



Natural Selections

Volume 5, Issue 4

April 2009

Legacy Program Update

A word from our Staff: Welcome to our special “Legacy” issue of Natural Selections. Since we expect the Request for Pre-proposals for Legacy for FY 2010 funding to come out sometime during the last week of April-first week of May, we want to take this opportunity to present some tips, hints and tidbits about the submission process to make your job as submitter and our job as reviewers easier. If you have questions that aren’t answered here, please don’t hesitate to contact the Legacy team.

Other Funds and In-Kind Contributions: Although having other funds or in-kind contributions is not required, it is always a big plus in your favor to have it. If others will benefit from your project, it is nice to have some sort of contribution so DoD does not foot the entire bill. Other funds and in-kind also help stretch our annual budget further and help us fund more projects. These other funds also help illustrate to congress and others that Legacy project managers are making use of valuable partnerships and making the most of every dollar Legacy gets and gives. The numbers are impressive. In FY 2008 the total of other funds for Cultural Resource projects was \$120,000 and \$2,512,504 for Natural Resources projects, making a combined total of \$2,632,504. In FY 2009 other funds for Cultural Resource projects totaled \$269,920 and other funds for Natural Resources projects reached a staggering \$4,534,452, making a combined total of \$4,804,372.

No amount of other funds or in-kind contribution is too small to report. Do your best to quantify what you expect to receive. If an installation or organization will be lending equipment or personnel, try to estimate what this would save in terms of dollars.



In The News

Applications for 2009 National Public Lands Day Now Being Accepted!

By Jane Mallory
DoD Legacy Resource Management Program

Have you got a small project in mind that would help improve or conserve your natural or cultural resources located in non-restricted areas of your installation? Consider making your idea into a National Public Lands Day (NPLD) project! NPLD is the nation’s largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance the public lands Americans enjoy. This year NPLD will take place on September 26th (although this date can be changed if necessary on a case by case basis).



DoD NPLD projects can be for natural or cultural resources conservation. Examples of past projects include invasive species removal, planting of native or heritage gardens, trail building, cleaning headstones in historical cemeteries,

[National Public Lands Day, page 4](#)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 [Legacy Program Update](#)
- 1 [In The News—NPLD 2009](#)
- 2 [Naturally Speaking](#)
- 14 [Pollinator Workshop](#)
- 16 [Recent Natural Resources Documents On DENIX](#)
- 17 [Training, Announcements and Events of Interest](#)
- 18 [Photo of the Month](#)
- 19 [Did You Know?](#)
- 20 [Contact Us](#)

Naturally Speaking

From the Desk of L. Peter Boice,
DoD Conservation Team Leader and Director, Legacy Program



We're Looking for More than a Few Good Projects

One of the real joys of overseeing the Legacy Program has been our office's continued ability to anticipate and quickly respond to the current and future management needs of DoD's natural and cultural resources programs. This has required continued adjustments to our Areas of Emphasis, our means of identifying program needs, our partnerships, and our funding requirements. You can expect more changes in these areas over the coming years.

Areas of Emphasis. The FY 2010 Legacy call for proposals will add two new natural resources-related areas: **Global Climate Change (GCC)** and **Ecosystem Services**. We're still finalizing specifics; however, the focus for Legacy's initial GCC proposals will be on adaptive management tools and strategies that best address DoD-specific needs, regardless of location or resource type. For Ecosystem Services, we hope to provide tools that will help our managers balance the competing needs of potential new on-site uses, such as alternative energy generation (e.g., solar, wind power) and enhanced carbon sequestration, that could conflict with the benefits that ecosystems provide to both mission and conservation.

Identifying Program Needs. Over the past four years, we have held two series of regional workshops to help identify key management needs. Three threatened, endangered and at-risk species (TER-S) workshops have resulted in at least eight Legacy-funded projects and nine SERDP projects. Both programs anticipate funding additional projects from these workshops in FY 2010. In addition, Legacy will hold a follow-up Pacific TER-S workshop in Hawaii early in 2010.

Likewise, five regional State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP)-INRMP workshops have generated at least eight successful partnership projects. In some cases, however, workshop participants have either submitted proposals that did not meet Legacy's legislative criteria, or failed to follow through with any submittal. Within the next several months we plan to reestablish contact with workshop participants and encourage appropriate follow-up. We also are planning several additional regional SWAP-INRMP workshops – a South-Central workshop in Nashville in June 2009, and a Pacific Northwest workshop in 2010.

We've also decided to take immediate advantage of the highly successful Pollinator Workshop described elsewhere in this issue that we sponsored at last month's National Military Fish and Wildlife Association (NMFWA) workshop. To assist our installation personnel, we have committed additional funds in FY 2009 specifically to National Public Lands Day pollinator habitat restoration projects. With this increase, we should be able to fund an additional 6-10 NPLD projects this year.

Partnerships. We have found that good ideas come from many different sources. Many stem directly or indirectly from new partnership MOUs – the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign, Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, Bat Conservation International, and the Cooperative Ecosystem Study Units network, among others, have generated successful proposals in the past few years.



Dr. Gabriela Chavarria, Director of the Natural Resource Defense Council's Science Center, keynote speaker at the NMFWA Pollinator Habitat Restoration workshop.

Others come from our attending conferences and professional meetings, such as The Wildlife Society conference and the recently completed NMFWA meeting. Through these formal and informal partnerships, we have developed a mix of mutually beneficial projects.

An increasingly important aspect of most of these recent projects is the ability of our partners to bring additional resources to the table, either in actual dollars, equipment, technical assistance or other in-kind contributions. In FY 2009, our partners have added some \$4.5 million, mostly in in-kind and contributed goods and services, to the approximately \$7 million that Legacy has contributed. We expect these important contributions will continue to enhance Legacy's impact.

Funding Needs. I noted in the January/February issue of *Natural Selections* that the current demonstrated need for Legacy funds is more than twice the FY 2009 funding authorization. If our enhanced efforts to generate even more high quality proposals even partially succeed, the gap may be even greater next year. This may seem counterproductive; however, I'm convinced that if we can demonstrate that our continuing need for funding exceeds the Program's capacity, our demonstrated successes will eventually prevail.

Finally, many installation natural resource managers have said they find it difficult to apply for Legacy funding. This month's issue of *Natural Selections* provides some helpful hints to clarify the process. And, the Legacy staff always is available to help you through the proposal process.

I am committed to all who manage or use our natural resources that we will continue to work for the resources and projects that you need to meet your programs' needs.

Do you have a specific policy or program-related question that you'd like me to answer in a future issue? We're considering adding a short section to address this topic. Please send me your questions for the May issue with a subject line of "Ask Peter" by May 1.



National Public Lands Day, continued from page 1

beach cleanups, repairs and restoration of historical buildings, and much more. This year in addition to these types of projects, in keeping with DoD's commitment to protect pollinators, Legacy is putting out a special call for projects that will benefit pollinating birds, bats, butterflies, bees, other insects, and their habitat. Consider planting a butterfly garden, native flowering annuals, perennials or shrubs, build and place bird boxes, bat boxes, or bee condos.

DoD applicants can apply for up to \$6,500 to cover supplies, materials and equipment. Applications are available at from National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF) at their website www.publiclandsday.org. Under the Sponsors and Partners Tab, scroll down and click on "Legacy". Applications should be submitted to NEEF by June 1st. If you have any questions contact Claudia Kessel, Program Coordinator, National Public Lands Day, NEEF at (202) 261-6478 or Kessel@neefusa.org or talk to the Legacy staff.



What Now? Your Proposal's Long Road to Funding... Or Not!

By Jane Mallory

DoD Legacy Resource Management Program

Ever wonder what happens to your pre-proposal or proposal after you hit the "submit" button? Once your application has been submitted, it goes through a series of reviews. Who reviews your proposal depends on who you have designated as your proposal's Service Lead (Army, Navy Air Force, Marine Corps, DLA, or DoD), although we encourage all the services to look at all the proposals. Currently the review chain is as follows:



Army (Natural and Cultural)

1. Installation
2. Natural or Cultural Resources Command POCs
3. Army Staff
4. Army Secretariat
5. DoD

Navy (Natural)

1. Installation
2. CNO (N45D)
3. Navy Secretariat
4. DoD

Navy (Cultural)

1. Installation
2. CNO (N441)
3. Navy Secretariat
4. DoD

USMC (Natural)

1. Installation
2. HQ USMC
3. Navy Secretariat
4. DoD

USMC (Cultural)

1. Installation
2. HQ USMC
3. Navy Secretariat
4. DoD

Air Force (Natural and Cultural)

1. Installation
2. Natural or Cultural Resources MAJCOM POC
3. HQ AF/A7CA
4. SAF/IEE
4. DoD

DLA (Natural and Cultural)

1. Installation
2. DLA
3. DoD

All submissions are reviewed by DoD Legacy Resource Management Program team. In addition, proposals with an emphasis on birds are reviewed by the DoD Partners in Flight Review Committee and all invasive species proposals are reviewed by Dr. Pete Egan of the Armed Forces Pest Management Board.

In October, the review committee, consisting of a representative from each Service, DoD/PIF, the Armed Forces Pest Management Board, and the Legacy staff, meet and discuss each proposal. Many factors are considered during the review. Just some of the factors weighed include the need for the project, the support it may have from a Service or Services, the benefit to the military mission, if all required Letters of Support have been received, how the project may complement, overlap or duplicate other projects, the total projected cost and time to complete the effort, if the proposal meets Legacy's legislative criteria, the utility of the proposed expected products, and if there is any cost sharing. If it is a continuation project, the progress of the project so far and the timeliness and quality of any submitted deliverables are considered.

The review committee then assigns a letter grade to each proposal. Once completed, Legacy develops a list of recommended projects. We try to fund as many A and high B graded projects as the budget will permit.

What grade did I get?!

The grades are confidential and for the committee's use only. Grades are based on many factors, more than just merit. For instance, a very good proposal may be ranked as a B because it is not time critical as others and could be pushed a year if funds are not available. For this reason we do not discuss them, even with the proposal submitters.



To the Front Office!



In November or December the Legacy team meets with the Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Environment, Safety and Occupational Health), the Director for Environmental Management, and the office of General Council. Each proposal on the list is presented and discussed. Because of the number of proposals involved, this often takes several meetings. At this point the Assistant Under Secretary may approve it to move forward, reject it, or have additional questions which may take more research by the Legacy team. The list of approved proposals may then be presented to the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Installation and Environment. Once his OK is received, the paperwork for the approved proposals is started eventually leading to the transfer of funds to the Contracting Office in Huntsville, Alabama.

Hey! What about all those other proposals?

Any proposals that were presented but for which there were some questions and are put on hold, are considered Second Round proposals. The Legacy team spends up to two weeks getting answers to questions on the hold proposals and identifying additional proposals to present for funding to take the place of any proposals the front office might have rejected during the first meeting. Once this is completed another meeting may be scheduled with the Assistant Deputy Under Secretary to discuss the Second Round proposals.

Once these have been given the OK, the paperwork is initiated to get the remaining funds sent to Huntsville.

So, why do you wait so long to tell me anything?

Once Huntsville has received the funds, we send notifications out to all proposal submitters. Because this involves several different steps and people, it can take some weeks. We must wait until funds are actually sent because at anytime before that, funds can be taken away due to unexpected budget cuts. We want to avoid telling someone that they are being funded and then have to tell them the funds were cut. Likewise, we don't send turn down notifications out until all funds have been sent in the event some funds do become available and we are able to fund another proposal or two.



Have You Met Our Legacy Tracker Program?

By Jane Mallory
DoD Legacy Resource Management Program



If you are considering submitting a pre-proposal for Legacy funding, you should familiarize yourself with the Legacy Tracker. Located on the Legacy website (www.dodlegacy.org), the Tracker is a program by which pre-proposals and proposals are submitted and project records are maintained. You can not submit a pre-proposal or proposal without it!

The first step: Become a registered user!

Getting a Tracker User account is easy. Simply visit the website and click on “Register” on top of the page. Then fill out the requested information and hit “Submit Request”. Your application will be sent to the Legacy office. Approval is done by the Legacy Staff during business hours and takes only a few minutes. You will get an email confirming your registration and be issued a temporary password. If you don’t get a confirmation in a timely manner give us a call and we will make sure you are provided an account and password.

Once you have a tracker account you can start work. Click on the pre-proposal tab on the left hand side of the screen. This will take you to the pre-proposal page for FY2010. Then click “Add New”. A blank pre-proposal file will come up and you are ready to start.

Here are some handy Legacy Tracker hints and frequently asked questions that may help you.

Avoid those embarrassing spelling errors!

To date, the Tracker does not have spell check capabilities. We therefore highly recommend that you first compose your text for each section in Word and spell check your text there. Once your text is the way you want it, copy and paste it into the appropriate pre-proposal section.

Don’t get hit by that pesky time out feature!

The tracker is updated constantly and so has a 2 hour time limit. It will give you a 2-minute warning that your time is running out, but some people still get caught by surprise. Avoid losing your hard work by hitting the “Save” button often. Also, as stated above, write your text in Word, and then copy and paste your text into the required sections.

Don’t leave your Tracker issues unresolved!

If you are having troubles using the Tracker, let us know right away. The Tracker is the only way in which to submit pre-proposals and proposals. If you can’t get it to work for you, you can’t submit! Call the Legacy office if you have any problems or questions.

Common Legacy Tracker FAQs:

How come I can’t access Tracker on my Mac?

To date, Tracker does not support Safari. The Tracker is currently built to support IE 6+ users. However we are working on this and hope to have more access for Mac users in the very near future. In the meantime, borrow a PC!

Is there a word limit on what can go into the Project Details?

The only section on the Project Details page of the pre-proposal and proposal form to have a character limit is the Project Synopsis. This year, the limit is 1,024 characters (including spaces!): the maximum to fill an Excel Cell and still print out. If you are unsure of how many characters you have, write your synopsis in Word and then check it with the File/Properties feature. For more on the Project Synopsis, see the Article and examples in this newsletter issue.

The remaining fields on this page have no limit. Which is not to say that you should put pages and pages of text! We appreciate concise economical writing. See the Hints and Pitfalls articles for more on this. On the proposal form there are also length restrictions on the Primary Personnel and Partnering Organizations Sections at the bottom of the Project

Details page. Since these are small fields, only put the bare minimum (Name and Organization).

My form has red dots on it. What's up with that?

Red dots indicate places where required information is missing. You can't submit your pre-proposal or proposal until you fill in everything required.

I have my Letters of Support but I can't upload them!

Letters of Support can only be uploaded to your file by Legacy staff. Send all Letters of support to the Legacy office. See the "Did you know" feature in this issue for more important information about Letters of Support.

What do I put in the field that says CMD Division on the Administrative Details Page of the pre-proposal?

The CMD Division stands for Command Division. If your pre-proposal has a Service Branch (such as Army) in the Service/Sponsor section, you need to pick a division for that Service from the pull down menu. The installation should be able to tell you which one to choose. If they can not help with this, call the Legacy office and we will do our best to help you figure it out.

What if I don't have a specific Service as a "sponsor"?

Then pick DoD.

Who is the Financial POC?

The Financial Point of Contact is that person in your organization who will handle the contract and money for the project.

Who is the TPOC?

The Technical Point of Contact is that person who will actually be doing or will have the lead in implementing the project.

What is a DSN number?

DSN stands for Defense Switched Network. This is an interbase, non-secure or secure C2 telecommunications system that provides end-to-end command use and dedicated telephone service, voice-band data, and dial-up VTC for C2 and non-C2 DoD authorized users in accordance with national security directives. If you are not with DoD, you may not have one and can leave this field blank.

How do I print my pre-proposal or proposal?

Click on the Print Icon in the upper right hand corner of you pre-proposal or proposal. A PDF should be automatically generated. If not, try holding down the Control key while you click on the Print Icon. If that fails, give us a call and we will find a solution.

What else does this Tracker thingie do?

The Tracker also contains the project files on all projects funded by Legacy, although project information on those funded before FY2000 may not be complete. You can look at most pages of these files with some exceptions. Budget information and some contact information are confidential and can only be viewed by the project authors or by Legacy. However it is a great way to get a sense of what Legacy has funded ...and turned down in the past.

Tracker will also send you notifications such as approval notices, turn down notices, reminders that progress reports or deliverables are coming due and notices that projects are overdue and need attention. If you have a project and need a no-cost extension, you submit a request for an extension through the Track on the Action and Review Page.

Pitfalls! Don't Let This Happen to You

By Jane Mallory
DoD Legacy Resource Management Program



A successful pre-proposal and proposal can depend on avoiding some common mistakes that can effect the eventual disposition of your submission. Here are some common pitfalls to avoid.



ignore Legacy's criteria. Know what we can and can't fund.

Many unsuccessful submitters fail to really learn the Legacy criteria for funding. Legacy can not fund installation-specific projects. We also don't fund projects that are essentially research or for the development of new technology. These are the most common reasons for being turned down. Legacy is for the on-the-ground conservation of natural and cultural resources. Developing tools, demonstration projects, training, collecting information useful to conservation efforts, taking proven technology to be used in a new way or modified are just some examples of fundable efforts. Read the Legacy Guidelines posted on our website (www.DoDLegacy.org) carefully. If you are unsure if your idea meets Legacy criteria, give us a call and ask us.



bury us in text.

The Legacy application is very straightforward and simple. Some have found this actually difficult to deal with, as they are more used to lengthy grant applications, and choose to put everything they can into their submissions. While there are officially no length restrictions on most of the sections, keep in mind that we generally receive more than 200 pre-proposals and about 130 full proposals a year. Given the volume we have to review, we appreciate nice concise writing. The average pre-proposal (once printed out and including all sections) comes out to about 3 ½ to 4 pages. The majority of the text (in the Project Details section) accounts for 1 to 2 pages. The average full proposal (printed out) is about 5 to 6 pages.

In your application you can reduce the bulk by leaving out items such as "References" or "Literature Cited". We don't require resumes or curriculum vitae. Information about your organization and its past accomplishments should be minimal. Background information on your topic should cover the essential points. For instance, tell us why a certain invasive organism might be deleterious to DoD but don't give us the organisms entire natural history.

A good pre-proposal sticks to the point and provides only the information that the application form requests. However, if you think you really need a dozen pages to describe your idea, then do so.



go to the extreme and leave out details.

Although we strongly encourage concise and economical writing, you should go to the extreme and leave out essential details. You should cover the whats, whys, wheres. If your pre-proposal printed out is only 1 ½ to 2 pages, take a second critical look and see if it truly gets you points across. It may just fine and if so, all the better. But chances are you may need to beef some sections up. Some applications for continuation projects include brief summaries of what they have accomplished with previous funding. This is actually very useful information for us to have.



use jargon.

Avoid jargon. Be aware that even though your pre-proposal or proposal will be reviewed by smart people with diverse backgrounds, don't assume that they will all be versed in your area of expertise. Unexplained acronyms and terminology do not help the review process or your chances for funding.



be vague about the benefits of your project.

This is an important element. We need to know how your project will specifically help the DoD fulfill its mission. Name installations that could benefit and how your project would do this.



cite old or single-Service regulations.

Citing applicable legal responsibilities and regulations supporting your proposed project's necessity is encouraged. But check each citation to ensure that the listed law, directive, or regulation is current. If the regulation is Service-specific, do a little research on the internet and include the equal (or similar) regulations from other Services.



rely on websites to make your case.

You are free to mention websites that may explain your proposal idea, but it is not guaranteed that reviewers will visit these websites. In fact, often reviewers use hard copies of your proposal for their review and so web links are not helpful. Also we can only consider what is submitted in text on your tracker form as your application. Citing a website does not make information on that site part of your application.



bite off more than you can chew.

Don't propose an unrealistic timetable or list of expected products. If you propose to produce a dozen products at the end of your project, you must deliver them. You can not decide later you lack the funds or resources to produce your products.



forget other funds or in-kind contributions.

We appreciate it when DoD does not have to foot the whole bill on an effort. If you expect to have other funds for your project or any in-kind contribution, do your best to quantify this. In-kind contributions can be listed in your budget section. There is a section for Other Funds on the Administrative Details page of the proposal form. For pre-proposals, you can make mention of other funds somewhere in your project details section. See the mini-article on Other Funds and In-Kind in this issue for more information about this important element.



gloss over the project synopsis section.

This is actually an important element of your submission. During the proposal review meeting with the front office, this is what is used to identify your project. The Legacy team will have a copy of your full proposal, but the synopsis is what is provided to the Under Secretary and provides a first impression for the higher ups. See the mini-article in this issue on the Project Synopsis for more information and a good example.



forget to coordinate.

Pre-proposals and proposals that are bird-related need to be coordinated before submitting to Legacy with the DoD/ Partners in Flight Program Coordinator, Chris Eberly. For contact information, visit www.dodpif.org. For submissions dealing with invasive species, pre-proposals and proposals should be coordinated with Dr. Peter Egan with the Armed Forces Pest Management Board. Dr. Egan can be reached at Peter.Egan@osd.mil.



ignore our questions or requests.

Submitters of pre-proposals that are moved forward will receive a notification which invites them to submit full proposals. Often in this notification will have additional questions or requests that we would like to see addressed in the full proposal. Failure to address these comments will not reflect favorably during the decision process.



fall behind and then ask for more support.

If you are asking for more funds for a continuation project, be sure you are current with your deliverables and progress reports from your previous funding. If you are delinquent, chances are that further funding might not be considered until you catch up.



forget to submit!

Your pre-proposal and proposal won't reach us if you don't hit the "Submit" button! Sounds simple, but sometimes people have missed this vital step. Once you submit you application, you should pay attention to any emails you may receive from the Tracker Program and check its status periodically to make sure you submission has not be returned or turned down during the review period. Applications need to be submitted on the due date listed in the RFP and on the Legacy website. In order to accommodate those in different time zones, submissions are due at midnight of the due date in your time zone. Barring natural disasters or major computer or internet problems, late submissions will probably not be accepted.



Ask Legacy

By Jane Mallory
DoD Legacy Resource Management Program

Dear Legacy,

I am thinking about submitting a pre-proposal but wonder if my budget is too high. What is the maximum I can apply for?

Signed

Needs a Bundle

Dear Bundle,

Officially there is no maximum or minimum. Legacy has funded projects for as low as several thousand dollars to a few (stress: a few) for hundreds of thousands. However keep in mind that each year we have a finite budget and want to fund as many good projects as our budget will support. The average budget seems to fall somewhere between \$50K and \$120K. Projects with budgets over \$200K are rare and over \$300K are even rarer. We will consider funding higher budgets but the higher the budget the more critical the project needs to be and the more support from the Services it should have. Look in the Hints and Pitfalls articles in this newsletter for ways to make your budget more palatable.

-L

Dear Legacy,

Help! I have an idea for a project on my installation that will really improve our natural resources and boost morale. It won't cost much. Can Legacy fund me?

Signed,

Desperate for Dough



Dear Desperate,

Unfortunately Legacy can not fund installation specific projects. It's the law! But don't despair. Maybe you can turn your idea into a National Public Lands Day project! Each year Legacy supplies funds for small projects on installations that will improve or conserve natural or cultural resources. This year, Legacy is putting out a special call for pollinator-related projects. NPLD occurs on the last Saturday in September (though this date can be changed on a case by case basis). The project site needs to be in those areas of the installation open (at least sometime) to the public. So, no firing ranges or other restricted areas! Legacy supplies funds (up to 6,500 bucks!) for equipment, supplies, and materials; you supply the labor in the form of volunteers. To learn more about this great program and how to apply, visit publiclandsday.org, call Claudia Kessel National Public Lands Day Program Coordinator, National Environmental Education Foundation at (202) 261-6478 (email at Kessel@neefusa.org) or contact the Legacy staff.

-L

Dear Legacy,

I thought I had a really good project idea but it's been rejected. Should I even bother resubmitting it? Why don't you like me?



Signed,

Always a Bridesmaid, Never a Bride

Dear Bridesmaid,

First off before you get to feeling too dejected, please know that there are lots of really good proposals that don't get funded, for lots of reasons. Many times it has to do with timing. If your project is good but not time or mission critical other more crucial projects may have been funded ahead of yours. In 2009 Legacy received a record number of really good proposals along with the tightest budget we have had in a long time. Tough choices had to be made and quite a few good proposals were turned down.

The most common reasons for pre-proposals to be rejected are:

Installation Specific. By law Legacy can not fund projects that would benefit only one installation. Your idea must benefit more than one installation, Service, a region, or have DoD-wide applicability.

Doesn't Support the Mission. Your project somehow must help DoD in fulfilling its primary mission which is readiness and military training. You need to state clearly how what you propose will somehow help DoD meet these goals.

Duplicates ongoing efforts. We may have a project or projects already in the works that are doing what you propose.

Lacks detail. While we appreciate and even encourage concise pre-proposals and proposals, some go too far and provide too little detail. We need to know what you want to do, how, where and why.

Too researchy. Legacy does not fund raw research projects. It may be interesting to know the number of hairs on the back legs of a cricket, but we can't financially support that kind of work. Legacy funds on-the-ground conservation efforts.

Late with your stuff. This applies to pre-proposals for continuation projects. If you have received funding previously, we always check the progress of your project before committing more funds. If you are behind in deliverables or progress reports, we will likely not fund your effort further until you catch up.

These are the most common but other reasons may be lack of required coordination (this speaks specifically to bird or invasive species-related projects), or lack of support from the Services. Sometimes clarity is a problem. It may make sense to you, but your idea was not conveyed well.

When Legacy turns down a pre-proposal or proposal, the turn down notice will state a reason. Sometimes it is simply a matter of not enough funds available. Other reasons may be given. If you need more clarification on why you were turned down, feel free to call Legacy. We would be happy to have a frank discussion about your pre-proposal or proposal. We will give you hints as to how to improve your specific submission. Also look in the rest of this issue for valuable dos and don'ts. And don't get discouraged!

-L



Dear Legacy,

My proposal was not funded, again! I followed Legacy staff instructions, and improved it in areas identified by staff, but still nothing. Should I give up hope? Is it me?

Signed,

Crestfallen in Camp Swampy

Dear Crestfallen,

There are many reasons why a proposal may not receive funding. Some of these are addressed in a letter responding to "Always a Bridesmaid, Never a Bride."

If you did indeed follow staff instructions by improving your proposal, the proposal may not have been funded due to the immediacy of other proposals. When it comes time to fund proposals, the Legacy staff must weigh the proposals with time constraints with those that may be solid proposals, and good ideas, but are less immediate and more "nice to have."

Proposals supporting the military mission with an immediate need receive funding priority. As each fiscal cycle brings tighter budgets, the program is able to fund fewer good proposals that fall farther down the priority list.

If you believe your proposal may deserve a higher ranking next year, talk to your Headquarters Service Representative about the project's necessity. The more information the representative has, the better argument he/she can make during the Legacy Proposal Review cycle.

-L

Tips to Preparing a Pre-Proposal or Proposal

By Hillori Schenker
DoD Legacy Resource Management Program

A successful pre-proposal and proposal can depend on avoiding some common mistakes that can effect the eventual disposition of your submission. Here are some common pitfalls to avoid.

- ❖ **Talk up your idea to your HQ Service Representative.** They will be speaking on behalf of your proposal in the review meeting. The more aware of the situation necessitating the proposal and the proposed solution, the more able the Representative is to lend the proposal judicious support. The list of Service Representatives can be found on the Legacy website (www.DoDLegacy.org) under the "Contact Us" tab in the upper right hand corner of the site.
- ❖ Proposals should **solve a problem** common to a region (geographic, cultural, migration pattern, etc.) or to all installations nationwide.
- ❖ Ensure your proposal **provides a solution for more than one Service.** The easiest way to demonstrate the broad applicability of your proposal is to specify installations with similar issues. For example, it is much better to say "management practices developed for gopher tortoises here could also benefit Camp X, Fort Y, and Naval Station Z, all of which have this species" instead of the more vague "management practices developed could be applied to any DoD facility containing this building type".
- ❖ If your proposal is very costly, consider **proposing a "pilot test" or "demonstration project"** on one or two installations to demonstrate the effectiveness of proposed methods. (See "Letters to Legacy" in this issue for a few more budget tips).
- ❖ **Keep jargon and Service specific terms out of the proposal.** Although smart professionals review the proposals, the review team's backgrounds are wide and varied.
- ❖ Proposals should **focus on finding results in a single study.** While subsequent projects may be proposed at a later time, each proposal is expected to be designed to produce stand-alone results.
- ❖ **Propose realistic and useful expected products.** Have a good plan as to what will be the ultimate result of your project that others can look at and use. Transition or Transfer Plans that detail step-by-step how another installation could duplicate your project is very important and useful. Reports that promise Lessons Learned and peer-reviewed articles are also highly desirable. Also keep in mind that anything you propose to produce must ultimately be delivered so don't bite off more than you can chew. Develop a suite of expected products that you feel confident you will have the time and capability to produce.

- ❖ **Always list any other funding or in-kind contributions** that you may expect to get for your project. Although it is not required any demonstration of cost-sharing definitely works in your favor.
- ❖ **Make sure you mention any partnerships involved.** Even if no direct contributions are made by partners, perhaps other agencies or organizations are doing similar work on their lands and sharing information would benefit all.
- ❖ If your project idea was **developed as a direct result of a DoD-sponsored conference, workshop or training session**, please state this somewhere in the project details.
- ❖ **The proposed project should be an original study.** Proposals duplicating studies performed by Legacy or another organization or institute will not be accepted.
- ❖ **Make a strong case** for how your proposed project will benefit DoD in its primary mission of military readiness and training.
- ❖ If you are unsure of your project's applicability to other Services, who your HQ Service representative is, a portion of the pre-proposal form, or have any other issue, **remember to contact your Natural/Cultural Resources Legacy staff member.**

The Project Synopsis: Make a Good First Impression!

By Jane Mallory
DoD Legacy Resource Management Program

The project synopsis is important because it serves as a snapshot of your proposal that will be used during the review process and meetings with the Front Office. Even though the Legacy team will have your full proposal handy should questions arise, the synopsis is what is often used in quickly identifying your project and its salient points. A well-crafted synopsis can make the review process move more smoothly and quickly.

But space is limited. This year we have expanded the amount of space available to 1,024 characters. This includes spaces! This is the maximum characters that will fit into a single Excel cell and still print out. In crafting your synopsis, first write it in Word and make sure you are under the limit by using the File/Properties feature. Then copy and paste it into the application. A good synopsis should briefly state what you plan to do and where, and what the benefit would be. It is also helpful to state how many years you expect the project to take. Here are two examples of good project synopses from FY2009.

Documentary research and on-site file reviews of known rural industrial sites will create an historic context for the Sandhills Region of Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina which will facilitate more accurate site identification, evaluation, and management. While the focus is a regional study, these types of sites are found nationwide. This study will serve as a model for similar sites across DoD. This study will allow CRMs to streamline the compliance process by identifying resources, and addressing protocol early in the process thereby saving time and money.

This is a one year project.

This project represents the third and final phase of a collaborative partnership managing 18 species of bat at the state-wide level including 100% of all DoD lands within Utah. Past funding has resulted in the consolidation of existing data that was scattered among numerous federal, state, and private sources; creation of a comprehensive geodatabase, and completion of a draft Utah Bat Conservation Plan. This phase would result in DoD and Utah Bats Risk Assessment and Management Plan, training in conservation and management goals and data collection protocols, conducting state-wide surveys targeting known data gaps, creation of species-specific habitat models and integration of models into the standardized sampling framework to prioritize future survey efforts, and protocol refinement and geo-spatial database improvement. This phase is crucial to ensuring that achievements realized from previous years' funding become integrated into an established state-wide bat management effort that will remain self-sustaining across agencies long after this project concludes.

This is the final year of a 3 year project.

Pollinator Workshop: Did You Hear the Buzz?

By Alison Dalsimer
Booz Allen Hamilton

Were you one of the lucky people who attended the 2009 National Military Fish and Wildlife Association (NMFWA) Pollinator Workshop on Monday, 16 March 2009? If so, you enjoyed one of the best workshops of the year... at least according to the overwhelmingly positive feedback we received for this half-day event.

Sponsored by the DoD Legacy Resource Management Program, the Pollinator Habitat Restoration for DoD Land Managers workshop, conducted at this year's NMFWA meeting, attracted nearly 80 participants who provided overwhelmingly positive feedback – all “good” or “excellent” ratings from the 20 people who completed and submitted evaluations – and we continued to receive great feedback throughout the entire week of the conference.

In fact, the response was so enthusiastic that not only will we be launching a Pollinator Workshop website by the end of April, we're also going to create a formal NMFWA Pollinator Working Group (WG) and, by request, put together a Pollinator Technical Session for the 2011 NMFWA meeting. Thanks to Peter Boice's commitment of Legacy funds through both National Public Lands Day (for partnership projects up to \$6500) and the regular Legacy proposal process, the 2011 technical session is going to focus on all the great projects that result from this workshop!

For those of you unable to attend the workshop, we enjoyed a series of excellent presentations including:

- ❖ Dr. Gabriela Chavarria (Director, of Natural Resource Defense Council's Science Center), who provided a remarkably thorough overview of pollinators, including their importance, their plight, and what's happening to help them, all with beautiful and sometimes disturbing pictures, like that of workers in China hand-pollinating gala apples with paint brushes (the area is devoid of all pollinators due to pesticide use);
- ❖ Dr. Jay Evans (USDA Bee Lab), who discussed the problem of declining honey bee populations and the surprisingly small, though real, impact of Colony (and Cup) Collapse Disorder;
- ❖ Dr. Sam Droege (USGS), who described how gravel pits can be turned into oases for pollinators, if we would just stop trying to plant grass and trees in areas better suited for other purposes, and who reminded the audience (this was my favorite part) that “males are trivial” – evolutionarily speaking, of course;
- ❖ Robert Johnson (Wildlife Habitat Council), who provided an overview of WHC's corporate pollinator programs, and described their ongoing partnership efforts with managers at Fort Lewis and at bases in the Chesapeake Bay region; and
- ❖ Kim Winter (National Wildlife Federation), who described in detail and with some great photos of kids at work, NWF's backyard and schoolyard pollinator programs.

We also had invited Dr. Scott Black of the Xerces Society to provide a series of recommendations for land managers on how tools such as fire, grazing, mowing, herbicides, and insecticides can be adjusted to benefit pollinators. Sadly, Scott was unable to attend, but he provided a PDF of his talk which, like all of the presentations and a whole lot more, will be posted on the DoD Pollinator Workshop website when it goes live (stay tuned for the next exciting edition of Natural Selections for the weblink!).

In addition to these excellent presentations, we also had nearly a dozen displays/posters ranging from descriptions of ongoing pollinator projects to instructions on creating backyard habitats to a wide variety of informational handouts to dozens of actual bee specimens on loan from the Smithsonian! With nearly an hour allotted for participants to roam, learn, and speak with presenters and speakers, it was definitely one of the workshop's high points.

For learning with fun, we offered pollinator related give-aways (books, chocolate, fruit snacks, wind chimes, yard art, nuts, a bee box, a bottle of wine, a canvas bag, pollinator stamps, and more) to all who asked questions and submitted evaluation forms, as well as to the winner of our quiz competition (Coralie Cobb)... fun, eh?!

So, check out our website when it's launched... get your proposal ideas together... and join us at next year's NMFWA Pollinator WG meeting and the 2011 technical session. Together, we can and will make a difference!



Legacy Project Highlight of the Month

A quick overview of our projects



Legacy Project 09-932: Huntsville Contract Management Support

Ever wondered who helps the DoD Legacy Resource Management Program in executing all project's cooperative agreements and MIPR's? The answer is the Huntsville Center, at The U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, in Huntsville, Al, is a major element of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Its original mission was support to ballistic missile defense, but has since expanded into programs and project management; ordnance and explosives; engineering; and chemical demilitarization programs. Huntsville Center operates under a charter that is based on programs rather than geography. Although the programs change as national and military priorities evolve, the center's mission and functions are centered on four key processes. Through these processes, Huntsville Center consistently delivers quality products on time — and that's what keeps customers like the Legacy Program coming back.

These processes include

- Engineering and Technical Services
- Programs and Project Management
- Construction Management
- Innovative Contracting Initiatives

The DoD Legacy Resource Management Program benefits from the excellent services provided by Huntsville Center's [Mr. George Sledge](#), and his team for managing all financial documentation for all Legacy Program related activities. Mr. Sledge is the Program Manager for the Legacy Program and has 8 years as a Program manager and 16 years as a financial point of contact (POC). His job is to review all approved Legacy projects for completeness before initiating the award process. This includes making sure all information is current and correct in the project description and preparing the cooperative agreement. Mr. Sledge stays abreast of the latest requirements for using cooperative agreements, processes invoices for all cooperative agreements, and coordinates time extension requests. His staff also has several years of experience, and the team members with the more important tasks are Mr. John Williams, in Resource Management, and Mr. Ken Goddard and his Contracting staff.

Huntsville Center is the USACE Installation Support Center of Expertise (ISCX). Huntsville Center's charter includes programs that are national/worldwide or broad in scope; require integrated facilities or systems that cross geographical boundaries; require a centralized management structure; or require commonality, standardization, multiple-site adaptation or technology transfer. Huntsville Center partners with Districts and other organizations, thereby creating synergies in providing timely, cost effective and consistent installation support. This support ranges from programmatic in nature for large geographically dispersed programs that involve centralized planning and management with decentralized execution to partnering in executing challenging state-of-the-art projects.

The ISCX links state-of-the-art business practices and innovative processes in its partnership with Districts and other organizations in providing comprehensive and cost effective support to Department of Defense installations. Through centralized management with decentralized execution, ISCX leverages program management, engineering, contracting and legal matrix expertise imbedded in its virtual project delivery teams. We continue to take pride in our contributions to the mission and quality of life for our service members and to our military installations, and look forward to continued service in meeting an evolving array of challenges.



Recent Natural Resources Documents On DENIX

Reports, Fact Sheets, Photos, Videos



Fact Sheet: Assessing BASH Risk Potential of Migrating and Breeding Osprey in the Mid-Atlantic Chesapeake Bay Region, Capture and Marking Techniques: (Legacy 07-292): This fact sheet describes the materials, procedure, application, and results of Osprey captured and marked as part of the Assessing BASH Risk Potential of Migrating and Breeding Osprey in the Mid-Atlantic Chesapeake Bay Region project. This is a collaborative multi-agency effort where breeding adults and nestlings were live-captured, fitted with satellite transmitters, and released from nest locations surrounding Langley Air Force Base in the Back River on the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay of Virginia. Posted at: <https://www.denix.osd.mil/portal/page/portal/denix/environment/NR/conservation/Wildlife>

Fact Sheet: DoD Partners in Flight Program Management and Technical Support: (Legacy 07-1717): this fact sheet summarizes the activities and accomplishments of the DoD Partners in Flight program for fiscal year 2007. Posted at: <https://www.denix.osd.mil/portal/page/portal/denix/environment/NR/conservation/Wildlife>

Fact Sheet: Biodiversity Outreach Toolkit: Sustaining the Mission, Securing the Legacy: (Legacy 05-273). <https://www.denix.osd.mil/portal/page/portal/denix/environment/NR/conservation/OutreachEducation>

Fact Sheet: The Role of DoD Lands for Endangered Species Protection: (Legacy 06-302): Summarizes NatureServe's update of the analysis of the distribution of imperiled and endangered species on federal lands based on current species locational data. This new analysis provides a current view of relative stewardship responsibilities of federal land management agencies, including DoD. This fact sheet can be found at: <https://www.denix.osd.mil/portal/page/portal/denix/environment/NR/conservation/EndangeredSpecies>

Article: Federal Lands and Endangered Species: The Role of Military Lands for Sustaining Biodiversity: (Legacy 06-302) Detailing the findings from a Legacy study (06-302) this article (published in BioScience • April 2008 / Vol. 58 No. 4) explored how endangered and imperiled species are distributed across the federal estate to determine the relative stewardship responsibilities of the major federal land management agencies. This article posted at: <https://www.denix.osd.mil/portal/page/portal/denix/environment/NR/conservation/EndangeredSpecies>

Quantifying impacts of ground water withdrawal on avian communities in desert riparian woodlands of the southwestern U.S: (Legacy 07-290): Assess the value of riparian woodlands to the health and persistence of avian communities in the desert southwest. Quantify the extent to which both surface water and the health of riparian vegetation influence the abundance and diversity of riparian birds, and develop models to allow resource managers on military lands to better predict the effects of future ground water withdrawal and surface water depletion on riparian bird communities along the San Pedro River and elsewhere in the southwestern U.S. For the fact sheet and report visit <https://www.denix.osd.mil/portal/page/portal/denix/environment/NR/conservation/Wildlife>

Migratory linkages of Burrowing Owls on DoD installations and adjacent lands, April 2006 Report: (Legacy 05-243 & 06-243): this report details progress during 2005-2006 on project that seeks to locate Burrowing Owl nests on Department of Defense installations throughout the western U.S., determine the migratory linkages and connectivity of Burrowing Owl populations on DoD installations and adjacent lands, Determine where Burrowing Owls nesting on DoD installations and adjacent lands spend the winter, and estimate the extent to which individual owls move among populations, both among DoD installations and between DoD installations and lands managed by other entities. Visit <https://www.denix.osd.mil/portal/page/portal/denix/environment/NR/conservation/Wildlife>



Training, Announcements & Events of Interest

Workshops, Interagency Training Announcements and Future Events of Interest to the Conservation Community



FEATURED! Conservation Partnering: Invasive Species Management as a Successful Watershed Protection

Partnership: April 30, at NSF Carderock (Bldg 40, 9500 MacArthur Boulevard, West Bethesda) in MD. During this time of tightening budgets, it's more important than ever to find innovative, efficient ways to produce lasting conservation results. This seminar will cover the whys and hows of using community partnerships to avoid dumping money into short-term projects and start managing for long-term success. Workshop will focus on invasive species management as a jumping-off point for partnership conservation programs. Registration required, no fee: conservationtrainingRSVP@gmail.com, or call Susan Reines 240-247-0912.

NEW! 2010 Multistate Conservation Grant Program: The Multistate Conservation Grant Program (MSCGP) is soliciting Letters of Intent (due by midnight EDT Wednesday, May 6, 2009) for the 2010 cycle of this competitive grant program. For more application information please review the attached guidelines or visit the MSCGP website. Visit http://www.fishwildlife.org/multistate_grants.html for details. Organizations eligible to apply include: a state or group of states, a non-governmental organization, or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for the purpose of conducting the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation.

Birds of Conservation Concern 2008: This publication identifies species, subspecies, and populations of migratory and nonmigratory birds in need of additional conservation actions. We hope to stimulate coordinated and collaborative proactive conservation actions among Federal, State, tribal, and private partners. The species that appear in Birds of Conservation Concern 2008 are deemed to be the highest priority for conservation actions. We anticipate that the document will be consulted by Federal agencies and their partners prior to undertaking cooperative research, monitoring, and management actions that might directly or indirectly affect migratory birds. The Notice of Availability can be found at <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/reports/BCC2008/BCC%202008%20NOA.pdf>

2009 Annual Meeting of the American Institute of Biological Sciences: Sustainable Agriculture: Greening the Global Food Supply :

May 18-19, in Arlington, Virginia. Plenary speakers, panelists, and discussion groups, from both the basic and applied life sciences, will examine topics related to food sustainability, supply, and security. The two-day program is geared toward the science-policy interface for an audience of scientists, educators, students, representatives of non-governmental organizations, members of Congress, and the media. For details please visit: http://www.aibs.org/annual-meeting/annual_meeting_2009.html



Photo of the Month

Capturing the beauty of our natural resources



April 2009 Photo of the Month Winner!
Red Shouldered Hawk, United States Naval Observatory, Washington DC.

Submitted by *Natural Selections* reader: CDR Scott Merritt
Washington, DC

Did You Know?

Little Did You Know Conservation Could Be So Much Fun!

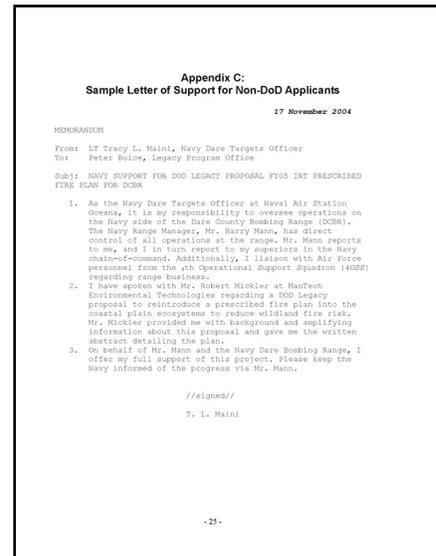


That Letters of Support are actually permission slips?!– Letters of Support (LOS) are required for any proposal that proposes to do work on an installation or request data from an installation. The LOS tells us that the installation or installations are aware of your proposal and that should your project get funded, that you would be allowed access to the base to do the data gathering. We require a LOS from every installation you may plan on visiting or asking for information before the final proposal due date.

LOS are not required at the pre-proposal stage. However because it can sometimes take a bit of time to obtain the LOS (installation people may have tight schedules and may not be able to provide a letter on short notice), its best to start the process early. The LOS can be from the Natural or Cultural Resources Manager or from the Base Commander. Be sure your LOS references the title of your proposal. In the past we have received letters with no indication what proposal they are supporting.

LOS should be sent to the Legacy office either as a scanned PDF attachment to an email, faxed or sent snail mail. The Legacy staff will then process the letters and make sure they are uploaded to your Tracker file.

If you have additional letters from other organizations, you are welcome to send them. However, they are not strictly speaking LOS and are more properly considered Letters of Endorsement and therefore may not be uploaded to your file.



A sample Letter of Support can be found in Appendix C, of the Legacy Guidebook, available online in the Legacy Tracker.

For more information visit <https://www.dodlegacy.org>

Contact Us

Who we are and where to find us!



For further information about the Legacy Resource Management Program please contact:

[L. Peter Boice](#)

Conservation Team Leader

[Jane Mallory](#)

Natural Resource Management Specialist

703-604-1774

[Pedro Morales](#)

Natural Resource Management Specialist

703-604-1933

[Hillori Schenker](#)

Cultural Resource Management Specialist

703-604-1724

Disclaimer

Every effort is made to provide accurate and complete information. However, with the hundreds of documents available online, often uploaded within short deadlines, we cannot guarantee that there will be no errors. With respect to documents and information referenced by means of hyperlinks on this publication, neither the U.S. Government, the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD), Plexus Scientific (website contractor) nor their employees and contractors make any warranty, expressed or implied, including the warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose with respect to documents available from Department of Defense websites, or from independent parties outside of DoD. Additionally, the U.S. Government, DoD, nor Plexus Scientific assume no legal liability for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of any information, product, or process disclosed herein and do not represent that use of such information, product, or process would not infringe on privately owned rights.



Requests to be added or removed to the *Natural Selections* distribution list may be sent to Pedro.Morales.ctr@osd.mil.

