

2015 Funding Opportunity

Great Lakes Areas of Concern Land Acquisition Grants

**Proposals must be received by
5 p.m. February 23, 2015**

Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Office of Coastal Management
105 West Shoreline Drive
Sandusky, Ohio 44870
coastal@dnr.state.oh.us

Funding Opportunity:

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources Office of Coastal Management (OCM) is soliciting applications for land acquisition grants through the Great Lakes Areas of Concern Land Acquisition Grant program. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) developed this program to provide funding support for land acquisition projects that will contribute to the delisting of fish and wildlife habitat-related use impairments in Great Lakes Areas of Concern (AOC). OCM will forward competitive Ohio applications to NOAA for funding consideration.

Eligible projects must be located within a designated AOC or its associated watershed and must be endorsed by the associated Remedial Action Plan implementation group. Ohio's AOCs include portions of the following watersheds: Maumee, Black, Cuyahoga and Ashtabula.

This competition will provide support for acquisition of fee simple interests in lands or conservation easements from willing sellers. Land must be held by a non-federal public entity (state, local or regional unit of government) and preserved in perpetuity for conservation purposes.

NOAA anticipates that \$800,000 may be provided for this competition through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, contingent upon FY2015 federal appropriations. Match is not required; however, applicants are encouraged to provide a 1:1 non-federal match. Eligible projects range from \$100,000 to \$800,000.

How to Apply:

Proposals must follow the application template provided on the Area of Concern Grants Web page: coastal.ohiodnr.gov/AOCgrants. To apply, submit to the OCM one original-signed copy of the application and an electronic version of the application by the Ohio deadline of 5 p.m. Monday Feb. 23, 2015. The electronic version may be sent on CD with the hard copy, or emailed to yetty.lombardo@dnr.state.oh.us.

Funding Eligibility:

The following are expenses eligible for federal funding under this grant competition:

- Land acquisition/conservation easement;
- Due diligence costs such as appraisals, title work, Phase I environmental assessments;
- Administrative expenses and/or initial stewardship activities (up to 4 percent of the federal share).
- 1 percent of the federal dollars requested must be allocated for OCM administration costs.

Applicants should anticipate a start date of October 1, 2015. Grants will be for an 18-month period, extendable an additional 18 months if warranted. Land acquisition and due diligence expenses must be incurred during the award period (or up to 90 days prior to the start of the award with prior approval). Administration and stewardship expenses must occur during the award period to be eligible for funding.

Learn more:

For more information about the application process and to discuss potential projects, please contact Yetty Lombardo at yetty.lombardo@dnr.state.oh.us or 419.626.7980.

Ohio's Areas of Concern are outlined in red-white dashed line in the map below and shown in detail on the Interactive Map Viewer (*go to Ohio's AOC Grant webpage and follow the steps to view the AOC data layer*).



coastal.ohiodnr.gov