CHESAPEAKE BAY STEWARDSHIP FUND

SPRING 2023 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Full Proposal Due Date: ***Thursday, April 20, 2023, by 11:59pm Eastern Time***

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and the federal-state Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) partnership, is soliciting proposals through the Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund to protect and restore water quality and habitats of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributary rivers and streams.

NFWF is soliciting proposals under two distinct programs through this request. Through the **Small Watershed Grants (SWG) Program**, delivered in partnership with EPA and the CBP partnership, NFWF is soliciting proposals for projects within the Chesapeake Bay watershed that promote voluntary, community-based efforts to protect and restore the diverse and vital habitats of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributary rivers and streams. Through the **Chesapeake Watershed Investments for Landscape Defense Grants (WILD) Program**, delivered in partnership with FWS, NFWF is soliciting proposals for projects that conserve, steward, and enhance fish and wildlife habitats and related conservation values in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

For the **SWG Program**, NFWF will award funding through two distinct funding opportunities. All **SWG Program** proposals must directly align with one or more of the **SWG PROGRAM PRIORITIES** outlined further in this Request for Proposals.

1. **SWG Implementation** grants of $75,000-500,000 will be awarded for projects that result in direct, on-the-ground actions to protect and restore water quality, species, and habitats in the Bay watershed.
2. **SWG Planning and Technical Assistance (SWG-PTA)** grants up to $75,000 will be awarded for projects that enhance local capacity to implement future on-the-ground actions, consistent with **SWG Program** priorities, through community-based assessment, planning, design, and other technical assistance-oriented activities.

For the **WILD Program**, NFWF will award funding through two distinct funding opportunities. All **WILD Program** proposals must directly align with one or more of the **WILD PROGRAM PRIORITIES** outlined further in this Request for Proposals.

1. **WILD Implementation** grants of $75,000-$750,000 will be awarded for projects that result in direct on-the-ground conservation, stewardship, and enhancements of fish and wildlife habitats and related conservation values in the Bay watershed.
2. **WILD Planning and Technical Assistance (WILD-PTA)** grants up to $75,000 will be awarded for projects that enhance the capacity of local and regional partners to implement future on-the-ground actions, consistent with **WILD Program** priorities,

through community-based assessment, planning, design, and other technical assistance-oriented activities.

Further details for each program, including associated **PROGRAM PRIORITIES**, **FUNDING AVAILABILITY AND MATCH**, and **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA** are provided throughout this solicitation. In developing and submitting applications, prospective applicants should select the most appropriate program based on the details of their proposed project and alignment with associated program details. Applicants are encouraged to review the CBSF 2023 SWG/WILD Quick Reference Guide for further insight in selecting the appropriate funding opportunity based on their proposed project.

While NFWF does not require consultation prior to application, we strongly encourage interested applicants to contact NFWF staff or its contracted field liaisons (Contact information on page 18) to discuss their proposed project to gather constructive feedback in developing a competitive proposal, and to obtain guidance on the most appropriate program and funding opportunity for project consideration. Interested applicants may schedule virtual project consultations with NFWF staff here.

Including funds made available through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, NFWF estimates awarding $10 to $25 million in grants through the **SWG Program** in 2023, subject to administrative action and contingent on the availability of funding, through major funding provided by the EPA CBP Office. NFWF estimates awarding up to $10M in grants through the **WILD Program** in 2023, contingent on available funding, through major funding provided by the FWS. Other important contributions to both programs are provided by Altria Group, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the U.S. Forest Service.

GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS

All projects must occur wholly within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Priority consideration will be provided to projects located within priority subwatersheds or habitat units based on the unique opportunities to maximize multiple goals and outcomes for water quality, species and habitats, and communities. NFWF has developed a CBSF Applicant Toolbox with resources to help applicants target proposed actions to understand and maximize outcomes and benefits for associated program priorities.

JOINT PROGRAM PRIORITIES

For both the **SWG** and **WILD Programs**, NFWF will prioritize proposals from applicants that have directly and meaningfully engaged local communities in the identification, prioritization, selection, and implementation of proposed actions. Examples of direct and meaningful engagement include:

- Co-creating project with community members
- Empowering community members with knowledge and decision-making authority

- Ensuring the project team includes community members and leads to collaborative management with the community
- Including specific, active engagement strategies such as workshops, classroom activities, field trips, and volunteer opportunities
- Addressing a specific and localized harm such as pollution, flooding, or fires
- Creating jobs in the target community or performing job training and certification
- Directly engaging in specific cultural activities with the community

Proposals from applicants or partnerships directly representing or resourcing historically underserved communities will receive priority consideration, especially those that align established interests of local communities with SWG/WILD program priorities. NFWF also explicitly encourages applications from community-based organizations as key project partners, regardless of an environmental or conservation-related mission, in order to ensure that a broad spectrum of community interests are represented and reflected in proposed activities. Furthermore, NFWF encourages more traditional environmental and conservation organizations and entities to use grant funding to enhance their internal capacity to engage with, mentor, and support diverse community partners.

This focus is consistent with the Chesapeake Bay Program, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, ad Justice Strategy Implementation Plan. See the Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund's DEIJ webpage for a glossary of key terms related to DEIJ efforts under the NFWF's Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund.

SWG PROGRAM PRIORITIES

Consistent with the CBP partnership's 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, the **SWG Program** supports efforts to achieve water quality improvement, restoration, and protection of key Chesapeake Bay species and their habitats, and the fostering of an engaged and diverse citizen and stakeholder presence that will build upon and sustain measurable natural resource improvements.

In addition, through funding provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, NFWF is encouraging proposals that implement of one or more of the following selected natural and nature-based watershed and habitat restoration practices. Critically, these natural and nature-based practices provide multiple watershed restoration and habitat benefits including long-term pollution control, improved habitat, and enhanced climate resilience for human and wildlife communities. These practices include:

- Riparian forest buffers, including associated livestock exclusion fencing, crossings, and watering systems;
- Tidal and non-tidal wetland creation, rehabilitation, or enhancement;
- Floodplain restoration that reconnects incised streams to their floodplains and floodplain wetlands;
- Shoreline management; and
- Urban tree planting and maintenance of existing and enhancement of existing urban tree canopy

NFWF is soliciting proposals through the **SWG Program** that align with **SWG Program Priorities** outlined below that provide measurable contributions for selected goals and outcomes of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, NFWF's Chesapeake Bay Business Plan, and SWG Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding. NFWF places priority emphasis on projects that meaningfully and materially contribute to multiple SWG program priorities.

SWG PROGRAM PRIORITY 1. Managing Agricultural and Urban Runoff

- **Managing Upland Agricultural Runoff through Farm-Scale Conservation Systems and Solutions:** Includes efforts to reduce water quality impacts while simultaneously maintaining or increasing profits and farm management benefits of the region's farms by implementing best management practices that reduce nutrient and sediment pollution at the farm scale.
  Generally, applicants should seek first to utilize existing federal, state, and local agricultural cost-share and incentive programs to finance implementation of water quality improvement practices, with NFWF funding used to strategically fill gaps in existing funding programs. Where NFWF funding is sought to cover all or a large portion of costs for practice implementation, describe why other public programs are insufficient or otherwise inappropriate for financing proposed practice implementation.
- **Managing Upland Urban Runoff through Green Stormwater Infrastructure Improvements (GSI):** Includes efforts to reduce stormwater runoff on developed lands by implementing GSI practices that capture, store, filter, and treat stormwater runoff through systems and practices that mimic natural hydrologic processes.
- **Accelerating Innovation in Watershed Management:** Includes in-field application of new technologies and management approaches with the potential to reduce costs, increase nutrient removal efficiencies, and to more effectively control emerging nutrient and sediment pollutant sources.

SWG PROGRAM PRIORITY 2. Improving Water Quality and Stream Health Through Riparian Restoration and Conservation

- **Restoring Riparian and Freshwater Habitats through Forested Buffers, Livestock Exclusion, and Stream Restoration:** Includes efforts to mitigate local stream impairments, improve stream health, and maintain or enhance benthic macroinvertebrate populations through establishment of riparian forested buffers (minimum standard of 35 ft. wide), livestock exclusion fencing (including stream crossings and off-stream watering systems where appropriate), and stream restoration and floodplain reconnection.
  Proposed stream restoration and floodplain reconnection efforts must be consistent with qualifying conditions and design and crediting protocols established by the CBP partnership for creditable nutrient and sediment load reductions under the Chesapeake Bay TMDL (see Recommendations of the Expert Panel to Define Removal Rates for Individual Stream Restoration Projects and associated protocol updates to determine project eligibility).
  Beyond creditable load reductions, competitive projects will be part of a larger watershed restoration effort and be able to demonstrate enhanced stream function and optimize co-benefits for ecosystems and affected communities. NFWF does not advocate for or disallow any commonly used stream restoration methodology over others.

Stream restoration and floodplain reconnection projects are capital-intensive and highly site-specific interventions with potential for significant impacts on existing natural resources. These proposals will accordingly undergo enhanced scrutiny in the proposal review and evaluation process. As a result, to be considered for **SWG Program** funding, all proposals seeking funding for qualifying stream restoration and floodplain reconnection practices must complete a pre-application site visit with appropriate NFWF field liaisons. Site visits must be scheduled via email with appropriate NFWF field liaison(s) by April 1, 2023 and completed prior to April 20, 2023 (see **APPLICATION ASSISTANCE** below for field liaison contact information). In addition, these proposals must complete and upload the accompanying "Stream Restoration Narrative Supplement" (**APPENDIX B**) to be submitted with the standard full proposal narrative. Additional information and resources are available in **APPENDIX D**.

- **Conserving High-Quality Riparian Corridors:** Includes long-term protection and preservation of riparian and floodplain ecosystems by strategically leveraging federal, state, and local land conservation programs through assistance with transaction and due diligence costs, bonus payments for high-value riparian conservation easements and land acquisitions, and incorporation of riparian protection into existing agricultural land preservation programs. Please note that EPA funding provided through the **SWG Program** cannot be used for direct land acquisition or easement costs. See **WILD Program Pillars** below for expanded opportunities to support direct land acquisition or easement costs.

SWG PROGRAM PRIORITY 3. Enhancing and Protecting Freshwater Habitat for Eastern Brook Trout

- **Increasing Habitat Integrity and Population Viability for Eastern Brook Trout:** In conjunction with efforts to manage polluted runoff and restore and conserve riparian and upland forest habitat, includes improving connectivity within and between stronghold eastern brook trout population patches through dam removal, repair and replacement of culverts, and other fish passage improvements in order to increase populations and increase occupied habitat. In-stream habitat enhancements not otherwise creditable under the Chesapeake Bay TMDL may also be appropriate where instream habitat quality, cover, and structure can be identified as limiting factors to viable local populations. NFWF will prioritize projects working to protect and enhance selected stronghold populations most likely to persist under future climate conditions and considering local land use (see Trout Unlimited's Chesapeake Bay Watershed Priority Brook Trout Stronghold Conservation Analysis Mapping Application more information on identified stronghold patches and associated habitat improvement opportunities).
- **Conserving Upland and Riparian Forests in Eastern Brook Trout Strongholds:** Includes long-term protection and preservation of upland and riparian forest ecosystems in identified Eastern brook trout strongholds by strategically leveraging federal, state, and local land conservation programs through assistance with transaction and due diligence costs, bonus payments for conservation easements and land acquisitions for high-quality upland and riparian forest, and incorporation of forestland protection into existing rural land preservation programs. Please note that EPA funding provided through the **SWG Program** cannot be used for direct land acquisition or easement costs. See **WILD**

Program Pillars below for expanded opportunities to support direct land acquisition or easement costs.

SWG PROGRAM PRIORITY 4. Enhancing and Protecting Tidal and Estuarine Habitat

- **Restoring and Conserving Wetland and Tidal Marsh Habitat for American Black Duck:** Includes restoration of degraded tidal and non-tidal wetland habitats and strategic conservation of existing high-quality wintering and nesting habitats for American black duck. To address threats to habitat from sea level rise, NFWF will further support strategies that seek to create corridors for future marsh migration through strategic land protection, restoration, and management. Applicants are encouraged to use the Black Duck Joint Venture's Black Duck Decision Support Tool and associated Chesapeake Bay watershed priorities to support decisions on wetland restoration and conservation activities that maximize black duck habitat benefits. Please note that EPA funding provided through the **SWG Program** cannot be used for direct land acquisition or easement costs. See **WILD Program Pillars** below for expanded opportunities to support direct land acquisition or easement costs.
- **Managing Shoreline Erosion and Marsh Loss:** Includes implementation of non-structural or hybrid living shoreline restoration practices, particularly those that reduce sediment loading to priority oyster reef restoration sites, establish and expand emergent or submerged aquatic vegetation, and/or help to protect adjacent marsh systems documented as important habitat for American black duck.
- **Restoring Large-Scale Oyster Reefs:** Includes assisting efforts to restore and protect large-scale oyster reefs strategically identified by the Maryland, Virginia, and the CBP by leveraging funding from federal and state agencies to support oyster larvae and spat production, development of sustainable reef substrate supplies, and reef construction efforts in established oyster reef restoration tributaries.
- **Restoring River Herring Habitat Connectivity:** Includes efforts to increase connectivity and access to spawning habitat along priority migratory corridors for alewife and blueback herring through dam removal, repair and replacement of culverts, and other fish passage improvements. NFWF will prioritize cost-effective connectivity enhancements that provide access to the greatest amount of quality habitat at the lowest cost.

SWG PROGRAM PRIORITY 5. Enhancing Nature-Based Resilience for Human Communities

- **Protecting and Enhancing Natural and Nature-Based Solutions to Improve Community Resilience:** Includes efforts to protect and enhance natural and nature-based solutions to help protect coastal and inland communities from the impacts of storms, floods, and other natural hazards and enable them to recover more quickly.[1]

[1] Examples in coastal communities include restoration and protection of coastal marshes and wetlands, coastal forests, living shorelines, and oyster reefs. For inland communities, examples include hazard-focused stormwater management approaches that reduce localized flooding from high precipitation events and floodplain restoration and reconnection with measurable downstream flood reduction benefits. Priority will be afforded to projects that provide benefits to historically underserved communities and applicants are encouraged to priorities actions and investments based on climate vulnerability and equity assessments using science-based tools (e.g., NFWF's Coastal Resilience Evaluation and Siting Tool, Natures Network Prioritization Tool, Chesapeake Conservation

SWG PROGRAM PRIORITY 6. Building Capacity for Landscape-Scale Watershed and Habitat Planning, Design, and Implementation

- **Regional-Scale Partnership Development:** Includes activities that scale up restoration outcomes through enhanced partnership and coordination across organizations at broader regional and landscape scales. Interested applicants should consider appropriate models and frameworks for their own partnership efforts.
- **Improving Delivery of Outreach and Technical Assistance:** Includes support for conservation districts, nonprofits, local and state governments, and private sector partners to provide technical assistance necessary to achieve NFWF's habitat restoration, conservation, and management goals through field positions, development of targeted outreach strategies such as community-based social marketing, and enhanced coordination and partnership among technical assistance providers to improve efficiency and reduce administrative bottlenecks.
- **Assessing Local Watershed and Habitat Restoration Needs and Opportunities:** Includes watershed and habitat assessments, watershed implementation planning, and other planning and prioritization efforts to maximize conservation impact. Priority will be placed on efforts to translate Bay pollution reduction goals to local implementation plans, along with efforts to identify habitat restoration opportunities for NFWF's priority species at a local level. Examples include small watershed restoration plans, property or farm-level conservation and stormwater management plans, patch-level population and habitat assessments for Eastern brook trout, culvert and barrier assessments in priority rivers for river herring, and wetlands restoration and protection assessments to maximize black duck population outcomes.
- **Designing and Permitting Watershed and Habitat Improvements:** Includes strategic assistance to local partners for costs associated with design and permitting for high-impact restoration and management actions. NFWF has specific interest in design approaches that integrate multiple species and/or habitat objectives and therefore provide meaningful contributions to multiple programmatic goals and outcomes.
- **Leveraging Social Science to Advance Behavior Change:** Includes efforts to conduct applied social science research to understand and apply frameworks to influence behaviors of individual landowners, homeowners, watershed residents, businesses, and institutions in support of watershed restoration and protection outcomes, as well as integration of best practices in social science program evaluation to measure success of engagement and behavior change programs.

WILD PROGRAM PRIORITIES

Consistent with the Chesapeake WILD Framework, developed by FWS in partnership with the Chesapeake Conservation Partnership, the **WILD Program** supports efforts to conserve, steward, and enhance fish and wildlife habitats and related conservation values in the

Partnership's Greenspace Equity Mapping Tool, U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit) to determine priority areas for resilience projects based on anticipated landscape conditions and potential community impacts.

Chesapeake Bay watershed. NFWF is soliciting proposals through the **WILD Program** that align with the **WILD Program Pillars** outlined below.

WILD PROGRAM PILLAR 1: Fish and Wildlife Habitats

NFWF is soliciting proposals that conserve, steward, and enhance important Chesapeake Bay watershed habitats and ecosystems for *imperiled species*, including headwater forests and contiguous forest areas, grasslands, riparian forest buffers, nontidal wetlands and tidal marshes, and submerged aquatic vegetation.

Imperiled species include state-listed or federally listed threatened or endangered species, Tribal listed species, NE Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies Regional Species of Greatest Conservation Need, and species listed in State designated Species of Greatest Conservation Need.

Proposals should incorporate conservation prescriptions identified in associated Tribal Wildlife Plans, State Wildlife Action Plans, Recovery Plans for Federally Listed species, and specific plans for Regional Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Emphasis will be placed on projects that enhance and expand existing hubs and corridors of contiguous habitat for associated species. Associated priorities include:

- **Increasing habitat connectivity, conservation, and restoration for imperiled fish and wildlife species:** Includes efforts to connect, conserve, and restore habitat quality and resiliency for associated species. Proposals should seek to implement one or more of the following activities:
    - Land conservation (i.e., fee simple purchase or permanent conservation easement) as a means to preserve existing high value habitats and improve habitat connectivity for imperiled species, including through planned or future opportunities to restore or otherwise enhance habitat condition on conserved lands.
    - Terrestrial and aquatic conservation actions and investments that restore degraded habitats, migration stopover areas, and corridors, which support movement of imperiled species as climate and land uses change.
    - Effective land use and land conservation planning to protect high-quality areas for habitat connectivity, conservation, and restoration to benefit imperiled species.
    - Address science knowledge gaps and research needs to effectively connect, conserve, and restore habitat quality and resiliency for imperiled species.
- **Building capacity for Tribal and Indigenous conservation, stewardship, and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat:** Includes efforts that support Tribes and Indigenous people of the Chesapeake in the conservation, stewardship, and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitats on the land they hold or steward. Proposals should seek to implement one or more of the following activities:
    - Tribal or Indigenous-led technical support to foster the development of wildlife and land management plans for the lands they hold or steward, including how those lands factor into respective watersheds and the larger landscape.

- Tribal or Indigenous-led projects that incorporate Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Indigenous Science in planning and implementing terrestrial and aquatic habitat connectivity, conservation, and restoration.
- Capacity-building investments such as staff, conservation, and restoration science expertise, and grant administration training and support, that strengthen the ability of Tribal and Indigenous peoples to self-determine the conservation and management of fish and wildlife habitats on the land they hold or steward.

WILD PROGRAM PILLAR 2: Climate Change

- **Protecting and enhancing nature-based resilience for critical habitats:** Includes efforts to protect, restore, or reconnect important natural habitats for imperiled species that may be negatively impacted by climate change, as well as resilience, conservation, and investment planning activities to further long-term habitat resilience efforts.
  - Emphasize habitats that help protect coastal and inland communities from the impacts of storms, floods, and other natural hazards and enable them to recover more quickly (e.g., tidal marshes, nontidal wetlands, riparian areas, and floodplains).

WILD PROGRAM PILLAR 3: Community Partnership

- **Building capacity for diverse partnership development:** Includes activities that scale-up habitat connectivity, and restoration outcomes for imperiled species through enhanced engagement, communication, and coordination across organizations at local, regional, and landscape scales. Proposals should seek to implement one or more of the following activities:
  - Emphasize capacity-building, organizational development, community engagement, and outreach for Tribal and Indigenous peoples and historically underserved communities in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.
  - Enhance existing conservation partnerships or develop new partnerships that will evolve projects, further social equity, develop different ways of thinking, and spur innovation.
  - Leverage other funding opportunities to strengthen public-private partnerships in support of actions to connect, conserve, and restore habitats for imperiled species.

- **Improving delivery of outreach and technical assistance:** Includes efforts that build and enhance partner capacity to provide technical assistance and deliver habitat connectivity, conservation, and restoration outcomes for imperiled species. Proposals should seek to implement one or more of the following activities:
  - Provide technical assistance (e.g., field positions, assistance with permitting processes, developing, and implementing targeted outreach strategies) to help conservation partners, particularly Tribal and Indigenous peoples and historically underserved communities across the Chesapeake Bay watershed, achieve habitat connectivity, conservation, and restoration goals.
  - Leverage other funding opportunities to strengthen public-private partnerships that enhance coordination and partnership among technical assistance providers to improve efficiency and reduce administrative bottleneck.

WILD PROGRAM PILLAR 4: Public Access

- **Maintaining and enhancing recreational opportunities and equitable access compatible with the conservation of natural resources:** Include efforts that promote the economic, quality of life, and health benefits provided by equitable access for all individuals to a healthy Chesapeake Bay watershed. Proposals should seek to implement one or more of the following activities:
    - Prioritize actions and investments that make public lands and open spaces more welcoming and accessible to diverse communities and user groups.
    - Develop new low or no-cost public access points and wildlife-associated recreation opportunities in the watershed through collaborative projects and programs that engage historically underserved communities.
    - Conserve lands (i.e., fee simple purchase or permanent conservation easement) in order to increase equitable public access and participation in wildlife-associated recreational activities (e.g., hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing).

- **Increasing public awareness of the recreational, educational, and economic contributions made by the Chesapeake Bay and its ecosystems:** Proposals should seek to implement one or more of the following activities:
    - Emphasize experiential learning and actions to strengthen stewardship ethic by involving place-based or local communities in fish and wildlife habitat connectivity, conservation, and restoration planning and implementation.
    - Create new or enhance existing interpretive programming focused on the watershed's natural history, especially emphasizing traditional, place-based, and/or Tribal Ecological Knowledge and Indigenous Science.
    - Invest in resources and services to engage historically underserved communities.

WILD PROGRAM PILLAR 5: Water Quality

- **Improving water quality for imperiled fish and wildlife species:** Includes efforts that protect and maintain water quality and quantity needed to support imperiled fish and wildlife species, associated habitat functions, and other ecological services. Proposals should seek to implement one or more of the following activities:
    - Prioritize floodplain reconnection and restoration actions that provide direct benefit for imperiled species, as well as providing flood mitigation and water quality benefits to human and wildlife communities.
    - Emphasize water conservation and management measures with direct benefits to imperiled species.
    - Reduce otherwise unregulated point and nonpoint source pollution, including nutrients and sediment, toxic contaminants, and other pollutants of concern, for the direct benefit of imperiled species.

PROJECT METRICS

To better gauge progress on individual grants and to ensure greater consistency of project data provided by multiple grants, the Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund has a list of metrics in *Easygrants* for proposal applicants to choose from for future reporting. For projects proposing to implement water quality improvements for the purposes of nutrient and sediment load

reduction, awardees will be required to report both project-level metrics via *Easygrants* and more detailed site and practice-level data via FieldDoc (see "Nutrient and Sediment Load Reductions" on page 15 for more information), as applicable.

We ask that applicants select only the most relevant metrics from the list for their project (all possible program metrics are shown in the table in APPENDIX C. NFWF also developed a metrics guide available here). If you do not believe an applicable metric has been provided, please contact Carley Morton at carley.morton@nfwf.org or (202) 857-0166, to discuss acceptable alternatives.

ELIGIBILITY

Organization Type	Program			
	SWG Implementation	SWG-PTA	WILD Implementation	WILD-PTA
501(C) non-profit organizations	☑	☑	☑	☑
Community based organizations	☑	☑	☑	☑
Local Governments	☑	☑	☑	☑
Municipal governments	☑	☑	☑	☑
Tribal governments and organizations	☑	☑	☑	☑
K-12 educational institutions	☑	☑	☑	☑
U.S. Federal Government agencies	☒	☒	☑	☑
State Government Agencies	☒	☑	☑	☑
Institutions of higher education	☒	☑	☑	☑
Businesses	☒	☒	☒	☒
Unincorporated Individuals	☒	☒	☒	☒
International Organizations	☒	☒	☒	☒

For Planning and Technical Assistance proposals:

- Non-profit organizations, local and municipal governments, Tribal governments and organizations and K-12 education institutions seeking potential service providers may

visit our website for an updated listing of technical service providers operating in the region.

- State government agencies and institutions of higher education are eligible to apply for Planning and Technical Assistance proposals but must document support and/or request for proposed activities by appropriate non-profit organizations, local and municipal governments, Tribal governments and organizations and/or K-12 education institutions.

Ineligible Uses of Grant Funds

- **Equipment**: Applicants are encouraged to rent equipment where possible and cost-effective or use matching funds to make those purchases. NFWF acknowledges, however, that some projects may only be completed using NFWF funds to procure equipment. If this applies to your project, please contact the program staff listed in this RFP to discuss options.
- 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

NFWF estimates awarding $10 to $25 million in grants through the combined **SWG Program** and up to $10 million in grants through the combined **WILD Program** in 2023.

	Program			
	SWG Implementation	**SWG-PTA**	**WILD Implementation**	**WILD-PTA**
Project Award Range	$75,000 – 500,000	Up to $75,000	$75,000 – 750,000	Up to $75,000
Match Requirement	Encouraged, but not required	Encouraged, but not required	1:1*	Encouraged, but not required

* Up to 50% of **WILD Implementation** grants match requirement may be met through federal match from non-Department of Interior sources.

All proposed projects must begin on or after September 1, 2023, to facilitate necessary grant contracting, quality assurance, and environmental compliance activities. In order to qualify, match must be expended during the proposed period of performance.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

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

Criteria #1 – Conservation Outcomes

- **SWG Implementation** and **WILD Implementation:**
  - Project will clearly and demonstrably result in meaningful on-the-ground implementation of conservation and/or restoration actions that contribute to one or more of the identified program priorities. Where possible and appropriate, the proposal simultaneously contributes measurable and meaningful implementation actions supporting multiple priority outcomes.
- **SWG-PTA** and **WILD-PTA:**
  - Project will result in the delivery of planning and technical assistance products and services that meaningfully advance potential conservation or restoration implementation efforts that would contribute to one of more of the identified program priorities. In considering who benefits from requested services, there is a demonstrated need for services and a clear commitment to utilize services to support future implementation efforts.
- **All Funding Opportunities:**
  - Project incorporates meaningful engagement of affected communities, furthers established community interests, and incorporates community members and stakeholders in project activities.
  - Project supports new and existing partnerships working to advance conservation and restoration actions in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.
  - Project incorporates plans and approaches to implement, verify and sustain conservation and restoration actions and outcomes beyond the timeframe of the grant.

Criteria #2 – Budget

- The quality and level of detail in the budget and budget narrative provide a clear and detailed understanding of the proposed funding request.
- Proposal demonstrates cost-effectiveness in achieving its proposed outcomes, considering both direct and indirect costs in the proposed budget.
- Proposed costs are reasonable based on the work plan, local or regional costs for similar activities, and commensurate with project outcomes.

- Budget clearly indicates the degree of partnership in conducting the proposed work, including funding for project partners, stakeholders, and community members, as appropriate.
- Proposed funding request is well leveraged by the partners and other contributors through cash-, in-kind, and other match.
- The federal government has determined that a de minimis 10% indirect rate is an acceptable minimum for organizations without a negotiated indirect cost rate agreement (NICRA), as such NFWF reserves the right to scrutinize ALL proposals with indirect rates above 10% for cost-effectiveness.

Criteria #3 – Technical

- Project is technically sound and feasible, and the proposal sets forth a clear, logical, and achievable work plan, milestones, and timeline. All proposed projects must begin on or after September 1, 2023 to facilitate necessary grant contracting and quality assurance activities.
- Project engages appropriate technical experts throughout project planning, design and implementation to ensure activities are technically sound and feasible. Proposal demonstrates an understanding of necessary permitting and environmental compliance requirements and the ability to obtain necessary approvals consistent with the proposed work plan and timeline.
- Applicant organization has demonstrated an ability to manage and implement similar projects on time and within budget.

OTHER

Partnership and Community Impact – The applicant organization partners and engages collaboratively with diverse local community members, leaders, community-based organizations, and other relevant stakeholders to develop and implement the proposed project. This ensures long-term sustainability and success of the project, integration into local programs and policies, and community acceptance of proposed restoration actions. Non-traditional partners or communities are enlisted to broaden the sustained impact from the project. Describe the community characteristics of the project area, identify any communities impacted, describe outreach and community engagement activities and how those will be monitored and measured. Use demographic data to support descriptions and submit letters of support from community partners and/or collaborators demonstrating their commitment to the project and engagement in project activities as proposed.

Quality Assurance – If a **SWG Program** project involves monitoring, data collection or data use, grantees will be asked to prepare and submit quality assurance documentation. This includes any data collection activities described in the proposal as provided by match and partner activities. Examples of data collection or use which requires a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP):

- New data collection.
- Existing data use (a new use for data collected for a different purpose, whether by the same or different groups).

- Data collection and analysis associated with development or design of plans and projects e.g. fish passage, watershed or water quality/habitat restoration project plans etc.
- Water or other environmental monitoring.
- Model development or use etc.
- Citizen or community based scientific data collection, monitoring etc.

Applicants *must* budget time and resources in their CBSF proposal to complete this task. No data collection or use may begin until a QAPP is approved and on file. Reimbursement for project activities, including non-data collection activities, may be delayed until quality assurance compliance requirements are complete. Plan to submit the draft QAPP to NFWF *within* three months of award. The timeline for receiving review feedback and comments and subsequent submittal for EPA approval is dependent upon the quality of the draft QAPP submission and may involve several iterations. General assistance will be available to grantees to help with scoping and review of the draft QAPPs. For more information, follow the link to EPA QA and CBSF Quality Assurance Project Plan Guidance. Please contact Joe Toolan (joe.toolan@nfwf.org) if you have any questions about whether your project would require a QAPP. Applicants interested in details of NFWF's quality assurance approach can visit our "Tools for Current Grantees" webpage.

Compliance Requirements – Projects selected may be subject to requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act (state and federal), and National Historic Preservation Act. Documentation of compliance with these regulations must be approved prior to initiating activities that disturb or alter habitat or other features of the project site(s). Applicants *must* budget time and resources to obtain the needed approvals. As may be applicable, successful applicants may be required to comply with additional Federal, state, or local requirements and obtain all necessary permits and clearances.

Nutrient and Sediment Load Reductions – All projects proposing to implement water quality improvements for the purposes of nutrient and sediment load reduction must provide credible estimates of associated load reduction outcomes. To assist applicants, NFWF has partnered with The Commons and Maryland Department of Natural Resource to develop 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.

FieldDoc currently includes functionality for a significant share of water quality improvement practices approved by the CBP for the purposes of TMDL crediting. NFWF expects 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, You must include your application's 5-digit Easygrants number in the FieldDoc project title.

Upon grant award, NFWF will require all projects submitted under this solicitation to utilize FieldDoc for tracking and reporting of applicable water quality improvement activities during the course of their grant project. For technical support on FieldDoc utilization during the

proposal development process, please contact the Commons at support@fielddoc.com. Further help documentation can be found on our website.

Practice Specifications – Unless otherwise noted, all water quality improvement practices implemented must conform to established and recognized standards and practice specifications (e.g., NRCS practice standards, state stormwater manuals and retrofit guidance, approved CBP BMP Expert Panel reports). Applicants must note where proposed practices will deviate from established standards and provide reasonable justification for why an alternative is necessary.

Monitoring – NFWF may implement independent monitoring efforts in the future to measure the environmental outcomes from projects funded under this solicitation. Award recipients may be asked to facilitate granting of access to project sites for NFWF or its designees for future environmental monitoring purposes. Applicant implementing community and/or habitat resilience are encouraged to review NFWF's broader resilience monitoring approaches, standard metrics and protocols in building their own potential resilience monitoring activities.

Applicant Demographic Information – In an effort to better understand diversity in our grantmaking, NFWF is collecting basic demographic information on applicants and their organizations via a voluntary survey form (available in Easygrants). This information will not be shared externally or with reviewers and will not be considered when making grant decisions. For more details, please see the tip sheet and the Uploads section of Easygrants.

Budget – Costs are allowable, reasonable and budgeted in accordance with NFWF's Budget Instructions cost categories. Federally-funded projects must be in compliance with OMB Uniform Guidance as applicable.

Environmental Services – NFWF funds projects in pursuit of its mission to sustain, restore and enhance the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats for current and future generations. NFWF recognizes that some benefits from projects may be of value with regards to credits on an environmental services market (such as a carbon credit market). NFWF does not participate in, facilitate, or manage an environmental services market nor does NFWF assert any claim on such credits.

Intellectual Property – Intellectual property created using NFWF awards may be copyrighted or otherwise legally protected by award recipients. NFWF may reserve the right to use, publish, and copy materials created under awards, including posting such material on NFWF's website and featuring it in publications. NFWF may use project metrics and spatial data from awards to estimate societal benefits that result and to report these results to funding partners. These may include but are not limited to: habitat and species response, species connectivity, water quality, water quantity, risk of detrimental events (e.g., wildfire, floods), carbon accounting (e.g., sequestration, avoided emissions), environmental justice, and diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Matching Contributions – Matching Contributions consist of cash, contributed goods and services, volunteer hours, and/or property raised and spent for the Project during the Period

of Performance. Larger match ratios and matching fund contributions from a diversity of partners are encouraged and will be more competitive during application review.

Procurement – If the applicant chooses to specifically identify proposed Contractor(s) for Services, an award by NFWF to the applicant does not constitute NFWF's express written authorization for the applicant to procure such specific services noncompetitively. When procuring goods and services, NFWF recipients must follow documented procurement procedures which reflect applicable laws and regulations.

Publicity and Acknowledgement of Support – Award recipients will be required to grant NFWF the right and authority to publicize the project and NFWF's financial support for the grant in press releases, publications and other public communications. Recipients may also be asked by NFWF to provide high-resolution (minimum 300 dpi) photographs depicting the project.

Receiving Award Funds – Award payments are primarily reimbursable. Projects may request funds for reimbursement at any time after completing a signed agreement with NFWF. A request of an advance of funds must be due to an imminent need of expenditure and must detail how the funds will be used and provide justification and a timeline for expected disbursement of these funds.

Permits – Successful applicants will be required to provide sufficient documentation that the project expects to receive or has received all necessary permits and clearances to comply with any Federal, state or local requirements. Where projects involve work in the waters of the United States, NFWF strongly encourages applicants to conduct a permit pre-application meeting with the Army Corps of Engineers prior to submitting their proposal. In some cases, if a permit pre-application meeting has not been completed, NFWF may require successful applicants to complete such a meeting prior to grant award.

Federal Funding – The availability of federal funds estimated in this solicitation is contingent upon the federal appropriations process. Funding decisions will be made based on level of funding and timing of when it is received by NFWF.

TIMELINE

Dates of activities are subject to change and contingent on the availability of funding. Please check the Program page of the NFWF website for the most current dates and information (http://www.nfwf.org/chesapeake).

Applicant Webinar (Registration)	Friday, March 3rd, 1:00p, ET
FieldDoc Webinar (Registration)	Thursday, March 9th, 1:00pm ET
Proposal Due Date	Thursday, April 20th, 11:59pm ET
Proposal Review Period	April – August
Awards Announced	September (anticipated)

HOW TO APPLY

All application materials must be submitted online through National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Easygrants system.

1. Go to easygrants.nfwf.org to register in our Easygrants online system. New users to the system will be prompted to register before starting the application (if you already are a registered user, use your existing login). Enter your applicant information. Please disable the pop-up blocker on your internet browser prior to beginning the application process.
2. Once on your homepage, click the "Apply for Funding" button and select this RFP's "Funding Opportunity" from the list of options.
3. Follow the instructions in Easygrants to complete your application. Once an application has been started, it may be saved and returned to at a later time for completion and submission.

APPLICATION ASSISTANCE

A *Tip Sheet* and quick reference guide is available for review while you are working through your application. These documents can be downloaded at http://www.nfwf.org/chesapeake. Additional information to support the application process can be accessed on the NFWF website's Applicant Information page.

For more information or questions about this RFP, please contact Jake Reilly (jake.reilly@nfwf.org) or Joe Toolan (joe.toolan@nfwf.org) via e-mail.

For issues or assistance with our online Easygrants system, please contact:

Easygrants Helpdesk
Email: Easygrants@nfwf.org
Voicemail: 202-595-2497
Hours: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm ET, Monday-Friday.
Include: your name, proposal ID #, e-mail address, phone number, program you are applying to, and a description of the issue.

NFWF also offers on-demand, field-based project and partnership development support through field liaisons, providing broad geographic coverage across the Bay region for agricultural conservation, urban stormwater management, wetland and watershed science, and habitat experience and expertise relevant to Bay restoration goals. Applicants may also contact these field liaisons using the information below to discuss potential projects:

Field Liaison Contact	Email	Phone	Sector Expertise
Kristen Saacke Blunk	kristen@headwaters-llc.org	(814) 360-9766	• All Sectors
Kristen Hughes Evans	kristen@sustainablechesapeake.org	(804) 554-3403	• Agricultural Conservation
Liz Feinberg	liz.feinberg63@gmail.com	(610) 212-2345	• All Sectors
David Hirschman	dave@hirschmanwater.com	(434) 409-0993	• Stormwater/Urban Sector
Katie Ombalski	katie@woodswaters.com	(814) 574-7281	• Agricultural Conservation • Freshwater Restoration

Appendix A: Full Proposal Project Narrative Templates

Chesapeake Bay SWG Implementation | Chesapeake WILD Implementation

Instructions: Save this document on your computer and complete the narrative in the format provided. The final narrative may not exceed six (6) pages, excluding tables and figures. Please retain the outline format below. Once complete, upload this document into the online application as instructed.

A. Goals and Objectives:

a. What are the overall goals and objectives for the project?

b. How do they advance the **PROGRAM PRIORITIES** outlined in accompanying Request for Proposals?

c. What general activities or approaches are you proposing to implement to achieve those goals and objectives?

B. Outcomes:

a. Which specific **PROGRAM PRIORITIES** will be addressed by the project?

b. What three to five (3-5) associated outcomes are anticipated as a result of proposed activities? *Outcomes may be quantitative or qualitative and should be as specific as possible to the proposed project.*

C. Project Location:

a. Where is the proposed project located, including its connection with or position in the broader relevant landscape(s) (e.g. watershed or drainage area, existing habitats and/or conserved lands)?

b. Why or how was this location selected, considering relation to and position within the broader relevant landscape(s), associated opportunities to further established **PROGRAM PRIORITIES**, past or going efforts in the area, and use of existing tools and resources for geographically targeting associated conservation and/or restoration actions?

D. Current Conservation Context:

a. What efforts are already underway or have been completed in the project area by your organization, project partners, or others to advance the relevant **PROGRAM PRIORITIES**?

b. How do the proposed activities build on or enhance any of those completed or ongoing efforts, including but not limited to prior NFWF funding?

E. Current Partnership Context:

a. Who are the partners (e.g., organizations, government agencies, business, individuals) currently engaged in efforts to advance relevant **PROGRAM PRIORITIES** and associated actions in the project area and the broader relevant landscape and what are their general roles and responsibilities?

b. What new partners do you intend to engage in proposed project activities?

c. How do you intend to leverage, enhance, or expand the roles of these partners in advancing proposed project activities?

F. Communities Engaged and Impacted: Describe the community(ies) where the project will take place and any associated target audience(s):

a. Who will specifically benefit from the project?
b. How were they or will they be engaged in project development and implementation?
c. Using the table below, provide information on key demographic and socioeconomic indicators for the community(ies) and target audience(s). Use your response to questions A or B above to provide any other representative demographic or socioeconomic data or information.

Community(ies) and/or Target Audience(s)	Race/Ethnicity (%)	Poverty Rate (%)	Low Income (%)	Annualized Unemployment Rate (%)

G. Work Plan: What are the major tasks or activities you plan to execute through the proposed project, who is responsible for each task/activity, and when do you plan to complete each major task/activity? *Use the general template below and add rows as needed.*

Activity Description	Associated Deliverables	Responsible Parties	Completion Date (Month and Year)

H. Data Collection Activities:

a. What types of data to you intend to collect as part of the proposed project activities (i.e., through grant award funding and/or matching sources).

b. What methods are you planning to use to collect those data?

c. How do you plan to use those data and what associated products are outputs will be generated from proposed data collection efforts?

I. Tracking and Sustaining Implementation Progress:

a. What plans are proposed or are already in place to support long-term stewardship, maintenance, and delivery of intended environmental or natural resource benefits from the project?

Full Proposal Project Narrative

Chesapeake Bay SWG-PTA | Chesapeake WILD-PTA

Instructions: Save this document on your computer and complete the narrative in the format provided. The final narrative may not exceed six (6) pages, excluding tables and figures. Please retain the outline format below. Once complete, upload this document into the online application as instructed.

A. Goals and Objectives:

a. What are the overall goals and objectives for the project?

b. How do they advance the **PROGRAM PRIORITIES** outlined in accompanying Request for Proposals?

c. What general activities or approaches are you proposing to implement to achieve those goals and objectives?

B. Outcomes:

a. Which specific **PROGRAM PRIORITIES** will be addressed by the project?

b. What three to five (3-5) associated outcomes are anticipated as a result of proposed activities? *Outcomes may be quantitative or qualitative and should be as specific as possible to the proposed project.*

C. Demonstrated Need:

a. How do the proposed activities address unique gaps in existing capacity, technical expertise, and financial resources among intended beneficiaries of the project (e.g. organizations, communities) in advancing relevant **PROGRAM PRIORTIES** and associated conservation and/or restoration actions?

D. Communities Engaged and Impacted: Describe the community(ies) where the project will take place and any associated target audience(s):

a. Who will specifically benefit from the project?

b. How were they or will they be engaged in project development and implementation?

c. Using the table below, provide information on key demographic and socioeconomic indicators for the community(ies) and target audience(s). Use your response to questions A or B above to provide any other representative demographic or socioeconomic data or information.

Community(ies) and/or Target Audience(s)	Race/Ethnicity (%)	Poverty Rate (%)	Low Income (%)	Annualized Unemployment Rate (%)

E. Commitment to Implementation:

a. How do you intend to translate proposed planning and technical assistance activities and output resulting from the project into future on-the-ground conservation and/or restoration actions in the local community?

F. Work Plan: What are the major tasks or activities you plan to execute through the proposed project, who is responsible for each task/activity, and when do you plan to complete each major task/activity? *Use the general template below and add rows as needed.*

Activity Description	Associated Deliverables	Responsible Parties	Completion Date (Month and Year)

G. Data Collection Activities:

a. What types of data to you intend to collect as part of the proposed project activities (i.e., through grant award funding and/or matching sources).

b. What methods are you planning to use to collect those data?

c. How do you plan to use those data and what associated products are outputs will be generated from proposed data collection efforts?

Appendix B: Stream Restoration Supplement

Instructions: Save this document on your computer and complete the narrative in the format provided. The final narrative may not exceed six (6) pages, excluding tables and figures. Please retain the outline format below and adhere to section-by-section word limits, but you may delete the instructions associated with each element. Once complete, upload this document into the on-line application as instructed.

A. Goals and Objectives:

a. What are the primary goals and objectives for the proposed project, especially in the context of existing watershed condition and stream function for the affected reach and realistic determination of restoration potential? *Examples of such objectives include restoring baseflow conditions, improving populations of target species, reducing streambank erosion, reducing sediment delivery and/or nutrients to downstream waters, restoring/enhancing the riparian buffer (in conjunction with stream restoration), creating floodplain (re)connection, among others.*

B. Applicable Protocols:

a. What relevant stream restoration protocols and associated qualifying conditions are being utilized to guide project design and determine creditable pollutant load reductions for the proposed projects? *Select all that apply.*

Protocol	Protocol	Load Reduction Crediting
☐	(1) Credit for Prevented Sediment During Storm Flow	Annual mass nutrient and sediment reduction credit for qualifying stream restoration practices that prevent channel or bank erosion that would otherwise be delivered downstream from an actively enlarging or incising stream
☐	(2) Credit for In-stream Nitrogen Processing During Base Flow	Annual mass nitrogen reduction credit for qualifying projects that include design features to promote denitrification during base flow within the stream channel through enhanced surface water/groundwater exchange (hyporheic zone) within the riparian corridor
☐	(3) Credit for Reconnection to the Floodplain	Sediment and nutrient reduction credit for qualifying projects that reconnect stream channels to their floodplain over a wide range of storm events, from the small, high frequency events to the larger, less frequent events

C. Field Methods and Data Sources:

a. What field methods and data were used to support pollutant load reduction calculations?

b. What additional fieldwork is necessary to finalize designs and obtain necessary permits?

D. Existing Watershed Conditions and Impairments:

a. What are the important characteristics of the contributing drainage area, associated watershed condition, notable impairment(s), and known or suspected factors causing the impairment(s) for the project reach?

b. What upland or drainage area BMPs have been considered or are being implemented as part of the project approach?

c. As part of your watershed restoration approach, what other upland or upstream BMPs have been implemented or are being planned for future implementation?

d. How does the proposed project address the primary cause(s) of stream impairment in this watershed?

E. Functional Improvement:

a. How will stream function(s) be improved compared to the existing condition (considering hierarchical frameworks for understanding stream function and assessments of existing stream function)?

F. Restoration Design Approach and Team:

a. What specific design approach(es) (Natural Channel Design, Legacy Sediment/Valley Restoration, Regenerative Conveyance, etc.) are being explored or utilized and why?

b. Who are the principals (e.g. individual, organizations, businesses) leading the proposed stream restoration design, including name, affiliation, and contact information?

G. Post-Construction Maintenance:

a. What are your plans for post-construction maintenance, including responsible parties, associated resources (e.g., financial, personnel) for maintenance, and the approach for developing this plan?

b. What known or anticipated metrics that will be used for post-construction monitoring?

H. Restoration Plans and Designs: As an "Additional Upload", provide labeled plans with scaled base maps (ideally showing topographic data) showing: (1) drainage area to the project and delineating contributing land uses, (2) conceptual channel alignment and typical cross-sections with materials and construction methods, (3) conceptual planting plans and identification of how existing riparian areas will be impacted, and (4) photo evidence of site conditions relevant to the proposal. Letters of support or commitment may from project partners and project landowners may be provided as Additional Uploads.

Appendix C

Applicable Metrics
Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants Program

Activity/Outcome	Recommended Metric*	Metric Description/Instructions
Water Quality Improvement (All)	**CBSF - BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction - Lbs N/P/S avoided (annually)**	Use FieldDoc to develop estimates of the annual nitrogen, phosphorus, and/or sediment load reductions from your proposed project. Enter FieldDoc-generated pollutant load reduction totals in this field then upload your FieldDoc Project Summary in the "Uploads" section.
Water Quality Improvement (Select all that apply)	**CBSF - BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction - Acres with BMPs**	Enter the total number of acres under agricultural or non-urban BMPs to reduce nutrient or sediment loading. Do not double-count individual acres which have multiple BMPs. If you're implementing load reduction practices on urban lands, report associated outcomes instead under the "CBSF - BMP implementation for stormwater runoff - Acres with BMPs" metric. Do not include cover crops, conservation tillage, enhanced cropland nutrient management, or managed grazing.
	CBSF - BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction - Acres with cover crops	Enter the number of cropland acres with cover crops practices. Describe the cover crop practices in the NOTES section.
	CBSF - BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction - Acres with conservation tillage	Enter the number of cropland acres with conservation tillage practices. Describe conservation tillage practices in the NOTES section.
	CBSF - 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. Describe the nutrient management practices in the NOTES section.
	CBSF - 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). Describe the grazing practices in the NOTES section.
	CBSF - BMP implementation for stormwater runoff - Acres with BMPs	Enter total drainage area treated by stormwater BMPs. If you wish to also provide the extent of specific BMPs themselves (i.e. square feet of bioretention), do so in the "Notes" section.
	CBSF - BMP implementation for stormwater runoff - Volume stormwater prevented	Enter the number of gallons of stormwater runoff treated through stormwater BMPs (e.g. runoff treatment volume).
	CBSF- Green Infrastructure - number of trees planted	Enter the number of trees planted for urban stormwater reduction. In the NOTES section, specify the specify the landcover type prior to planting (barren, cropland, grassland, shrubland), # of acres, and average # of trees per acre.

Activity/Outcome	Recommended Metric*	Metric Description/Instructions
Stream and Riparian Restoration and Conservation (Select all that apply)	**CBSF - Riparian restoration - Miles restored**	Enter the number of miles of riparian habitat restored through the implementation of forest or grass buffers that are at least 35 feet wide. If you're implementing livestock exclusion, report associated outcomes instead under the "CBSF - BMP implementation for livestock exclusion -- miles of fencing installed" metric. 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.
	CBSF - BMP implementation for livestock fencing - Miles of fencing installed	Enter the number of miles of livestock exclusion installed. Assume activities include exclusion fencing and a 35-foot forest or grass buffer, unless otherwise noted.
	CBSF - Stream restoration - Miles restored	Enter the number of miles of stream restored for nutrient and sediment load reduction, consistent with qualifying conditions and restoration protocols established by the CBP.
	CBSF - Floodplain restoration - Acres restored	Enter the number of acres of floodplain restored for nutrient and sediment load reduction, consistent with qualifying conditions and restoration protocols established by the CBP. 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). Also report any associated linear stream restoration outcomes through the "CBSF - Stream restoration – Miles restored" metric.
	CBSF - Wetland restoration - Acres restored	Enter the number of acres of wetland habitat restored, created, or enhanced. In the NOTES section, specify the landcover prior to restoration (Marsh, Tidal marsh, Wet meadow, Swamp) and indicate % of vegetation on pre-project site (0-20%, 21-40%, 41-60%, 61-80%, 81-100%).
	CBSF – Tidal Marsh Restoration – Acres restored	Enter the number of acres of tidal marsh restored, created, or enhanced. In the NOTES section, specify the landcover prior to restoration (Freshwater marsh, Wetland, Wet meadow, Swamp, Grass, Barren, Cropland) and indicate % of vegetation on pre-project site (0-20%, 21-40%, 41-60%, 61-80%, 81-100%).
Aquatic Habitat Connectivity and Restoration (Select all that apply)	**CBSF - Fish passage improvements - Miles of stream opened**	Enter the number of miles of stream habitat opened to fish populations through dam removals, culvert replacement, or other fish passage improvements. A mile opened is defined as number of new miles that restoration makes accessible for aquatic species. Only include the miles of main stem & smaller tributaries connected until the next barrier upstream (or headwaters), but NOT lakes, ponds, or distance downstream from the barrier removed. Consider utilizing the CBP's Fish Passage Prioritization Tool to assess potential outcomes.
	CBSF - Instream habitat restoration - Miles restored	Enter the number of miles of instream habitat restoration activities not otherwise creditable for nutrient and sediment load reduction. Projects implementing qualifying stream restoration practices for TMDL crediting should instead report those outcomes instead through the "CBSF - Stream restoration - Miles restored" metric.
Terrestrial Habitat Connectivity, Conservation, and Restoration (Select all that apply)	**CBSF - Conservation easements - Acres protected under 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).
	CBSF - Land, wetland restoration - Number of trees planted	Enter the number of trees planted for all non-urban projects/practices. In the NOTES, specify landcover type prior to planting (barren, cropland, grass, shrub), # of acres, forest type planted (broadleaf, conifer, redwood, swamp--either broadleaf or conifer, shrub), density per acre, and mortality rate.

Activity/Outcome	Recommended Metric*	Metric Description/Instructions
Tidal and Estuarine Habitat Connectivity, Conservation, and Restoration (Select all that apply)	**CBSF - American oyster - Marine habitat restoration - Acres restored**	Enter the number of acres of native oyster reef restored.
	CBSF - Wetland restoration - Acres restored	Enter the number of acres of wetland habitat restored, created, or enhanced. In the NOTES section, specify the landcover prior to restoration (Marsh, Tidal marsh, Wet meadow, Swamp) and indicate % of vegetation on pre-project site (0-20%, 21-40%, 41-60%, 61-80%, 81-100%).
	CBSF - Fish passage improvements - Miles of stream opened	Enter the number of miles of stream habitat opened to fish populations through dam removals, culvert replacement, or other fish passage improvements. A mile opened is defined as number of new miles that restoration makes accessible for aquatic species. Only include the miles of main stem & smaller tributaries connected until the next barrier upstream (or headwaters), but NOT lakes, ponds, or distance downstream from the barrier removed. Consider utilizing the CBP's Fish Passage Prioritization Tool to assess potential outcomes.
	CBSF - Erosion control - Miles restored	Enter the number of miles of tidal shoreline stabilized or restored through erosion control, including living shoreline restoration. Projects implementing qualifying stream restoration practices for TMDL crediting should instead report those outcomes instead through the "CBSF - Stream restoration - Miles restored" metric.
	CBSF - Conservation easements - Acres protected under 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).
Public Access Improvement (Select all that apply)	**CBSF - Public Access - # acres with public access**	Enter the number of acres now open to public access as a result of the acquisition/easement.
	CBSF - Public Access - # miles with public access	Enter the number of miles of stream or river opened to public access as a result of the acquisition/easement.
Capacity Building and Partnership Development (Select all that apply)	**CBSF - Outreach/ Education/ Technical Assistance - # people reached**	Enter the number of individuals reached by outreach, training, or technical assistance activities. In the "Notes" section, provide a summary of how individuals are reached (newsletter mailing list total, training attendance, etc.).
	CBSF - Outreach/ Education/ Technical Assistance - # people with changed behavior	Enter the number of individuals measured as demonstrating changed behavior to benefit watershed restoration and protection. In the "Notes" section, provide a summary of how behavior change will be measured and tracked. If you have questions on whether your project contains behavior change activities, please contact NFWF staff.
	CBSF - Volunteer participation - # volunteers participating	Enter the number of volunteers participating in project implementation, outreach, and education activities.
	CBSF - Management or Governance Planning - # plans developed	Enter the number of conservation, watershed, and/or habitat management plans developed or improved. In the "Notes" section, provide specific information on the aggregate areal extent of associated plans (e.g. acres, square miles), and the number and areal extent of contributing planning activities.
*** *Easygrants* metrics should be consistent with data entered into and/or derived from the FieldDoc platform.**		

Appendix D

Stream Restoration Resources Checklist

- **Recommendations of the Expert Panel to Define Removal Rates for Individual Stream Restoration Projects** (http://chesapeakestormwater.net/wp-content/uploads/dlm_uploads/2013/05/stream-restoration-merged.pdf)
- **Consensus Recommendations for Improving the Application of the Prevented Sediment Protocol for Urban Stream Restoration Projects Built for Pollutant Removal Credit** (https://chesapeakestormwater.net/wp-content/uploads/dlm_uploads/2020/03/PROTOCOL-1-MEMO_WQGIT-Approved_revised-2.27.20_clean_w-appendices.pdf)
- **Appendix B Protocol 1 Supplemental Details** (http://chesapeakestormwater.net/wp-content/uploads/dlm_uploads/2015/03/Appendix-B.-Protocol-1-Supplemental-Details.pdf)
- **Recommended Methods to Verify Stream Restoration Practices Built for Pollutant Crediting in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed** (https://chesapeakestormwater.net/wp-content/uploads/dlm_uploads/2019/07/Approved-Verification-Memo-061819.pdf)
- **Appendix C Protocol 2 and 3 Supplemental Details** (http://chesapeakestormwater.net/wp-content/uploads/dlm_uploads/2015/03/Appendix-C.-Protocol-2-and-3-Supplemental-Details.pdf)
- **Additional Guidance on a Function-Based Assessment Approach.** This guidance from Harman (2018) provides a conceptual approach for determining the restoration potential of a specific project. This information is provided as guidance to aid in understanding the full context of stream restoration projects. There is a link at the end of the article to download detailed guidance and checklists for the Function-Based Framework outlined in the article. As stated above, NFWF does not mandate this particular methodology, and it is offered as an educational resource. It is one example of the type of strategic thinking, assessment, and design that will lead to more successful stream restoration projects. (https://stream-mechanics.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Determining-Restoration-Potential_V4.pdf)
- Detailed guidance on the **Function-Based Rapid Assessment Method** as well checklist forms for the catchment assessment and reach-scale function-based assessment (https://stream-mechanics.com/stream-functions-pyramid-framework/)