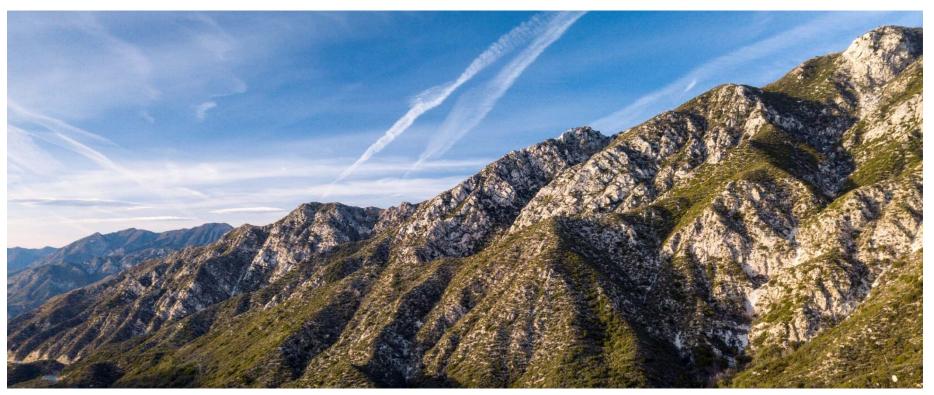
Southern California Forests and Watersheds Wildfires Restoration Grant Program

Webinar - Thursday, January 23, 2020









Webinar Instructions

- To improve sound quality, all participants will be muted for the duration of the webinar. If you want to ask a question you have two options:
 - Enter your query where it says "Type message here" and click send. We will read your question aloud when we pause for Q&A.
 - 2. Write it down and contact us after the webinar. We have a lot of material to cover, so you may prefer to have a more in-depth discussion later.
- We may ask you to raise your "hand" in the webinar dialogue box to confirm participants can hear us.
- If you experience a technical glitch, please type it into the question box, since we can't hear you. (We may not know about the glitch unless you say something!)





Agenda

- 1. Introduction to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- 2. Overview of Wildfires Restoration Program
- 3. Review of Southern California Wildfires Restoration RFP
- 4. How to Submit a Proposal
- 5. Questions



Introduction to NFWF

WHO WE ARE

- Chartered by Congress in 1984
- > 30 member Board appointed by Secretary of the Interior
 - Includes FWS Director & NOAA Administrator

WHAT WE DO

- Protect and restore our nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats
- Bring collaboration among federal agencies & private sector
- Create common ground among diverse interests
- ➤ In 35 years of existence, NFWF has funded more than 4,500 organizations and committed more than \$3.8 billion to conservation projects throughout the United States.





Introduction to NFWF

How WE Do IT

Non-Federal **Partners**









- Corporations
- Foundations
- Private Donors
- Mitigation & Settlements
- States
- NGOs







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









SOUTHERN CA FORESTS PARTNERSHIP

LOS PADRES NF (2015)/ ANGELES NF (2016)

- Development of Restoration Strategy and Business
 Plan to guide program activities
- 80 grant projects funded, including:
 - Chaparral restoration
 - Invasive weed management
 - Assessments and planning tool development
 - Designs for aquatic organism passage improvements
 - Trail repair
 - Educational signage and community engagement







PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Major Themes

- 1. Increase the pace and scale of restoration, with a focus on watershed and ecosystem recovery
- 2. Provide sustainable and lasting ecological benefits to the Forest
- 3. Engage in strategic and innovative approaches to improve forest health and resilience
- 4. Encourage 'shared-stewardship' through expanded partnership and cooperation

Program Budget and Timeline:

- Approximately \$8M available for projects:
 - Los Padres National Forest: Approximately \$1M each for Zaca, Piru, and Jesusita
 - Angeles National Forest: Approximately \$3M for Copper, \$1.6M for Powerhouse, and \$400K for Sayre
- Multi-year program, expected to continue to 2024 or until funding is expended

OVERARCHING FUNDING CRITERIA

- 1. Projects must directly or indirectly improve, protect, or rehabilitate watersheds and ecosystems on Federal lands impacted by the fires
- 2. Project descriptions must clearly describe the need for the proposed project as rendered necessary by fire
- 3. Project outcomes and deliverables must provide a direct and practical contribution toward program goals

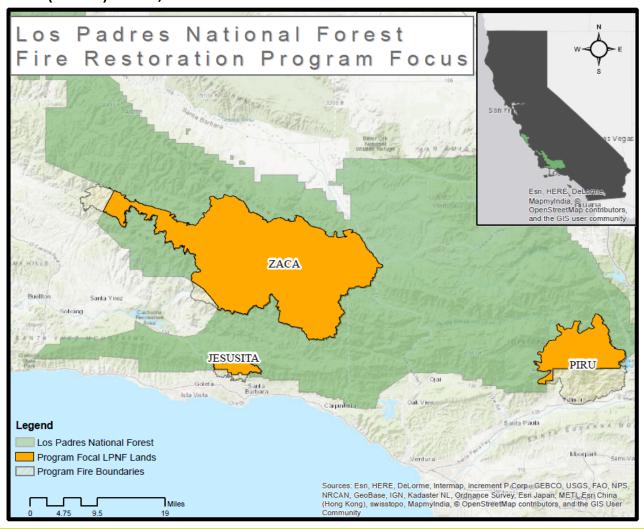


Fire Locations & Extent

Jesusita Fire (2009): ~11,000 acres

Piru Fire (2003): ~30,000 acres

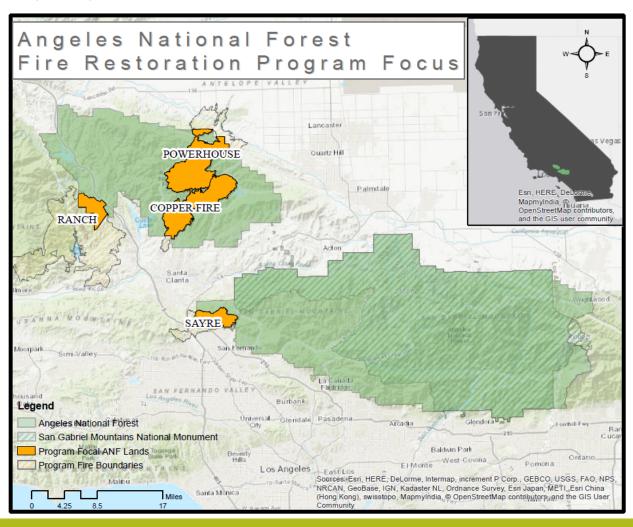
Zaca Fire (2007): ~240,000 acres



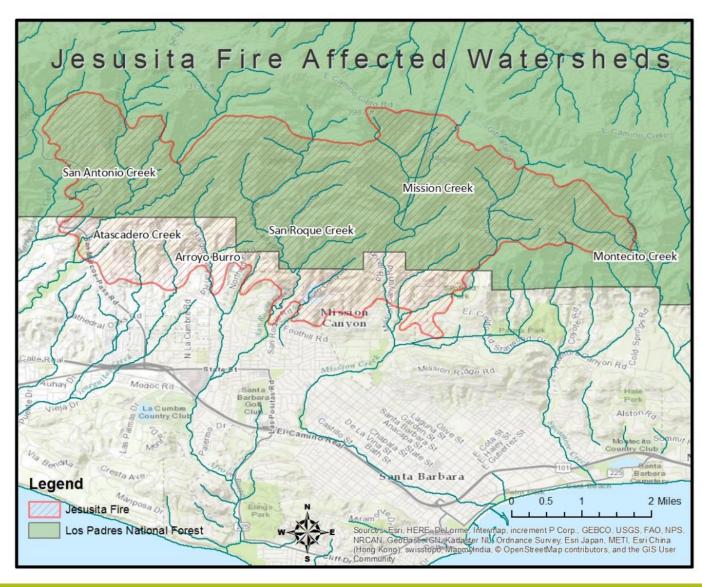
Fire Locations & Extent

Copper Fire (2002): ~20,000 acres Sayre Fire (2008): ~5,500 acres

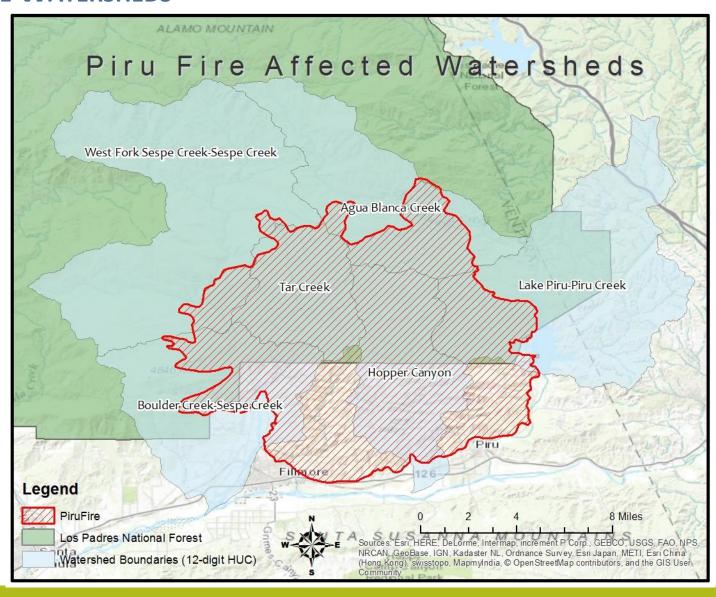
Powerhouse Fire (2013): ~30,000 acres



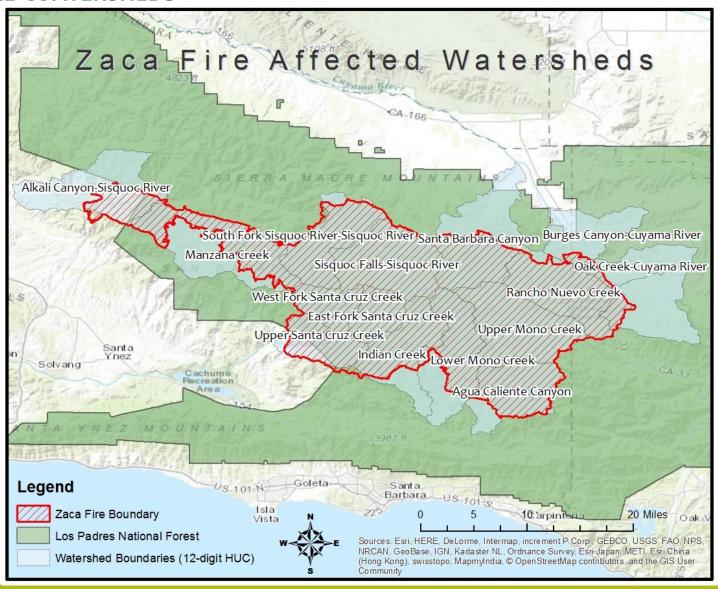
JESUSITA FIRE WATERSHEDS



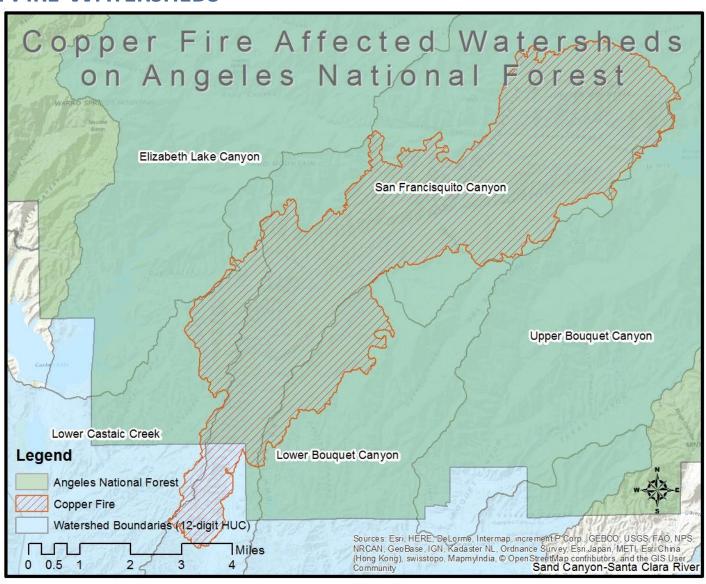
PIRU FIRE WATERSHEDS



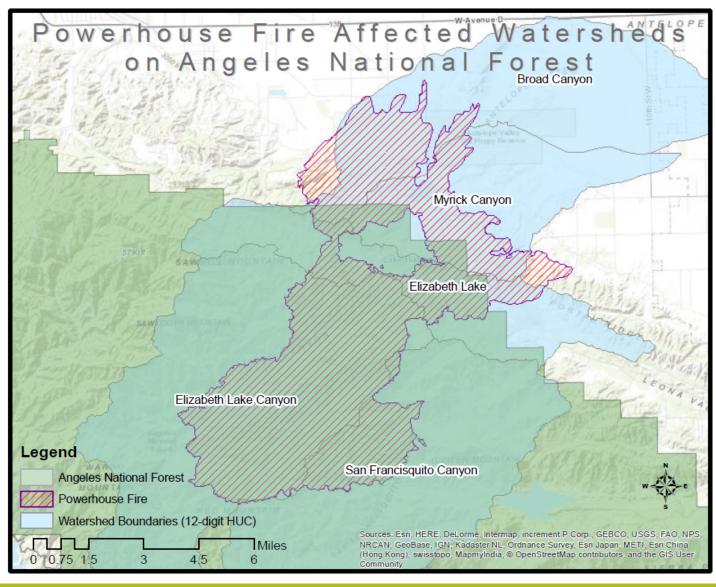
ZACA FIRE WATERSHEDS



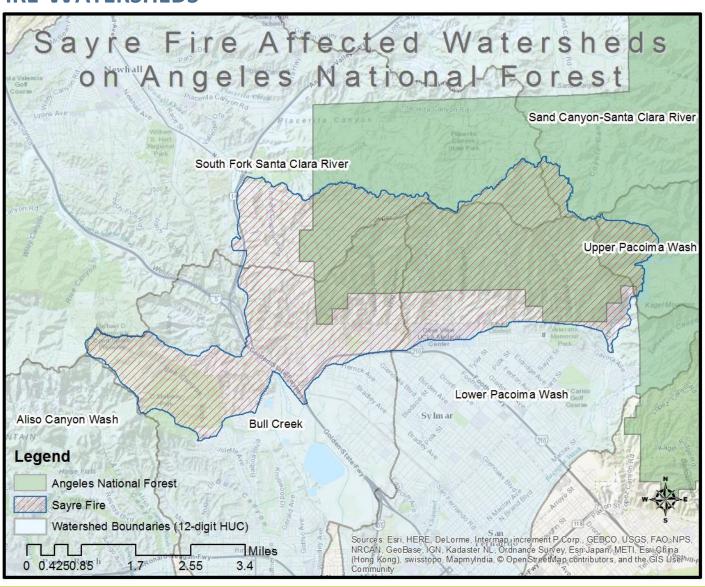
COPPER FIRE WATERSHEDS



POWERHOUSE FIRE WATERSHEDS



SAYRE FIRE WATERSHEDS



PROGRAM PRIORITIES: FOREST/UPLAND RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT General

- Evaluate forest ecosystems and develop effective treatment/restoration actions
- Maintain, improve, or restore natural vegetative communities and resilient landscapes
- Harvest native seed, propagate native plants, and restore native landscapes
- Manage age class structure and fuels to minimize risks from future wildfire

Specific

- Develop woodlands silviculture prescriptions for Big Cone Douglas Fir and Grey Pine in priority areas (ANF)
- Implement fuels management actions to address trees infested with Golden Spotted Oak Borer (ANF)
- Implement treatment prescriptions within Sawmill-Liebre Integrated Fuels and Forest Health Improvement area (ANF)
- Invasive vegetation management (LPNF)

PROGRAM PRIORITIES: WATERSHED RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT

General

- Improve hydrologic connectivity and aquatic organism passage
- Remove invasive species threatening aquatic habitat or sensitive species
- Reduce pollutant loading and restore and/or enhance water quality and flow
- Create, maintain, and/or improve existing in-stream, wetland, or riparian habitat





PROGRAM PRIORITIES: SPECIES MANAGEMENT

General

- Evaluate and/or restore or improve habitat or conditions specific to species, ecological community, or habitat type
- Increase understanding of species/population needs within watersheds, and inform management and recovery









PROGRAM PRIORITIES: PUBLIC USE ENGAGEMENT AND MANAGEMENT

General

- Evaluate conditions and provide management recommendations for trails, roads, campsites, fuel breaks and other areas affected by fire or fire suppression activity
- Maintain, improve, and restore trails, roads, campsites, or fuel breaks and other areas affected by fire or fire suppression activity
- Restore areas affected by non-USFS system/user-created trails, roads, and campsites
- Develop educational and engagement opportunities on USFS land; integrate role of fire on these landscapes

Specific

• St. Francis Dam Overlook Interpretive Trail development (ANF)



Two-Stage Application Process

Pre-Proposal

Two-page summary description of project, partners, general information regarding proposed budget, schedule, etc

Final Proposal

Six-page detailed description of project, including itemized budget, task descriptions, qualifications, and other supporting documents



APPLICATION & REVIEW TIMELINE*

✓ Pre-Proposal Due Date February 17, 2020

✓ Invitations for Full Proposals Sent March 2, 2020

✓ Full Proposal Due Date *April 6, 2020*

✓ Review Period April - June 2020

✓ Awards Announced Mid-August 2019

*Dates subject to change



ELIGIBILITY



Eligible applicants

- ✓ Non-profit 501(c)(3) Organizations
- ✓ Local and Municipal Governments
- √ Resource Conservation Districts
- ✓ State and Eligible Research-Based Federal Agencies
- ✓ Indian Tribes
- √ Educational Institutions

Ineligible applicants



- Unincorporated Individuals
- International Organizations
- For-profit Business



INELIGIBLE USES OF GRANT FUNDS



NFWF funds and matching contributions may not be used to support political advocacy, fundraising, lobbying, litigation, terrorist activities or Foreign Corrupt Practices Act violations.



NFWF funds may not be used to finance compliance with another regulatory obligation, including permit conditions, and mitigation agreements.



FUNDING AVAILABILITY

Award amounts are expected to range \$25,000 - \$500,000

~\$8 million available for grant awards

Grants for single projects are *typically* awarded to projects that can be completed within 18-24 months.

Some larger-scale projects may warrant consecutive multi-year funding requests. These requests will be considered on a year-by-year basis and must describe what will be accomplished during each project phase to qualify for consideration.



MATCH REQUIREMENT

- Projects are expected to meet or exceed a 50% match ratio to be competitive. The strongest projects will meet or exceed a 1:1 match ratio. Projects not meeting the match expectations will be considered on a limited case-by-case basis.
- Eligible match can include **non-federal** cash or in-kind contributions, such as staff and volunteer time, work performed, materials and services donated, cash or other tangible contributions to the project objectives and outcomes.
- Matching funds do not need to be fully secured prior to submitting a grant proposal, but should have a demonstrable likelihood of being secured during the project period.



ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

Successful applicants WILL BE REQUIRED to cooperate with NFWF and the U.S. Forest Service to ensure NEPA, ESA, NHPA and other planning requirements are conducted.

Applicants should identify relevant compliance requirements for their project in their proposal, and describe how they intend to meet those requirements



MONITORING/PROJECT DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

Reporting detail and frequency may vary, but at a minimum:

- Project should include an approach for monitoring progress and effectiveness
 - long-term monitoring need not necessarily be included in proposal tasks;
 applicants may request funding for those activities in future grant cycles
- All grantees are expected to record and deliver all relevant geospatial data associated with the project
 - Geospatial information must be consistent with established Forest Service geospatial data standards relevant to the project (e.g. data dictionaries, metadata formats) to ensure proper integration with Forest Service corporate databases
- All grantees are expected to visually document pre- and post- project conditions and project activities over the life of the grant. Photos and videos may be used by USFS/NFWF to help illustrate outcomes and promote the program.



EVALUATION

Process

Proposals will be evaluated by a Review Committee made up of representatives from the US Forest Service, NFWF, and other experts as needed.

Grant applications are evaluated according to:

- •How well they address the priorities and goals of the Restoration Program as described in the RFP, Restoration Strategy, and other guiding documents
- Adequacy and clarity of application information
- Ability to meet applicable evaluation criteria



EVALUATION CRITERIA

- Workplan/Technical Approach
- Budget/Matching Contributions
- Applicability to ANF Goals, and other regional or local Conservation, Watershed or Community Stewardship Plans
- Community and Partner Involvement
- Future Effectiveness/Sustainability
- Regulatory Compliance
- Measurable Results/Achievable Outcomes



How to Apply?



www.nfwf.org/socal



How to Apply?



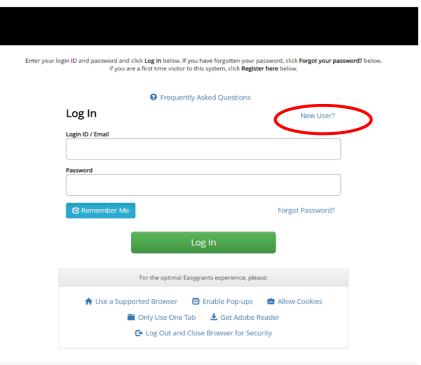


How to Apply?





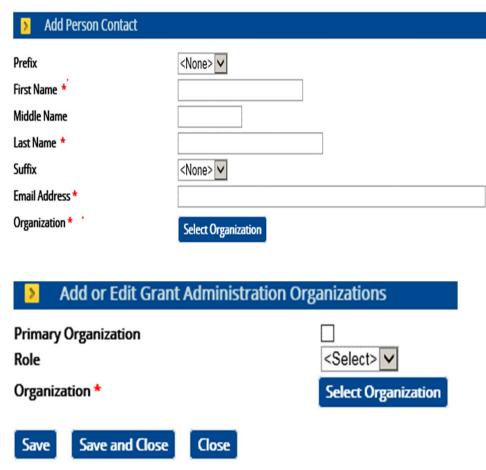
EASYGRANTS REGISTRATION



- New user? Click on "New User?"
- Lost your password? Click on "Forgot Password" An email with password is sent from easygrants@nfwf.org.
- Locked out? Contact helpdesk at <u>easygrants@nfwf.org</u> or 202-595-2497.



Creating a Username or Organization



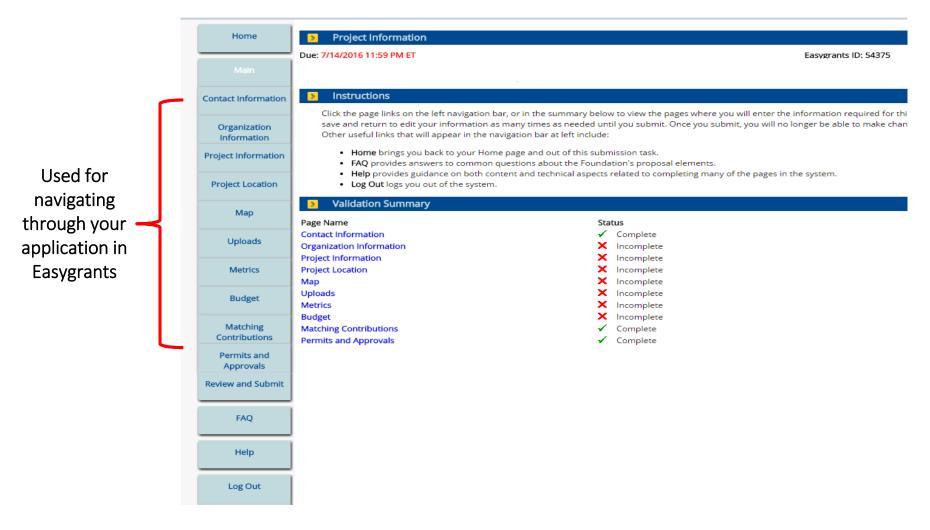
- Do not create duplicate accounts.
- Use your professional email address and full <u>legal</u> organization name.
- Fill out all required information.
- Unsure if you already have a user account <u>or</u> if organization is registered in Easygrants? Contact helpdesk at <u>easygrants@nfwf.org</u> or 202-595-2497.



Once you have created your Easygrants log-in and/or you log-in as an existing user, please visit review your contact details and make sure that you provide a phone number. To do so...







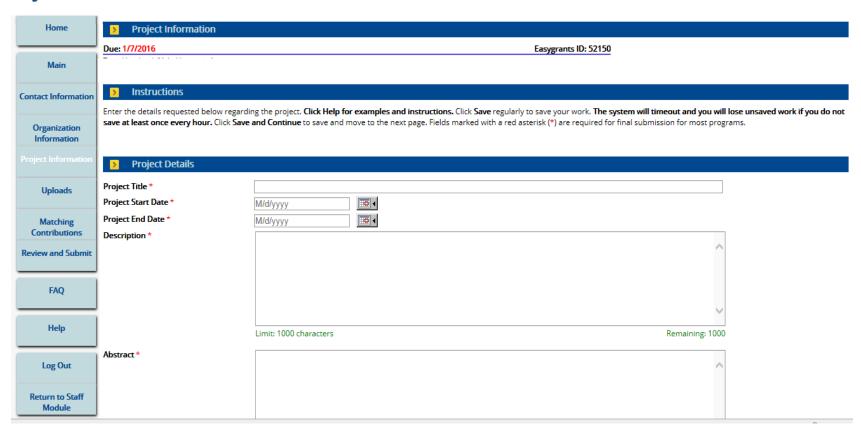


Project Information

- **Title:** short, descriptive name indicating project purpose. (~100 characters)
- **Description**: Two sentences about primary project activities, location, outcome/metrics and relevance to conservation. (~500 characters)
 - Clearly state the main activity and the method being used
 - Address a specific habitat, location or species benefitted
- Abstract: More detailed description including location, major activities, outcome/metrics, and partners. (~1,500 characters)
 - State what your organization will do
 - Provide context and background information
 - Explain how the project outcomes will specifically address a conservation issue



Project Information





Uploads



Review 'Upload Checklist' and upload relevant files into Easygrants.

Required:

- IRS-990
- A-133 Audit
- GAAP Audit
- Board of Trustees, Directors or Equivalent
- GAAP audited financial statements

Templates provided for:

- Statement of Litigation
- Full Proposal Narrative

If you don't have a required document, just upload an explanation on your company letterhead in place of the required document.



Uploads - Narrative

- Activities: Elaborate on the primary activities that will be employed through the grant. Explain how these activities are expected to lead to the outcome(s). Describe how these activities relate to established plans (management, conservation, recovery, etc.) and priority conservation needs in the specific project location.
- Outcome(s): Elaborate on the outcome(s) summarized previously in the application; discuss what makes this outcome(s) achievable and important.
- **Tracking Metrics:** Indicate how the project will monitor/assess progress on the metrics selected previously in the application. Please note any challenges or limitations anticipated with tracking the metrics.
- **Project Team:** List key individuals and describe their qualifications relevant for project implementation. (include contractor info is known)
- Other (Optional): Provide any further information important for the review of this proposal

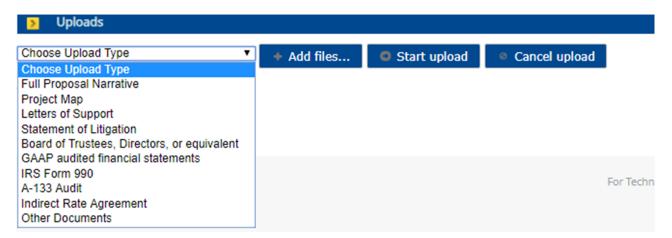
Most Competitive Narrative Elements:

- Program Goals and Priorities
- Technical Merit
- Partnership
- Transferability
- Communication
- Funding Need
- Conservation Plan and Context
- Monitoring
- Long-termSustainability
- Past Success
- Key Personnel



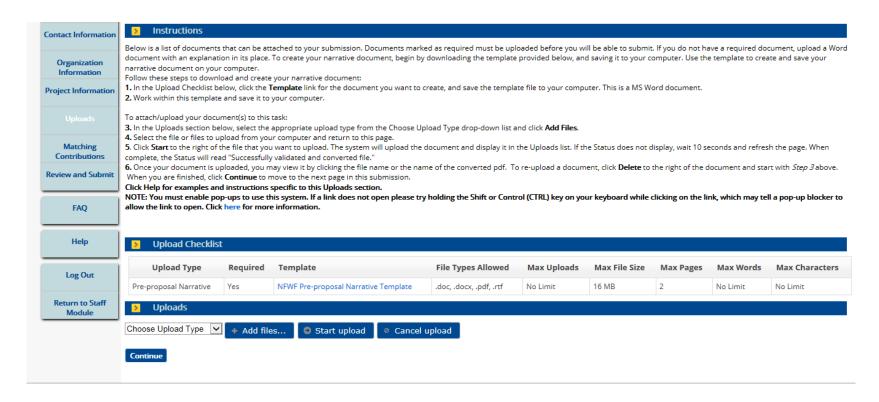
Uploads

- All financial documents uploaded should be no older than 2 years.
- Select the appropriate upload type from the dropdown menu when uploading financial documents.
- If an upload type for a specific financial document is not available, do not use the "Other Document" upload type. Instead, contact NFWF staff directly to assist with securely uploading the financial document.
- To re-upload a document, you will need to first delete the original document and then upload the new/revised document





Uploads





Budget

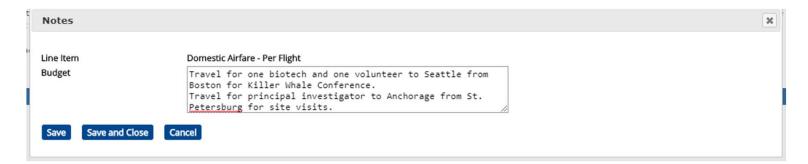
- Budget represents <u>only</u> the grant amount requested from NFWF
- Must comply with OMB's Uniform Guidance (whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars/index.html)
- Itemize all costs in appropriate budget categories.
 Costs must relate to project activities.
- No lumping costs i.e., 'All Salaries: \$10,000' Add narrative details to explain costs in budget line items.
- 'Total Amount Requested' in Project Information section must equal the 'Budget Grand Total' in Budget section
- Budget Narrative must accompany every section of the budget





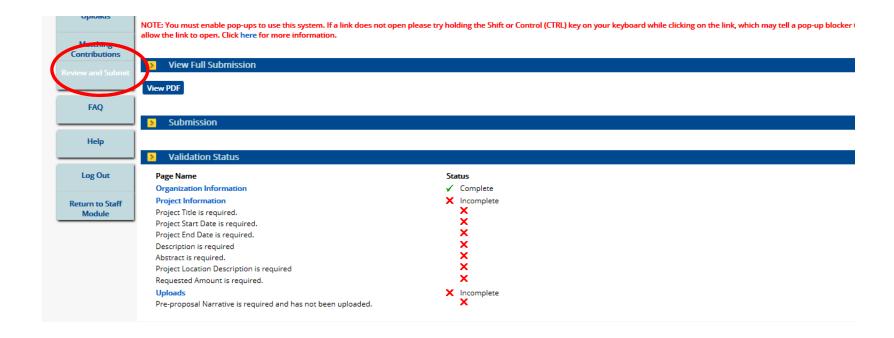
Adding a Budget Narrative







Review and Submit





QUICK TIPS FOR APPLICANTS

- ✓ If you've never used Easygrants before, create your login TODAY and familiarize yourself with the system.
- ✓ Turn off your pop-up blockers. If you use Internet Explorer, turn them off again and again...
- ✓ Print the "Tip Sheet" from <u>NFWF.org/socal</u> and use it as a reference tool, field-by-field in EasyGrants.
- ✓ Do not mail letters of support to the office upload electronic copies.
- ✓ Re-read the RFP. Call us if you're confused.
- ✓ Talk to people about your project idea. Listen.
- ✓ These are competitive grants. Your projects should have a "wow" factor.
- ✓ Be strategic first, opportunistic second.
- ✓ Save as you go!
- ✓ Pre-proposals are due ON OR BEFORE February 17th, 2020



QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

Program Page: www.nfwf.org/socal

Programmatic Questions

Jim Bond

Senior Manager, Southern California Forests
Jim.Bond@nfwf.org

415-243-3107

Application/Easygrants Questions

Jessica Perla

Regional Coordinator

Jessica.Perla@nfwf.org

202-595-2422

Easygrants Technical Assistance/Helpdesk

Email: Easygrants@nfwf.org

Voice: 202-595-2497

Hours: 9:00am – 5:00pm ET, Mon-Fri

Include: Name, Proposal ID #, email/phone,

Program you are applying to, description of

problem



