Healthy Watersheds Consortium Grant Program

A partnership to accelerate watershed protection
U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities

- Created in 2006 at request of U.S., Canadian governments
- 501 c(3) Public Charity; ~$200 million perpetual endowment
- Based in Greenville, S.C.; 8 staff
- Extensive partnerships with USDA Forest Service, NRCS, DOD
- Consulting help from Jeff Lerner, Kitty Weisman, Donn Waage

✓ 2015 - Won competition to manage Healthy Watersheds Consortium
✓ Coop Agreement
✓ Conceived by EPA
Help Implement the 303(d) Vision

Protection—preventing impairments in healthy waters

Integration of implementation efforts

Collaboration

Capacity building
Catalyzing Large-Scale Land Protection

Bonneville Environmental Foundation
• Long-term funding & social support

World Resources Institute
• Success factors

Use modest HWC $$ to leverage results

3 funding categories
Overview

Year 4 of 6

Annual, competitive grant program

EPA $3.75 million
Endowment $3.75 million
NRCS $3.50 million

Plus minimum 25% match from grantees

Endowment—
• no overhead charge;
• 100% of EPA funds to projects
Proposal Process

- Applicant discussions throughout RFP period
- National Committee and Regional Office Review – Thank You!
- 319 applications in 3 years
- Funds requested: $70 million
Years 1 - 3 Awards Summary

$8.4 million awarded

47 subrecipients:
38 NGOs, 4 State agencies, 1 Tribe, 2 utilities, 1 regional government consortium

We expect to influence protection of:
> 200,000 acres/ >735 stream miles (5 years)
Millions of acres/ 1000’s of stream miles (20 years)
Partners Galore

47 awards = >600 partners

State agencies (40)
Local governments (hundreds)
Federal agencies (NRCS, USFS, USFWS, NOAA, NPS, DOD)
Water utilities (42)
Tribes (6)
Universities (10)
Foundations (24)
National Estuary Programs (2)
Breweries (4)
Community of Learning

- Webinars
- HWC newsletter (>1,200)
- Source Water Collaborative
- Presentations at meetings
- Grantee Retreat – Spring 2018
- Great Lakes Watershed Summit
- Suggestions??

U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities
Connections within EPA

- CWSRF
- DWSRF
- Source water protection
- 303d Vision (Protection Goal)
- 319 Nonpoint source
- Wetlands
- Estuary Programs
- Great Lakes
- Chesapeake Bay
- Hypoxia Task Force
Other Federal Programs, Too!

- Regional Conservation Partnership Program, Conservation Innovation Grants, National Water Quality Initiative, Joint Chiefs, etc. (NRCS)
- Forest Legacy & Community Forests (US Forest Service)
- Sentinel Landscapes (Dept. of Defense)
- Coastal Watersheds, Pacific Salmon (NOAA)
- Wild & Scenic Rivers (NPS, USFS, USFWS, BLM)
Limiting Factors

• Capacity - Expertise

• Funding - solutions require multiple sources and creativity

• Alignment – Coordination – Communication
HWC Next Steps

• 2019 Funding - $1.2 million
• Proposals due – February 4, 2019
• Projects must be completed by September 30, 2021
• Program Evaluation – last two years
  • Acres protected
  • Limiting Factors
    – Funding
    – Capacity
Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast Florida

- Myakka Island Conservation Corridor
- Watershed Action Project/$156,000/3 years
- Goal: 7,000 acres in easements
- Why? Willing landowners and funding in place—needed capacity to do the deals
Puget Sound Regional Council – Washington

- Building Watershed Protection Capacity/$200,000/2 years
- Metropolitan Planning Organization – 86 jurisdictions
- Integrate regional open space & growth plans
- Goal: 100,000 acres by 2025
- Why? Can MPO’s accelerate protection?
- Phase II: follow-on support to Emerald Alliance to develop finance mechanisms across the region for implementation
Program Assistance

www.usendowment.org/rfps/healthywatersheds

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