



**Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Collaborative
2010 Visitor Services Task Force Grant Program**

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The Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Collaborative (Dunes Collaborative) is soliciting proposals for projects that seek to provide visitor participation, education opportunities or enhanced understanding of efforts to “restore, rehabilitate, enhance, or acquire” resources injured as part of Guadalupe Oil Spill. This includes, but is not limited to, projects that increase visitor access to, passive use of, understanding of and volunteer contributions toward the injured resources and services associated with the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Complex (Dunes Complex).

Background: In 1994, state agencies filed a lawsuit against Union Oil Company due to discharges of diluent (a diesel-kerosene mixture) into the environment at the Guadalupe Oil Field (GOF), located along the coast north of the Santa Maria River mouth. The parties settled in July 1998. As part of the settlement, funding was dedicated as natural resource damages to fund projects within the Dunes Complex to restore, replace, rehabilitate and/or acquire the equivalent of the natural resources and related services that were injured, lost, or destroyed by the diluent releases. The Restoration Subcommittee (California Department of Fish and Game, Office of Spill Prevention and Response and California Coastal Conservancy) utilize the recommendations of the Dunes Collaborative, a Public Advisory Committee, to review and rank project proposals seeking funding for this purpose. The Dunes Collaborative has two standing Task Forces, the Restoration Task Force (RTF) which deals directly with restoration projects within the Dunes Complex, and the Visitor Serves Task Force (VSTF) which deals directly with Visitor Services projects. Each Task Force recommends project proposals to the Dunes Collaborative as a whole which in turn recommends a package of projects to the Restoration Subcommittee.

The 22,000-acre Dunes Complex is one of the largest along the California coast and extends 18 miles from Point Sal in Santa Barbara County to Pismo Beach in San Luis Obispo County (Figure 1). The Dunes Complex has been designated as a National Natural Landmark by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior because of the presence of extensive sand dunes, dune uplands, lakes, and wetlands. A number of listed plants and animals exist within the area, including western snowy plover, California least tern, California red-legged frog, and La Graciosa thistle. A complete list of known sensitive wildlife associated with the Dunes is contained in *Fauna of the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes, 2008* located at the following website.

The Dunes Complex is a popular recreation destination and has multiple public lands accessible for this purpose. As such, these areas also function as a local and regional laboratory for environmental education and engagement, connecting K-12 students to their environment in a way that builds lasting connections.

Award Amount: Proposed projects should be less than \$10,000. Total available funding for 2010 is unknown at this time.

Evaluation Criteria: The criteria used by the Visitor Serving Task Force and the Restoration Subcommittee to evaluate project proposals are located at:

<http://dunescollaborative.org/vstf.html>. Please note that all Basic Screening Thresholds must be met in order for the application to be deemed complete and be considered for further consideration. Proposals that do not meet the Basic Screening Threshold will not be considered for funding. Late and/or incomplete proposals will not be considered.

Previously Funded Projects: A summary of recent successful Visitor Services projects funded previously through the Dunes Collaborative by the Restoration Subcommittee are located at <http://dunescollaborative.org/vstf.html>

Proposal Format: Proposals shall utilize template located at the following link:

<http://dunescollaborative.org/vstf.html>

Proposals shall be no more four pages of text, with the identified attachments.

Restrictions: Grant funds *cannot* be used for political advocacy, lobbying, litigation, mitigation projects, permit compliance, or construction contingencies.

How to Apply: Please use the application template available at

<http://dunescollaborative.org/vstf.html> for all submissions**. Submit completed applications by November 1st, 2009 in PDF format by email at collaborative@dunescenter.org OR send one (1) hardcopy to:

Dunes Center
Attn: 2010 Visitor Services Grant Program
PO Box 339
Guadalupe, CA 93434

Submissions by mail must be postmarked by the due date. Late submissions will not be accepted. All submissions will be acknowledged within one week of receipt. High scoring projects may be invited to the November-December Dunes Collaborative meeting to discuss their project proposals.

Sponsors of high scoring proposals will be notified by December 31, 2009 that their respective project has been recommend to the Restoration Subcommittee for funding.

Special Notes:

*Please note that the Visitor Services Task Force only provides project recommendations to the Restoration Subcommittee and **cannot** guarantee that projects will be funded. The final decision to fund projects is made solely by the Restoration Subcommittee and not by the Visitor Services Task Force. In addition to the task force recommendations, the Restoration Subcommittee considers funds made available by endowment fund performance, the status of pre-existing priority projects, and special circumstances that impact natural resources and visitor services and special monies availability.*

For more information please contact the Dunes Center:

In the Subject line please write: 2010 Visitor Services Grant Program

Write to us:

Dunes Center

Attn: Dunes Collaborative 2010 Visitor Services Grant Program

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**A hard copy of all materials is available upon request; to receive this printed package, please contact us via the contact info above.