



# 31 Wetland Acquisition and Restoration: Funding and Technical Assistance

*Seventy-four percent of the remaining wetlands in the contiguous United States are located on private property. As stewards of the land, private property owners have a tremendous opportunity to safeguard the Nation's wetlands resources through wise land-use decisions.*

Many Federal, State, and local programs as well as private and nonprofit organizations offer cost-sharing, technical, and often direct payment assistance to private landowners to protect, restore, and create wetlands. Much of the information and funding involves agricultural-related activities in wetlands; however, ample resources also exist for landowners who engage in other activities. Options for private landowners include land banks, transferrable development rights, deed restrictions, easements to conservation organizations—all of which can provide tax breaks—and leases of rights to hunt, fish, harvest timber, and trap fur-bearing animals on the property.

The EPA Wetlands Information Hotline (contractor operated) can provide you with more information about the agencies and program requirements discussed in this fact sheet, as well as publications and regional contacts in your area. In addition, your local Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly the Soil Conservation Service) office or county extension agent may know of other State and local programs.

## Governmental Assistance

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) supports many sources of assistance for wetland acquisition and restoration through several offices:

The *Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)* provides technical assistance to landowners and administers programs such as the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), the Water Bank Program, and the Forestry Incentives Program (FIP).

- **Contact:** USDA NRCS, National Wetlands Team, P.O. 2890, Washington, DC 20013.

The *Consolidated Farm Service Agency (CFSA)* combines the functions of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS), the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC), and the farm-lending activities of Farmers Home Administration (FmHA). The CFSA oversees such programs as the Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) and the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

- **Contact:** USDA CFSA, Conservation and Environmental Protection Division, P.O. Box 2415, Washington, DC 20013.

The U.S. *Forest Service (USFS)* administers the Stewardship Incentives Program (SIP) and the Forest Legacy Program.

- **Contact:** USDA USFS, Cooperative Forestry Staff, Auditor's Building, 201 14th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20250.



The U.S. Department of the Interior (USDOI) helps private landowners through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). These programs include Partners for Wildlife (Private Lands Assistance and Restoration Program), and the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) Joint Ventures.

- **Contact:** USDOI, USFWS, North American Waterfowl and Wetlands Office, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22203.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), through its *Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds, Wetlands Division* and the contractor-operated Wetlands Information Hotline, offers information on current EPA wetland conservation, acquisition, and restoration initiatives.

- **Contact:** US EPA, OWOW, Wetlands Division (4502F), 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460.

The US EPA's *Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds (OWOW)* also provides financial assistance under Section 319(h) of the Clean Water Act for a number of wetland restoration and protection activities.

- **Contact:** US EPA, OWOW, Nonpoint Source Control Branch (4503F), 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460.

## Private/Nonprofit Assistance

In the private sector, *Ducks Unlimited* administers the MARSH (Matching Aid to Restore States Habitat) Program.

- **Contact:** MARSH Program Coordinator, 1155 Connecticut Ave., NW, #800, Washington, DC 20036.

The *Nature Conservancy* provides help through the Natural Areas Registry.

- **Contact:** 2 Wisconsin Ave., Chevy Chase, MD 20815.

The *Izaak Walton League* offers the Partners for Wetlands program.

- **Contact:** 1401 Wilson Blvd., Level B, Arlington, VA 22209.

*Private Land Trusts* assist landowners in acquiring and restoring wetlands using a master planning process to select a variety of programs based on the landowner's resource needs, goals, and opportunities.

- **Contact:** Trust for Public Lands 312 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20002
- **Contact:** Land Trust Alliance 900 17th St., NW, Washington, DC 20002
- **Contact:** American Farmland Trust 1920 N St., NW, Washington, DC 20036.

