Southeast Aquatics Fund 2025
Applicant Webinar

Photo by USFWS

NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

NFWF

WEBINAR INSTRUCTIONS

- We may ask you to raise your "hand" in the webinar to confirm participants can hear us.

- To improve sound quality, all participants will be muted for the duration of the webinar. If you want to ask a question you have two options:

  1. Enter your query where it says "Chat" and click send. We will type a response or read your question aloud when we pause for Q&A.

  2. Write it down and contact us after the webinar. We have a lot of material to cover, so you may prefer to have a more in-depth discussion later.

- If you experience a technical glitch, please type it into the chat, since we can't hear you. (We may not know about the glitch unless you say something!)

The webinar will be available for download within 48 hours at https://www.nfwf.org/programs/southeast-aquatics

YOUR NFWF CONTACTS

Will Singleton
Program Director, Southern Aquatics and Coastal Programs
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
(202) 595-2607
Will.Singleton@nfwf.org

Zack Bernstein
Senior Manager, Southern Forests
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
(202) 595-2433
Zachary.Bernstein@nfwf.org

Sarah Vest
Coordinator, Regional Programs
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
(202) 888-1657
Sarah.Vest@nfwf.org

AGENDA

- 2025 Southeast Aquatics Fund RFP Overview

  - Program Overview

  - Geographic Scope of the RFP

  - Actions Funded Under the RFP

  - Important Considerations

  - Timeline

- How to Apply in Easygrants

- Question and Answer

Southeast Aquatics Fund

The Southeast Aquatics Fund invests in watershed-based restoration and management to improve the health of aquatic systems, secure populations of native freshwater aquatic species, and conserve biodiversity.

Public-Private Partnership

Greenbreast darter

Rainbow shiners

Longleaf Forests and Rivers Business Plan

Alabama shiner

Bridled darter

Alabama rainbows

Longleaf Forests and Rivers

10-Year Activity Goals

Goal	Target
Adoption of voluntary agricultural practices	10,000 acres with BMPs
Enhance aquatic connectivity in the Conasauga and restore access to spawning in the Middle Coosa watershed	15 stream miles opened 10 passage barriers rectified
Streambank stabilization to enhance aquatic habitats	5 miles of stream restored 3,000,000 lbs of sediment prevented from entering the system annually
Captive rearing of Villosa mussels to restock at Holly Creek (tributary of Conasauga River)	2 sites restocked 1,500 individuals restocked
Build capacity and conduct outreach to educate and increase awareness of conservation needs	500 people reached

2025 Funding Opportunity

- **Request for proposals:** www.nfwf.org/programs/southeast-aquatics

- **Proposal due date:** July 8, 2025, by 11:59PM ET

- **Typical grant award size**: $150,000 - $500,000

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

- **Grant Period:** 24 – 36 months

- **Matching contributions requirement**: Minimum 33%

  - Applicants unable to provide this level of match are eligible to apply but should reach out to NFWF staff to discuss during proposal development

- **Eligible applicants**

  - Non-profit 501(c) organizations

  - State, tribal, and local governments

  - Educational institutions

Banded sculpin

2025 Geographic Scope

2025 Southeast Aquatics Geographic Scope

Legend:
- Areas covered by grantmaking under the 2025 RFP
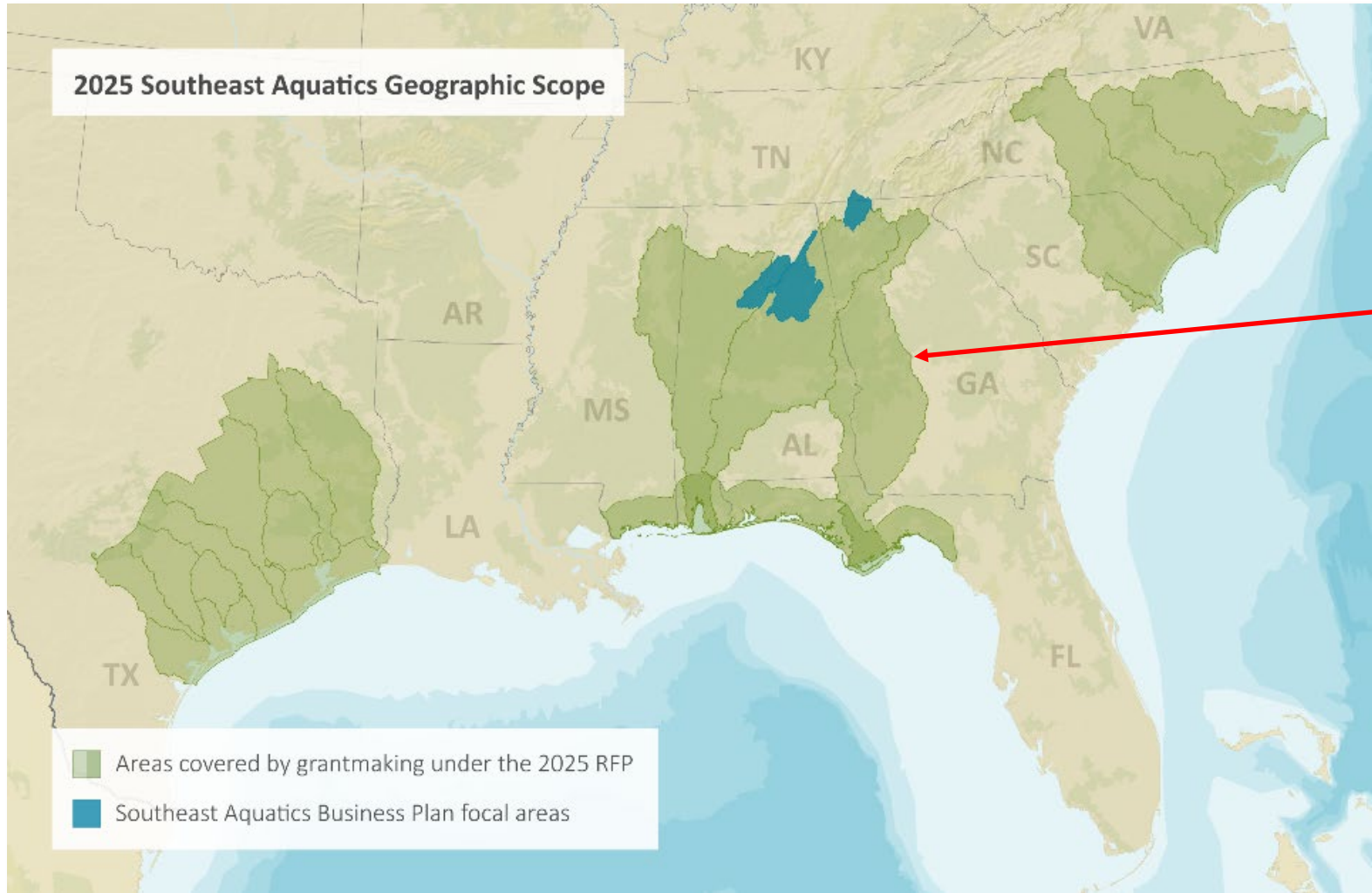- Southeast Aquatics Business Plan focal areas

Proposals will be considered from six geographies:

1. Conasauga River Watershed

2. Middle Coosa and Locust Fork Watersheds

3. Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin (AL/FL/GA)

4. Alabama and Mobile-Tombigbee River Basins (AL); and Neuse-Pamlico, Cape Fear, Pee Dee, and Santee River Basins (NC/SC)

5. East Texas

6. Alabama, Florida, and Mississippi 25-Mile Coastal Zone

2025 Geographic Scope

2025 Southeast Aquatics Geographic Scope

Legend:
- Areas covered by grantmaking under the 2025 RFP
- Southeast Aquatics Business Plan focal areas

Proposals will be considered from six geographies:

1. Conasauga River Watershed
2. Middle Coosa and Locust Fork Watersheds
3. Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin (AL/FL/GA)
4. Alabama and Mobile-Tombigbee River Basins (AL); and Neuse-Pamlico, Cape Fear, Pee Dee, and Santee River Basins (NC/SC)
5. East Texas
6. Alabama, Florida, and Mississippi 25-Mile Coastal Zone

2025 Geographic Scope

2025 Southeast Aquatics Geographic Scope

Legend:
- Areas covered by grantmaking under the 2025 RFP
- Southeast Aquatics Business Plan focal areas

Proposals will be considered from six geographies:

1. Conasauga River Watershed

2. Middle Coosa and Locust Fork Watersheds

3. Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin (AL/FL/GA)

4. Alabama and Mobile-Tombigbee River Basins (AL); and Neuse-Pamlico, Cape Fear, Pee Dee, and Santee River Basins (NC/SC)

5. East Texas

6. Alabama, Florida, and Mississippi 25-Mile Coastal Zone

NFWF — NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

2025 Geographic Scope

2025 Southeast Aquatics Geographic Scope

Areas covered by grantmaking under the 2025 RFP

Southeast Aquatics Business Plan focal areas

Proposals will be considered from six geographies:

1. Conasauga River Watershed

2. Middle Coosa and Locust Fork Watersheds

3. Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin (AL/FL/GA)

4. Alabama and Mobile-Tombigbee River Basins (AL); and Neuse-Pamlico, Cape Fear, Pee Dee, and Santee River Basins (NC/SC)

5. East Texas

6. Alabama, Florida, and Mississippi 25-Mile Coastal Zone

NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

NFWF

2025 Geographic Scope

2025 Southeast Aquatics Geographic Scope

Legend:
- Areas covered by grantmaking under the 2025 RFP
- Southeast Aquatics Business Plan focal areas

Proposals will be considered from six geographies:

1. Conasauga River Watershed

2. Middle Coosa and Locust Fork Watersheds

3. Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin (AL/FL/GA)

4. Alabama and Mobile-Tombigbee River Basins (AL); and Neuse-Pamlico, Cape Fear, Pee Dee, and Santee River Basins (NC/SC)

5. East Texas

6. Alabama, Florida, and Mississippi 25-Mile Coastal Zone

NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION
NFWF

2025 Geographic Scope

2025 Southeast Aquatics Geographic Scope

Areas covered by grantmaking under the 2025 RFP

Southeast Aquatics Business Plan focal areas

Proposals will be considered from six geographies:

1. Conasauga River Watershed

2. Middle Coosa and Locust Fork Watersheds

3. Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin (AL/FL/GA)

4. Alabama and Mobile-Tombigbee River Basins (AL); and Neuse-Pamlico, Cape Fear, Pee Dee, and Santee River Basins (NC/SC)

5. East Texas

6. Alabama, Florida, and Mississippi 25-Mile Coastal Zone

2025 Geographic Scope

2025 Southeast Aquatics Geographic Scope

Areas covered by grantmaking under the 2025 RFP

Southeast Aquatics Business Plan focal areas

Proposals will be considered from six geographies:

1. Conasauga River Watershed

2. Middle Coosa and Locust Fork Watersheds

3. Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin (AL/FL/GA)

4. Alabama and Mobile-Tombigbee River Basins (AL); and Neuse-Pamlico, Cape Fear, Pee Dee, and Santee River Basins (NC/SC)

5. East Texas

6. Alabama, Florida, and Mississippi 25-Mile Coastal Zone

NFWF

2025 RFP Program Activities

1. Private Landowner Technical Assistance

2. Water Conservation and Aquifer Recharge in Texas

3. Forest Management for Improved Gulf Water Quality

4. Restore and Enhance Instream and Riparian Habitat

5. Assessment, Prioritization and Planning for Watershed Resilience and Aquatic Connectivity

6. Villosa Mussel Conservation and Focal Species Monitoring

Greenhead shiners

Private Landowner Technical Assistance & Outreach

- Support capacity to conduct outreach and provide technical assistance to private landowners

  - Focus on increasing Farm Bill program participation and assist with practice implementation among private landowners

- Increase adoption of voluntary agricultural and forestry practices that benefit aquatic conservation

- Project should demonstrate support of NRCS's Working Lands for Wildlife initiatives, including state aquatic initiatives

- Applicants should coordinate with state NRCS office while developing project

- All geographies eligible

Photo credit: Tim McCabe, USDA NRCS

Water Conservation and Aquifer Recharge in East Texas

- Help offset water use from surface sources and the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer.

- Activities can include forest management, invasive species control, native tree planting, and water retention/detention measures in order to slow water movement

- We encourage reaching out to NFWF staff to discuss your project if considering a proposal under this activity

The Colorado River from the Montopolis Bridge in Austin, TX
Credit: Larry D. Moore

Forest Management for Improved Gulf Water Quality

- Improve water quality through improved forest management in the Gulf Coasts of Mississippi, Alabama, and the Florida Panhandle.

- Innovation in incentivizing water quality improvements through forest management by private forest owners.

- Measuring water quality benefits in the Gulf Coast region that can lead to a focus on priority areas.

- We encourage reaching out to NFWF staff to discuss your project if considering a proposal under this activity

Longleaf pine stand

Restore and Enhance Instream and Riparian Habitat

- Improve aquatic habitat quality through restoration of in-stream or riparian habitat

  - Stream bank restoration

  - Riparian habitat restoration

  - Removal of barriers to aquatic organism passage

  - Other improvements to in-stream habitat

- Focused mostly within Conasauga, Middle Coosa, and Locust Fork watersheds, although may be considered in other geographies

Stream crossing replacement
Credit: The Nature Conservancy

Assessment, Prioritization and Planning for Watershed Resilience and Aquatic Connectivity

- Assess barriers to aquatic organism passage

- Prioritize barriers for removal, especially in relation to focal species

- Particular focus on assessments that consider long term resilience of focal species

- Primarily focused within Conasauga, Middle Coosa, and Locust Fork watersheds, although may be considered in other geographies

Bluehead chub, yellow shiners, central stonerollers, and warpaint shiners

Villosa Mussel Conservation and Focal Species Monitoring

- Villosa mussel conservation

    - Focus on two species- Alabama rainbow (Villosa nebulosa) and Coosa creekshell (Villosa umbrans)

    - Propagation and stocking of mussels

    - Monitoring of stocked

- Focal species monitoring

    - Monitor population status and habitat condition for focal endemic native fish species in Conasauga and Middle Coosa

        - Alabama shiner, banded sculpin, blue shiner, bridled darter, Coosa darter, Coosa shiner, Greenbreast darter, tricolor shiner and trispot darter

    - Monitor population status and habitat condition for Villosa mussels in Connasauga

    - May also consider monitoring for Black Warrior waterdog and flattened musk turtle in Locust fork

- Encourage this to be paired with habitat restoration activities

Villosa mussel propagation
Credit: The Nature Conservancy

Important Considerations

- Single Audit and Form 990 should be up to date. Complete the 2024 audit by the end of September 2025.

- The grantee is responsible for the compliance of subgrantees.

- Revised Uniform Guidance may or may not be applicable.

- If you feel that you will have trouble meeting match requirements, call us.

- Provide realistic metrics- consult metrics table appendix in the RFP.

- Consult with NRCS if applicable.

Program Timeline
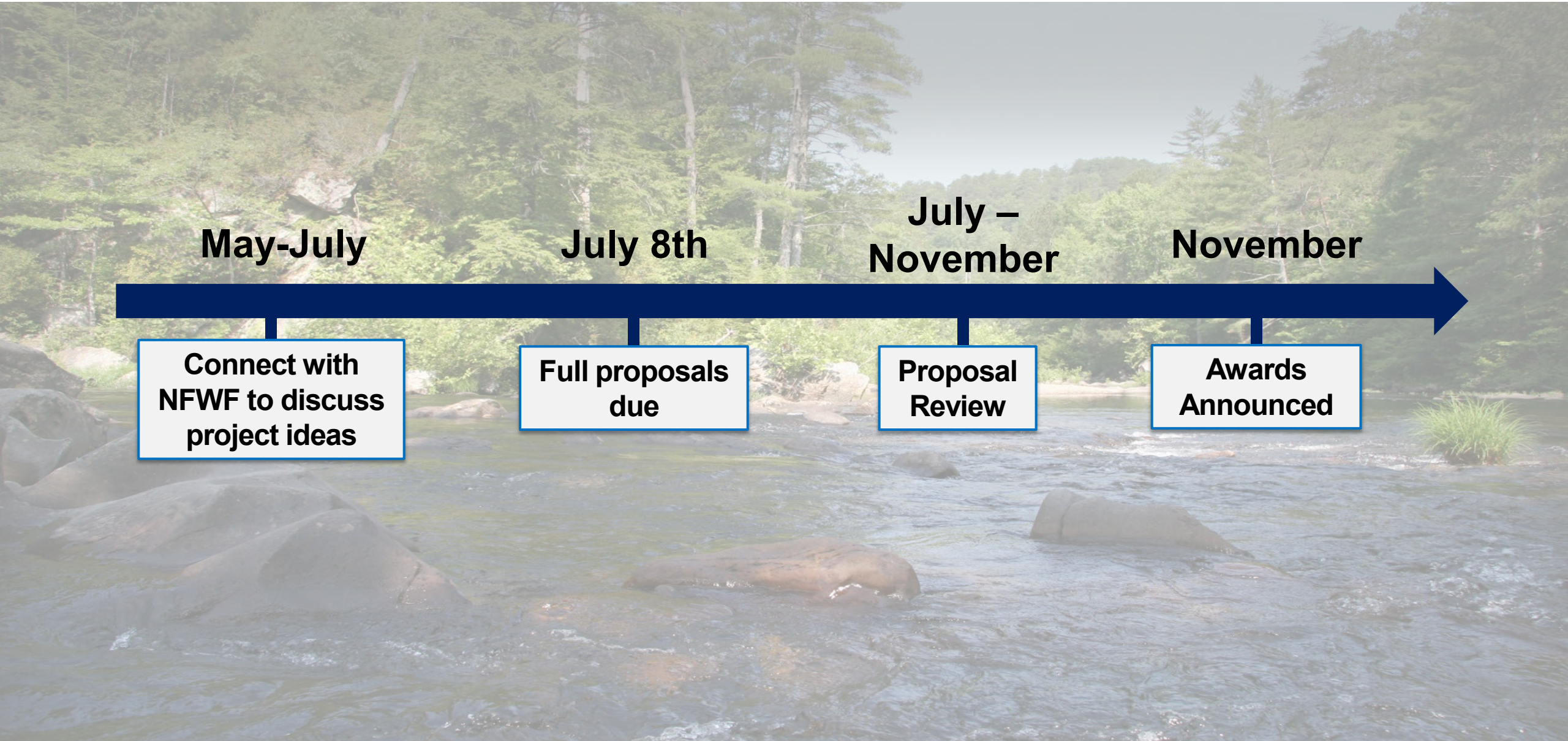
How to Apply in Easygrants

Prothonotary warbler | Credit: iStock

How to Apply in Easygrants

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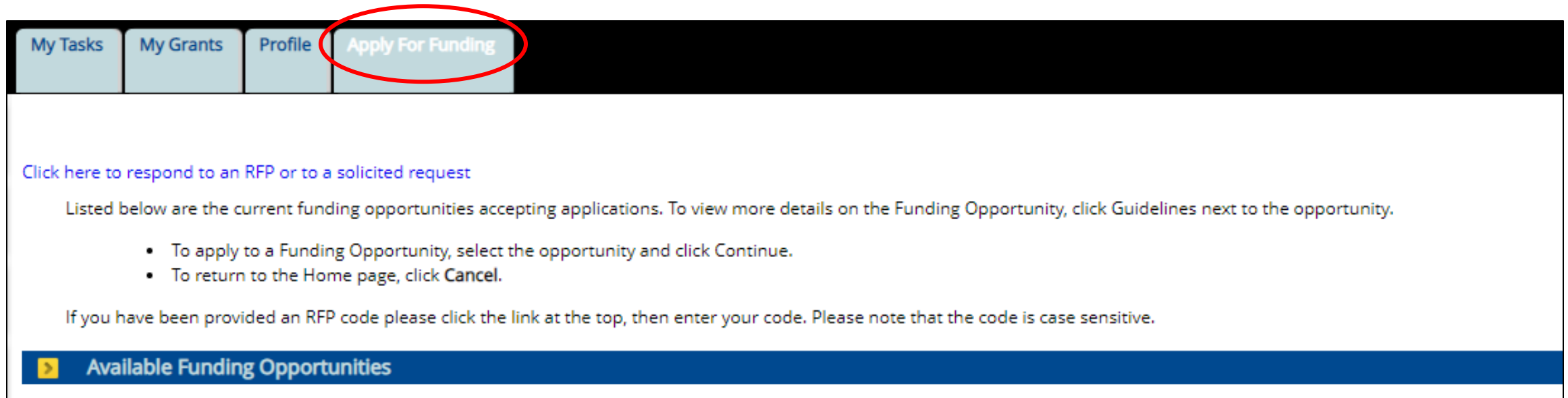
Once you are on your Easygrants homepage, click on "Apply for Funding"

Choose the Funding Opportunity you're applying to.

How to Apply in Easygrants

Project Information

Title: Short, descriptive name indicating project purpose. (~100 characters)

Project start and end dates: Start within <u>six months</u> of the award announcement date and end within <u>24-48 months </u>of the start date.

Description: Two sentences about primary project activities, location, outcome/metrics and relevance to conservation. (~500 characters)
- Clearly state the main activity and the method being used
- Address a specific habitat, location or species benefitted

Abstract: More detailed description including location, major activities, outcome/metrics, and partners. (~1,500 characters)
- State what your organization will do
- Provide context and background information
- Explain how the project outcomes will specifically address a conservation issue

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

Uploads

Upload Type	Required	Template
Full Proposal Narrative (DEI)	Yes	Full Proposal Narrative Template (DEI)
Project Map	No	
Letters of Support	No	
Conceptual Plans	No	
Engineered Plans	No	
Photos - Jpeg	No	
Resumes	No	
Statement of Litigation	Yes	Statement of Litigation
Board of Trustees, Directors, or equivalent	Yes	
Applicant Controls Questionnaire (Pre 5.24.23)	Yes	Applicant Controls Questionnaire (Pre 5.24.23)
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

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). Describe how these activities relate to established plans (management, conservation, recovery, etc.) and priority conservation needs in the specific project location.

- **Threats and/or Opportunities:** Describe the threats that this project seeks to address in achieving large-scale conservation. Highlight the opportunities that this project will create in sustaining restoration and protection efforts in the geographic area in which the project will occur.

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

- **Implementation Strategy(ies) and Activities:** Detail the strategies and activities that will be implemented 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. Please note any challenges or limitations anticipated with tracking the metrics.

- **Benefits to Priority Species:** Describe how the restoration work proposed will benefit listed, at-risk and/or other wildlife species that are representative of the geographies.

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

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

NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

NFWF

Metrics

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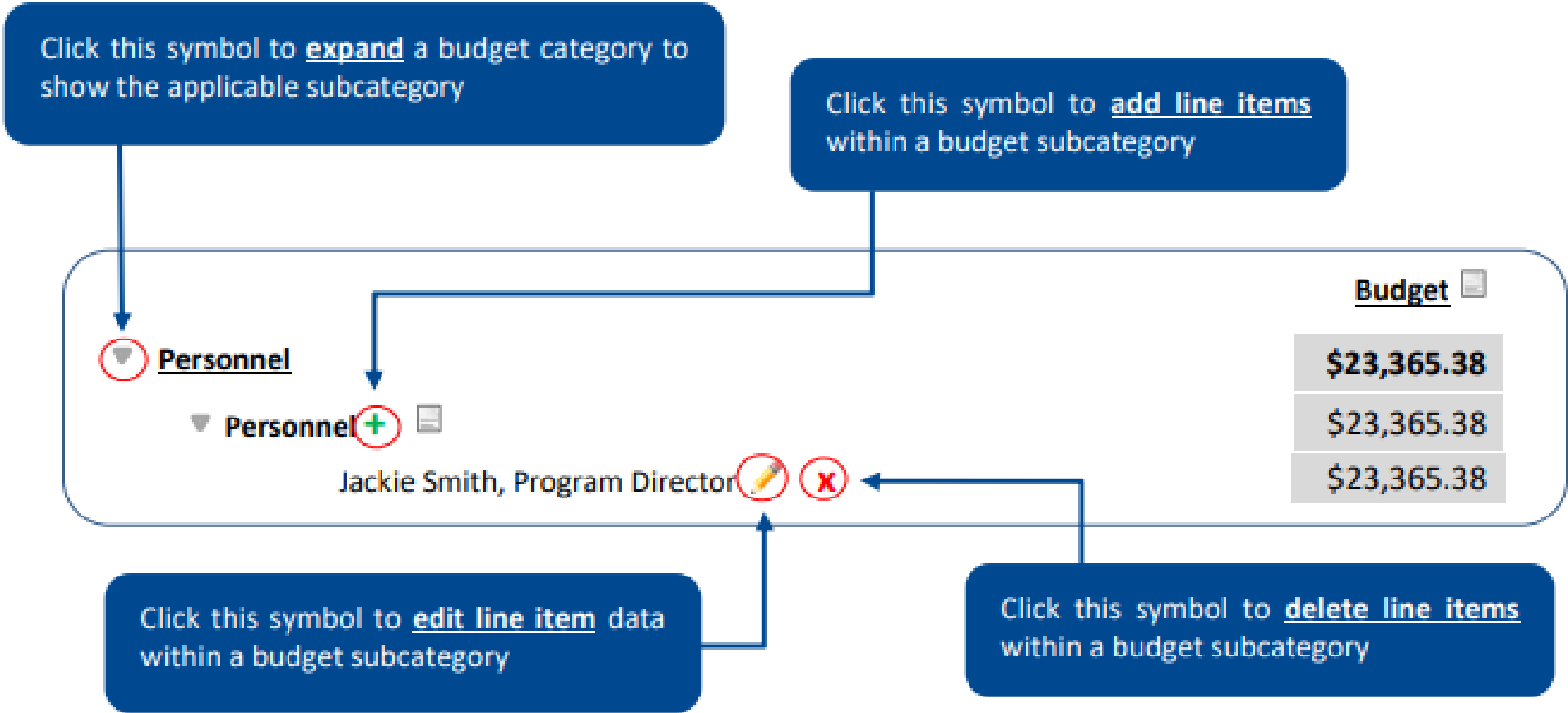
Budget

- 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

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

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**

Collapse all

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/2025-04/2025_southeast_aquatics_tip_sheet.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

Longleaf Forests and Rivers Business Plan

https://www.nfwf.org/sites/default/files/longleaf/Documents/longleaf-forests-rivers-business-plan.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

QUESTIONS or COMMENTS

To discuss proposal/project ideas:

Will Singleton
Program Director, Southern Aquatics
Will.Singleton@nfwf.org
(202) 595-2609

Zack Bernstein
Senior Manager, Southern Forests
zachary.bernstein@nfwf.org
(202) 595-2433

For help with navigating Easygrants:

Sarah Vest
Coordinator, Regional Programs
sarah.vest@nfwf.org
(202) 888-1657

For help with Easygrants technical issues:

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