



NFWF

New England Forests and Rivers Fund

2021 Applicant Webinar, March 11, 2021

Eastern Brook Trout

Webinar Instructions

- All participants are automatically muted.
- Do not hit hold button.
- Raise your “hand” to confirm you can hear.

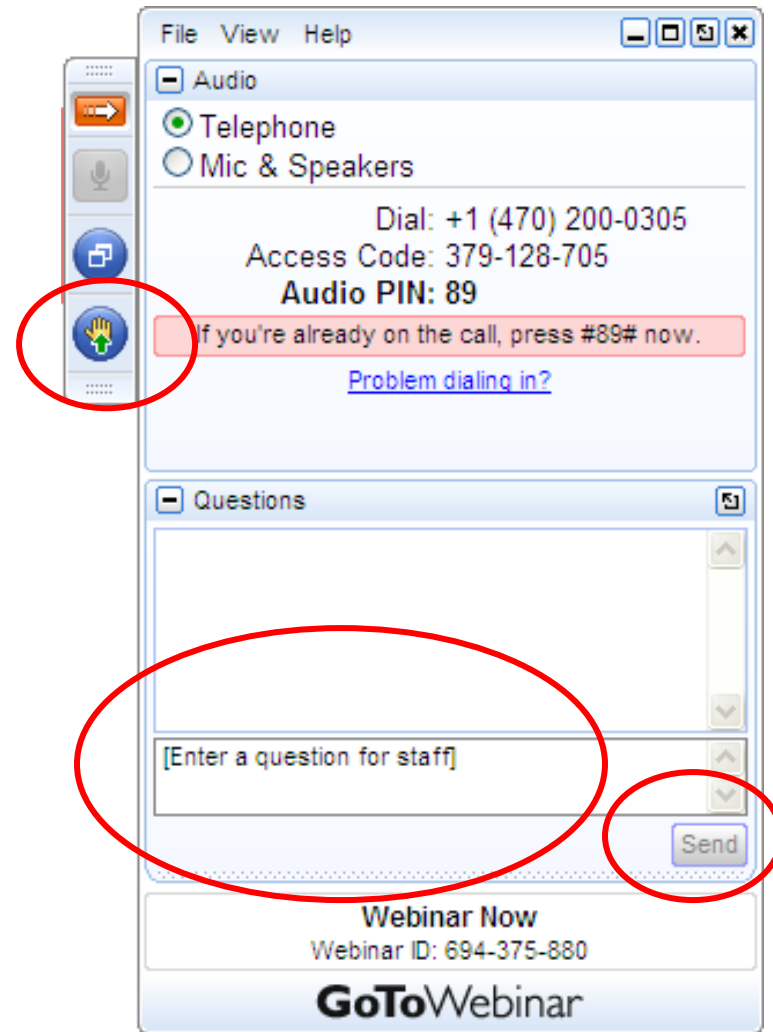
QUESTIONS?

- ✓ Questions will be collected & then answered at the end of sections during the webinar.
- ✓ **Type question into “Enter a question for staff” and click “Send”** or
- ✓ Send question to John.Wright@nfwf.org following conclusion of the webinar.

PROBLEMS?

- ✓ Type it into the “Enter a question for staff.” We will try to resolve it during the webinar.

Webinar Powerpoint and referenced documents can be found at: www.nfwf.org/bats



AGENDA

- 1. Staff Roles**
- 2. About NFWF**
- 3. Program History**
- 4. Overview of Program and Process**
- 5. Review of Request for Proposals**
- 6. Metrics**
- 7. Calculating Indirect Costs and Budgeting Best Practices**
- 8. Using EasyGrants**
- 9. Questions**

1. NFWF Staff Roles



Amanda Bassow, Director,
Northeastern Regional Office



John Lamoreux, Director, Fish
and Wildlife Conservation



John Wright, Manager,
Northeastern Regional Office



Scott Hall, Senior Scientist,
Bird Conservation



Kristen Byler, Senior Staff
Scientist, Marine
Conservation

About Us

Who We Are

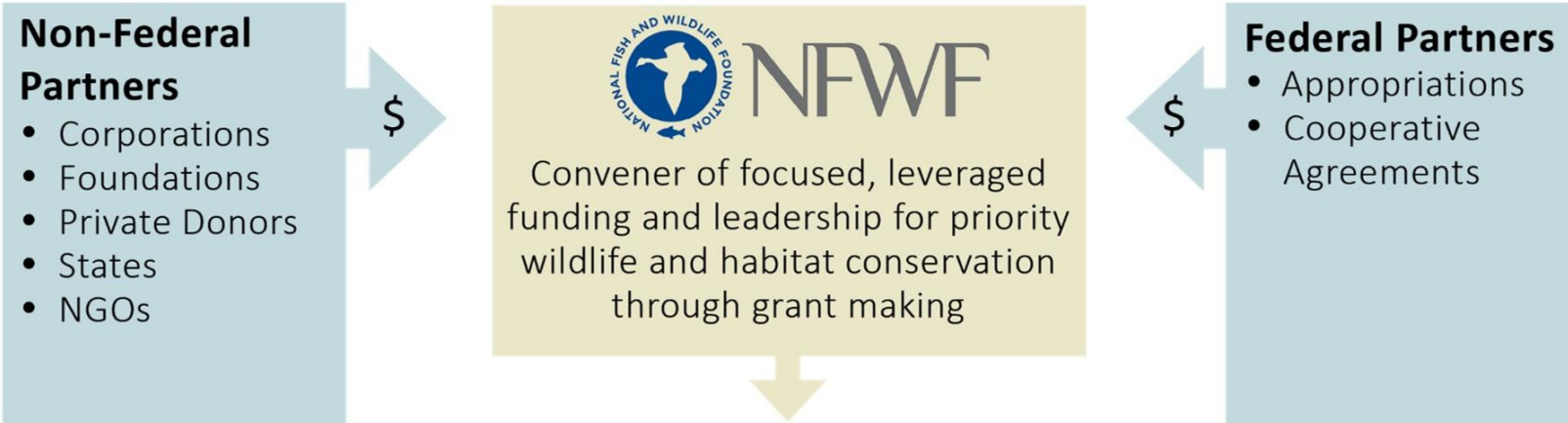
- Created by Congress in 1984 (16 U.S.C. 3701 et seq.)
- 30 member Board appointed by Secretary - DOI
 - Includes **FWS Director and NOAA Administrator**

NFWF is

- An implementer – we fund projects

How We Do It

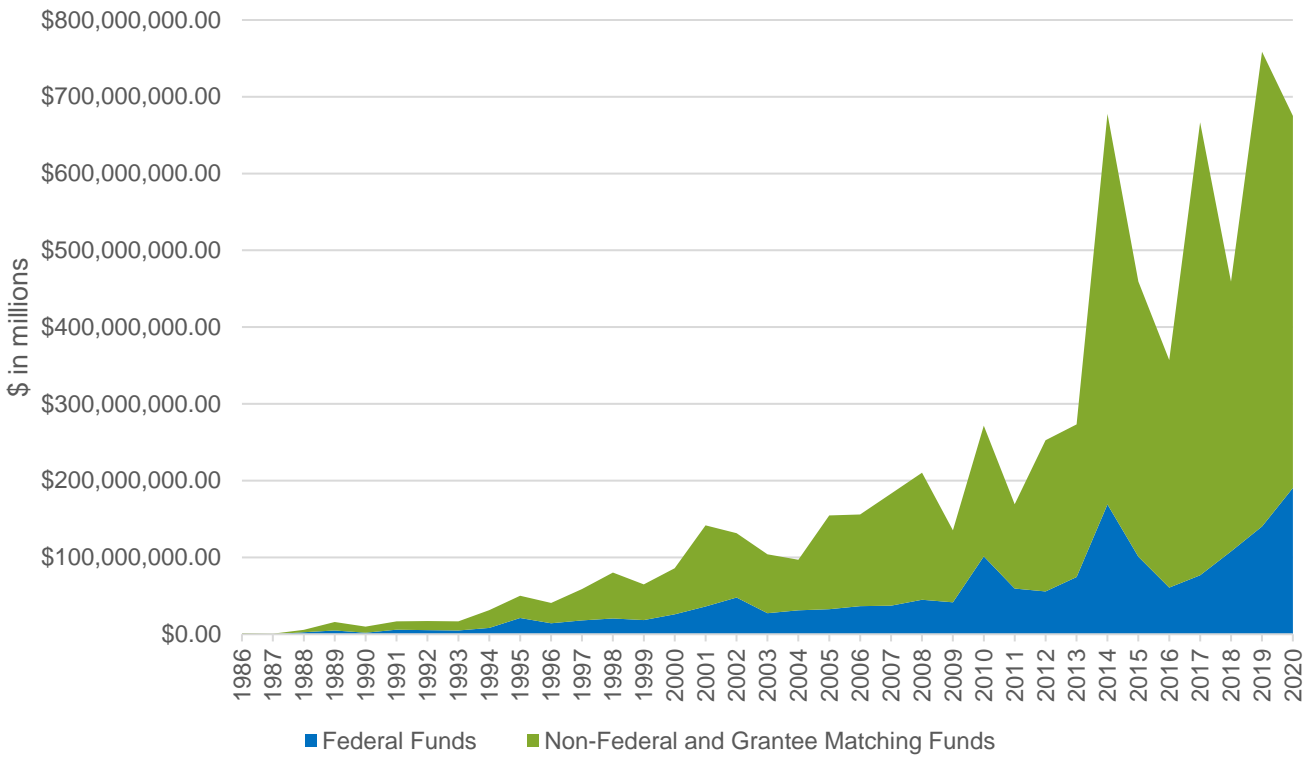
- Leverage public funding with private money – average 3:1



Our Results

Overview of NFWF Funds Invested

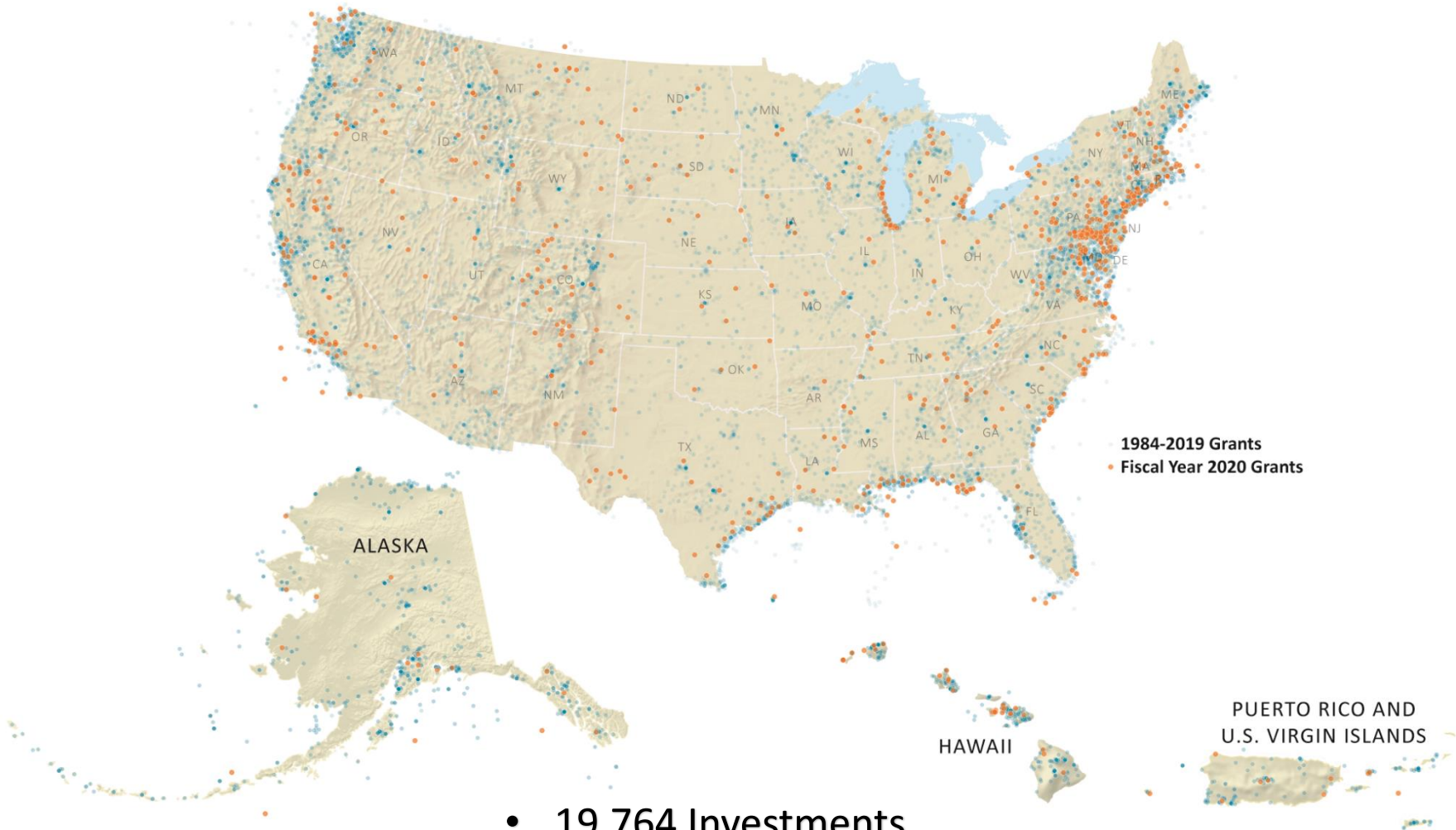
	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 1984 – FY 2020
Federal Funds	\$ 141.0 million	\$ 212.1 million	\$ 1.62 billion
Non-Federal Funds	\$ 366.0 million	\$ 186.4 million	\$ 2.24 billion
Grantee Matching Funds	\$ 245.0 million	\$ 303.1 million	\$ 2.97 billion
Total Funds Invested	\$ 752.0 million	\$ 701.6 million	\$ 6.83 billion
# of Projects Awarded	931	953	19,764



**NFWF
Conservation
Investments
FY 1984 – FY 2020**



NFWF Conservation Investments (1984 – 2020)



- 19,764 Investments
- 5,000 organizations
- All 50 states



Program History

- *Launched in 2015 with goal to “**Restore and sustain healthy forests and rivers that provide habitat for diverse native bird and freshwater fish populations**”*
- Over \$9.1 million in grant funds have been awarded to 75 projects, including:
 - \$6.6 million from our federal partners, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service and U.S Forest Service
 - \$2.5 million from our private partners, including Eversource, Avangrid Foundation and the American Forest Foundation



Conservation Impact: 2015-2020



Program Outcomes:

- ✓ Re-connect 1,044 miles of stream for eastern brook trout, river herring and Atlantic salmon
- ✓ Remove or replace 157 barriers to fish passage
- ✓ Restore 10,173 acres of young and mature forest habitat
- ✓ Restore 46 miles of riparian forest buffer
- ✓ Engage over 1,800 volunteers in hands-on conservation



2021 Program Overview

- ✓ Grants between \$50k and \$200k to restore and sustain healthy forests and rivers throughout New England
- ✓ Approximately 12 to 15 grants awarded each year
- ✓ 1:1 non-federal match strongly encouraged
- ✓ Nonprofits, state and local governments, Tribal governments and organizations, and educational institutions are eligible



2021 Funding Available

Approximately \$1.5 million available

- Avangrid Foundation
- USDA's Forest Service
- USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Application, Review and Award Process

January-February: RFP development and issuance



April: Grant proposals due



Late-April to Mid-May: Technical Review

- NFWF Review
- Subject matter experts from state and Federal agencies, academia and NGOs
- NFWF synthesizes reviews and makes awards decisions



Mid-June to Mid-August: Notifications

- Congress is notified of recommended grants. 30 days to comment.
- NFWF Board reviews grants in early August.



August: Grant awards announced

4. REVIEW OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

- **Goals**
- **Geographic Focus**
- **Program Priorities**
- **Metrics**
- **Eligibility**
- **Evaluation Criteria**
- **Compliance**
- **Timeline**
- **Important Reminders**



Conservation Goals

- Improve the management of **public and private forestlands** to create a mosaic of mixed age forests in the region
- Strengthen habitat **conservation on working forests** through technical assistance
- Targeted **riparian and stream restoration**
- Reduce **barriers to fish passage** and increase fish access to high quality habitat
- **Increase populations of species** representative of forest and river system health

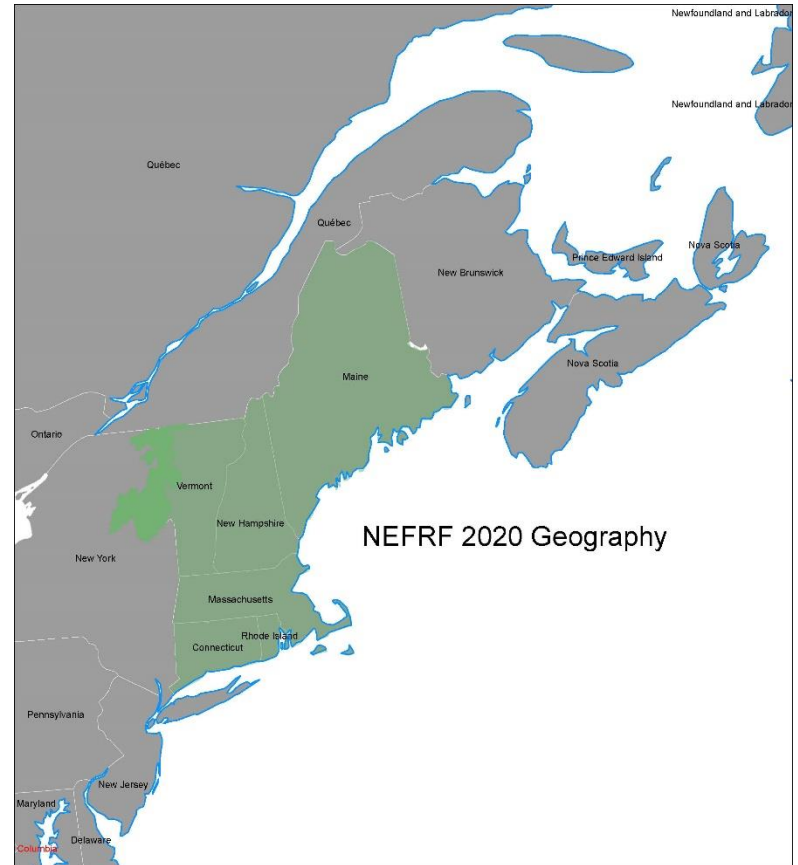


Geographic Focus

- *Throughout* CT, ME, MA, NH, RI and VT
- Lake Champlain and Upper Hudson watersheds in NY

NOTE:

Applicants seeking funding for fish passage projects in Connecticut and/or water quality projects in the Long Island Sound watershed are encouraged to also consider applying to the Long Island Sound Futures Fund ([LISFF](#)). Proposals to the LISFF must demonstrate and calculate prevention or reductions in nitrogen loading.



2021 Priorities

(on pages 2-4 of RFP)



1. Restore and Manage Forest Blocks

Forest management on **public and private lands** to enhance age and structural diversity

- ✓ Assessment/planning
- ✓ Forest Block Restoration
- ✓ Pollinator Habitat
- ✓ Outreach and Technical Assistance

SIGNAGE!

2. Healthy River Systems

Restore **river function**, **water quality**, and enhance long-term persistence of **native aquatic species**

- ✓ Restore connectivity
- ✓ Restore riparian and in-stream habitat, water quality
- ✓ Technical assistance to private landowners and local government
- ✓ Conduct native trout inventory and assessments

3. Healthy Forests AND Rivers

Projects that demonstrate the **connection between healthy forest and river systems.**

- ✓ Demonstrate forest management prescriptions that **minimize impacts on water** and **maximize benefits** to aquatic *and* upland species
- ✓ Demonstrate synergistic restoration opportunities that use **wood** products from forest management activities to create **in-stream habitat structure**
- ✓ Target opportunities to restore forested **riparian and wetland** buffers to maximize benefits for both aquatic species *and* riparian-dwelling birds

5. Metrics

STRATEGY 1: Restore and Manage Forest Blocks	Assessment/ Planning	NEFR - Tool development for decision-making - # tools developed
	Forest Block Restoration	NEFR – Improved management practices – Acres under improved management
	Provide Outreach and Technical Assistance	NEFR – Outreach/Education/Technical Assistance - # people reached
		NEFR – Outreach/Education/Technical Assistance - # people with changed behavior

5. Metrics (continued)

STRATEGY 2: Restore Healthy River Systems	Restore Connectivity	NEFR - Fish passage improvements - # passage barriers rectified
		NEFR – Fish passage improvements - # miles of stream opened
		NEFR - Fish passage improvements - Acres of lake habitat opened
	Restore Riparian Habitat, In-stream Habitat, and Water Quality	NEFR – Best Management Practice (BMP) implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction – lbs avoided (annually)
		NEFR – BMP implementation for road improvements – Miles of roads improved
		NEFR – BMP implementation for livestock fencing – Miles of fencing installed
		NEFR – Riparian restoration – Miles restored
		NEFR – Instream restoration – Miles restored
	Provide Outreach and Technical Assistance	NEFR – Number of people reached
		NEFR – Number of people with changed behavior. Number of landowners receiving land management recommendations from a professional.
	Inventory and Assessments	NEFR - Eastern Brook Trout - Research - # sites assessed
	Monitor Native Trout and River Herring	NEFR - Monitoring - Miles being monitored

5. Metrics (continued)

Strategy 3: Restore Healthy Rives and Forests	Habitat improvement projects	NEFR - Number of habitat units improved
		NEFR - Acres occupied by the species
		NEFR - Miles of habitat occupied by species
		NEFR - # trees planted
	Wildlife population monitoring	NEFR - Acres monitored
Other Activities	Engaging volunteers in restoration activities	NEFR – Volunteer Participation -# volunteers participating
	Research	NEFR - # studies completed whose findings are used to adapt management/ inform management decisions

Eligibility

Eligible and Ineligible Entities

- **Eligible:** Eligible applicants include non-profit 501(c) organizations, state government agencies, local governments, municipal governments, Tribal governments and organizations, and educational institutions.
- **Ineligible:** Federal government agencies, businesses, unincorporated individuals and international organizations

Ineligible Use of Funds

- **Equipment:** Applicants are encouraged to rent equipment where possible and cost-effective or use matching funds to make those purchases.
- Federal funds and matching contributions may not be used to procure or obtain equipment, services, or systems (including entering into or renewing a contract) that uses telecommunications equipment or services produced by Huawei Technologies Company or ZTE Corporation (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities) as a substantial or essential component, or as critical technology of any system. Refer to Public Law 115-232, section 889 for additional information.
- 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



Evaluation Criteria

- ✓ **Program Goals and Priorities**
- ✓ **Technical Merit and Work Plan**
- ✓ **Conservation Plan and Context**
- ✓ **Monitoring**
- ✓ **Long-term Sustainability**
- ✓ **Budget**
- ✓ **Cost Effectiveness**
- ✓ **Matching Contributions**

Compliance

- ✓ **2021 funding is a mix of federal and non-federal sources**
- ✓ **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 at www.nfwf.org/newengland in order to plan time and resources accordingly**

TIMELINE

RFP Issued -	2/22/21
Applicant Webinar -	Today
Proposals Due -	4/12 @ 11:59 pm
Review Period -	May – July
Awards Announced -	Mid-August

Cycle will repeat in 2022!

Reminders

- Projects must start **within 6 months** of award notification and be completed within **three** years from the start date.
- If you haven't thought about permits yet, **START NOW!!**
- Review documentation requirements for federal compliance with NEPA, ESA and NHPA.
- Start collecting your letters of support. Combine them in **one** PDF and upload them.
- 1:1 Non-Federal match is strongly encouraged. If you're coming up short, call us.
- Federal agencies, for-profits and individuals are **not** eligible.
- Indirect costs are allowed. Review the policy on our website.
- Read, and then re-read the **RFP** and **Tip Sheet**. Use the Help feature in Easygrants and call us if you're confused.



6. Indirect Cost Policy/Budget



Under the Unified Guidance

1. NFWF will accept “approved” federal “negotiated indirect cost rate agreements” (NICRAs). Valid provisional, final or fixed NICRAs will be accepted.
2. A de minimis 10% indirect rate is an acceptable minimum for organizations without a valid NICRA, as such **NFWF reserves the right to scrutinize ALL proposals with indirect rates above 10% for cost-effectiveness.**
3. If an entity has never had a NICRA, they may elect to take a “de minimis” rate.
 - The de minimis rate is 10% of **MTDC** as defined in section B of NFWF’s Indirect Cost Policy in accordance with §200.68 of the Uniform Guidance.
4. **NICRAs must be in place at the point of NFWF’s fiscal review process or the default rate will be options 2 or 3 above. See NFWF’s Indirect Cost Policy for more details.**

NICRA Example



NICRA =

Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate/Recovery Agreement

- Represents the agreed upon indirect cost rate that recipients of federal funds may use to recoup administrative and overhead costs.

- Identifies the negotiated ***base** upon which indirect costs may be calculated (a.k.a. Modified Total Direct Costs - MTDC)

**Nonprofit Organization
Indirect Cost Negotiation Agreement**

EIN - 1234XX

Organization: **ACME International** Date: July 7, 2014

Report No(s) .: 14-A-0895

This sample NICRA is for illustrative purposes only.

Filing Ref.:
Last Negotiation Agreement dated November 26, 2012

The indirect cost rate contained herein is for use on grants, contracts, and other agreements with the Federal Government to which 2 CFR 230 (OMB Circular A-122) apply, subject to the limitations contained in Section II.A. of this agreement. The rate is negotiated by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Interior Business Center, and the subject organization in accordance with the authority contained in 2 CFR 230.

Section I: Rate

Type	Effective Period		Rate*	Locations	Applicable To
	From	To			
Fixed Carryforward	07/01/14	06/30/15	11.59%	All	All Programs

*Base: Total direct costs, excluding capital expenditures and other distorting items such as passthrough expenses, conservation easements, land purchases, and subawards/subgrants/subcontracts/vendor payments in excess of the first \$100,000 of each award.

*The base indicated in the NICRA will vary by organization.

Budget Development Example



SALARIES	UNITS	UNIT COST	TOTAL
Program Director (units = hours)	1920	25.00	\$48,000.00
Program Scientist1 (units = hours)	384	20.00	\$7,680.00
Total Salaries			\$55,680.00
Program Director will focus 100% of his time for 1 year on this project. Program Scientist will focus 384 hours over 6 months working on this project. <i>Fringe benefits are listed separately in the Benefits category of the budget.</i>			

See NFWF's Detailed Budget Instructions for additional budgeting guidelines.

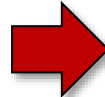
www.nfwf.org → Apply for a Grant → Applicant Information → Budget Instructions → Detailed Budget Instructions

Budget Development

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Salaries	\$55,680.00
Fringe @ 25%	13,920.00
Equipment	5,002.00
Contractual	4,998.00
Supplies	250.00
Travel	250.00
Other	1,000.00
Indirect Costs @ 11.59%	9,399.49
Total Budget	\$90,890.49



1. For **EVERY BUDGET CATEGORY**, itemize costs and provide a detailed narrative of the purpose/use of the proposed expenditure.
2. Budget narratives should be detailed enough so that someone not closely associated with the project can easily understand the estimated costs.
3. For each narrative section of the budget, specify the type of cost, unit (hours, days, count, etc.), unit cost and total costs. Also include any assumptions that have been made to come up with the unit costs for each budget line item.
4. Lump figures without detailed explanations will be referred back to the applicant and may delay the review and awarding process.

7. Using Easygrants

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. Chrome browser works best.
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**.

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 April 12th.
6. Note that NFWF staff will not be answering phones and e-mail at 11:59 pm on April 12th!

8. QUESTIONS?

New England Forests and Rivers Fund

RFP and program questions:

John Wright, Manager

Northeastern Regional Office, NFWF

John.Wright@nfwf.org

(202) 595-2478

www.nfwf.org/newengland

Proposals are Due

***Tuesday, April 12, 2021 by
11:59 PM Eastern Time***

**Awards will be announced
in August**

