

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation 2023 Cumberland Plateau Stewardship Fund Applicant Webinar



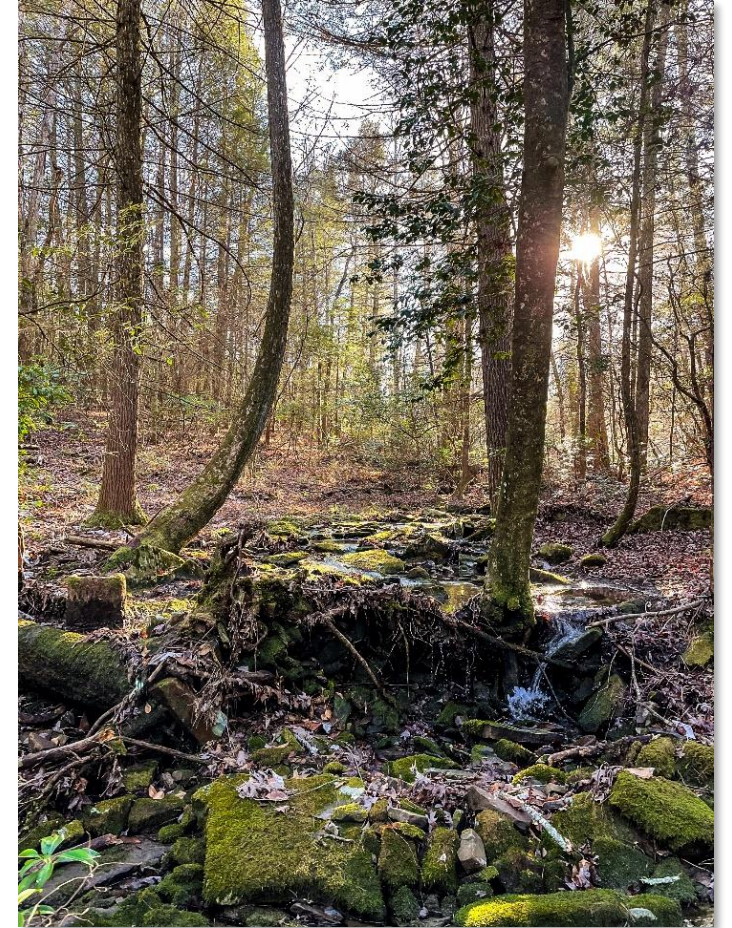
Webinar Guidelines

- 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 <https://www.nfwf.org/programs/cumberland-plateau-stewardship-fund>.**



Webinar Agenda

- **Program Overview**
- **Program Priorities**
- **Application Guidance and Navigating Easygrants**
- **Timeline and Resource Links**



Program Overview

The **Cumberland Plateau Stewardship Fund** invests in on-the-ground projects to help accelerate the restoration and enhancement of critical forest and freshwater habitats and associated wildlife species within the Cumberland Plateau region.

Public-Private Partnership



2023 Funding Opportunity

- Request for Proposals: <https://www.nfwf.org/programs/cumberland-plateau-stewardship-fund>
- Proposal due date: April 13, 2023
- Eligible applicants*:
 - ✓ Non-profit 501(c)
 - ✓ State, tribal and local governments
 - ✓ Academic institutions
- Anticipated funding: ~\$2 million total
- Individual grant size: \$250,000 - \$500,000
- Matching funds:
 - Projects with a minimum match of 1:1 non-federal cash or in-kind will be most competitive
 - Projects unable to provide a 1:1 non-federal match are eligible, but applicants must contact NFWF to discuss match waiver options prior to submitting a proposal
 - Applicants encouraged to describe federal partner contributions that will directly contribute to project outcomes, although those contributions will not count toward the 1:1 match



**Federal agencies, for-profits and individual landowners cannot directly apply, but may partner on proposals*

Geography

Projects must occur within the Cumberland Plateau Stewardship Fund program boundary in the following states...

Alabama

Georgia

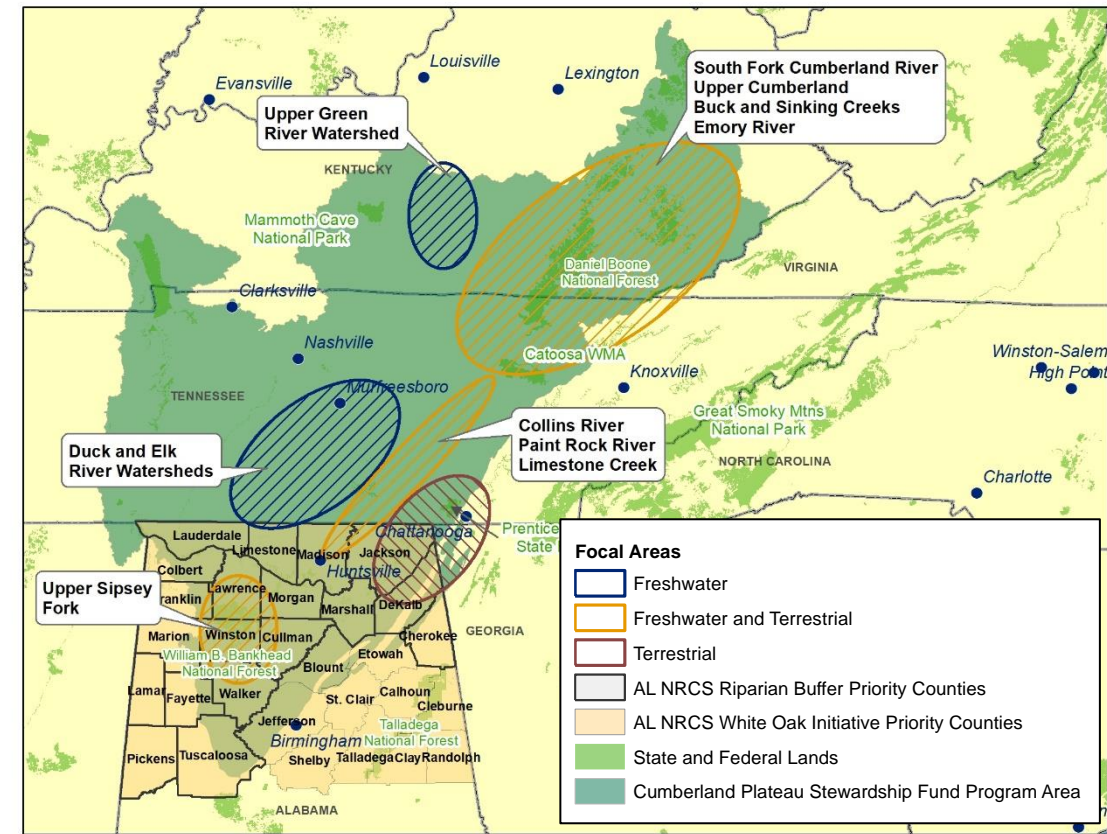
Kentucky

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)



Cumberland Plateau Stewardship Fund Program Landscape

Program Priorities



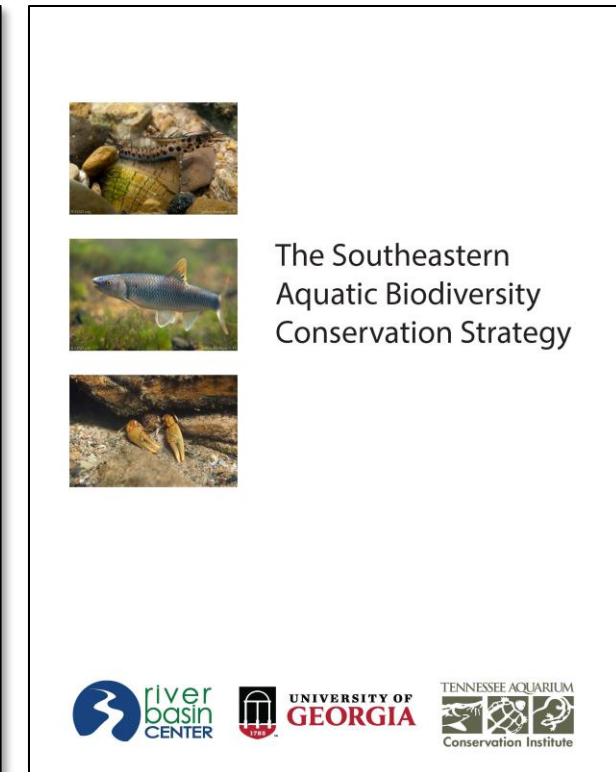
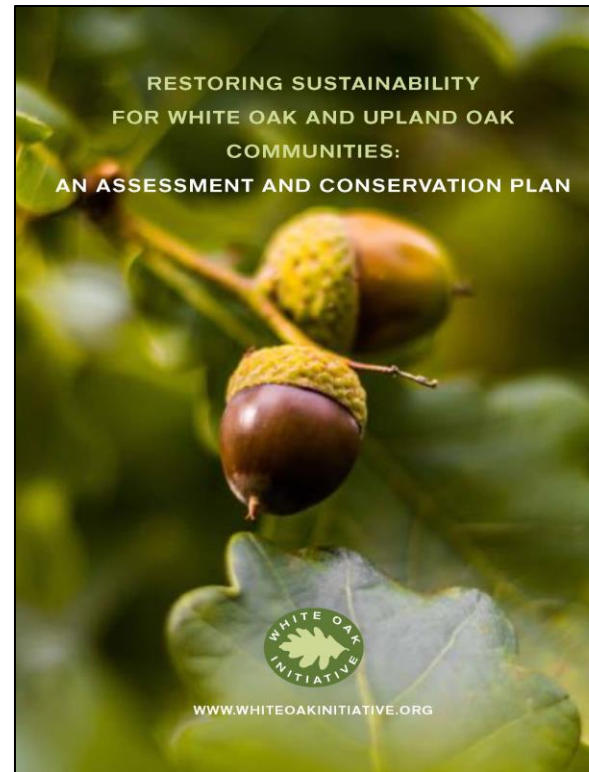
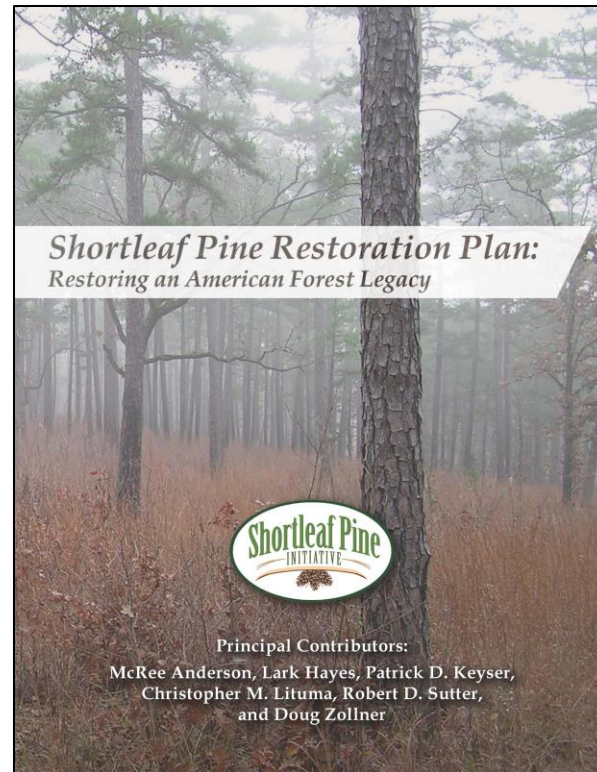
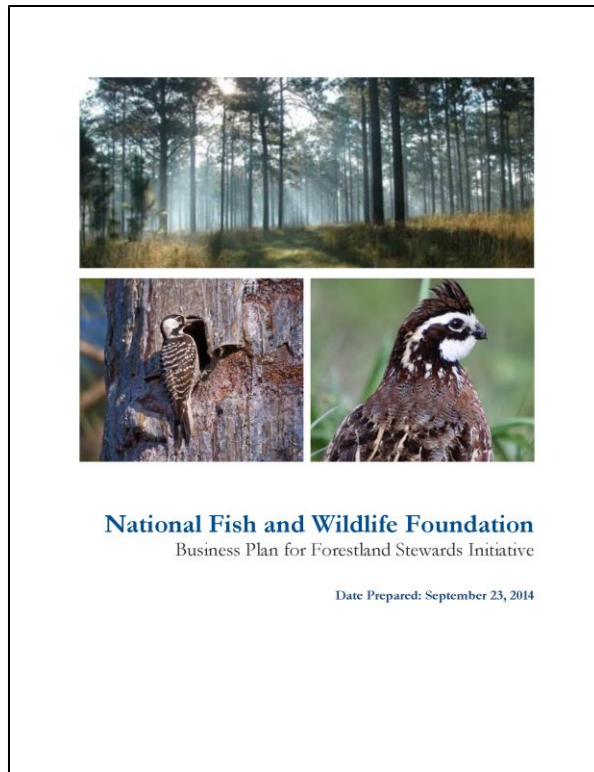
Prairie warbler



NFWF

Program Priorities

The Fund seeks to support multiple strategic objectives, informed by the following guiding documents and funder priorities:



Program Priorities

1. Restoring Previously Mined Lands
2. Increase Adoption of Conservation Practices on Agricultural Lands
3. Establishing, Enhancing, and Maintaining Forest Habitats
4. Restore Instream Habitats
5. Expanding and Coordinating Technical Assistance and Outreach

NFWF is interested in projects that will implement habitat restoration or improvement practices that benefit wildlife and:

- Sequester carbon and/ or improve water quantity or quality
- Outreach and engagement to communities, in particular encourage projects that benefit underserved communities

Restoring Previously Mined Lands

- Restore forest and native grassland on previously mined sites
 - Emphasis on planting native tree species to benefit wildlife, reduce erosion and runoff, and sequester carbon
 - Site prep and planting are eligible activities
- Practices to enhance or maintain existing forests on abandoned and/or legacy mines, such as thinning and invasive species removal, to improve wildlife habitat and improve water quality will be considered
- Proposals should address:
 - ✓ all necessary site preparation for planting
 - ✓ number of acres and seedlings that will be planted
 - ✓ timing of when planting is expected to be completed
 - ✓ summarize plans to manage planted stands

*Projects are encouraged to use the Forestry Reclamation Approach as outlined by the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement.



Increase Adoption of Conservation Practices on Agricultural Lands

- Voluntarily implement agricultural best management practices on cropland/pastureland
- Eligible activities include:
 - Prescribed/rotational grazing + complimentary conservation practices
 - Installing fencing and alternative watering systems for livestock
 - Conservation cover, cover crops, reduced tillage, diversified crop rotation
 - Responsible incorporation of crop residue, manures, etc. into soil management
 - Establish and enhance farmer-led education and outreach programs



Photo credit: Tim McCabe, USDA NRCS

Establishing Forest Habitats

- Reforestation or afforestation of upland pine-oak and/or riparian forests
- Site preparation, seedlings and labor are eligible expenses
- Proposals should address:
 - ✓ all necessary site preparation for planting
 - ✓ number of acres and seedlings that will be planted
 - ✓ timing of when planting is expected to be completed
 - ✓ summarize plans to manage planted stands

* Projects that expect to plant a mix of tree species should include an estimate of the number of seedlings of each species that will be planted in their proposal.



Enhancing and Maintaining Existing Forest Habitat

Eligible strategies to enhance and maintain existing forest habitat include:

- **Prescribed Fire**

- Capacity to plan and implement prescribed burns and increase collaboration – ex. burn teams, burn associations
- Training and technical assistance, including assisting USDA staff in writing burn plans and implementing financial assistance contracts
- Incentives to increase Rx fire acres and burn frequency on private lands
- Identify and address specific barriers or roadblocks to fire implementation

- **Other Silvicultural Treatments**

- Thinning, invasive species control, mechanical and/or chemical treatments
- Planting native understory species
- Expand and conserve riparian buffers and/or forested streamside management zones



Restoring Instream Habitats to Support Aquatic Species

Restore Wetland, Streambank, and Instream Habitat

- Restoration activities not covered under forestry or agricultural BMPs in previous funding categories

Restore Aquatic Connectivity

- Remove or retrofit stream barriers (low-head dams) and stream crossings (culverts, concrete fords) to improve aquatic habitat connectivity and reduce sedimentation.
- Preference for projects within focal area watersheds



Expanding and Coordinating Technical Assistance and Outreach

- Projects that implement targeted outreach and assistance to measurably increase private landowner and/or producer participation in Farm Bill programs and implementation of conservation practices
- Seeking projects that are proposing to work with underserved landowners, including [USDAs historically underserved farmers and ranchers](#)
- Strategies may include:
 - Capacity (“boots on-the-ground”) to provide technical assistance, develop management plans, and assist with implementation of restoration and management treatments
 - Use of innovative methods to engage private landowners or producers and expand on-the-ground restoration and protection activities on private lands
 - Targeted outreach to landowners and producers to prioritize, plan and deliver Farm Bill and other government financial assistance programs
- Collaboration with NRCS expected
- Proposals should estimate number of acres/miles impacted as a result of proposed outreach activities



How to Apply in Easygrants



Eastern hellbender

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](#)

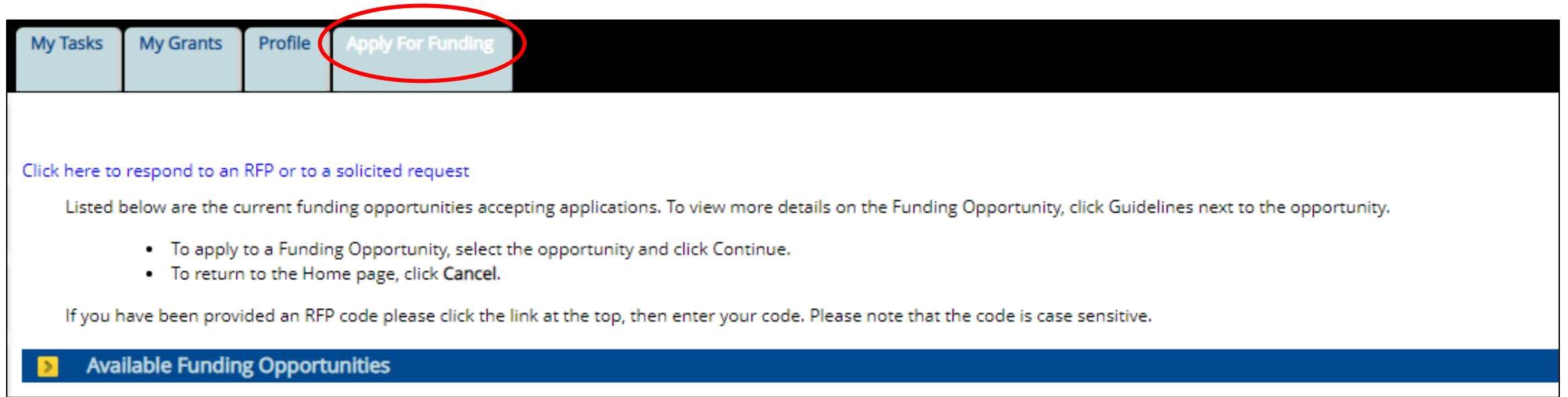
Confirm Password *

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

Home

Main

Contact Information

Organization Information

Project Information

Project Location

Map

Uploads

Metrics

Budget

Matching Contributions

Permits and Approvals

Review and Submit

Project Information

Due: 12/16/2021 11:59 PM ET

Easygrants ID: 74112

Bernstein, Zack | Grants | Lower MS Alluvial Valley Fund | Lower MS Alluvial Valley Restoration Fund 2022

Instructions

Click the page links on the left navigation bar, or in the summary below to view the pages where you will enter the information required for this submission. **Click** as needed until you submit. Once you submit, you will no longer be able to make changes. [Click here to view Foundation Guidelines for this Funding Opportunity.](#)

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

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

Validation Summary

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

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.



No file chosen

Select By Geography

Draw a Custom Area

My project area:



-  Submitted Project Locations
-  Pending Project Locations



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

Uploads

Upload Type	Required	Template
Cumberland Full Proposal Narrative 2023	Yes	Cumberland Full Proposal Narrative Template 2023
Project Map	Yes	
Letters of Support	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	
Single Audit (Formerly 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 not be shared with proposal reviewers and will not be considered when making grant decisions.
- The Foundation will not 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.

APPLICANT DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

As part of NFWF's goal to encourage and support diversity across the conservation projects we fund, we would like to better understand the existing diversity in our grantmaking community and in the local communities. To accomplish this task, we are asking organizations that we fund to assist us by providing basic information about their workforce demographics on this form.

As part of this effort to support diversity, we also desire to understand how our grantees engage with the communities where the projects take place and who in those communities might benefit from them. We ask for this information provided on this excel form will be kept confidential, although the Foundation may share its aggregate findings as appropriate with its staff, Board of Directors, funding partners, and publicly on its website not share identifying information about any particular entity or project. These anonymized aggregate data will be used by NFWF to better understand the demographic profiles of the organizations that we fund.

The information you provide will not be shared with proposal reviewers and will not be considered when making grant decisions.

Instructions: Complete all pertinent fields shaded in green. Your Human Resources Department may have some of the information requested readily available. Please be sure to complete the General Information section. If you do not know an answer, use the "don't know/not sure" option instead of guessing. If a section does not apply to your organization you may skip it. **Do not make any other changes to this form.** You may opt out of providing this information to NFWF; however, you still must upload this form to Easygrants with your application and complete the first section of the form.

All applicants must complete this section, even if you have provided this data to NFWF in the past 12 months or are opting out for another reason.

If you have provided this data to NFWF in the past 12 months you do not need to provide it again but you must still complete this top section of the form and submit it with your proposal.

Easygrants project # from your grant application:

Grant program name shown on the RFP:

If you are opting out, select a reason from the dropdown list in the green box:

General Information

Date Completed:

Project Title:

Organization Full Name:

Organization EIN:

Organization Type:

Organization Size (number of employees)

Click on the green box to select from the dropdown list

Click on the green box to select from the dropdown list

PART 1: APPLICANT ORGANIZATION - ALL EMPLOYEES (if applicable)

Please provide the following demographic information about all of your organization's employees, including senior leaders.

1. How many people currently work for your organization? (Include temporary and part-time employees in your response but do not include contractors)

Total Number:

2. How many of your employees identify as each gender?

Female:

Male:

Non-binary:

Unknown/Not sure:



NFWF

Narrative

- **Project Overview:** In 1-2 paragraphs, provide a high-level project summary and expected conservation outcomes.
- **Conservation Need:** Describe the threats and/or conservation needs that this project seeks to address.
- **Project Activities:** Describe the activities that will be implemented and how these activities address the conservation need(s) identified above and support the priorities and strategies outlined in the RFP.
- **Tracking Metrics:** Indicate how the project will monitor/assess progress toward the outcome metrics selected in Easygrants.
- **Conservation Outcomes:** Describe the conservation outcomes that will be achieved through project implementation with reference to the selected outcome metrics; discuss what makes the outcomes achievable and important.
- **Benefit to Priority Species and Conservation Co-Benefits:** 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 Team:** List key individuals and describe their qualifications relevant for project implementation.
- **Community Impact:** Describe: a) the community(ies) where the project will take place, b) who will benefit from the project, and c) how they were or will be engaged in project development and implementation.

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



NFWF

Metrics

Select Metric

Show:

Show All Templates

Show All Strategies

Search:

Add	Metric		Strategies	Required
<input type="checkbox"/>	CPF - Land, wetland restoration - Acres restored on public land	?	Habitat Restoration	Recommended
<input type="checkbox"/>	CPF - BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction - Acres with cover crops	?	Habitat Management	Recommended
<input type="checkbox"/>	CPF - Improved management practices - Acres under imp mgt (private)	?	H	
<input type="checkbox"/>	CPF - BMP implementation for livestock fencing - Miles of fencing installed	?	H	
<input type="checkbox"/>	CPF - Riparian habitat vegetation - Land, wetland restoration - # of trees planted on private lands	?	H	
<input type="checkbox"/>	CPF - BMP implementation for prescribed burns - Acres public land burned	?	H	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CPF - Riparian restoration - Acres restored on private land	?	Habitat Restoration	Recommended
<input type="checkbox"/>	CPF - Improved management practices - Acres with managed grazing	?	Habitat Management	Optional
<input type="checkbox"/>	CPF - Land restoration - Acres restored on public land	?	Habitat Restoration	Recommended
<input type="checkbox"/>	CPF - Incentives - \$ value of govt agency cost share or financial assistance	?	Capacity, Outreach, Incentives	Recommended

Metric instruction: Enter the # of acres of riparian forest planted on private lands. In the NOTES, specify landcover prior to planting (barren, cropland, grass, shrub) and post-planting (broadleaf, conifer, grassland, shrubland)..

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

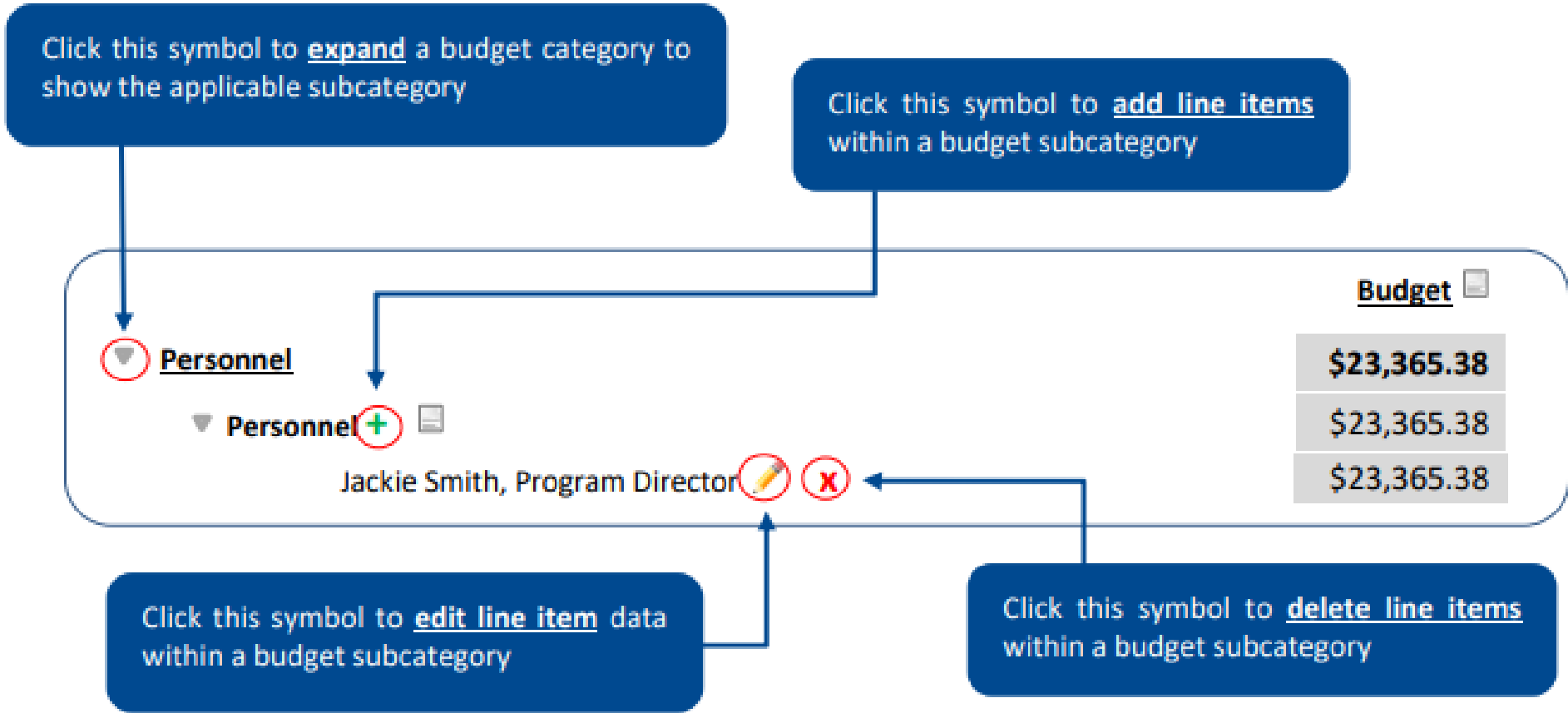


Budget

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

Budget




Detailed Budget Instructions: Adding/Editing Narratives

- Narratives are required for all budgeted categories.
 - Explain/justify the estimated costs including the unit cost and quantity requested
 - Explain how the costs associated with each line item supports the implementation of the project as outlined in the proposal
- Narratives should be written in such a way that someone not familiar with the project can conceptually understand the **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 add a narrative within a budget subcategory


	Budget
▼ <u>Personnel</u>	\$23,365.38
▼ Personnel + 	\$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	
Collapse all	
	Budget 
> <u>Personnel</u>	\$23,365.38
Personnel	\$23,365.38
Jackie Smith, Program Manager	\$23,365.38
> <u>Travel</u>	\$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
> <u>Equipment</u>	\$20,500.00
Equipment	\$20,500.00
Excavation Machine	\$20,500.00
> <u>Materials and Supplies</u>	\$525.00
Materials and Supplies	\$525.00
Native Grass Seed	\$525.00
> <u>Contractual Services</u>	\$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
> <u>Other Direct Costs</u>	\$17.00
Other Direct Costs	\$17.00
River cleanup event parking.	\$17.00
> <u>Indirect Costs</u>	\$5,841.34
Indirect Costs	\$5,841.34
Salaries & Benefits, 9/30/20, Provisional	\$5,841.34
<u>Total Direct Costs</u>	\$104,961.38
<u>Total Indirect Costs</u>	\$5,841.34
<u>Total Costs</u>	\$110,802.72

Matching Contributions

Matching Contribution Editor

Instructions

Enter the required matching contribution details below. Click **Save** regularly to save your work. **The system will timeout and you will lose unsaved work if you do not save at least once every hour.** Click **Save and Close** to save and return to the Matching Contributions list page. Fields marked with a red asterisk (*) are required for final submission for most programs. Click **Help** for examples and instructions.

Status *

<Select>

Source *

Enter the name of the person or Organization providing the Matching Contribution

Source Type *

<Select>

Type *

<Select>

Description *

Limit: 250 charactersRemaining: 250

Amount *

Save and Close

Close

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.

NOTE: You must enable pop-ups to use this system. If a link does not open please try holding the Shift or Control (CTRL)

Project Location

Map

Uploads

Budget

Matching Contributions

Permits and Approvals

Review and Submit

FAQ

Help

Log Out

View Full Submission

View PDF

Submission

Validation Status

Page Name	Status
Contact Information	✓ Complete
Organization Information	✗ Incomplete
✗ Primary Organization is required	
Project Information	✗ Incomplete
✗ Project Title is required.	
✗ Project Start Date is required.	
✗ Project End Date is required.	
✗ Description is required	
✗ Abstract is required.	
✗ Requested Amount is required.	
Project Location	✗ Incomplete
✗ Project Location Description is required.	
✗ Project Location Country(s) is required.	
Map	✗ Incomplete
✗ Please confirm your project has been accurately mapped.	
Uploads	✗ Incomplete
✗ GAAP audited financial statements is required and has not been uploaded.	
IRS Form 990 is required and has not been uploaded.	
A-133 Audit is required and has not been uploaded.	
Board of Trustees, Directors, or equivalent is required and has not been uploaded.	
Statement of Litigation is required and has not been uploaded.	
CBWTP Full Proposal 2021 is required and has not been uploaded.	
CBWTP 5 Year Transaction Projection 2021 is required and has not been uploaded.	
CBWTP Work Elements 2021 is required and has not been uploaded.	
Budget	✓ Complete
Matching Contributions	✓ Complete
Permits and Approvals	✓ Complete

Resources

Tip Sheet

<https://www.nfwf.org/sites/default/files/2023-02/cumberland-2023-tip-sheet.pdf>

Resource Documents

https://www.nfwf.org/sites/default/files/2023-02/cumberland_plateau-2023-rfp_resources.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>



Timeline and Application Resources



Northern bobwhite



NFWF

Program Timeline



QUESTIONS or COMMENTS

Jon Scott

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Zack Bernstein

Manager, Southern Forests

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(202) 595-2602

Easygrants technical support:

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

