

Announcement:

EPA Environmental Information Exchange Network Grant Program

Nov. 21, 2005 deadline

To all U.S. NHP Directors and Information Management Staff:

Have you been wishing that there were a funding source to support your program's ability to develop Web services that would:

- support your ability to participate in a the distributed data system architecture being designed by NatureServe?
- increase your program's ability to serve data directly to approved users via the Internet?
- enhance data sharing among members of the NatureServe network?

If the answer to any of these questions is "yes," I strongly urge you to apply for a grant from the EPA Environmental Information Exchange (EPA-EIE) this year. Detailed information about this grant program is available at: <http://www.epa.gov/neengprg/>. Choose the link to [Grants & Funding: Exchange Network Grants](#). Both state agencies and tribes are eligible to apply.

Key dates:

- October 17, 2005 – Question and answer teleconference for applicants (call-in details are listed on the Website link above)
- November 21, 2005 – Deadline for submitting applications to EPA

Last year the Delaware DNR/NHP was awarded an EPA-EIE challenge grant in cooperation with NatureServe, the Washington Natural Heritage Program, the Natural Heritage New Mexico, and the Illinois Natural Heritage Data Center. In the first year, we have worked together to design a draft set of standards for information sharing using Web services. But to fully realize the potential of this project, individual Natural Heritage Programs should consider implementing their own Web services locally.

To apply for one of these grants you will need to coordinate with the state agency that typically manages EPA pass-through funds. Many states have already received grants under this program, and EPA will want to see coordination. However, EPA does not require that you use the infrastructure already established if a case can be made that creating a separate infrastructure in a different agency makes sense. But both agencies must agree to coordinate the implementation of their nodes.

NatureServe can assist you in preparing your proposal. If you still have questions after reading the material on the NBII Intranet, contact:

- Lori Scott (703-908-1877, lori_scott@natureserve.org)
- Mary Klein (703-908-1850, mary_klein@natureserve.org)

For a state perspective you may also wish contact one of the challenge grant state representatives below. Lori or Mary can provide their contact information if you don't already have it from the previous email communication sent on the listserv:

- Bob Zimmerman, Delaware DNREC or Karen Bennett, Delaware NHP
- Janice Miller, Washington NHP
- Rayo McCollough, Natural Heritage New Mexico

We hope you will pursue this funding to support your participation in NatureServe's Web services initiatives.