



NFWF

New England Forests and Rivers Fund

Applicant Webinar, May 12, 2022

Eastern Brook Trout

Webinar Instructions

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

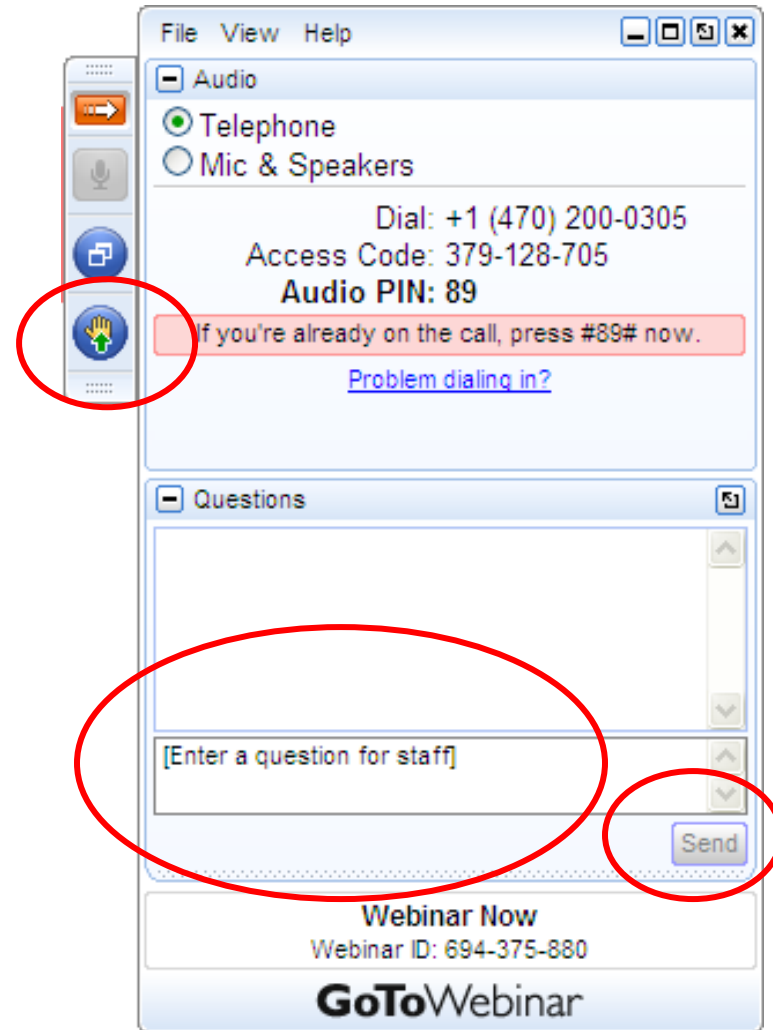
QUESTIONS?

- ✓ 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/newengland



AGENDA

- 1. Staff Roles**
- 2. About NFWF**
- 3. Overview of Program History and Outcomes**
- 4. 2022 Program Overview and Funding**
- 5. Process and Review of Request for Proposals**
- 6. Metrics**
- 7. Using EasyGrants**
- 8. Final Tips**

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

- Chartered by Congress in 1984
- Independent 501(c)(3) organization
- 30 member Board appointed by Secretary of the Interior
 - Includes FWS Director and NOAA Administrator

What We Do

- Sustain, restore and enhance wildlife
- Bring collaboration among federal agencies and private sector

How We Do It

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



Bald eagle

NFWF is

- An implementer – we fund projects

NFWF is not

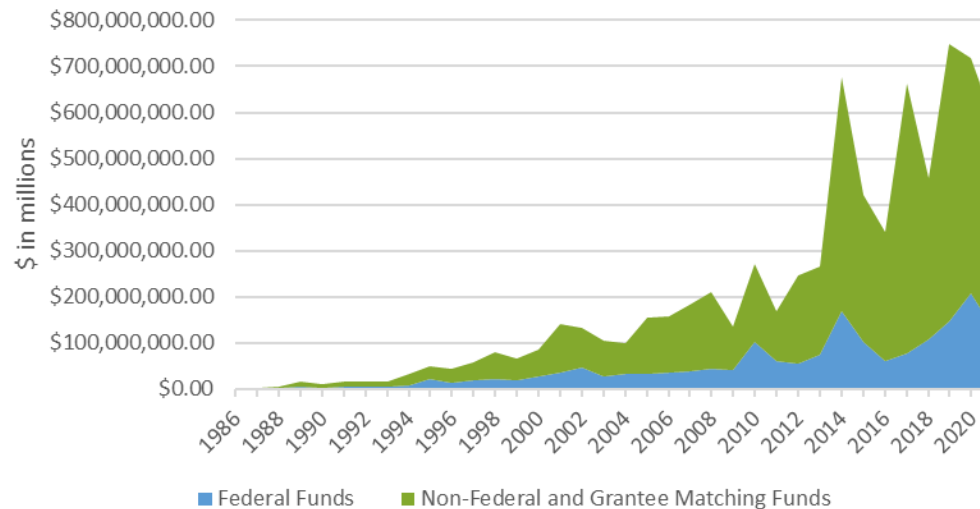
- An advocacy organization that engages in lobbying or litigation



Our Results

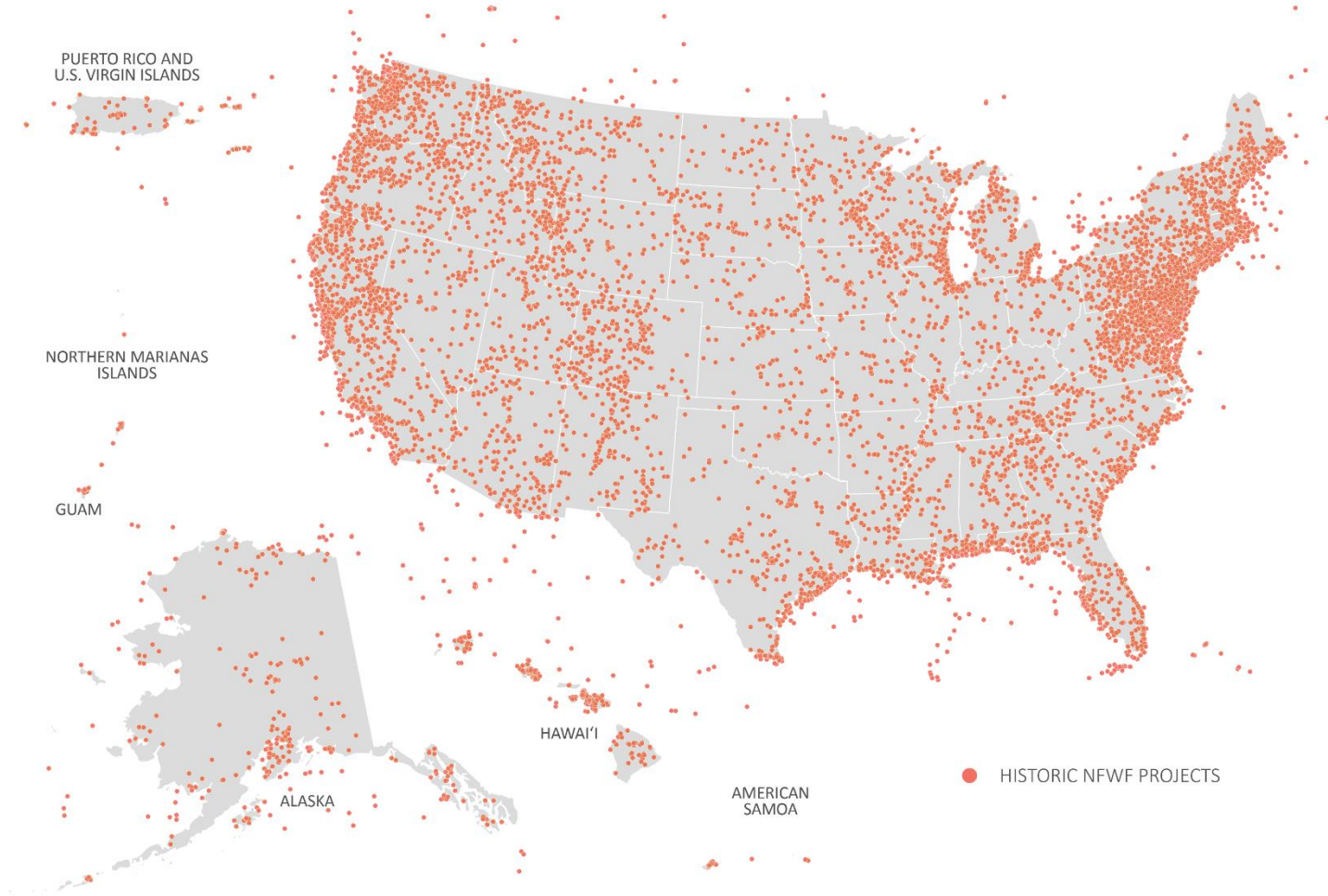
Overview of NFWF Funds Invested

	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 1984 – FY 2021
Federal Funds	\$ 212.1 million	\$ 148. million 5	\$ 1.78 billion
Non-Federal Funds	\$ 186.4 million	\$ 165. million 8	\$ 2.38 billion
Grantee Matching Funds	\$ 303.1 million	\$ 301. million 3	\$ 3.22 billion
Total Funds Invested	\$ 701.6 million	\$ 615. million 6	\$ 7.38 billion
# of Projects Awarded	953	701	20,422



**NFWF
Conservation
Investments
FY 1984 – FY 2021**

NFWF Conservation Investments (1984 – 2021)



- 20,422 Investments
- 6,000+ organizations
- All 50 states



3. Program History and Outcomes

- *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 \$10.3 million in grant funds have been awarded to 85 projects, including:
 - \$7.6 million from our federal partners, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service and U.S Forest Service
 - \$2.7 million from our private partners, including Eversource, Avangrid Foundation and the American Forest Foundation



Conservation Impact: 2015-2021



Program Outcomes:

- ✓ Re-connect 1,270 miles of stream for eastern brook trout, river herring and Atlantic salmon
- ✓ Remove or replace 167 barriers to fish passage
- ✓ Restore 12,575 acres of young and mature forest habitat
- ✓ Restore 81 miles of riparian forest buffer
- ✓ Engage over 2,400 volunteers in hands-on conservation



4. 2022 Program Overview

- ✓ Grants between \$50k and \$500k 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, tribes, and educational institutions are eligible



Application, Review and Award Process

February-March: RFP development and issuance



July: Grant proposals due



Mid-July to Late-August: Technical Review

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



Mid-September to Mid-October: Notifications

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



November: Grant awards announced

2022 Funding Available

Approximately \$2.3 million available

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



5. 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
- Accelerate adoption of **conservation practices on agricultural lands** particularly livestock operations
- Targeted **riparian and stream restoration**
- Reduce **barriers to fish passage** and increase fish access to high quality habitat

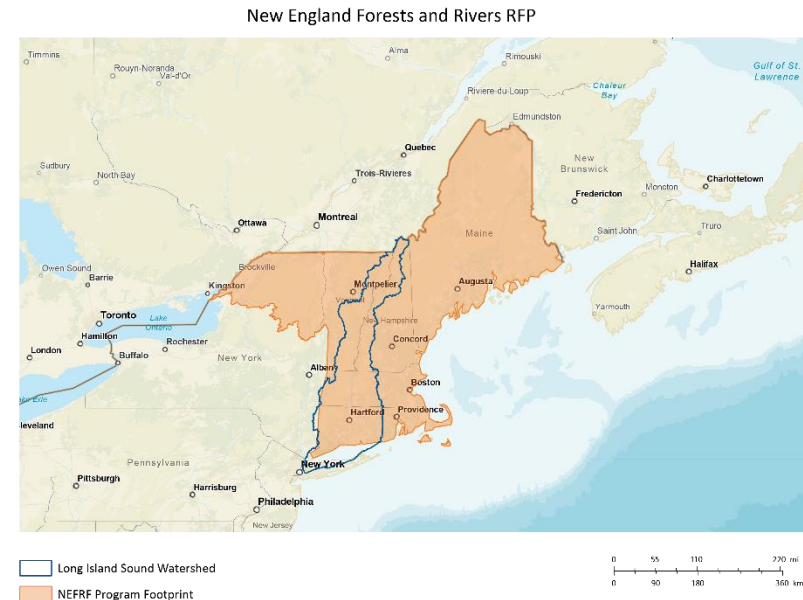


Geographic Focus

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

NOTE:

Applicants seeking funding for fish passage projects in Connecticut and/or water quality projects that benefit Long Island Sound are strongly encouraged to apply to the Long Island Sound Futures Fund (LISFF) rather than NEFRF. LISFF has significantly more funding available. LISFF proposals are due May 19, 2022.



2022 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

- ✓ Planning
- ✓ Forest Block Restoration
- ✓ Outreach and Technical Assistance

Signage to explain the work being done is encouraged!

2. Restore Aquatic Ecosystems

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

- ✓ Restore connectivity
- ✓ Restore riparian and in-stream habitat, water quality
- ✓ Improve conservation on agricultural lands
- ✓ **Special opportunity** – The Bezos Earth Fund is funding restoration of riparian forest buffers

6. Metrics

Priority: Restore and Manage Forest Blocks	Planning	NEFR - Tool development for decision-making - # tools developed
		NEFR - Forest Management Planning - # of acres covered by dynamic forest plans
	Forest Block Restoration	NEFR – Improved management practices – Acres under improved management
	Outreach and Technical Assistance	NEFR – Outreach/Education/Technical Assistance - # people reached
		NEFR – Outreach/Education/Technical Assistance - # people with changed behavior

Metrics (continued)

Priority: Restore Aquatic Ecosystems	Restore Connectivity	NEFR - Fish passage improvements - # passage barriers rectified
		NEFR – Fish passage improvements - # miles of stream opened
		NEFR - Fish passage improvements - Acres of lake/pond opened
	Restore Riparian Habitat and In-stream Habitat	NEFR – Land, wetland restoration- # of trees planted
		NEFR - Riparian restoration - Miles restored
		NEFR - Instream restoration - Miles restored
		NEFR - Wetland restoration - Acres restored

Metrics (continued)

Restore Aquatic Ecosystems, cont.	Improve Conservation on Agricultural Lands	NEFR - Improved management practices - Acres with managed grazing
		NEFR - BMP implementation for livestock manure - Tons of manure
		NEFR - BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction - Acres with conservation tillage
		NEFR - BMP implementation for livestock fencing - Miles of fencing installed
		NEFR - BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction - Acres with cover crops
		NEFR - BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction - Acres with enhanced nutrient mgt
		NEFR - Land restoration – Acres of field buffers created
		NEFR – Number of people reached
		NEFR–Outreach/Education/Technical Assistance - # of people with changed behavior

Metrics (continued)

Other Activities	Restore Pollinator Habitat	NEFR – Land Restoration – Acres restored
	Land Protection	NEFR - Conservation easements - Acres protected under easement
		NEFR - Land acquisitions - Acres acquired in fee
	Tree Planting	NEFR – Land, wetland restoration- # of trees planted
	Conduct Native Trout Inventory and Assessments	NEFR - Eastern Brook Trout - Research - # sites assessed
	Monitor Native Trout and River Herring	NEFR – Monitoring – Miles being monitored
	Wildlife population monitoring	NEFR - Acres monitored
	Engaging volunteers in restoration activities	NEFR – Volunteer Participation -# volunteers participating
	Research	NEFR - # studies completed whose findings are used to adapt management/ inform management decisions
		NEFR - Management or Governance Planning - # plans developed with input from multiple stakeholders

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**
- ✓ **Partnership and Community Impact**
- ✓ **Cost Effectiveness**
- ✓ **Monitoring**
- ✓ **Long-term Sustainability**
- ✓ **Budget**
- ✓ **Matching Contributions**

Compliance

- ✓ **2022 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 -	4/11/22
Applicant Webinar -	Today
Proposals Due -	7/14 @ 11:59 pm
Review Period -	July – September
Awards Announced -	Mid-November

Cycle will repeat in 2023!

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.

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**.

How to Apply in Easygrants

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Log In

[New User?](#)

☐ Remember Me

[Forgot Password?](#)

For the optimal Easygrants experience, please:

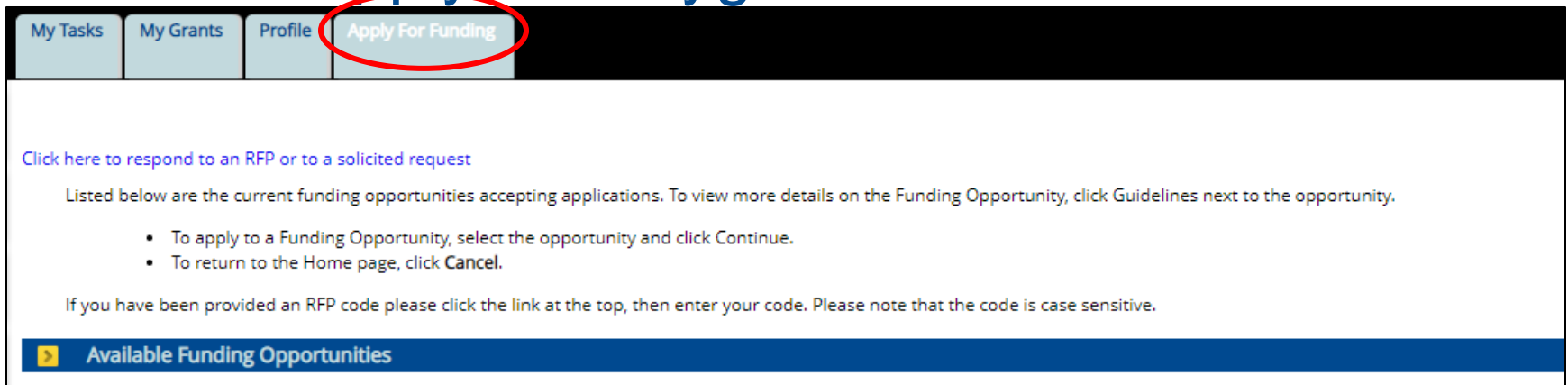
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Register

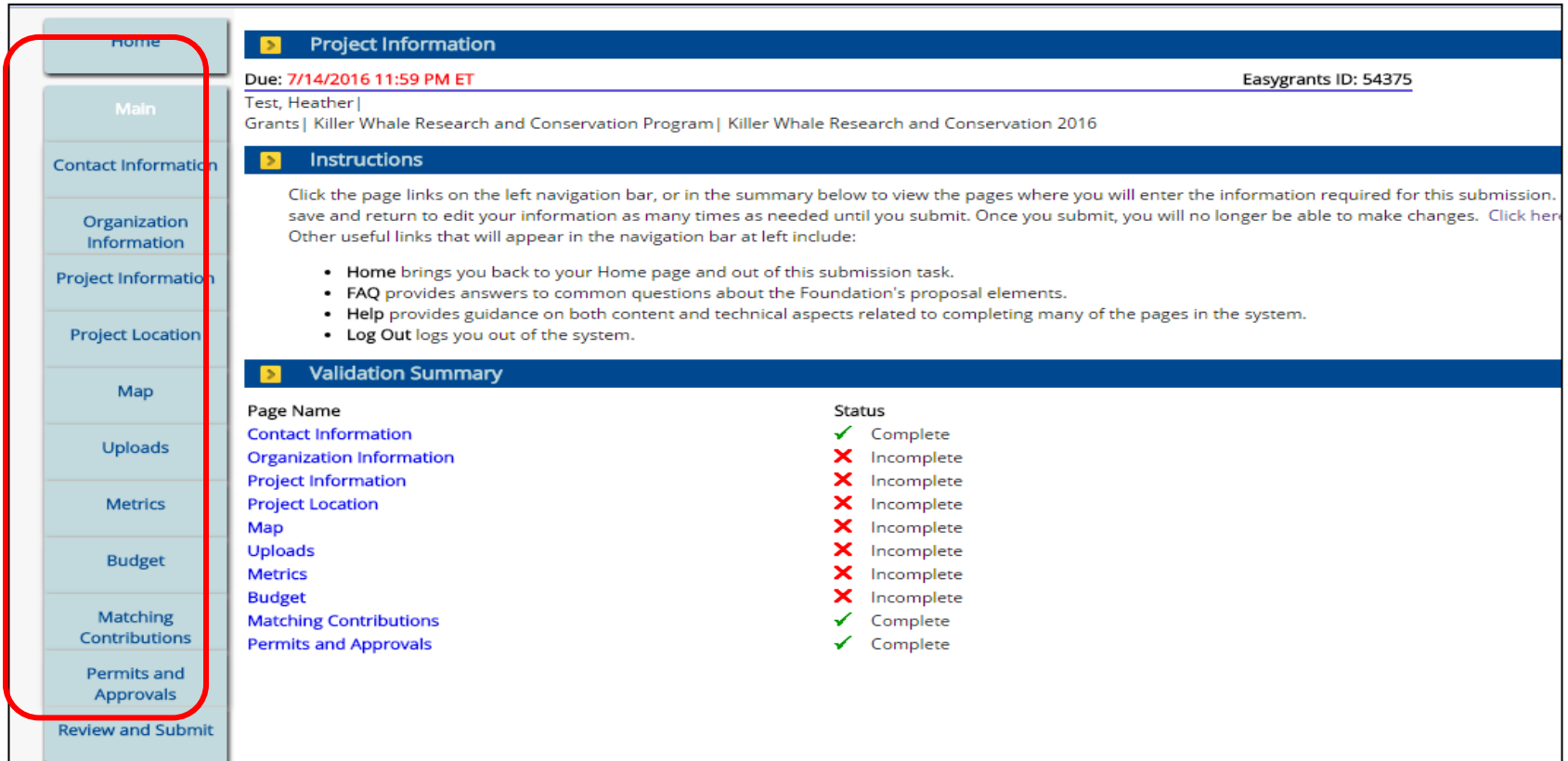
How to Apply in Easygrants



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

Choose the Funding Opportunity you’re applying to.

How to Apply in Easygrants



Project Information

Due: 7/14/2016 11:59 PM ET Easygrants ID: 54375

Test, Heather |
Grants | Killer Whale Research and Conservation Program | Killer Whale Research and Conservation 2016

Instructions

Click the page links on the left navigation bar, or in the summary below to view the pages where you will enter the information required for this submission. save and return to edit your information as many times as needed until you submit. Once you submit, you will no longer be able to make changes. Click here

Other useful links that will appear in the navigation bar at left include:

- **Home** brings you back to your Home page and out of this submission task.
- **FAQ** provides answers to common questions about the Foundation's proposal elements.
- **Help** provides guidance on both content and technical aspects related to completing many of the pages in the system.
- **Log Out** logs you out of the system.

Validation Summary

Page Name	Status
Contact Information	✓ Complete
Organization Information	✗ Incomplete
Project Information	✗ Incomplete
Project Location	✗ Incomplete
Map	✗ Incomplete
Uploads	✗ Incomplete
Metrics	✗ Incomplete
Budget	✗ Incomplete
Matching Contributions	✓ Complete
Permits and Approvals	✓ Complete

8. 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 July 14th.
6. Note that NFWF staff will not be answering phones and e-mail at 11:59 pm on July 14th!

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

***Thursday, July 14, 2022 by
11:59 PM Eastern Time***

**Awards will be announced
in mid-November**

