DELAWARE RIVER PROGRAM 2022 METRICS GUIDANCE

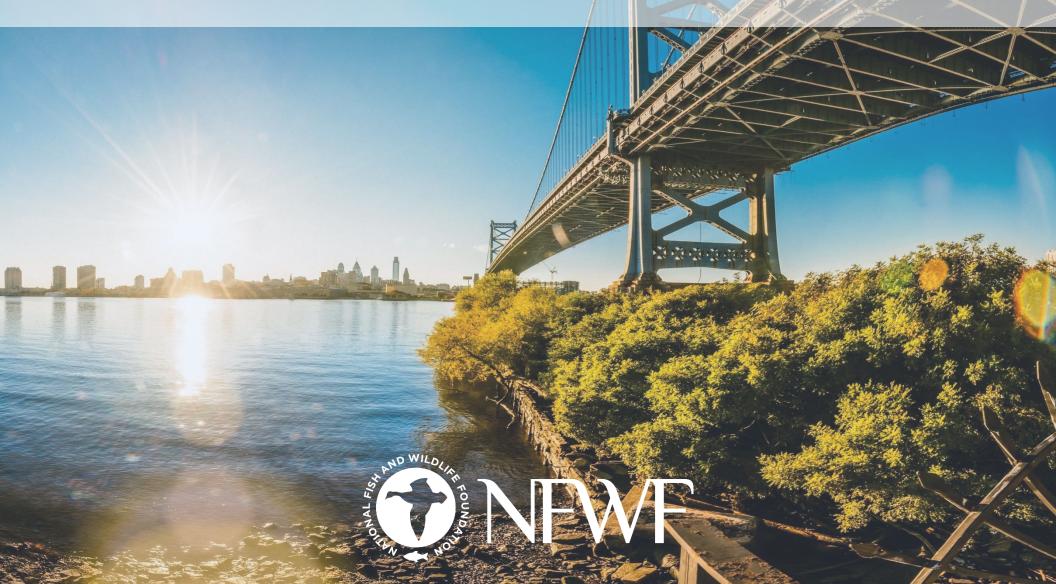


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction to NFWF's Delaware River Program

- Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund
- Delaware River Restoration Fund
- Program Staff

General Metrics Information

Metrics Overview

Common Mistakes

List of Available Metrics

Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund

Delaware River Restoration Fund

Metrics Descriptions and Tips

Habitat Restoration

Habitat Management

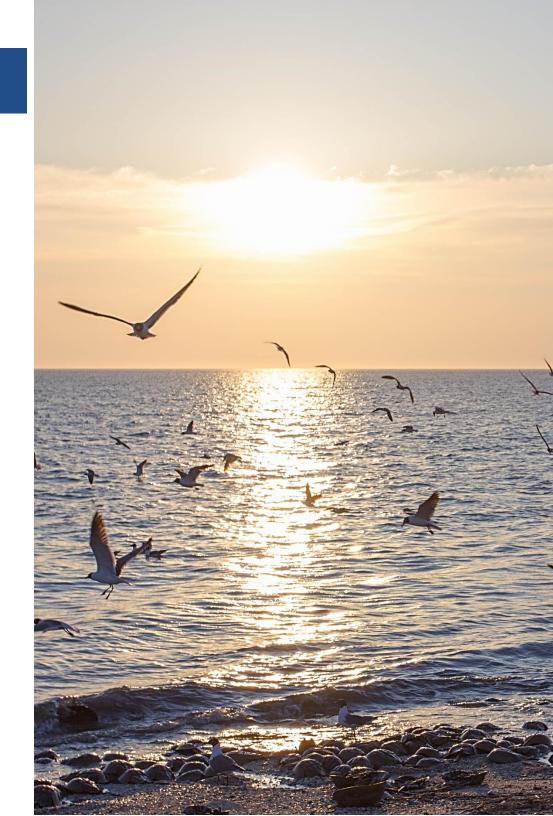
Capacity, Outreach, Incentives

Species-specific Strategies

Planning, Research, Monitoring

Metrics Resources

FieldDoc



DELAWARE WATERSHED CONSERVATION FUND

The Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund (DWCF) addresses near-term and long-range issues identified by the Delaware River Basin Restoration Partnership and Program <u>Framework</u>, for measurable gains for fish and wildlife conservation, clean water, access to outdoor recreation, and other values and natural and economic benefits for people living in the basin. Major funding for the DWCF is provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The fund was launched in 2018 as a first step toward delivering the Delaware River Basin Conservation Act, bringing together various stakeholders invested in restoration and conservation efforts throughout the Delaware River Watershed to address different strategic program areas and cross-program activities, build networks, and improve efficiency and focus on a basin-wide scale. DWCF projects are implemented entirely within the Delaware River watershed. The fund's investments target areas of regional significance for restoration and conservation in order to support ongoing efforts, increase capacity, and facilitate maximum adaptive potential in changing watershed conditions.

DELAWARE RIVER RESTORATION FUND

The Delaware River Restoration Fund (DRRF) is dedicated to improving the water quality and accelerating restoration of habitats in the Delaware River and its tributaries. The fund was launched in late 2013 to help community-based nonprofits, municipalities and landowners efficiently work together to clean up and restore polluted waters and improve habitat in strategic geographies within the Delaware Watershed. With major support from the William Penn Foundation, the DRRF is the primary on-the-ground restoration funding mechanism for the <u>Delaware River Watershed Initiative</u> (DRWI). DRRF investments for water quality improvement are targeted primarily to DRWI "Clusters," subwatersheds within the broader Delaware River Watershed where restoration efforts are expected to realize the greatest return.

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GENERAL METRICS INFORMATION

METRICS OVERVIEW

To assess project progress and ensure greater consistency of data provided by multiple grants, the Delaware River Program provides a list of metrics in Easygrants. In addition to metrics in Easygrants, grantees can gather more detailed site and practice-level data via FieldDoc.org (see Review Resources for additional details), as applicable.

The metrics section of the Full Proposal allows you to select the activity and outcome metrics you will use to measure your project's progress and success. Follow the directions provided in Easygrants to complete this section. A couple of general pointers:

- Hover your mouse cursor over the "?" next to a metric to read its description and specific guidance.
- Please "Add" and complete at least one metric relevant to reporting your project's progress.
- For each metric you will need to provide values for "Starting Value" and "Target Value." In most cases the starting value will be zero (0). The only instance when the starting value will not be zero is when you are applying for a second or third phase of a project previously funded by NFWF.
- In your project narrative, you will have the opportunity to describe additional activities and outcomes associated with your project.
- Please only select metrics associated with the project elements for which you are requesting funding in this grant.
- Click the small notepad icon to the right of a selected metric to add notes. Adding notes to metrics assists reviewers in understanding how values were determined.

To increase consistency in the usage and calculations of metrics, the NFWF Delaware team has created this "2022 Metrics Guidance" document to provide additional details and instructions about each metric. Please ensure that, upon choosing a metric to include in your proposal, the calculation of the target value accounts for the details listed for the metric in this guide.

COMMON MISTAKES

- 1. **Double Counting.** One practice/implementation technique should not be counted under two different metrics (with the same measurement, eg. acres). For example, if implementing a wetland restoration and selecting "Wetland restoration Acres restored," do not also select "BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction Acres with BMPs" for the same spatial area. Complementary metrics (with different measurements, eg. miles opened and # barriers) can be selected for one practices/implementation technique.
- 2. Not Including Metric Notes. Metrics notes are an opportunity to expand on and explain calculations, practice details, and target values. If notes are necessary to understanding a practice, the instructions will specify what should be included, at a minimum, in the notes. Insufficient metric notes will be sent back for revisions.
- 3. Counting Planning as Implementation. If the project includes planning, research, engineering/design, or technical assistance, the *future* implementation resulting from that work should not be counted under any habitat management or habitat restoration metrics. Please use the "Planning, Research, Monitoring" metrics.
- 4. Not Accounting for COVID-19 Restrictions/Limitations. Use the NOTES section to indicate how the target value has been adapted to account for COVID-19 limitations. This is particularly relevant for outreach metrics such as # volunteers participating or for any metrics impacted by materials or labor shortages or supply chain challenges.
- 5. Target Value Lower Than Starting Value. If the starting value is not zero, the target value should be the value to be achieved by the NFWF project within the period of performance *plus* the starting value. The only instance when the starting value will not be zero is when you are applying for a second or third phase of a project previously funded by NFWF.

LIST OF AVAILABLE METRICS – DELAWARE WATERSHED CONSERVATION FUND

Metrics available to pick in Easygrants. Additional details and instructions for each metric are included in the next section.

HABITAT RESTORATION

- DRRF Beach habitat quality improvements Miles restored
- DRRF Erosion control Acres restored
- DRRF Fish passage improvements # passage barriers rectified
- DRRF Fish passage improvements Miles of stream opened
- DRRF Floodplain restoration Acres restored
- DRRF Instream restoration Miles restored
- DRRF Land, wetland restoration # trees planted
- DRRF Riparian restoration Miles restored
- DRRF Wetland restoration Acres restored

HABITAT MANAGEMENT

- DRRF BMP implementation Miles of stream with reduced and/or protected water temperature
- DRRF BMP implementation for fencing improvements Miles of livestock fencing improved or installed
- DRRF BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction Acres with BMPs
- DRRF BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction Acres with cover crops
- DRRF BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction Acres with conservation tillage
- DRRF BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction Acres with enhanced nutrient management
- DRRF BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction Acres with managed grazing
- DRRF BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction Lbs N avoided (annually)
- DRRF BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction Lbs P avoided (annually)
- DRRF BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction Lbs sediment avoided (annually)
- DRRF BMP implementation for prescribed burns Acres burned
- DRRF BMP implementation for stormwater runoff Acres with BMPs
- DRRF BMP implementation for stormwater runoff Volume stormwater prevented
- DRRF BMP implementation to mitigate recreational disturbance Miles with BMPs
- DRRF Early successional forest Improved management practices Acres under improved management
- DRRF Improved management practices Acres under improved management
- DRRF Late successional forest Improved management practices Acres under improved management
- DRRF Mature forest Improved management practices Acres under improved management

HABITAT CONSERVATION

DRRF - Acres protected under long-term easement (permanent or >30-yr) - Acres protected under easement DRRF - Acres acquired in fee - Acres acquired in fee

CAPACITY, OUTREACH, INCENTIVES

- DRRF Economic benefits # jobs created
- DRRF Outreach/ Education/ Technical Assistance # people reached

DRRF - Outreach/ Education/ Technical Assistance - # people with changed behavior

- DRRF Public Access # acres with public access
- DRRF Volunteer participation # volunteers participating

PLANNING, RESEARCH, MONITORING

- DRRF Management or Governance Planning # plan activities implemented
- DRRF Monitoring # monitoring programs
- DRRF Monitoring # sites being monitored
- DRRF Project Management Acres with transaction costs and project mgmt activities addressed
- DRRF Research Miles assessed
- DRRF Tool development for decision-making # tools used by decision-makers

LIST OF AVAILABLE METRICS – DELAWARE RIVER RESTORATION FUND

Metrics available to pick in Easygrants. Additional details and instructions for each metric are included in the next section.

HABITAT RESTORATION

- DRRF Floodplain restoration Acres restored
- DRRF Instream restoration Miles restored
- DRRF Land, wetland restoration # trees planted
- DRRF Riparian restoration Miles restored
- DRRF Wetland restoration Acres restored

HABITAT MANAGEMENT

- DRRF BMP implementation Miles of stream with reduced and/or protected water temperature
- DRRF BMP implementation for fencing improvements Miles of livestock fencing improved or installed
- DRRF BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction Acres with BMPs
- DRRF BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction Acres with cover crops
- DRRF BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction Acres with conservation tillage
- DRRF BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction Acres with enhanced nutrient management
- DRRF BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction Acres with managed grazing
- DRRF BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction Lbs N avoided (annually)
- DRRF BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction Lbs P avoided (annually)
- DRRF BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction Lbs sediment avoided (annually)
- DRRF BMP implementation for stormwater runoff Acres with BMPs
- DRRF BMP implementation for stormwater runoff Volume stormwater prevented
- DRRF Improved management practices Acres under improved management

CAPACITY, OUTREACH, INCENTIVES

- DRRF Outreach/ Education/ Technical Assistance # people reached
- DRRF Outreach/ Education/ Technical Assistance # people with changed behavior
- DRRF Volunteer participation # volunteers participating

METRICS DESCRIPTION AND TIPS

| PRACTICE | METRIC | INSTRUCTIONS | IMPLEMENTATION EXAMPLES | ADDITIONAL TIPS |
|--|---|---|---|--|
| Beach habitat quality improvements | Miles restored | Enter the number of miles of restored or protected beach/shoreline habitat; do not double count with erosion/acres restored. In the NOTES, indicate whether vegetation is being planted. | Dune restoration, beach plantings, beach protection practices | |
| Erosion control | Acres restored | Enter the number of acres restored; enter specific type of coastal/shoreline habitat and restoration in NOTES section | Living shoreline, natural revetments/breakwater systems | Buffers should be "Riparian Restoration;" bank stabilization should be "Instream Restoration" – do not double count |
| Fish passage improvements | <pre># passage barriers rectified</pre> | | Dam removal, culvert replacement | |
| Fish passage improvements | Miles of stream opened | Enter the number of miles of stream opened to improve aquatic habitat connectivity; if Lake or Pond specify in NOTES section; if improving or increasing eastern brook trout patch sizes, specify in NOTES | Dam removal, culvert replacement, fish passage enhancements | |
| Floodplain restoration | Acres restored | Enter the number of floodplain acres restored. In the NOTES, indicate the % of vegetation on the pre-project site (0-20%, 21-40%, 41-60%, 61-80%, 81-100%) and the dominant vegetation being restored (Broadleaf, Conifer, Shrub, Grass, Marsh, Swamp). | Re-establishment of function of floodplains natural conditions (leveling degraded streambanks, planting native species) | Must be active restoration/ reconnection (not just land taken out of production); note if restoration enhances stream resilience |
| Instream restoration | Miles restored | Enter the number of miles restored; briefly indicate the type of restoration in the NOTES section | Channel modification, bank stabilization, bed stabilizations, stream diversions, habitat enhancements like woody debris and other hydrological improvements | Do not double count with "Riparian Restoration," note if restoration enhances stream resilience |
| Land, wetland restoration | # trees planted | Enter the number of trees planted and sustained (tree plantings that are urban/green infrastructure can also be included). In the NOTES section, specify the specify the landcover type prior to planting (barren, cropland, grassland, shrubland), # of acres, density per acre, and mortality rate. Do not include any additional trees planted to replace mortality in the numerical metric value. | Urban forestry, buffer plantings, habitat restoration | |

| PRACTICE | METRIC | INSTRUCTIONS | IMPLEMENTATION EXAMPLES | ADDITIONAL TIPS |
|------------------------|----------------|---|---|---|
| Riparian restoration | Miles restored | Enter the number of riparian acres restored. In the NOTES section, specify the landcover type prior to planting (barren, cropland, grassland, shrubland), the % of vegetation on the pre-project site (0-20%, 21-40%, 41-60%, 61-80%, 81-100%), the dominant vegetation being planted (Broadleaf, Conifer, Shrub, Grass, Marsh, Swamp), the buffer width, and the acres. DO NOT include instream restoration miles in this measurement. | Forested buffers, vegetated buffers, grass buffers | Buffers are typically 35- 100ft in width, please note the average width |
| Wetland restoration | Acres restored | Enter the number of acres restored or enhanced. In the NOTES section, specify the dominant vegetation being planted (Marsh, Swamp). DO NOT include riparian or instream restoration miles in this measurement. | Re-establishment (rebuilding former wetland) or rehabilitation (repairing degraded wetland) | |

Note: Projects with a strong resilience component may be asked by NFWF to provide additional metrics. Major resilience activities may include marsh restoration, beach and dune restoration, living shorelines, or floodplain restoration.

| HABITAT CONSERVATI | METRIC | INSTRUCTIONS | IMPLEMENTATION EXAMPLES | ADDITIONAL TIPS |
|------------------------|---|--|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Conservation easements | Acres protected under long-term easement | Enter the number of acres protected under long-term easement (permanent or >30- yr). Assuming the specific parcel(s) has been identified, in the NOTES indicate what % of natural land cover would have been cleared in the absence of the easement(s). | | |
| Land acquisitions | Acres acquired in fee | Enter the number of acres acquired in fee. Assuming the specific parcel(s) has been identified, in the NOTES indicate whether there was a competing offer (Yes/No) or potential zoning change (Yes/No), and what % of natural land cover would be cleared in the absence of the acquisition(s). | | |

| PRACTICE | METRIC | INSTRUCTIONS | IMPLEMENTATION EXAMPLES | ADDITIONAL TIPS |
|---|---|--|---|---|
| BMP implementation | Miles of stream with reduced and/or protected water temperature | Enter the number of stream miles with BMPS to reduce and/or protect water temperature. Use the NOTES section to describe the actual degree decrease (or maintenance) of temperature. | Tree planting or riparian buffers that reduce stream temperature | |
| BMP implementation for fencing improvements | Miles of livestock fencing improved or installed | Enter miles of fencing and indicate type of improvements or if the fencing is new construction in the NOTES section. | Improving existing fence AND/OR construction of <i>new</i> fence to keep livestock out of stream | Can be counted with miles of riparian restoration for streamside forest buffer with exclusion fencing |
| BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction | Acres with BMPs | Enter number of acres; indicate the type of BMP(s) (e.g. manure storage, barnyard practices) and indicate method of calculating reduction in NOTES section. Please see the DWCF toolbox on the website for calculation resources. DO NOT include cover crops, conservation tillage, enhanced cropland nutrient management, or managed grazing. | Barnyard runoff controls, roof runoff management, manure storage | Do not double count with "BMP implementation for stormwater runoff – Acres with BMPs." |
| BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction | Acres with cover crops | Enter the number of cropland acres with cover crops practices. Please describe the cover crop practices in the NOTES section. | Cover crops | |
| BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction | Acres with conservation tillage | Enter the number of cropland acres with conservation tillage practices. Please describe conservation tillage practices in the NOTES section. | No till | |
| BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction | Acres with enhanced nutrient management | Enter the number of cropland acres with enhanced nutrient management practices other than or in addition to conservation tillage or cover crops. Please describe the nutrient management practices in the NOTES section. | Nutrient management | |
| BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction | Acres with managed grazing | Enter the number of acres with managed grazing (i.e., promoting plant growth above and below ground, improving wildlife habitat, and maximizing soil carbon through a variety of grazing approaches). Please describe the grazing practices in the NOTES section. | Prescribed grazing | |

HABITAT MANAGEMENT CONTINUED METRIC PRACTICE INSTRUCTIONS IMPLEMENTATION EXAMPLES ADDITIONAL TIPS **BMP** implementation Lbs N avoided Enter the amount of nitrogen prevented from entering N, P and S reduced by Values can be calculated using the for nutrient or (annually) system annually and indicate method of calculating FieldDoc.org platform implementation of BMPs sediment reduction reduction in NOTES section (agriculture or stormwater) Lbs P avoided **BMP** implementation Enter the amount of phosphorous prevented from for nutrient or (annually) entering system annually and indicate method of sediment reduction calculating reduction in NOTES section Lbs sediment Enter the amount of sediment prevented from entering **BMP** implementation for nutrient or avoided system annually and indicate method of calculating sediment reduction reduction in NOTES section (annually) **BMP** implementation Acres burned Enter the number of acres that have been treated by Prescribed burns for habitat for prescribed burns prescribed burning. In the NOTES section, specify improvement, invasive species whether it is private or public land, the average frequency control, forest management, (in years) at which prescribed burning is expected to etc. occur in the future, the vegetation being burned (forest, shrubland, grassland, cropland, Phragmites marsh), and, if forest, whether trees have been planted in past 10 years (Yes, No), and the type of forest (Aspen-birch, Maplebeech-birch, Oak-hickory, Oak-pine). **BMP** implementation Acres with BMPs Enter number of acres treated with stormwater BMP(s); Bioretention, green roofs, Do not double count with "BMP indicate the type of BMP(s) (e.g., rain gardens, permeable pavement, implementation for nutrient or for stormwater constructed wetlands, green roofs, rain barrels, etc.) and bioswales, rain gardens, etc. sediment reduction – Acres with runoff inches of rainfall that will be stored, infiltrated and/or BMPs" as that is primarily for acres filtered within a 48-hour rain event in NOTES section. treated with agriculture BMPs Include method of calculation; please see the DWCF Make sure that the acreage is the toolbox on the website for calculation resources total **TREATED** acres (the practice drainage area), not just the practice footprint. **BMP** implementation Volume Enter the volume (in gallons) of stormwater prevented Bioretention, green roofs. Value is annual, value can be for stormwater stormwater from entering the system per year; indicate type of permeable pavement, calculated using the FieldDoc.org runoff BMP(s) in the NOTES section; include method of bioswales, rain gardens, etc. platform prevented calculation. Please see the DWCF toolbox on the website for calculation resources.

| HABITAT MANA | HABITAT MANAGEMENT CONTINUED | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|--|--|
| PRACTICE | METRIC | INSTRUCTIONS | IMPLEMENTATION EXAMPLES | ADDITIONAL TIPS | |
| BMP implementation to mitigate recreational disturbance | Miles with BMPs | Enter the number of miles with BMPs to mitigate recreational disturbance | Increase stewardship protection programs, beach closures, beach fencing or signage | Can be complementary to capacity/outreach/incentives metrics such as volunteers participating | |
| Early successional forest - Improved mgmt. practices | Acres under improved management | Enter the number of acres under improved management; use the NOTES section to indicate full parcel size benefitting from acres under management | Comprehensive forest management plans, active forest restoration, edge improvement, canopy | | |
| Late successional forest - Improved mgmt. practices | Acres under improved management | Enter the number of acres under improved management; use the NOTES section to indicate full parcel size benefitting from acres under management | openings, invasives management, etc. for habitat improvement | | |
| Mature successional forest - Improved mgmt. practices | Acres under improved management | Enter the number of acres under improved management; use the NOTES section to indicate full parcel size benefitting from acres under management | | | |
| Improved management practices | Acres under improved management | Enter the number of acres under improved management, enter type of land (i.e. public or private), and enter specific practice(s) in NOTES section; DO NOT double count with acres of BMPs and please reference the 2022 Metrics Guidance for more specific metric options for working lands projects (e.g. agriculture and forestry). | Management plans completed (including ag Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans), invasive management, water control structure management, pollinator habitat management | Please also denote the type of habitat that is being managed (ag, wetland, forest, etc.); do not double count with successional forest practices or ag/stormwater BMPs | |



Photo Credit: USFWS

| PRACTICE | METRIC | INSTRUCTIONS | IMPLEMENTATION EXAMPLES | ADDITIONAL TIPS |
|--|-----------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Economic benefits | # jobs created | Enter the number of jobs created; indicate workforce targeted in NOTES section (e.g. youth, veterans, underserved communities) | Construction, forestry, technical assistance, landscaping, recreation, etc. jobs created by restoration work | Starting value can be permanent FTE jobs preserved through the project |
| Outreach/ Education/ Technical Assistance | # people reached | Enter the number of people who responded to an offer and inquiry delivered by outreach, training, or technical assistance activities; specify the percentage of individuals reached; indicate type of audience (farmers, landowners, municipalities) in the NOTES section | People attending workshops/speaker series, people attending nature walks, people present at site visits | Who is being reached? How are they being reached? |
| Outreach/ Education/ Technical Assistance | # people with changed behavior | Enter the number of individuals demonstrating a minimum level of behavior change; briefly describe method of measurement in NOTES section. Characterize the audience (farmers, landowners, municipalities) in the NOTES section | Measured community-based social marketing campaign, landowner training that results in documented implementation | Do not double count with volunteers or people reached. Changed behavior must be a MEASURABLE behavior with a baseline value upon which grant outcomes can be compared. What is the behavior being changed? How is it measured? |
| Public Access | # acres with public access | Enter the number of acres now open to public access as a result of the project; include any associated river or stream miles also opened to public access as a result of project | Rehabilitation or construction of boat access facilities, increase access to protected lands with public benefits, development of a new trail | Should be <i>new</i> public access, not just projects on land that is accessible to the public. Use NOTES section to indicate what kind of access: general public use, trails, etc.; do best to translate stream miles into acres and note the calculation used in NOTES section |
| Volunteer participation | # volunteers participating | Enter the number of volunteers participating | Volunteer tree planting, volunteers monitoring beaches for recreational disturbance | Unpaid volunteer time can be used as in-kind match. Use the NOTES section to describe: Who are the volunteers? What are they doing? |

| PRACTICE | METRIC | INSTRUCTIONS | IMPLEMENTATION EXAMPLES | ADDITIONAL TIPS |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|---|---|
| Monitoring | # monitoring programs | Enter the number of monitoring programs established, underway or improved; briefly describe what is being monitored in the NOTES section | Stewardship/volunteer monitoring program, academic monitoring of ongoing work | Since the metric includes programs underway, if the project continues monitoring efforts, the starting value should be zero. |
| Monitoring | # sites being monitored | Enter the number of streams/sites being monitored; briefly describe what is being monitored in NOTES section; include miles/acres/area covered by monitoring | Integrated water quality monitoring sites, citizen monitoring sites, bird count/survey sites, run count sites | |
| Project Management | Acres with transaction costs and project mgmt activities addressed | Enter the number of acres for which conservation easements and acquisitions will be facilitated; for land protection project management activities, e.g. surveys, appraisal, environmental report | Land put in easement/acquisition (with match or non-NFWF funding) for which project funds assisted in facilitation (legal fees, surveys, appraisals, reports) | Okay to double count with acres of new access if protected land will also be open to the public (made possible by NFWF funds) |
| Research | Miles assessed | Enter the number of stream, river, beach or shoreline miles assessed; briefly describe the assessment aim in the NOTES section | Culvert assessments, stream connectivity assessments, shoreline erosion assessments, prioritization efforts | |
| Tool development for decision-making | # tools used by decision-makers | Enter the number of tools developed that are used by decision-makers; briefly describe the tool in the NOTES section | Site prioritization analysis, engagement toolkit | Should be <i>new</i> tools, not existing ones used for the project |

METRICS RESOURCES

To assist applicants in generating credible metric estimates, NFWF has partnered with the Chesapeake Commons and the Academy of Natural Sciences to functionalize FieldDoc, a user-friendly tool that allows consistent planning, tracking, and reporting of water quality improvement activities and associated nutrient and sediment load reductions from proposed grant projects.

NFWF encourages all projects proposing to implement on-the-ground water quality improvements to utilize FieldDoc to calculate estimated load reductions included in their application. When setting up proposed projects in FieldDoc, please be sure to list your application's 5-digit Easygrants number in the FieldDoc project title.

Upon grant award, NFWF will work closely with all projects using with FieldDoc for accurate tracking and reporting of applicable water quality improvement activities during the course of the grant project. For technical support on FieldDoc utilization during the proposal development process, please contact Erin Hofmann with the Chesapeake Commons at hofmann@chesapeakecommons.org. Additional guidance is available at help.fielddoc.org.

A list of available practices for tracking in FieldDoc is available here: https://www.fielddoc.org/models/6

2022 Request for Proposals PDFs

Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund: https://www.nfwf.org/sites/default/files/2022-02/delaware-river-program-dwcf-2022-rfp.pdf

Delaware River Restoration Fund: https://www.nfwf.org/sites/default/files/2022-02/delaware-river-program-drrf-2022-rfp.pdf

NFWF Website Resources

Delaware River Program Page Applicant Information

