



LIVING LANDS PILOT PROJECTS: INFORMATION AND APPLICATION

2nd Round Due: January 15, 2008, 5:00 pm EST

PURPOSE OF LIVING LANDS PROJECT

The Living Lands project seeks to support and increase the capacity of the land trust community to conserve biodiversity on private lands through financial and technical assistance. Over the long term, we envision a network of land trusts, working with private and public partners, to protect, restore and manage our living lands for biodiversity.

PURPOSE OF PILOT PROJECTS

The purpose of our pilot projects is to assist land trusts in advancing **one specific project** with significant biodiversity values, such as protecting at-risk habitats or at-risk species. Pilot projects should further a land trust's efforts to attain permanent protection and habitat restoration and/or management on a specific property in order to ensure that biodiversity values are conserved over the long term. After completion, pilot projects may serve as case studies for other land trusts interested in biodiversity conservation. Results will be shared via web, printed materials and workshops. As part of our commitment to capacity building and project implementation, we are able, upon request, to provide technical assistance on most pilot project activities.

We will consider funding applications that include one or more of these types of activities, suited to the circumstances of the specific project:

- (1) Build Capacity: Develop new skills relevant to biodiversity conservation by working on a current project, while building capacity for future projects. Examples: develop an easement document and/or a conservation plan that includes habitat restoration and management; learn how to do restoration or management of an at-risk habitat.
- (2) Remove a Barrier: Resolve a short-term, major obstacle in a current project with high biodiversity value. Examples: complete an appraisal; complete a biological survey or wetland delineation; cover debt service on a loan.
- (3) Habitat Restoration: Restore or manage at-risk or significant native habitat. Habitat restoration and protection within working landscapes is of particular interest.

FUNDING LEVELS

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Applicants may request up to \$10,000 for one or more activities to advance a specific project with significant native biodiversity value. Land trusts selected for a pilot project will receive funding at the outset of the project and will have two years to spend the money. Land trusts will be required to report on their activities, including non-proprietary versions of documents, at one year and at two years or the conclusion of the project, whichever comes first. Land trusts that successfully complete their pilot project will receive priority in applying for future rounds of pilot projects (as funding permits).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Email: livinglands@defenders.org

Phone: Aimee Weldon (Project Manager): 202-772-3265

Web: www.defenders.org/livinglands; click on Pilot Project Funding

CRITERIA FOR LIVING LANDS PILOT PROJECTS

Required. To be eligible for pilot project funding, the project must meet all of these criteria:

- Land trust must provide a local match of at least 50% of the amount requested (1:2 match). The match may include cash or documented in-kind contributions;
- Land trust must be a “qualified organization” to receive a donated conservation easement, as defined under Section 170(h)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code;
- Land trust must serve a local, regional or statewide area (not national);
- The underlying project served by the pilot project activities must be consistent with a statewide or regional conservation plan that is focused on native habitat or biodiversity conservation (see application for details);
- The underlying project served by the pilot project activities must protect and conserve native biodiversity,* including at-risk habitats, at-risk wildlife** and/or natural ecological functions;
- The underlying project served by the pilot project activities must include easement language and/or stewardship mechanisms to restore and manage land for long-term conservation of native habitats and wildlife;
- The underlying project served by the pilot project activities must protect land and habitat restorations permanently;
- Pilot project activities must be completed within two years;
- After one year, the land trust must submit a report on the progress of the underlying project and the activities funded by grant, as well as an update on how the grant money has been spent to date; and
- At the conclusion of the pilot project, the land trust must submit a succinct final report that evaluates the success of the activities funded and includes copies of easements, management plans or other documents created as part of the pilot project.

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* “Biodiversity” is defined as the full range of natural diversity, including genetic diversity within species, different native species, natural communities and natural processes upon which life depends.

**“Wildlife” means wild, native life forms including animals, plants, insects, fungi, etc.

Fundable Activities. Pilot project funding may be used for one or more of these activities:

- Developing a written easement for a new property or amending an existing easement (including restrictions, reference to a management plan and/or affirmative clauses);
- Appraising property or easement value;
- Conducting an inventory/survey to document condition and extent of known at-risk habitats or known or probable at-risk species (including wetland delineation);
- Developing a written habitat conservation and management plan;
- Covering debt service on a loan to purchase an easement or land;
- Implementing critical habitat restoration activities on land protected by a permanent easement or fee-simple purchase;
- Although paying for fee title or easement purchase is not prohibited, the focus of the pilot project activity should be a catalyst for the project (appraisal, option, etc.), not the actual funding of the acquisition;
- Writing grant applications or other fundraising to purchase land or an easement; and/or
- Other activities that advance a project with significant biodiversity values.

Prohibited Activities. Pilot project funding may not be used for these activities:

- Outreach, education or other general administrative functions of the land trust;
- Developing a strategic conservation plan for the entire service area;
- Lobbying;
- Fundraising for anything aside from this specific project; or
- Projects undertaken by national organizations.





APPLICATION PROCESS AND PROJECT TIMELINE

Application Form

This application is available online at www.defenders.org/livinglands (click on “Pilot Project Funding”), in PDF and MS-Word formats. We expect most applicants to fill in the MS-Word file with their information and submit it electronically. The last page of the application includes a list of maps or graphics that also required in a complete application.

Submission of Application

Submission by email is strongly preferred and each email message must be under 3MB. If the application, including any photos or graphics is over this size, please submit application in multiple emails, numbering them consecutively (e.g. 1 of 4, 2 of 4 etc) and make sure each individual email is under 3MB. Faxed and mailed applications (double-sided printing only) are also accepted. Applications must be received by January 15, 2008 (5:00 pm EST).

Email: livinglands@defenders.org

Mail: Aimee Weldon, Defenders of Wildlife, 1130 17th Street NW, Washington D.C. 20036

Fax: Aimee Weldon, 202-682-1331 (indicate total number of pages)

Timeline

We anticipate the following timeline for this round of pilot projects:

January 15, 2008	Applications due
March 17, 2008	Decisions made, applicants contacted with results
May 5, 2008	Grant agreements signed, pilot project start date
April 30, 2009	Annual progress report due
April 30, 2010	Pilot project completion date
April 30, 2010	Final report due

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APPLICANT INFORMATION

Date of Application:	
Name of Land Trust:	
Contact Name: Title:	
Address, City, State, Zip:	
Email: Phone: Fax: Website:	
Mission of Land Trust:	
Service Area of Land Trust:	

PROJECT INFORMATION

Name of Project:	
Type of Project (place an X next to one or more):	(1) Build Capacity (2) Remove a Barrier (3) Restore Habitat
Summary of Project (LIMIT 50 words):	
Amount of Funding Requested and Match:	Funding Requested \$ Match Provided \$
Physical Address of Property:	
County, State:	
Name of Watershed:	Note: You can find your watershed at http://cfpub.epa.gov/surf/locate . The directions should be self-

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	explanatory.
Name of Ecoregion:	Note: You can find your ecoregion at http://nationalatlas.gov . Click on Map Maker. Zoom in on your area; turn on roads, counties, etc. to locate the area. Click on “Biology” layers, then “Ecoregions – Omernik”, then “Redraw”. Use the “Identify” tool to find the name of the ecoregion and read about it.
Acres in entire property:	
Acres in easement or project site (if less than entire property):	

LAND USE INFORMATION

Please indicate the current and future land uses by acres or percent of the property, or of the easement if it is smaller than the property.

	Current	Future
Acres or % habitat/natural:		
Acres or % agriculture:		
Acres or % forestry:		
Acres of % residential:		
Acres or % other (specify):		
TOTAL (Should add up to 100% or total acres)		

REQUIRED CRITERIA

Please demonstrate that the land trust and pilot project meet the following required criteria by filling in this table.

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Land trust must provide a local match of at least 50% of the amount requested (1:2 match). The match may include cash or documented in-kind contributions.	Percent Match:
Land trust must be a “qualified organization” to receive a donated conservation easement, as defined under Section 170(h)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.	Federal Tax ID Number:
Land trust must serve a local, regional or statewide area (not national).	Area served:
Underlying project served by the pilot project activities must be consistent with a statewide or regional conservation plan that is focused on native habitat or biodiversity conservation.	Name of plan(s):
Underlying project served by the pilot project activities must protect and conserve native biodiversity, including at-risk habitats, at-risk wildlife and/or natural ecological functions.	Name of habitat(s), species and/or natural functions:
Underlying project served by the pilot project activities must include easement language and/or stewardship mechanisms to restore and manage land for long-term conservation of native habitats and wildlife.	Very short description:
Underlying project served by the pilot project activities must protect land and habitat restorations permanently.	Mechanism:
Pilot project activities must be completed within two years (no later than April 30, 2010).	Proposed Project Completion Date:
The land trust must submit a succinct final report that evaluates the success of the activities funded and includes copies of easements, management plans or other documents created as part of the pilot project.	Indicate Agreement:

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BUDGET: FUNDING REQUEST AND MATCH

Funding Request: List the activities you for which you are applying. Activities should be described in more detail in the narrative section and must be completed within two years. You may apply for additional funds in the future, with the total request not to exceed \$10,000 per underlying project. Living Lands may choose to fund a subset of the proposed activities.

Local Match: Land trust applicants must provide a local match toward their pilot project activities of at least 50% of the amount requested (1:2 match). The match may include cash or in-kind contributions from any source (e.g. private or public grant, partner organization, landowner, land trust staff time, equipment use, volunteer labor, other cash contributions). The match must be contributed during the two year pilot project.

Project Type	* Funds Requested	* Match	Type and source of Match (e.g. cash, time, equipment, other)
(1) Capacity Building Activities:			
	\$	\$	
	\$	\$	
(2) Barrier Removing Activities:			
	\$	\$	
	\$	\$	
(3) Habitat Restoration Activities:			
	\$	\$	
	\$	\$	
TOTAL *	\$	\$	

* Requested and matching funds can be in different project types, as long as Total Match is at least 50% of Total Funds Requested.

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Please explain how you will use the funding requested (~100 words):

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NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

Instructions: Brief, concise answers are preferred. Suggested word limits are indicated below.

1. Name of Project:
2. Name of Land Trust:
3. Brief summary of project (*~50 words*)
4. How much (if any) and what type of biodiversity conservation activities has your land trust been previously engaged in? (*~100 words*)
5. When, how and why did your land trust decide to work on this specific project, including conserving its biodiversity values or natural functions? (*~100 words*)
6. What is the property's historical and current land use, land ownership and land management? (*~100 words*)
7. What is the current land use, land ownership and land management on adjacent and nearby properties? Are there any major changes anticipated on nearby properties? Will this project be used for demonstration purposes to influence land management on adjacent or nearby properties? (*~100 words*)
8. (a) How does this property/project fit into priorities identified in a statewide or regional habitat conservation plan? Include the plan's name, web address and page number.
(b) Name, briefly describe and give the status/condition of high-priority (at-risk) habitats, species and/or natural features or functions. (*~200 words*)
Regional or statewide habitat plans include: State Wildlife Action Plans/Strategies (completed 2005); The Nature Conservancy Ecoregional Assessments and Conservation Priorities; Audubon Important Bird Areas;



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Columbia Subbasin Plans; etc. Refer to www.defenders.org/livinglands and click on Biodiversity Resources for more information about habitat conservation planning.

9. What are the land trust's long-term goals for the project/property? (*~100 words*)

10. What methods will you use to meet these long-term goals? E.g. what approach will you take to the following issues? Address anticipated timing, funding, partners, challenges etc.
 - (a) Land ownership (e.g. fee, easement, public). (*~100 words*)

 - (b) Habitat and wildlife conservation (e.g. protection, enhancement, restoration, management) and mechanism to ensure on-the-ground implementation (e.g. easement language, conservation plan, etc.). (*~200 words*)

 - (c) Other land uses on the property (e.g. uses permitted, restricted, required). (*~100 words*)

11. What are the land trust's short-term goals for project/property (e.g. for the next 1-4 years) that will advance this project toward achieving long-term goals? (*~100 words*)

12. What methods will you use to achieve these short-term goals? What is the timeline? Who are the partners and what are their roles? What challenges do you anticipate and how will you address them? Specifically address the activities proposed for pilot project funding (1-2 years), as well as other related or concurrent activities in the short term (1-4 years). (*~400 words*)

13. How urgent is this project? Is there a limited opportunity to act? Are there immediate threats to the property? (*~100 words*)

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14. How will you evaluate and monitor success of this project over the short term? Over the long term? (~200 words)
15. What personnel will work on this project? Identify land trust staff, interns, volunteers, partners and/or contractors and their contributions. (~200 words)
16. Your complete application must include the following maps/graphics:
- Mapped location/outline of the property (on USGS 7.5 minute quad)
 - Sketch map of the property with annotation indicating approximate location of:
 - High-priority habitats and species;
 - Hydric soils (wetlands and former wetlands);
 - Other natural features (streams, cliffs, ravines, etc.);
 - Areas for habitat restoration or enhancement;
 - Man-made features (buildings, roads, etc.); and
 - Land uses (agriculture, forestry, etc.).
 - Aerial photo, showing approximate property boundary and easement boundary, if different. If you have not obtained aerial photos of the property yet, try www.earth.google.com. Resolution of aerial photos may not be adequate in some areas.

Graphics should be formatted to print on 8.5" x 11" paper. The files can be inserted/pasted into this electronic file or emailed as separate files. If hard copies need to be mailed separately from the electronic application, please note this in the electronic application and mail them to the address provided for mailing in applications by the application due date. Please include a complete hard copy (double sided printing) of the application with the graphics.

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