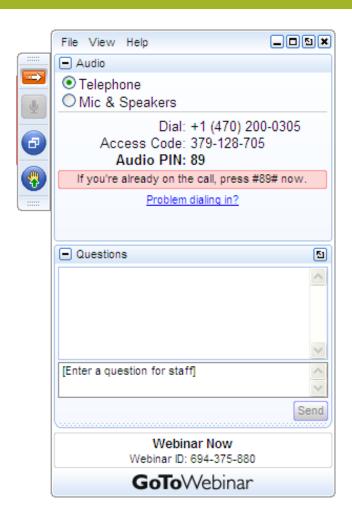
Southeast Aquatics Fund 2022 Applicant Webinar



WEBINAR INSTRUCTIONS

- We may ask you to raise your "hand" in the webinar dialogue box to confirm participants can hear us.
- To improve sound quality, all participants will be muted for the duration of the webinar. If you want to ask a question you have two options:
 - 1. Enter your query where it says "Enter a question for staff" and click send. We will type a response or read your question aloud when we pause for Q&A.
 - 2. Write it down and contact us after the webinar. We have a lot of material to cover, so you may prefer to have a more in-depth discussion later.
- If you experience a technical glitch, please type it into the question box, since we can't hear you. (We may not know about the glitch unless you say something!)

The webinar will be available for download within 48 hours at https://www.nfwf.org/programs/southeast-aquatics



AGENDA

- 2022 Southeast Aquatics Fund RFP Overview
 - Program Overview
 - Geographic Focus
 - Program Priorities
 - Project Metrics
 - Eligibility
 - Funding Availability and Match
 - Evaluation Criteria
 - Timeline
- How to Apply in Easygrants
- Questions?



YOUR NFWF CONTACTS



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Program Overview

What is the SOUTHEAST AQUATICS FUND?

A competitive grant program that...

- Supports watershed-based restoration and management projects
- Improves health of aquatic systems to secure populations of native freshwater aquatic species in the southeastern US

Funded through a public-private partnership between ...













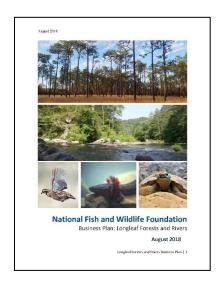
Mussel reintroduction
Photo by Gary Peeples/USFWS



Geographic Focus

In 2022, proposals will be considered from four geographies aligned with NFWF's strategic priorities:

- 1. The Alabama and Mobile-Tombigbee River Basins (specific watersheds)
- 2. The Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) River Basin
- 3. <u>Neuse-Pamlico, Cape Fear and Pee Dee River Basins: Improved Soil Health on Working Lands</u>
- 4. Florida River Basins: Improved Grazing Lands Management



The first two are driven by goals set in NFWF's Longleaf Forest and Rivers Business Plan, which outlines NFWF's goals and strategies for freshwater habitat restoration and enhancement in this landscape.

Download plan here:

https://www.nfwf.org/sites/default/files/longleaf/Documents/longleaf-forests-rivers-business-plan.pdf

Geographic Focus

1) The Alabama and Mobile-Tombigbee River Basins

Projects will be considered within the three Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 8 watersheds listed below. Priority will be given to projects within specific tributary watersheds benefitting focal species:

- Conasauga (priority tributary: Holly Creek)
 - Focal species: Bridled and trispot darter; Villosa mussels (Alabama rainbow, Coosa creekshell)
- Locust Fork
 - o Focal species: Black Warrior waterdog; flattened musk turtle
- Middle Coosa (priority tributary: Big Canoe Creek)
 - Focal species: Trispot darter

2) The Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) River Basin

Projects will be considered that support sufficient water flows for native freshwater species, with particular interest in projects associated with agricultural lands.



Southeast Aquatics Fund Geographic Focal Areas 1 & 2



Geographic Focus

3) Neuse-Pamlico, Cape Fear and Pee Dee River Basins: Improved Soil Health on Working Lands

Projects will be considered that provide technical assistance and/or financial cost-share assistance to support improved soil health practices on agricultural lands that advance watershed health.

4) Florida River Basins: Improved Grazing Lands Management

Projects will be considered that provide financial cost-share assistance for prescribed/rotational grazing and associated practices. Projects may include needed technical assistance and outreach to increase access to and implementation of Farm Bill programs that support effective grazing lands management.



Southeast Aquatics Fund Geographic Focal Area 3



Southeast Aquatics Fund Geographic Focal Area 4



What are the program's funding priorities?

- 1. Provide Technical Assistance and Outreach
- 2. Agricultural and Forestry Best Management Practices
- 3. Restore and Enhance Riparian and In-stream Habitat
- **4. Improve Stream Crossings**
- 5. Assessment, Prioritization and Planning
- 6. Monitoring



C. caerul and E. trisella Photo by GA DNR staff



All Geographic Focal Areas:

1. Provide Technical Assistance and Outreach

- > Support capacity to conduct outreach and provide technical assistance to private landowners to increase awareness of conservation need, appropriate practices and available cost-share programs that benefit watershed health.
 - Interest in increasing Farm Bill program participation and conservation practice implementation among agricultural producers, especially farmers and ranchers in the Historically Underserved and Special Emphasis categories.
 - Projects within the Neuse-Pamlico, Cape Fear and Pee Dee River Basins: Improved Soil Health on Working Lands Focal Area should be focused on providing technical assistance and outreach to increase access to and implementation of Farm Bill and other cost-share programs that support improved soil health practices.
 - ➤ Projects within the Florida River Basins: Improved Grazing Lands Management Focal Area should be focused on providing technical assistance and outreach to fill existing gaps and increase access to and implementation of Farm Bill and other cost-share programs that support effective grazing lands management.



2. Agricultural and Forestry Best Management Practices

- > Support agricultural and forestry conservation practices that reduce nutrient and sediment runoff from the land and conserve water where assistance is needed in addition to or outside of available Farm Bill and other cost-share programs.
 - Projects within the Neuse-Pamlico, Cape Fear and Pee Dee River Basins: Improved Soil Health on Working Lands Focal Area should be focused on providing additional financial cost-share assistance to implement soil health conservation practices.
 - Ex. practices: increased adoption of conservation cover, cover crops, reduced tillage, diversified crop rotations.
 - ➤ Projects within the Florida River Basins: Improved Grazing Lands Management Focal Area should be focused on providing additional financial cost-share assistance to implement prescribed/rotational grazing and associated practices on grazing lands.
 - Ex. practices: prescribed grazing, fence/pipeline/trough improvements, brush management, herbaceous weed treatment, pasture/range planting, etc.

Alabama, Mobile-Tombigbee and ACF River Basin Focal Areas:

3. Restore and Enhance Riparian and In-stream Habitat

Restore wetland, streambank, and instream habitat in prioritized areas of a watershed otherwise not addressed through agricultural or forestry best management practices.

4. Improve Stream Crossings

➤ Restore connectivity for fish passage and reduce sedimentation by removing or retrofitting stream barriers and stream crossings.

5. Assessment, Prioritization and Planning

Support the assessment of barriers and crossings within a watershed in order to identify which should receive highest priority for removal or retrofitting based on benefits to target species.



Photo by Matt Winter/NFWF

Alabama and Mobile-Tombigbee River Basin Focal Areas:

6. Monitoring

Conduct monitoring to understand population status and habitat conditions for bridled and trispot darter, *Villosa* mussels (Alabama rainbow, Coosa creekshell), Black Warrior waterdog and flattened musk turtle within the Conasauga, Locust Fork and Middle Coosa watersheds.



Project Metrics

Project Activity	Recommended Metric (as listed in Easygrants)	Additional Guidance
Habitat Management- Improved management practices	Acres under improved management	Enter the <u>total</u> number of acres under improved management through implementation of all agricultural and forestry conservation practices proposed through the project. Only count an acre once, even if multiple activities or treatments will occur on that acre during the project. Please include in the notes the specific practices to be implemented. <u>Practice-specific metrics below should also be selected</u> , as appropriate. If project will be restoring riparian habitat, please use instead the "Miles restored" metric.
Habitat Management - 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.
Habitat Management - 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.
Habitat Management - 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.
Habitat Management- Improved management practices	Acres with managed grazing	Enter the number of acres with managed grazing (i.e., grazing approaches to optimize stocking rates, livestock rotations, utilization rates, and plant rest and recovery, including development of grazing infrastructure). In the Notes, describe the practice.
Habitat Management- Improved management practices (FL only)	Acres managed to treat invasive plants	(FL only) Enter the number of acres managed to treat invasive plants. In the NOTES, specify: vegetation removed (Shrubs, Kudzu/vines, Grasses/forbs), desired dominant vegetation (Shrub, Grass), average frequency (in years) of future treatment, and whether removed vegetation will be left on site to decompose (Yes/No).
Habitat Management- BMP implementation for prescribed burns (FL only)	Acres burned	(FL only) Enter # acres with prescribed burning. In the NOTES, specify average frequency (in yrs) for future burning and dominant vegetation burned (shrubland, grassland, cropland).
Habitat Management- BMP implementation for fencing improvements	Miles of fencing improved or installed	Enter the number of miles of fencing improved or fencing installed to exclude livestock from streams or rivers. In the notes, indicate how many miles of the total are improved and how many were installed.

Project Metrics

Riparian habitat restoration	Miles restored	Enter the number of miles from this project for which riparian habitat quality has been restored, such as riparian buffer restoration, to support/increase target species presence. In the NOTES section, specify the landcover type prior to planting (barren, cropland, grassland), and the dominant vegetation being planted (Broadleaf, Conifer, Shrub, Grass, Marsh, Wet meadow, Swamp). If doing riparian buffers, note the average buffer width.
Stream restoration	Miles restored	Enter the total miles of stream restored through erosion control, streambank stabilization, and/or stream channel modification. Do not duplicate stream miles that have more than one restoration activity.
Technical Assistance and Outreach	# people reached	Enter the number # of landowners or producers anticipated to be reached by outreach, training and/or technical assistance activities. If the target value includes landowners reached through more than one activity, please break out the # of landowners for specific activities in the notes section.
Technical Assistance and Outreach	# participants receiving gov't agency cost share or financial assistance	Enter the number of participants enrolled in government cost share or financial assistance programs. In the NOTES section, specify which program(s) (e.g., NRCS EQIP).
Technical Assistance and Outreach	Dollar value of government agency cost share or financial assistance	Enter the dollar value of federal, state, or local government agency cost share or financial assistance. In the NOTES section, specify which program(s) (e.g., NRCS EQIP).
Technical Assistance and Outreach	Acres covered by government agency cost share or financial assistance	Enter the number of acres enrolled in government agency cost share or financial assistance. In the NOTES section, specify which program(s) (e.g., NRCS EQIP). If applicable, number should be equal to or less than "Acres under improved management" metric.
Technical Assistance and Outreach - BMP development	# mgmt plans with BMPs	Enter the number of agricultural or forest management plans developed that incorporate Best Management Practices (BMPs).
Fish passage improvements	# passage barriers rectified	Enter the number of fish passage barriers rectified. In the notes section of this metric please indicate what type of barrier is being removed (e.g., culvert).
Fish passage improvements	Miles of stream opened	Enter the number of stream miles opened as a result of the removal or retrofit of stream barriers.
Assessment, Prioritization and Planning - Research	# studies used to inform mgmt	Enter the number of barrier assessments completed whose findings will be used to inform and/or prioritize management decisions within a watershed.
Monitoring	# sites being monitored	Enter the number of streams/sites being monitored, and in the notes section indicate which priority species are being monitored (bridled and trispot darter, Alabama rainbow, Coosa creekshell, Black Warrior waterdog and flattened musk turtle).

Eligibility

Eligible and Ineligible Entities

Eligible applicants include:

non-profit 501(c) organizations, U.S. Federal government agencies, state government agencies, local governments, municipal governments, Tribal Governments and Organizations and educational institutions.

Ineligible applicants include:

businesses, unincorporated individuals and international organizations.



Eligibility

Ineligible Use of Grant 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.



Funding Availability and Match

• Funding Availability: Approx. \$2 million

• **Typical Grant Award Range**: \$150,000 - \$350,000

• **Grant Period:** 24 – 36 months

• Matching Contributions Requirement: At least 1:1 match ratio of non-federal cash

or in-kind services (contact NFWF if less

than 1:1)



Evaluation Criteria

All proposals will be screened for relevance, accuracy, completeness and compliance with NFWF and funding source policies. Proposals will then be evaluated based on the extent to which they meet the following criteria:

- Program Goals and Priorities
- Conservation Plan and Context
- •NRCS Alignment
- Technical Merit
- Cost-Effectiveness
- Transferability

- Communication
- Funding Need
- Monitoring
- Long-term Sustainability
- Past Success
- Partnership and Community Impact



Timeline

Dates of activities are subject to change. Please check the program page of the NFWF website for the most current dates and information.

Applicant Webinar Tuesday, June 14, 2022, 2:00 - 3:00 pm ET

Full Proposal Due DateTuesday, July 26, 2022, 11:59 pm ET

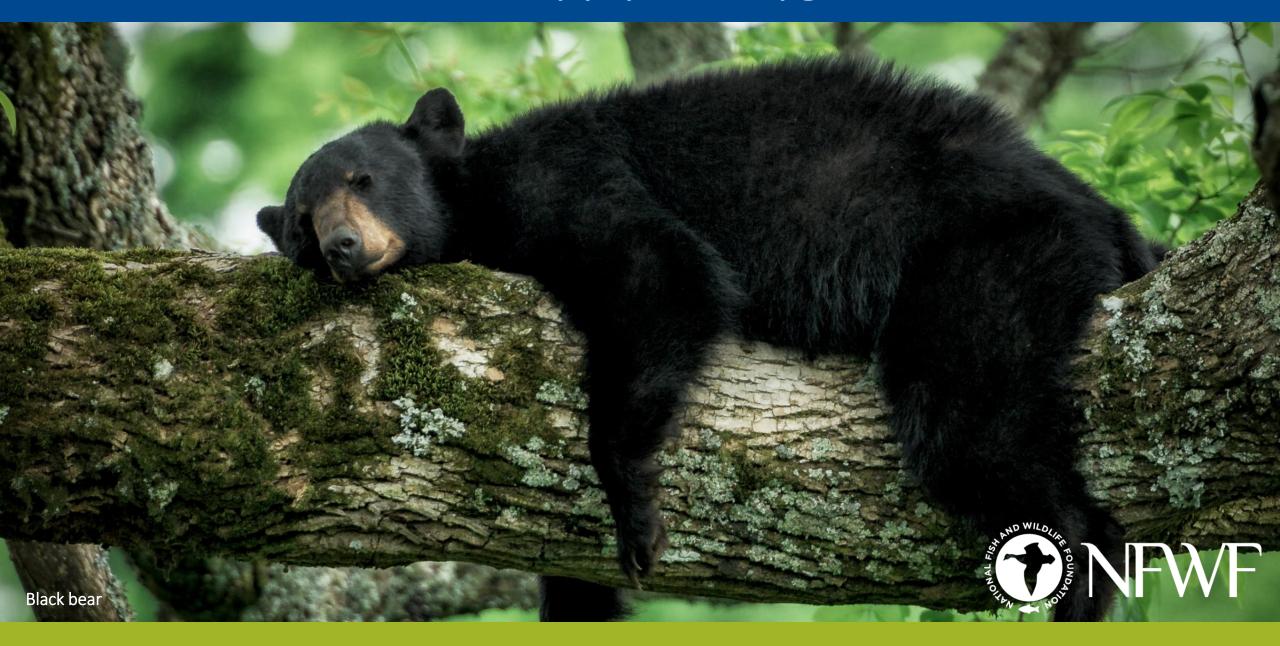
Review Period July- October 2022

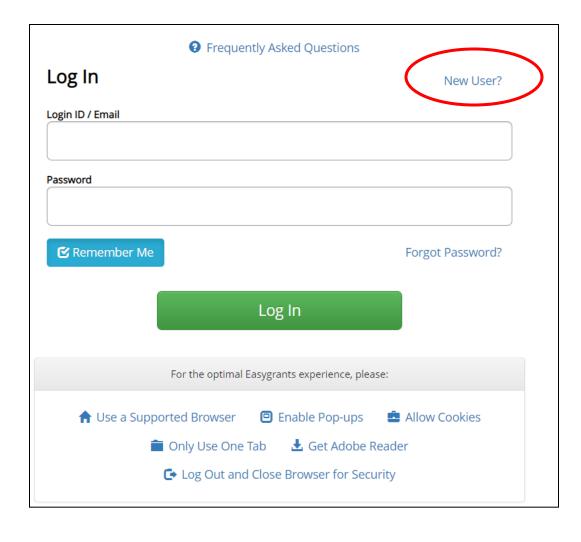
Awards Announced November 2022

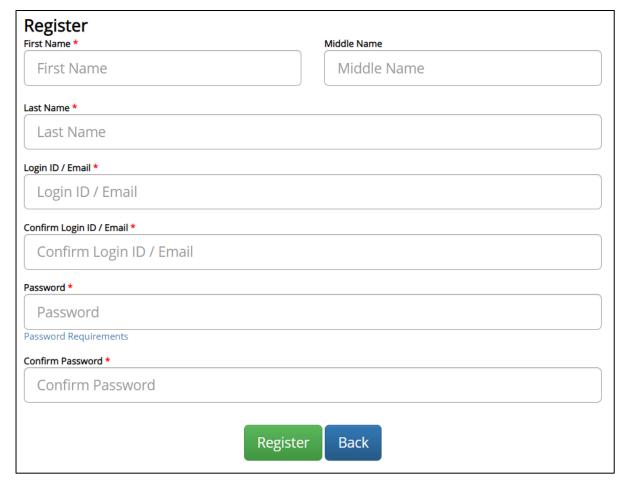
Request for Proposals:

http://www.nfwf.org/programs/southeast-aquatics











Click here to respond to an RFP or to a solicited request

Listed below are the current funding opportunities accepting applications. To view more details on the Funding Opportunity, click Guidelines next to the opportunity.

- . To apply to a Funding Opportunity, select the opportunity and click Continue.
- · To return to the Home page, click Cancel.

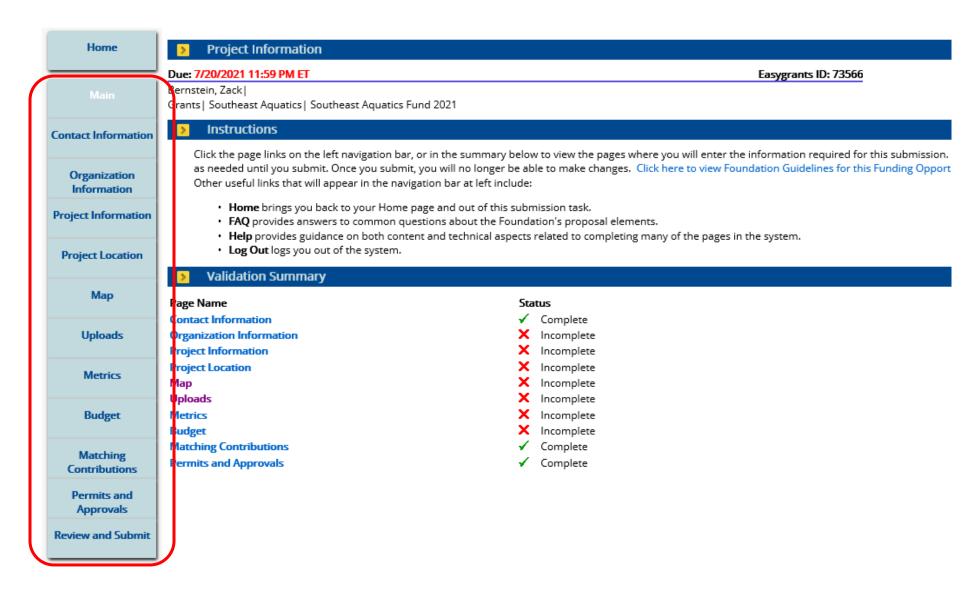
If you have been provided an RFP code please click the link at the top, then enter your code. Please note that the code is case sensitive.

Available Funding Opportunities

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

Choose the Funding Opportunity you're applying to.





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 (November 2022) and end within <u>three years</u> of the start date.

Description: Two sentences about primary project activities, location, outcome/metrics and relevance to conservation. (<500 characters)

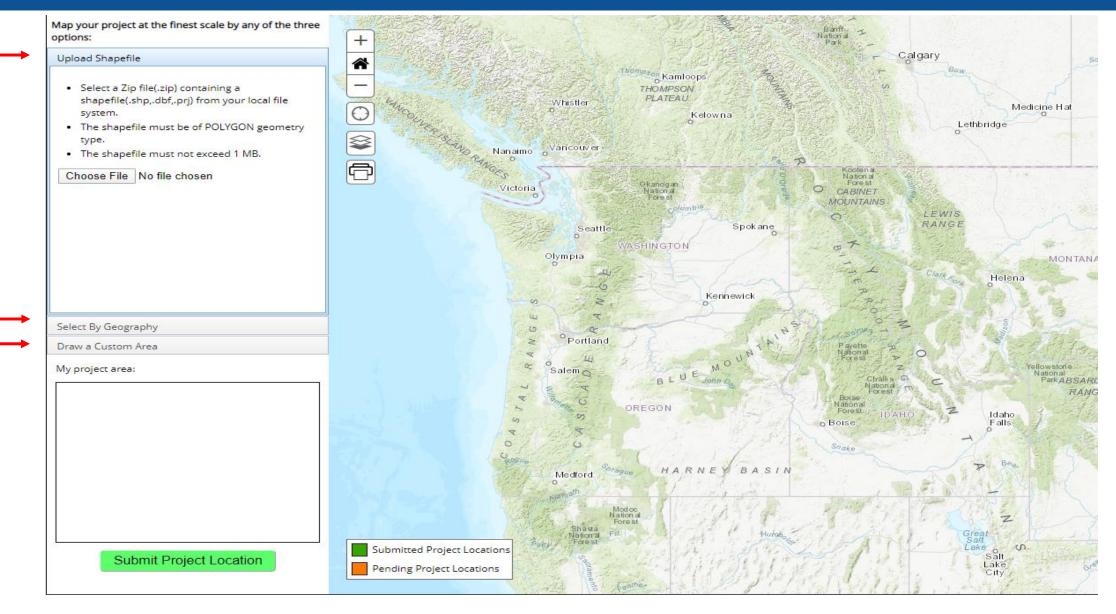
- Clearly state the main activity and the method being used
- Address a specific habitat, location or species benefitted

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



Map





I confirm that this project has been mapped as accurately as possible

Save and Continue

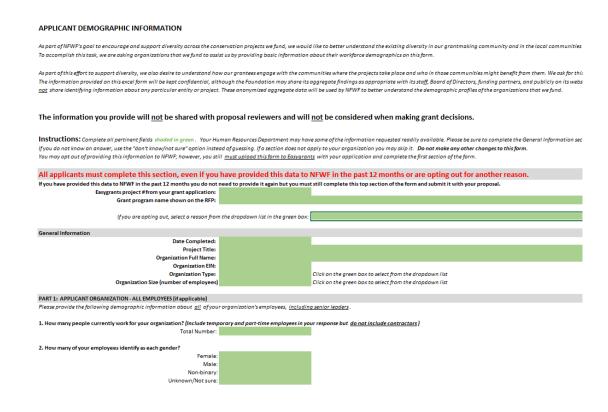
Uploads

Upload Checklist Upload Type Required Template Full Proposal Narrative (DEI) Yes Full Proposal Narrative Template (DEI) Project Map Yes Letters of Support No Photos - Jpeg Yes Statement of Litigation Statement of Litigation Yes Board of Trustees, Directors, or Yes equivalent Applicant Controls Questionnaire Applicant Controls Questionnaire Yes Template Applicant Demographic Information Yes Applicant Demographic Information Form Form GAAP audited financial statements Yes Yes IRS Form 990 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.





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.
- Outcome(s): Elaborate on the outcome(s) summarized previously in the application; discuss what makes this outcome(s) achievable and important.
- 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.
- **Project Team:** List key individuals and describe their qualifications relevant for project implementation. Include contractor information, if known.
- Other (Optional): Provide any further information important for the review of this proposal

Most Competitive Narrative Elements:

- Program Goals and Priorities
- Technical Merit
- Partnership
- Transferability
- Communication
- Funding Need
- Conservation Plan and Context
- Monitoring
- Long-termSustainability
- Past Success
- Key Personnel



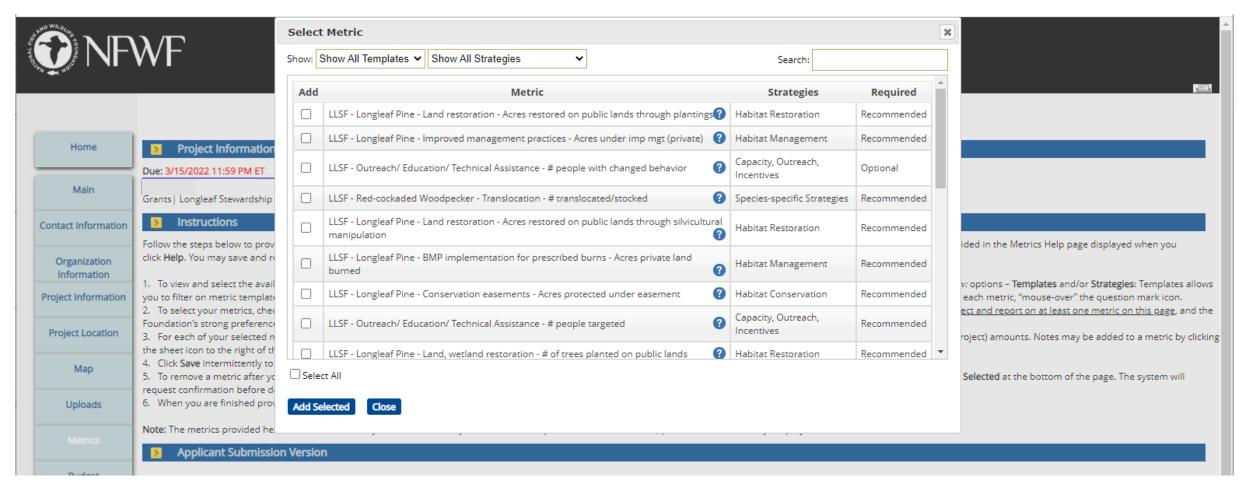
Narrative- Community Impact

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
 - EPA's Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool (EJSCREEN)
 - other sources
 - Reach out to us if you need help finding this data



Metrics

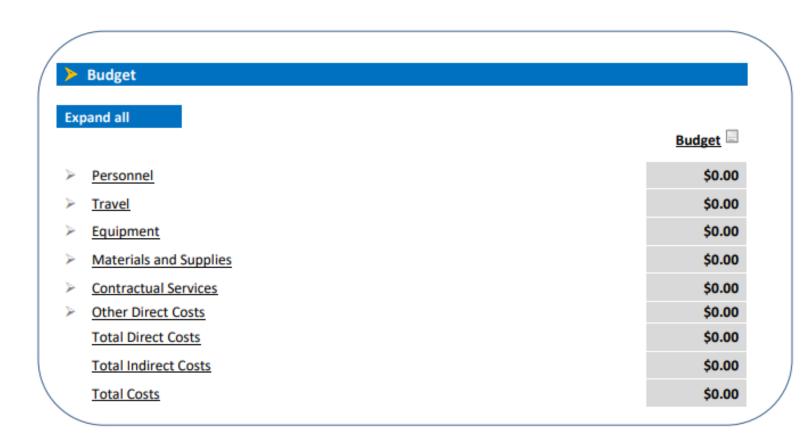


A list of available metrics is included in the request for proposals

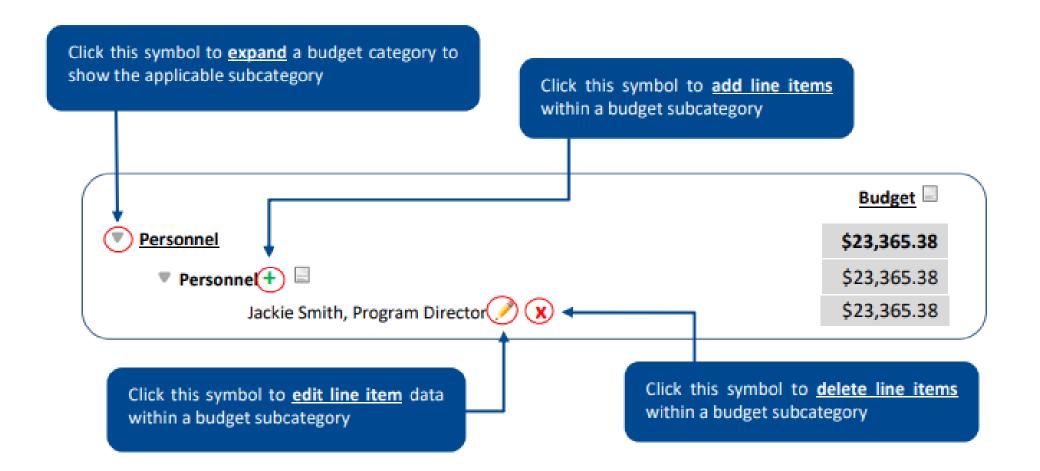


Budget

- 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



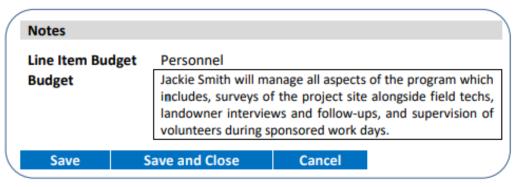
Detailed Budget Instructions: Adding/Editing Narratives

- 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:



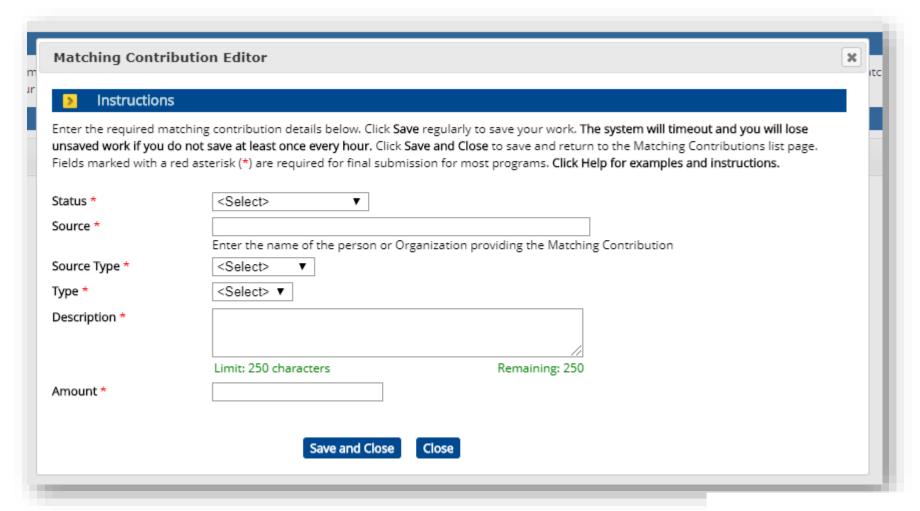
Detailed Budget Instructions

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

Collapse a

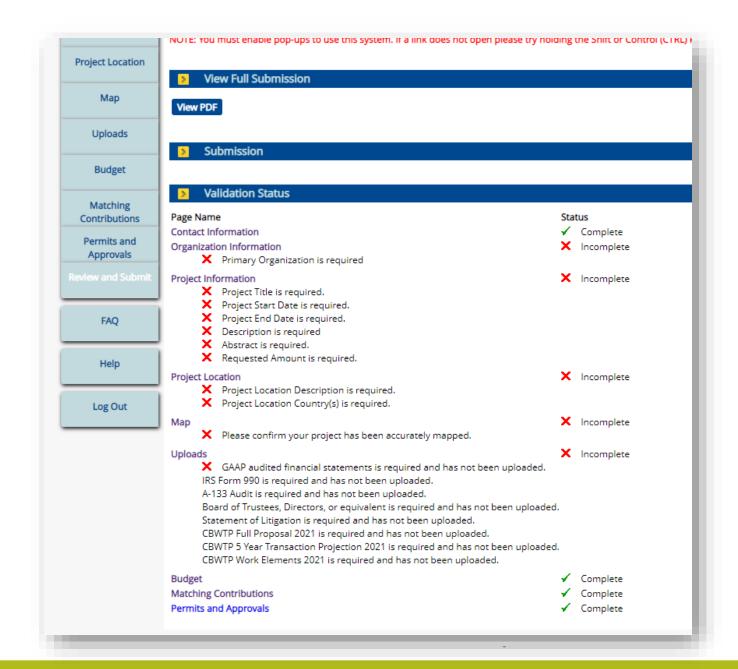
	Budget
> Personnel	\$23,365.38
Personnel	\$23,365.38
Jackie Smith, Program Manager	\$23,365.38
> Travel	\$512.00
Domestic Airfare	\$0.00
International Airfare	\$0.00
Train- Per Ticket	\$150.00
Two Round Trip Tickets to Project Site	\$150.00
Rental Car- Per Day	\$0.00
Taxis – Per Trip	\$0.00
Mileage – 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	
Total Costs	

Matching Contributions



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.



WRAP UP



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Full Proposal Due Date Review Period Awards Announced Tuesday, July 26th, 2022 Eastern Time July - October 2022 November 2022