AGENDA
1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

1. NFWF Roles
2. About NFWF (1:35)
3. Central Apps Program Overview (1:40)
4. Review of 2020 RFP (1:50)
5. Metrics (2:15)
6. Calculating Indirect Costs and Budgeting Best Practices (2:30)
7. Using EasyGrants (2:40)
8. Questions (2:45)
1. NFWF Roles

Amanda Bassow, Director, Northeastern Regional Office

Scott Hall, Senior Scientist, Bird Conservation

John Lamoreux, Director, Fish and Wildlife Conservation

John Wright, Manager, Northeastern Regional Office

Katie Ombalski, Field Liaison, Woods and Waters Consulting
About Us

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 and enhance wildlife
• Bring collaboration among federal agencies and private sector

How We Do It
• Leverage public funding with private money – average 3:1

NFWF is
• An implementer – we fund projects

NFWF is not
• An advocacy organization that engages in lobbying or litigation
$507 million awarded to 931 projects in 2019

More than $3.46 billion awarded since 1984

18,670 Investments

5,000 organizations

All 50+ states
Central Appalachia Habitat Stewardship Program: Overview

✓ Grants between $50k and $200k to restore and sustain healthy forests and rivers
✓ Approximately 10 to 12 grants awarded each year
✓ 1:1 non-federal match strongly encouraged
✓ Nonprofits, state and local governments, tribes, and educational institutions are eligible
Central Appalachia Habitat Stewardship Program

Launched in 2017

Accomplishments to date include...

• 35 projects awarded for $4.7M with $5.9M in grantee match
• Improving habitat on 57,000 acres of forest
• Removing 15 barriers, opening 179 miles of upstream habitat
• Restoring 24 miles of streamside forest
• In March 2019 NFWF’s board approved the Central Appalachia Business Plan

• Plan will help guide NFWF investments in the region for the next ten years, in order to

  ✓ improve the quality and connectivity of forest and freshwater habitat

  ✓ increase the distribution and abundance of native fish, birds and other wildlife

www.nfwf.org/central-appalachia-habitat-stewardship-program
4. REVIEW OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

• Geographic Focus
• Program Priorities
• Metrics
• Eligibility
• Evaluation Criteria
• Compliance
• Process, Timeline, Important Reminders
2020 Request for Proposals

Applicant Webinar: Wed, May 20th
Proposals Due: Thursday, June 25th
Review and Notification: July – October
Awards Announced: Mid-November

Grant Implementation: 2 to 3 years

Awards: $50k to $200k each
Match: 1:1 non-federal match **encouraged**

https://www.nfwf.org/programs/central-appalachia-habitat-stewardship-program
Geographic Focus

- Projects within the gold boundary are eligible
- Priority, in most cases, will be given to projects within the blue “focal geographies”
- Focal geographies are comprised of HUC8 watersheds
- Links in RFP to interactive map and business plan portal with downloadable shape file of boundaries
Program Priorities

1. Restore and Manage Forest Blocks in Focal Geographies
2. Target Outreach and Assistance to Key Forest Landowners and Practitioners
3. Sustain and Improve High Integrity Habitat for Eastern Brook Trout
4. Restore Eastern Hellbender and Freshwater Mussel Habitat and Increase Occupancy
Priority 1: Restore and Manage Forest Blocks

- Create a mosaic of mixed-aged forests that support a diversity of bird and wildlife species
- Use a range of practices and prescriptions to create a diversity of age and structure across contiguous forest blocks of at least 5,000 acres
- Continued implementation in established blocks within the Upper-Middle Allegheny, Pennsylvania Wilds and Laurel Highlands focal geographies (see maps)
- Establish new blocks in the Monongahela Forest and Blue Ridge focal geographies
• Assessment and Planning
• Forest Block Restoration
• Restoration Response Monitoring
Priority 2: Target Outreach and Assistance
Priority 3: Sustain and Improve Habitat for Brook Trout

- Patch Assessments
- Restore Aquatic Connectivity within and between Priority Population Patches
- Restore Riparian Forest
- Improve Conservation on Agricultural Lands
- Reduce Erosion and Sedimentation from Dirt and Gravel Roads
Targeting EBT Population Patches within Focal Geographies

Conservation Portfolio

Resiliency

Secure strongholds

Low

Secure and restore persistent pop

Enhance stronghold

High

Restore persistent pop and habitats

Redundancy

Habitat Integrity

www.tu.org/ebt-portfolio-rwa
EBT Patch Assessments

• Detailed map of patch
• EBT occupancy
• Habitat factors limiting EBT
  ✓ Passage barriers
  ✓ Water quality *hot* spots
  ✓ Erosion and sedimentation
  ✓ Gaps in buffers and livestock exclusion
  ✓ Presence of invasive species
• Human Dimensions, e.g., conservation capacity, landowner willingness
Priority 4: Restore Hellbender and Mussel Habitat and Increase Occupancy

- AOP for hellbender and mussel host species
- Reduce sedimentation
- Riparian buffers
- Livestock exclusion
- Leverage upstream EBT habitat restoration
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Restore and Manage Forest Blocks in Focal Geographies</th>
<th>Assessment/ Planning</th>
<th>Forest Block Restoration</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central Apps - Tool development for decision-making - # tools developed</td>
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<td>Central Apps - Forest Management Planning - # of acres covered by dynamic forest plans</td>
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<td>Central Apps - Golden-Winged Warbler - Improved management practices - Acres under improved management</td>
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<td>Central Apps - Wood Thrush - Improved management practices - Acres under improved management</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central Apps - Cerulean Warbler - Improved management practices - Acres under improved management</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central Apps - Monitoring - Acres being monitored</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central Apps - Cerulean Warbler - Population - # sites occupied by species</td>
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<tr>
<td>Target Outreach and Assistance to Key Forest Landowners and Practitioners</td>
<td>Outreach and Technical Assistance</td>
<td>Landowner Demonstration Projects</td>
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<td>Central Apps - Outreach/ Education/ Technical Assistance - # people reached by outreach, training, or technical assistance activities</td>
<td>Central Apps - Golden-Winged Warbler - Improved management practices - Acres under improved management</td>
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<td>Central Apps - Outreach/ Education/ Technical Assistance - # of people demonstrating a minimum level of behavior change</td>
<td>Central Apps - Wood Thrush - Improved management practices - Acres under improved management</td>
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<td>Central Apps - Cerulean Warbler - Improved management practices - Acres under improved management</td>
<td>Central Apps - Outreach/ Education/ Technical Assistance - Conservation demonstration sites</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sustain and Improve High Integrity Habitat for Eastern Brook Trout</td>
<td>Eastern Brook Trout Patch Assessments</td>
<td>Central Apps - Research - # of sites assessed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Restoration Response Monitoring</td>
<td>Central Apps - Monitoring - # sites being monitored</td>
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<tr>
<td>Restore Aquatic Connectivity within and between Priority Population Patches</td>
<td>Central Apps - Fish passage improvements - # passage barriers rectified</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Central Apps - Fish passage improvements - Miles of stream opened</td>
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<tr>
<td>Restore Riparian Forests</td>
<td>Central Apps - Riparian restoration - Miles restored</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Improve Conservation on Agricultural Lands</td>
<td>Central Apps - BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction - Acres with BMPs to reduce nutrient or sediment loads</td>
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<tr>
<td>Improve Conservation on Agricultural Lands</td>
<td>Central Apps - BMP implementation for livestock fencing - Miles of fencing installed</td>
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<td>Central Apps - Stream restoration - Miles restored</td>
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<td>Central Apps - Wetland restoration - Acres restored</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reduce Erosion and Sedimentation from Dirt and Gravel Roads</td>
<td>Central Apps - BMP implementation for road improvements - Miles of road improved</td>
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<td>Eastern Brook Trout Outcome</td>
<td>Central Apps - Habitat Quality - # of habitat units improved</td>
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## Project Metrics: Strategy 4 +

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Restore Eastern Hellbender and Freshwater Mussel Habitat and Increase Occupancy</th>
<th>Re-establish Hellbender Occupancy and Improve Habitat*</th>
<th>Central Apps - Nesting Sites - # nesting sites installed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Central Apps - Hellbender - Population - Miles of habitat occupied</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Re-establish Freshwater Mussel Occupancy and Improve Habitat*</td>
<td>Central Apps - Captive breeding/ rearing/ rehab facilities - # individuals released</td>
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<td>Other Activities</td>
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<td>Central Apps – Conservation easements - Acres protected under long-term easement (permanent or &gt; 30-yr)</td>
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<td>Central Apps - Volunteer participation - # volunteers participating in projects</td>
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Eligibility and Match

Eligible and Ineligible Entities

• Eligible: non-profit 501(c) organizations, state government agencies, local governments, municipal governments, Indian tribes and educational institutions

• Ineligible: Federal government agencies, businesses, unincorporated individuals and international organizations

Ineligible Uses of Grant Funds

• Political advocacy, fundraising, lobbying, litigation, terrorist activities or Foreign Corrupt Practices Act violations

• Efforts to comply with legal requirements, including permit conditions, mitigation and settlement agreements

Funding Availability and Match

• Grant size: $50k - $200k

• Strongly encourage non-federal match of 1:1
Evaluation Criteria

- Program Goals and Priorities
- Technical Merit and Work Plan
- Cost-Effectiveness
- Monitoring
- Long-term Sustainability
Compliance

- 2020 funding is a mix of federal and non-federal sources, so federal requirements for budget, procurement, match all apply
- Grantees receiving USFWS funds will need to comply with NEPA, ESA, NHPA
- Grantees will not know until after awards are announced if they are receiving USFWS funds
- It’s best to assume you will need to comply
- You may review NEPA, ESA and NHPA templates on the program page in order to plan time and resources accordingly
Easygrants Tips

easygrants.nfwf.org

1. Log in with an existing email and password. **Or create an account now** – this will give you time to familiarize yourself with the system. If you have trouble logging in, use the help feature.

2. Turn off your pop-up blockers. For Internet Explorer, turn them off again and again… You can also use Chrome, Firefox or Safari.

3. Download and use the **tip sheet** available on the program webpage.

4. You can work on the narrative offline – just download the **Word** document and upload it when you’re finished.

5. With the mapping feature – please be as specific as possible AND provide narrative location information on your project.

6. Click save frequently. **Do not click SUBMIT until all sections are complete** Make sure all your check marks on the Review and Submit page are **green**.
March: RFP development and issuance

June: Grant proposals due

July to August: Technical Review
- NFWF Review
- Subject matter experts from state and Federal agencies, academia and NGOs
- NFWF synthesizes reviews and makes awards decisions

September - October: Notifications
- Congress is notified of recommended grants. 30 days to comment.
- NFWF Board reviews grants in early November.

November: Grant awards announced
Final Tips for Applicants

1. Re-read the RFP and reference the information provided through the links. Call us if you’re confused.

2. These are competitive grants. Projects should address all criteria and have a “wow” factor.

3. Include lots of context and details—don’t assume we know your plan, partnership or watershed.

4. Be strategic first, opportunistic second.

5. Submit your proposal ON OR BEFORE June 25th.

6. Note that NFWF staff will not be “in the office” at 11:59 pm on June 25th!
Proposals are Due
Thursday, June 25, 2020
by 11:59 PM Eastern Time
Awards will be announced
in mid-November

For Questions and Assistance

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https://www.nfwf.org/programs/central-appalachia-habitat-stewardship-program