| Application FormCranberry Bogs and Coastal Wetlands Restoration Grant Program FY25 RFR ID: DER 2025-01 | | |
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| The **Division of Ecological Restoration (DER)**, Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game, seeks proposals to advance the early phase feasibility, project planning, preliminary design, and construction of retired Cranberry Bog and Coastal Wetland Restoration Projects, to support public and private entities engaged in restoration efforts to remove stressors that impair the function and resiliency of wetland and stream habitats.  **Applicants must complete this form and provide required attachments (see below) to apply for Cranberry Bogs and Coastal Wetlands Restoration Grant funds.** If submitting more than one Project, i.e., to more than one Project Category or Funding Type, for consideration, separate applications for each must be completed. Use additional space as needed, but please limit yourself to 25 pages TOTAL, including attachments.  **For Construction Funding Type Grants only, Applicants must currently hold DER Priority Project status.**  **For proposed Construction Funding Type Grant Applicants, if proof of land protection is not on file with DER via ongoing Priority Project activities, proof of land protection must be submitted with the application in the Landowner Agreement Form.**  **Please refer to the evaluation criteria in the Request For Responses (RFR) for how projects will be evaluated** and provide as much information as you can based on your experience and knowledge of the site. DER will use all available resources to evaluate the application and project site and may conduct a site visit.  **Please refer to the RFR for detailed guidance.** | | |
| Applicant Information | | |
| **Applicant Name:**  *(Name of person submitting application)* | **Applicant Email/Phone:** | |
| **Project Name:** | | |
| **Project Lead Name:**  (*If different than Applicant; this is the Applicant’s Authorized Representative that will coordinate with DER*) | | |
| **Project Lead Email/Phone:**  (*If different than Applicant*) | | |
| **Restoration Project Category:**  (*Select* ***only*** *one box for the Project Category. If the Project may be applicable to both Project Types, the Applicant must designate a single primary Project Type. If the project contains both Cranberry Bogs and Coastal Wetlands, separate applications must be submitted for each - See the RFR for submitting multiple applications).*   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Cranberry Bog Restoration | Coastal Wetlands Restoration | | | |
| **Funding Type:**  (*Select only one box for the Funding Type being applied for under this Grant. If the project contains both Planning & Design and Construction components, separate applications must be submitted for each - See the RFR for submitting multiple applications. As a reminder, Applicants should only apply for funding for the portion(s) of the project that can be completed by June 30, 2026*).   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Planning & Design | Construction (*Project must hold DER Priority Project Status*) | | | |
| ComPLIANCE Please certify by checking the following: | | | |
| **Acknowledgement of Compliance with Terms:** Please check the box to confirm acknowledgement that if awarded funds the Applicant shall sign and comply with the “**Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund (FRF) Contract Addendum**” and 2 CFR 200, the “Uniform Guidance” to certify compliance with all relevant requirements.  **Confirmation of Non-Disbarment:** Please check the box attesting that no one in the Applicant’s organization has been disbarred or suspended according to 31 CFR Part 19, Subpart I. | | | |
| PROPOSED Project Information*Please use as much space as needed. The boxes will expand as you fill them.* Applications will be scored 0-100, with a proposed projects Applicant & Project Team Capacity potentially providing up to **40 points total** towards the 100 possible total points – see RFR section 4.1 for further details.  (In addition, **Budget and Schedule Forms MUST** be completed and included with the application) | | |
| 1. **Project Site, Location, & Setting:**  Describe the project site and general location. What natural features are present, such as streams, wetlands, marshes, and forests? What kind of buildings, roadways, or other human-built features, e.g., agricultural infrastructure, are within and nearby? What ecological stressors are present, what about the site's current condition and challenges suggests that restoration actions are needed? | | |
| *Click or tap here to enter text.* | | |
| 1. **Project Goal(s) & Scope:**  Describe the goal(s) of the **proposed** project and the scope of what will be accomplished. If this proposed project is part of a broader project, briefly describe the goal(s) and scope of the broader project (e.g., if the proposed project funds restoration/construction of two of five cranberry bogs within a broader project) and how the proposed project advances and increases the likelihood of success of the broader project. What other funds have been obtained to support the proposed project and broader project? What work will be involved with your proposed project? Has any work been completed to date? (such as site visits, technical analyses, conceptual plans, permits, etc.)?   NOTE: In addition to the above description, in the space below: for **Planning & Design Funding Type** detailing how the funded planning and design tasks contribute to the overall restoration planning and restoration goals for a project and detailing remaining planning gaps not funded by the current grant is required; and for **Construction Funding Type** grants, to the extent possible, include detail on operations and maintenance needed to achieve long term restoration goals. Submittal of a final, detailed operation and maintenance plan is required by the time of construction. | | |
| *Click or tap here to enter text.* | | |
| **III. Has any other funding been identified or spent for the proposed project? Yes  No**  Projects seeking **Construction Funding Type** grants should demonstrate the ability to obtain and secure the balance of funds prior to the start of the grant contract period (i.e., October 2024). Please elaborate below. Applicants seeking only partial funding for a project should demonstrate the ability to obtain and secure the balance of funds prior to the start of the grant contract period (i.e., October 2024). | | |
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| ANTICIPATED BENEFITS Applications will be scored 0-100, with a proposed projects Applicant & Project Team Capacity potentially providing up to **30 points total** towards the 100 possible total points – see RFR section 4.1 for further details. Please use as much space as needed. The boxes will expand as you fill them. | | |
| 1. **Ecological Value (40 points total):**   *To what extent would the Restoration Project benefit the environment?*   Summarize the expected ecological and environmental benefits of the proposed project. This should include positive changes expected within and adjacent to the project site as well as regionally. This may include enhancing aquatic habitat resiliency, facilitating marsh migration, and or adaptation to climate change; augmenting notable ecological features (e.g., coldwater or diadromous fisheries, Essential Fish Habitat, BioMap Core habitat, State or Federally listed species habitat, and protected conservation land); improving the flow of water and reconnecting wetlands, streams, and floodplains (e.g., by removal of water control structures, agricultural ditches, and berms; establishing sinuous stream channels and appropriate microtopography; addition of large wood or boulders; and other restoration efforts that remove stressors impairing the function and resiliency of wetland and stream habitats); improving water quality (e.g., through revegetation and slowing water flow); increasing floodwater storage; etc. The proposed site’s potential benefit will be evaluated based on existing site condition and context, proximity to important habitat, available ecological data, and any additional information provided by the Applicant and obtained by DER. Higher scoring projects will involve the restoration of multiple ecological processes and greater amounts of habitat as well as benefit a diversity of species. This Summary should include but is not limited to:  Extent (e.g., acres and miles) of habitat expected to be restored or otherwise positively impacted upon project completion within and adjacent to the project site as well as regionally.  Proximity and connectivity of the proposed project site to protected land; mapped or potential endangered species habitat; BioMap Core habitat; future inland marsh migration corridors; coldwater or diadromous fisheries; and other important habitats and natural resources.  Technical Feasibility; Is the proposed scope of work cost effective? Is the budget realistic for the proposed scope of work? Is the timeline reasonable for the proposed scope of work?  Likelihood of Restoration Success; Are the goals and outcomes of the project clearly defined? Is the approach based on solid background or baseline information?  Note: For **Planning & Design Funding Type** grant applications, the applicant should address the intended ecological values of the proposed project to be implemented. For **Construction Funding Type** grantapplications, the applicant should address the ecological values of the project as designed. | | |
| *Click or tap here to enter text.* | | |
| 1. **Community Benefits (30 points total):**   *Will the proposed project have a positive impact on the local community?*  Describe how the proposed project is expected to benefit the local community and region, including social and economic benefits. This could include but is not limited to the project creating and enhancing public open space, outdoor recreational opportunities, and access to natural resources; provision of public amenities, education, and involvement opportunities; addressing flooding or safety issues; improving water quality; reducing vulnerability and increasing resiliency to climate change; etc.  Discuss how your project is expected to specifically benefit Environmental Justice (EJ) Communities. Environmental Justice (EJ) Populations are defined in the [2021 EJ Policy](https://www.mass.gov/doc/environmental-justice-policy6242021-update/download) and can be viewed in the [MA EJ viewer](https://mass-eoeea.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=1d6f63e7762a48e5930de84ed4849212). Other vulnerable communities are people or communities who may be disproportionately impacted by issues associated with the degraded conditions of the impaired Cranberry Bog or Coastal Wetland. In addition to factors that contribute to designation as an EJ Population (i.e., income, minority population, and language), other factors like physical ability, access to transportation, health status, and age shape whether someone or their community will be disproportionately affected by impacts associated with the impaired system. Some useful tools to identify vulnerable communities include the Guides for Equitable and Actionable Resilience (GEAR) [Community Guide](https://resilient.mass.gov/gear/Guide?guideId=1), the Center for Disease Control’s [Social Vulnerability Index](https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/placeandhealth/svi/interactive_map.html), the Environmental Protection Agency’s [EJScreen](https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen) and the [Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool](https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/#3/33.47/-97.5). This could include but is not limited to the project creating and enhancing public open space, outdoor recreational opportunities, and access to natural resources; provision of public amenities, education, and involvement opportunities; addressing flooding or safety issues; improving water quality; reducing vulnerability and increasing resiliency to climate change; etc. Applicants should include:  Description (i.e., type and location relative to the proposed project) of the EJ Communities expected to be impacted by the proposed project. DER will consult the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs’ [Environmental Justice Map Viewer](https://mass-eoeea.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=1d6f63e7762a48e5930de84ed4849212) to clarify proximity to Environmental Justice Communities.  List of expected positive impacts of the proposed project on each EJ population listed in a. above.  Note: For **Planning & Design Funding Type** grant applications, the applicant should address the intended community benefits of the proposed project to be implemented. For **Construction Funding Type** grantapplications, the applicant should address the community benefits of the project as designed. | | |
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| Landowner InformationPlease use as much space as needed. The boxes will expand as you fill them. | | |
| **Who is the landowner(s) of the proposed project site?:** | | |
| **Is the landowner(s) also the Applicant?:**  **Yes  No** Please elaborate below.  (**each** **Landowner** **MUST** complete a separate **Landowner Agreement Form**) | | |
|  | | |
| Applicant & PROJECT TEAM CAPACITYPlease use as much space as needed. The boxes will expand as you fill them. When completing the sections below, please consider:  *What is the proposed project’s likelihood of success and fulfilling compliance and reporting obligations?*  Applications will be scored 0-100, with a proposed projects Applicant & Project Team Capacity potentially providing up to **30 points total** towards the 100 possible total points – see RFR section 4.1 for further details.  **We anticipate Applicants will need to obtain at least 20 points towards the Applicant Capacity Criteria (below) to successfully demonstrate this ability.** | | |
| Summarize the capacity of the Applicant and proposed Project Team, including actual or potential partners and funders, to successfully implement and complete the project. This may include consideration of project cost (by review of the Project Budget), scope (by review of the Project Schedule), practicality, and feasibility; and applicant, landowner, partner and community commitment and available resources (e.g., personnel availability, experience, expertise and administrative and leadership abilities, financial assets (beyond this grant), fund-raising experience, etc. If this proposed project is part of a broader project, briefly describe how it will improve the broader project’s likelihood of success. For example, if the proposed project funds restoration of two bogs within a larger five bog project, how will the restoration two bogs contribute to the success of the broader project? This Summary should include but is not limited to:  Evaluation of issues associated with the proposed project that could impact project completion and likelihood of successful restoration, e.g., funding gap, community opposition, partner commitments, technical challenges, etc.  Discussion of project elements likely to lead to successful fundraising, e.g., one or more project deliverables and outcomes attractive to funders such as recreational opportunities, rare species habitat, benefits to EJ populations, approaches that build climate resiliency, etc.  Assessment of need for on-going operations and maintenance after implementation, such as infrastructure. Higher scoring projects will involve only limited on-going maintenance, such as invasive plant management.  If the proposed scope of work is part of a broader project, briefly describe how it will improve the broader project’s likelihood of success. For example, if the proposed project funds restoration of two bogs within a larger five bog project, how will the restoration two bogs contribute to the success of the broader project? | | |
| *Click or tap here to enter text.* | | |
| Detailed Qualifications and Experience of Applicant and proposed Project Team:  Provide a statement of qualifications and experience, both programmatically and administratively, that demonstrates a high likelihood of successfully completing the proposed project.  Have you previously received Federal Funding? If yes, for each provide:  Grantor Name; Grant Program Name; and Grant #, Scope, and Dates.  Description of any grant and fund management challenges, and how these were resolved.  Are you required to complete a single audit? If so, please describe any challenges and outcomes of previous audits. | | |
|  | | |
| Please demonstrate the Applicant’s ability to manage projects by providing examples of up to three projects with a similar scope of work to the proposed project. For each project:  Briefly describe the scope and restoration plan, including similarities to the proposed project.  Explain any challenges encountered with project implementation, including reasons for the challenges, how challenges were addressed, and challenges that were not resolved and why.  Discuss your ability to meet all outcomes and deliverables on time, including but not limited to compliance and reporting. For unmet and late outcomes and deliverables, detail reasons why.  Speak to administrative tasks and challenges, not described in 1 b-c above, including budget management, personnel management, amendments, subcontracts, etc.  Were you able to comply with all other terms of the project not discussed in 1 b-d above? If no, list and explain why. | | |
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| **ATTACHMENTS:**   1. **REQUIRED:** 2. **Budget Form** (see Chp 268 Budget Schedule Excel Workbook) 3. **Schedule Form (s**ee Chp 268 Budget Schedule Excel Workbook) 4. **Landowner Agreement Form(s)** from the property owner(s), or if applicable a copy of Purchase and Sale Agreement and Landowner Agreement Form from purchaser. 5. **Project Photos** with at least five photographs of the project site. At least one photograph should capture the majority (i.e., landscape view) of each restoration bog/wetland/stream within the project site.   **ATTACHMENTS Continued:**   1. **OPTIONAL:**  * Copy of the latest Assessor’s Map showing the parcel(s) on which restoration work might take place and the ownership information for the lot. * Letters of support. * Locus map. * Design plans (*if completed*). For example, completed conceptual or engineering designs. * Letters of support from the community, e.g., letters from selectmen, abutters, local organizations, etc. * Broader project budget and timeline (*if available*). Please indicate any other funds that have been secured. * Permits, if obtained. * Press and media coverage (e.g., newspaper clippings, articles, links, etc.). | | |
| **Signatures** | | |
| By signing below, I acknowledge the terms and specifications contained within this RFR. | | |
| **Applicant Signature:** | | **Date:** |
| By checking this box, you confirm that all supporting materials such as project plans, reports and/or documents are included with this application. | | |