Project Application – Project Details Instructions

Each Project Application **MUST** include the following (bolded) section headings. For each section, provide the information requested, as appropriate.

(The Project Ranking Factors should guide application development)

Project Need/Biological Importance:

What conservation needs will be addressed by this project? What priority bird species and/or habitats are to benefit, and what are these anticipated benefits? Clearly specify the linkages between the proposed work and the priority actions/recommendations from the appropriate plan.

Project Objectives:

What is to be accomplished during the period of the project pursuant to the stated need.

Examples of specific objectives:

- 1) Improve XXX acres of riparian habitat along XXX Creek.
- 2) Increase nesting habitat for southwestern Willow Flycatchers.
- 3) Increase public knowledge of new Important Bird Area(s).
- 4) Relocate displaced Burrowing Owls into historic range.

Project Strategies and Outcomes:

List specific actions that will be taken to achieve the project objective(s). Each action statement must:

- Specify fully what is to be accomplished within the time and funds requested.
- Identify specific methods or procedures (this might include a brief description of survey methodology, restoration techniques, or education and outreach strategies).
- Specify a recognizable end point and deliverable.

Examples of specific actions:

- 1) Build XX feet of livestock fencing to exclude grazing along portion of XXX Creek.
- 2) Plant XX acres of willows along XXX River.
- 3) Develop informational brochure.
- 4) Install XX artificial burrows and relocate XX Burrowing Owls.

Project Location:

Attach a map with project site clearly marked. For any habitat enhancement/restoration projects, provide legal description (township, range, section), and size (in hectares) of site.

Habitat Description:

What are the major vegetative types and associations of the project area?

Land Ownership at Project Site:

Identify land ownership at project site. Please state specifically if Private Property and provide landowner's name.

Evaluation:

Explain how you will measure and evaluate success or effectiveness of project outcomes.

Budget

Identify specifically how ABCI funds will be used. Also include itemized break down of cost share funding. If cost for mileage is itemized, the reimbursement rate for mileage **cannot** exceed the State of Arizona’s reimbursement rate in effect when proposal is submitted (currently 44.5 cents per mile).

If project consists of multiple conservation objectives, it’s highly recommended that the budget be organized by each specific objective. Oftentimes the ABCI Grants Program may choose to only fund select objectives of an entire proposed project.

The ABCI Grants Program does not require matching funds, but proposals that include matching funds are encouraged. List all matching funds (e.g. cash, in-kind and volunteer labor) and their sources (federal or non-federal). Volunteer unpaid services provided to AZGFD by an individual (a grantee) should be valued at the pay for similar work in the Department. If the services are something AZGFD does not perform, then use minimum wage or seek private market value of the work (provide thorough documentation). Original cost of an existing project does not qualify as match.

The following is a sample budget layout:

Budget Categories (such as):	ABCI Request	Applicant Contribution	Partner(s) Contribution(s) (monetary)	Partner(s) Contribution(s) (non-monetary value/in-kind)	Total
<i>Monitoring</i>					
Salaries					
Supplies					
Travel					
Subtotal					
<i>Outreach</i>					
Salaries					
Printing					
Materials					
Subtotal					

Implementation Schedule – List month and year project is expected to be initiated and completed, as well as pertinent details. Projects typically must be completed within the State’s Fiscal Year in which awards are made. Multi-year projects are considered, however, each phase (year) of the project must be submitted annually for funding consideration, with no guarantee of availability of funding.

Partnerships/Coordination:

List partners and describe their anticipated participation. Include cooperators who may provide logistic support, materials, equipment, or labor.

Final Report to be filed by whom: Who is responsible for the submitting the project’s Final Report? If other than project applicant, include contact information.