



NFWF



**Northeast Forests and Rivers Fund**

*Applicant Webinar, May 31, 2023*

Wood Turtle

# Webinar Instructions

- All participants are automatically muted.
- Do not hit hold button.
- Raise your “hand” to confirm you can hear.

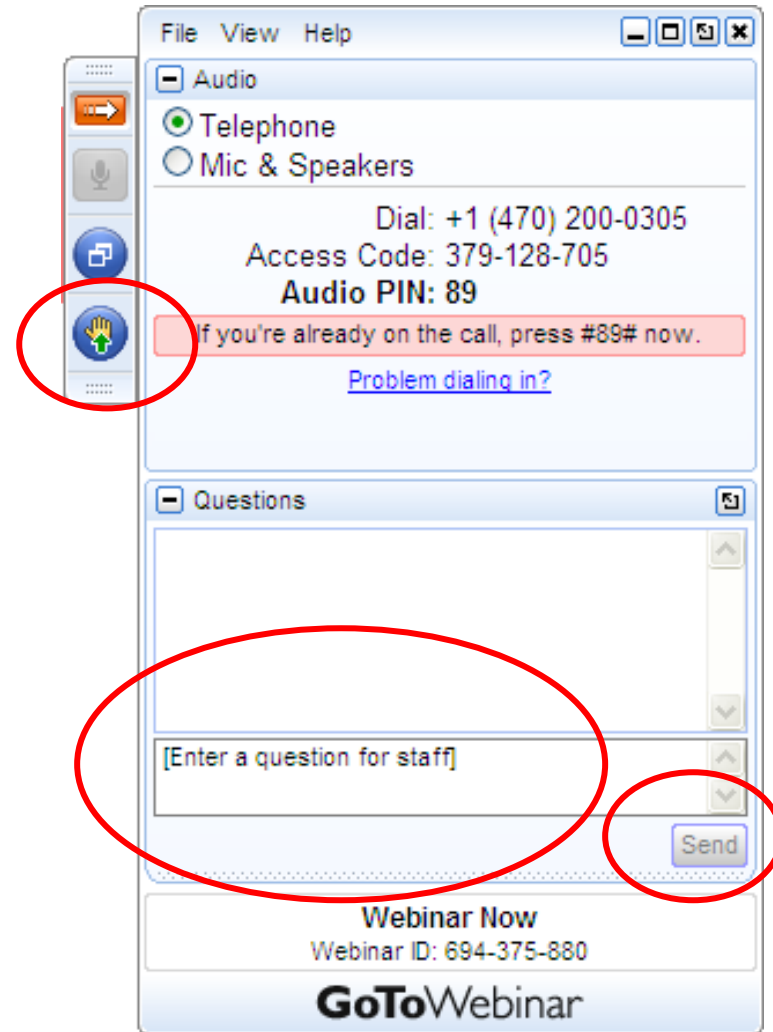
## QUESTIONS?

- ✓ Questions will be collected & then answered at the end of sections during the webinar.
- ✓ **Type question into “Enter a question for staff” and click “Send”** or
- ✓ Send question to [John.Wright@nfwf.org](mailto:John.Wright@nfwf.org) following conclusion of the webinar.

## PROBLEMS?

- ✓ Type it into the “Enter a question for staff.” We will try to resolve it during the webinar.

*Webinar Powerpoint and referenced documents can be found at: [www.nfwf.org/northeast-forests-and-rivers-fund](http://www.nfwf.org/northeast-forests-and-rivers-fund)*



# AGENDA

- 1. Staff Roles**
- 2. About NFWF**
- 3. Overview of Program History and Outcomes**
- 4. 2023 Program Overview and Funding**
- 5. Process and Review of Request for Proposals**
- 6. Metrics**
- 7. Using EasyGrants**
- 8. Final Tips**

# 1. NFWF Staff Roles



**Amanda Bassow**, Director,  
Northeastern Regional Office



**John Lamoreux**, Director, Fish  
and Wildlife Conservation



**John Wright**, Manager,  
Northeastern Regional Office



**Scott Hall**, Senior Scientist,  
Bird Conservation



**Kristen Byler**, Senior Staff  
Scientist, Marine  
Conservation

# About Us

## Who We Are

- Chartered by Congress in 1984
- Independent 501(c)(3) organization
- 30 member Board appointed by Secretary of the Interior
  - Includes FWS Director and NOAA Administrator

## What We Do

- Sustain, restore and enhance wildlife
- Bring collaboration among federal agencies and private sector

## How We Do It

- Leverage public funding with private money – average 3:1



*Bald eagle*

## NFWF is

- An implementer – we fund projects

## NFWF is not

- An advocacy organization that funds lobbying or litigation

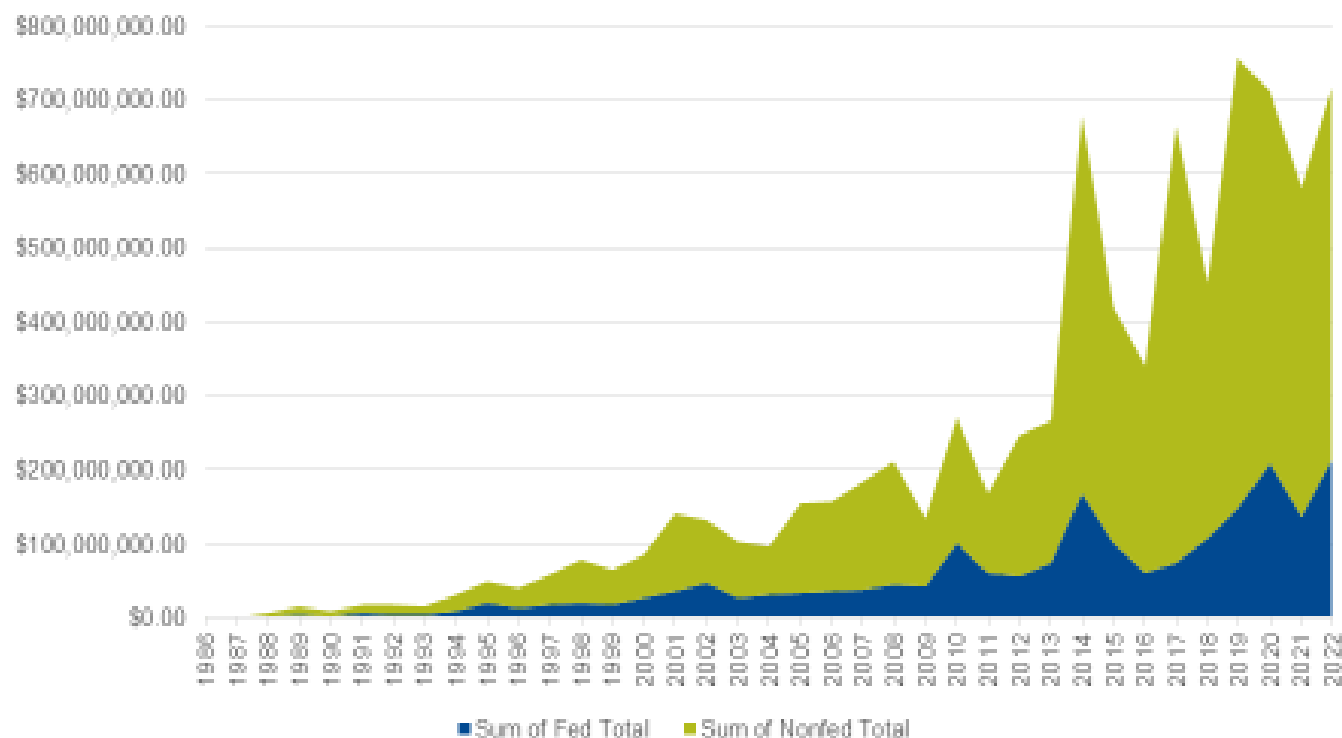




# Our Results

## Overview of NFWF Funds Invested

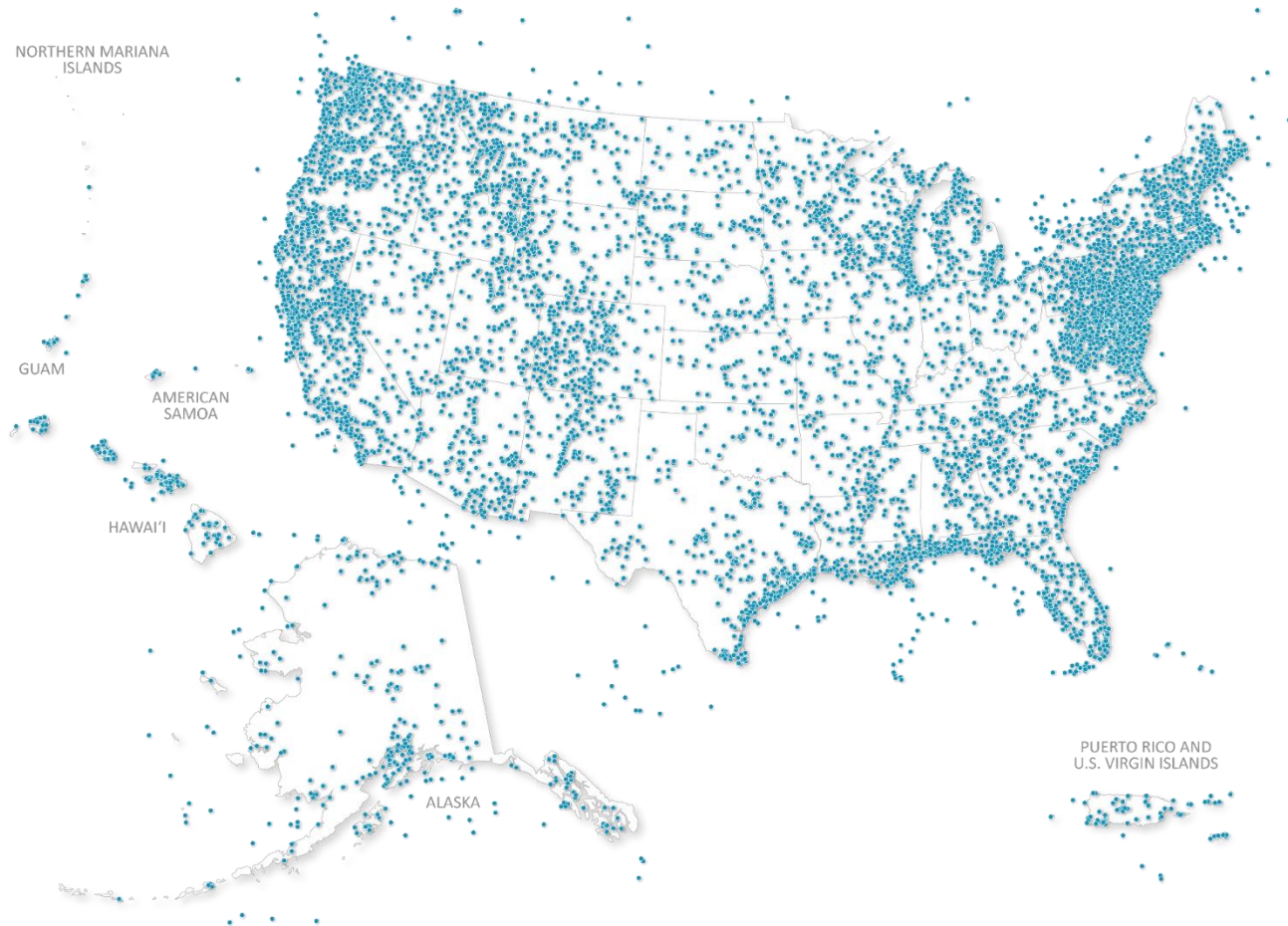
	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 1984 – FY 2022
Federal Funds	\$ 148.5 million	\$ 226.6 million	\$ 2.00 billion
Non-Federal Funds	\$ 165.8 million	\$ 187.8 million	\$ 2.57 billion
Grantee Matching Funds	\$ 301.3 million	\$ 319.8 million	\$ 3.51 billion
<b>Total Funds Invested</b>	<b>\$ 615.6 million</b>	<b>\$ 734.2 million</b>	<b>\$ 8.08 billion</b>
<b># of Projects Awarded</b>	<b>701</b>	<b>841</b>	<b>21,680</b>



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# NFWF Conservation Investments (1984 – 2022)



- **21,680 Investments**
- **6,000+ Organizations**
- **All 50 states**



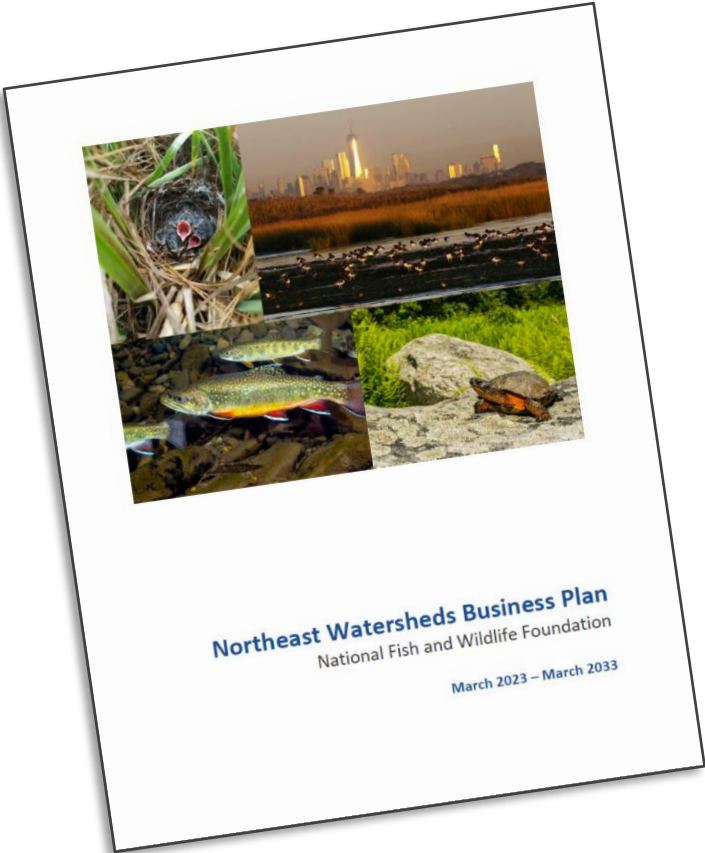
# 3. Program History and Outcomes

- *Launched in 2015 with goal to “**Restore and sustain healthy forests and rivers that provide habitat for diverse native bird and freshwater fish populations**”*
- *New **10-year conservation investment strategy (business plan)** for the region was approved in March 2023*
- Over \$12.3 million in grant funds have been awarded to 93 projects, including:
  - \$8.4 million from our federal partners, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service and U.S Forest Service
  - \$3.8 million from our private partners, including Zoetis Foundation and Avangrid Foundation



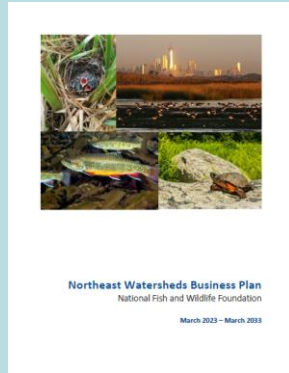


# Northeast Watersheds Business Plan

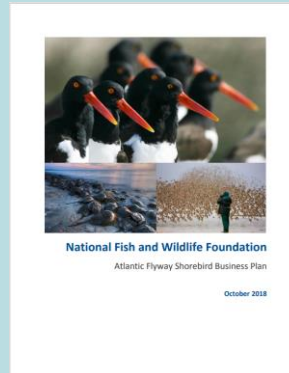


## Northeast Landscape

### Business Plans



*Northeast Watersheds*



*Atlantic Flyway Shorebird Plan*

### Programs

Long Island Sound  
Futures Fund

New England Forests  
and Rivers Fund

National Coastal  
Resilience Fund

America the Beautiful  
Challenge

### Grants

Grant

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# Northeast Watersheds: Essential Fish & Wildlife Habitats



American  
Oystercatcher

*Coastal  
Habitats*



Saltmarsh  
Sparrow



Atlantic Salmon

*Stream and Riparian  
Habitats*



River Herring



Brook Trout



Wood Turtle



New England  
Cottontail



Golden-winged  
Warbler

*Upland Forests and  
Grasslands*



Bobolink



# Conservation Impact: 2015-2022



## Program Outcomes:

- ✓ Re-connect 1,270 miles of stream for eastern brook trout, river herring and Atlantic salmon
- ✓ Remove or replace 167 barriers to fish passage
- ✓ Restore 15,325 acres of young, mature and old forest habitat
- ✓ Restore 98 miles of riparian forest buffer
- ✓ Engage over 2,600 volunteers in hands-on conservation



## 4. 2023 Program Overview

- ✓ Grants between \$75k and \$300k to restore and sustain healthy forests and rivers throughout New England and eastern New York
- ✓ Approximately 10 to 12 grants awarded each year
- ✓ 1:1 non-federal match encouraged
- ✓ Nonprofits, state and local governments, tribes, and educational institutions are eligible





# Application, Review and Award Process

**February-March: RFP development and issuance**



**July: Grant proposals due**



**Mid-July to Late-August: Technical Review**

- NFWF Review
- Subject matter experts from state and Federal agencies, academia and NGOs
- NFWF synthesizes reviews and makes awards decisions



**Mid-September to Mid-October: Notifications**

- Congress is notified of recommended grants. 30 days to comment.
- NFWF Board reviews grants in early November.



**November: Grant awards announced**

# 2023 Funding Available

Approximately \$2 million available

- Avangrid Foundation
- USDA's Forest Service
- USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Zoetis Foundation



# 5. REVIEW OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

- **Goals**
- **Geographic Focus**
- **Program Priorities**
- **Metrics**
- **Eligibility**
- **Evaluation Criteria**
- **Compliance**
- **Timeline**
- **Important Reminders**



# Conservation Goals

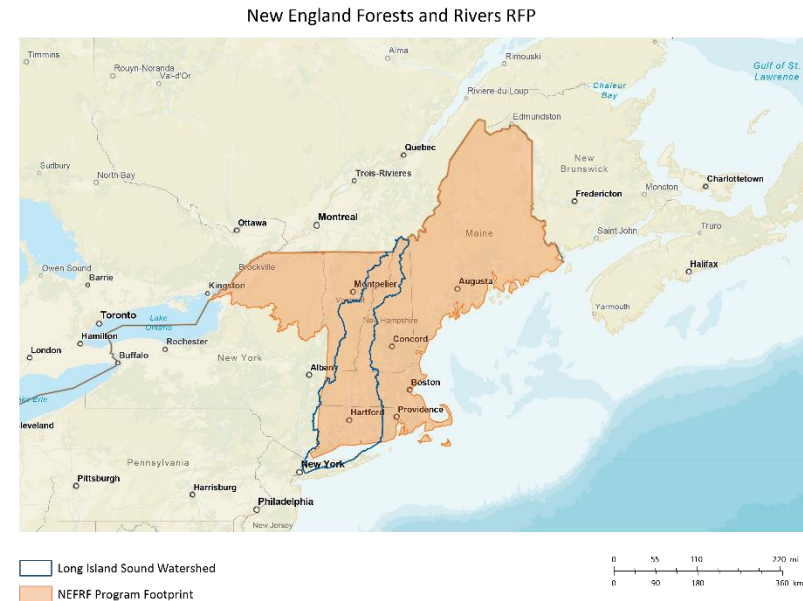
- Restore the quality and connectivity of **stream and riparian habitats** to benefit river herring, Atlantic salmon, eastern brook trout and wood turtle
- Improve the management of **forest blocks** to enhance age and structural diversity to benefit golden-winged warbler and New England cottontail
- Promote **hayfield management** that allows for successful grassland bird breeding, with a specific focus on habitat for bobolink.

# Geographic Focus

- *Throughout* CT, ME, MA, NH, RI and VT
- Lake Champlain, St. Lawrence and Upper Hudson watersheds in NY

## NOTE:

Applicants seeking funding for fish passage projects in Connecticut and/or water quality projects that benefit Long Island Sound were strongly encouraged to apply to the Long Island Sound Futures Fund (LISFF) rather than NEFRF. LISFF has significantly more funding available.





# 2023 Priorities

*(on pages 2-4 of RFP)*



# 1. **Restore Aquatic Ecosystems**

Restore **quality and connectivity** of stream and riparian habitats to enhance long-term persistence of **native aquatic species**

- ✓ Restore aquatic connectivity
- ✓ Restore riparian habitat
- ✓ Restore in-stream habitat (large wood)
- ✓ Reduce agricultural runoff/soil health

# Program Eligibility

NFWF Program Eligibility	Connecticut and Long Island	Upper Connecticut River Basin (MA, VT, NH)	Outside the LIS and Connecticut River Watershed
Restore aquatic connectivity	LISFF	NEFRF	NEFRF
Restore riparian habitat	LISFF	LISFF	NEFRF
Restore in-stream habitat (large wood)	Consult w/ NFWF staff	NEFRF	NEFRF
Reduce agricultural runoff/soil health	LISFF	LISFF	NEFRF

## 2. Improve Upland Forest Health

Improve forest management on **public and private lands** to enhance age and structural diversity

- ✓ Forest Block (5,000+ acres) Planning
- ✓ Young Forest Restoration within the context of large forest blocks
- ✓ Outreach and Technical Assistance

*Signage to explain the work being done is encouraged!*

### 3. Increase Grassland Bird Habitat

Improve forest management on **public and private lands** to enhance age and structural diversity

- ✓ Forest Block (5,000+ acres) Planning
- ✓ Young Forest Restoration within the context of large forest blocks
- ✓ Outreach and Technical Assistance

*Signage to explain the work being done is encouraged!*



## 6. Metrics

Restore Stream and  
Riparian Habitats

Priority 1: Restore  
aquatic connectivity

NEFR - Fish passage improvements - # passage  
barriers rectified

NEFR – Fish passage improvements - # miles of  
stream opened

NEFR - Fish passage improvements - Acres of  
lake/pond opened

NEFR - Fish passage improvements - # of barriers  
assessed and/or with design plans

## 6. Metrics Continued

Restore Stream and Riparian Habitats cont.	Priority 2: Restore Riparian Habitat and In-stream Habitat	NEFR – Land, wetland restoration- # of trees planted
		NEFR - Riparian restoration - Miles restored
		NEFR - Riparian restoration - Acres restored
		NEFR - Instream restoration - Miles restored
		NEFR - Wetland restoration - Acres restored

## 6. Metrics Continued

Restore Stream and Riparian Habitats Cont.	Priority 3: Reduce Agricultural Runoff and Improve Soil Health	NEFR - Improved management practices - Acres with managed grazing
		NEFR - BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction - Acres with conservation tillage
		NEFR - BMP implementation for livestock fencing - Miles of fencing installed
		NEFR - BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction - Acres with cover crops
		NEFR - BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction - Acres with enhanced nutrient mgt
		NEFR - BMP implementation for livestock manure - Tons of manure
		NEFR - BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction - Acres with BMPs
		NEFR – Number of people reached
		NEFR–Outreach/Education/Technical Assistance - # of people with changed behavior

## 6. Metrics Continued

Improve Upland Forest Health	Priority 4: Forest Block Planning	NEFR - Forest Management Planning - # of acres covered by dynamic forest plans
	Priority 5: Young Forest Restoration	NEFR - Improved management practices - Acres under improved management
		NFFR - Early successional forest - Improved management practices - Acres under improved management
	Priority 6: Outreach and Technical Assistance	NEFR - Outreach/ Education/ Technical Assistance - # people reached
		NEFR – Outreach/Education/Technical Assistance - # of people with changed behavior

## 6. Metrics Continued

**Increase Grassland  
Bird Habitat**

**Priority 7: Grassland  
Management on  
Hayfields**

NEFR - Bobolink - Improved management practices - Acres under improved management

NEFR - Outreach/ Education/ Technical Assistance - # people reached

NEFR – Outreach/Education/Technical Assistance - # of people with changed behavior

## 6. Metrics Continued - Other

Other Activities	Restore Pollinator Habitat	NEFR – Land Restoration – Acres restored
		NEFR - Land Restoration - Acres of field buffers created
	Land Protection	NEFR - Conservation easements - Acres protected under easement
		NEFR - Land acquisitions - Acres acquired in fee
	Conduct Native Trout Inventory and Assessments	NEFR - Eastern Brook Trout - Research - # sites assessed
	Monitor Native Trout and River Herring	NEFR – Monitoring – Miles being monitored

## 6. Metrics Continued - Other

Other Activities	Wildlife population monitoring	NEFR - Acres monitored
		NEFR - Monitoring - # monitoring programs
		NEFR - New England Cottontail - Translocation - # Translocated/stocked
	Engaging volunteers in restoration activities	NEFR – Volunteer Participation -# volunteers participating
	Management Planning	NEFR - Management or Governance Plannning - # plans developed
	Research	NEFR - Research - # studies used to inform mgmt
	Tools Developed	



# Eligibility

## Eligible and Ineligible Entities

- **Eligible:** Eligible applicants include non-profit 501(c) organizations, state government agencies, local governments, municipal governments, Tribal governments and organizations, and educational institutions.
- **Ineligible:** Federal government agencies, businesses, unincorporated individuals and international organizations

# Ineligible Use of Funds

- **Equipment:** Applicants are encouraged to rent equipment where possible and cost-effective or use matching funds to make those purchases.
- Federal funds and matching contributions may not be used to procure or obtain equipment, services, or systems (including entering into or renewing a contract) that uses telecommunications equipment or services produced by Huawei Technologies Company or ZTE Corporation (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities) as a substantial or essential component, or as critical technology of any system. Refer to Public Law 115-232, section 889 for additional information.
- NFWF funds and matching contributions may not be used to support **political advocacy, fundraising, lobbying, litigation**, terrorist activities or Foreign Corrupt Practices Act violations.
- NFWF funds may not be used to support ongoing efforts to comply with legal requirements, including permit conditions, mitigation and settlement agreements. **However, grant funds may be used to support projects that enhance or improve upon existing baseline compliance efforts**



# Evaluation Criteria

- ✓ **Program Goals and Priorities**
- ✓ **Technical Merit and Work Plan**
- ✓ **Budget/Cost Effectiveness**
- ✓ **Partnership and Community Impact**
- ✓ **Other Important Information**
  - Applicant Demographic Information
  - Compliance Requirements
  - Federal Funding
  - Procurement

# Compliance

- ✓ **2023 funding is a mix of federal and non-federal sources**
- ✓ **Grantees receiving USFWS funds will need to comply with NEPA, ESA, NHPA**
- ✓ **Grantees will not know until after awards are announced if they are receiving USFWS funds**
- ✓ **It's best to assume you will need to comply**
- ✓ **You may review template and checklist at [www.nfwf.org/northeast-forests-and-rivers-fund](http://www.nfwf.org/northeast-forests-and-rivers-fund) in order to plan time and resources accordingly**

# TIMELINE

<b>RFP Issued -</b>	<b>4/4/23</b>
<b>Applicant Webinar -</b>	<b>Today</b>
<b>Proposals Due -</b>	<b>7/13 @ 11:59 pm</b>
<b>Review Period -</b>	<b>July – September</b>
<b>Awards Announced -</b>	<b>Mid-November</b>

**Cycle will repeat in 2024!**



# Reminders

- Projects must start **within 6 months** of award notification and be completed within **three** years from the start date.
- If you haven't thought about permits yet, **START NOW!!**
- Review documentation requirements for federal compliance with NEPA, ESA and NHPA.
- Start collecting your letters of support. Combine them in **one** PDF and upload them.
- 1:1 Non-Federal match is encouraged. If you're coming up short, call us.
- Federal agencies, for-profits and individuals are **not** eligible.
- Indirect costs are allowed. Review the policy on our website.
- Read, and then re-read the **RFP** and **Tip Sheet**. Use the Help feature in Easygrants and call us if you're confused.

## 7. Using Easygrants

### easygrants.nfwf.org

1. Log in with an existing email and password. **Or** create an account **now** – this will give you time to familiarize yourself with the system. If you have trouble logging in, use the help feature.
2. Turn off your pop-up blockers. Chrome browser works best.
3. Download and use the **tip sheet** available on the program webpage.
4. You can work on the narrative offline – just download the **Word** document and upload it when you're finished.
5. With the mapping feature – please be as specific as possible AND provide narrative location information on your project.
6. Click save frequently. **Do not click SUBMIT until all sections are complete**  
Make sure all your check marks on the Review and Submit page are **green**.

# 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 \*

Middle Name

Last Name \*

Login ID / Email \*

Confirm Login ID / Email \*

Password \*

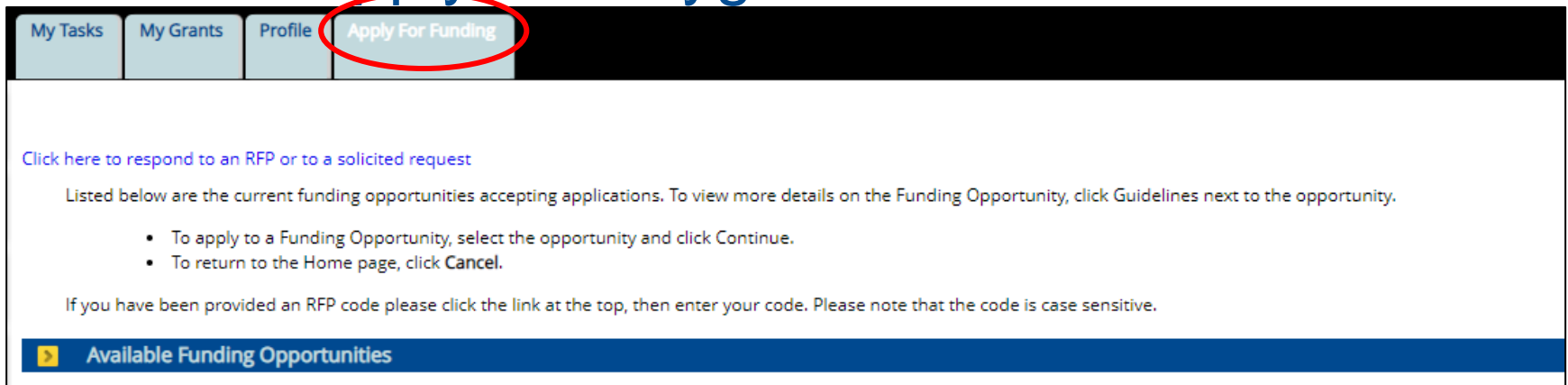
[Password Requirements](#)

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: 7/14/2016 11:59 PM ET

Easygrants ID: 54375

Test, Heather | Grants | Killer Whale Research and Conservation Program | Killer Whale Research and Conservation 2016

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. save and return to edit your information as many times as needed until you submit. Once you submit, you will no longer be able to make changes. Click here

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





## 8. Final Tips for Applicants

1. Re-read the **RFP** and reference the information provided through the links. Call us if you're confused.
2. Review the Northeast Watersheds business plan.
3. These are competitive grants. Projects should address all criteria and have a “**wow**” factor.
4. Include lots of context and details—**don't assume** we know your plan, partnership or watershed.
5. Be strategic first, opportunistic second.
6. Submit your proposal ON OR BEFORE July 13<sup>th</sup>.
7. Note that NFWF staff will not be answering phones and e-mail at 11:59 pm on July 13th!

# New England Forests and Rivers Fund

RFP and program questions:

**John Wright**, Manager

Northeastern Regional Office, NFWF

[John.Wright@nfwf.org](mailto:John.Wright@nfwf.org)

(202) 595-2478

[www.nfwf.org/newengland](http://www.nfwf.org/newengland)

**Proposals are Due**

***Thursday, July 13, 2023 by  
11:59 PM Eastern Time***

**Awards will be announced  
in mid-November**

