



## CHESAPEAKE WATERSHED INVESTMENTS FOR LANDSCAPE DEFENSE (WILD) GRANTS 2026 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) is committed to operating in full compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, and Executive Orders. We continuously monitor legal and regulatory developments to ensure our policies, procedures, and operations align with current federal directives. We encourage all applicants to do the same.

The ability and extent to which NFWF is able to make awards is contingent upon receipt of funds from federal agencies and/or other funding partners. Final funding decisions will be made based on the applications received and the level and timing of funding received by NFWF.

### TIMELINE

Dates of activities are subject to change. Please check the Program page of the NFWF website for the most current dates and information (<http://www.nfwf.org/chesapeake>).

WILD Proposal Labs ( <a href="#">Register</a> )	January 12 - April 3, 2026
Applicant Webinar ( <a href="#">Recording</a> )	Tuesday, January 27, 2026, 1:00PM ET
FieldDoc Webinar ( <a href="#">Register</a> )	February 4, 2026, 11:00AM ET
Proposal Due Date	Thursday, April 9, 2026, 12:00PM (noon) ET
Proposal Review Period	April – August 2026
Awards Announced	September 2026 (anticipated)

NFWF will host an applicant webinar detailing this Request for Proposals at 1:00PM on Tuesday, January 27, 2026. Interested applicants must register in order to participate. A recording of the webinar will be made available on the program page by Thursday, January 29, 2026.

While NFWF does not require consultation prior to application, we strongly encourage interested applicants to schedule a proposal lab with NFWF staff and/or contact its [contracted field liaisons](#) to discuss their proposed project to gather constructive feedback in developing a competitive proposal and to obtain guidance on the most appropriate program and funding opportunity for project consideration.

Interested applicants may schedule virtual Chesapeake WILD Proposal Lab project consultations with NFWF staff [here](#) and are also encouraged to review the [Applicant Toolbox](#) for further guidance on proposal development.

### OVERVIEW

NFWF, in partnership with FWS, is soliciting proposals through the Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund (CBSF) to advance voluntary actions to restore, conserve, and connect fish and wildlife habitat of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributary rivers and streams. NFWF will award funding through three distinct funding opportunities:



1. WILD Implementation grants of \$75,000 to \$500,000 will be awarded for projects that result in direct and measurable on-the-ground actions to restore, conserve, and connect fish and wildlife habitats.
2. WILD Collaborative Conservation grants of up to \$200,000 will be awarded for projects that support and enhance the capacity of partnerships, networks, and other collaborative models working collaboratively to advance place-based, landscape-scale, and cross-jurisdictional habitat restoration, conservation, and connectivity outcomes.
3. WILD Planning and Technical Assistance (PTA) grants of up to \$75,000 will be awarded for projects that help advance future on-the-ground actions to restore, conserve, and connect fish and wildlife habitats and related conservation benefits in the Bay watershed through community-based assessment, planning, design, and other technical assistance-oriented activities.

All proposals must clearly address how the proposed project will meaningfully contribute to the accomplishment of one or more Chesapeake WILD Program Pillars described below.

## GRANT AWARD INFORMATION

NFWF will award funding through the Chesapeake WILD Grants program in 2026 with primary funding provided by FWS. Other important contributions are provided by Altria Group, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the U.S. Forest Service.

In general, match expended on or after January 1, 2026, is considered eligible under the Chesapeake WILD Grants program. For the purposes of the Chesapeake WILD Grants program, up to 50% of the grant match requirement may be met through federal match from non-Department of Interior sources.

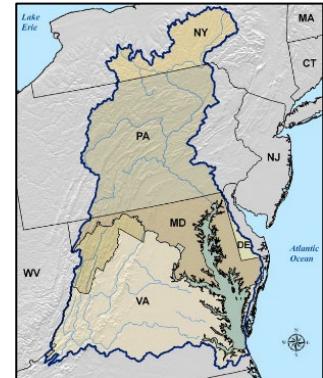
	Implementation	Collaborative Conservation	Planning and Technical Assistance
Project Award Range	\$75,000 – 500,000	Up to \$200,000	Up to \$75,000
Match Requirement	1:1	Preferred, but not required	Encouraged, but not required

All proposed projects must begin on or after September 1, 2026, to facilitate necessary grant contracting and compliance activities. Chesapeake WILD Implementation grants should be completed within three years of award, Chesapeake WILD Collaborative Conservation grants

should be completed within two years of award, and Chesapeake WILD Planning and Technical Assistance grants should be completed within 18 months of award.

## GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS

All projects must occur wholly within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. NFWF developed a [CBSF Applicant Toolbox](#) with resources to help applicants target proposed actions to understand and maximize outcomes and benefits for associated program priorities. Applicants are also encouraged to consult NFWF's Chesapeake Bay Business Plan [mapping portal](#) and the [Chesapeake WILD Project Mapper](#) to inform potential geographic focus for proposed projects.



## PROGRAM PRIORITIES

All proposals must clearly address how projects will directly and measurably contribute to the accomplishment of one or more Chesapeake WILD Program Pillars described below. At a minimum, all proposals must address Pillar 1: Fish and Wildlife Habitat.



Figure 1 Chesapeake WILD Program Pillars (Credit: Sophia Seufert, USFWS)

NFWF and FWS encourage proposals that include partnerships working collaboratively to restore, conserve, and connect fish and wildlife habitats, as well as those that effectively leverage other funding opportunities to strengthen and support habitat restoration, conservation, and connectivity efforts.

In all cases, NFWF and FWS will prioritize proposals that effectively incorporate community stewardship into proposed project activities by directly and meaningfully engaging affected local

communities in the identification, prioritization, selection, and implementation of proposed actions. Examples of direct and meaningful engagement include:

- Co-creating project with community members.
- Empowering community members with knowledge and decision-making authority.
- Ensuring the project team includes community members and outcomes facilitate collaborative stewardship with the community.
- Including specific, active engagement strategies such as workshops, classroom activities, field trips, volunteer opportunities, and citizen science.
- Addressing specific and localized harm such as pollution, flooding, or wildfires.
- Creating jobs in the target community, hire local businesses and service providers, or facilitate conservation-related job training and certification.

NFWF and FWS encourage proposals that incorporate community-based organizations as key project partners to ensure a broad spectrum of community interests are represented and reflected in proposed activities. Furthermore, NFWF and FWS encourage the use of grant funding to enhance the internal capacity and expertise of applicant organizations and their partners to engage with, mentor, and support community partners.

#### WILD PROGRAM PILLAR 1: FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT

*See **Appendix A** (pg. 16) for information resources and links for Chesapeake WILD priority fish and wildlife, including examples of conservation actions eligible for funding.*

All proposals must measurably address Pillar 1: Fish and Wildlife Habitat by advancing voluntary actions to restore, conserve, and/or connect important Chesapeake Bay watershed habitats, particularly for imperiled fish and wildlife species. Proposals restore, conserve, and connect existing habitat hubs and travel corridors, as well as those that also meaningfully advance other WILD Program Pillars

alongside fish and wildlife habitat outcomes, will be the most competitive.

For the purposes of the Chesapeake WILD Program, imperiled species include fish, wildlife, invertebrate, and plant species of concern that are dependent on important habitats located in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. These include species identified as At-Risk by the FWS, Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SCGN) designated in State Wildlife Action Plans (SWAPs), Regional SGCNs identified by the Northeast Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, and species identified in tribal stewardship or fish and wildlife plans.

Proposal narratives should reference and incorporate actions recommended by and consistent with relevant federal, state, and/or tribal habitat conservation or species recovery plans, State Wildlife Action Plans, NFWF's [Chesapeake Bay Business Plan](#), and/or the revised [Chesapeake](#)

[Bay Watershed Agreement](#). Prior coordination with and letters of support from federal, state, and/or tribal fish and wildlife representatives are highly encouraged.

Example activities aligned with Chesapeake WILD Program Pillar 1 include:

- Direct implementation of on-the-ground terrestrial or aquatic habitat restoration, conservation, and/or connectivity actions benefitting imperiled fish and wildlife.
- Land conservation efforts (e.g., through voluntary conservation easements or acquisition) that connect and enhance terrestrial and aquatic habitats for imperiled fish and wildlife.
- Education and training, certification, and/or delivery of technical assistance necessary to perform on-the-ground habitat restoration, connectivity, and connectivity actions.
- Addressing documented science and research gaps and needs to effectively restore, conserve, and connect habitat quality and resiliency for imperiled fish and wildlife.
- Community outreach and engagement that advances imperiled fish and wildlife conservation actions, such as citizen science data collection and shared development and implementation of species conservation plans and associated actions.
- Building organizational and collaborative capacity to advance fish and wildlife habitat restoration, conservation, and connectivity activities.

## WILD PROGRAM PILLAR 2: CLEAN WATER

Partners in the Chesapeake Bay watershed have worked for decades to address nutrient and sediment pollution impacting the health of the Bay's estuarine habitats, most notably through the efforts of the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership. To supplement those efforts, Chesapeake WILD Grants can be utilized to address a wide range of water quality-related stressors (e.g. nutrient and sediment pollution, abandoned mine drainage, toxic contaminants) that directly impact imperiled species populations, associated habitats, and other priority living resources across the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Projects aimed principally at reducing nutrient and sediment pollution to the Bay and its tributary rivers and streams should instead apply for funding through NFWF's companion Chesapeake Bay Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Grants or Small Watershed Grants programs.

## WILD PROGRAM PILLAR 3: NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

Enhance the ability of Chesapeake Bay living resources to adapt to changing landscape conditions using nature-based solutions that restore or expand natural features, such as coastal marshes and wetlands, forests, forested stream buffers, and floodplains, which minimize the impacts of storms and other naturally occurring events on human communities and benefit fish and wildlife. Nature-based stormwater infrastructure projects can be funded through companion CBSF programs.

Example activities aligned with Chesapeake WILD Program Pillar 3 include:

- Implementing on-the-ground habitat restoration, conservation, and/or connectivity actions that improve the ability of fish and wildlife and human communities to adapt to changing environmental conditions.
- Restoring, conserving, and/or reconnecting important habitats for imperiled species that may be negatively impacted by changing landscape conditions.
- Engaging partners and communities to improve planning, preparedness, and response to natural disasters in order to support long-term habitat restoration, conservation, and connectivity efforts and benefits for imperiled fish and wildlife.
- Identifying and assessing habitat restoration, conservation, and connectivity actions that help protect coastal and inland communities from the impacts of storms, floods, and other natural hazards and enable them to recover more quickly.

#### WILD PROGRAM PILLAR 4: PUBLIC ACCESS

Because of its location within a densely populated part of the country, the Chesapeake Bay watershed offers diverse mountains-to-sea outdoor recreation opportunities to millions of people. Chesapeake WILD Grants support projects that enable public access to a variety of outdoor recreation experiences, especially wildlife-related outdoor activities to improve people's physical and mental health, and support participation in wildlife-related outdoor activities. Project proposals must be compatible with the conservation of natural resources and habitat needs of imperiled fish and wildlife.

Example activities aligned with Chesapeake WILD Program Pillar 4 include:

- Prioritizing actions and investments that make public lands and open spaces more welcoming and accessible.
- Developing new low or no-cost public access points or improve existing public access to nature and wildlife-associated recreation opportunities for all Americans.
- Increasing public access and participation in wildlife-associated recreation activities.
- Developing and/or enhancing interpretive programming at public access sites focused on the watershed's natural history, especially emphasizing traditional and place-based knowledge.
- Investing in nature-based recreation infrastructure and maintenance that directly supports access to outdoor recreation opportunities for communities, such as networked terrestrial and aquatic recreation trail systems and boating and trail access sites.



## WILD PROGRAM PILLAR 5: COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

A healthy and connected network of lands and waters across the watershed requires investment in building the skills, knowledge, and expertise of organizations, communities, and people to engage in and support conservation actions that restore, conserve, and steward living resources. Explicit and intentional partnership-based approaches offer a critical mechanism to achieve and sustain desired Chesapeake WILD Program priority outcomes through strategic leveraging of collective capacities and resources. Such partnerships can take many forms and may often include nonprofit organizations, local governments, public agencies and institutions, and/or businesses, among other entities, with a shared focus that includes Chesapeake Bay watershed restoration and conservation.

Example activities aligned with Chesapeake WILD Program Pillar 5 include:

- Enhancing partnership and collaborative capacity to leverage partner strengths and resources to advance Chesapeake WILD Program priorities, especially cross-jurisdictional and/or landscape scales.
- Enhancing community capacity to advance Chesapeake WILD Program priorities, including knowledge and skills to restore, conserve, and connect fish and wildlife habitats and connect people and communities with nature and outdoor recreation.

## PROJECT METRICS

To better gauge progress on individual grants and to ensure greater consistency of project data provided by multiple grants, the Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund has a list of metrics in Easygrants for proposal applicants to choose from for future reporting. For implementation projects, awardees will be required to report both project-level metrics via Easygrants and more detailed site and practice-level data via [FieldDoc](#) (see below for additional details), as applicable.

We ask that applicants select only the most relevant metrics from the list for their project (all possible program metrics are shown in the table in APPENDIX B). If you do not believe an applicable metric has been provided, please contact Tori Sullens at [tori.sullens@nfwf.org](mailto:tori.sullens@nfwf.org) or (202) 857-0166, to discuss acceptable alternatives.

## ELIGIBILITY

Eligible Organizations (All funding categories)	
501(C) Non-Profit Organizations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Community-Based Organizations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Local Governments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



Eligible Organizations (All funding categories)	
Municipal Governments	✓
Tribal Governments and Organizations	✓
K-12 Educational Institutions	✓
U.S. Federal Government Agencies	✓
State Government Agencies	✓
Institutions of Higher Education	✓
Businesses	✗
Unincorporated Individuals	✗
International Organizations	✗

#### Eligibility Considerations for Land Acquisition and Conservation Easement Activities

- Direct costs for land conservation (fee title, land acquisition, conservation easements, etc.) are eligible costs for Chesapeake WILD Grants. Proposals for land conservation projects should describe in as much detail as possible specific parcels to be conserved (if known), specific fish and wildlife conservation and habitat values of those parcels, whether proposed parcels are identified as important habitat or conservation areas in State Wildlife Action Plans, and proposed plans for ongoing management and stewardship of conserved habitats. For proposals where specific parcels are not yet known, applicants should describe priorities, eligibility criteria, and other considerations that will guide landowner outreach and selection of parcels for conservation action.
- If funded, grantees requesting funds for direct land conservation costs will be required to provide required documents at least 60 days prior to anticipated closing to allow NFWF and FWS staff sufficient time to review and approve proposed transactions prior to payment for associated costs.
- NFWF and FWS require that the language below be incorporated into the grant agreement and land use records (e.g., deed, conservation easement).
  - “One of the main purposes of this easement is to perpetually protect an important wildlife area. Therefore, as its purchase is partially funded by a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) grant, with federal funds from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, notification must be provided to NFWF of any future circumstance that





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arises resulting in 1) the termination or extinguishment, in whole or in part, of the conservation easement or 2) the condemnation of the Property, in whole or in part, through an exercise of eminent domain. Under any such circumstance, the amount of the compensation to which the holder of the easement shall be entitled from any sale, exchange, or involuntary conversion of all or any portion of the Property shall be apportioned to provide NFWF its percentage share interest in the Property on the date the easement is recorded. NFWF will use such recovered funds to purchase, restore, or enhance similar wildlife habitats.”

#### Ineligible Uses of Grant Funds

- NFWF funds and matching contributions are strictly prohibited from being used for a number of reasons to include, for example, political advocacy, fundraising, lobbying, litigation, terrorist activities, or in violation of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. See [OMB Uniform Guidance](#) for additional information.
- Equipment: Applicants are encouraged to rent equipment where possible and cost-effective or use matching funds to make those purchases. NFWF acknowledges, however, that some projects may only be completed using NFWF funds to procure equipment. If this applies to your project, please contact the program staff listed in this RFP to discuss options.
- 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 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**

All proposals will be screened for relevance, accuracy, completeness, and compliance with NFWF and funding source policies. Proposals will then be evaluated based on the extent to which they meet the following criteria:

### **Evaluation Criterion #1 – Conservation Outcomes**

- Implementation: Project will clearly and demonstrably result in meaningful on-the-ground implementation of conservation and/or restoration actions that contribute to one or more of the identified program priorities. Where possible and appropriate, the proposal

simultaneously contributes measurable and meaningful implementation actions supporting multiple priority outcomes.

- Collaborative Conservation and Capacity Building: Project will clearly and demonstrably enhance collaborative coordination and capacity to accelerate conservation, stewardship, and/or enhancement of imperiled fish and wildlife populations and associated habitats. Proposed investments and activities have a direct benefit to enhanced collaborative conservation action.
- PTA: Project will result in the delivery of planning and technical assistance products and services that meaningfully advance potential conservation or restoration implementation efforts that would contribute to one or more program priorities. In considering who benefits from requested services, there is a demonstrated need for services and a clear commitment to utilize services to support future implementation efforts.
- All Funding Opportunities: Project incorporates meaningful engagement of affected communities, advanced established community interests, and incorporates community members and stakeholders in project activities.
- All Funding Opportunities: Project supports new and existing partnerships working to advance conservation and restoration actions in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.
- All Funding Opportunities: Project incorporates plans and approaches to implement, verify and sustain conservation and restoration actions and outcomes beyond the timeframe of the grant.

#### Criterion #2 – Partnership and Community Impact

- The applicant organization partners and engages collaboratively with local community members, leaders, community-based organizations, and other relevant stakeholders to develop and implement the proposed project. This ensures long-term sustainability and success of the project, integration into local programs and policies, and community acceptance of proposed restoration actions.
- Partners or communities are enlisted to broaden the sustained impact from the project.
- Proposal describes the community characteristics of the project area, identifies any communities impacted, and describes outreach and community engagement activities and how those will be monitored and measured.
- Proposal uses data to support descriptions and submit letters of support from community partners and/or collaborators demonstrating their commitment to the project and engagement in project activities as proposed.

#### Criterion #3 – Budget / Cost-Effectiveness

- Costs are allowable, reasonable and budgeted in accordance with NFWF's [Budget Instructions](#) cost categories. Federally funded projects must be in compliance with [OMB Uniform Guidance](#) as applicable.

- Matching contributions consist of cash, contributed goods and services, volunteer hours, and/or property raised and spent for the project during the period of performance. Larger match ratios and matching fund contributions from a range of partners are encouraged and will be more competitive during application review.
- Cost-effectiveness analysis identifies the economically most efficient way to meet project objectives. Project includes a cost-effective budget that balances performance risk and efficient use of funds. Cost-effectiveness evaluation includes, but is not limited to, an assessment of effective direct/indirect costs across all categories in the proposed budget according to the type, size and duration of project and project objectives. Project budgets will be compared to similar projects to ensure proposed costs across all budget categories are reasonable for the activities being performed and the outcomes proposed.
- Budget clearly indicates the degree of partnership in conducting the proposed work, including funding for project partners, stakeholders, and community members, as appropriate.
- The federal government has determined that a de minimis 15% indirect rate is an acceptable minimum for organizations without a negotiated indirect cost rate agreement (NICRA), as such NFWF reserves the right to scrutinize ALL proposals with indirect rates above 15% for cost-effectiveness.

#### Criterion #4 – Technical

- Project is technically sound and feasible, and the proposal sets forth a clear, logical, and achievable work plan, milestones, and timeline. All proposed projects must begin on or after September 1, 2026, to facilitate necessary grant contracting and quality assurance activities.
- Project engages appropriate technical experts throughout project planning, design and implementation to ensure activities are technically sound and feasible.
- Proposal demonstrates an understanding of necessary permitting and environmental compliance requirements and the ability to obtain necessary approvals consistent with the proposed work plan and timeline.
- Project spatial data submitted to NFWF's online mapping tool accurately represent the location(s) of conservation activity(ies) at the time of proposal submission. Successful projects will be required to submit improved spatial data for each conservation activity within the period of performance as necessary.
- Applicant organization has demonstrated an ability to manage and implement similar projects on time and within budget.

#### **OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**



**NRCS Funding and Coordination** – In order to qualify for potential NRCS funding under this solicitation, applicants should provide technical assistance to interested farmers, ranchers, and private forestland owners to develop management plans, design and implement conservation practices, share their experiences and lessons learned, and participate in Farm Bill programs, especially the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). A particular emphasis should be placed on promoting, designing, and implementing conservation practices that improve soil health, support grazing system resiliency, restore wetlands, develop perennial wildlife habitat, improve nutrient management, and enhance forest health.

For proposals focused on the agricultural sector, applicants are encouraged to ensure the project aligns with NRCS goals, priorities, and capacity needs by conferring with the NRCS State Conservationist and their staff in the state in which your project is located. A list of NRCS contacts can be found [here](#).

**Environmental Services** – NFWF funds projects in pursuit of its mission to sustain, restore and enhance the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats for current and future generations. NFWF recognizes that some benefits from projects may be of value with regards to credits on an environmental services market (such as a carbon credit market). NFWF does not participate in, facilitate, or manage an environmental services market nor does NFWF assert any claim on such credits.

**Intellectual Property** – Intellectual property created using NFWF awards may be copyrighted or otherwise legally protected by award recipients. NFWF may reserve the right to use, publish, and copy materials created under awards, including posting such material on NFWF's website and featuring it in publications. NFWF may use project metrics and spatial data from awards to estimate community benefits that result and to report these results to funding partners. These may include but are not limited to: habitat and species response, species connectivity, water quality, water quantity, risk of detrimental events (e.g., wildfire, floods), and carbon accounting (e.g., sequestration, avoided emissions).

**Procurement** – If the applicant chooses to specifically identify proposed Contractor(s) for Services, an award by NFWF to the applicant does not constitute NFWF's express written authorization for the applicant to procure such specific services noncompetitively. When procuring goods and services, NFWF recipients must follow documented procurement procedures which reflect applicable laws and regulations.

**Publicity and Acknowledgement of Support** – Award recipients will be required to grant NFWF the right and authority to publicize the project and NFWF's financial support for the grant in press releases, publications and other public communications. Recipients may also be asked by NFWF to provide high-resolution (minimum 300 dpi) photographs depicting the project.

**Receiving Award Funds** – Award payments are primarily reimbursable. Projects may request funds for reimbursement at any time after completing a signed agreement with NFWF. A request of advance funds must be due to an imminent need of expenditure and must detail how the funds will be used and provide justification and a timeline for expected disbursement of these funds.

**Compliance Requirements** – Projects selected may be subject to requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act (state and federal), and National Historic Preservation Act. Documentation of compliance with these regulations must be approved prior to initiating activities that disturb or alter habitat or other features of the project site(s). Applicants should budget time and resources to obtain the needed approvals. As may be applicable, successful applicants may be required to comply with additional Federal, state, or local requirements and obtain all necessary permits and clearances.

**Permits** – Successful applicants will be required to provide sufficient documentation that the project expects to receive or has received all necessary permits and clearances to comply with any Federal, state or local requirements. Where projects involve work in the waters of the United States, NFWF strongly encourages applicants to conduct a permit pre-application meeting with the Army Corps of Engineers prior to submitting their proposal. In some cases, if a permit pre-application meeting has not been completed, NFWF may require successful applicants to complete such a meeting prior to grant award.

**Practice Specifications** – Unless otherwise noted, all water quality improvement practices implemented must conform to established and recognized standards and practice specifications (e.g., [NRCS practice standards](#), state stormwater manuals and retrofit guidance, approved [CBP BMP Expert Panel reports](#)). Applicants must note where proposed practices will deviate from established standards and provide reasonable justification for why an alternative is necessary.

**Monitoring** – NFWF may implement independent monitoring efforts in the future to measure the environmental outcomes from projects funded under this solicitation. Award recipients may be asked to facilitate granting of access to project sites for NFWF or its designees for future environmental monitoring purposes.

## HOW TO APPLY

All application materials must be submitted online through National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Easygrants system.

1. Go to [easygrants.nfwf.org](https://easygrants.nfwf.org) to register in our Easygrants online system. New users to the system will be prompted to register before starting the application (if you are already a registered user, use your existing login). Enter your applicant information. Please disable the pop-up blocker on your internet browser prior to beginning the application process.

2. Once on your homepage, click the “Apply for Funding” button and select this RFP’s “Funding Opportunity” from the list of options.
3. Follow the instructions in Easygrants to complete your application. Once an application has been started, it may be saved and returned to later for completion and submission.

## APPLICATION ASSISTANCE

A Tip Sheet is available for quick reference while you are working through your application. These documents can be downloaded at <https://www.nfwf.org/programs/chesapeake-wild/>.

Additional information to support the application process can be accessed on the NFWF website’s [Applicant Information](#) page. Please disable the pop-up blocker on your internet browser prior to beginning the application process.

For more information or questions about this RFP, please contact Jake Reilly ([jake.reilly@nfwf.org](mailto:jake.reilly@nfwf.org)) or Tori Sullens ([tori.sullens@nfwf.org](mailto:tori.sullens@nfwf.org)) via e-mail.

For issues or assistance with our online Easygrants system, please contact:

Easygrants Helpdesk

- Email: [Easygrants@nfwf.org](mailto:Easygrants@nfwf.org)
- Voicemail: 202-595-2497
- Hours: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm ET, Monday-Friday.
- Include: your name, proposal ID #, e-mail address, phone number, program you are applying to, and a description of the issue.

## APPLICATION AND PROPOSAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

NFWF also offers on-demand, field-based project and partnership development support through [field liaisons](#), providing broad geographic coverage across the Bay region for agricultural conservation, urban stormwater management, wetland and watershed science, and habitat experience and expertise relevant to Bay restoration goals. Applicants may also contact these field liaisons using the information below to discuss potential projects:

Liaison Contact	Email	Phone	Primary Focus
<a href="#">Kristen Saacke Blunk</a>	<a href="mailto:kristen@headwaters-llc.org">kristen@headwaters-llc.org</a>	(814) 360-9766	Watershed-, stream-, and wetland restoration and protection, land protection
<a href="#">Sarah Clark</a>	<a href="mailto:sarah@icl.org">sarah@icl.org</a>	(240) 472-1772	Collaboration and partnership development
<a href="#">Kristen Hughes Evans</a>	<a href="mailto:kristen@susches.org">kristen@susches.org</a>	(804) 554-3403	Agriculture, collaborative project development
<a href="#">David Hirschman</a>	<a href="mailto:dave@hirschmanwater.com">dave@hirschmanwater.com</a>	(434) 409-0993	Stormwater, green infrastructure, stream corridor restoration.
<a href="#">Katie Ombalski</a>	<a href="mailto:katie@woodswaters.com">katie@woodswaters.com</a>	(814) 574-7281	Watershed restoration, agriculture, forest and aquatic habitat restoration, land conservation





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Liaison Contact	Email	Phone	Primary Focus
<a href="#">Mariah Davis</a>	<a href="mailto:davisstrategies1@gmail.com">davisstrategies1@gmail.com</a>	(757) 291-8785	Community Engagement, Urban and Suburban Stormwater, Urban and Suburban Agriculture.
<a href="#">Bryan Hofmann</a>	<a href="mailto:bryan.hofmann@riverfriends.org">bryan.hofmann@riverfriends.org</a>	(540) 693-0443	Green Infrastructure, Forestry, Living Shorelines, Stream Restoration, Education, Collaborative project development

## Appendix A

### Priority 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, and include species identified as At-Risk, State designated Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) in State Wildlife Action Plans (SWAPs), Regional SGCNs by the Northeast Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, and/or species identified in tribal stewardship or fish and wildlife plans.

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.

#### Chesapeake WILD priority fish and wildlife

Table 1 (pg. 18) contains Federal, State, Joint Ventures and Chesapeake Bay Program information and conservation plan resources for the following:

- Chesapeake logperch
- Diadromous Fishes (river herring): American shad, alewife, blueback herring
- Eastern brook trout (wild)
- Eastern regal fritillary
- Forest songbirds: golden-winged warbler, cerulean warbler, and wood thrush
- Freshwater mussels and associated fishes: brook floater, yellow lamp mussel, Tidewater mucket, green floater, American eel
- Game birds: American woodcock and ruffed grouse
- Grassland and early successional birds: Eastern meadowlark and American kestrel
- Marsh birds: black rail and American black duck
- Northeast turtles: bog turtle, Eastern box turtle, Northern diamondback terrapin, spotted turtle, wood turtle
- Pollinators: American bumble bee, rusty patched bumble bee, monarch and frosted Elphin butterflies
- Saltmarsh sparrow

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: formal environmental review may 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 [Fish & Wildlife Diversity Technical Committee](#):

- [NE Regional Conservation Synthesis for 2025 State Wildlife Action Plans](#)
- [2023 Regional Species of Greatest Conservation Need 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:

<a href="#">D.C.</a>	<a href="#">Maryland</a>	<a href="#">Pennsylvania</a>	<a href="#">West Virginia</a>
<a href="#">Delaware</a>	<a href="#">New York</a>	<a href="#">Virginia</a>	

### Additional priority fish and wildlife resources

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

- [National Fish and Wildlife Chesapeake Bay Business Plan](#)

- Chesapeake Bay Program Habitat Goal Implementation Team

Table 1. Federal, State, Joint Ventures and Chesapeake Bay Program information and conservation plan resources for Chesapeake WILD priority fish and wildlife. For state specific habitat conservation or species recovery recommendations, refer to individual State Wildlife Action Plans (links above).

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	<p>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, (2) voluntary conservation of forested riparian habitat adjacent to freshwater streams.</p> <p>Expertise and technical support: (1) cross-jurisdictional species and habitat management planning and coordination capacity, (2) partner and community engagement, communication, and involvement.</p> <p>Science and research: (1) species research, population surveys, and monitoring, (2) habitat restoration research, survey, and monitoring.</p>	<p>Locations: Contact US Fish and Wildlife or State wildlife agency biologists for specific location information</p> <p>Species of Greatest Conservation Need in Pennsylvania and Maryland Wildlife Action Plans (see links under ‘State resources’)</p>	<p>USFWS’s <a href="#">Chesapeake Logperch</a> information website</p> <p>Fact sheet <a href="#">Pennsylvania Species Action Plan</a></p>

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
<p>Diadromous Fishes (river herring): American shad, alewife, blueback herring</p>	<p>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) voluntary conservation of forested riparian habitat adjacent to freshwater streams.</p> <p>Expertise and technical support: (1) engage dam owners/operators, landowners and communities to increase awareness of fish passage needs and the importance of native fish populations and habitat connections, (2) cross-jurisdictional species and habitat management planning and coordination capacity, and (3) partner and community engagement, communication, and involvement.</p> <p>Science and research: (1) species research, population surveys, and monitoring, (2) habitat restoration research, survey, and monitoring.</p>	<p>Locations: Contact US Fish and Wildlife or State wildlife agency biologists for specific location information</p>	<p>Chesapeake Bay Program's <a href="#">Fish Passage Work Group</a> webpage with links to management plans and other recommendations</p> <p>Chesapeake Bay Program's <a href="#">Fish Passage Prioritization Tool</a> to assess potential outcomes</p>



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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
Eastern brook trout (wild populations)	<p>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) voluntary conservation of forested riparian habitat adjacent to freshwater streams.</p> <p>Expertise and technical support: (1) engage dam owners/operators, landowners and communities to increase awareness of fish passage needs and the importance of native fish populations and habitat connections, (2) cross-jurisdictional species and habitat management planning and coordination capacity, and (3) partner and community engagement, communication, and involvement.</p> <p>Science and research: (1) species research, population surveys, and monitoring, (2) habitat restoration research, survey, and monitoring.</p>	<p>Locations: Contact Brook Trout Joint Venture biologists or State wildlife agency biologists for specific location information</p> <p>USDA/US Forest Service <a href="#">modified culvert inventory and assessment protocol</a> (revised 2012)</p> <p><a href="#">Northeast Aquatic Connectivity Report</a></p>	Multiple Eastern brook trout decision support tools and mapper tools from Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture <a href="#">EBTJV</a>





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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
Eastern regal fritillary	<p>Implementation and on-the-ground conservation actions: (1) grassland habitat restoration and connection, (2) create new habitat of diverse grassland dominated by native herbaceous vegetation, (3) voluntary conservation of important habitats.</p> <p>Expertise and technical support: (1) cross-jurisdictional species and habitat management planning and coordination capacity, (2) partner and community engagement, communication, and involvement.</p> <p>Science and research: (1) Citizen Science efforts to captive rear, release, and monitor Regal fritillary to fill science/data gaps.</p>	<p>Locations: Contact US Fish and Wildlife or State wildlife agency biologists for specific location information</p>	<p>US Forest Service article about <a href="#">fritillary pollinators</a></p> <p>Pennsylvania Dept. of Military Veteran Affairs <a href="#">Regal Fritillary Fact Sheet</a></p>
Forest songbirds: golden-winged warbler, cerulean warbler, and wood thrush	<p>Implementation and on-the-ground conservation actions: (1) forest habitat restoration, enhancement, and improved connectivity, (2) voluntary conservation of headwater and high elevation forest habitat, including forested riparian areas.</p> <p>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,</p>	<p>Locations: Contact US Fish and Wildlife or State wildlife agency biologists for specific location information</p> <p>Existing focus areas developed by <a href="#">the Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture</a> and <a href="#">Golden-winged Warbler Working Group</a>.</p>	<p><a href="#">Wood thrush landscape capability models</a></p> <p><a href="#">Breeding habitat management guidelines for Cerulean Warblers</a></p>



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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
	<p>and partnering organizations in focal areas and generate interest in participating in improving forest habitat for imperiled 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.</p> <p>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, 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.</p>		



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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
<p>Freshwater mussels and associated fishes:</p> <p>American eel, brook floater, green floater, Tidewater mucket, and yellow lampmussel</p>	<p>Implementation and on-the-ground conservation actions: (1) restore and connect key riparian and freshwater habitats identified in State Wildlife Action Plans and other conservation plans, (2) voluntary conservation of important habitats.</p> <p>Expertise and technical support: (1) cross-jurisdictional species and habitat management planning and coordination capacity, (2) partner and community engagement, communication, and involvement.</p> <p>Science and research: (1) species research, population surveys, and monitoring, (2) habitat restoration research, survey, and monitoring.</p>	<p>Locations: Contact US Fish and Wildlife or State wildlife agency biologists for specific location information</p>	<p><a href="#">American eel restoration plan for the Susquehanna River Basin</a></p> <p><a href="#">American eel restoration</a></p> <p><a href="#">Brook floater conservation</a></p> <p><a href="#">Green floater</a></p> <p><a href="#">Tidewater mucket</a></p> <p><a href="#">Yellow lampmussel</a></p>
<p>Game birds:</p> <p>American woodcock and ruffed grouse</p>	<p>Implementation and on-the-ground conservation actions: (1) grassland habitat restoration and connection, (2) create new habitat of diverse grassland dominated by native herbaceous vegetation, (3) voluntary conservation of important habitats.</p> <p>Expertise and technical support: (1) cross-jurisdictional species and habitat management planning and coordination capacity, (2) partner and community engagement, communication, and involvement.</p> <p>Science and research: (1) species research, population surveys, and monitoring, (2) habitat restoration research, survey, and monitoring.</p>	<p>Locations: Contact US Fish and Wildlife biologists and State wildlife agency biologists for specific location information</p>	<p><a href="#">American woodcock</a></p> <p><a href="#">American woodcock conservation plan</a></p> <p><a href="#">Eastern ruffed grouse conservation plan 2025 - 2034</a></p>



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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
Grassland and early successional birds: American kestrel and Eastern meadowlark	<p>Implementation and on-the-ground conservation actions: (1) grassland habitat restoration and connection, (2) create new habitat of diverse grassland dominated by native herbaceous vegetation, (3) voluntary conservation of important habitats.</p> <p>Expertise and technical support: (1) cross-jurisdictional species and habitat management planning and coordination capacity, (2) partner and community engagement, communication, and involvement.</p> <p>Science and research: (1) species research, population surveys, and monitoring, (2) habitat restoration research, survey, and monitoring.</p>	Locations: Contact State wildlife agency biologists for specific location information	
Marsh birds: American black duck and black rail	<p>Implementation and on-the-ground conservation actions: (1) marsh habitat restoration, enhancement, and improved connectivity, (2) voluntary conservation of marsh habitat, including key marsh habitat corridors and lands to permit marsh migration.</p> <p>Expertise and technical support: (1) cross-jurisdictional species and habitat management planning and coordination capacity, (2) partner and community engagement, communication, and involvement.</p> <p>Science and research: (1) species research, population surveys, and</p>	Locations: Contact Atlantic Coast Joint Venture biologists, <a href="#">Chesapeake Bay Program Black Duck Action Team</a> , or State wildlife agency biologists for specific location information	<p>American black duck decision support tool for Chesapeake Bay priority watersheds</p> <p><a href="#">ACJV coastal restoration project inventory</a> a data dashboard to explore current and past coastal projects to conserve or restore habitat for saltmarsh sparrow, black rail, and black duck</p>



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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
	monitoring, (2) habitat restoration research, survey, and monitoring.		
Northeast turtles: bog turtle, Eastern box turtle, Northern diamondback terrapin, spotted turtle and wood turtle	<p>Implementation and on-the-ground conservation actions: (1) restore and connect key habitats identified in State Wildlife Action Plans and other conservation plans, (2) voluntary conservation of important habitats.</p> <p>Expertise and technical support: (1) cross-jurisdictional species and habitat management planning and coordination capacity, (2) partner and community engagement, communication, and involvement.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Locations: Contact US Fish and Wildlife or State wildlife agency biologists for specific location information</p> <p><a href="#">Northeast Turtles</a> website for Conservation Plans, sampling protocols, and conservation recommendations for <a href="#">Eastern box</a>, spotted, and <a href="#">wood</a> turtles.</p> <p><a href="#">ECOS</a> page with bog turtle Recovery Plan</p> <p><a href="#">Diamondback Terrapin Recovery Strategy</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Turtles of the Northeast United States (2023)</a> A quick reference information guide for states in the Northeast. For up-to-date information, please consult the state websites.</p> <p><a href="#">Management Guidelines for Wood Turtles</a></p> <p><a href="#">Spotted turtles Regional Conservation Needs Assessment in MD and DE</a></p>
Pollinators: American bumble bee, rusty-patched bumble bee, monarch and frosted Elphin butterflies	<p>Implementation and on-the-ground conservation actions: (1) restore and connect key habitats identified in State Wildlife Action Plans and other conservation plans, (2) voluntary conservation of important habitats.</p> <p>Expertise and technical support: (1) cross-jurisdictional species and habitat management planning and coordination capacity, (2) partner and community engagement, communication, and involvement.</p> <p>Science and research: (1) species research, population surveys, and</p>	<p>Locations: Contact US Fish and Wildlife or State wildlife agency biologists for specific location information</p> <p><a href="#">NRCS American Bumble Bee Fact Sheet</a> with habitat and restoration recommendations</p> <p>Focal areas: farmland, grassland, urban gardening/farming</p>	<p>Center for Pollinator Conservation <a href="#">USFWS Pollinator</a> information website</p> <p><a href="#">USFWS Monarch</a> information website</p> <p><a href="#">USFWS Bumble Bee</a> information website</p> <p><a href="#">USFWS Rusty Patched Bumble Bee</a> information website</p> <p><a href="#">USGS Native Bee Inventory and Monitoring Program</a> information website</p>



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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
	monitoring, (2) habitat restoration research, survey, and monitoring.		
Saltmarsh sparrow	<p>Implementation and on-the-ground conservation actions: (1) marsh habitat restoration, enhancement, and improved connectivity, (2) voluntary conservation of marsh habitat, including key marsh habitat corridors and lands to permit marsh migration.</p> <p>Expertise and technical support: (1) cross-jurisdictional species and habitat management planning and coordination capacity, (2) partner and community engagement, communication, and involvement.</p> <p>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.</p>	Locations: Contact Atlantic Coast Joint Venture, US Fish and Wildlife or State wildlife agency biologists for specific location information	<p><a href="#">Saltmarsh Sparrow restoration priority mapper</a> 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.</p> <p><a href="#">ACJV coastal restoration project inventory</a> a data dashboard to explore current and past coastal projects to conserve or restore habitat for saltmarsh sparrow, black rail, and black duck</p>



## Appendix B

### 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	Nature-based 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 <a href="#">Fish Passage Prioritization Tool</a> to assess potential outcomes.



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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. In the NOTES, clarify the number of miles restored through aquatic connectivity versus instream and/or riparian restoration.
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. NOTE: Please also report the estimated miles restored through the "Riparian Restoration – Miles Restored" metric.
Habitat Restoration	Riparian restoration	Miles restored	Enter the number of miles restored. NOTE: Please also report the estimated acres restored through the "Riparian Restoration – Acres Restored" metric.
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.

Strategy	Activity	Metric	Metric Description/Instructions
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/ Technical Assistance	# of signs installed	Enter the number of signs installed by project
Capacity, Outreach, Incentives	Outreach/ Technical Assistance	# of public events	Enter the number of public events completed
Capacity, Outreach, Incentives	Outreach/ 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. Note: Please also report total estimated acres conserved through the "Acres protected under easement" or "Acres acquired in fee" under Habitat Conservation.
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 acquisition/easement outcomes.
Capacity, Outreach, Incentives	Landowner Engagement	# jobs created	Enter the # of individuals hired to directly work on the project (non-volunteers). Jobs should be directly engaged in grant activities, funded by the grant, and shouldn't have existed prior to the grant. The starting value for this metric should be zero and target value should be a whole number. In the NOTES section, provide the FTE for the jobs created.
Capacity, Outreach, Incentives	Landowner Engagement	# jobs sustained	Enter the # of paid jobs that are partially or fully sustained through this grant. The starting value for this metric should be zero and target value should be a whole number. Jobs should have existed prior to the grant, be funded by the grant, and be directly engaged in project activities.
Capacity, Outreach, Incentives	Landowner Engagement	# participants receiving gov't agency cost share or financial assistance	Enter the number of participants enrolled in government cost share or financial assistance programs. In the NOTES section, specify which



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Strategy	Activity	Metric	Metric Description/Instructions
			program(s) (e.g., NRCS EQIP), how you will track enrollment. This should be equal to or less than the “# people with changed behavior” metric.
Capacity, Outreach, Incentives	Landowner Engagement	Dollar value of government agency cost share or financial assistance	Enter the dollar value of federal, state, or local government agency cost share or financial assistance. In the NOTES section, specify which program(s) (e.g., NRCS EQIP) and how the value was estimated.
Capacity, Outreach, Incentives	Landowner Engagement	Acres covered by government agency cost share or financial assistance	Enter the number of acres enrolled in government agency cost share or financial assistance. In the NOTES section, specify which program(s) (e.g., NRCS EQIP). If applicable, number should be equal to or less than “Acreage of project footprint” metric.
Capacity, Outreach, Incentives	Landowner Engagement	# people with changed behavior	Enter the number of producers implementing new conservation practices with or without federal, state, local, or private financial assistance. This should be equal to or greater than the “# of farmers receiving gov’t agency cost share or financial assistance” metric.

## 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. Note: Please include estimated miles restored under the “Restoration planning/design/permitting – Miles Restored” metric.
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. Note: Please include estimated acres restored under the “Restoration planning/design/permitting – Acres Restored” metric.