



National Species Recovery Grants 2026 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

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 with NFWF program staff for the most current dates and information.

Applicant Webinar	March 5, 2026, 2:00PM, EST
Invitations for Full Proposals Sent	February 24, 2026
Full Proposal Due Date	April 9, 2026, 11:59PM, EST
Review Period	February through July 2026
Awards Announced	Mid-August 2026

OVERVIEW

In partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), will award competitive grants to accelerate the recovery of species listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). To optimize species recovery, the USFWS has prioritized species that, with additional funding, are likely to warrant delisting or downlisting within the next three years and/or species in areas of substantial overlap with land-use activities such as energy, timber, mineral development, and ranching. The program will fund partners undertaking voluntary implementation of priority recovery actions described in the species' recovery planning document(s) to further progress in achieving the delisting or downlisting objectives. Actions may include, but are not limited to, the restoration of habitat, invasive species removal, population monitoring and surveys, and captive breeding and release.

GRANT AWARD INFORMATION

NFWF anticipates that there will be two funding cycles and awards will be made across two categories of projects. Award sizes are expected to range from \$30,000 to \$3,500,000, but this is an estimated range and projects may be funded at more or less than this amount. You should work closely with your USFWS contacts to determine an appropriate request amount. The total

number of grants and award amounts will depend on the species and recovery action(s) in Appendix A.

There will be two categories of awards administered through this grant opportunity.

- **Category 1:** Projects to fund recovery actions that are likely to warrant delisting or downlisting of species. These projects may be single or multi-year but must be completed by September 30, 2029 (3 years from award announcement or activation). Matching funds are not required and will not impact a proposal's competitiveness.
- **Category 2:** Projects to fund recovery actions for species that are in areas of substantial overlap with land-use activities such as energy, timber, mineral development, and ranching. Category 2 projects may be single or multi-year but must be completed by within one to five years. While not required, projects in this category that include cash or in-kind match will be prioritized to receive funding.

Proposals can only include projects under one of these two categories. These categories are indicated numerically with their respective recovery action in Appendix A.

GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS

Projects must occur in areas defined in the species' recovery planning documents and be necessary for species recovery.

PROGRAM PRIORITIES

Competitive proposals will optimize species recovery by addressing at least one of the priority species and recovery actions in Appendix A. Highest priority will be given to projects that develop and implement actions designed to have a direct contribution to the recovery of listed species (e.g., reduce or eliminate threats or otherwise improve the status of the species) as described in a species' recovery planning documents. Such documents include the species' draft or final recovery plan, recovery implementation strategies, recovery outline, or other recovery planning documents. Implementation of these actions will accelerate recovery for those species towards meeting the objectives of this funding opportunity. Please refer to Appendix A for species-specific actions.

Conservation Priorities

The purpose of the ESA is to conserve threatened species and endangered species and the ecosystems on which they depend. USFWS develops and implements recovery plans, which have an overarching goal of improving the species' viability to the point where it no longer meets the definition of a threatened or endangered species. Recovery plans include recovery criteria, which are the conditions necessary for a species to be considered for removal from the endangered species list, and the recovery actions necessary to achieve those recovery criteria. When a recovery plan has not yet been developed, a recovery outline describes the interim recovery actions necessary to kickstart recovery while the plan is developed.

The goal of this funding program is to implement recovery actions so that more species can be considered recovered and potentially removed from the lists of endangered and threatened species. While these recovery actions are specifically targeted at improving the condition of specific wildlife and plants, implementing recovery actions also benefits the ecosystems and the people that live in them by enhancing ecosystem services such as water quality improvement, soil stabilization, and carbon storage; supporting biodiversity; and providing cultural, recreational, and economic benefits to local communities.

USFWS has identified specific recovery actions to fund under this grant opportunity that may include, but are not limited to:

- **Habitat Restoration and Protection:** restore, enhance, and/or protect habitat necessary for species recovery, including, for example:
 - Site preparation for translocations,
 - Invasive species removal,
 - Hydrological restoration,
 - Fire management plan development.
- **Population Management:** rear individuals for reintroduction or augmentation to increase species resiliency and redundancy, including, for example:
 - Translocations or reintroductions to suitable habitat;
 - Captive propagation, headstart, and release programs;
 - Seed and plant collection and production for population augmentation and outplanting;
 - Disease management and biosecurity measures;
 - Seed banking and ex-situ conservation for plants to preserve genetic material;
 - Genetic research and analysis to inform breeding, translocation, and adaptive management strategies.
- **Threat Reduction and Human Conflict Management:** reduce or eliminate ongoing threats identified in recovery planning documents, including, for example:
 - Predator control, where predation limits recovery;
 - Human conflict management, including research on conflicts and implementing strategies to reduce negative interactions between species and people (e.g., depredation prevention, coexistence tools, outreach).
- **Monitoring and Research:** track progress toward recovery criteria, including, for example:
 - Species surveys and population monitoring, including use of eDNA;
 - Habitat monitoring;
 - Population size and trends estimates or other demographic parameters;
 - Population viability model development;
 - Monitoring or management plan development;
 - Survey technique development.

PROJECT METRICS

To better gauge progress on individual grants and to ensure the consistency of data collected across the grant portfolio, the National Species Recovery Grant application has a list of metrics in

Easygrants for proposal applicants to choose from for future reporting. Applicants should select only the most relevant metrics from this list for their project (all possible program metrics are shown in Appendix B). Project metrics and associated outcomes must connect to a direct contribution to species recovery. If you think an applicable metric has not been provided, please contact Ericka Popovich (Ericka.Popovich@nfwf.org) to discuss acceptable alternatives.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants include U.S. Federal government agencies, state government agencies, local governments, municipal governments, Tribal governments and organizations, nonprofit 501 (c) organizations, educational institutions, and businesses.

For-profit applicants: please note that this is a request for grant proposals, not a procurement of goods and services.

Ineligible applicants include international organizations and unincorporated individuals.

Previous experience working with the species is preferred. Having a valid ESA permit or previously having had one is also preferred. Applicants selected for funding that do not have a valid permit may have to obtain one before beginning project activities. Projects will be evaluated for alignment with program goals and objectives and relationship to species’ recovery planning documents.

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.

Conservation Outcomes	Technical Merit	Species Recovery Planning Document	Budget
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alignment with program goals and priorities Provides conservation benefit Quantifiable performance metrics Appropriate monitoring of activities and outcomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technically sound and feasible Engages technical experts Logical and achievable work plan and timeline Sound compliance approach (permits, NEPA) Accurate spatial data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of priority recovery actions described in appropriate recovery document(s) Establishes partnerships, capacity, and/or processes necessary to implement recovery actions Advances outcomes/goals in recovery document(s) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allowable and reasonable costs Cost effective Matching contributions (Applies to Category 2 applications only)

Program Goals and Priorities (Conservation Outcomes) – Project addresses one or more of the program priorities and aligns with species recovery action priorities as specified in [Appendix A](#). Project has specific, quantifiable performance metrics that measure a direct benefit to species recovery with baselines, targets, and appropriate reporting frequencies to evaluate project progress toward goals. All projects must provide a species recovery and conservation benefit.

Technical Merit – Project is technically sound and feasible, and the proposal sets forth a clear, logical, and achievable work plan/timeline. Project engages appropriate technical experts throughout project planning, design, and implementation to ensure activities are technically sound and feasible. Project includes a plan for monitoring progress during and after the proposed project period to track project success and adaptively address new challenges and opportunities as they arise. Proposal notes any pre- and post-performance monitoring necessary and how it will be implemented. Project will be maintained to ensure benefits are achieved and sustained over time.

Species Recovery Planning Documents – Projects must undertake implementation of priority recovery actions described in the species’ draft or final recovery plan, recovery implementation strategy, recovery outline, or other species’ recovery planning document. Project establishes partnerships, capacity, and/or processes necessary to implement actions specified by the species’ recovery planning documents. Proposal articulates the degree to which the project will advance outcomes and goals set forth in the species’ recovery planning document.

Budget – Costs are allowable, reasonable, and budgeted in the full proposal in accordance with NFWF’s [Budget Instructions](#) cost categories. Federally funded projects must be in compliance with [OMB Uniform Guidance \(2 CFR 200\)](#) as applicable. A complete full proposal budget should include budget narratives to provide justifications for costs.

Cost Effectiveness - Amount requested is proportional to expected outcomes. Project includes a cost-effective budget that balances performance risk and efficient use of funds. Cost-effectiveness analysis identifies the most efficient way to meet project objectives. 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.

Spatial Data – 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.

Matching Contributions – Matching Contributions consist of cash, contributed goods and services, and/or volunteer hours for the Project during the Period of Performance.

- **Category 1:** Match is not required for and will not affect a proposal’s competitiveness for this category of projects.
- **Category 2:** While not required, projects that include cash or in-kind match will be prioritized to receive funding.

Merit Review Criteria

All proposals will be screened for relevance, accuracy, completeness, and compliance with NFWF and funding source policies. Proposals will then be evaluated by review teams representing the relevant funders and technical experts based primarily on the extent to which they meet the

criteria listed below. Each proposal will be evaluated on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is insufficient, 2 is significantly deficient, 3 is satisfactory, 4 is excellent, and 5 is outstanding. For more information on review scoring see Appendix C.

OTHER

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.
- Pursuant to the American Security Drone Act (ASDA), effective December 22, 2025, applicants proposing activities funded in whole or in part with federal funds may not use, operate, or purchase any drone or uncrewed aerial systems (UAS) included on the Covered Foreign Entities (CFE) List. This prohibition applies to both new purchases and continued use of existing UAS, including certain widely used commercial platforms, such as DJI and Autel. Applicants are responsible for ensuring that all proposed and existing UAS used in connection with federally funded activities comply with applicable federal law and are not included on the CFE List. Noncompliance may affect eligibility for funding.
- 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.

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 societal 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 award 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 an advance of 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. Requests for monthly advances will not be considered.

Compliance Requirements – Projects selected may be subject to requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act (state and federal), and the 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 sufficient 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.

Buy America – Award recipients will be subject to the Buy America Provision for Infrastructure. Per 2 CFR Part 184, all iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in the project must be produced in the United States. Waivers follow OMB Memorandum M-24-02.

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 to register in our Easygrants online system. New users to the system will be prompted to register before starting the application (if you already are 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 at a later time for completion and submission.

APPLICATION ASSISTANCE

A *Tip Sheet* is available for quick reference while you are working through your application. This document can be downloaded [here](#).

Additional information to support the application process can be accessed on the NFWF website’s [Applicant Information](#) page.

For more information or questions about this RFP, please contact:

Sydney Godbey
Director, National Programs
Sydney.godbey@nfwf.org

Ericka Popovich
Manager, National Programs
Ericka.Popovich@nfwf.org

Zoey Apelt
Coordinator, Regional Programs
Zoey.Apelt@nfwf.org

For one-on-one guidance, sign up for a virtual proposal lab:

NFWF staff will be holding 20-minute virtual proposal labs during the application period Tuesday through Thursday afternoons from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. EST. You can make an appointment through our [Bookings page](#).

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

Easygrants Helpdesk

Email: Easygrants@nfwf.org

Voicemail: 202-595-2497

Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST, Monday-Friday

Include: your name, proposal ID #, e-mail address, phone number, program you are applying to, and a description of the issue.

APPENDIX B: Metrics

Project Activity	Possible Metric	Easygrants Instructions
Capacity, Outreach, Incentives	Economic benefits - # 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. In the notes, provide the FTE for the jobs created.
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 - # people reached by outreach, training, or technical assistance activities	Enter the number of people reached by outreach, training, or technical assistance activities
Habitat Restoration	Land, wetland restoration - # of native plants outplanted	Enter the # of native plants outplanted
Habitat Restoration	Plant cultivation - Seedlings propagated	Please enter the number of seedlings propagated
Habitat Restoration	Seed harvesting - pounds of seeds harvested	Enter the number of pounds of seeds collected.
Habitat Restoration	Removal of invasives - Acres restored	Enter # acres of invasives removed. In the NOTES, specify: vegetation removed (see list), desired dominant vegetation (see list), average frequency (in years) of future treatment, and whether removed vegetation will be left on site to decompose (Yes/No).
Habitat Restoration	Restoring hydrology - Acres with restored hydrology	Enter the number of acres with restored hydrology
Planning, Research, Monitoring	Management or Governance Planning - # management plan activities being implemented	Enter the number of management plan activities being implemented
Planning, Research, Monitoring	Management or Governance Planning - # plans developed with input from multiple stakeholders	Enter the number of plans developed that had input from multiple stakeholders
Planning, Research, Monitoring	Monitoring - # monitoring programs established or underway	Enter the number of monitoring programs established or underway

Planning, Research, Monitoring	Monitoring - # sites being monitored	Enter the # sites being monitored
Planning, Research, Monitoring	acres assessed for improved management	Enter the number of acres assessed for improved management
Planning, Research, Monitoring	Research - # research studies completed	Enter the number of research studies completed
Planning, Research, Monitoring	Tool development for decision-making - # tools developed	Enter the number of tools developed
Species Outcome	Habitat Quality - # of habitat units (e.g. landscapes, patches, reaches) with improved status	Enter the number of habitat units (e.g. landscapes, patches, reaches) with improved status. Add a note on how status has been improved, and which species has been impacted/tracked.
Species Outcome	Population - # of new populations established	Enter the number of new populations established. Add a note on which species is being impacted/tracked.
Species Outcome	Population - # sites occupied by species	Enter the number of sites occupied by species. Add a note on which species is being impacted/tracked.
Species Outcome	Population - miles of habitat occupied by the species	Enter the number of miles of habitat occupied by the species. Add a note on which species is being impacted/tracked.
Species Outcome	Survivorship - % survival	Enter the % survival of the species impacted. In the notes specify the species impacted/tracked, baseline, and methodology of calculating survivorship.
Species-specific Strategies	Translocation - # individuals translocated/stocked	Enter the number of individuals translocated or stocked. Add a note on which species is being impacted/tracked.
Species-specific Strategies	Translocation - # of sites restocked with new individuals	Enter the number of sites restocked with new individuals. Add a note on which species is being impacted/tracked.
Species-specific Strategies	Invasive animal or predator removal - # of individuals removed	Enter the # of individual invasive animals or predators removed. Add a note on which species is being impacted/tracked.
Species-specific Strategies	Disease control - # individuals protected from disease	Enter the number of individuals protected from disease. Add a note on which species is being impacted/tracked.
Species-specific Strategies	Captive breeding / rearing / rehab facilities - # individuals released	Enter the number of individuals released. Add a note on which species is being impacted/tracked.
Species-specific Strategies	Captive breeding / rearing / rehab facilities - Capacity of facility in terms of animals treated/bred	Indicate the capacity of the facility in terms of animals treated/bred. Add a note on which species is being impacted/tracked and how capacity has been increased.

APPENDIX C: Merit Review Criteria

The benchmarks below are associated with the criteria and intended as a guide for reviewers. Applicants may consider them when preparing their proposals. It is important to note that a score of 1 or 2 for any individual criterion can result in a proposal being turned down for funding regardless of high scores in other categories.

Once all of the proposals are reviewed based on the extent to which they meet the criteria, final funding decisions will be based on proposal scoring as well as additional factors applied to the overall slate of funded projects, which may include: geographic distribution of projects, variety of program priorities addressed, representation of project type and applicant, alignment with available funding, and performance on prior and/or current NFWF grants.

Conservation Outcomes	
Scale	Description
1	Project does not align with program goals or priorities and provides negligible or no measurable benefit to species conservation.
2	Project provides minimal conservation benefit (e.g., localized or short-term improvement) with limited measurable outcomes and weak or absent monitoring.
3	Project provides moderate conservation benefit (e.g., reduces a minor threat or improves habitat condition for a portion of the species' range) and includes at least one quantifiable metric and a basic monitoring plan.
4	Project provides substantial conservation benefit (e.g., addresses a significant threat or improves species viability at a meaningful scale) with multiple quantifiable metrics and appropriate monitoring of activities and outcomes.
5	Project provides transformative conservation benefit (e.g., significantly reduces or eliminates a major threat, improves species status toward recovery objectives, or enhances ecosystem resilience) with robust, meaningful performance metrics and comprehensive monitoring and adaptive management strategies.
Technical Merit	
1	Significant concern that project is not technically sound or feasible as proposed. The proposal omits a work plan/timeline. Project does not engage technical experts in planning, design, and/or implementation.
2	Some concern that project may not be technically sound and feasible. The proposal includes a limited work plan/timeline. Project negligibly engages technical experts in planning, design, and implementation.
3	Project is likely technically sound and feasible but lacks sufficient detail. The proposal includes a basic work plan/timeline. Project engages some technical experts in project planning, design, and implementation.
4	Project is technically sound and feasible, and the proposal sets forth a clear work plan/timeline but some details are questionable. Project engages technical experts in project planning, design, and implementation.
5	Project is technically sound and feasible, and the proposal sets forth a clear, logical, and achievable work plan and timeline. Project engages appropriate technical experts throughout project planning, design, and implementation to ensure activities are technically sound and feasible

Species Recovery Planning Documents	
1	Project is entirely unrelated to an existing draft or final recovery plan, recovery implementation strategy, recovery outline, or other recovery planning document. Proposal does not include or explain current capacity, partnerships, and/or processes necessary to implement a recovery action.
2	Project is somewhat related to an existing draft or final recovery plan, recovery implementation strategy, recovery outline, or other recovery planning document. Proposal notes but does not describe current capacity, partnerships, and/or processes necessary to implement a recovery action.
3	Project implements an existing draft or final recovery plan, recovery implementation strategy, recovery outline, or other recovery planning document. Proposal describes how project utilizes capacity, partnerships, and/or processes necessary to implement a recovery action. Proposal articulates the degree to which the project activities are connected to outcomes and goals set forth in the species' recovery planning documents.
4	Project implements an existing draft or final recovery plan, recovery implementation strategy, recovery outline, or other recovery planning document. Proposal describes how project ensures capacity, partnerships, and/or processes necessary to implement a recovery action. Proposal articulates the degree to which the project will advance outcomes and goals set forth in the species' recovery planning documents.
5	Project implements an existing draft or final recovery plan, recovery implementation strategy, recovery outline, or other recovery planning document. Proposal describes how project establishes and adaptively manages capacity, partnerships, and/or processes necessary to develop or implement a plan. Proposal articulates a clear connection to outcomes and goals set forth in the species' recovery planning document that will be achieved.
Budget (Match statements only apply to category 2 applications)	
1	Amount requested is not proportionate to proposed outcomes and project is not cost-effective. Costs are not allowable, reasonable, and budgeted in accordance with NFWF's Budget Instructions cost categories. Proposal does not include match. Costs are not justified.
2	Amount requested does not seem proportionate to proposed outcomes and project is likely not cost-effective. Some costs are allowable, reasonable, and budgeted in accordance with NFWF's Budget Instructions cost categories. The budget does not include enough detail to determine overall cost effectiveness. Proposal does not include match. The costs are not reasonable for the area where work is being performed and for the tasks being proposed.
3	Amount requested is somewhat proportionate to proposed outcomes. Costs are mostly allowable, reasonable, and budgeted in accordance with NFWF's Budget Instructions cost categories. The budget includes some details, but overall cost effectiveness is unclear. Applicant provides match. The costs are somewhat reasonable for the area where work is being performed and for the tasks being proposed. The costs are somewhat reasonable for the area where work is being performed and for the tasks being proposed.

4	Amount requested is proportionate to proposed outcomes. Costs are allowable, reasonable, and budgeted in accordance with NFWF’s Budget Instructions cost categories. The budget includes sufficient details to assess overall cost effectiveness. Applicant provides match and most details are clear. The costs are largely reasonable for the area where work is being performed and for the tasks being proposed.
5	Amount requested is proportionate to proposed outcomes. Costs are allowable, reasonable, and budgeted in accordance with NFWF’s Budget Instructions cost categories. The budget includes robust detail enabling a clear picture of overall cost effectiveness. Applicant provides match that is detailed and fully eligible. Costs are reasonable for the area where work is being performed and for the tasks being proposed. The budget and match include sufficient detail and justification to instill confidence that proposed outcomes will be achieved.