Acres for America

Applicant Webinar - March 20, 2019
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Webinar Etiquette

- **MUTE** your phone.

- Do not hit your phone's **HOLD** button.

- Question?
  Type it in the **Question box** on the control panel. We will repeat your question to the group and respond at the end of the webinar.

- Problem?
  Type it into the **Chat box** on the control panel. We will try to resolve it during the webinar.

- This **Webinar** and **Tip Sheet** can be found at [Acres for America](#) program page.

About NFWF

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit dedicated to conserving and restoring our nation's native fish and wildlife and the habitats on which they rely.

WHO WE ARE

➢ Chartered by Congress in 1984

➢ 30 member Board appointed by Secretary of the Interior

- Includes FWS Director and NOAA Administrator

WHAT WE DO

➢ Sustain, restore, enhance the nation's natural heritage

➢ Bring collaboration among federal agencies & private sector

➢ Create common ground among diverse interests

HOW WE DO IT

➢ Leverage public funding with private money – average 3:1

➢ On-the-ground conservation projects through grant making

NFWF
NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

NFWF's Business and Operations Model

**Non-Federal Partner Resources**
- Corporations
- Foundations
- Mitigation & Settlements
- Private Donors
- States
- NGOs

Federal Government Resources
- Appropriations
- Cooperative Agreements

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NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

Convener of focused, leveraged funding & leadership for priority wildlife & habitat conservation through grant making

Species & Habitats

Water Quality & Scarcity

People in Conservation
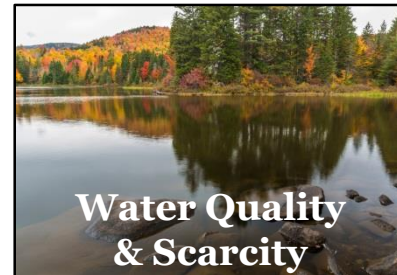
Walmart's Acres for America

Today, **Acres for America** has become one of the most visible and effective partnerships in conservation.

Acres for America was launched on **April 12, 2005** at the National Geographic Society in Washington, DC.

On **November 17, 2015**, Walmart and NFWF announced a 10-year, $35 million renewal of the program.

Acres for America

Since 2005, the Acres for America program has invested in conservation projects of national significance that also benefit people and local economies.

Acres for America Goals

- Conserve critical habitats for birds, fish, plants and wildlife

- Connect existing protected lands to unify wild places and protect migration routes

- Provide access for people to enjoy the outdoors

- Ensure the future of local economies that depend on forestry, ranching and wildlife

2005 Goal: **Protect 100,000 acres** of land to offset Walmart's domestic development footprint.

As of 2018:

- **More than 1.4 million acres protected**, an area comparable in size to Grand Canyon National Park

- **88 projects in 38 states**, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, working with over 100 partners

Walmart's **$48.3M** investment has leveraged more than **$652.5M** in matching contributions, making this one of the most efficient land conservation programs in history.

Grizzly bear with cubs

1,428,434 Acres Protected!!

Acres for America 2005- 2018

88 projects in **38** states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico have been funded to protect and preserve habitat and open spaces and connect vital wildlife corridors.

Acres for America
Projects, 2005-2018

NFWF
NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION
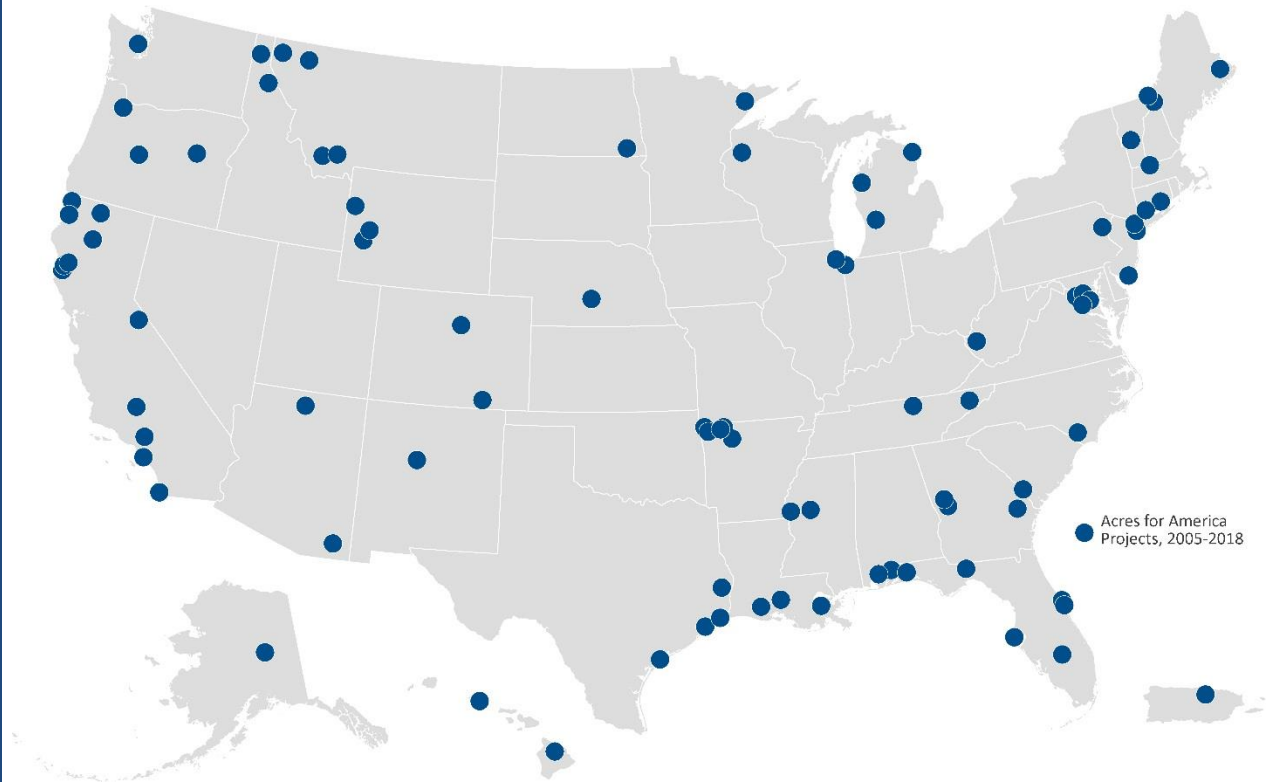
Acres for America Grant Recipients

Walmart has supported numerous groups and agencies representing thousands of individuals and hundreds of communities.

Acres for America Funding Partners

Walmart donations have leveraged significant funds from organizations, foundations and government agencies.

Acres for America 2018 Funding Availability

Bicknell's thrush
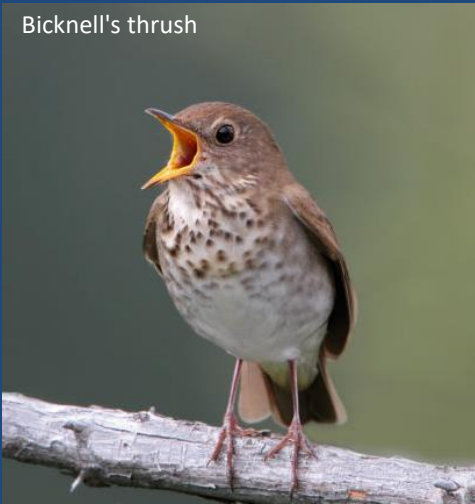
Funding Available:

- Approximately $3.6 million is available in 2018. We anticipate between six (6) and eight (8) projects will be awarded funds.

Programmatic Focus:

- To be considered for funding through the Acres for America program, land acquisitions and conservation easements should meet the following criteria:

Acres for America Program Criteria
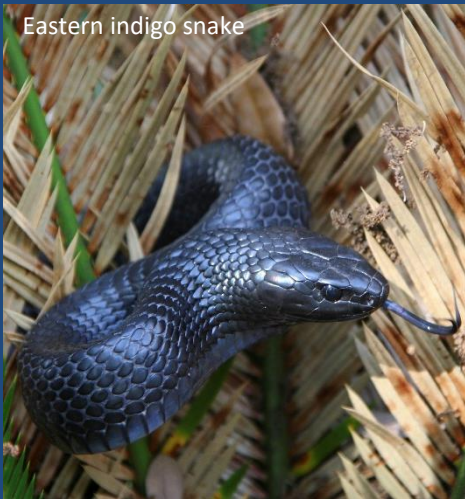
Eastern indigo snake

Conservation Criteria:

- Protect or contribute to the protection of significant acres of land, and address one/more program priorities.

- National or State conservation priority.

- Protect critical fish and wildlife species.

- Expand wildlife connectivity.

- Expand public access to nature.

- Benefit local economies.

- Provide a range of ecological services.

Acres for America Program Criteria

California Coastal Chinook salmon

Additional Criteria:

- Shapefile delineating the land proposed in the context of adjacent protected lands.

- Final disposition of land, including long-term ownership and management plans.

- Conservation easement restrictions.

- Please view the NFWF website page "Guidance to Applicants Requesting Funds for the Acquisition of Interests in Real Property" for pre- and post-project requirements.

  **Please note, there is a requirement for the inclusion of NFWF language in grant agreements, deeds, conservation easements.

Acres for America Project Metrics

Northern long-eared bat

Project Activity	Metric
Conservation Easements	# acres protected under easement (include acres of wetland, timberland, grazing lands protected)
Conservation Easements	# acres connected as a result of this easement
Conservation Easements	# stream/riverine/riparian miles protected as a result of this easement
Land Acquisitions	# acres acquired in fee (include acres of wetland, timberland, grazing lands protected)
Land Acquisitions	# acres connected as a result of this acquisition
Land Acquisitions	# stream/riverine/riparian miles protected as a result of this acquisition
Economic Benefits	# jobs created # jobs sustained
Public Access	# acres opened to public access # miles opened to public access

Acres for America Match & Eligibility

Red-cockaded woodpecker

Match Requirements:

- Grants require a minimum 1:1 match in the form of cash, in-kind contributions of goods and services, and/or donated land value.

- Federal funds may be considered as match.

Eligibility:

- Non-profits, state/local/municipal governments, Indian tribes, and educational institutions.

- The fee transfer or perpetual easement must qualify for "conservation purposes" as defined by IRS Code 170(h).

- Provide all acquisition documents, including appraisals, title reports, surveys, mineral rights assessments, etc.

Acres for America Grant Process

Northern spotted owl

Grant Process:

- Please contact the regional office contact person listed in RFP to discuss your project and its potential fit for the Acres for America and/or other NFWF programs.

- Two-stage process: 1) pre-proposal, 2) full proposal.

- The pre-proposal deadline is **April 17**. Only pre-proposals submitted through Easygrants are considered.

- Selected pre-proposals will be invited to submit full proposals. Invitations will be emailed **mid May**.

- The full proposal deadline is **June 27**.

- Final funding decisions will be made by the NFWF Board of Directors **early November.**

Program Examples

White-topped pitcher plant

- Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge (AK)

- Brushy Mountain (CA)

- Canoochee Sandhills (GA)

- Rolston Rest, Green Mountain National Forest (VT)

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Sandhill crane

Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge
(Alaska)

Expansion of Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge by **520 acres** will secure a cherished wildlife area within the city of Fairbanks, Alaska and allow for the enhancement of wildlife habitat for sandhill cranes, waterfowl and other migratory birds, and provide for expanded public recreation. Permanent protection will prevent its conversion to a toxic coal ash dump site.

Tule elk

Brushy Mountain
(California)

Conservation easements on **26,144 acres** of private forestland and rangeland along the Coast Ranges of California will conserve high-quality critical habitat for multiple sensitive species; expand a 49-mile long corridor of protected lands; and enhance public access to the Eel River. Project will also help to maintain a family-owned, sustainably-managed forest and a local timber industry reliant on private forestlands.

Gopher tortoise

Canoochee Sandhills
(Georgia)

Permanent protection of **6,065 acres** will support viable gopher tortoise habitat to potentially avoid a federal listing of this candidate species, as well as allow for expansion of longleaf pine habitat on the property. Land will be managed for conservation and recreation by GADNR as a public Wildlife Management Area.

Rolston Rest, Green Mountain National Forest
(Vermont)

Acquisition of **2,745-acres** will knit together a 140,000-acre block of conservation land. Project will decrease fragmentation and increase connectivity within the Green Mountain Wildlife Linkage; protect drinking water sources for Vermont, New York, and Quebec residents; provide significant recreational access for hikers, cross-country skiers, hunters, and anglers; and support a local economy dependent on recreation and tourism.

How to Submit a Pre-proposal through Easygrants

GETTING STARTED

1. Go to http://easygrants.nfwf.org

2. Login or Register

How to Submit a Pre-proposal through Easygrants

3.   Choose "Apply for Funding"
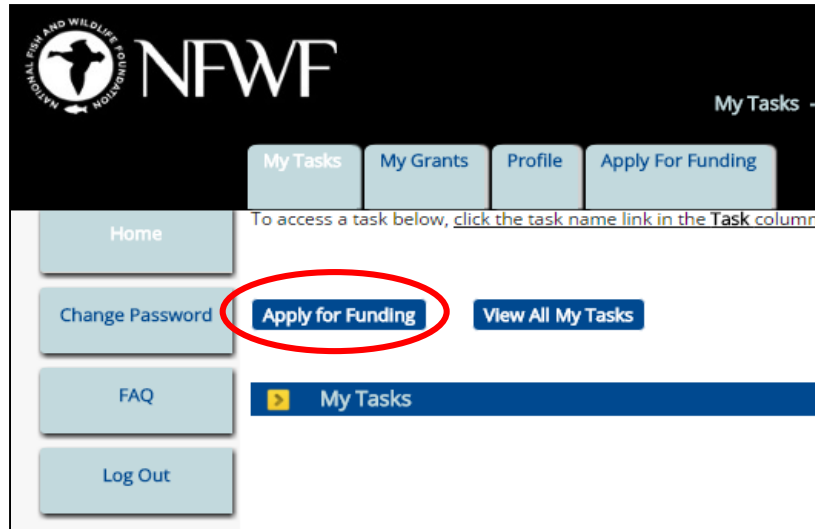
4.   Choose the Funding Opportunity called: ***Acres for America Fall 2019***

5.   Click "Continue"

6.   Click "Apply"

How to Submit a Pre-proposal through Easygrants

7. Complete the **Eligibility Quiz** and click "Submit", then "Continue".

8. Click on the "***Pre-proposal***" task on your Home page.

How to Submit a Pre-proposal through Easygrants

9. Click on links in left column to complete each section of your application *(Contact Info, Org Info, Project Info, Uploads, Matching Contributions)*.

How to Submit a Pre-proposal through Easygrants

10. **Uploads** section (Pre-proposal Narrative and Project Map)

   Pre-Proposal Narrative Template:
   Download the "*NFWF Pre-proposal Narrative Template*", complete offline, then upload.

Upload Type	Required	Template	File Types Allowed	Max Uploads	Max File Size	Max Pages	Max Words	Max Characters
Pre-proposal Narrative	Yes	NFWF Pre-proposal Narrative Template	.doc, .docx, .pdf, .rtf	No Limit	16 MB	2	No Limit	No Limit
Project Site Map	Yes		.xls, .doc, .pdf, .rtf, .gif, .jpeg, .jpg, .docx	No Limit	16 MB	No Limit	No Limit	No Limit

How to Submit a Pre-proposal through Easygrants

10. **Uploads** section (Pre-proposal Narrative and Project Map)

   Project Site Map(s):

How to Submit a Pre-proposal through Easygrants

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How to Submit a Pre-proposal through Easygrants

10. **Uploads** section (Pre-proposal Narrative and Project Map)

    Project Site Map(s):

11. **Review & Submit** section - make sure the status of all sections is complete (☑).

12. Review and save your completed proposal → View the PDF → Click "Submit"!

How to Submit a Pre-proposal through Easygrants

HELP!! Use the **Help** button or contact us via the information at the bottom of the page

Full proposal stage in Easygrants

1. Click on the "**Full proposal**" task on Home page.

Full proposal stage in Easygrants

2. Click on links in left column to complete/update each section of your application.
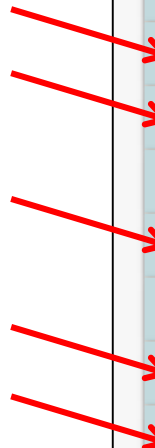
NFWF

Home	
Main	
Contact Information	
Organization Information	
Project Information	
Project Location	
Map	
Uploads	
Metrics	
Matching Contributions	
Budget	
Permits and Approvals	
Review and Submit	
FAQ	
Log Out	

Project Information

Due: 2/16/2017 11:59 PM ET

Soil Conservation District, Lincoln County| (Lincoln County Soil Conservation District)
Grants| Cumberland Plateau-Southern Appalachians Fund| Cumberland Plateau-Southern Appalachians Fund 2017

Instructions

Click the page links on the left navigation bar, or in the summary below to view the pages where you will enter the information required for th
for examples and instructions. Click **Home** to return to your Home page. You may save and return to edit your information as many times as
Once you submit, you will no longer be able to make changes. Click here to view Foundation Guidelines for this Funding Opportunity.
Other useful links that will appear in the navigation bar at left include:

- **Home** brings you back to your Home page and out of this submission task.
- **FAQ** provides answers to common questions about the Foundation's proposal elements.
- **Help** provides guidance on both content and technical aspects related to completing many of the pages in the system.
- **Log Out** logs you out of the system.

Validation Summary

Page Name	Status
Contact Information	✔ Complete
Organization Information	✔ Complete
Project Information	✔ Complete
Project Location	✔ Complete
Map	✔ Complete
Uploads	✔ Complete
Metrics	✔ Complete
Matching Contributions	✔ Complete
Budget	✔ Complete
Permits and Approvals	✔ Complete
Peer Reviewers	✔ Complete

Full proposal stage in Easygrants

3. **Budget** section - Grant funds can only be applied to the property's _purchase price_.

Only fill out the "Other Direct Costs" category. Enter the number **1** in the "quantity" field, and the **total amount you are requesting from NFWF** in the "unit cost" field.

How to Submit a Pre-proposal through Easygrants

Acres for America TIP SHEET

- A **Tip Sheet** with step-by-step instructions for using Easygrants can be found on the _Acres for America_ program page.

How to Submit a Pre-proposal through Easygrants

TIPS & INFO

- ✓ Site proximity to a Walmart store is not considered in the review process.

- ✓ If you've never used Easygrants before, create your login *TODAY* and familiarize yourself with the system.

- ✓ Turn off your internet's pop-up blockers. Internet Explorer users will probably need to do this over and over.

- ✓ It is important that you discuss your ideas with fellow conservationists, agencies and funders, since their support will be critical in the full proposal stage.

- ✓ Feel free to contact NFWF regional office staff to discuss your project and potential conservation priorities in your area. Contact names are listed on RFP.

- ✓ Only electronic pre-proposals submitted through Easygrants will be considered.

- ✓ Following a review period of about four weeks, appropriate pre-proposals will be selected and applicants will be invited to submit full proposals.

- ✓ Final funding decisions will be made by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Board of Directors in November.

THANK YOU!

If you have any additional questions, please contact:

➤ Chris West, chris.west@nfwf.org

➤ Kimberly Shriner, kimberly.shriner@nfwf.org