

migratory birds at the State level, and foster partnerships at all levels.

**8. Multistate Planning Efforts To Address Conservation Needs of Species at Risk**

Assistance is needed for facilitating multi-state and more localized planning efforts to develop conservation agreements for species of concern that address the species life needs and habitat requirements prior to their designation as candidate species or subsequent listing under the Federal Endangered Species Act.

**K. Project Proposal Review and Selection Process**

1. Project proposals will be evaluated for eligibility as defined in Section F and ranked by appropriate committees of the IAFWA at their annual September meeting. The National Grants Committee appointed by the President of the IAFWA will review the Committees' evaluations and rankings and prepare a recommended priority list of project proposals for submission to the IAFWA's Annual Business Meeting.

2. The Directors of the State fish and wildlife agencies will approve a priority

list of project proposals for funding at the IAFWA's Annual Business Meeting.

3. In preparing this list, the IAFWA will consult with nongovernmental organizations that represent conservation organizations, sportsmen's organizations, and industries that support or promote sport fishing, hunting, trapping, recreational shooting, bow hunting, or archery.

4. The IAFWA will submit the priority list of projects to the Services' Assistant Director for Migratory Birds and State Programs by October 1, 2001.

5. The Service will publish the priority list in the **Federal Register**.

6. The Service Director will make the final decision on projects to be awarded grants. The Director will award grants only to projects included in the priority list submitted by the IAFWA.

**L. Grant Awards and Funding**

1. The Service will prepare and sign the formal grant agreements. The formal grant agreements will be forwarded to the grantees for signature and must be signed by a Service representative and an authorized grantee official before they become valid agreements. This process may require up to 60 days to complete. The Service is not responsible

for costs incurred prior to the effective date of a signed agreement; therefore, the starting date for all projects should be planned accordingly.

2. The entire amount of funds required for a project must be obligated in the fiscal year the grant is approved (as per guidance in 50 CFR part 80.8).

3. Nonprofit, commercial and institutions of higher education grantees must maintain a financial management system in accordance with the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-110 and 43 CFR part 12, subpart F. State and local governments must maintain a financial management system in accordance with OMB Circular A-102 and 43 CFR part 12, subpart C.

**M. Project Administration**

Proposals awarded funding will be assigned to a Project Officer. Project Officers provide assistance that includes:

1. Serving as the Service's point of contact after the award agreement is signed;
2. Receiving and approving invoices; and
3. Monitoring project performance and assuring that the award recipient adheres to the award agreement.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS—APPENDIX A**

Target Date	Event
April 16 .....	Service publishes FEDERAL REGISTER Notice announcing availability of Multistate Conservation Grant Program funds and National Conservation Needs for grant applications.
June 15 .....	Grant application materials must be received by the IAFWA.
September .....	The Directors of the State fish and wildlife agencies will approve a priority list of project proposals for funding at the IAFWA's Annual Business Meeting.
October 1 .....	The IAFWA submits a priority list of projects to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Services' Assistant Director for Migratory Birds and State Programs.
November 15 ....	Service publishes FEDERAL REGISTER Notice of priority list of projects submitted by the IAFWA.
January 30 .....	Service awards grants.

Dated: April 7, 2001.

**Marshall P. Jones, Jr.,**

*Acting Director.*

[FR Doc. 01-10145 Filed 4-23-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Fish and Wildlife Service**

**Publishing the Priority List, and Projects Approved, With Qualifiers, Under the Multistate Conservation Grant Program Submitted to the Secretary by the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice—Multistate Conservation Grant Program.

**SUMMARY:** The Service is publishing the priority lists for the Multistate Conservation Grant Program submitted to the Secretary of the Interior by the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. This notice is required by the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act of 2000. Grants will be made from this list.

**DATES:** This notice is effective April 24, 2001.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of proposals may be viewed at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service offices at 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 140, Arlington, Virginia 22203 daily until May 24, 2001.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kris E. LaMontagne, Chief, Division of Federal Aid, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 140, Arlington, Virginia 22203, (703) 358-2156.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106-408) established a Multi-State Conservation Grant Program within the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration and Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Acts, commonly known as the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson/Wallop-Breaux Acts, respectively. The program authorizes grants of up to \$3 million annually from funds available under each Act, for a total of up to \$6 million annually. The grants are to be made from a list of

recommendations submitted by the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, representing the State fish and wildlife agencies. The Director, exercising the authority of the Secretary, need not fund recommended projects, but may not fund projects which are not recommended. The Acting Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service approved the list, with qualifiers, on January 31, 2001.

To be eligible for consideration, a project must benefit fish and/or wildlife conservation in at least 26 States, a majority of the States in a Fish and Wildlife Service Region, or a regional association of State fish and wildlife agencies. Grants may be made to a State or group of States, to non-governmental organizations, and, solely for carrying out the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, to the Fish and Wildlife Service.

The priority lists of projects submitted by the IAFWA:

**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE  
RESTORATION ACT PROPOSALS  
[FY-2001]**

1. National Survey of Hunting Fishing and Wildlife-Associated Recreation .....	\$1,395,348
2. Management Assistance Team for State Fish and Wildlife Agencies .....	251,248
3. The Fish and Wildlife Reference Service .....	157,500
4. Outreach Project: Improving National Wildlife Capture Programs and Implementing Best Management Practices .....	327,376
5. Workshops on Integrated Migratory Bird Management .....	298,350
6. Wildlife Law News Quarterly .....	5,000
7. Automated Wildlife Data Systems Project Coordination .....	96,525
8. Factors Relating to Hunting and Fishing Initiation, Participation, and Retention Among the Nation's Youth .....	168,360
9. Assisting States in Reaching Underrepresented Groups, Specifically Ethnic Minorities and Women with Disabilities through the Becoming an Outdoors-Woman Program ...	139,730
10. Science and Civics: Sustaining Wildlife, Involving High School Students and Addressing Wildlife Needs ....	27,358
11. Step Outside .....	89,950
	<b>2,956,745</b>

**FEDERAL AID IN SPORT FISH  
RESTORATION ACT PROPOSALS  
[FY-2001]**

1. National Survey of Hunting Fishing and Wildlife-Associated Recreation .....	\$1,395,348
2. Management Assistance to State Fish and Wildlife Agencies .....	251,248
3. The Fish and Wildlife Reference Service .....	157,500
4. The Collection of Pivotal Field Efficacy Data to Support a New Animal Drug Approval for the Use of Florfenicol (Aquaflo <sup>TM</sup> ) to Control Mortality Caused by Bacterial Pathogens in Cultured Fish .....	216,775
5. Analytical Support of Pivotal Efficacy Trials for Florfenicol Use in Public Fisheries .....	36,689
6. Strengthen and Expand the National "Hooked on Fishing-Not on Drugs" Program .....	150,125
7. Wildlife Law News Quarterly .....	5,000
8. Automated Wildlife Data Systems Project Coordination .....	96,525
9. Factors Relating to Hunting and Fishing Initiation, Participation, and Retention Among the Nation's Youth .....	168,360
10. Assisting States in Reaching Underrepresented Groups, Specifically Ethnic Minorities and Women with Disabilities through the Becoming an Outdoors-Woman Program .....	139,730
11. Science and Civics: Sustaining Wildlife, Involving High School Students and Addressing Wildlife Needs ....	27,358
12. Step Outside .....	89,950
	<b>2,734,608</b>

Dated: February 5, 2001.

**Marshall P. Jones, Jr.,**

*Acting Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310-55-M**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Fish and Wildlife Service**

**Creating the Coldwater River National Wildlife Refuge, Mississippi**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approved creating the Coldwater River National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) from the existing Black

Bayou Unit of the Tallahatchie National Wildlife Refuge in Grenada, Quitman, and Tallahatchie Counties, Mississippi, to eliminate public confusion and to assist in the Service's administration and management activities. No other changes are proposed.

**DATES:** This action was effective on January 30, 2001.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Steve Thompson, Regional Chief, National Wildlife Refuge System, in Atlanta, Georgia, 404-679-7152.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On January 30, 2001, the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approved creating the Coldwater River NWR from the existing Black Bayou Unit of the Tallahatchie National Wildlife Refuge in Grenada, Quitman and Tallahatchie Counties, Mississippi, to eliminate public confusion and to assist in the Service's administration and management activities.

The Tallahatchie National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1991 with the acquisition of two separate units—the Bear Lake Unit and the Black Bayou Unit. The two units are located in a rural area about 30 miles apart, with a total work area that spreads across approximately 126 miles.

Previously we jointly administered these units, even though they had different public use programs, geographic work areas, and habitat management needs that resulted in significantly different goals and objectives for each unit. Joint administration made our biological assessments, public use reviews and the comprehensive conservation planning process more difficult and complex.

For example, because it is surrounded by lands owned or leased for waterfowl hunting, the Coldwater River NWR (formerly the Black Bayou Unit of the Tallahatchie NWR) is intensively managed and is closed to public access. The Bear Lake Unit is larger and is open for public hunting. However, the similarity of names and closeness in proximity of the two units often resulted in confusion to the public.

Establishing the Coldwater River NWR from the existing Black Bayou Unit of the Tallahatchie NWR eliminates these problems. This action will allow the lands and programs of both the Tallahatchie NWR (Bear Lake Unit) and the Coldwater River NWR to be managed and administered more efficiently, will identify the two units by their major geographical features (the Tallahatchie River and the Coldwater River), and should eliminate confusion when we inform the public of our management activities on each refuge.