

U.S. Standard Grants Review of Fiscal Year 2026 Funding Opportunity

Objective

This document provides a high-level review of the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's](#) (FWS) [U.S. Standard Grants](#) FY26 funded projects. This program funds projects that support public-private partnerships in continuing conservation goals that involve long-term protection, restoration or enhancement of wetlands to maintain or improve the benefits to wetlands-associated migratory birds and waterfowl.

Program Summary

This competitive program seeks to fund projects that further the goals of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act through restorative projects that preserve and improve wetland wildlife habitats. Certified Local Governments are encouraged to prioritize projects in support of the celebration of America's 250th birthday (American250). This may include, but is not limited to, preservation, planning, interpretation, public engagement and rehabilitation projects that recognize and honor the nation's founding, history, and cultural heritage. This opportunity requires a 1:1 non-federal match.

Application Deadline	Applications must be submitted by September 25, 2026, by 11:59 p.m. ET . Grant applications are submitted through GrantSolutions .
Funding Overview	For FY 2026: » Total Funding: \$46,000,000 » Minimum Award: \$250,001 » Maximum Award: \$3,000,000
Eligible Uses	Proposals should demonstrate how the activities of partners involved in the project will encourage sustainable and effective wetland conservation for the long-term conservation of wetlands-associated migratory birds. » Wetland enhancement » Wetland restoration » Wetland establishment » Land acquisition » Other direct long-term wetland conservation work
Cost Sharing Requirements	» The U.S. Standard program requires a 1:1 non-federal match

Priority Populations	» There are no priority populations listed for this opportunity
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FY2026 U.S. Standard Grants NOFO Open

The Notice of Funding Opportunity for this listing is currently open for FY26, with applications due on September 25, 2026. If you have additional questions on this program, [please review this document](#), or submit a question to Stacy Sanchez, (703) 358-2017 or Stacy_Sanchez@fws.gov.

FY24 National-Level Summary

In FY25, the U.S. Standard Grant program awarded 19 grants across the United States, totaling \$51,712,598, for an average award amount of \$2,721,715. Below are three examples of awards and corresponding projects.

Table 1. Local- and County-Level Grant Awards

Recipient	Partners	Awarded Funding	Project Description
Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust	Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust, Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation, Ducks Unlimited, private contributions	\$2,252,384	Conservation easements within this project will focus on protecting grassland and wet meadow habitat while enhancement projects will benefit 3,944 acres of wet meadow and include work to address concerns surrounding aquatic habitat resources, water right usage, erosion and sediment issues, declining water tables and riparian habitat, and the inability to adequately provide surface water to seasonal wetlands in the San Luis Valley.
Maine Coast Heritage Trust	Coastal Rivers Conservation Trust, Elliottsville Foundation INC, Harpswell Heritage Land		This project will permanently protect in fee 3,130.2 acres of high-quality habitats in the Gulf of Maine. This project will permanently protect 653.1 acres of relatively undisturbed wetlands as well as protect 2,477.1 acres of almost

	Trust, Land for Maine's Future, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, Northeast Wilderness Trust, Scarborough Land Trust, Town of Scarborough, Private Contributors	\$2,263,500	entirely forested upland buffer habitat and 9.5 miles of wooded, intact riparian areas.
Coastal Prairie Conservancy	Coastal Prairie Conservancy, Private Contributors, Texas R.I.C.E., Pro-Three Oaks Farm Company INC	\$3,000,000	This project will conserve 2,498(17) acres on the Texas Coastal Prairie and establish wetlands on 325 acres.