Southern California Forests and Watersheds Wildfires Restoration Grant Program
Webinar - Thursday, January 21, 2021

Photo: iStock

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:

  1. 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!)
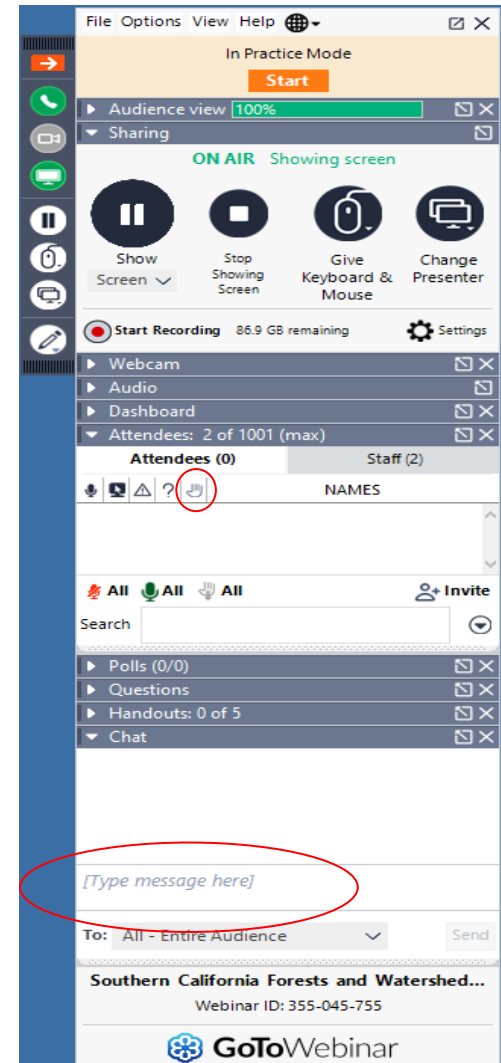
Agenda

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

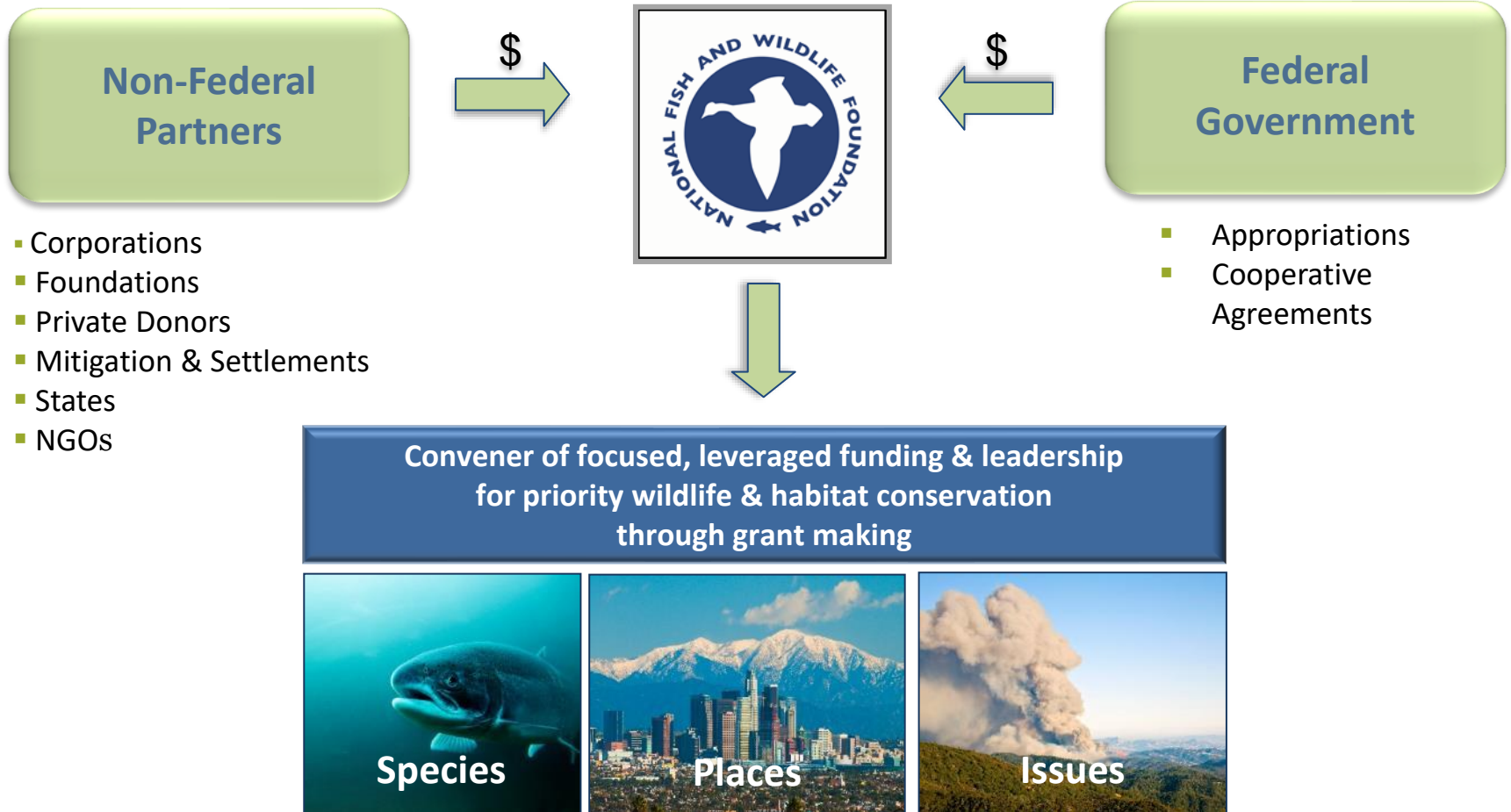 ▪ Includes FWS Director & NOAA Administrator

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 5,000 organizations and committed $6.1 billion to conservation projects throughout the United States.

NFWF

NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

HOW WE DO IT

Non-Federal Partners

$ →

← $

Federal Government

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

- Appropriations
- Cooperative Agreements

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

Species

Places

Issues

NFWF

SOUTHERN CA FORESTS PARTNERSHIP

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

- Development of Restoration Strategy and Business Plan to guide program activities

- Over 90 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

Overview of Wildfires Restoration Program

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Major Goals

Wildfire Restoration

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 $6.3M available for projects:

Los Padres National Forest:
- Zaca Fire $600K
- Piru Fire $500K
- Jesusita Fire $900K

Angeles National Forest:
- Copper Fire $3M
- Sayre Fire $400K
- Powerhouse $900K

Multi-year program, expected to continue to 2024 or until funding is expended

OVERARCHING FUNDING CRITERIA – USFS

Wildfire Restoration Projects

1. Projects must directly or indirectly improve, protect, or rehabilitate watersheds and ecosystems <u>on Federal lands</u> impacted by the fires

2. Project descriptions must clearly describe the need for the proposed project as <u>rendered necessary by fire</u>

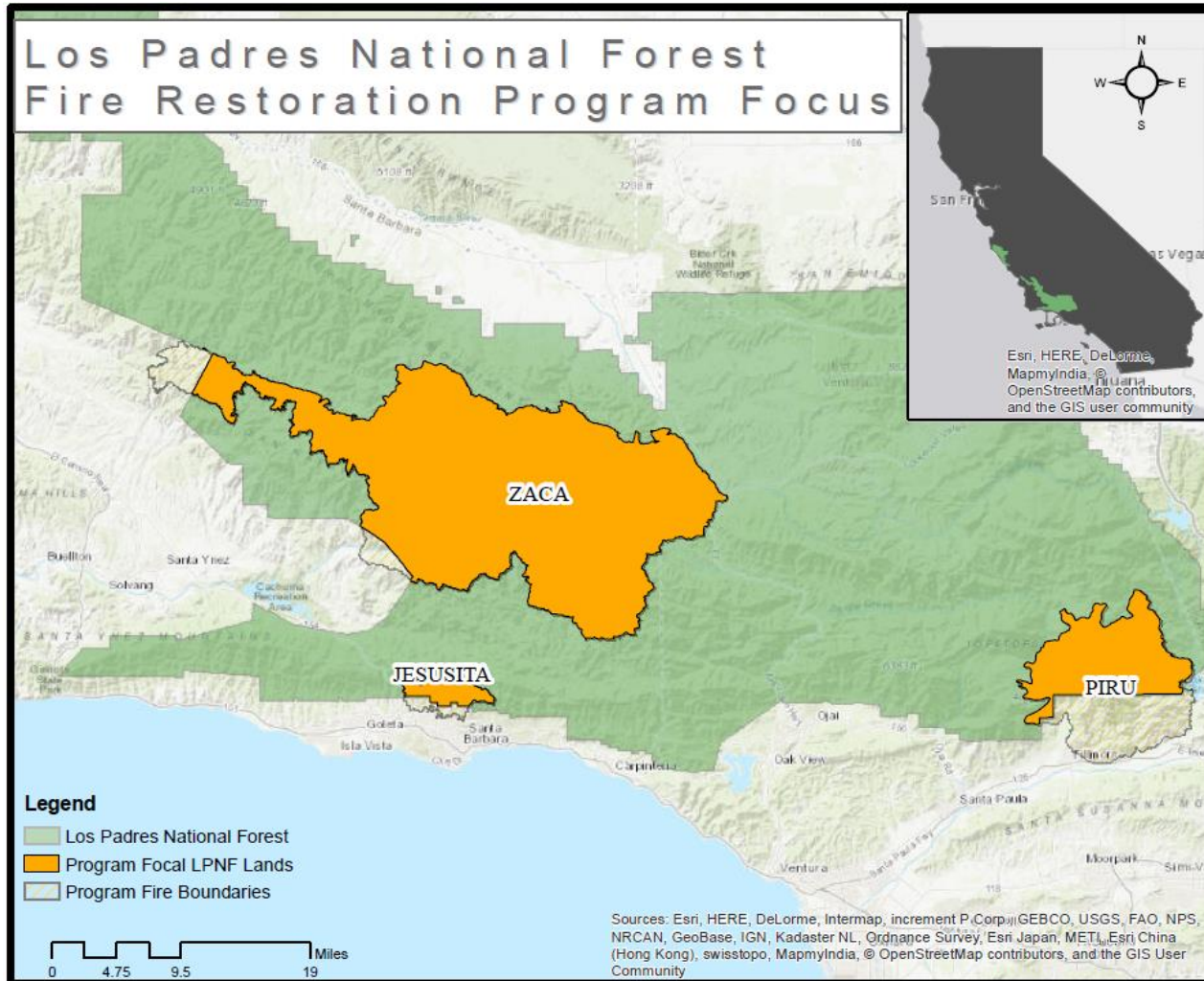3. Project outcomes and deliverables must provide a direct and practical contribution toward program goals

Fire Locations & Extent

Jesusita Fire (2009): ~11,000 acres

Piru Fire (2003): ~30,000 acres

Zaca Fire (2007): ~240,000 acres

JESUSITA FIRE WATERSHEDS
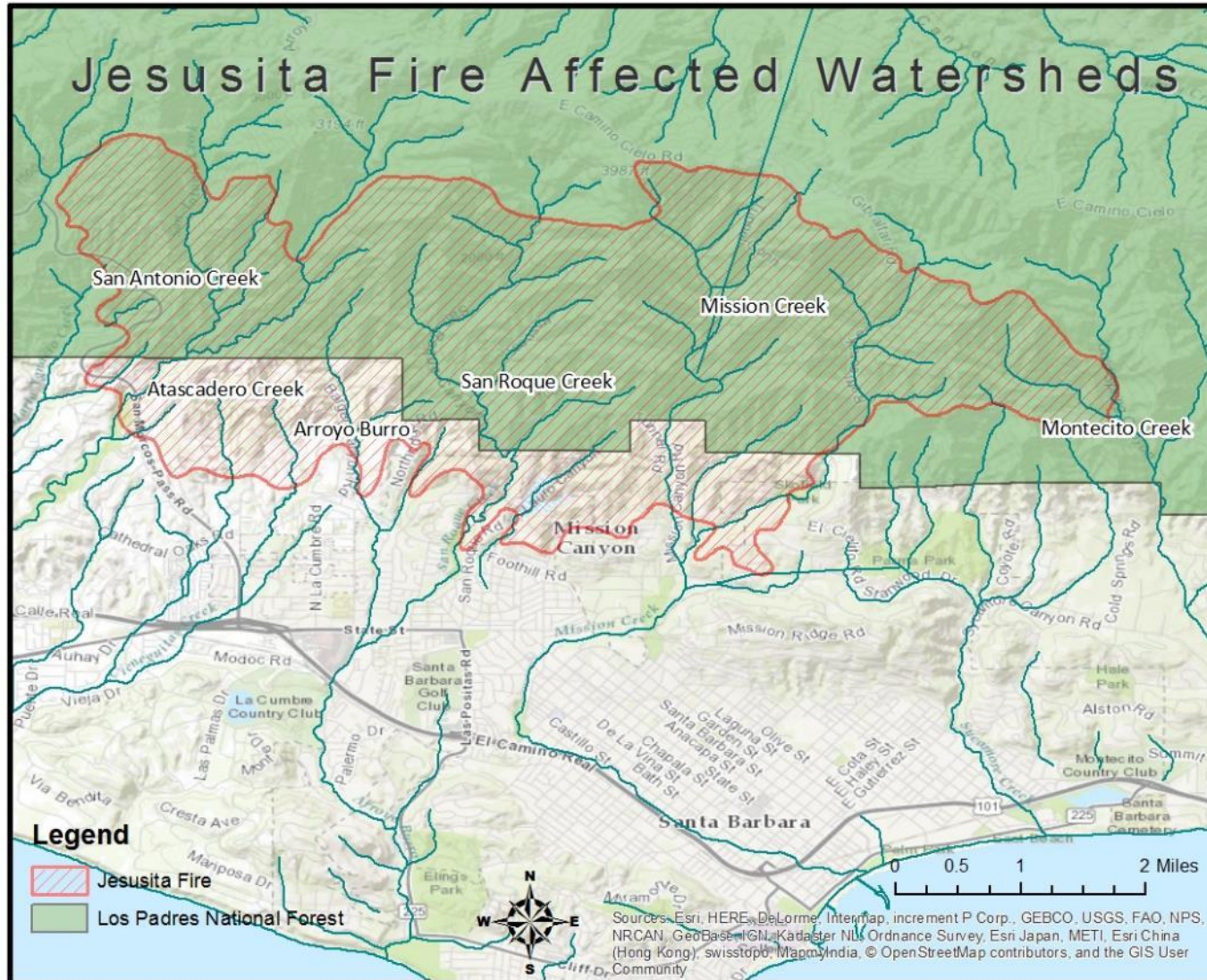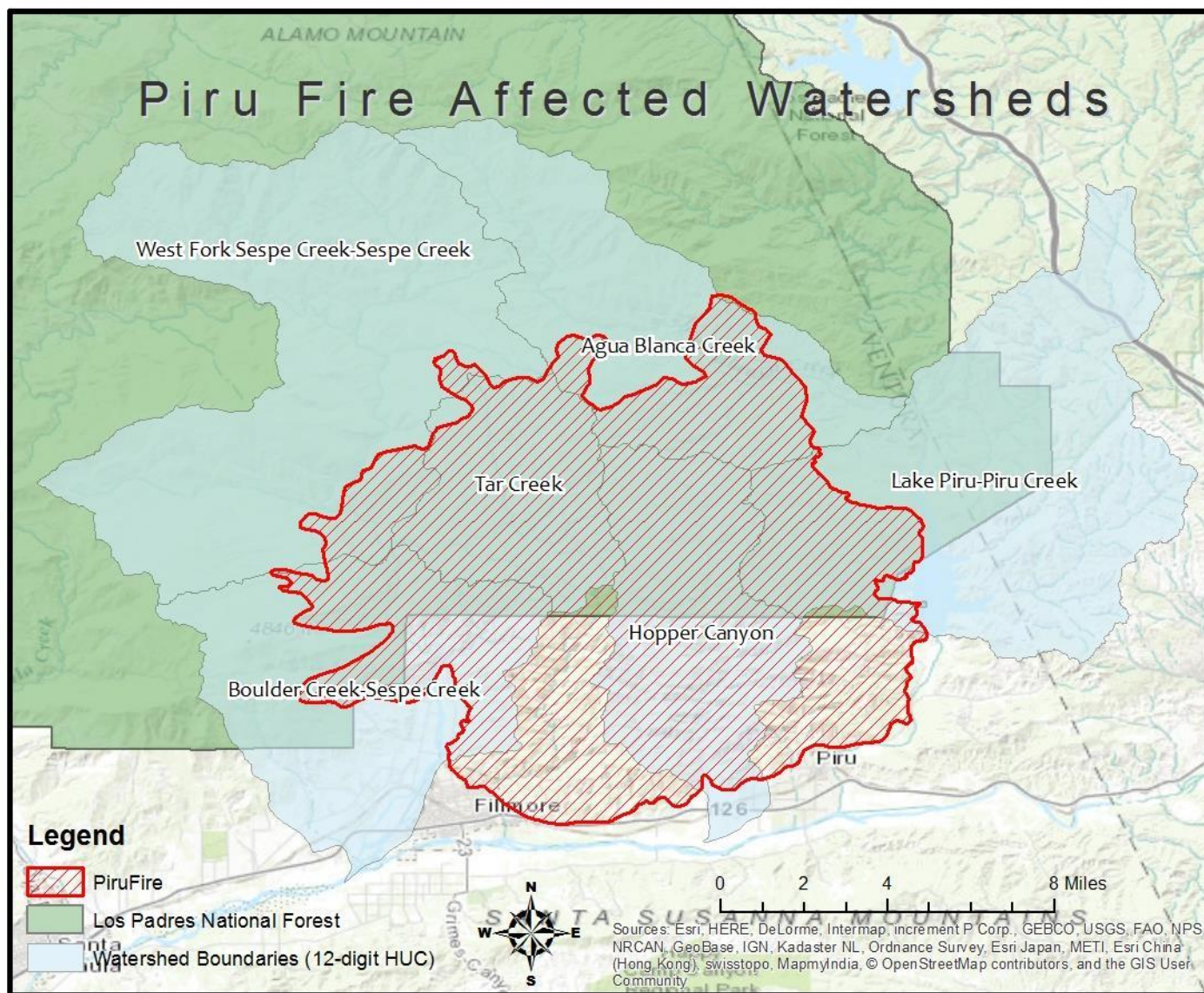
PIRU FIRE WATERSHEDS

Piru Fire Affected Watersheds

ZACA FIRE WATERSHEDS

Fire Locations & Extent

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

Powerhouse Fire (2013): ~30,000 acres
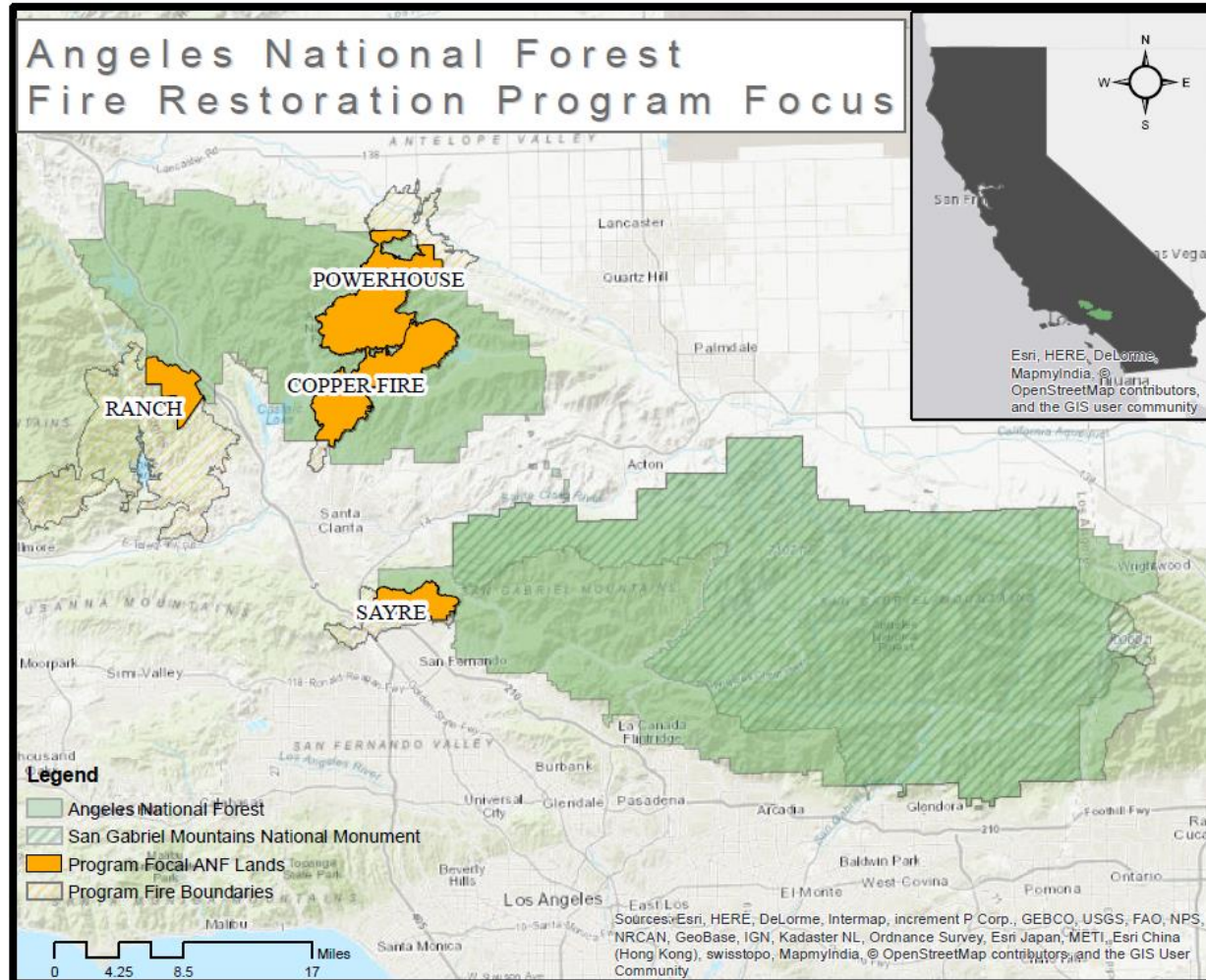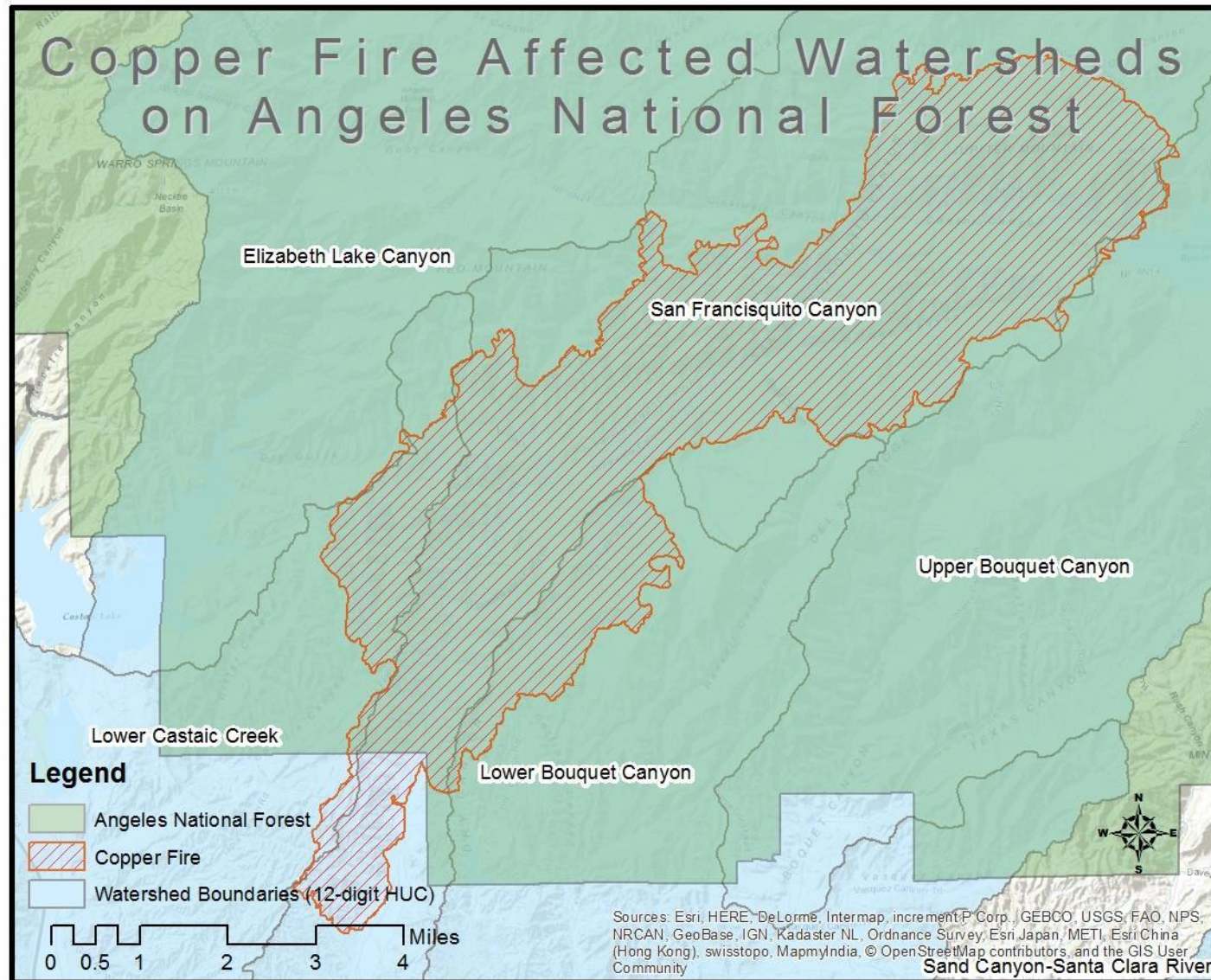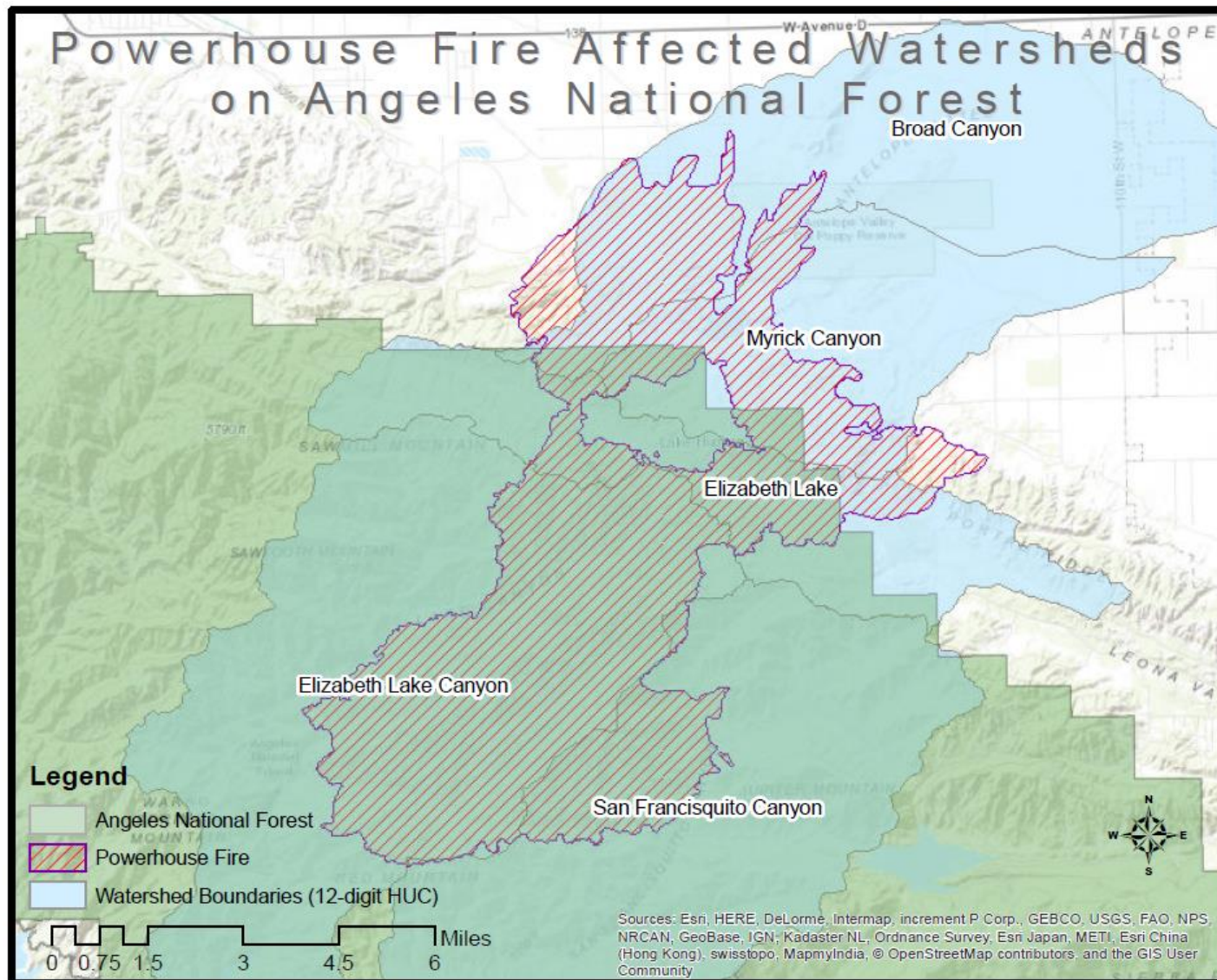
COPPER FIRE WATERSHEDS

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

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

OVERARCHING FUNDING CRITERIA – ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION

Major Goals

Forest and Woodlands Re-Forestation

1. Help fund activities specific to the post-wildfire restoration of forest and woodlands throughout California

2. Primary focus of these funds is intended for tree propagation, seedling purchase, and on-the-ground restoration; complementary activities (e.g. nursery capacity building; seed collection/storage; post-fire site clearing/preparation, etc.) may be considered.

Program Budget and Timeline

 Approximately $1.2M available for projects

**** ADF FUNDS NOT EXCLUSIVE TO SPECIFIC FIRE SCARS OR LANDOWNERSHIP ****

FUNDING PRIORITIES: FOREST AND WOODLAND RESTORATION

General

- Support wildfire recovery and restoration through tree propagation, seedling purchase, and on-the-ground restoration

- Other activities may be eligible for funding including the following:

  – Nursery capacity building

  – Seed collection/storage

  – Post-fire site clearing/preparation

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

Request for Proposals Review

APPLICATION & REVIEW TIMELINE*

✓Pre-Proposal Due Date   **February 17, 2021**

✓Invitations for Full Proposals Sent   *March 1, 2021*

✓Full Proposal Due Date   **April 6, 2021**

✓Review Period   *April - June 2021*

✓Awards Announced   Mid-*August 2021*

*Dates subject to change

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants

✓Non-profit 501(c)(3) Organizations

✓State, Local, and Municipal Governments

✓Resource Conservation Districts

✓State and Eligible Research-Based Federal Agencies

✓Tribal governments and organizations

✓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 support ongoing efforts to comply with legal requirements, including permit conditions, mitigation and settlement agreements. However, grant funds may be used to support projects that enhance or improve upon existing baseline compliance efforts.

- **Equipment**: Applicants are encouraged to rent equipment where possible and cost-effective or use matching funds to make those purchases. If the project may only be completed using NFWF funds to procure equipment please contact program staff directly.

Equipment is defined as tangible personal property (including information technology systems) having a useful life of more than one year and a per-unit acquisition cost which equals or exceeds the lesser of the capitalization level established by the non-Federal entity for financial statement purposes, or $5,000.

FUNDING AVAILABILITY

Award amounts are expected to range $50,000 - $500,000

~$7.5 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% non-federal match ratio** to be competitive. The **strongest projects will meet or exceed a 1:1 non-federal 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 contributions must be necessary and reasonable to the accomplishment of the project and must be incurred within the project period of performance.

- 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.

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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

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HOW TO APPLY?

www.nfwf.org/socal

IMPORTANT APPLICANT INFORMATION
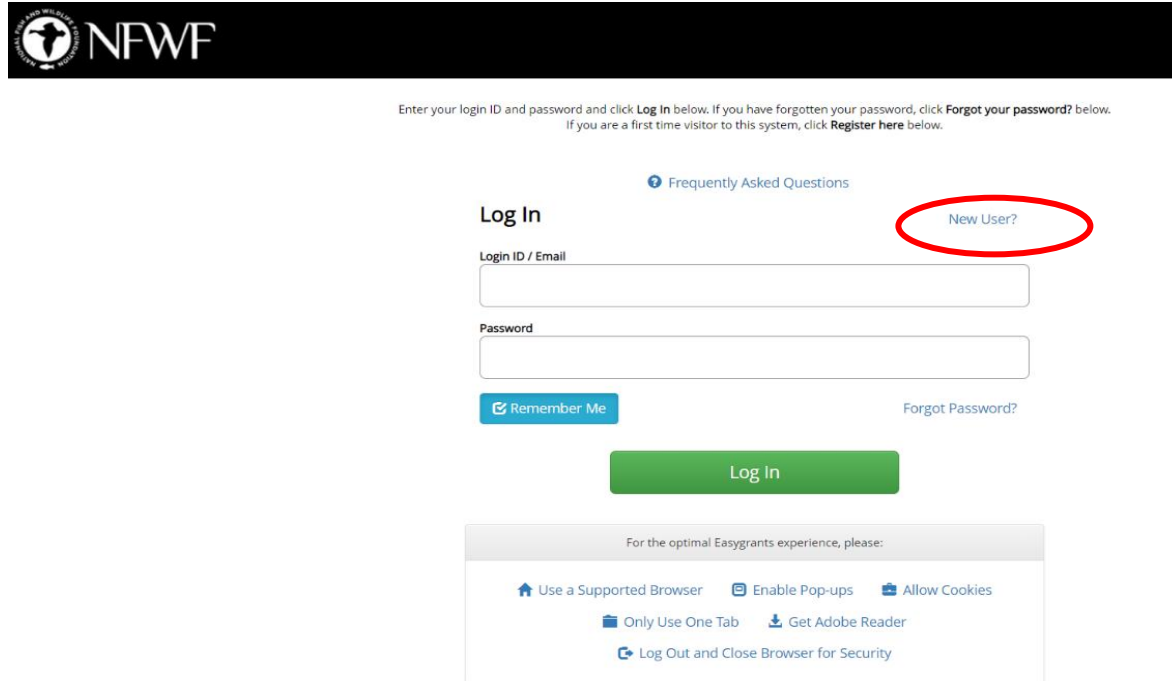
www.nfwf.org/apply-grant/application-information

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 easygrants@nfwf.org or 202-595-2497.

Creating a Username or Organization

Add Person Contact

Prefix	`<None>`
First Name *	
Middle Name	
Last Name *	
Suffix	`<None>`
Email Address *	
Organization *	**Select Organization**

Add or Edit Grant Administration Organizations

Primary Organization	☐
Role	`<Select>`
Organization *	**Select Organization**

Save   **Save and Close**   **Close**

- 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 easygrants@nfwf.org or 202-595-2497.

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Submitting a Proposal

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...

Click here
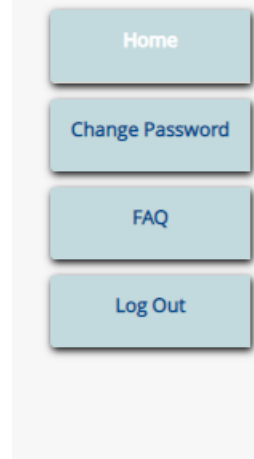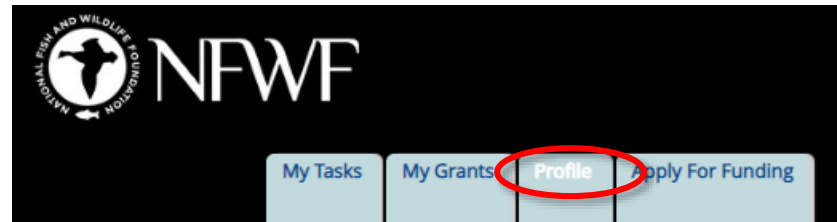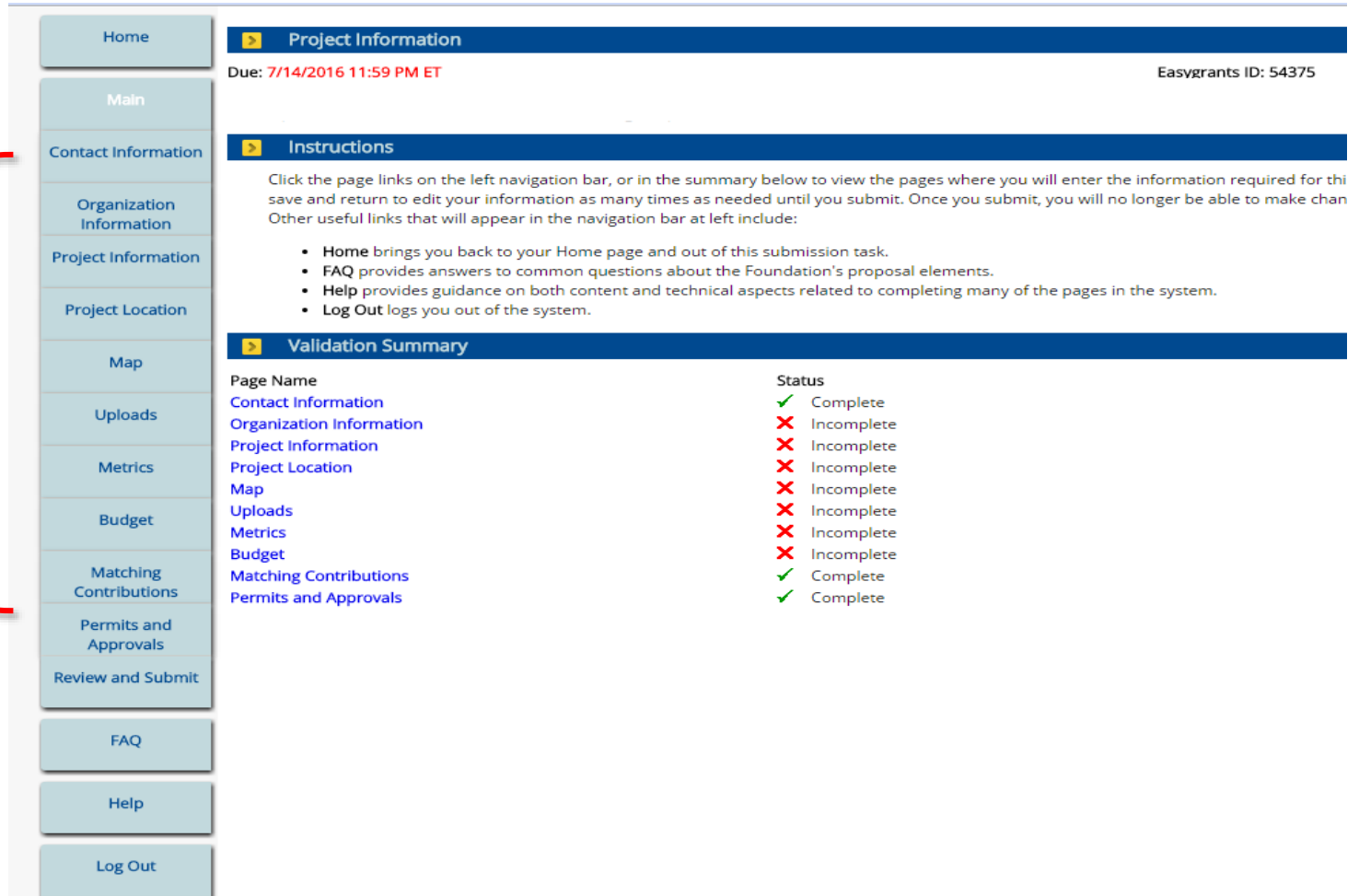
Scroll down
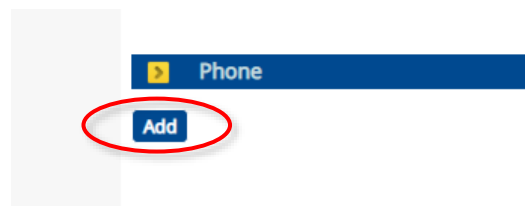
Submitting a Proposal

Used for navigating through your application in Easygrants

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 - 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-term Sustainability
- ☐ Past Success
- ☐ Key Personnel

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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

▼ Materials and Supplies	$0.00
Materials and Supplies ➕ 📄	$0.00
▼ Contractual Services	$0.00
Subcontract/Contract - Per Agreement ➕ 📄	$0.00
Subgrant - Per Agreement ➕ 📄	$0.00
▼ Other Direct Costs	$0.00
Other Direct Costs ➕ 📄	$0.00
▼ Indirect Costs	$0.00
Indirect Costs ➕ 📄	$0.00
Total Direct Costs	$0.00
Total Indirect Costs	$0.00
Total Costs	$0.00

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Adding a Budget Narrative

Submitting a Proposal

Uploads

Upload Type	Required
Full Proposal Narrative	Yes
Project Map	No
Letters of Support	No
Photos - Jpeg	No
Statement of Litigation	Yes
Board of Trustees, Directors, or equivalent	Yes
GAAP audited financial statements	Yes
IRS Form 990	Yes
A-133 Audit	Yes
Indirect Rate Agreement	No

Upload Checklist

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

Required:
- IRS-990
- A-133 Audit
- GAAP Audit
- Board of Trustees, Directors <u>or</u> Equivalent

Templates provided for:
- Statement of Litigation
- Pre-Proposal Narrative
- Full Proposal Narrative

For details on required documents and FAQ for financial documents, go here:
www.nfwf.org/whatwedo/grants/applicants/Pages/required-financial-docs.aspx
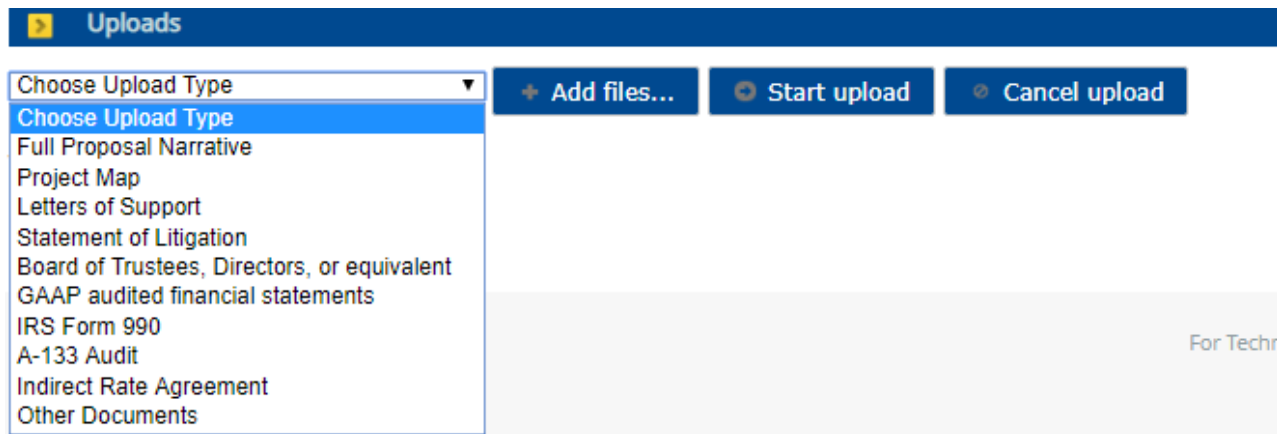
If you don't have a required document, just upload an explanation on your company letterhead in place of the required document.

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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

Submitting a Proposal

Uploads

> **Instructions**

Below is a list of documents that can be attached to your submission. Documents marked as required must be uploaded before you will be able to submit. If you do not have a required document, upload a Word document with an explanation in its place. To create your narrative document, begin by downloading the template provided below, and saving it to your computer. Use the template to create and save your narrative document on your computer.
Follow these steps to download and create your narrative document:
1. In the Upload Checklist below, click the **Template** link for the document you want to create, and save the template file to your computer. This is a MS Word document.
2. Work within this template and save it to your computer.

To attach/upload your document(s) to this task:
3. In the Uploads section below, select the appropriate upload type from the Choose Upload Type drop-down list and click **Add Files**.
4. Select the file or files to upload from your computer and return to this page.
5. Click **Start** to the right of the file that you want to upload. The system will upload the document and display it in the Uploads list. If the Status does not display, wait 10 seconds and refresh the page. When complete, the Status will read "Successfully validated and converted file."
6. Once your document is uploaded, you may view it by clicking the file name or the name of the converted pdf. To re-upload a document, click **Delete** to the right of the document and start with *Step 3* above. When you are finished, click **Continue** to move to the next page in this submission.
Click Help for examples and instructions specific to this Uploads section.
NOTE: You must enable pop-ups to use this system. If a link does not open please try holding the Shift or Control (CTRL) key on your keyboard while clicking on the link, which may tell a pop-up blocker to allow the link to open. Click here for more information.

Navigation (sidebar)

- Contact Information
- Organization Information
- Project Information
- Uploads
- Matching Contributions
- Review and Submit
- FAQ
- Help
- Log Out
- Return to Staff Module

> **Upload Checklist**

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

> **Uploads**

Choose Upload Type ▾   + Add files…   ⊙ Start upload   ⊘ Cancel upload

Continue

Submitting a Proposal

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 www.nfwf.org/socal 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, 2021**

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

Program Page: www.nfwf.org/socal

Programmatic Questions
Jim Bond
Senior Manager, 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

Families engage in an outdoor lesson at the Sayre Site on water and aquifers

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