Appendix A

Priority Fish and Wildlife

NFWF is soliciting proposals that restore, conserve, steward, and enhance important Chesapeake Bay watershed habitats and ecosystems for imperiled fish and wildlife.

For the purposes of the Chesapeake Wild Program, **imperiled species** are fish, wildlife, invertebrate, and plant species of concern dependent upon important Chesapeake Bay watershed habitats and living resources, including:

- Federal designated At-Risk Species (ARS) and/or Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed species;
- Species identified in tribal stewardship or fish and wildlife plans; and
- Species identified in State designated Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SCGN) in State Wildlife Action Plans (SWAPs) and Regional SGCN (NE Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies)

Proposal narratives should incorporate conservation action recommendations consistent with Federal, Tribal, or State habitat conservation or species recovery plans, or with actions listed for the species within state wildlife action plans, NFWF's Business Plan, and/or fish and wildlife habitats identified as important by Chesapeake Bay Program. Below are information resources and links to help inform competitive grant proposals, including examples of priority conservation actions eligible for funding. While this is not an exhaustive list of resources that could be included as supportive information in a proposal narrative, it does provide easy access to enough information to guide competitive project proposals.

Federal resources

Table 1 (below) contains federal information and conservation plan resources for the following priority at-risk fish and wildlife in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

- Chesapeake logperch
- Diadromous Fishes (river herring: American shad, alewife, blueback herring)
- Eastern regal fritillary
- Forest songbirds (golden-winged warbler, cerulean warbler, wood thrush)
- Freshwater mussels (brook floater, yellow lamp mussel, Tidewater mucket, green floater)
- Northeast turtles (bog turtle, Eastern box turtle, Northern diamondback terrapin, spotted turtle, wood turtle)
- Saltmarsh sparrow

Additionally, to identify the potential for rare species or ecosystems on project sites, applicants may find the USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation tool useful for planning purposes (note that formal environmental review may also be required).

Tribal resources

There are 7 federally recognized Tribes in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, each is a Sovereign government and should be individually consulted about fish and wildlife conservation action recommendations consistent with their respective stewardship or habitat conservation and management plans:

- Chickahominy Indian Tribe, Providence Forge, VA
- Chickahominy Indians Eastern Division, Providence Forge, VA
- Monacan Indian Nation, Amherst, VA
- Nansemond Indian Nation, Suffolk, VA
- Pamunkey Indian Tribe King William, VA
- Rappahannock Tribe, Indian Neck, VA
- Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe, King William, VA

Additional national and spatial Tribal natural resources information:

- Native American Fish and Wildlife Society
- Native Land Information System, a repository of learning resources, information, and data to help defend and protect Native lands for the benefit of Native people.

State resources

NE Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (NEAFWA) Fish & Wildlife Diversity Technical Committee:

- NE Regional Conservation Needs database of final reports
- Regional Species of Greatest Conservation Need (2023) database

For more information about conservation action recommendations consistent with their respective habitat conservation or species recovery plans, or with actions listed within State Wildlife Action Plans:

D.C.	Maryland	Pennsylvania – Game	West Virginia
Delaware	New York	Virginia	

Additional priority fish and wildlife resources

Eastern brook trout and American Black Duck are priority wildlife identified in the following plans and tools:

- National Fish and Wildlife Business Plan
- Chesapeake Bay Program Habitat Goal Implementation Team
- American black duck decision support tool for Chesapeake Bay priority watersheds

- Atlantic Coast Joint Venture ACJV coastal restoration project inventory, a data dashboard to explore current and past coastal projects to conserve or restore habitat for saltmarsh sparrow, black rail, and black duck
- Multiple Eastern brook trout decision support tools and mapper tools from Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture

Table 1. Federal information resources for priority fish and wildlife in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. For state specific habitat conservation or species recovery recommendations, refer to individual State Wildlife Action Plans.

Priority Federal Fish and Wildlife in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed	Priority Actions Eligible for Funding	Conservation or Recovery Plan Links and Priority Locations	Decision-Support or Prioritization Tool Links
Chesapeake logperch	*Implementation and on-the-ground conservation actions*: (1) improve riparian habitats and water quality through streambank fencing, instream restoration, dam removal, culvert replacements, vegetative buffer strip installation, riparian buffer restoration, streambank stabilization, and floodplain restoration and revegetation. *Expertise and technical support*: (1)cross-jurisdictional species and habitat management planning and coordination capacity, (2) partner and community engagement, communication, and involvement. *Science and research:* (1) species research, population surveys, and monitoring, (2) habitat restoration research, survey, and monitoring.	Species of Greatest Conservation Need in Pennsylvania and Maryland Wildlife Action Plans (see links under 'State resources')	USFWS's Chesapeake Logperch information website Fact sheet Pennsylvania Species Action Plan
Diadromous Fishes: river herring (American shad, alewife, blueback herring)	*Implementation and on-the-ground conservation actions*: (1) provide alternative fish passage, (2) remove passage barriers, (3) restore, enhance, and/or connect riparian habitat adjacent to freshwater streams, (4) permanent conservation of forested riparian habitat adjacent to freshwater streams.	Locations: Contact state wildlife agency biologists for specific location information	Chesapeake Bay Program's Fish Passage Work Group webpage with links to management plans and other recommendations Chesapeake Bay Program's Fish Passage

	Expertise and technical support: (1) engage dam owners/operators and communities to increase awareness of fish passage needs and the importance of native fish populations and habitat connections. *Science and research:* (1) species research, population surveys, and monitoring, (2) habitat restoration research, survey, and monitoring.		Prioritization Tool to assess potential outcomes
Eastern regal fritillary	*Implementation and on-the-ground conservation actions*: (1) grassland habitat restoration and enhancement, (2) create new habitat of diverse grassland dominated by native herbaceous vegetation. *Expertise and technical support*: (1)cross-jurisdictional species and habitat management planning and coordination capacity, (2) partner and community engagement, communication, and involvement. *Science and research:* (1) Citizen Science efforts to captive rear, release, and monitor Regal fritillary to fill science/data gaps.		US Forest Service article about fritillary pollinators Pennsylvania Dept. of Military Veteran Affairs Regal Fritillary Fact Sheet
Pollinators: American bumble bee, Monarch, rusty patched bumble bee	*Implementation and on-the-ground conservation actions*: (1) ?? *Expertise and technical support*: (1)cross-jurisdictional species and habitat management planning and coordination capacity, (2) partner and community engagement, communication, and involvement. *Science and research:* (1) species research, population surveys, and monitoring, (2) habitat restoration research, survey, and monitoring.	NRCS American Bumble Bee Fact Sheet with habitat and restoration recommendations Focal areas: farmland, grassland, urban gardening/farming	Center for Pollinator Conservation USFWS Pollinator information website USFWS Monarch information website USFWS Bumble Bee information website USFWS Rusty Patched Bumble Bee information website USGS Native Bee Inventory and Monitoring Program information website

Forest songbirds: Golden-winged warbler, Cerulean warbler, wood thrush	*Implementation and on-the-ground conservation actions*: (1) forest habitat restoration, enhancement, and improved connectivity, (2) permanent conservation of headwater and high elevation forest habitat, including forested riparian areas. *Expertise and technical support*: (1) trained foresters or biologists: to assist with developing forest management guidelines that integrate habitat needs of the priority species in a way that makes sense to foresters and will be easy for them to implement when developing prescriptions. (2) trained communication and outreach practitioners: to engage with property owners, foresters, and partnering organizations in focal areas and generate interest in participating in improving forest habitat for at-risk birds. (3) facilitators: to help with team coordination and organization. (4) scientists to help design species and conservation monitoring and assessment protocols: develop monitoring strategies and specific monitoring designs to gather more data on forest bird responses to forest habitat management. *Science and research:* (1) Collection of more survival data to estimate both annual and seasonal survival of all three priority songbird species, especially for females. (2) evaluating the site-level and landscape-level responses of forest songbirds to forest management activities, especially monitoring associated with implementing forest songbird best management practices. Important parameters include occupancy, estimated abundance,	Existing focus areas developed by the Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture and Golden-winged Warbler Working Group.	Wood thrush landscape capability models Breeding habitat management guidelines for Cerulean Warblers

	and reproductive success, and (3) assess non-breeding habitat use of different forest types and landscape configurations on the wintering grounds for all three focal species. Important parameters include occupancy, estimated abundance, measures of body condition (e.g., weight, fat reserves, endocrine profiles), and seasonal survival.		
Freshwater mussels: Brook floater, Yellow lampmussel, Tidewater mucket, green floater, and associated fishes (e.g., American eel)	*Implementation and on-the-ground conservation actions*: (1) habitat restoration, enhancement, and improved connectivity actions identified in Plans. (2) improve fish passage through dam and barrier removal *Expertise and technical support*: (1) conservation area designation planning and coordination, (2) techniques development, (3) assistance with environmental review and permitting processes, (4) species and habitat management planning and coordination, (5) partner and community engagement, communication, and involvement. *Science and research:* (1) species propagation and reintroduction research, survey, and monitoring, (2) habitat restoration research, survey, and monitoring.	Locations: Contact state wildlife agency biologists for specific location information	
Northeast turtles: bog turtle, Eastern box turtle, Northern diamondback terrapin, spotted turtle, wood turtle	*Implementation and on-the-ground conservation actions*: (1) land acquisition in "focal areas" identified in Conservation Plans, (2) habitat restoration, enhancement, and improved connectivity actions identified in Plans. *Expertise and technical support*: (1) cross-jurisdictional planning and partner coordination capacity.	Northeast Turtles website for Conservation Plans, sampling protocols, and conservation recommendations for Eastern box, spotted, and wood turtles.	Turtles of the Northeast United States (2023) A quick reference information guide for states in the Northeast. For up-to-date information, please consult the state websites.

	Science and research: (1) sampling and monitoring in focal core areas and sampling landscapes, (2) reduce threats, (3) research addressing data gaps outlined in the Plans.	ECOS page with bog turtle Recovery Plan Diamondback Terrapin Recovery Strategy Locations: Contact state wildlife agency biologists for specific location information	Management Guidelines for Wood Turtles Spotted turtles Regional Conservation Needs Assessment in MD and DE
Saltmarsh sparrow	*Implementation and on-the-ground conservation actions*: (1) Marsh habitat restoration, enhancement, and improved connectivity, (2) permanent protection (e.g., conservation easement, fee simple purchase) of marsh habitat, including key marsh habitat corridors and lands to permit marsh migration. *Expertise and technical support*: (1)cross-jurisdictional species and habitat management planning and coordination capacity, (2) partner and community engagement, communication, and involvement. *Science and research: (1)* rapid assessments and surveys and monitoring in focal core areas and landscapes, (2) research addressing species and habitat data gaps outlined in the Plans.	See decision-support and mapper tool links	Atlantic Coast Joint Venture (ACJV) Saltmarsh Sparrow restoration priority mapper an interactive mapping tool to identify priority salt marshes within each state that are good candidates for restoration, enhancement, and/or management to provide high-quality saltmarsh sparrow nesting habitat. ACJV coastal restoration project inventory a data dashboard to explore current and past coastal projects to conserve or restore habitat for saltmarsh sparrow, black rail, and black duck

Appendix B

Full Proposal Project Narrative Template

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 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:** What are the overall goals and objectives for the project and how do they advance the **PROGRAM PILLARS** outlined in accompanying Request for Proposals? What general activities or approaches are you proposing to implement to achieve those goals and objectives?

B. **Outcomes:** Which specific **PROGRAM PILLARS** will be addressed by the project? 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**: 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)? Why or how was this location selected, considering relation to and position within the broader relevant landscape(s), associated opportunities to further established **PROGRAM PILLARS**, 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:** 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 PILLARS**? 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:** Who are the partners (e.g., organizations, government agencies, business, individuals) currently engaged in efforts to advance relevant **PROGRAM PILLARS** and associated actions in the project area and the broader relevant landscape and what are their general roles and responsibilities? What new partners do you intend to engage in proposed project activities? 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), who will specifically benefit from the project, and how they were or will be engaged in project development and implementation. Using the table below, provide information on key demographic and socioeconomic indicators for the community(ies) and target audience(s). Use your narrative response 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? Please 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: 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) and what methods are you planning to use to collect those data? 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: 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 Template

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 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: What are the overall goals and objectives for the project and how do they advance the **PROGRAM PILLARS** outlined in accompanying Request for Proposals? What general activities or approaches are you proposing to implement to achieve those goals and objectives?

B. Outcomes: Which specific **PROGRAM PILLARS** will be addressed by the project? 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: 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 PILLARS** 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), who will specifically benefit from the project, and how they were or will be engaged in project development and implementation. Using the table below, provide information on key demographic and socioeconomic indicators for the community(ies) and target audience(s). Use your narrative response 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: 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? Please 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: 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) and what methods are you planning to use to collect those data? How do you plan to use those data and what associated products are outputs will be generated from proposed data collection efforts?

Appendix C

Applicable Proposal Metrics
Chesapeake WILD Grants

Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation, Management, and Restoration Metrics

Strategy	Activity	Metric	Metric Description/Instructions
Habitat Conservation	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).
Habitat Conservation	Conservation easements	Miles under long-term easement	Enter the number of miles under long-term easement (permanent or >30yr)
Habitat Conservation	Land acquisitions	Acres acquired in fee	Enter # acres acquired in fee. If the parcel has been identified, in the NOTES indicate whether there is a competing offer (Yes/No) or potential zoning change (Yes/No), and what % of natural land cover would be cleared in the absence of the acquisition.
Habitat Management	BMP implementation for stormwater runoff	Acres with BMPs	Enter the number of acres with Best Management Practices (BMPs)
Habitat Management	BMP implementation for stormwater runoff	Volume stormwater prevented	Enter the volume (in gallons) of stormwater prevented from entering water body
Habitat Management	Green Infrastructure	# trees planted	Enter the number of trees planted.
Habitat Restoration	Erosion control	Acres of living shoreline restored	Enter the acres of living shoreline restored
Habitat Restoration	Erosion control	Miles restored	Enter the number of miles restored
Habitat Restoration	Fish passage improvements	# of barriers assessed and/or with design plans	Enter the # of in-stream barriers with assessments or engineering and design plans completed through this grant. In the notes, provide the barrier's SARP ID (aquaticbarriers.org). If the barrier(s) is not in SARP, provide its lat/long or its name and source.
Habitat Restoration	Fish passage improvements	# passage barriers rectified	Enter the # of in-stream barriers removed/rectified in THIS grant. In the notes, provide the barrier's SARP ID--see SARP Natl. Aq. Barrier Inventory (aquaticbarriers.org). If the barrier(s) is not in SARP, provide its lat/long or its name and source.
Habitat Restoration	Fish passage improvements	Acres of lake habitat opened	Enter the number of acres of lake/pond habitat opened
Habitat Restoration	Fish passage improvements	Miles of stream opened	Enter total # of miles of stream opened as a result of this project. 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 Chesapeake Bay Program's Fish Passage Prioritization Tool to assess potential outcomes.

Strategy	Activity	Metric	Metric Description/Instructions
Habitat Restoration	Fish passage improvements	Miles of suitable brook trout habitat opened or restored	Indicate the number of stream miles made newly accessible to brook trout via aquatic connectivity work, such as barrier removals, and/or the number of stream miles restored via instream and/or riparian restoration to support viable brook trout populations
Habitat Restoration	Floodplain restoration	Acres restored	Enter # of floodplain acres restored. In the NOTES, indicate % 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, Redwood, Shrub, Grass, Marsh, Wet meadow, Swamp).
Habitat Restoration	Instream restoration	# structures installed	Enter the number of habitat structures installed, replaced, upgraded or repaired for improvement of instream habitat
Habitat Restoration	Instream restoration	Miles restored	Enter the number of instream miles restored
Habitat Restoration	Land restoration	Acres of trees planted	Enter # acres of TREES planted. In the NOTES, specify landcover type prior to planting (barren, cropland, grassland, shrubland), average # of trees per acre planted, and forest type (broadleaf, conifer, redwood, swamp--either broadleaf or conifer, shrub).
Habitat Restoration	Land restoration	Acres restored on tribal lands	Enter the number of acres restored on tribal lands
Habitat Restoration	Land restoration	Sites restored	Enter the number of sites that were restored
Habitat Restoration	Land, wetland restoration	# of trees planted	Enter # trees planted. 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.
Habitat Restoration	Land, wetland restoration	Acres restored	Enter the number of acres of habitat restored. In the NOTES, specify landcover prior to restoration (barren, cropland, grass, shrub) and post-restoration (broadleaf, grassland, shrubland, marsh, wet meadow, tidal marsh, swamp,).
Habitat Restoration	Marine or Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) habitat restoration	Acres restored	Enter the number of marine or Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) habitat acres restored
Habitat Restoration	Removal of invasives	Miles restored	Enter the number of miles restored
Habitat Restoration	Riparian restoration	Acres restored	Enter the number of riparian acres restored, including riparian buffers. In the NOTES section, specify the landcover type prior to planting (barren, cropland, grassland), the dominant vegetation being planted (Broadleaf, Conifer, Shrub, Grass, Marsh, Wet meadow, Swamp), and the average width of the riparian buffer.
Habitat Restoration	Riparian restoration	Miles restored	Enter the number of miles restored
Habitat Restoration	Stream restoration	Miles restored	Enter the total miles of stream restored through erosion control, streambank stabilization, riparian buffers, livestock exclusion, and/or stream channel modification. Do not duplicate stream miles that have more than one restoration activity.
Habitat Restoration	Tidal marsh restoration	Acres restored	Enter the acres of tidal marsh restored.
Habitat Restoration	Wetland restoration	Acres restored	Enter # acres of non-tidal freshwater WETLAND (not riparian or instream) habitat restored. In the NOTES, specify landcover before restoration (Marsh, Wet meadow, Swamp) and % of vegetation on pre-project site (0-20%, 21-40%, 41-60%, 61-80%, 81-100%).

Capacity, Outreach, and Engagement

Strategy	Activity	Metric	Metric Description/Instructions
Capacity, Outreach, Incentives	Building institutional capacity	# FTE with sufficient training	Enter the number of staff or full-time equivalents with sufficient training and skills engaged in conservation activities
Capacity, Outreach, Incentives	Building institutional capacity	# of orgs contributing to goals	Enter the number of organizations contributing to the initiative's conservation goals
Capacity, Outreach, Incentives	Economic benefits	# jobs sustained	Enter the # of paid jobs that are partially or fully sustained through this grant. Jobs should have existed prior to the grant, be funded by the grant, and be directly engaged in project activities. The starting value for this metric should be zero.
Capacity, Outreach, Incentives	Outreach/ Education/ Technical Assistance	# of edu signs installed	Enter the number of educational or interpretive signs installed by project
Capacity, Outreach, Incentives	Outreach/ Education/ Technical Assistance	# of public education events	Enter the number of public education events completed
Capacity, Outreach, Incentives	Outreach/ Education/ Technical Assistance	# people reached	Enter the number of people reached by outreach, training, or technical assistance activities
Capacity, Outreach, Incentives	Public Access	# acres with public access	Enter the number of acres now open to public access as a result of the acquisition/easement.
Capacity, Outreach, Incentives	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.

Planning & Technical Assistance, Research, and Monitoring

Strategy	Activity	Metric	Metric Description/Instructions
Planning, Research, Monitoring	Management or Governance Planning	# plans developed	Enter the number of plans developed that had input from multiple stakeholders
Planning, Research, Monitoring	Monitoring	# sites being monitored	Enter the # sites being monitored
Planning, Research, Monitoring	Monitoring	Acres being monitored	Enter the number of acres being monitored
Planning, Research, Monitoring	Monitoring	Miles being monitored	Enter the number of miles being monitored
Planning, Research, Monitoring	Research	Miles assessed	Enter the number of stream miles assessed.
Planning, Research, Monitoring	Restoration planning/design/permitting	Acres restored	Enter the number of acres for which planning, design, or permitting activities are being conducted under this project.
Planning, Research, Monitoring	Restoration planning/design/permitting	Miles restored	Enter the number of miles for which planning, design, or permitting activities are being conducted under this project.