Bottomland hardwood forest | Credit: Bruce Reid

Webinar Guidelines

- All attendees will be muted for the duration of the webinar.

- Please type your questions into the "questions" box in the webinar controls on the right side of your screen. NFWF staff will answer these questions during several breaks in the presentation, but you can type them in any time. Everyone will be able to hear the answers.

- Don't be shy. If you have a question, someone else is thinking it, too.

- If you experience a technical glitch, please type it into the chat/question box.

- **The Webinar is being recorded. We will post a copy of these slides and the recording on the NFWF website at http://www.nfwf.org/lowermsvalley.**

Webinar Agenda

- **Program Overview**
  - **2023 Funding Opportunity**
  - **Geography**
  - **Lower MS Alluvial Valley business plan**

- **Program Priorities**

- **How to Apply in Easygrants**
  - **Resource Links**

- **Timeline and Contact Information**

Bottomland hardwood planting | Credit: Bruce Reid

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Program Overview

The **Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley Restoration Fund** invests in on-the-ground projects to restore, enhance and conserve bottomland hardwood forests and wetlands and promote aquatic connectivity on private and public lands to improve wildlife habitat and water quality.

Public-Private Partnership

INTERNATIONAL PAPER

The WALTON FAMILY FOUNDATION

USDA

U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

Big Island | Credit: John Ruskey

NFWF

2023 Funding Opportunity

- **Request for Proposals:** www.nfwf.org/lowermsvalley

- **Proposal due date:** April 6, 2023, by 11:59PM ET

- **Eligible Applicants*:**

  ✓ Non-profit 501(c)

  ✓ State, tribal and local governments

  ✓ Academic institutions

- **Anticipated Funding:** $1.4 million

- **Grant size:** $100,000 - $500,000**

Mississippi River side channel | Credit: Bruce Reid

*Federal agencies, for-profits and individual landowners cannot directly apply, but may be partners on projects

**Applicants considering proposals outside of this funding range are encouraged to contact NFWF prior to submitting.

Geography

Projects must occur within the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley in the following states...

Arkansas	Illinois	Kentucky	Louisiana
Mississippi	Missouri	Tennessee	

---

*Preference given to projects within focal geographies

Lands eligible for funding include:

- Privately-owned lands

- State and local government lands

- Federal lands (encouraged to be part of projects where state, local and/or private lands are also included)
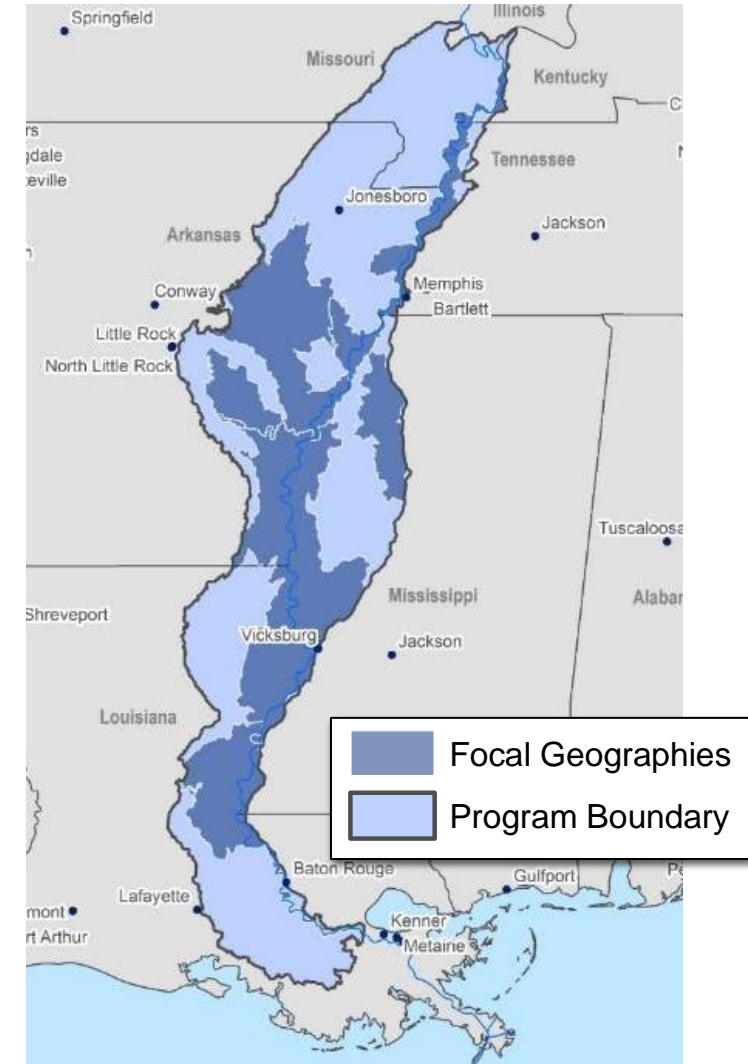
Lower MS Alluvial Valley Program Landscape

Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley Business Plan

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Business Plan for Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley
November 2019

Louisiana black bear

Swamp rabbit

Forest birds

Waterfowl

Freshwater fish

https://www.nfwf.org/lowermsvalley/Documents/lmav-business-plan.pdf

Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley Business Plan

10-Year Habitat Goals

Goal	Target
Enhance and Maintain Existing Bottomland Hardwood Forests	25,000 acres
Restore (Establish) New Bottomland Hardwood Forests	25,000 acres
Restore and enhance hydrologic function to wetland and floodplain habitats	15,000 acres
Protect Bottomland Hardwood Forests and Wetlands with Conservation Easements	30,000 acres
Improve Connectivity of Stream and River Habitats	35 miles
Improve connectivity and hydrologic function to oxbows, scar lakes and other surface water features	500 acres
Install agricultural best management practices to improve water quality	10,000 acres
Engage private landowners through outreach and technical assistance	5,000 landowners
Move landowners to conservation action	500 landowners

Program Priorities
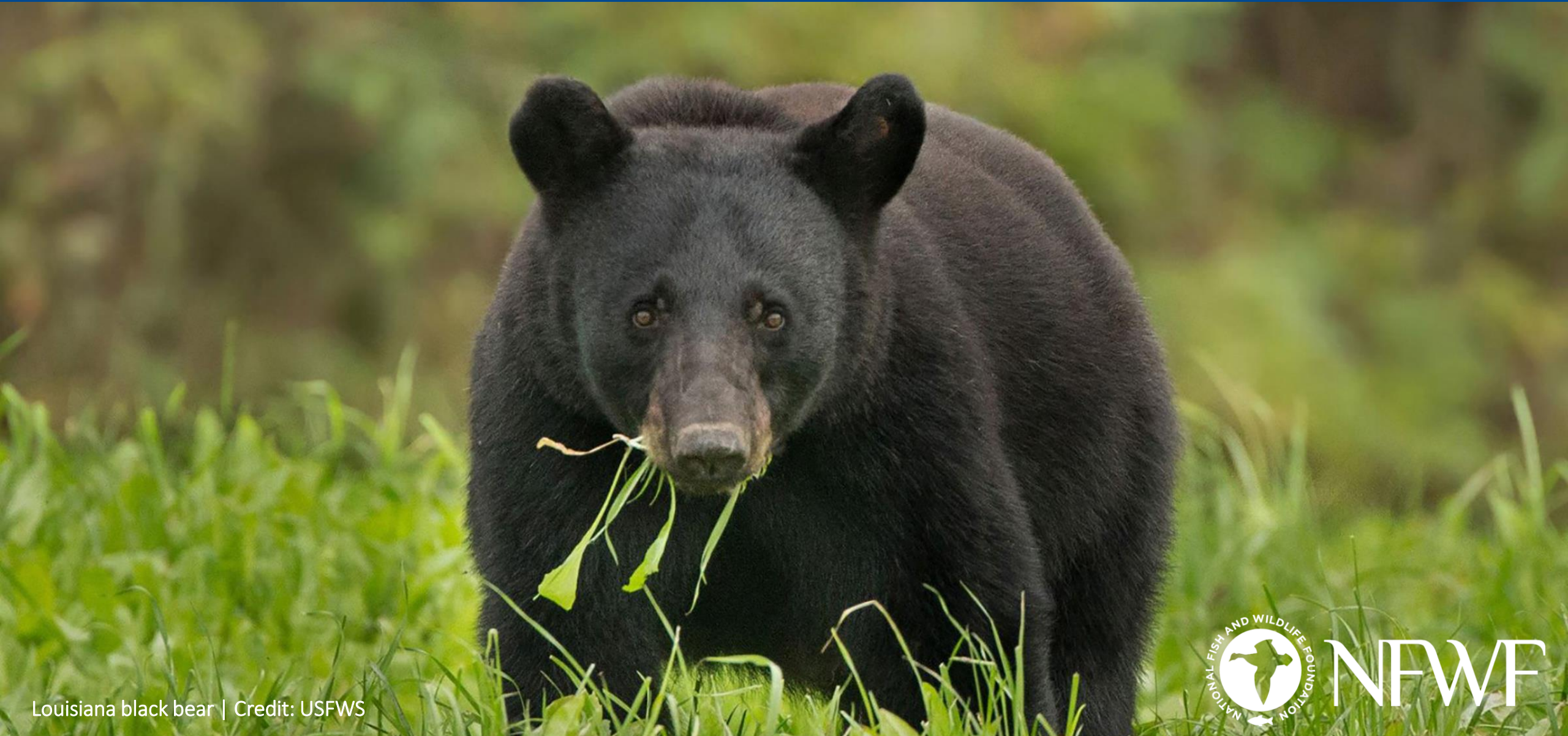
Louisiana black bear | Credit: USFWS

Program Priorities

1. Bottomland Hardwood Forest Enhancement and Maintenance

2. Wetland and Floodplain Hydrologic Restoration and Enhancement and Implementing Conservation Practices to Improve Water Quality

3. Implement Conservation Practices on Working Agricultural Lands

4. Bottomland Hardwood Restoration

5. Targeted Outreach, Education, and Technical Assistance

6. Bottomland Forest and Wetland Habitat Conservation

7. Improve Aquatic Connectivity

8. Restoration Response Monitoring

NFWF is interested in projects that:

➤ sequester carbon and/ or improve water quantity or quality

➤ include outreach and technical assistance to minority and underserved landowners and producers

➤ address landowner barriers to participation in forestry and agricultural conservation programs

1. Bottomland Hardwood Forest Enhancement and Maintenance

o Pre-commercial thinning and thinning

o Crop tree release

o Invasive species control

o Residual stocking

o Identify and address specific barriers to bottomland hardwood management and habitat enhancement (i.e., lack of markets, community issues, etc.)
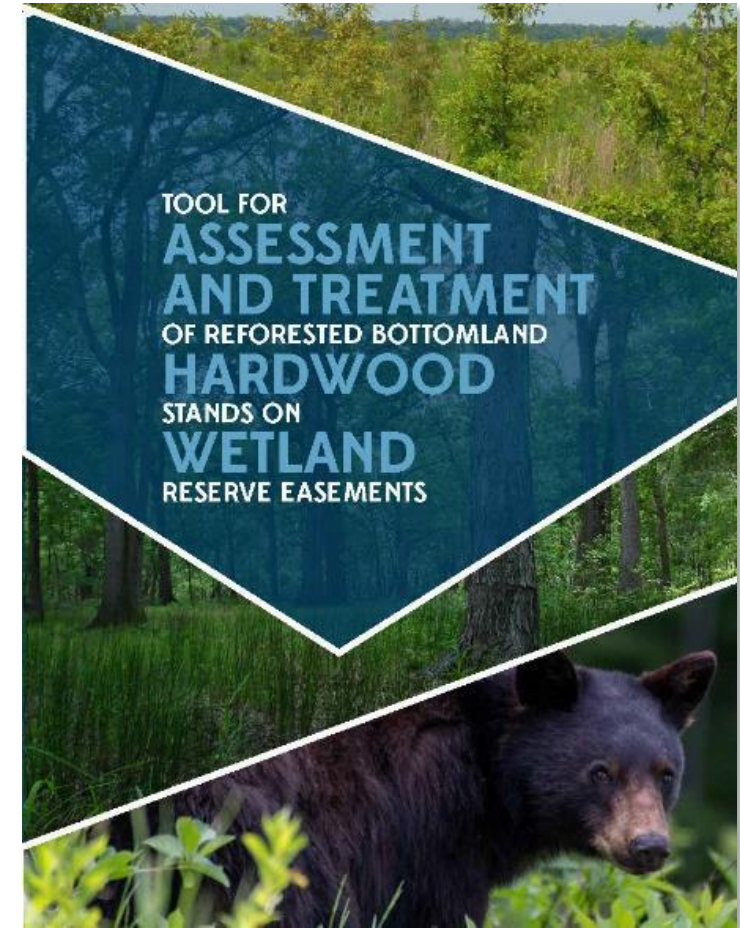
Note: Projects that include work on lands enrolled in WRP/WRE should coordinate with the appropriate NRCS state office

2. Restore Wetland and Floodplain Hydrology

o Connecting wetlands and water features between adjacent properties

o Vegetation management to improve wetland habitat and function

o Managing for moist soil plants

o Installation of low-maintenance water control structures, such as flashboard risers, for water management capability.

3. Implement Conservation Practices on Working Agricultural Lands

o Rerouting agricultural runoff to constructed or restored wetlands

o Rehabilitating or stabilizing ditches and/or gullies

o Integrating cover crops, no-till, conservation crop rotation, and/or establishing buffer strips

Photo credit: Tim McCabe, USDA NRCS

4. Bottomland Hardwood Forest Restoration

o Reforestation and/or afforestation of cropland

o Preference to projects that contribute to landscape-scale habitat connectivity to benefit wildlife

o Site preparation and planting of bottomland hardwoods

o Practices to promote natural regeneration of bottomland hardwood forest

o Addressing barriers to reforestation

Projects should:

✓ Summarize plans to promote long-term management for wildlife habitat

Photo credit: Wildlife MS

5. Target Outreach, Education and Technical Assistance

o Education and training opportunities for landowners and/or conservation practitioners

 o Outreach and technical assistance capacity, i.e. "boots on the ground"

 o Efforts to minimize human-bear conflict

o Address landowner barriers to participation in forestry and conservation programs, such as heirs' property title issues

o Demonstration sites

o Advance new market-based solutions or incentives

o Increase participation in third-party certification

Encourage projects that include beginning farmers, socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers, limited resource farmers or ranchers, Tribes and veteran farmers and ranchers

6. Bottomland Hardwood Forest Habitat Conservation

o Capacity and transaction costs (boundary surveys, appraisals, legal fees, etc.) to facilitate targeted conservation easement projects

o Should be part of larger bottomland forest/wetland restoration proposal
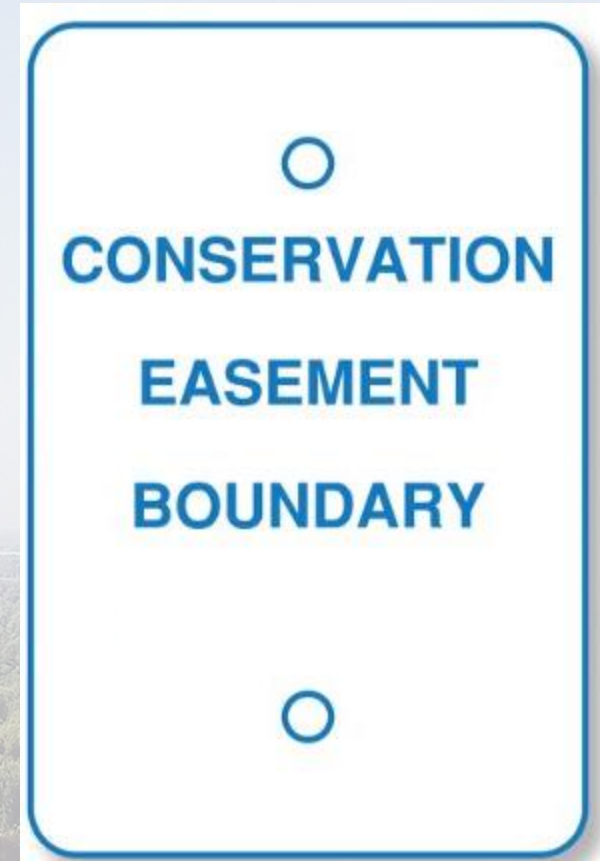
7. Improve Aquatic Connectivity

o Restore or retrofit barriers, such as dikes and levees, to improve flows between rivers and side channels to increase habitat connectivity for fish and other aquatic species.

o Proof-of-concept approaches to increase the frequency and duration of oxbow connection to the Mississippi River main stem will also be considered.

o Aquatic connectivity and/or aquatic habitat improvement proposals should detail the pre- and post-intervention freshwater fish monitoring at the site to be conducted either by the applicant or a partner/subcontractor.

  o This monitoring should include a sampling design and detection/capture methods for, abundance, and, if applicable, life-stages for the species being targeted.

  o Both single- and multi-species approaches will be considered.

Dike notching | Credit: Bruce Reid

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8. Restoration Response Monitoring

o Develop monitoring protocols to measure Louisiana black bear, waterfowl, forest birds and/or swamp rabbit, response to habitat restoration and enhancement projects funded through the grant program.

o Establish a baseline measurement if baseline data is not available

o Contact NFWF staff if submitting a proposal that includes species monitoring

   o Zack Bernstein (Zachary.Bernstein@nfwf.org)

   o Jon Scott (Jonathan.Scott@nfwf.org)

Pallid sturgeon| Credit: Bruce Reid

How to Apply in Easygrants

Prothonotary warbler | Credit: iStock

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How to Apply in Easygrants

❓ Frequently Asked Questions

Log In

New User?

Login ID / Email

Password

☑ Remember Me

Forgot Password?

Log In

For the optimal Easygrants experience, please:

🏠 Use a Supported Browser   💻 Enable Pop-ups   💼 Allow Cookies

📁 Only Use One Tab   ⬇ Get Adobe Reader

↪ Log Out and Close Browser for Security

Register

First Name *

First Name

Middle Name

Middle Name

Last Name *

Last Name

Login ID / Email *

Login ID / Email

Confirm Login ID / Email *

Confirm Login ID / Email

Password *

Password

Password Requirements

Confirm Password *

Confirm Password

Register   Back

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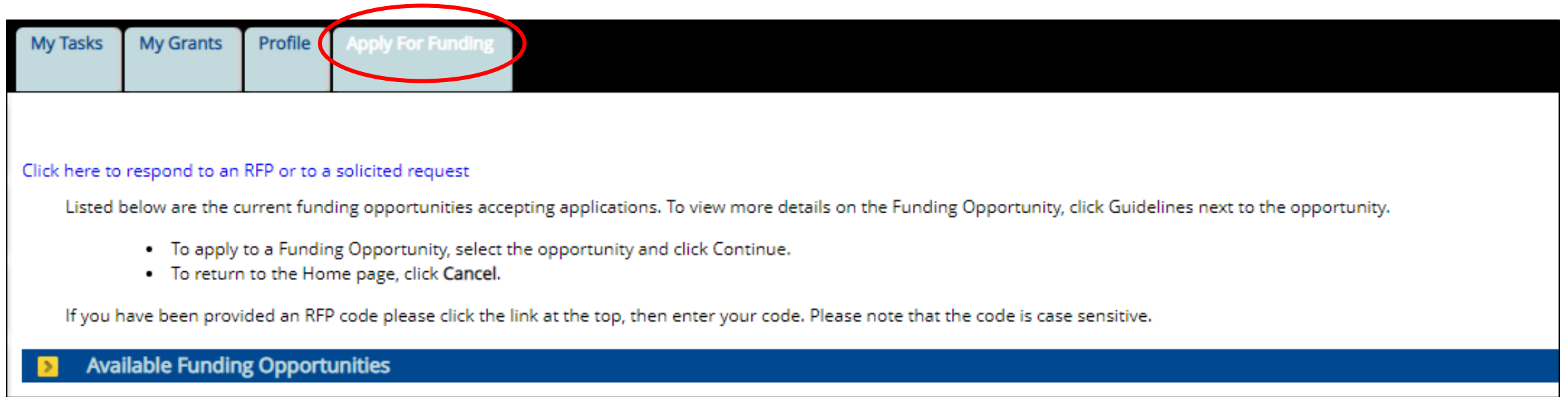
Once you are on your Easygrants homepage, click on "Apply for Funding"

Choose the Funding Opportunity you're applying to.

How to Apply in Easygrants

Map

Map your project at the finest scale by any of the three options:

Upload Shapefile

- Select a Zip file(.zip) containing a shapefile(.shp,.dbf,.prj) from your local file system.
- The shapefile must be of POLYGON geometry type.
- The shapefile must not exceed 1 MB.

Choose File   No file chosen

Select By Geography

Draw a Custom Area

My project area:

Submit Project Location

■ Submitted Project Locations
■ Pending Project Locations

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

Save and Continue

23

Uploads

Upload Type	Required	Template
Upload Checklist		
LMAV Full Proposal Narrative 2022	Yes	LMAV Full Proposal Narrative Template 2022
Project Map	Yes	
Letters of Support	No	
Conceptual Plans	No	
Engineered Plans	No	
Photos - Jpeg	No	
Statement of Litigation	Yes	Statement of Litigation
Board of Trustees, Directors, or equivalent	Yes	
Applicant Controls Questionnaire	Yes	Applicant Controls Questionnaire Template
Applicant Demographic Information Form	Yes	Applicant Demographic Information Form
GAAP audited financial statements	Yes	
IRS Form 990	Yes	
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).

- **Threats and/or Opportunities:** Describe the threats that this project seeks to address in achieving large-scale conservation.

- **Outcome(s):** Elaborate on the outcome(s) summarized previously in the application; discuss what makes this outcome(s) achievable and important.

- **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.

- **Implementation Strategy**: Detail the approach or methodology that will be used to achieve the goals of the project.

- **Tracking Metrics:** Indicate how the project will monitor/assess progress on the metrics selected previously in the application.

- **Benefit to Species:** Please describe how the activities described in the proposal will contribute to improved populations of species that are representative of healthy forest and/or wetland systems

- **Project Sustainability:** Describe how the project will be maintained to ensure specific ecosystem benefits are achieved and sustained over time.

- **Partnerships and 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-term Sustainability
- ☐ Past Success
- ☐ Key Personnel

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Metrics

* If none of the available metrics apply to your project, please contact NFWF to discuss

Budget

- In order to complete a budget for your proposal, you must expand the appropriate categories and provide the information requested.

- 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	
Budget	
Expand all	
	Budget
➤ Personnel	$0.00
➤ Travel	$0.00
➤ Equipment	$0.00
➤ Materials and Supplies	$0.00
➤ Contractual Services	$0.00
➤ Other Direct Costs	$0.00
Total Direct Costs	$0.00
Total Indirect Costs	$0.00
Total Costs	$0.00

Budget

Click this symbol to **expand** a budget category to show the applicable subcategory

Click this symbol to **add line items** within a budget subcategory

Click this symbol to **edit line item** data within a budget subcategory

Click this symbol to **delete line items** within a budget subcategory

Personnel

Personnel

Jackie Smith, Program Director

Budget

$23,365.38

$23,365.38

$23,365.38
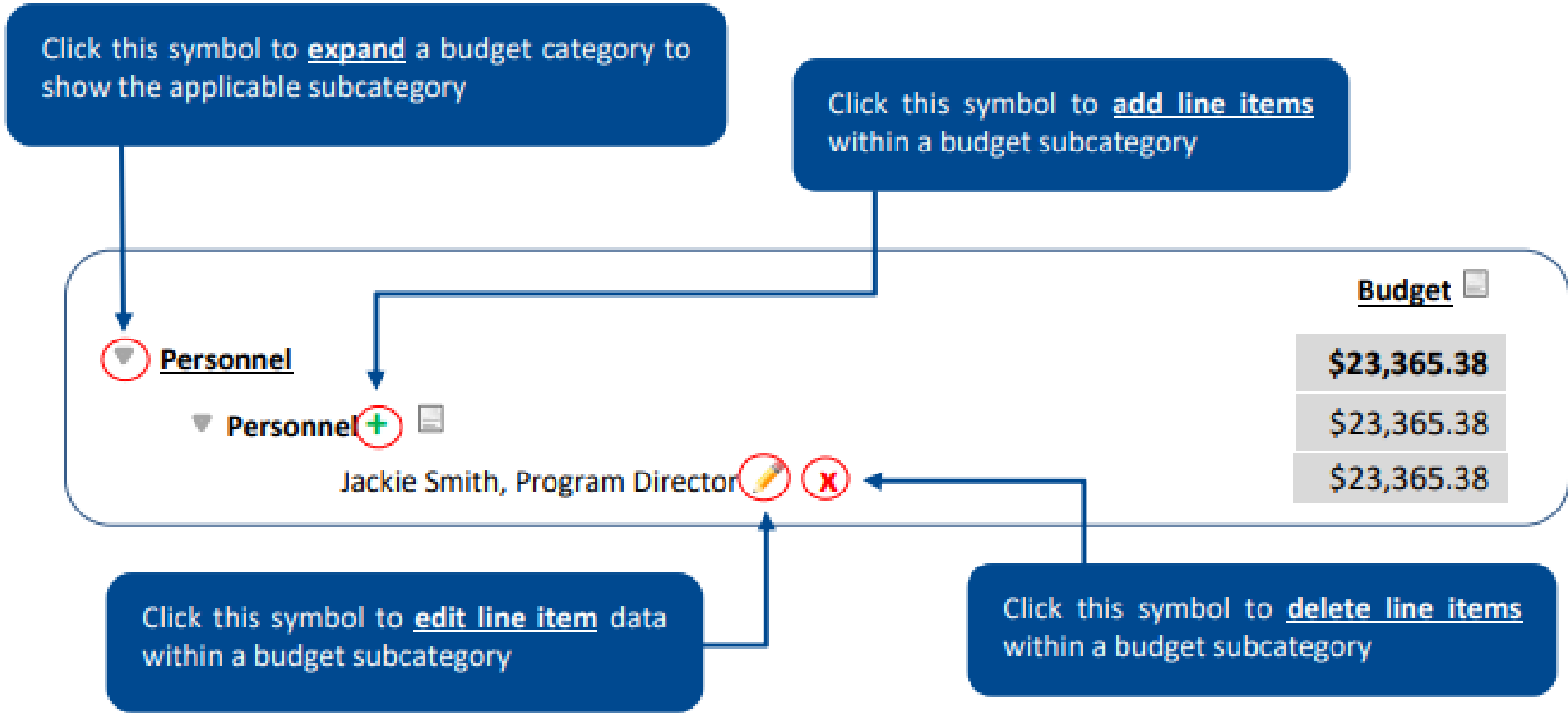
Detailed Budget Instructions: Adding/Editing Narratives

- 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 **rationale**, **purpose** and **calculation** 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.

Click this symbol to <u>add a narrative</u> within a budget subcategory

Budget ▢

▼ Personnel

▼ Personnel + ▢

Budget $23,365.38

$23,365.38

Next, complete the narrative box as shown below:

Notes	
Line Item Budget	Personnel
Budget	Jackie Smith will manage all aspects of the program which includes, surveys of the project site alongside field techs, landowner interviews and follow-ups, and supervision of volunteers during sponsored work days.
Save	Save and Close	Cancel

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.

Budget			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			**$5,841.34**
Total Costs			**$110,802.72**

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.

Resources

Tip Sheet

https://www.nfwf.org/sites/default/files/2023-02/2023_lower_ms_tip_sheet_0.pdf

Required Financial Documents

http://www.nfwf.org/whatwedo/grants/applicants/Pages/required-financial-docs.aspx

Budget Instructions

http://www.nfwf.org/whatwedo/grants/applicants/Pages/budget-instructions.aspx

Detailed Budget and Narrative Guide

https://www.nfwf.org/sites/default/files/2020-07/nfwf-detailed-budget-narrative-guide.pdf

NFWF Indirect Policy

http://www.nfwf.org/whatwedo/grants/applicants/Pages/indirect-policy.aspx

Mapping Tutorial

http://www.nfwf.org/whatwedo/grants/applicants/Pages/mapping-tool.aspx

Lower MS Alluvial Valley business plan

https://www.nfwf.org/lowermsvalley/Documents/lmav-business-plan.pdf

Timeline and Application Resources

Prothonotary warbler | Credit: iStock

Program Timeline

April

April - August

August

6th: Full proposals due

Proposal Review

Awards Announced
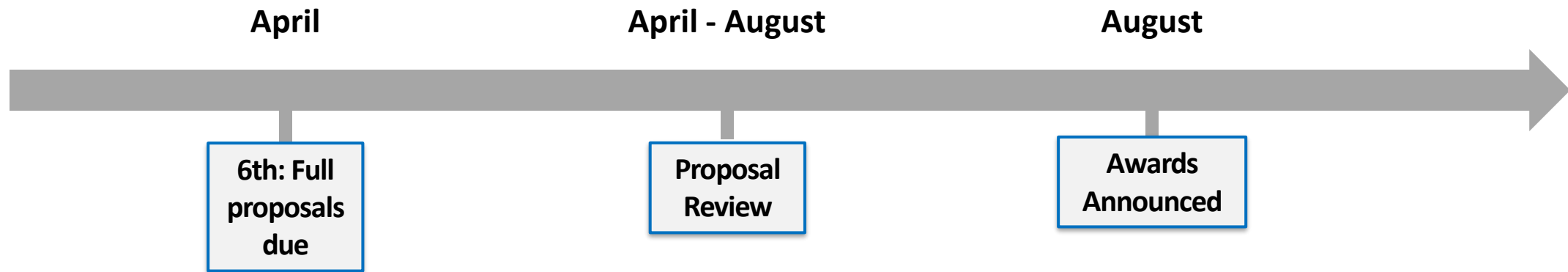
QUESTIONS or COMMENTS

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jonathan.scott@nfwf.org
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Zack Bernstein
Program Manager, Southern Forests
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Julian Fedorchuk
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(202) 595-2602

Easygrants technical support:

Email helpdesk at Easygrants@nfwf.org or
leave a message at 202-595-2497