

### § 83.5

under this Act before a conservation plan is approved. Such a proposal must:

(1) Be for the purpose of conserving, restoring, or otherwise benefitting nongame fish and wildlife, its habitats or its users;

(2) Comply with standards contained in the Federal Aid Manual; and

(3) Consist of work to be accomplished before October 1, 1986.

(b) A proposal to develop or maintain a conservation plan. The designated State agency may apply for funding of a project for developing a conservation plan, coordinating or consolidating a conservation plan with other plans, or maintaining a previously approved conservation plan. State costs incurred later than September 30, 1991, for the development of a conservation plan cannot be approved for funding.

(c) A proposal to implement actions described in an approved conservation plan. Such a proposal specifies and requests funding to cover one or more of the nongame actions described in the approved conservation plan.

### § 83.5 Limitations.

The following limitations shall apply to the eligibility of projects for funding under the Act:

(a) Of the total estimated costs for any project proposed under this Act, not less than 80 percent shall be for work or activities for the principal benefit of nongame fish and wildlife resources or of the public use of these resources.

(b) Upon approval of a conservation plan, all projects must be limited to actions required for implementing or revising the plan or for coordinating or consolidating the plan with other plans.

(c) Not more than 10 percent of the costs of any project which is carried out in lieu of an approved conservation plan, or which is carried out under an approved conservation plan covering only nongame fish and wildlife resources, may be derived from the sale of hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses and from penalties (including forfeitures) for violations of hunting, fishing, and trapping laws of the State.

(d) Not more than 10 percent of the estimated costs for projects to be fund-

### 50 CFR Ch. I (10-1-08 Edition)

ed shall be for law enforcement activities.

(e) Not more than 10 percent of the cost of implementing any project under this Act shall be funded by in-kind contributions from third parties.

### § 83.6 Appeals.

Any difference of opinion over the eligibility of proposed activities or differences arising over the conduct of work may be appealed to the Director. Final determinations rests with the Secretary.

### § 83.7 Availability of funds.

Funds allocated to a State under the Act are available for obligation and expenditure during the fiscal year for which they are allocated and until the close of the succeeding fiscal year. For the purpose of this section, obligation of allocated funds occurs when a project agreement is approved by the Regional Director.

### § 83.8 Submission of proposals for funding.

To make application for funds allocated under this Act, the State shall submit to the regional director an Application for Federal Assistance.

(a) Each application shall contain such information as the regional director may require to determine if the proposed activities are in accordance with the Act, the provisions of this part, and the standards contained in the Federal Aid Manual.

(b) Applications must be signed by the director of the designated State agency or the official(s) delegated to exercise the authority and responsibilities of such director in committing the State to participation under the Act.

### § 83.9 Conservation plans.

A conservation plan submitted to the regional director for approval shall meet the requirements for substantiality set forth in § 83.12(a) and the standards prescribed in the Federal Aid Manual, and shall:

(a) Identify the species of nongame fish and wildlife, and other fish and wildlife deemed appropriate by the designated State agency which are within the State and are valued for ecological,

educational, aesthetic, cultural, recreational, economic, or scientific benefits by the public;

(b) Provide for inventory(ies) of the identified species (plan species) to determine:

(1) Their population size, distribution, and range; and

(2) The extent, condition, and location of their significant habitats.

(c) Identify the significant problems which may adversely affect the plan species;

(d) Determine actions which should be taken to conserve the plan species and their significant habitats. Actions proposed will seek to optimize population levels, population distributions, and human benefits while taking fully into account the effects on non-target species and user groups. The actions will utilize methods and procedures which will, to the maximum extent practicable, ensure the well-being and enhancement of the plan species;

(e) Establish priorities for implementing the actions proposed in (d);

(f) Provide for regular monitoring of the plan species and the effectiveness of the actions implemented;

(g) Provide for the review of the plan and revision, if appropriate, at intervals of not more than 3 years;

(h) Describe procedures by which inputs have been solicited from the public during plan development and by which inputs will be solicited during revision and implementation of the plan;

(i) Indicate State and Federal agencies which were consulted during plan development and which will be consulted during plan implementation. If plan implementation will entail substantive cooperation with other agencies, an agreement describing the intended cooperation and signed by the involved parties must be executed before funding is authorized.

#### § 83.10 Cost sharing.

Federal and State participation in the costs incurred in completion of approved work funded by this Act shall be limited as follows:

(a) The Federal share may not exceed:

(1) Ninety percent of the costs for development of conservation plans, ex-

cept after September 30, 1984, the Federal share may not exceed 75 percent of the cost for development of conservation plans, and after September 30, 1991, no reimbursement may be paid under this Act for development of a conservation plan;

(2) Seventy-five percent of the costs for implementing and revising an approved conservation plan, except the Federal share may be increased to 90 percent if two or more States have mutually agreed to cooperate in implementation projects, provided, however, that after September 30, 1991, the Federal share may not exceed 50 percent if the conservation plan covers only nongame species;

(3) Seventy-five percent of the costs incurred prior to October 1, 1986, for projects which are not covered by an approved conservation plan, except the Federal share may be increased to 90 percent if two or more States have mutually agreed to cooperate in projects.

(b) The State share of project costs:

(1) May be in the form of cash or in-kind contributions, subject to the limitations described in § 83.5 and the following conditions:

(i) The allowability and valuation of in-kind contributions shall be in accordance with the provisions of OMB Circular A-102 and the policies and standards as described in the Federal Aid Manual.

(ii) Volunteers proposed by the State to provide personal services to be claimed as in-kind contributions must possess qualifications appropriate to the service to be performed. The State must attest to such qualifications of all such volunteers based on the volunteers' training, experience or employment status, or upon an endorsement provided by a recognized institution, agency, or professional society.

(2) May not be derived from other Federal funds.

#### § 83.11 Cooperation between States.

Whenever two or more States propose to cooperate in the revision of a conservation plan or in a conservation action which will result in a higher rate of Federal costsharing, such States shall describe in documentation the plan or action to be jointly undertaken. The proposed cooperation shall: