

January 21, 2010

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Dear Supporters of the Great Lakes,

The Great Lakes Commission is pleased to announce the Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control 2010 Request for Pre-proposal (RFPP) for watershed scale implementation projects. **Applications for pre-proposals are due no later than March 2, 2010.** Please visit our website at www.glc.org/basin for the complete RFPP and the on-line application process.

Funding for this program is made available by the USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service as part of the agency’s Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Awards will be made contingent upon the availability of these funds.

Eligible applicants must be nonfederal units of government (U.S.), academic units or incorporated nonprofit organizations, including conservation districts, county and municipal governments, regional planning commissions, colleges and universities and state agencies. Examples of nonprofit organizations include watershed organizations, stream and lake associations, citizen monitoring groups, environmental groups, conservation groups, and fish and wildlife groups. Applicants are strongly encouraged to develop broad partnerships in order to leverage other implementation resources. Priority will be given to those applicants who partner with local, state, federal agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to provide additional funding and technical assistance for the proposal.

Five to eight watershed implementation projects will be funded for up to \$800,000 per watershed. Project length can be up to four years in duration. Funding will be available for both technical assistance and financial assistance. The proposed watershed must have a state-approved plan or be a sub-watershed of a larger watershed with an approved plan. Applicants are encouraged to pilot non-traditional methods of implementation and cost sharing.

Grant funding under this program is limited to the watersheds included in the RFPP. The listed watersheds are those that deliver most of the damaging sediment loads to the Great Lakes. The general size for an acceptable watershed will range from 50,000 to 250,000 acres, but can vary outside this range with justification.

Applicants are urged to contact the Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Task Force member from their states to help them in the application process. The Task Force membership can be found at: www.glc.org/basin/taskforce.html.

For more information please contact Gary Overmier at garyo@glc.org or 734-971-9135.

Sincerely,

Tim Eder
Executive Director