



**Wimberly Wildlife Fund for Land Acquisition
Criteria and Application Process
October, 2014**

The purpose of the fund is to acquire or share with other conservation organizations in the **acquisition of land located in California** which, in the opinion of National Audubon Society (NAS), is worthy of preservation in its natural condition as a wild life or wild plant sanctuary or preserve in a manner similar to that followed at the NAS sanctuaries. The income from this fund is not to be used for, maintenance, support or the ongoing care of any sanctuary....Income shall be used only for acquisitions where the acquired land, or some appropriate feature thereof, will bear the names of “Jay J. and Sigrid E. Wimberly.”

Grant Guidelines

Audubon California will disperse up to \$100,000 per year to one or more chapters (actual amounts depend annually on the fund investments) grants to California Audubon Chapters to assist with land acquisition projects by the chapter or by a partner of the chapter such as a land trust. Grants will average \$30,000 per chapter. Grants however must come from a Chapter even if funds are transferred to a partner. These grants cannot be used for maintenance, support or the ongoing care of any sanctuary. Upon receipt of a grant, there must be acknowledgement of “Jay J. and Sigrid E. Wimberly Wildlife Fund” and “Audubon California” in the form of signage placed on the property. Grant cycles will begin each year on July 1st and continue until available funds are dispersed.

Please submit the following:

- 1) A written description of the proposed land acquisition project of up to 2 pages in PDF format, addressing the following:
 - Chapter Name and contact information for person/s submitting proposal
 - Name of Organization that will hold and manage the land and their relationship to chapter
 - Brief description of project location and parcel location (including name of Important Bird Area within or adjacent to project)
 - Description of organization that will hold Title to the Land
 - Description of signage that will be installed
 - Justification for funding based on the Criteria below
 - Budget and amount of funding requested
 - Timeline for project including timeline of land acquisition
 - Plan for acknowledge of funds (signage, etc.)
- 2) Map showing parcel and other features such as IBA (1 page only) and nearby conservation lands
- 3) Any photos (1 page only) of land project

Timeline:

Grants will be reviewed by Audubon California staff on an annual basis beginning July 1st of each year– please submit your request at least 3 months in advance of need for disbursement of funds. If your timeline is shorter than that, please contact Garry George. Audubon California’s executive team will vote on your proposal which is then forwarded to National Audubon for review. You will be notified within 8 weeks of our receipt of an application.

SUBMIT TO:

In advance of applying for funds, please contact Garry George about fund availability as it will likely change each year. You can then submit your application, along with acknowledgement of your chapter board’s approval, to Garry George: ggeorge@audubon.org.

Landownership Criteria

All property acquisitions, dispositions and leasing of land for conservation purposes shall be evaluated based on the following Landownership Criteria. Properties will be ranked low, medium or high on each criterion. In order to qualify for acquisition, a property must rank high on at least one of items 1-3 and must rank medium to high on items 4 and 5.

1. Conservation or Strategic Priority:
 - protecting a Priority Important Bird Area (IBA) (State or Global; see map <http://ca.audubon.org/california-iba-interactive-site-map>)
 - protecting California priority bird species (<http://ca.audubon.org/key-species>)
2. Strategic Location:
 - creating an outreach environmental center where Audubon can conduct outreach
 - adding critical land to an existing Audubon Center, Sanctuary or IBA
 - land that will help to improve the management of existing priority landholdings and other conserved lands and priority species.
3. Leverage Opportunities:
 - engage key and diverse audiences in conservation goals
 - further critical partnerships; core/catalyst for multi-partner regional protection initiatives/funding
 - community relationships/expectations/support
 - scientific research, demonstration projects
 - provide legal or credible standing in important policy decisions
 - Funding – do we leverage significant funds from others for purchase?
4. Is our partner the best manager for this property?
 - Organization aligns with Audubon’s conservation goals
 - Expertise and staff resources
 - Proximity to other Audubon resources
5. Adequate Resources: the amount of funds available and funding source for the acquisition and long-term stewardship of the property or conservation easement including transaction costs and an analysis of these costs relative to the projected conservation outcomes or other viable options.
 - a) Transaction costs
 - b) Monitoring/Management Costs:
 - c) Ecological Management (including restoration):
 - d) Public Access and Programming:
 - e) Easement
 - f) Funds for long-term management/ownership of the property (are there funds to pay for taxes, property management etc. into the future)