SUSTAIN OUR GREATLAKES

2021 Funding Opportunity Guidance for Applicants

























Webinar Agenda

- Sustain Our Great Lakes overview
- Funding opportunity details
 - New: Accelerate Implementation of Conservation Practices and Regenerative Agriculture on Working Lands
- Application guidance
- Q&A session After each section
 Housekeeping:
- Q&A breaks
- Webinar recording/slides and FAQ document at: www.nfwf.org/greatlakes

Public-Private Partnership

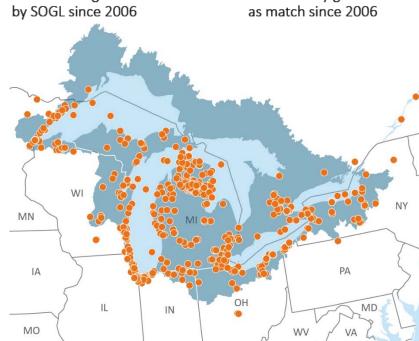
- ArcelorMittal
- General Mills
- US Environmental Protection Agency
- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- US Forest Service
- National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
- National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Caerus Foundation
- Crown Family Philanthropies
- Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District
- Walder Foundation

Program Achievements: 2006–2020

\$197 million

dedicated by SOGL and grantee organizations toward ecological restoration

\$88 million \$109 million awarded in grants by SOGL since 2006 committed by grantees as match since 2006



Outcomes



2,435

Miles of fish passage restoration

42,515

Acres of wetland restoration





493

Miles of stream and riparian habitat restoration



238M

Gallons of stormwater storage capacity added



2021 Funding Opportunity

- Pre-proposal due date: February 16
- Full proposal due date: April 20
- Eligible applicants
 - ✓ Non-profit organizations
 - ✓ State, tribal & local governments
 - ✓ Educational institutions
- Anticipated funding: up to \$8.5M
 - At least \$1.36M to projects in WI Lake Michigan watershed
- Grant size:
 - \$100,000–\$1M (categories 1–4)
 - \$50,000–\$300,000 (category 5)
 - \$100,000–300,000 (category 6)



Short-billed dowitcher



Northern pike

Program Priorities

- 1: Restore and Enhance Stream and Riparian Habitat
- 2: Restore and Enhance Coastal Habitats
- 3: Expand Green Stormwater Infrastructure in Great Lakes Communities
- 4: Maintain and Enhance Benefits of Habitat Restoration through Invasive Species Control



Program Priorities new in 2020 and 2021

- 5: Restore and Preserve Natural Areas and Biodiversity in Wisconsin's Lake Michigan Watershed
- New in 2021: Accelerate Implementation of Conservation Practices and Regenerative Agriculture on Working Lands



Funding Availability

- \$8.5 million total available for awards in 2021
- Projects that occur within US Great Lakes basin
 - \$1.3 million available for Category 1: Stream and Riparian Habitat
 - \$1.2 million available for Category 2: Coastal Habitat
 - \$1.3 million available for Category 3: Green Stormwater Infrastructure
 - \$2.3 million available for Category 4: Invasive Species Control
- \$1.36 million will be available for Category 5: Wisconsin's Lake
 Michigan Watershed
- \$1 million will be available for Category 6: Conservation Practices and Regenerative Ag on Working Lands
- No funding will be available for projects in Canada in 2021

New in 2021 - Funding Category 6: Accelerate Implementation of Conservation Practices and Regenerative Agriculture on Works Lands

- Improve soil health, water quality and biodiversity by providing technical assistance to landowners to strategically apply soil health and regenerative agriculture (RA) conservation practices
- \$1 million available for grant awards
 - At least \$400,000 directed to western MI and \$160,000 to WI
 - Grant size: \$100-300k
 - A portion of funding previously awarded through Conservation Partners Program.
 From 2021, funding for AG in the Great Lakes only offered via SOGL



Conservation Practices and Regenerative Agriculture on Working Lands

Primary Strategies

- Improve soil health, water quality and biodiversity through technical assistance
 - Soil health and RA practices
 - Cover crops
 - Riparian buffers and wetlands
 - Drainage and tillage practices to reduce S and nutrient losses and improve habitat



- Engage landowners in conservation and RA planning and peer to peer learning
 - Landowner outreach
 coordination and
 implementation of conservation
 systems and RA principles
 - Convene farmer-led groups to engage in discussion, planning and knowledge sharing to advance regional adoption of RA principles

Conservation Practices and Regenerative Agriculture on Working Lands

• Requirements:

- At least 1:1 match ratio required
- All applications must report anticipated outcomes in terms of acres with BMPs applied to reduce nutrient or sediment loads and pounds of sediment, nitrogen and phosphorus inputs avoided annually
- Grantees required to submit additional field-level data to NFWF to help measure anticipated benefits of RA practices in terms of greenhouse gasses, carbon and/or water benefits
- Priority to projects that:
 - Build upon established relationships with landowners through previous local work or by engaging local partners
 - Support landowners in advancing a holistic approach to managing working lands that build soil productivity and enhance the ecosystem
 - Interest in projects that monitor benefits to priority aquatic and avian species

Funding Category 1: Restore and Enhance Stream & Riparian Habitat

- Improve the quality and connectivity of stream and riparian habitat
- Priority to projects that:
 - ✓ Benefit species of conservation concern, brook trout and lake sturgeon
 - Reduce sediment and nutrient loading to streams and other waters
- <u>Fishwerks</u> tool (see RFP for additional info)
- Sea Lamprey Control Program consultation (<u>kevin_mann@fws.gov</u>)
 - Additional guidance available at <u>www.nfwf.org/greatlakes</u>



Lake sturgeon. Photo: River Alliance of Wisconsin



Brook trout

Stream & Riparian Habitat

Primary Strategies

- Restore aquatic connectivity
 - ✓ Barrier removal
 - ✓ Bridge and culvert replacement
 - ✓ Passage structures
- Naturalize stream channels
 - ✓ Channel realignment
 - ✓ Excavation

- Improve in-stream habitat
 - ✓ Installation of instream structures
 - ✓ Sediment management
- Improve riparian habitat
 - Bank stabilization
 - ✓ Invasive species control
 - ✓ Native plant restoration



Funding Category 2: Restore and Enhance Coastal Habitats

- Restoration of coastal habitats including but not limited to coastal wetlands and adjacent upland habitats, dune and swale habitats, nearshore and shoreline habitats, and restoration of upstream habitats that will measurably benefit the quality or function of coastal habitats.
- Projects that request funds to install or maintain jetties, breakwalls or other grey infrastructure will not be considered for funding.
- Priority to projects:
 - ✓ On non-federal lands that restore wetlands monitored by the Great Lakes Coastal Wetland Monitoring Program
 - ✓ That benefit populations of shorebirds, breeding marsh birds, waterfowl, marsh-spawning fish such as northern pike
- Priority wetland map: <u>www.greatlakeswetlands.org/map</u>

Coastal Habitat

Primary Strategies

- All coastal habitats/systems eligible, not just wetlands
- Improve or maintain hydrology and sediment dynamics
 - ✓ Water control techniques
 - ✓ Sediment management

- Restore aquatic connectivity
 - Passage structures
 - ✓ Removal of hard structures
 - ✓ Sediment removal
- Improve habitat structure
 - ✓ Invasive species control
 - ✓ Native plant restoration
 - ✓ Benefit priority species



Funding Category 3: Expand Green Stormwater Infrastructure in Great Lakes Communities

- Improve green stormwater infrastructure in Great Lakes shoreline cities to increase storm water storage and capture
- Priority to projects:
 - ✓ Add more than 100,000 gallons of stormwater storage capacity (include calculation for volume of runoff captured and infiltrated annually)
 - Demonstrate water quality benefits to the Great Lakes or connecting channels
 - Utilizing native plant and tree species that improve pollinator habitat and urban canopy
- Calculate gallons of stormwater storage added:

EPA Stormwater Calculator i-Tree

Green Stormwater Infrastructure

Primary Strategies

- Install green infrastructure
 - ✓ Rain gardens
 - ✓ Bioswales
 - ✓ Green roofs
 - Pervious surfaces

- Create and enhance urban wetlands
 - ✓ Construct/improve wetlands
 - ✓ Improve wetland habitat
- Restore urban forests
 - ✓ Strategic native tree installation



Funding Category 4: Maintain and Enhance Benefits of Habitat Restoration through Invasive Species Control

 Support invasive species control efforts needed to sustain or enhance the benefits of previous habitat restorations

Priority to projects:

- Directly protects, reinforces, or enhances value of restoration projects previously funded by GLRI or SOGL
- ✓ Of sufficient size, scope, or unique ecological value

Non-competitive projects:

- ✓ New or untested technologies
- Exclusive focus on early detection and rapid response (EDRR)
- Control invasive fish or other animals
- On-off efforts to treat new acres, not connected to previously funded restoration
- If project includes new invasive control efforts or EDRR, apply to categories 1-4 or 5 and include in restoration

Controlling Invasive Species

Primary Strategies

- Re-Treat or Manage Acres to Control Invasive Species
 - Acres that have received initial treatment to further control primary invasive species target(s) and management of secondary invasives appearing post-initial treatment
- Expand Existing Invasive Control Efforts
 - Treat or manage invasive species on new/previously untreated acres adjacent or strategically connected to existing control efforts





Funding Category 5: Restore and Preserve Natural Areas and Biodiversity in Wisconsin's Lake Michigan Watershed

- Additional \$1.36 million will be available for projects proposed in Wisconsin's Lake Michigan watershed
- Grant size: \$50-300k
- Grant duration: 2 to 4 years if project includes significant pre and post implementation activities
- Match not required
- Fund for Lake Michigan provide up to \$400k in matching funds
- Projects must include on-the ground implementation 50% of budget
- Additional eligible activities:
 - Enhancing public greenspace
 - Improving public access to natural areas
 - Project design and engineering
 - Pre and post implementation monitoring Education and Outreach
- Applied research
- Maintenance and vegetation establishment

Wisconsin's Lake Michigan Watershed

Primary Strategies

- Restore and preserve of a wide variety of habitats and natural landscapes
 - ✓ prairies
 - ✓ grasslands
 - ✓ oak savannas
 - upland and lowland forests
 - wetlands and ephemeral ponds
 - beaches and dune systems
 - ✓ nearshore and shoreline
- Improve range of ecological benefits
 - Increase complexity, connectivity and quality of habitat of natural areas
 - ✓ Improve habitat and community resilience
 - Enhance biodiversity and project habitat critical for species





Which Funding Category Should You Choose?

Step 1: Will your project

- Align with the strategies of funding categories 1-4 (including benefits to priority species)
- Request between \$100k-\$1M
- Be completed within 2 years (or 2 field seasons) from start date
- ~70% budget/level of effort to onthe-ground work
- Take into consideration 1:1 match from non-federal sources tend to be most competitive

If YES to all - apply under Funding Categories 1-4

If NO to any of the bullets under Step 1 - apply under Funding Category 5

Step 2: Consider these criteria unique to Funding Category 5

- Improve biodiversity, water quality, habitat quality, public greenspace and/or access to natural areas
- Request between \$50-\$300K
- Be completed within 4 years (longer project duration justified with significant pre-and-post implementation activities)
- Match not required but encouraged
- At least 50% budget/level of effort to on-the-ground work

Metrics and Monitoring

- Applicants may use grant funding to support monitoring
- Metrics to track progress toward project completion
 - ✓ Miles/acres restored
 - ✓ Passage barriers rectified
 - ✓ Lbs P reduced annually
- Monitoring plan
 - Metrics
 - ✓ Baseline and post-implementation
 - ✓ Resources
- Monitoring biological outcomes
 - Improvements to priority fish, breeding marsh birds, shorebirds and waterfowl, pollinators etc.
 - ✓ Contact NFWF for guidance





Guidance for Metrics Reporting and Monitoring

- Additional instructions for metrics and monitoring
 - Fish passage improvements
 - Stream/channel restoration
 - Riparian restoration
 - Brook trout habitat improvements
 - Wetland reconnection
 - Wetland hydrology improvements
 - Wetland habitat improvements
 - Green stormwater infrastructure
 - Invasive species control
- Resources and tools

Guidance for Applicants and Grantees: Metrics Reporting and Monitoring

B.1.1 Purpose and Intended Uses

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance to Sustain Our Great Lakes (SOGL) applicants/grantees when reporting on project activities and metrics during full proposal development and subsequent metric tracking after grant award.

The specific project types this appendix addresses includes

- Section B.2: Fish passage improvements
- Section B.3: Stream/channel restoration or naturalization
- Section B.4: Riparian restoration
- Section B.5: Brook trout habitat improvements
- Section B.6: Wetland reconnection
- Section B.7: Wetland hydrology improvements
- Section B.8: Wetland habitat/vegetation improvements
- Section B.9: Implementation of agricultural best management practices
- Section B.10: Installation of green infrastructure for stormwater retention

Please note that in some cases, grantees may need to follow guidance for multiple project types depending on the scope of project activities proposed.

B.1.2 General Guidance on Activity/Metrics Reporting

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) requests that applicants/grantees report on proposed project activities using Easygrants or, when specified, by including information in the narrative of the full proposal and subsequent interim report narratives. NFWF uses this information to inform individual project funding recommendations, track grant/project progress throughout the life of a grant, and summarize outcomes across projects to assess program impact. To ensure reporting and tallying is done correctly, grantees should follow the guidance in this document to the extent feasible, including specifics about how to gather and report relevant data.

The potential for double-counting project activities, and guidance on how applicants/grantees can help NFWF avoid it, is an issue mentioned in multiple sections below. Double-counting is primarily a concern when grantees are reporting on the total number of acres or miles restored by a project. For example, consider a 10-acre project that removed invasive plants and planted native vegetation on all 10 acres. While the total restoration footprint (i.e., the total number of acres restored) would be 10, grantees may instead report 20 acres as the total number restored (i.e., 10 acres for invasive removal and 10 acres for planting) if not given specific guidance about how to handle multiple activities that occur on the same acres. To address this potential confusion, in most cases, one metric has been identified for reporting the total geographic footprint on which all restoration activities have occurred

However, it is important to note that outside of metrics that are specifically focused on understanding the total footprint of a given project (e.g., total acres or stream miles restored), grantees can report on restoration activities separately, even if they occur on the same acres or stream miles. For example, for a barrier removal project, grantees can report the number of

Eligible Grant Expenses: Categories 1 - 4

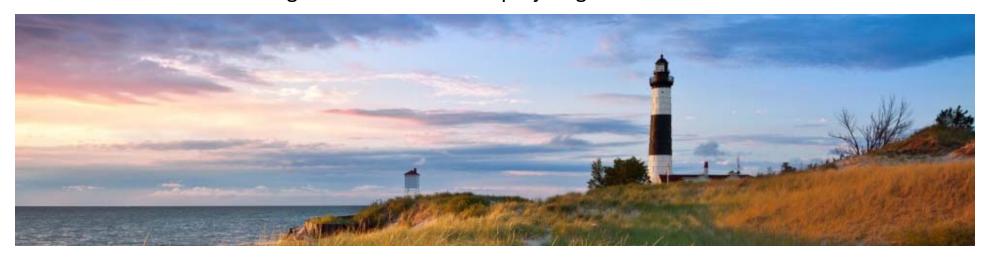
- ≥70% of each grant to go toward on-the-ground habitat work
- Option to use remaining funds (≤30%) for
 - Planning
 - Permitting
 - Final design
 - Engineering
 - Monitoring
 - Outreach/Education



Brown Bridge Dam removal. Photo: Conservation Resource Alliance

Matching Contributions: Categories 1 - 4

- Projects with minimum 1:1 non-federal match ratio most competitive
 - ✓ Indicate federal match to demonstrate partner investment in project
- Match sources
 - Cash
 - ✓ In-kind contributions of staff
 - Materials and services donated
 - ✓ Volunteer time
 - ✓ Cost of land acquisition/easement
 - ✓ Allowable indirect costs not covered by grant funding
 - ✓ Other tangible contributions to project goals



Matching Contributions

- Categories 1-4: Projects with minimum 1:1 non-federal match ratio most competitive
 - ✓ Indicate all match sources non-federal and federal to demonstrate partner investment in project
- Category 5: Match not required, but encouraged (non-federal and federal sources of match/leverage)
 - ✓ Indicate all match sources non-federal and federal to demonstrate partner investment in project
- Category 6: 1:1 match required
 - Projects are required to provide at least a 1:1 match ratio with contributions from non-federal sources to be considered for funding



Period of Performance

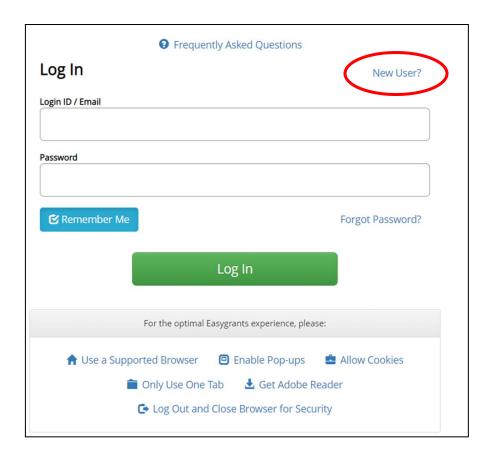
- Start date should be no earlier than August 16, 2021
- Duration typically 2 years (or two full field seasons)
 - Category 5: up to 4 years
- May include a third year as needed to complete:
 - Planning
 - Permitting
 - ✓ Final design
 - Engineering
 - ✓ Implementation
 - ✓ Baseline Monitoring
 - ✓ Post-Restoration Monitoring

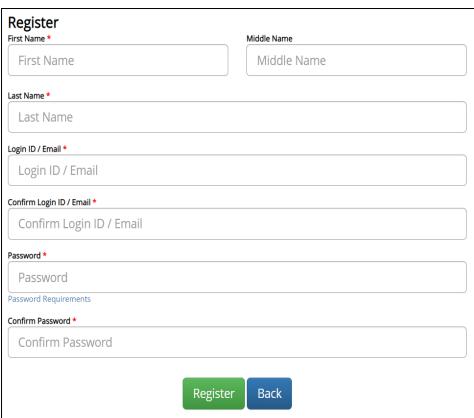




How to Apply in Easygrants

easygrants.nfwf.org

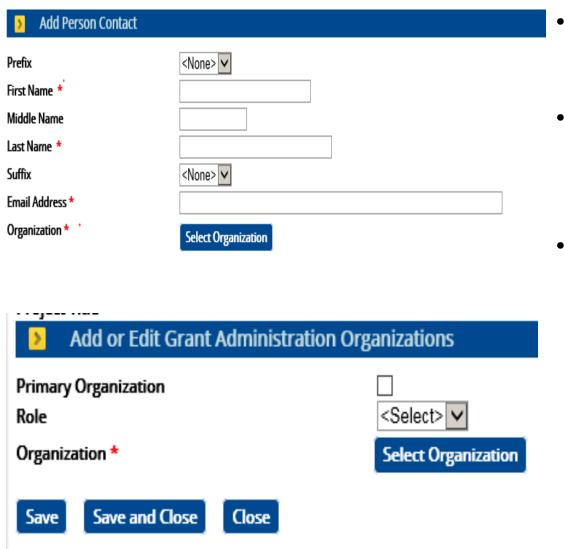




Locked out? Contact helpdesk at easygrants@nfwf.org or 202-595-2497.



Easygrants – Creating Username or 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.





Please visit review your contact details and make sure that you **provide a phone number**



Pre-Proposal VS Full Proposal Requirements

Pre-Proposal

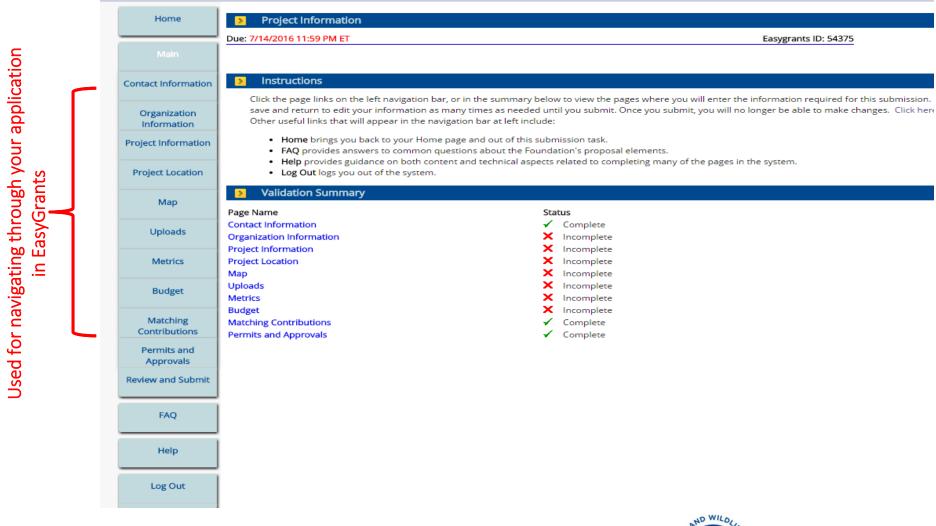
- Personal Contact Information
- Organization Information
- Project Information:
 - Title
 - Description
 - Abstract
 - Period of Performance
- Matching Contributions
- Uploads: <u>3 page Narrative</u>

Full Proposal

- Personal Contact Information
- Organization Information
- Project Information:
 - Title
 - Description
 - Abstract
 - Period of Performance
- Matching Contributions
- Uploads: 7 page Narrative*
- Project Location and Map
- Metrics
- Budget



Full Proposal Task in Easygrants

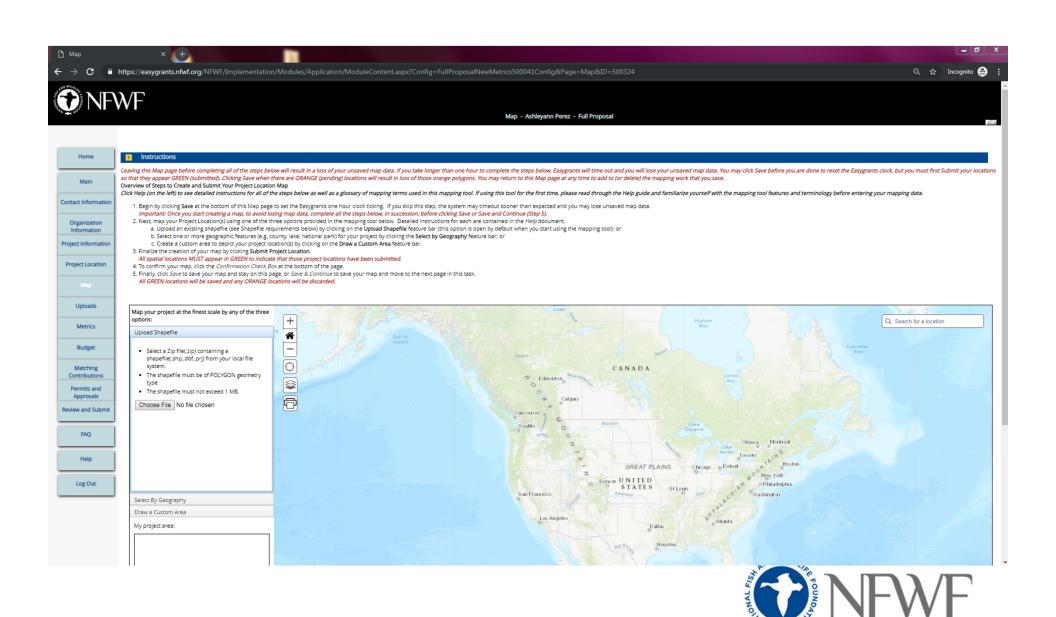


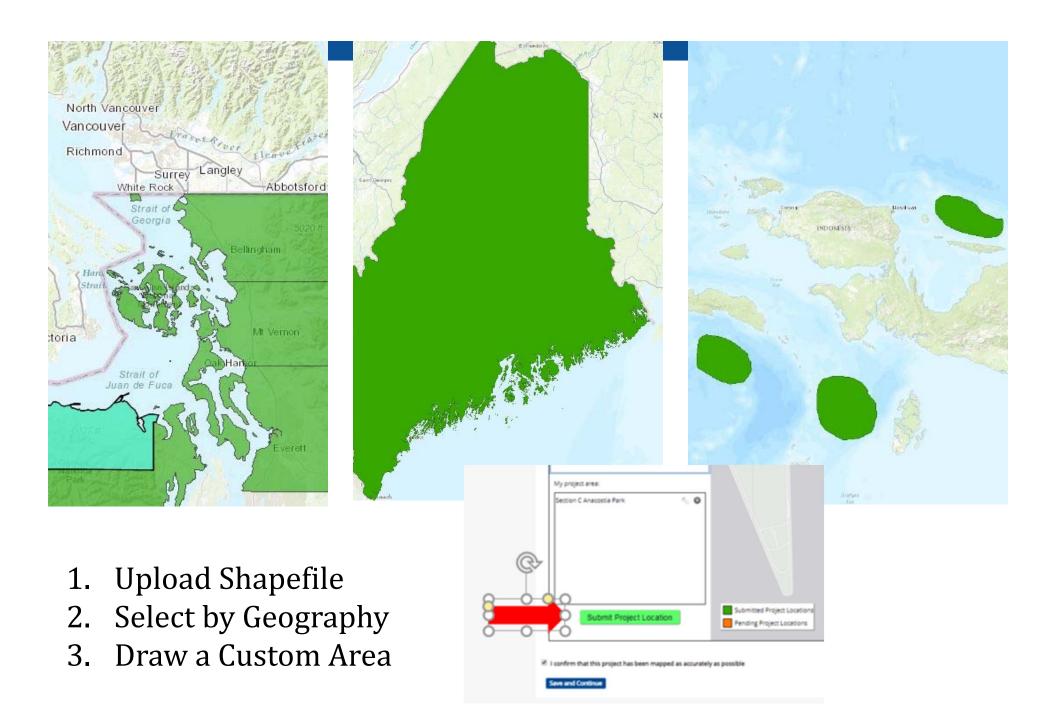


Project Information

- **Title:** (~100 characters)
 - short, descriptive name indicating project purpose
- **Description:** (~500 characters)
 - Main activities and methods
 - 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







Easygrants – Uploads

Upload Checklist

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

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
- GAAP audited financial statements

Strongly encouraged: Project Map

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



Uploads – Financial and Other Documents

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



For details on what documents you need to submit and for FAQs regarding financial documents, go here: www.nfwf.org/whatwedo/grants/applicants/Pages/required-financial-docs.aspx

Budget

- Only the grant amount requested from NFWF
- Itemize all costs in appropriate budget categories.
- No lumping costs i.e., 'All Salaries: \$10,000'
- 'Total Amount Requested' in <u>Project</u>
 <u>Information</u> section must equal the 'Budget
 Grand Total' in <u>Budget section</u>





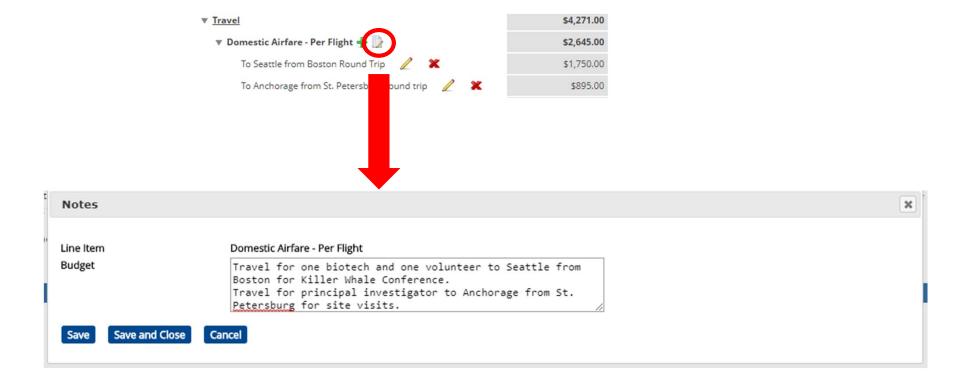
A complete detailed budget and narrative must be submitted with NFWF Full Proposals. Applicants must provide the information requested per the guidelines in the RFP as well as in the Detailed Budget and Narrative Guide, in order to prevent review, approval and/or contracting delays (as applicable). Please use the following link to access the Detailed Budget and Narrative Guide.

▼ 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

 Equipment purchases not eligible for funding (line item more than \$5k)

https://www.nfwf.org/whatwedo/grants/applicants/Pages/budget-instructions.aspx

How-to input additional information in your Budget





Application Assistance

Program Page

https://www.nfwf.org/programs/sustain-our-great-lakes-program

RFP:

https://www.nfwf.org/programs/sustain-our-great-lakes-program/sustain-our-great-lakes-2021-request-proposals

TipSheet:

https://www.nfwf.org/sites/default/files/2021-01/2021 SOGL TipSheet 3.pdf

Technical Assistance / Easygrants Helpdesk:

Email: Easygrants@nfwf.org
Voicemail: 202-595-2497

Hours: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm ET, Monday-Friday.

<u>Include:</u> your name, proposal ID #, e-mail address, phone number,

program you are applying to, and a description of the issue

New Required Upload – Full Proposal

- Outcome and Metric Tracking document
 - Full proposal upload requirement download template from Easygrants
 - Objective: provide additional data/details for metrics and outcomes to enhance full proposal narrative
 - Fill out sections corresponding to funding category
 - Streams
 - Coastal Systems
 - GSI
 - Invasive Species
 - Provide additional priority species data, approaches to calculating metrics/outcomes, and other relevant info

Additional Application Requirements

- Applicants proposing removal or modification of fish passage barriers
 - Consultation with Sea Lamprey Control Program (Program)
 - Pre-Proposal: Initiate consultation with Program
 - Full-Proposal: Provide evidence that barriers have been approved/reviewed by program
- Applicants proposing phragmites control
 - Demonstrate consideration of Phragmites Adaptive Management Framework (PAMF) to inform control practices and long-term maintenance
 - To learn more, visit: http://www.greatlakesphragmites.net/pamf/
 - To connect with PAMF/ask questions, email: <u>pamf@glc.org</u>





Timeline

Virtual Workshop: Tuesday February 2, 2021 (REGISTER BY Jan. 28th!)

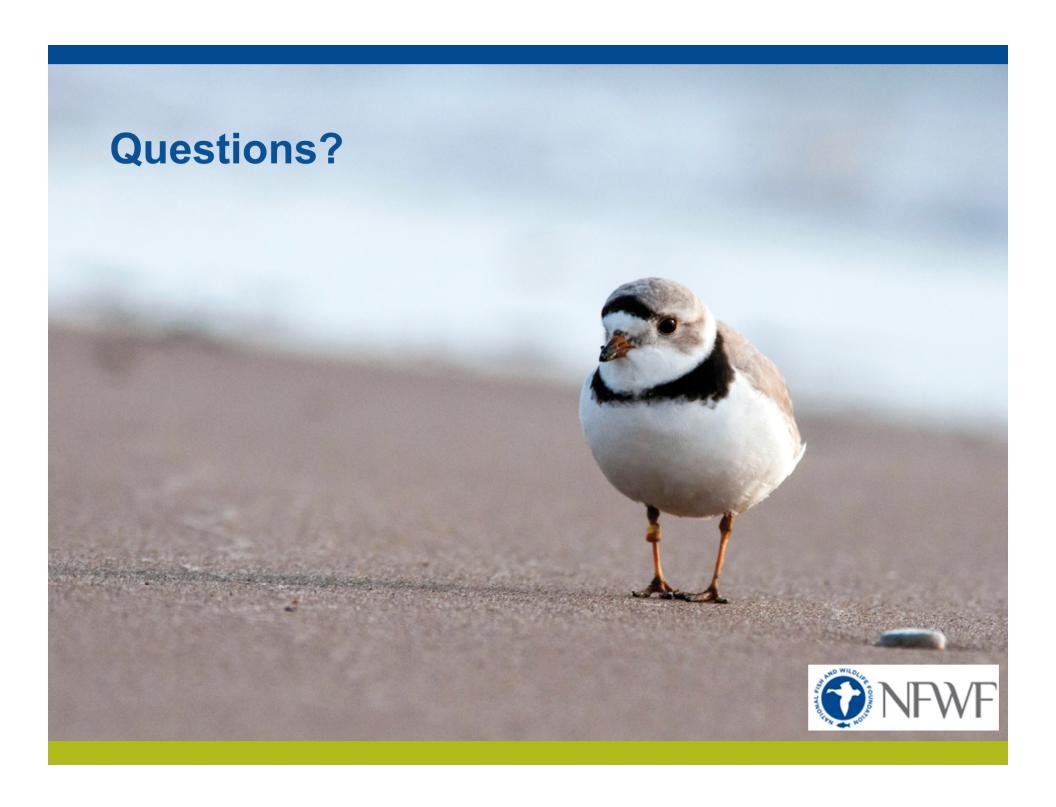
Pre-Proposal Due Date: <u>Tuesday February 16th, 11:59 PM ET</u>

Invites to Full Proposal: Late-March 2021

Full Proposal Due Date: <u>Tuesday, April 20th, 11:59pm ET</u>

Awards Announced: August 2021





Contacts

Programmatic Questions

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Application/Easygrants Questions

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www.nfwf.org/greatlakes