NWSA FUNDING PROGRAMS

A presentation at the NWSA Webinar Series
February 9, 2021
NWSA Funding Programs

Presented by:

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Building a Wilderness Stewardship Community
VIRTUAL HIKE THE HILL – MARCH 8-26, 2021

• Annual gathering of National Scenic and Historic Trails Associations
• Partnership for the National Trails System and American Hiking
• Partnership Meetings, Agency Briefings, Strategy Sessions, Hill Visits, Committee Visits
• Meeting with Chief, Forest Service
• Meetings with Appropriators and Committee Staff
• Meet other Trail and Wilderness Groups
NWSA FUNDING PROGRAMS

- Wilderness Stewardship Performance Partner Funding
- National Forest Trail System Stewardship Partner Funding
- Boots on the Ground Grants
Wilderness Stewardship Performance Funding
WILDERNESS STEWARDSHIP PERFORMANCE FUNDING

• Focus is on accomplishing Wilderness Stewardship Performance elements
• Must count for each individual wilderness area
• Both Summer and Winter programs
  • Over last 5 years over $1,000,000 distributed
  • FY2021: Anticipate $200,000
• Typically 3:1 or more return on investment
2020 WILDERNESS STEWARDSHIP PERFORMANCE FUNDING - $200,000

• WSP Grant Program info is at www.wildernessalliance.org
• Fact Sheet, Application Form & Budget Form on website
• Streamlined, 3-4 page application, with budget form and narrative
  • Contact Information
  • Organization Information – who you are
  • Project Information – what and where you want to do work, what type of WSP work
  • FS Coordination
  • Timeline
  • Budget details
WILDERNESS STEWARDSHIP PERFORMANCE FUNDING RATINGS

- Screened for Qualifying Work
- Cash and Inkind Matches
- Organization Capability
- Project Feasibility
- Level of Accomplishment – WSP Elements scored
- # of People Involved
- Final Balancing by type and area
WILDERNESS STEWARDSHIP PERFORMANCE FUNDING TIMELINE

• Application Period – Feb 1 to March 26
• Decisions Made by May 1st
• Project work – May 1st to Dec 31st
• Project Final Reports Due – January 15

Applications Due March 26
National Forest System Trail Stewardship Partner Funding
NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM
TRAIL STEWARDSHIP PARTNER FUNDING

• Support for goals of National Trail Stewardship Act
• Focus is on trail maintenance accomplishment – trails to standard and backlog reduction and volunteer engagement
• Work must be on National Forest Trail System
• Includes all trails - both motorized/nonmotorized & wilderness/non-wilderness
• Partnership with American Trails, American Hiking Society, Back Country Horsemen of America, International Mountain Bicyclist Association, Blue Ribbon Coalition and the American Motorcyclist Association
NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM
TRAIL STEWARDSHIP PARTNER FUNDING

- Trail Program - $309k awarded
  - 65 Proposals submitted – over $500,000 requested – 39 proposals funded
  - $470,000 cash match - $1,044,000 inkind contributions – almost a 5:1 return

- Program Expanded- $424k awarded
  - 114 Proposals submitted – over $1,400,000 requested – 42 proposals funded
  - $1,014,000 cash match - $2,200,000 inkind contributions – greater than 7:1 return

2020

2018
NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM
TRAIL STEWARDSHIP PARTNER FUNDING

• Dependent on funding – 2021 Anticipate $200,000-$300,000
• Fact Sheet, Application Form & Budget Form on website
• Streamlined, 3-4 page application, with budget form and narrative
• Trail Maintenance Miles and Backlog Reduction Accomplishments
• Announcement in February-March / Deadline March 26 / Award in May
• Check NWSA website for latest announcements at www.wildernessalliance.org
TRAIL STEWARDSHIP FUNDING RATINGS

• Screened for Qualifying Work – on NF system trail
• Cash and Inkind Matches
• Organization Capability
• Project Feasibility
• Level of Accomplishment – miles maintained – backlog eliminated
• # of People Involved – volunteers and staff engaged
• Final Balancing by type and area
BOOTS ON THE GROUND - WILDERNESS STEWARDS

- Hard-working
- Field focus
- Youth involvement
- Trails work
- Rec site rehab and monitoring
- Community outreach
- Wilderness education
BOOTS ON THE GROUND FUNDING

- Dependent on funding
- Focus on field work
- Mix of activities can vary
- Usually small seed amounts
- Volunteer engagement high
- Generally a summer program
RECOMMENDATIONS

• Follow the instructions
• Don’t modify the forms or formats
• Ensure work qualifies
• Early and complete coordination with the Forest Service
• Some cash increases competitiveness
• Work within the period
• Trails – miles matter; WSP – scores matter
OTHER FUNDING SOURCES

• Conservation Alliance – small advocacy focused grants to conservation groups
• REI – Local Store Stewardship grants
• Local Outdoor Corporation Grants – check local companies and retailers
• Local Foundations
• Other Government Funding – State RTP Funds, Lottery Money, Travel & Tourism Funding
• Place Based Relationships
• Local Fundraising Efforts
UPCOMING WEBINARS  2ND TUESDAYS 12:00 NOON PST

• March 9 – NFS Trail Stewardship Challenge
• April 13 – COVID Response Strategies for 2021
• Future webinars posted at http://wildernessalliance.org/webinars
QUESTIONS?

• Check [www.wildernessalliance.org/funding_programs](http://www.wildernessalliance.org/funding_programs)
• Contact: Randy Welsh, Executive Director, NWSA, randy@wildernessalliance.org