Fishers Peak, Colorado



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# **Acres for America**

Applicant Webinar - March 25, 2020 Chris West, Kimberly Shriner, Jeff Constantz

### Webinar Etiquette

- Please **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 the <u>Acres for America</u> 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

- > Protect and restore nation's fish, wildlife and habitats
- > Bring collaboration among federal agencies & private sector
- > Create common ground among diverse interests

#### How WE DO IT

- Leverage public funding with private money
- On-the-ground conservation projects through grant making



## NFWF's Business and Operations Model



Leader in fish, wildlife and habitat conservation through collaborative public-private partnerships that implement science-based strategies to achieve measurable outcomes.







### NFWF's Partners

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### Walmart's Acres for America

Acres for America has become one of the most visible and effective partnerships in land conservation. ACRES for AMER ne ocre of long

> Protecting near 680,000 acres

f wildlife bobi

Across 25

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. 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 Priorities**

- 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

Walmart's **\$52M** investment has leveraged more than **\$774M** in matching contributions, making this one of the most efficient land conservation programs in history. **2005 Goal: Protect 100,000 acres** of land to offset Walmart's domestic development footprint.

#### As of 2019:

- More than 1.49 million acres protected, an area comparable in size to Everglades National Park
- **94 projects in 40 states**, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, working with over 100 partners



## 1,493,859 Acres Protected!!

#### Acres for America 2005- 2019

**94** projects in **40** 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 Grant Recipients

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



### Acres for America 2020 Funding Availability



## **Funding Available:**

• Approximately \$3.1 million is available in 2020. 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



## **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.
- Under threat of conversion.

### Acres for America Program Criteria



## **Additional Criteria:**

- Shapefile delineating the land proposed in the context of adjacent protected lands.
- Entire transaction structure explained in detail.
- Final disposition of land, including long-term ownership and management plans.
- Conservation easement restrictions.
- Please view the NFWF website page <u>Guidance to</u> <u>Applicants Requesting Funds for the Acquisition of</u> <u>Interests in Real Property</u>.

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

## NFWF's Focal Landscapes



#### Acres for America Project Metrics



Project Activity	Metric
<b>Conservation Easements</b>	# acres protected under easement (include acres of wetland, timberland, grazing lands protected)
<b>Conservation Easements</b>	# acres connected as a result of this easement
<b>Conservation Easements</b>	# 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	<ul><li># acres opened to public access</li><li># miles opened to public access</li></ul>

### Acres for America Match & Eligibility



## **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



## **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 15**. Only preproposals 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 24**.
- Final funding decisions will be made by the NFWF Board of Directors **late October.**



## **Program Examples**

- Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge (AK)
- Ballet Ranch (KS)
- Canoochee Sandhills (GA)
- Rolston Rest, Green Mountain National Forest (VT)







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.

#### Ballet Ranch (Kansas)



Conservation easements on the Ballet Ranch, an intact **9,250acre** multi-generational ranch in the Red Hills ecoregion of Kansas, will protect the ranch from fragmentation and development. Expansion and protection of landscape-level habitat for species of concern such as cave-dwelling bats, lesser prairie-chicken, plains minnow, longnose snake; as well as sustaining economic viability and compatibility.



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.

Canoochee Sandhills (Georgia) Rolston Rest, Green Mountain National Forest (Vermont)



Acquisition of **2**,7**45-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.

### **Questions about this RFP?**





## **Easygrants: How to Submit a Pre-proposal**

#### **Getting Started**

- Go to <u>easygrants.nfwf.org</u>
- Login or Register



## **Easygrants**

### **Creating Username or Organization**

Add Person Contact	
Prefix	<none> 🗸</none>
First Name *	
Middle Name	
Last Name *	
Suffix	<none> 🗸</none>
Email Address *	
Organization *	Select Organization



- Do not create duplicate accounts.
- Use your professional email address and full <u>legal</u> organization name.
- 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.



#### **Review your contact details,** make sure you provide a **phone number**



## **Easygrants**

## **Apply for Funding**

• Click the "Apply for Funding" button



- Select the Acres for America Fall 2020 Funding Opportunity
- Click "Continue"
- Click "Apply"

			Due Date
Gran	its		
$\bigcirc$	Acres for America Fall 2020	www.nfwf.org/acresforamerica	4/15/2020 11:59 PM ET

## **Easygrants**

### **Eligibility Quiz**

• Complete and click "Submit", then "Continue".



#### **Pre-Proposal Task**

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

-141 P.	<b>ONFWF</b>					My Tasks - Kimmy Shriner						
		My Tasks	My Grants	Profile	Apply For Funding							
	Home											
	Change Password	Apply for Fu	unding V	/iew All My T	asks							
	FAQ	My 1	asks 🛛									
	Log Out	Easygrant ID	s Primary Co	ntact/Pl	Task		Program Name	Funding Cycle Name	Status	Outcome	Due Date	
		53476	Shriner, Kim	my	Pre-proposal		Grants	Acres for America Fall 20	16 Incomplete	Pre-proposal Not Submitted	5/19/2016	View PDF

### **Sections of the Pre-Proposal Application**

• Click on links in left column to complete each section of your application.



#### **Project Information Section**

- **Title:** (~100 characters)
  - short, descriptive name indicating project purpose
- **Description:** (~500 characters)
  - Main activities (fee acquisition, easement)
  - Specific habitat, location or species benefitted
- **Abstract:** (~1,500 characters)
  - Location, activities, outcome/metrics, and partners
  - Context and background information
  - Explain how outcomes will address a conservation issue

#### Requested Amount:

- Grant amount requesting from NFWF
- Grant can only be applied to purchase price

#### **Uploads Section: Pre-Proposal Narrative**

• 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



>	Uploads			
Pre-p	oroposal Narrative 🗸	+ Add files	Start upload	Cancel upload
Pre	e-proposal Narrative: E	Example Narrative.do	c 174.08 KB	art 🛛 🖉 Cancel

### Uploads Section: Pre-Proposal Narrative Template

Make sure to mention:

- Applicable conservation criteria
- Entire transaction structure, including full purchase price and partnerships
- Threats to the property if not conserved
- Acquisition disposition / easement restrictions
- Applicable metric values

#### **Uploads Section: Project Site Map**

• Provide a map delineating the land proposed for conservation in the context of adjacent protected lands (e.g. federal, state, private, easements, etc).





#### **Uploads Section** (continued)

oje	ct Site Map	🖌 🕂 Add files.	🖸 Start uple	oad 🛛 🖉 Cancel upload			
	Upload Type	Original File Name	Converted File Name	Status	Uploaded Date (Desc)	Uploaded By	Options
	Project Site Map	Example Map.jpg	Example Map.pdf	Successfully validated and converted file.	4/6/2016	Shriner, Kimmy	Edit Delete
	Pre-proposal Narrative	Example Narrative.doc	Example Narrative.pdf	Successfully validated and converted file.	4/6/2016	Shriner, Kimmy	Edit Delete

#### **Matching Contributions Section**

- 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 and non-federal funds may be considered as match.
- Include ALL sources no matter the status (intend to apply, application submitted, pledged, received), and ensure they add up to full project value.

### **Review & Submit Section**

- Make sure the status of all sections is complete ( $\square$ ).
- Review and save your completed proposal  $\rightarrow$  View the PDF  $\rightarrow$  Click "Submit"!

#### **Acres for America TIP SHEET**

• A **Tip Sheet** with step-by-step instructions for using Easygrants can be found on the <u>Acres for America</u> program page.



#### Acres for America Pre-Proposal Tip Sheet

#### STARTING AN APPLICATION

When you are ready to begin the application process, go to www.nfwf.org/Easygrants.

- New users to the system will be prompted to register before starting their application.
- Existing users should log in using their e-mail address and password. If you have forgotten you password, Easygrants will e-mail one to you.
- Once you are logged in, click the Apply for Funding button, and select Acres for America from the list of "Available Funding Opportunities".
- Complete the Eligibility Quiz and Save and Submit your response.
- If you pass the Eligibility Quiz, Easygrants will return you to your personal Easygrants Home Page. From there, click on the Pre-Proposal for the Acres for America. Now you are ready to get started! If you do not pass the Eligibility Quiz, please contact the NFWF Program Contact identified in the RFP.

#### Take Note!

- Pop-ups: Easygrants uses pop-up windows to display some files. Please make sure your web browser allows for pop-ups. The internet browser pop-up blocker must be disabled prior to beginning the application process. You can also try holding the Shift or Control (CTRL) key when clicking the link.
- Cookies: Easygrants uses cookies to maintain the session information. Please make sure that your browser and computer can accept cookies.
- PDF: Easygrants uses PDFs extensively. Make sure you are able to use Adobe Reader.
- SAVING AND SUBMITTING: Once an application has been initiated, it may be saved and then modified and submitted at a later time, up to the application deadline of

#### **<u>HELP</u>**!! Use the **Help** button or contact us via the information at the bottom of the page

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WAY HOUS	V V I	Main - Kimmy Shriner						
Home	Project Information							
	Due: 5/19/2016 11:59 PM ET	Acres Test Test	Easygrants ID: 53476					
Main	Shriner, Kimmy  (Test Org) Grants  Acres for America  Acres for America	Fall 2016						
Contact Information	Instructions							
Organization Information	submission. Click Help for examples an	n bar, or in the summary below to view the pages where you d instructions. Click Home to return to your Home page. Yo nit. Once you submit, you will no longer be able to make cha	u may save and return to edit your information					
Project Information	for this Funding Opportunity. Other useful links that will appear in the navigation bar at left include:							
Uploads	<ul> <li>Home brings you back to your Home page and out of this submission task.</li> <li>FAQ provides answers to common questions about the Foundation's proposal elements.</li> <li>Help provides guidance on both content and technical aspects related to completing many of the pages in the system.</li> <li>Log Out logs you out of the system.</li> </ul>							
Matching Contributions	<ul> <li>Validation Summary</li> </ul>							
Review and Submit	Page Name	Status						
	Organization Information	✓ Complete						
FAQ	Project Information <u>Uploads</u>	✓ Complete X Incomplete						
	Matching Contributions	✓ Incomplete						
Help								
Log Out								
		nce, please contact us via <b>e-mail</b> or phone 202-595-2497. ns of Use Download Adobe Reader						
		Powered by Easygrants™ v8.0.4						

## **Questions on Pre-Proposals?**



## **Easygrants: How to Submit a Full Proposal**

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

NFWF						My Tasks - Kimmy Shriner						
		My Tasks	My Grants	Profile	Apply For Funding							
	Home To access a task below, <u>click the task name link in the <b>Task</b> column</u> .											
Cha	ange Password	Apply for Fu	Inding V	liew All My ไ	lasks							
	FAQ	My Tasks										
	Log Out	Easygrants ID	<sup>5</sup> Primary Cor	ntact/PI	Task		Program Name	Funding Cycle Name	Status	Outcome	Due Date	
		53476	Shriner, Kim	my	Full Proposal		Grants	Acres for America Fall 2016	Incomplete	Pre-proposal Not Submitted	5/19/2016	View PDF

Additional Sections in the Full Proposal Application

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

Home	Project Information	
Main	Soil Conservation District, Lincoln County  (Linco Grants  Cumberland Plateau-Southern Appalach	oln County Soil Conservation District) nians Fund  Cumberland Plateau-Southern Appalac
Contact Information	Instructions	
Organization Information	for examples and instructions. Click Home	ar, or in the summary below to view the pages whe to return to your Home page. You may save and re e to make changes. Click here to view Foundation ( wigation bar at left include:
Project Information	FAQ provides answers to common q	e page and out of this submission task. questions about the Foundation's proposal elemen ntent and technical aspects related to completing m
🖌 Мар	<ul> <li>Validation Summary</li> </ul>	
Uploads	Page Name Contact Information	<b>Status</b> ✔ Complete
Metrics	Organization Information Project Information Project Location	<ul> <li>✓ Complete</li> <li>✓ Complete</li> <li>✓ Complete</li> </ul>
Matching Contributions	Map Uploads	✓ Complete ✓ Complete
Budget	Metrics Matching Contributions Budget	<ul> <li>✓ Complete</li> <li>✓ Complete</li> <li>✓ Complete</li> </ul>
Permits and	Permits and Approvals Peer Reviewers	<ul><li>✓ Complete</li><li>✓ Complete</li></ul>
Approvals		

#### **Uploads Section**

- Review the Upload Checklist for a list of the required documents that must be uploaded into Easygrants.
- If you do not have a required document, simply upload an explanation on your company letterhead in place of the required document.
- All financial documentation must:

   Represent the same fiscal year period
   Must be the most recent financial information available
   Must be less than two years old
   Financial documents FAQs: www.nfwf.org/whatwedo/grants/applican

ts/Pages/required-financial-docs.aspx

Upload	Required
Narrative	Yes
Project Maps	Yes
Letters of Support	Yes
Other documents	No
Statement of Litigation	Yes
Board of Trustees or Directors	Yes
GAAP Audited Financial Statements*	Yes
IRS Form 990*	Yes
Single Audit*	Yes
Conceptual or Engineered Plans	No
Photos	Yes

#### **Budget Section**

- Grant funds can only be applied to the property's *purchase price*.
- **General Budget Narrative** present the entire funding strategy, including the total purchase price, expected expenses, and sources of revenue.
- **Other Direct Costs** enter 1 in the "quantity" field, and the total amount you are requesting from NFWF in the "unit cost" field.
- **Other Direct Costs Notes field** type a sentence explaining what the funds will be used for.

> Budget		
	Budget 📑	
Personnel	\$0.00	
▶ <u>Travel</u>	\$0.00	Other Direct Costs
Equipment	\$0.00	
Materials and Supplies	\$0.00	Type * Fee aquisition
<u>Contractual Services</u>	\$0.00	Purpose * Land conservation Unit of Measure
<u>Other Direct Costs</u>	\$200,000.00	
Other Direct Costs 🔹 🍺	\$200,000.00	Apply to Year(s)
Indirect Costs	\$0.00	Quantity         Unit Cost         Total Cost           Budget         1         \$200,000.00         \$200,000.00
Total Direct Costs	\$200,000.00	
Total Indirect Costs	\$0.00	Save Save and Close Cancel
Total Costs	\$200,000.00	

#### **Acres for America TIP SHEET**

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#### Acres for America Full Proposal Tip Sheet

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- Once you are logged in, click the Apply for Funding button, and select Acres for America from the list of "Available Funding Opportunities".
- Complete the Eligibility Quiz and Save and Submit your response.
- If you pass the Eligibility Quiz, Easygrants will return you to your personal Easygrants Home Page. From there, click on the Pre-Proposal for the Acres for America. Now you are ready to get started! If you do not pass the Eligibility Quiz, please contact the NFWF Program Contact identified in the RFP.

#### Take Note!

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- Cookies: Easygrants uses cookies to maintain the session information. Please make sure that your browser and computer can accept cookies.
- PDF: Easygrants uses PDFs extensively. Make sure you are able to use Adobe Reader.
- SAVING AND SUBMITTING: Once an application has been initiated, it may be saved and then modified and submitted at a later time, up to the application deadline of

#### **<u>HELP</u>**!! Use the **Help** button or contact us via the information at the bottom of the page

WWW HOLD	Main - Kimmy Shriner		
Home	Project Information		
	Due: 5/19/2016 11:59 PM ET	Acres Test Test	Easygrants ID: 53476
Main	Shriner, Kimmy  (Test Org) Grants  Acres for America  Acres for Americ	a Fall 2016	
Contact Information	Instructions		
Organization Information	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 this submission. Click Help 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 needed until you submit. Once you submit, you will no longer be able to make changes. Click here to view Foundation Guidelines for this Funding Opportunity.		
Project Information	Other useful links that will appear in the navigation bar at left include:		
Uploads	<ul> <li>Home brings you back to your Home page and out of this submission task.</li> <li>FAQ provides answers to common questions about the Foundation's proposal elements.</li> <li>Help provides guidance on both content and technical aspects related to completing many of the pages in the system.</li> <li>Log Out logs you out of the system.</li> </ul>		
Matching Contributions	Validation Summary		
Review and Submit	Page Name	Status	
	Organization Information	✓ Complete	
FAQ	Project Information	✓ Complete	
TAQ	Uploads Matching Contributions	X Incomplete ✓ Complete	
Help			
Log Out			
		ince, please contact us via <b>e-mail</b> or phone 202-595-2497.	
	Ter	rms of Use Download Adobe Reader Powered by Easygrants™ v8.0.4	

## **Easygrants**

#### TIPS & INFO

- $\checkmark$  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.

## **Questions?**





### **CONTACTS**

#### If you have any additional questions about this RFP:

- > Chris West, <u>chris.west@nfwf.org</u>
- Kimberly Shriner, <u>kimberly.shriner@nfwf.org</u>

#### Before submitting a pre-proposal, applicants are encouraged to discuss project ideas with NFWF's regional office staff:

- Western Region, Jonathan Birdsong, jonathan.birdsong@nfwf.org
- > Rocky Mountain Region, Chris West, <u>chris.west@nfwf.org</u>
- > Central Region, Todd Hogrefe, todd.hogrefe@nfwf.org
- Southern Region, Suzanne Sessine, <u>suzanne.sessine@nfwf.org</u>
- > Northeastern Region, John Wright, john.wright@nfwf.org

