

URBAN WILDLIFE/HABITAT FUNDING WINDOW

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT Heritage Grant URBAN Proposal's – Eligibility CRITERIA

SEPTEMBER 2019

URBAN WILDLIFE/URBAN HABITAT (URBAN) refers to Heritage Fund monies used for conserving, enhancing and establishing wildlife and wildlife habitat within, or in close proximity to, urban areas. Per Arizona Revised Statute “Urban Wildlife” is designated as wildlife that occurs within the limits of an incorporated area or in close proximity to an urban area that receives significant impact from human use. (A.R.S. 17-296(6)).

The intent is to fund URBAN projects that give the greatest return for the Heritage funds invested consistent with eligibility criteria listed below. For 2020 there is **\$100,000** available to support URBAN grant proposals. Grant applicants can request from \$500 to \$100,000 in this sub-category.

URBAN proposals **must** meet **one or more** of the **Eligibility CRITERIA** listed below:

CRITERION 1: Human/Wildlife Conflicts

- a. Educational projects or programs that assess and develop proactive measures to reduce the risk of critical incidents and other human/wildlife conflicts in urban areas; including land management practices and public awareness programs with emphasis on an integrated community approach.

CRITERION 2: Watchable Wildlife Viewing

- a. Festivals that focus on wildlife or wildlife habitat values; includes planning, promotion and implementation.
- b. Projects to develop and implement wildlife-viewing programs and activities (e.g., partnerships in watchable wildlife viewing workshops, field trips, presentations, support materials, promotion, etc.) in urban areas and at urban-eligible AZGFD wildlife areas including site development (e.g., viewing blinds, interpretive signage, trail and facility development, etc.).
- c. Projects supporting nature tourism marketing including partnering opportunities with related agencies, businesses and communities in promoting and developing wildlife viewing conferences, communication plans, site assessments and enhancements.
- d. Research related to watchable wildlife-viewing recreation (nature tourism) that attempts to understand the watchable wildlife-viewing market in Arizona including, but not limited to: expectations for satisfying experiences, importance of specific wildlife species of interest, willingness to pay for valued watchable wildlife-viewing experiences, economic impact on local communities, etc.

CRITERION 3: Wildlife Corridors/Habitat Conservation

- a. Projects or programs supporting and/or promoting urban smart growth efforts while limiting urban/rural sprawl to better address wildlife habitat conservation as outlined in AZGFD's wildlife friendly development guidelines and county connectivity reports. May include land-use planning actions during the preservation, development, or redevelopment of a neighborhood, community or region to include in-fill development and incorporating wildlife habitat connectivity in development plans. Should consult with Department employees where appropriate to include recommendations for keeping wildlife/human interactions to a minimum.
- b. Projects to increase wildlife permeability across urban barriers such as roads and canals (such as fencing, culverts, land bridges, signage, etc.) in areas identified as important for wildlife connectivity as outlined in county connectivity or detailed linkage design plans or through monitoring efforts such as roadkill or telemetry studies. Projects may include monitoring and research, placing structures such as fencing or signage following recommendations in the Department's Wildlife Friendly Development of Fencing Guidelines as appropriate, or creation of recommendations to make the studied barrier(s) more permeable to one or more species of wildlife.
- c. Research or monitor (baseline and/or post-construction) the impacts of new or proposed development in urban areas, including, but not limited to, movement or corridor use studies using GPS collars or roadkill or other baseline fauna inventory monitoring.

CRITERION 4: Urban and Community Fishing Waters

- a. Projects that improve sport fishery populations in urban or community fishing waters, (e.g., fish habitat enhancements, the installation or replacement of water aeration systems, shoreline stabilization, nuisance waterfowl management and outreach, and any water quality improvements).
- b. Projects that increase angling recreation capacity at urban or community fishing waters such as expanded parking, improved shoreline access, or shade structures or trees specifically beneficial to anglers.
- c. Projects that include the construction or renovation of public fishing ponds.

NOTE: To be eligible for Urban funding the project must be within the corporate limits of any incorporated city or town; **or** within five (5) miles (straight-line distance) of the boundary; **or** an area (beyond the five (5) mile boundary) that receives significant impact from residential development, as determined by the Department.

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