

Alternative Fund Distribution Ideas

- a. **Block grants** - non-profits, foundations, state agencies (DNR, BWSR, PCA etc..) counties, local governments, educational institutions, regional development corporations, etc... They come in with general proposals and then have wide latitude after funds are grant to achieve identified goals and results.
- b. **Competition** – Identify a specific need and set up a competition to get people to compete to address a specific environmental issue. (Like competitions to make a vehicle that would use the lowest amount of fuels – university engineering students; competition for private sector space flights/rockets) Could also include sponsoring a conference(s) on specific environmental research topics with the “winning” research papers/projects awarded additional research funding)
- c. **Geographic distribution with predetermined allocations (percentage)**
 - for each geographic area (e.g. northeast, west, metro, and south). Set criteria for each geographic area to evaluate projects, score and rank based on criteria for each area. (provide a map of the areas)
 - (majority or all funding to a selected geographic area) Set criteria for projects that conserve natural resources in the identified geographic area. (propose to alternate locations from year to year but be aware that a future legislature can not be bound to future commitments)
- d. **Matching funding** – focus on leveraging funding. Set criteria to evaluate projects based on priorities, score and rank based on criteria. (air, water, land fish, wildlife, and other natural resources) but give large weighting to significant matching funding.
- e. **Partnerships** – focus on partnerships where the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. Set criteria to evaluate projects based on the potential effectiveness of the partnership. (Local funds, federal funds, private foundation, private conservation organizations, private individual, etc...)
- f. **Reward conservation efforts** – In addition to evaluating the specific merits of a proposal, reward proposals that build on existing exemplary conservation efforts (proposals in communities that have good conservation practices, completed inventories, advisory boards, public officials that are committed to and have demonstrated conservation practices, (Plans, zoning, ordinances, commitment of local funding, partnerships with others etc...)
- g. **Set asides** - Local grants, Metro Parks, CBS, Statewide conservation vision report
- h. **Other ideas** -???

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

–Given the short time frame should there be a full RFP in the fall to determine recommendations for the 2007 Legislature?

What would a shorten RFP look like?

- Focused areas to fund
- Only continuation or expansion of previously funded LCMR that have show significant success. (e.g. CBS, land acquisition, habitat restoration)
- Statewide conservation inventory, assessment and plan.