

**TRIUMPH GULF COAST, INC. PRE-APPLICATION FORM**

Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. (“Triumph Gulf Coast”) has created a pre-application process to provide initial consideration of potential ideas for projects or programs that may seek an award of funding. Applicants are required to participate in the pre-application process. Notwithstanding the response from Triumph Gulf Coast on the pre-application form, an Applicant may still elect to submit an Application.

**APPLICANT INFORMATION:**

Name of Individual/Entity/Organization: Emerald Coast Wildlife Refuge

Brief Description of Background of Individual/Entity/Organization: Wildlife Rehabilitation Refuge and medical center that is also permitted to respond to marine mammal and sea turtle stranding events since 1994.

Contact Information:

Primary Contact Information: Shelby Proie

Title: Acting Director

Mailing Address: 105 Santa Rosa Blvd

Telephone Number: (850) 650-1880

Email Address: sproie@ecwildliferefuge.com

Website: www.emeraldcoastwildliferefuge.org

Names of co-applicants, partners or other entities, organizations that will have a role in the proposed project or program: \_\_\_\_\_

**REQUIRED EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

In a maximum of three (3) pages, please describe the proposed project or program, including (i) the amount of funds being sought from Triumph Gulf Coast; (ii) the amount and identity of other sources of funds for the proposed project or program; (iii) the location of the project or program; (iv) summary description of the proposed program, including how the program will be transformational and promote economic recovery, diversification, and enhancement of the disproportionately affected counties, and (v) a summary timeline for the proposed project or program.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

This pre-application process will **not** result in an award of funding by Triumph Gulf Coast. Rather, this process is designed to facilitate submission of ideas for potential projects or programs before the Applicant expends time and/or resources to complete a full Application. All Applicants for funding are required to complete an Application, which will be scored, and then considered for award in the discretion of Triumph Gulf Coast Board.

# Emerald Coast Wildlife Refuge

Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. Funding Proposal

**Budget = Total for 1<sup>st</sup> year \$104,210, Grand Total for three years of funding \$233,130**

Salaries and Benefits:

Position	Units	Cost/each	Total
Rescue/Release Technician	1	\$31,200.00	\$31,200.00
Marine Mammal Stranding Coordinator	1	\$35,360.00	\$35,360.00

*Total Salaries and Benefits: \$66,560.00 x 3 years = \$199,680*

Personnel include: full time rescue/release technician and full time stranding coordinator. Fringe (FICA, Work Comp Ins.) and benefits (phone allowance) included.

Contractual Services:

Item	Unit	Cost/each	Total
Veterinary Care	1	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00

*Total Contractual Services: \$6,000.00 x 3 years = \$1,800.00*

Contract veterinary service to provide 60 hours of animal care (\$100.00 per hour each week) and necropsy support (\$800.00) as performed by Philip Blumer, DVM.

Equipment:

Item	Unit	Cost/each	Total
Kayak	1	\$400.00	\$400.00

*Total Equipment: \$400.00*

Mode of aquatic transportation to monitor marine mammal activity and collect/salvage marine mammal or sea turtle carcasses as needed.

Supplies and Materials:

Item	Unit	Cost/each	Total
Sample collection supplies	1	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Personal gear and miscellaneous	1	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Utilities and lab overhead	1	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Company vehicle	1	\$23,750.00	\$23,750.00
Vehicle repairs, insurance, registrations	1	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00

*Total Supplies and Materials: \$31,250.00*

Includes: necropsy containers, solutions, body bags, and tools; PPEs, gear, fuel, ice, lab supplies, and disposable items; lab space and utilities (power, water); vehicle maintenance; vehicle license/registration/insurance; portable air compressor; overhead lab lights.

**Other Sources of Funds**

Other sources of funds for this program would come from an assortment of physical fundraising events, membership purchases, ambassador sponsorships, and in-kind salary matching. Each quarter ECWR hosts two full time interns that volunteer 40-hour work weeks, this donation of time would equate to a

minimum wage salary of \$16,848/year. This figure multiplied by 8 interns would equal a total contribution of \$134,784 of matching funds. Citizens of our local community are also encouraged to enroll in one of our membership programs available on our website. These memberships range from \$5/month to \$800/month and can be paid monthly or annually. Donors can also symbolically adopt or sponsor an animal ambassador for a \$100.00 donation. The ambassadors are used to teach the public how to coexist with our native wildlife peacefully and in doing so, ECWR receives suggested donations for education programs. We also suggest a donation for merchandise throughout the year. Currently ECWR is planning monthly fundraisers at local establishments, and has plans for four large fundraising events in 2018.

### **Location**

The entire western panhandle of Florida would benefit from Emerald Coast Wildlife Refuge receiving funding. ECWR's physical location for its rehabilitation clinic is located in Fort Walton Beach, FL. However, we are in the process of building a new facility to better serve our needs, the donated land is located Navarre, FL. Although ECWR does not have a physical presence anywhere but Okaloosa County, this funding would support all communities in Bay, Walton, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, and Escambia counties, through services provided by ECWR to sick, injured, and orphaned animals from those locations. Our rescue/release program and marine mammal stranding team works 24/7/365 from Walton-Escambia County and therefore is depended upon before, throughout, and after our transition to Navarre.

### **Project Description**

The Emerald Coast Wildlife Refuge is the oldest and largest wildlife refuge in Northwest Florida as it oversees the sick, injured, and orphaned native wildlife in the following five counties: Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Bay, Walton, and Escambia. ECWR currently only has two full time employees, and the only funding offered through these counties is a quarterly contribution of \$750 from the city of Destin, FL. Our rescue and release program is meant to enhance our response to rescue calls from the five counties we serve. It would fund a staff member that is trained and equipped to respond to requests for wildlife and marine mammal assistance over the 4,394 square miles of terrestrial terrain and 734 square miles of gulf, bays, and other waterways in our response zones. Our current rescue program is run mostly by dedicated volunteers and interns. Our current Marine Mammal Stranding Coordinator is also the Acting Director and Wildlife Rehabilitator, therefor spread extremely thin. Although we depend on volunteers for the vast majority of rescues, many do not have the amount of training or equipment necessary for the wildlife encountered on an advanced rescue mission, such as a sick raccoon or entangled animal at sea. For these reasons ECWR is seeking funds for this proposed rescue/release program so we may better serve our communities, their wildlife and marine mammals in need. With this program, ECWR can and will make a difference for the animals and help promote economic recovery simultaneously.

ECWR often receives calls from citizens that are in the presence of sick wildlife (including beached marine mammals), which can pose a health threat for humans and pets alike. Distemper, Rabies, Parvovirus, and feline panleukopenia, to name a few, are all relatively common in NW FL. Currently, county run animal control agencies do not typically respond to wildlife or marine mammal calls. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission are often not available to help due to their other prioritized job duties. Nearly 70% of our calls come from the public participating in aquatic leisure activities. Multiple times a day we receive calls about distressed or entangled sea and shore birds. The tourists and locals alike seek a rescue organization that can safely retrieve these animals. If ECWR was able to respond to

every reported case, it will leave the tourists and locals much happier and in return they may visit more often and support local establishments and recreational activities, thus increasing income in the communities served. ECWR's mission is to keep our wildlife in good health and our citizens in good spirits. Concerned citizens are always extremely grateful when we are able to send someone out on a rescue as it promotes a sense of gratification and fulfillment.

In addition to the wildlife rescue technician, our Marine Mammal Stranding Coordinator would assist in the rescues of injured or sick marine mammals. The Emerald Coast Wildlife Refuge will maintain our capability to perform thorough necropsies prior to tissue degradation; enhance diagnostic ability by the attending veterinarians and specialists to detect and report emerging diseases or biotoxin threats from live or dead animals; maintain a core of trained responders in the region to decrease response time and quality of assessments; monitor shorelines for stranded or ill marine mammals; and continue our outreach program for the general public on issues that threaten marine mammals. All of these duties will help keep NW FL beaches more pristine and sanitary. Please consider this quote from NOAA's *Rescue, Rehabilitation, and Release of Marine Mammals: An Analysis of Current Views and Practices*, when evaluating ECWR for possible funding “While fulfilling their own mission, rehabilitation centers perform a service for local, state and federal government agencies by rescuing animals in distress, removing carcasses that are a potential public health risk from the beach, and collecting baseline data which help to formulate species management plans. Rehabilitation centers not only bear the cost of care and treatment, but also must collect samples and conduct viral screening, apply tags when animals are released, maintain records, and prepare timely reports on their activities. Yet, in the US at least, no reimbursement is provided or expected, except to support programs for endangered species.” Due to the constraints listed above ECWR is requesting funds to appropriately staff our organization so we can continue to do what we have been doing since 1994, providing the best care, research, and education to the wildlife and marine mammals that our in need in NW FL.

### **Timeline**

The expected timeline to start up the rescue/release program and enhance our stranding team will be approximately a six (6) month process. Between March 2018 and August 2018, we will be seeking qualified and experienced candidates for the positions required. Meanwhile, we will be researching company vehicles and purchasing the most ideal one for our program by the end of May 2018. May 1<sup>st</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> we will be interviewing and hiring candidates by June 1<sup>st</sup>. June 16<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> we will be training our new employee(s) how to answer the phone to deal with incoming rescue calls. July 1<sup>st</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> we will have our trainee(s) go on “ride-alongs” with senior staff members to learn the ropes of the area and get hands on training for live rescues and releases. By July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018 the new employee(s) will be fully prepared to go out on his/her own for any rescue call in the surrounding counties we cover; this also includes finding the best locations for each animal release we need to do.