

Potential Criteria for Multi-Year Multi-State Conservation Grants (MSCGs)

The following criteria is for discussion purposes surrounding multi-year proposals. The National Grants Committee has convened numerous discussions regarding the potential merits and challenges of obligating multi-state conservation grant funds across multiple years. Aside of the five-year obligations towards the national Survey, at present, project proponents are instructed to apply for one year's funding only. With a growing recognition regarding potential benefits of multi-year projects, the following draft criteria is being presented to advance the discussion.

Multi-year proposals should be considered the exception and as such, will be held to a high standard. Obligating funds to projects for future years absent opportunity to competitively review future proposals, warrants a high standard. Multi-year proposals will be considered if there is a demonstrated and clearly articulated adherence to the criteria below.

- Inability to complete the outlined work within an annual funding cycle
- Ongoing and continuous efforts for which permanent dedicated capacity is needed
- Merits of the project are broadly supported by technical review teams and the National Grants Committee
- Proposals shall not request funding more than three years in duration
- Annual funding amounts obligated to each year will not be more than 25% of total fund availability by category (WR, SFR, R3) so that adequate funds remain for proposals in subsequent years.
- Previously awarded multi-year obligations will be included as part of the 25% calculation for each year's determination of multi-year fund availability.