National Fish and Wildlife Foundation 2022 Cumberland Plateau Stewardship Fund Applicant Webinar



Webinar Guidelines

- All attendees will be muted for the duration of the webinar.
- Please type your questions into the "questions" box in the webinar controls on the right side of your screen. NFWF staff will answer these questions during several breaks in the presentation, but you can type them in any time. Everyone will be able to hear the answers.
- Don't be shy. If you have a question, someone else is thinking it, too.
- If you experience a technical glitch, please type it into the chat/question box.
- The Webinar is being recorded. We will post a copy of these slides and the recording on the NFWF website at https://www.nfwf.org/programs/cumberland-plateau-stewardship-fund.



Webinar Agenda

- Program Overview
- Program Priorities
- Application Guidance and Navigating Easygrants
- Timeline and Resource Links





Program Overview

The **Cumberland Plateau Stewardship Fund** invests in on-the-ground projects to that will help accelerate the restoration and enhancement of critical forest and freshwater habitats and associated wildlife species within the Cumberland Plateau region.







2022 Funding Opportunity

- Request for Proposals: <u>https://www.nfwf.org/programs/cumberland-plateau-stewardship-fund</u>
- Proposal due date: February 10, 2022
- Eligible applicants*:
 - ✓ Non-profit 501(c)
 - ✓ State, tribal and local governments
 - ✓ Academic institutions
- Anticipated funding: up to \$4 million total
- Individual grant size: \$100,000 \$500,000
- Matching funds:



*Federal agencies, for-profits and individual landowners cannot directly apply, but may partner on proposals

- Projects with a minimum match of 1:1 non-federal cash or in-kind will be most competitive
- Projects unable to provide a 1:1 non-federal match are eligible, but applicants must contact NFWF to discuss match waiver options prior to submitting a proposal
- Applicants encouraged to describe federal partner contributions that will directly contribute to project outcomes, although those contributions will not count toward the 1:1 match

Geography

Projects must occur within the Cumberland Plateau Stewardship Fund program boundary in the following states...

Alabama Georgia Kentucky Tennessee

*Preference given to projects within focal geographies

Lands eligible for funding include:

- Privately-owned lands
- State and local government lands
- Federal lands (encouraged to be part of projects where state, local and/or private lands are also included)



Cumberland Plateau Stewardship Fund Program Landscape

Program Priorities



Program Priorities

The Fund seeks to support multiple strategic objectives, informed by the following guiding documents and funder priorities:



Program Priorities

- **1. Establishing Shortleaf Pine and Upland Oak Forests**
- 2. Enhancing and Maintaining Existing Shortleaf Pine and Upland Oak Habitat
- 3. Restoring Abandoned and Legacy Mine Lands
- 4. Restoring and Enhancing Riparian Forests and Watershed Health to Support Aquatic Species
- 5. Expanding and Coordinating Technical Assistance and Outreach
- 6. Conservation Easements

NFWF is interested in projects will implement habitat restoration or improvement practices that benefit wildlife and:

- sequester carbon and/ or improve water quantity or quality
- include outreach and technical assistance to minority and underserved landowners and producers
- address landowner barriers to participation in forestry and conservation programs



Establishing Shortleaf Pine and Upland Oak Forests

- Reforestation or afforestation
- Site preparation, seedlings and labor are eligible expenses
- Proposals should address:
 - ✓ all necessary site preparation for planting
 - ✓ number of acres and seedlings that will be planted
 - \checkmark timing of when planting is expected to be completed
 - ✓ summarize plans to manage planted stands

* Projects that expect to plant a mix of tree species should include an estimate of the number of seedlings of each species that will be planted in their proposal.





Enhancing and Maintaining Existing Shortleaf Pine and Upland Oak Habitat

Eligible strategies to enhance and maintain existing forest habitat include:

• Prescribed Fire

- Capacity to plan and implement prescribed burns and increase collaboration – ex. burn teams, burn associations
- Training and technical assistance, including assisting USDA staff in writing burn plans and implementing financial assistance contracts
- Incentives to increase Rx fire acres and burn frequency on private lands
- Identify and address specific barriers or roadblocks to fire implementation
- **o** Other Silvicultural Treatments
 - Thinning, invasive species control, mechanical and/or chemical treatments
 - Planting native understory species





Restoring Abandoned and Legacy Mine Lands

- Reforest abandoned and/or legacy mine lands, including site preparation and planting
- Emphasis on planting native tree species to benefit wildlife, reduce erosion and runoff, and sequester carbon
- Practices to enhance or maintain existing forests on abandoned and/or legacy mines, such as thinning and invasive species removal, to improve wildlife habitat and improve water quality will be considered
- Proposals should address:
 - ✓ all necessary site preparation for planting
 - ✓ number of acres and seedlings that will be planted
 - ✓ timing of when planting is expected to be completed
 - ✓ summarize plans to manage planted stands

*Projects are encouraged to use the Forestry Reclamation Approach as outlined by the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement.







Restoring and Enhancing Riparian Forests and Watershed Health to Support Aquatic Species

Restore and Enhance Riparian Forests

- Reforest riparian buffers with native riparian forest species
- Implement forest management practices, such as thinning, that will improve wildlife habitat
- Control invasive species, such as hemlock woolly adelgid, which threaten riparian forest health

Improve Conservation Practices on Agricultural Lands

- Conservation cover, cover crops, reduced tillage, and diversified crop rotations
- Incorporation of crop residue, manures, and other sources of organic matter into soil management systems
- Education and outreach programs to drive increased adoption of soil health practices and to promote stream health



Restoring and Enhancing Riparian Forests and Watershed Health to Support Aquatic Species (cont.)

Improve Conservation Practices on Agricultural Lands (cont.)

- Install fencing and alternative watering systems to exclude livestock from streams
- Implement prescribed/rotational grazing and complementary conservation practices, such as using native warm season grasses

Restore Aquatic Connectivity and Improve In-Stream Habitat Conditions

 Remove or retrofit stream barriers (low-head dams) and stream crossings (culverts, concrete fords), and/or other in-stream restoration practices to improve aquatic habitat within focal watersheds

Note: Preference will be given to proposals that remove or retrofit high priority barriers or crossings within watersheds where barrier/crossing surveys and/or assessments are being developed or have been completed with an emphasis on lower cost/high gain methods in locations known to fragment habitat for priority species.



Expanding and Coordinating Technical Assistance and Outreach

- Projects that implement targeted outreach and assistance to measurably increase private landowner and/or producer participation in conservation practices
 - Increase outreach and technical assistance delivery success:
 - Capacity ("boots on-the-ground") to provide technical assistance, develop management plans, and assist with implementation of restoration and management treatments
 - Targeted outreach, including use of innovative methods to engage private landowners or producers and expand on-the-ground restoration and protection activities on private lands
 - Strongly encourage collaboration with NRCS, FWS and other entities that provide financial assistance
 - Advancing new market-oriented and/or incentive programs
 - Stimulate landowner implementation of habitat restoration and management practices

*Encourage projects that include beginning farmers, socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers, limited resource farmers or ranchers, Tribes and veteran farmers and ranchers





Conservation Easements

- Targeted conservation easement projects that protect high quality, existing shortleaf pine, upland oak and/or riparian habitat, or key sites targeted for shortleaf, oak and/or riparian forest restoration
- Conservation easements should be included as a component of a broader proposal that also includes shortleaf pine, upland oak and/or riparian forest restoration
- Staff capacity and/or due diligence and transaction costs; funding for acquisition costs considered on a case-by-case basis
- Requests for conservation easement funding should not exceed
 20% of the total proposal request







Prequently Asked Questions	
Log In	New User?
Login ID / Email	
Password	
🔁 Remember Me	Forgot Password?
Log In	
For the optimal Easygrants experience, pl	ease:
📌 Use a Supported Browser 🛛 🖻 Enable Pop-ups	Allow Cookies
💼 Only Use One Tab 🛛 🛓 Get Adobe	Reader
Log Out and Close Browser for Se	curity

First Name	Middle Name	
Last Name *		
Last Name		
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Login ID / Email		
Confirm Login ID / Email *		
Confirm Login ID / Email		
Password *		
Password		
Password Requirements		
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Confirm Password		



Once you are on your Easygrants homepage, click on "Apply for Funding"

Choose the Funding Opportunity you're applying to.



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Home	Project Information				
	Due: 7/14/2016 11:59 PM ET		Easygrants ID: 54375		
Main	Test, Heather Grants Killer Whale Research and Conservation	n Program Killer Whale Res	earch and Conservation 2016		
Contact Information	Instructions				
Organization Information		s many times as needed unt	v to view the pages where you will enter the information required for this submission. il you submit. Once you submit, you will no longer be able to make changes. Click her		
Project Information	 Home brings you back to your Hon FAQ provides answers to common 	questions about the Founda	tion's proposal elements.		
Project Location	 Help provides guidance on both co Log Out logs you out of the system 		related to completing many of the pages in the system.		
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Matching	Matching Contributions		Complete		
Contributions	Permits and Approvals	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Complete		
Permits and Approvals					
Review and Submit					

Project Information

Title: Short, descriptive name indicating project purpose. (~100 characters)

Project start and end dates: Start within <u>six months</u> of the award announcement date and end within <u>24-36 months</u> of the start date.

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 $\frac{1}{2}$





I confirm that this project has been mapped as accurately as possible
 Save and Continue

Uploads

Upload Checklist

Upload Type	Required	Template
Cumberland Full Proposal Narrative 2022	Yes	Cumberland Full Proposal Narrative Template 2022
Project Map	Yes	
Letters of Support	No	
Photos - Jpeg	No	
Statement of Litigation	Yes	Statement of Litigation
Board of Trustees, Directors, or equivalent	Yes	
Applicant Controls Questionnaire	Yes	Applicant Controls Questionnaire Template
Applicant Demographic Information Form	Yes	Applicant Demographic Information Form
GAAP audited financial statements	Yes	
IRS Form 990	Yes	
A-133 Audit	Yes	
Indirect Rate Agreement	No	
Other Documents	No	

The full list of required uploads for your organization type is available on the NFWF website here: https://www.nfwf.org/apply-grant/application-information/required-financial-documents

Uploads - Applicant Demographic Information Form

- The information you provide will <u>not</u> be shared with proposal reviewers and will <u>not</u> be considered when making grant decisions.
- The Foundation will <u>not</u> share identifying information about any particular entity or project.
- While the form is a required upload, applicants can opt out of providing the information within the form itself
 - If your organization does not collect this information or if you have provided NFWF with this information in the last 12 months, you can opt out.
- The information provided on this excel form will be kept confidential, the Foundation may share its anonymized aggregate findings as appropriate with its staff, Board of Directors, funding partners, and publicly on its website or through other media.

As part of NFWF's goal to encourage and support diversity across the conservation projects we fund, we wo To accomplish this task, we are asking organizations that we fund to assist us by providing basic informatic	uld like to better understand the existing diversity in our grantmaking community and in the local communities n about their workforce demographics on this form.
	mmunities where the projects take place and who in those communities might benefit from them. We ask for thi: ts aggregate findings as appropriate with its staff, Board of Directors, funding partners, and publicly on its webs a will be used by NFWF to better understand the demographic profiles of the organizations that we fund.
The information you provide will <u>not</u> be shared with proposal reviewers and w	II <u>not</u> be considered when making grant decisions.
Instructions: Complete all pertinent fields shaded in green . Your Human Resources Department may h If you do not know an answer, use the "don't know/nat sure" option instead of guessing. If a section does no You may opt out of providing this information to NFWF; however, you still <u>must upload this form to Easyar</u>	
All applicants must complete this section, even if you have provided this data t	o NEWE in the past 12 months or are opting out for another reason.
If you have provided this data to NFWF in the past 12 months you do not need to provide it again but you m	
Easygrants project # from your grant application:	
Grant program name shown on the RFP:	
If you are opting out, select a reason from the dropdown list in the green bo	x:
General Information	
Date Completed:	
Project Title:	
Organization Full Name:	
Organization EIN:	
Organization Type:	Click on the green box to select from the dropdown list
Organization Size (number of employees)	Click on the green box to select from the dropdown list
PART 1: APPLICANT ORGANIZATION - ALL EMPLOYEES (if applicable)	
Please provide the following demographic information about <u>all</u> of your organization's employees, <u>includ</u>	ing senior leaders .
1. How many people currently work for your organization? (Include temporary and part-time employees in	your response but <u>do not include contractors</u>)
Total Number:	
2. How many of your employees identify as each gender?	
Female:	
Male:	
Non-binary:	
Unknown/Not sure:	

APPLICANT DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION



Metrics

Water N		Select	t Metric		1	×
		Show:	Show All Templates 🗸 Show All Strategies 🗸	Search:]
		Add	Metric	Strategies	Required	
Home	Project Information		CPF - Riparian habitat vegetation - Land, wetland restoration - # of trees planted on privated lands		Recommended	
	Due: 2/10/2022 11:59 PM ET		CPF - BMP implementation for prescribed burns - Acres public land burned	Habitat Management	Recommended	
Main	Grants Cumberland Plateau-Southern Appalachians Fund Cu		CPF - Conservation easements - Acres protected under easement	Habitat Conservation	Optional	
Contact Information	Instructions		CPF - Riparian restoration - Acres restored on private land	Habitat Restoration	Recommended	
Organization	Follow the steps below to provide NFWF with metrics for showi complete your metrics.		CPF - Land restoration - Acres restored on public land	Habitat Restoration	Recommended	splayed when you cli
Information	 To view and select the available metrics, click Select Metric. 		CPF - Shortleaf Pine - Land, wetland restoration - # of trees planted on private lands	Habitat Restoration	Recommended	rategies: Templates a
Project Information	Strategies allows you to filter on a single Strategy, <i>e.g.</i> , Habitat 2. To select your metrics, check the box in the <i>Add</i> column for		CPF - Land restoration - Acres restored on private land	Habitat Restoration	Recommended	etric on this page, ar
Project Location	 For each of your selected metrics, enter box in a box of an in the limited number of metrics for showing progress. For each of your selected metrics, enter both Starting Value 		CPF - Fish passage improvements - Miles of stream opened	Habitat Restoration	Recommended	
	4. Click Save intermittently to save your data. The system will		CPF - Outreach/ Education/ Technical Assistance - # people with changed behavior	Capacity, Outreach, Incentives	Optional	idded to a metric by
Мар	To remove a metric after you've selected it, click the red X to with the remaining metrics. <u>All metrics remaining on the page</u>.		CPF - Riparian habitat vegetation - Improved management practices - Acres under imp mg		•	age. The system will i
Uploads	6. When you are finished providing values, click Save and Con	Sele				
Metrics	Note: The metrics provided here are those selected by the Fou Applicant Submission Version	Add Se	elected Close			
meurus						
Budget	Filter By: CPF Metrics V Show All Strategies	~				
Matching	No results to display					
Contributions	Select All Delete Selected					
Permits and Approvals	Save Save and Continue					
Review and Submit						

A list of available metrics is included in the request for proposals



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.
- Threats and/or Opportunities: Describe the threats that this project seeks to address in achieving large-scale conservation of shortleaf pine, white oak and/or other upland oak forest, riparian forest, and/or aquatic ecosystems and highlight the opportunities that this project will create in sustaining restoration and protection efforts in the geographic area in which the project will occur.
- **Outcome(s):** Elaborate on the outcome(s) summarized previously in the application; discuss what makes this outcome(s) achievable and important.
- Implementation Strategy(ies) and Activities: Detail the strategies and activities that will be implemented to achieve the goals of the project.
- **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.
- Benefits to Priority Species and Conservation Co-Benefits: Describe how the restoration work proposed will benefit listed, at-risk and/or other wildlife species that are representative of healthy woodland/savanna forest and freshwater habitats.
- **Project Sustainability:** Describe how the project will be maintained to ensure specific ecosystem benefits are achieved and sustained over time.

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



Narrative- Community Impact

Describe the community(ies) where the project will take place, who will benefit from the project, and how they were or will be engaged in project development and implementation. Provide demographic information on the community(ies), including but not limited to age, race and ethnicity, poverty rates.

- Describe community characteristics of the project area and identify any communities impacted.
- Describe outreach and community engagement activities.
- Use demographic data to document (poverty statistics, school lunch data, demographic records to articulate high need or underserved communities).
 - This data can be found using Census data, School District data, State data centers, EJ Screen, and other sources



Budget

- If you do not anticipate an expense for a particular category, skip that category- it is not necessary to enter a "0" value in the cost fields.
- Try to anticipate factors that may affect the budget when developing projections and provide an explanation of those factors.
- Matching contributions should not be included in the budget.

	/			
(≻	Budget		
	Exp	and all		
			Budget	
	≻	Personnel	\$0.00	
	\geq	Travel	\$0.00	
	\geq	Equipment	\$0.00	
	\geqslant	Materials and Supplies	\$0.00	
	≻	Contractual Services	\$0.00	
	\geq	Other Direct Costs	\$0.00	
		Total Direct Costs	\$0.00	
		Total Indirect Costs	\$0.00	
		Total Costs	\$0.00	
				/

Budget



Detailed Budget Instructions: Adding/Editing Narratives

- Narratives are required for all budgeted categories.
 - Explain/justify the estimated costs including the unit cost and quantity requested
 - Explain how the costs associated with each line item supports the implementation of the project as outlined in the proposal
- Narratives should be written in such a way that someone not familiar with the project can conceptually understand the <u>rationale</u>, <u>purpose</u> and <u>calculation</u> of the anticipated costs identified by line item.
- Narratives should be concise and describe line items in 1-3 sentences.

Figures without narrative descriptions will be returned to the applicant for further details and clarification.



Next, complete the narrative box as shown below:

Notes	
Line Item Budget	Personnel
Budget	Jackie Smith will manage all aspects of the program which includes, surveys of the project site alongside field techs, landowner interviews and follow-ups, and supervision of volunteers during sponsored work days.
Save S	Save and Close Cancel

Detailed Budget Instructions

- The final expanded budget will appear as follows, showing the budget details.
- For further questions, contact Program Staff listed on the RFP.

≽ Budget	
Collapse all	
	Budget
> <u>Personnel</u>	\$23,365.38
Personnel	\$23,365.38
Jackie Smith, Program Manager	\$23,365.38
> <u>Travel</u>	\$512.00
Domestic Airfare	\$0.00
International Airfare	\$0.00
Train- Per Ticket	\$150.00
Two Round Trip Tickets to Project Site	\$150.00
Rental Car- Per Day	\$0.00
Taxis – Per Trip	\$0.00
Mileage – Per Mile	\$0.00
Gasoline – Per Gallon	\$0.00
Per Diem (M&IE)	\$0.00
Lodging – Per Night	\$362.00
Washington, DC hotel for Kick Off & site visit	\$375.00
Meals (No M&IE) – Per Meal	\$0.00
Equipment	\$20,500.00
Equipment	\$20,500.00
Excavation Machine	\$20,500.00
Materials and Supplies	\$525.00
Materials and Supplies	\$525.00
Native Grass Seed	\$525.00
Contractual Services	\$60,042.00
Contract – Per Agreement	\$27,542.00
M.A.P. Consulting	\$27,542.00
Subaward – Per Agreement	\$32,500.00
ACME International, River Cleanup	\$32,500.00
Other Direct Costs	\$17.00
Other Direct Costs	\$17.00
River cleanup event parking.	\$17.00
> Indirect Costs	\$5,841.34
Indirect Costs	\$5,841.34
Salaries & Benefits, 9/30/20, Provisional	\$5,841.34
Total Direct Costs	\$104,961.38
Total Indirect Costs	\$5,841.34
Total Costs	\$110,802.72

Matching Contributions

Matching Contri	bution Editor	×	
Instructions	5		
unsaved work if you o	atching contribution details below. Click Save regularly to save your work. The system will timeout and you will lose to not save at least once every hour. Click Save and Close to save and return to the Matching Contributions list page. red asterisk (*) are required for final submission for most programs. Click Help for examples and instructions .		
status *	<select></select>		
Source *			
	Enter the name of the person or Organization providing the Matching Contribution		
Source Type *	<select> ▼</select>		
ſype *	<select> ▼</select>		
Description *			
	Limit: 250 characters Remaining: 250		
Amount *			
	Save and Close Close		

Review and Submit

- Make sure to click the blue **"Submit"** button to submit your proposal.
- If correctly submitted, you will receive a confirmation e-mail and the task will disappear from your homepage.

ject Location	View Full Submission		
Мар	View PDF		
Uploads			
Budget	Submission		
Matching	> Validation Status		
ontributions	Page Name		tus
ermits and	Contact Information		Complete
Approvals	Organization Information Y Primary Organization is required	×	Incomplete
w and Submit	Project Information	×	Incomplete
	Project Title is required.		
	Project Start Date is required.		
FAQ	 Project End Date is required. Description is required 		
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ncip	Project Location	×	Incomplete
	Project Location Description is required.		
Log Out	Project Location Country(s) is required.		
	Мар	×	Incomplete
	Please confirm your project has been accurately mapped.		
	Uploads	×	Incomplete
	X GAAP audited financial statements is required and has not been uploaded.		
	IRS Form 990 is required and has not been uploaded.		
	A-133 Audit is required and has not been uploaded. Board of Trustees, Directors, or equivalent is required and has not been uploaded		
	Statement of Litigation is required and has not been uploaded.		
	CBWTP Full Proposal 2021 is required and has not been uploaded.		
	CBWTP 5 Year Transaction Projection 2021 is required and has not been uploaded		
	CBWTP Work Elements 2021 is required and has not been uploaded.		
	Budget	1	Complete
	Matching Contributions	1	Complete
	Permits and Approvals	1	Complete

Timeline and Application Resources



Program Timeline



Resources

Tip Sheet: <u>https://www.nfwf.org/sites/default/files/2021-12/Cumberland-2022-Tip-Sheet.pdf</u>

Conservation Plans

Forestland Stewards: <u>https://www.nfwf.org/sites/default/files/2019-12/forestland-stewards-business-plan.pdf</u> Shortleaf Pine: <u>http://shortleafpine.org/shortleaf-pine-initiative/shortleaf-pine-restoration-plan</u> White Oak: <u>https://www.whiteoakinitiative.org/assessment-conservation-plan</u>

SE Freshwater Biodiversity Conservation Strategy: <u>http://southeastfreshwater.org/2016/12/05/final-report-pdfs/</u>

Required Financial Documents: <u>http://www.nfwf.org/whatwedo/grants/applicants/Pages/required-financial-docs.aspx</u>

Budget Instructions: <u>http://www.nfwf.org/whatwedo/grants/applicants/Pages/budget-instructions.aspx</u>

NFWF Indirect Policy: <u>http://www.nfwf.org/whatwedo/grants/applicants/Pages/indirect-policy.aspx</u>

Mapping Tutorial: <u>http://www.nfwf.org/whatwedo/grants/applicants/Pages/mapping-tool.aspx</u>



QUESTIONS or COMMENTS

Jon Scott Program Director, Southern Forests jonathan.scott@nfwf.org (202) 595-2609

Zack Bernstein Program Coordinator zachary.bernstein@nfwf.org (202) 595-2433

Easygrants technical support:

Email helpdesk at <u>Easygrants@nfwf.org</u> or leave a message at 202-595-2497



