

Background:

The [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#) (BIL), also known as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, is providing funds to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office for Coastal Management (OCM) to invest in coastal habitat protection and restoration projects. The OCM will administer \$207 million over the next five years (2022-2027) to fund projects through the National Coastal Zone Management Program.

The Wisconsin Coastal Management Program (WCMP) is seeking projects to competitively apply to the [National Coastal Zone Management Program BIL funding competition](#) in the future. WCMP will be the primary applicant for the federal competition and will collaborate on project development. If awarded, funding will be passed through WCMP to the project partner by the Wisconsin Department of Administration. The project partner will be responsible for application development in addition to project development, implementation, and project reporting to WCMP.

There are two steps to the application process. First, WCMP can submit up to three project letters of intent for OCM's review. Then high-ranking projects will be selected by OCM and asked to submit full proposals to be considered for funding. Funded projects are expected to begin in early Spring of that funding year but may be pushed back due to potential delays.

If you have a project idea, contact WCMP (coastal@wisconsin.gov) to begin a conversation.

Goal:

Protect and restore ecologically significant habitats, including conserving lands that play a critical role in helping communities become more resilient to natural hazards.

Project Types:

- Habitat Restoration
- Restoration Planning, Engineering, and Design
- Ecosystem Conservation (Acquisitions)

Available Funding:

- \$2 to \$6 million for Habitat Restoration
- \$200 to \$500 thousand for Engineering, Design, and Planning
- \$1 to \$4 million for Ecosystem Conservation

Match Requirement:

There is no match requirement. However, leveraged funding is strongly encouraged and will be reviewed in evaluations.

Project Period:

Projects are expected to be completed within three years, plus one additional year for habitat restoration projects for monitoring.

Eligible Projects:

- Within a coastal watershed county
- Publicly owned or leased land
- Public entity project partner
- Allow for passive public access

NOAA has Indicated Priority for Projects that:

- Protect or restore high priority natural ecosystems, key ecosystem features, and species/habitat diversity
- Enhance climate resiliency
- Prioritizes coastal program, community, state, or regional plans or reports
- Engages with and/or addresses vulnerabilities and impacts on underserved communities
- Leverages funding that complements this funding
- Have project readiness
- Include on-the-ground implementation compared to only having pre-implementation activities
- Provide a transformational effect on an ecosystem or community

Please direct project ideas and questions to:

coastal@wisconsin.gov

(608) 267-7982