

## **Request for Proposals Habitat Conservation Plan Piping Plover Conservation Funding**

The Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife (MassWildlife) is seeking proposals for conservation projects to benefit piping plovers in Massachusetts. Proposals must fit into one of four categories:

- 1) Selective predator management
- 2) Increased law enforcement to improve management of pets and other threats
- 3) Strategic education and outreach
- 4) Experimental habitat enhancement (*e.g.*, vegetation management)

Although the focus of the program is on piping plovers, projects also benefiting breeding least terns (and other tern species) may receive priority consideration. Although matching funds are not required, projects proposing match may receive priority consideration. MassWildlife anticipates approximately \$25,000 available for projects to be carried out during 2020. Funding requests should not exceed \$10,000, and individual awards are expected to generally range from \$2,000 to \$8,000. Although this program is being administered by MassWildlife, funding is being provided by HCP participants as set forth in the [Massachusetts Piping Plover Habitat Conservation Plan](#).

### **Selective Predator Management**

Proposed projects must include a(n):

- 1) detailed scope of work and budget prepared by a qualified predator management expert;
- 2) list and justification of species to be targeted based on observations of predator activity in prior years;
- 3) justification of the proposed level of effort based on observations of predator activity in prior years and other factors;
- 4) estimate of number of piping plover and least tern breeding pairs to benefit from the proposed work based on population sizes in prior years (please include plover and tern census results from 2018 and 2019, at minimum; include a description of benefits to other beach nesting birds, if applicable);
- 5) description of non-lethal predator management measures to be implemented (*e.g.*, trash management; note these measures are required but will not be funded through the award);
- 6) description of proposed matching funds, if any (although a match is not required, projects proposing a match will receive priority consideration; selective predator management funds being expended as a requirement of a HCP Certificate of Inclusion will not be considered match).

**Please note:** (1) Final approval of any awards for selective predator management will be contingent upon MassWildlife receiving written approval from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of the site-specific selective predator management scope of work and budget submitted by the applicant. (2) Due to limited availability of funds, MassWildlife may elect to award funding amounts that do not cover the entirety of a given scope of work. As a condition of accepting funds, the applicant must agree to fund and carry out the remaining work so that the entire scope of work is implemented. (3) Delays in implementing predator control undermine its effectiveness in enhancing plover and tern productivity. By accepting funds, the applicant agrees that there will be no further internal organizational approvals

necessary that might delay the timely implementation of a complete predator control program during the nesting season.

### **Increased law enforcement to improve management of pets and other threats**

Proposed projects must include a:

- 1) detailed scope of work and budget;
- 2) detailed description of project need and justification;
- 3) detailed description of metrics that will be used to measure the efficacy of the program;
- 4) detailed description of 2020 baseline law enforcement activities to be undertaken in addition to the supplemental work proposed to be funded by the award (please include these activities in the overall budget);
- 5) description of the 2018 and 2019 law enforcement programs including information about staffing hours, efficacy, and budget.

### **Strategic Education and Outreach**

Proposed projects must include a:

- 1) detailed scope of work and budget including any proposed match;
- 2) detailed description of project need and justification including a clear description of how the project will directly benefit breeding piping plovers (and least terns) and lead to on-the-ground conservation outcomes;
- 3) detailed description of metrics that will be used to measure the efficacy of the program.

### **Experimental habitat enhancement (e.g., vegetation management)**

Proposed projects must include a:

- 1) detailed scope of work, budget, and implementation timeline, including project plans, maps, and anticipated permits required, as applicable;
- 2) detailed description of project need and justification;
- 3) detailed description of metrics that will be used to measure the efficacy of the program.

Please note: In recognition of the challenges of implementing habitat enhancement projects, including required permitting, MassWildlife will consider funding habitat enhancement projects with implementation extending beyond 2020. All other proposed projects must be completed in 2020.

### **How to apply**

If you are a landowner or beach operator interested in having this work carried out on your property, please submit an application letter and associated supporting materials, as described above, no later than February 1, 2020.

- Questions and applications should be submitted via email to [coastal.waterbirds@mass.gov](mailto:coastal.waterbirds@mass.gov). Please include "HCP Conservation Funding 2020" in the subject line.