

Bats for the Future Fund 2023

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

This FAQ list will be periodically updated as new questions arise and will be posted on the NFWF Bats for the Future Fund website at nfwf.org/bats.

Listed Species or Not-Listed

1) Q: Is the focus of the BFF on listed species or species not listed? *A: The focus of a project may be on either listed or not listed species affected by WNS. Identification of tools and techniques which prevent further listing by addressing the disease is definitely of great value in BFF. It is important to understand that work with listed species (Federal, State, and Provincial) requires researchers to secure all necessary permits for such work. Required permits and approvals must also be secured for work non-listed species, when appropriate, e.g. for access to non-listed species that inhabit the same sites as listed species.*

Project Ideas fit to BFF RFP?

1) Q: What is the fit of a proposal to BFF which aims to test the effectiveness of a mitigation measure (i.e., fungicides, other mechanisms) to prevent human-induced propagation of *Pd* in touristic hibernacula? *A: BFF allows for the submission of proposals that “prevent or limit the exposure of bat populations to the disease,” which may include the kind of project described. As long as the work being proposed can honestly and effectively be tied to all or part of the priorities as identified in the BFF RFP, it can meet that requirement.*

2) Q: Should we apply to BFF or the USFWS White Nose Syndrome Research program? *A: Applicants should read carefully the priorities of individual funding opportunities to determine the best fit for the proposed actions. Although grant review personnel may be aware of applications to both programs, the decisions will be made independently for proposals that best meet the stated priorities for each program.*

3) Q: May a similar project be proposed to both entities? *A: Each referenced program has a separate administrative process, Request for Proposals and associated priorities as well as evaluation criteria and review team. We cannot comment on whether a grant proposal is eligible for submission under another grant program.*

4) Q: Do we need to put in place the caveat that one award would be declined if both grants were received? *A: You would need to notify BFF if you decide to decline the BFF grant at the time that decision is made.*



5) Q: Could we be funded for both? *A: BFF has no direct input into or role in the decisions made under another grant program.*

6) Q: What kind of coordination will there be (if any) between Bats for the Future Fund and the White Nose Syndrome Research program? *A: Each program has different evaluation criteria, and a separate review process, and team.*

Match

1) Q: Can salary be used as a matching contribution on the Bats for the Future Fund proposal application? The position is funded by donations. *A: Yes, as long as it fits within the provisions for matching contributions...*

- *Match does not have to be in-hand at the time of application but if you receive a grant you will be required to report on the match amount from the proposal by the end date of the BFF project grant.*
- *Match may be federal or nonfederal; and/or cash or in-kind*
- *All match must be:*
 - *Raised and dedicated specifically for the project*
 - *Spent between project start & end dates designated in the grant application*
 - *Voluntary in nature (mitigation, restitution, or other permit, court-ordered settlements are ineligible)*
 - *Applied only to the NFWF BFF grant and not to any other federal matching programs*

2) Q: Can faculty effort be used for match? *A: See response in #1.*

Required Documents and Narrative

1) Q: In the BFF tip sheet, in the Required Financial Documentation table shown on pages 3 and 4, the financial documents needed from applicant organizations are listed. Do you need documents from only to the lead organization or from subawardee (partner) organizations as well? *A: Only the lead organization submitting the proposal and who would be the grant recipient of record must submit the documents.*

2) Q: What is expected in a project narrative, other than that it must be 12 pages maximum. Are there any other rules or guidelines about what must be included, or about formatting, etc.? *A:*

- *The full proposal narrative template may be downloaded from Easygrants at any time. When completed, it must then be uploaded back into your Easygrants online application before an application may be submitted.*
- *As noted, the narrative may not exceed twelve (12) pages in total length. The questions in the narrative align with the evaluation criteria published in the BFF Request for Proposals.*



- Please also review the Tip Sheet at nfwf.org/bats. This document also describes other documents which may need to be uploaded as part of your proposal such as "Landowner Permission Letter," "Letters of Support," etc.

3) Q: For proposals addressing innovative management tools and treatment strategies, what would be an appropriate way to address Transferability/Communication? With a new and novel approach it is more difficult to know the costs and effort needed to implement such a "strategy" on a population level. A: Describe potential current audiences who may be engaged in the development of the project or future audiences you may engage in its further development, to peer review its methods, or who might be engaged in implementation and how you might engage them (publication? Poster sessions at scientific meetings? etc.)

Budget

1) Will the BFF support graduate student stipend or tuition? A: Stipends may be requested for student work on the project. Tuition reimbursement is not an acceptable budget item.

2) Q: Will the BFF partially fund projects? A: BFF aims to fully fund rather than partially fund grants because providing partial funding may affect scope of work and deliverables evaluated by the review team. Proposals will be evaluated based on cost-effectiveness, including but not limited to, an assessment of either or both direct and indirect costs in the proposed budget. The federal government has determined that a de minimis 10% indirect rate is an acceptable minimum for organizations without a NICRA, as such NFWF reserves the right to scrutinize ALL proposals with indirect rates above 10% for cost-effectiveness.

3) Q: Will a grant cover indirect costs? A: Please review the online "Budget" section of the application, and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Indirect Cost Policy for Applicants <http://www.nfwf.org/whatwedo/grants/applicants/Pages/indirect-policy.aspx> for more information. Please note that cost-effectiveness, including an assessment of both indirect and direct costs in the proposed budget, will be evaluated during the selection process.

4) Q: If a budget is deemed too high, will BFF reach out to the applicant to discuss a budget reduction or will the project be declined for funding? A: Projects will be reviewed based upon the BFF Evaluation Criteria, including: "Budget – Costs are allowable, reasonable, and budgeted in accordance with NFWF's Budget Instructions..." Cost-effectiveness will be considered as part of the evaluation criterion, with projects expected to balance performance risk and efficient use of funds for a cost-effective budget. The applicant is responsible for establishing the estimated budget.

Applicant Eligibility

1) Q: Are international entities eligible?

A: Applicant and grantee may be from outside U.S. The source of funds for BFF is from U.S. Federal conservation agencies and their partners. Projects and activities:

- Must have a clear tie to and benefit U.S. population(s) of bat species
- Must establish benefit of work back to the U.S.



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- *Must help with U.S. effort to address WNS in North America*
- *On the ground project sites must located in North America (Canada, Mexico, U.S.).*
- *In the case of laboratory work - labs may be outside North America (e.g., in locations other than U.S., Canada, Mexico). Lab work must provide management benefits to U.S. bats*

2) Q: When working in Easygrants who should register and submit the application the Office of Sponsored Research or the Principal Investigator? *A: The applicant of record must be a person authorized to submit the request for funding on behalf of an organization. This may be a Principal Investigator or another individual based upon organizational policies.*

Application Period for BFF

1) Q: Is it possible to extend the BFF application period beyond April 27, 2023? *A: The application period must end on Thursday, April 27, 2023 at 11:59pm eastern time. Our goal is to make award announcements in August 2023 to allow, where possible, project deployment before the upcoming winter hibernation season. If your project is not ready in time for BFF 2023, we encourage you to apply in the following year.*

Intellectual Property

1) Q: What are the intellectual property provisions for a research breakthrough or patent resulting from the funded project grant?

A: Information on this topic may be found in the Uniform Guidance regulation [2 CFR §200.315](#) and [37 CFR Part 401](#). Additionally, the Eligibility Quiz in the Easygrants online system asks applicants to agree that reports and deliverables associated with any potential Foundation award for your project be published on the Foundation website. NFWF also has the right to publish, share, etc. data but only after it is published by the grantee or used by a Federal agency to inform a Federal action.

Letters of Support/Letters of Permission

1) Q: How should the letters of support and letters of permission be prepared for projects on federal, state or private land? *A:*

- *Letters of support should be sought from partners providing concrete support to develop and deliver the project. For example, volunteer monitors, use of facilities would all be feasibility factors in whether a project could or could not be developed or delivered. A letter of support documenting that contribution would be important in terms of assessing the feasibility of project delivery. A letter of support can be a simple email affirming a commitment to the nature and form of the contributed service or activity.*
- *Letters of landowner permission are required. If you own or have management authority over a site upload on letterhead confirmation of that fact. Please go to the tips document on the BFF webpage nfwf.org/bats. It provides instructions on preparing letters of landowner permission.*

Proposal Evaluation and Feedback



1) Q: How will the review work in terms of rubric, scoring. Will information be provided about the composition of the review team? *A: The Evaluation Criteria can be found in the BFF Request for Proposals nfwf.org/bats. Reviewers will be subject matter experts with no direct or material role in development or delivery of any proposed project. If your proposal is not selected for funding, you may request feedback from BFF. We will provide a synthesis of reviewer feedback based upon the evaluation criteria.*

Request for Proposal Questions

1) Q: In the metrics table for the BFF RFP, BMP is mentioned several times – please define? *A: Best Management Practice is defined as the methods or techniques found to be the most effective and practical means in achieving an objective (such as preventing or minimizing pollution) while making the optimum use of resources.*

Regulatory Compliance

1) Q: US EPA regulation requires that antimicrobial pesticides must be registered before they can be used in field studies. US EPA registration process can be lengthy. Does BFF have an exemption from the referenced regulations? *A: Applicants must follow EPA's [Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act \(FIFRA\)](#) which includes EPA's FIFRA registration process. As mentioned in the RFP, proposals must show planning for, knowledge about and secure compliance with federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Feasibility regarding regulatory compliance, including permits, is a part of the review process. We encourage you to review the draft article [A Decision Support Tool for Determining Federal Regulatory Authority over Products for Vertebrate Animals](#) as it may provide additional information about the federal regulatory context for your project.*

For additional guidance and to begin work on securing all necessary permits and approvals, please refer to the NEPA, ESA, and NHPA documents found on the BFF webpage (nfwf.org/bats)