

Cooperative Funding Initiative — FY 2013 Natural Systems

The following is provided as guidance for cooperators wanting to participate in the District's Cooperative Funding Initiative in the area of Natural Systems as it relates to water resource management. The District seeks participation with cooperators in projects that result in measurable benefits to streams, lakes, wetlands and aquifers within its boundaries. Priority projects are those that benefit existing and future water supply sources, Surface Water Improvement and Management priority water bodies, and regionally significant water features. The District's goal is to leverage funds available at the District, local governments, and other agencies to promote and restore the natural characteristics and hydrologic functions of water bodies and lands on a watershed basis.

Types of projects encouraged:

1. Projects that restore or improve plant communities for the purpose of providing direct, measurable benefits to a natural water feature. Such benefits include:
 - a. Improvement of water quality in a natural water feature.
 - b. Protection of water quality for a water supply source, either surface water or groundwater.
 - c. Maintenance or restoration of regional recharge capacities.
 - d. Preservation of the hydrologic functions of conveyance and storage.
2. Projects that will be maintained perpetually by the cooperator.
3. Projects that can show readiness to proceed by having permits issued.
4. Projects that can be demonstrated to provide benefits relating to enhancement of biodiversity.

Types of projects not encouraged:

1. Projects having a single species as a target beneficiary.
2. Projects comprising more than 50 percent upland and not directly benefitting a natural water feature.
3. Projects required as part of a permit or other regulatory action.
4. Projects whose primary benefits relate to recreation and education (projects providing these benefits may be considered under other cooperative programs).
5. Land acquisition. However, in some cases, the District may recognize the local government's costs associated with land purchases for the project as an in-kind funding match. Project would still have to provide benefits identified above.

All cooperative funding applications should include the following information:

- Project concept. Narrative describing the end product and specifically how the project will benefit a natural water feature.
- Project area. Map and description of the project area.
- Project details. Acres of land involved, acres of water benefited, adjacent land owners affected, any coordination performed to date with agencies, project approach, other cooperators involved, and cost/acre of benefit anticipated.
- Identify any previous work completed; when, what and with whom.
- Schedule and budget. Provide a schedule and budget for the project, which will become more refined as the project steps are accomplished.

If there are any questions, contact your Community Affairs program manager.