WDFW Accepting Applications for ALEA Volunteer Grants

Local News

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OLYMPIA, Wash. - Starting Dec. 1, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) will accept grant applications for projects that benefit the state's fish and wildlife.The grants, funded through the state's Aquatic Land Enhancement Account (ALEA), provide reimbursement for organizations and individuals who conduct volunteer projects that conserve fish and wildlife or promote public appreciation of species ranging from steelhead to sage-grouse.WDFW currently expects to award about $180,000 in ALEA grants this year.Five major types of projects are funded through the program - habitat restoration, research, education and outreach, facility development and artificial production. Other projects consistent with WDFW goals and objectives also may be considered. Grants may not be used for salaries, wages or stipends.

Eligible applicants include individual citizens, non-profit organizations, tribes and political subdivisions of the state such as public utility districts, schools and universities. State and federal agencies are not eligible.Applications must be received or postmarked by Feb. 29, 2012."This is a highly competitive grant program," said program coordinator Josh Nicholas. "Projects that foster individual and community involvement through the use of volunteers, have a sound budget and are consistent with WDFW goals have the greatest chance of success."Application materials will be available for download from WDFW's website by Dec. 1, at http://wdfw.wa.gov/grants/alea/index.html . Those without adequate internet access can request a compact disc containing the application materials by calling WDFW at (360) 902-2700.