

# Overview of Funding Sources for State and Tribal Wetlands Programs

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# Determining Funding Levels

- Often difficult to determine a state's funding level for its "wetlands program":
  - States may implement program through multiple agencies;
  - State FTEs may spend time on non-wetland related activities;
  - How states regulate/manage wetlands can mean a multiplicity of sources can provide funding for wetlands-related activities in a given fiscal year.
- Some examples of funding levels:
  - FL: Estimated \$31 million for Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) program in 2006. Staffers for ERP program conduct project review, compliance and enforcement, and administrative functions. Funding is from state general revenues, Water Management District property taxes, permit application fees, and state trust funds.
  - AZ: \$75k per year for Section 401 water quality certification. Funding is from EPA grants with match from state general funds.

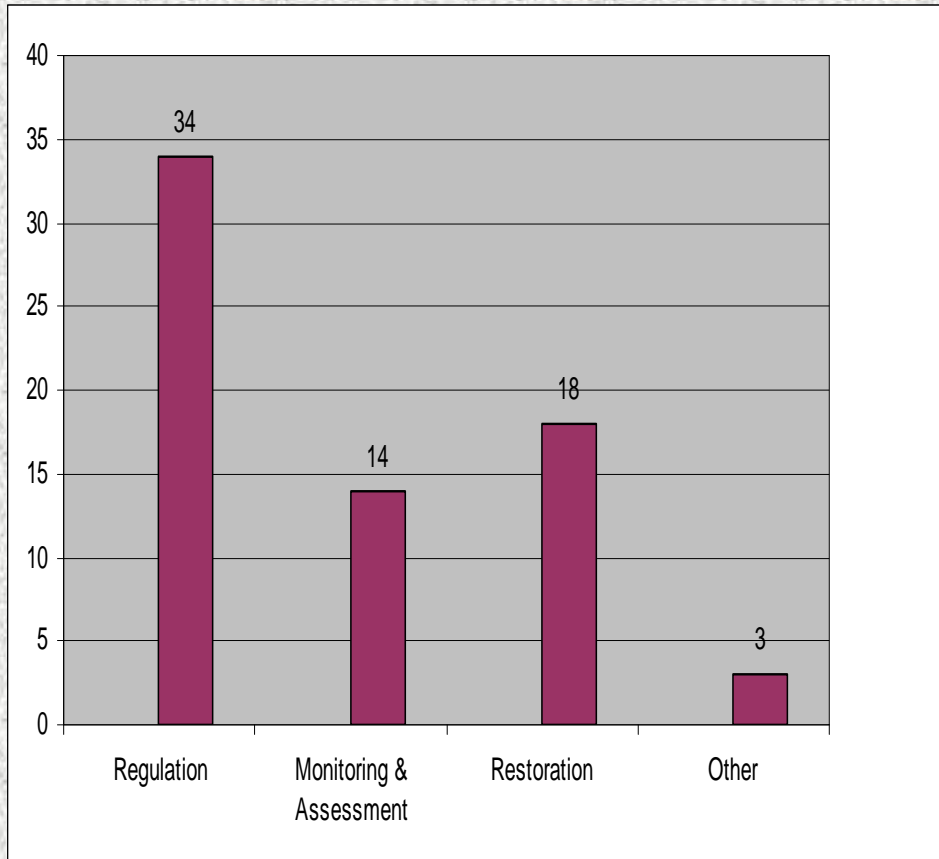
# Major Funding Sources for State/Tribal Wetlands Programs

- General Appropriations
- Dedicated Appropriations
- Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit Fees
- Wetland Program Development Grants
- Clean Water Act Section 319 Grants (Nonpoint Source Implementation Grants)
- Clean Water Act Section 106 Grants (Pollution Control Program Grants)

# General Appropriations

- Environmental Law Institute (ELI) reports on state wetlands programs show 40 states that use general state appropriations to fund some aspect of their wetlands programs.
- States vary in what aspect of their wetlands programs that general appropriations can be used for.

Number of States Using General Appropriations For:



# Permit Fees

- ELI study shows that 28 states use permit fees to fund some aspect of their wetlands programs.
- Permit fee scales can vary significantly from state to state.
- Example: in Virginia, individual permit fees can range from \$5000 (for a project that only requires a minimal withdrawal of instream flows) up to \$60,000 for large-scale projects that have significant surface water impacts (to wetlands, stream, and/or open water), with many fee levels in between.
- Example 2: in California, 401 certification fees can range from \$500 to \$20,000 based on whether technical certification conditions must be developed and the size of the impact.

# Wetland Program Development Grants

- WPDGs started in FY 1990 under the Clean Water Act 104(b)(3) authority.
- Program was created out of 104(b)(3) authority through EPA initiative, based on a lack of dedicated funding for state and tribal wetland programs.
- Administered by EPA. Headquarters and each EPA Region do their own request-for-proposals (RFPs).
- Eligible grantees include state agencies, local governments, qualifying tribes, intergovernmental organizations, and nonprofits (nonprofits only eligible for funds from headquarters).
- Since FY 1996, appropriated amount has ranged from \$15 - \$16.8 million per year.

# Wetland Program Development Grants

- WPDGs may only be used for program development, not implementation projects.
- This limitation is due to the authorizing language of 104(b)(3).
- EPA may seek implementation authority from the Office of Management and Budget in the near future.
- 25% non-Federal match requirement.

# Nonpoint Source Implementation Grants

- Authorized by Section 319(h) of the Clean Water Act.
- Since FY 2000, total grant dollars available through Section 319 grants have ranged between \$200 - \$239 million per year.
- Between FY 2003-2006, more than \$10.5 million spent on wetland implementation projects.
- Projects geared towards wetlands creation, restoration, and protection.

# Pollution Control Program Grants

- Authorized by Section 106 of the Clean Water Act.
- Section 106 can be used to fund day-to-day operations of any state water program (Total Maximum Daily Loads, Monitoring, Water Quality Standards, etc.).
- ELI reports show only a handful of states using 106 to fund their state wetlands programs.
- 106 funds are oversubscribed, and its been difficult for many state wetlands programs to access these funds.

## Other Sources of Funding for Wetlands Activities

(most of these not used for developing or implementing state wetland programs, per se)

- 5-Star Restoration Program (small community-based grants)
  - EPA, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- National Estuary Program (28 designated estuaries nationwide)
  - EPA
- Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments Section 6217
  - EPA, NOAA
- Wetlands Reserve Program (landowners, mostly farmers)
  - USDA
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
  - USDA

# EPA Sustainable Finance Project

- EPA is developing a project to assist states and tribes to create a financing program that enables them to diversify funding sources beyond federal grant dollars to accomplish their goals. Wildlife Action Plans may be an example of one source that has been underutilized with respect to implementing wetlands programs.
- Project will start with an overview Webcast, followed by a series of more detailed regional funding workshops directed to where most interest is shown.