

## 2024 Full Proposal Applicant Webinar

# America's Ecosystem Restoration Initiative: America the Beautiful Challenge

Dedicated to investing in ecosystem and watershed restoration projects, resilience, equitable access, workforce development, corridors and connectivity, and collaborative conservation

### General Session Agenda

- 1. Webinar Instructions
- 2. Program Context and Priorities
- 3. Review of Request for Proposals
  - Five Grant Categories
  - Evaluation and Guidelines
  - Proposal Component Breakdown
- 4. Frequently Asked Questions
- 5. Q&A
- 6. Using Easygrants



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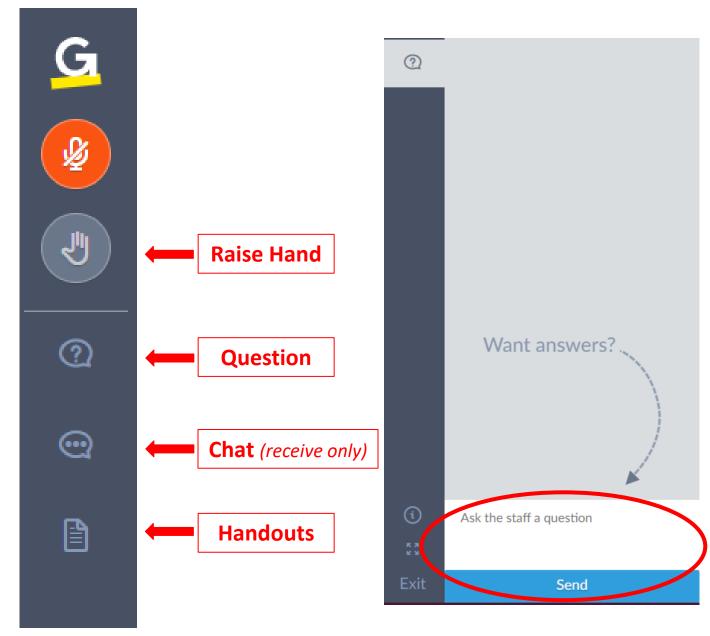
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#### Webinar Instructions

- To improve sound quality, all participants will be muted for the duration of the webinar. If you want to ask a question you have two options:
  - 1. Enter your query where it says "Enter a question for staff" and click send. A NFWF staff member will type a response or read your question aloud when we pause for Q&A.
  - 2. Write it down and contact us after the webinar. We have a lot of material to cover, so you may prefer to have a more in-depth discussion later.
- We may ask you to raise your "hand" in the webinar dialogue box to confirm participants can hear us.
- If you experience a technical glitch, please type it into the question box, since we can't hear you. (We may not know about the glitch unless you say something!)

The webinar will be available for download next week at www.nfwf.org/challenge



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#### What is the Challenge Program?

• A five-year program that pools together conservation funding and expertise from federal agencies to support locally-led, cross-boundary, multi-state, and/or landscape-scale restoration projects.

#### **Program Themes Program Priorities** o Benefit At-Risk Fish, Wildlife and Plant Species Conserving and restoring rivers, coasts, wetlands and watersheds. Expand Habitat connectivity Deliver Conservation and Restoration Across Conserving and restoring forests, grasslands **Jurisdictions** and other important ecosystems that serve as Provide a Range of Ecosystem Services carbon sinks o Strengthen Ecosystem and Community Resilience Connecting and reconnecting wildlife Expand Public and Community Access to Nature corridors, large landscapes, watersheds, and Engage Local Communities seascapes Support Tribally Led Conservation and Restoration Improving ecosystem and community **Priorities** resilience to flooding, drought, and other Contribute to Local or Tribal economies climate-related threats Contribute to workforce development Expanding access to the outdoors, Advance the Restoration and Resiliency particularly in underserved communities Framework and Keystone Initiatives Advance Sentinel Landscape Partnership Priorities

- A minimum of 10% of the 2024 funding will be awarded to Tribal and Native Nation led projects
- A minimum of 3% of the 2024 funding will be awarded to U.S. Territories



#### **Native Nation Priorities and Opportunities**



- Prioritizes Tribal and Native Nation implementation, stewardship, collaboration, capacity, planning
- Seeks projects developed and informed by Indigenous Knowledge
- Encourages direct local community engagement
- Directs benefits to accrue to local and Tribal economies
- Match covered by Native Americans in Philanthropy

### **Pre-Proposal Stage Summary**



#### Received 331 pre-proposals

including proposals touching all 50 states, DC, and two Territories

#### Invited 142 full proposals

- •~\$119 million available
  - \$102 million for categories 1 and 2 (DOI/FWS and NAP)
  - \$5 million for category 3 (DOD)
  - \$10 million for category 4 (USFS)
  - \$2 million for category 5 (NRCS)

### **Program Timeline**





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### **Grant Categories**

Categories	Implementation (1)	Planning (2)	Sentinel Landscape (3)	National Forest (4)	Private Forests, Rangeland and Farmland (5)
Eligibility	States, Territories, and federally recognized Tribes	States, Territories, and federally recognized Tribes	Non-profits, local municipal governments, and educational institutions, States, U.S. Territories, and Tribes	Non-profits, local municipal governments, and educational institutions, States, U.S. Territories, and Tribes	Non-profits, local municipal governments, and educational institutions, States, U.S. Territories, and Tribes
Award size and length	\$1M - \$5M +, Up to 4 years	\$200k - \$2M, Up to 3 years	\$200k - \$1.5M, 2 - 4 years	\$200k - \$1.5M, 2 - 4 years	\$200k - \$500k, 2 - 3 years
Geographic Focus	National	National	designated or emerging Sentinel Landscapes or areas that preserve or enhance military readiness, cannot be on military lands	National Forest System lands	Private lands within a Working Lands for Wildlife Framework or Initiative
contingent upon awards from	DOI/FWS	DOI/FWS	DOD	USFS	NRCS

### **Matching Requirements**

#### **DOI Conservation and Restoration Funds**

Recipient Type	Federal cost share	Non-federal cost share
States	90% of costs	10% of costs (11.12% of grant request), at least 2.5% must be cash
Tribes & Territories	97% of costs	3% of costs, of which at least .75% must be cash  (COVERED for Tribal Nations, fully covered by partnership with Native Americans in Philanthropy; WAIVED for territories per DOI legal interpretation)

#### **DoD Conservation and Restoration Funds**

Recipient Type	Federal cost share	Non-federal cost share
All Entities		Not required. DOD REPI Program funds can serve as a non-federal match for the other federal programs in the ATBC grants.

#### **USFS** Conservation and Restoration Funds

Recipient Type	Federal cost share	Non-federal cost share
All Entities	80% of costs	20% of costs (25% of grant request)  COVERED for Tribal Nations, fully covered by Native  Americans in Philanthropy

#### **NRCS Technical Assistance Funds**

Recipient Type	Federal cost share	Non-federal cost share
All Entities	100% of costs	Not Required

### **Matching Requirements Continued**

- Match requirement is waived for the territories of the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
- Native Americans in Philanthropy is providing all match for any granted Tribally led projects up to the 10% ATBC funding floor for Tribal Nation grantees. Match for Tribally led projects funded beyond the 10% will be subject to NAP funding availability.





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#### **Evaluation Criteria**

- All proposals will be evaluated using 5 major criteria: Program Goals and Priorities, Technical Merit, Conservation Plan and/or Indigenous Knowledge, Partnership and Community Impact, and Budget
- Every ATBC proposal will be evaluated by a minimum of three reviewers (usually five or more)
- Final funding decisions will be based on proposal scoring and additional factors (e.g. geographic distribution of projects, variety of ATBC program priorities addressed, representation of project type and applicant, alignment with available funding, and performance on prior and/or current NFWF grants)

See Appendix 4 for more details!



### **Evaluation Criteria Continued – Competitive Proposals**



#### **Program Goals and Priorities**

- Address 3 *or more* program priorities
- Align with Agency Funding Priorities
- Include multiple specific, quantifiable performance metrics to evaluate project success

#### **Technical Merit**

- Technically sound and feasible
- Sets forth a clear, logical, and achievable work plan and timeline
- Engages appropriate technical experts throughout
- Planning proposals, clearly demonstrates how efforts will lead to implementation

#### **Evaluation Criteria Continued – Competitive Proposals**

#### Conservation Plan or Indigenous Knowledge

- Project meaningfully advances one or more existing conservation, restoration, resilience, stewardship, Tribal resource management, or recovery plans and/or is guided by IK
- Proposal describes how project establishes and adaptively manages capacity, partnerships, and/or processes necessary to develop or implement a plan
- Articulates outcomes and goals set forth in a plan(s) that will be achieved

#### Partnership and Community Impact

- Robust partnership support
- Partners with, elevates, and engages collaboratively with or directly represents diverse and relevant stakeholders to
- Engages non-traditional partners or communities—or are applicants themselves
- Develops capacity in non-traditional partners
- Uplifts Tribal and Indigenous led efforts, and/or develops the restoration workforce (i.e., AmeriCorps and 21st Century Conservation Service Corps).



### **Evaluation Criteria Continued – Competitive Proposals**

#### Budget

- Amount requested is proportionate to proposed outcomes
- Costs are allowable, reasonable, and budgeted in accordance with NFWF's Budget Instructions cost categories
- Includes robust detail enabling a clear picture of overall cost effectiveness
- Match is sufficient, detailed, and fully eligible
- Costs are reasonable for the area where work is being performed and for the tasks being proposed
- Budget and match include sufficient detail and justification to instill confidence that proposed outcomes will be achieved



### Federal Funding Compliance Implications and Requirements



- ATBC projects will be subject to requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Endangered Species Act (ESA; state and federal), National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and Clean Water Act (CWA)
  - 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)
- Acquisition included in projects will be subject to requirements under Federal acquisition regulations and Yellow Book standards. Agency approval and reporting may be required.
- Contractors and subcontractors in budgets may be subject to prevailing wage requirements (DavisBacon)
- Materials and supplies may be subject to Buy American requirements
- Be sure to budget time and resources towards completing these requirements and obtaining all necessary permits and clearances

### **Overall Proposal Guidelines - Highlights**

- Project periods of performance cannot start prior to August 1, 2024 or end after June 30, 2029
- If you haven't thought about permits and compliance yet, START NOW!
- Ensure your SAM registration (SAM.gov) and audit requirements are up to date (<a href="https://www.nfwf.org/apply-grant/application-information/required-financial-documents">https://www.nfwf.org/apply-grant/application-information/required-financial-documents</a>)
- Provide measurable outputs and outcomes, choose your metrics wisely, and provide details requested (see Appendix 1 for full metrics list)
- Start collecting your letters of support (write templates for your partners)
- Pursuant to OMB rules, indirect <u>is allowed</u> please review the policy on our website (<a href="https://www.nfwf.org/grants/application-information/indirect-cost-calculator">https://www.nfwf.org/grants/application-information/indirect-cost-calculator</a>)
- Complete your budget narratives! Please review guidance on our website (<a href="https://www.nfwf.org/sites/default/files/2020-07/nfwf-detailed-budget-narrative-guide.pdf">https://www.nfwf.org/sites/default/files/2020-07/nfwf-detailed-budget-narrative-guide.pdf</a>)
- Ineligible Uses of Grant Funds:
  - Support of ongoing efforts to comply with legal requirements
  - Support of political advocacy, fundraising, lobbying, litigation, terrorist activities or Foreign Corrupt Practices Act violations

#### **Applicant Assistance Opportunities and Resources**

- Full RFP and supporting materials are available on our website
  - Tip sheet for help navigating RFP and Easygrants
  - Frequently Asked Questions living document
- Proposal lab sessions with NFWF staff and Field Liaisons June 5<sup>th</sup>— July 18<sup>th</sup>
- Applicants submit proposal through Easygrants portal Due July 18<sup>th</sup>
  - easygrants@nfwf.org for help with Easygrants issues
- Webinar recording will be posted to website
- NFWF staff and Field Liaisons are available to assist



Please email us if you have any questions!

rachel.dawson@nfwf.org

sydney.godbey@nfwf.org

blake.gardiner@nfwf.org



### Field Liaison Support: Native Nation Applicants

The Native American Fish and Wildlife Society (NAFWS) is a non-profit 501(C)3 intertribal organization whose mission is to assist Native American and Alaska Native Tribes with the conservation, protection, and enhancement of their fish and wildlife resources.

NAFWS is a resource for Native Nation applicants to:

- Ask questions about the program, full proposals, and grant process
- Discuss and receive additional pre-proposal review feedback
- Review full proposal drafts
- Attend proposal labs
  - Bookings link: <a href="https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/ATBCTechnicalAssistancewithNAFWS">https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/ATBCTechnicalAssistancewithNAFWS</a>
     <a href="mailto:analendar/ATBCTechnicalAssistancewithNAFWS">anafws.org/bookings/</a>
- Attend webinars
  - Webinar series: <a href="https://www.nafws.org/product/atbc-full-proposal-webinar-series-full-proposal-overview/">https://www.nafws.org/product/atbc-full-proposal-webinar-series-full-proposal-overview/</a>

ATBC Field Liaison:

Andy Edwards

Email: aedwards@nafws.org

Phone: 715-209-6616

ATBC Field Liaison:

Katie Schultz

Email: kschultz@nafws.org

Phone: 906-748-2983

# Native American Fish and Wildlife Society





#### **Field Liaison Support: All Applicants**

Sundance Consultants, Inc.



Sundance is a resource for all applicants to:

- Ask questions about the program, full proposals, and grant process
- Discuss and receive additional pre-proposal review feedback
- Review full proposal drafts
- Attend proposal labs
  - Bookings link: <a href="https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/ATBCLiaisonTe">https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/ATBCLiaisonTe</a> <a href="mailto:am@JifjiXzXWKilp9nia5VPciWR5dO.onmicrosoft.com/bookings/">am@JifjiXzXWKilp9nia5VPciWR5dO.onmicrosoft.com/bookings/</a>

#### **Contact Information:**

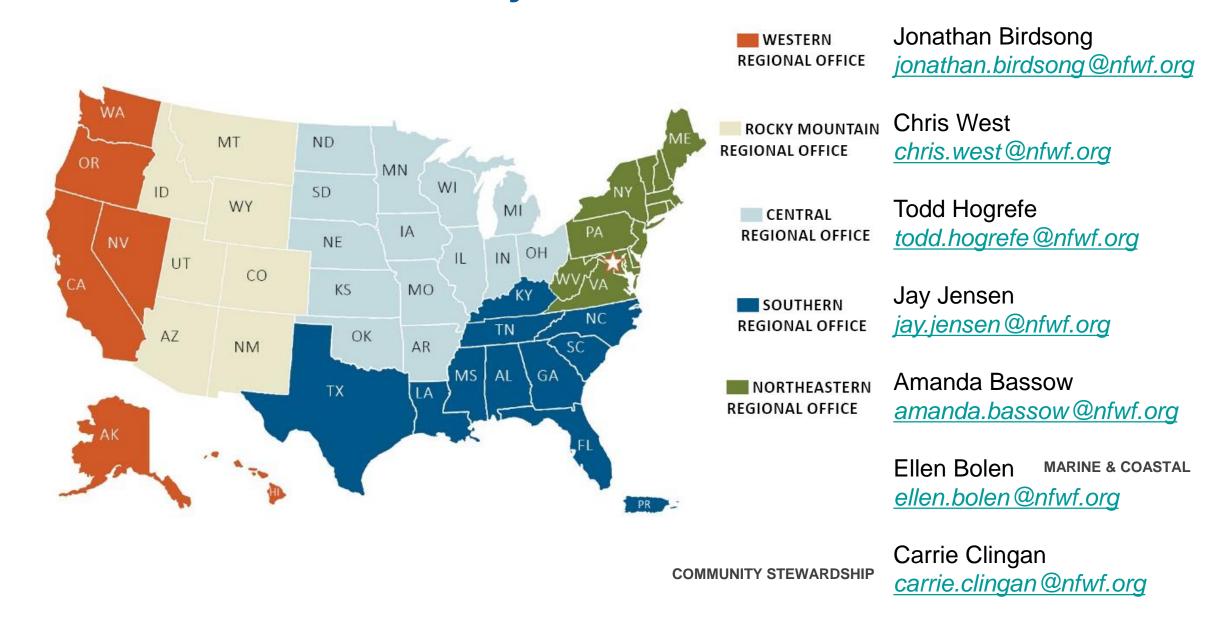
Phone: (208) 233-2929

Email: <u>atbc\_support@sundance-inc.net</u>



Sundance is an environmental consulting firm that provides technical support for restoration and conservation projects across the US through its 70 interdisciplinary experts with experience advising on planning, permitting, and implementation projects in a multitude of jurisdictions.

#### **NFWF's Conservation Team: Key Contacts**



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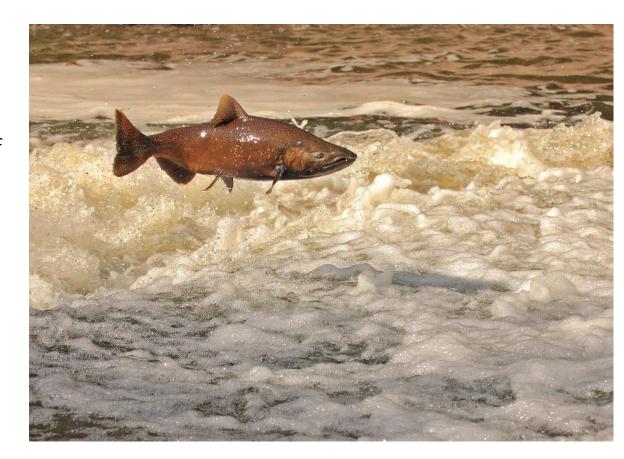
### **Full Proposal Sections**



- Contact Information
- Organization Information
- Project Information
  - Start date, End date, Description, Abstract, Requested Amount from NFWF
- Project Location
  - Congressional district(s), State(s), Country
  - Location description
- Map
- Uploads
  - Required\*: proposal narrative, statement of litigation (not required for Tribal applicants), Board of Trustees or Directors, Audit (Single, if applicable or GAAP), IRS Form 990, Applicant Controls Questionnaire
  - Not required: Letters of Support (<u>highly</u> recommended), project maps, photos, other supporting documents
- Metrics
- Budget
- Matching Contributions
- Permits and Approvals
- Review and Submit
- \* Sentinel Landscape projects should provide an endorsement letter from the lead Military Service.

### **Contact and Organization Information**

- Both sections will be pre-populated with information from your pre-proposal
- Only one person can be assigned to the full proposal if this needs to change from the pre-proposal stage, contact ATBC staff
- ATBC categories each have their own eligibility requirements based on the organization type
- The organization information should not change. If for some reason this needs to change, inform ATBC staff immediately



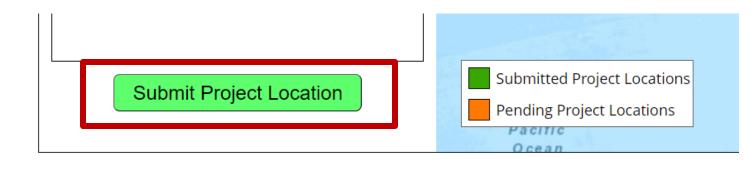
#### **Project Information**

- This section will be pre-populated with information from your pre-proposal, you can update these as needed
- Refrain from using pronouns such as I, we, our, etc.
  - Project Title: Short and descriptive
  - Project Start Date: Begin within eight months of the award announcement date
  - Project End Date: Timeline should align with grant category requirements
  - Description: Should be two sentences long. The first sentence should state the main activity/method being used on the specific species/habitat and location. The second sentence should state the expected outcomes.
  - Abstract: Should be a more detailed description; three to four sentences elaborating on the project description. Additional details should include location, purpose, major activities, target species, specific habitat, outcomes and deliverables, and partnership
  - Project Location Description: Should be concise and specific. Please include t'- state and county/city where the project will occur when applicable.
  - Requested Amount: should be the amount you are asking for from NFWF



### Map

- Upload a shapefile, select by geography, or simply draw a custom area
- Be as specific as possible
- Category 5 project areas should be entirely within the applicable <u>Working Lands for</u> <u>Wildlife</u> initiatives and frameworks boundaries
- If the entered project area is orange IT IS NOT SAVED, be sure to click the bright green button
- Once the area is green, it's saved in our system



confirm that this project has been mapped as accurately as possible

Save and Continue

### **Uploads – Required Documents**

- •For applicants applying to Category 3 an endorsement letter from the lead Military Service, Applicants who have questions regarding Sentinel Landscape Grants may contact the REPI Office at <a href="mailto:osd.repi@mail.mil">osd.repi@mail.mil</a>.
- •Statement of Litigation NOT required for state and local governments or Tribal governments
- •Board of Trustees or Directors OR equivalent if you have privacy concerns, reach out to ATBC staff



### **Uploads – Required Financial Documents**

- •Single Audit annual audit of entities that expend \$750,000 or more of federal financial assistance funds in a fiscal year
- •GAAP Audit audited financial statements usually prepared by a CPA (certified public accountant), in adherence to generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP)
- •IRS Form 990 NOT required for state and local governments or Tribal governments
- Applicant Controls Questionnaire required for all applicants, complete all questions

Check our Required Financial Documents page for more!

#### **Other Required Financial Elements**

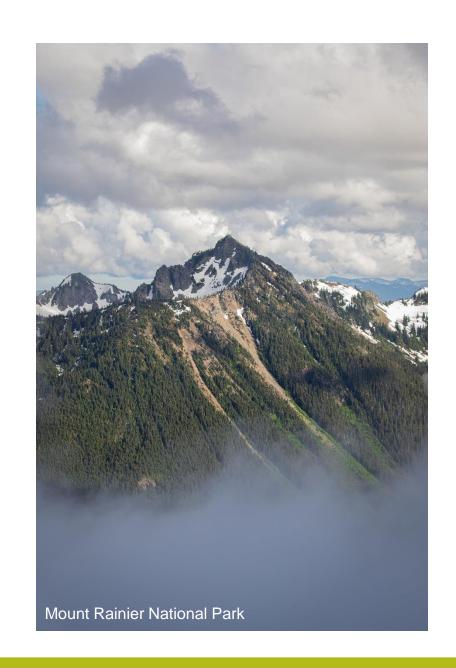
- Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) or SAM registration, required for all applicants
  - If you do not have one, start the registration process NOW here:
     <a href="https://sam.gov">https://sam.gov</a>
- Employer Identification Number (EIN)
   or Federal Tax Identification Number
   (FEIN) required for all applicants



#### **Uploads – Indirect Rates**

- •If you are applying a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate (or Recovery) Agreement (NICRA) or an authorized Cost Allocation Plan (CAP) to your budget, you must upload the NICRA/CAP
- •If you do not have a NICRA/CAP or it is expired, you can apply the de minimis rate of 10% per uniform guidance

Check our <u>Indirect Cost Policy</u> page for more!



#### **Uploads- Full Proposal Narrative**

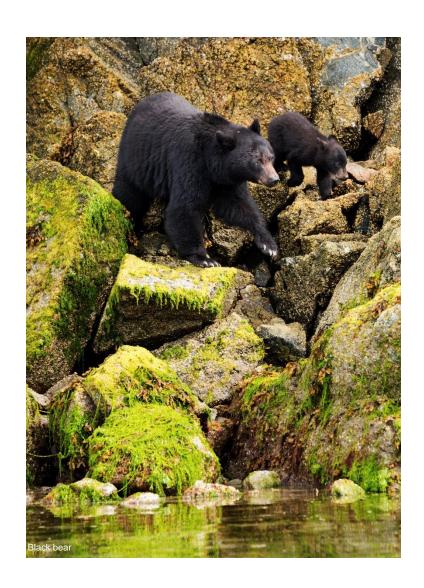


- "Heart" of the proposal the opportunity to provide the most detail about the need, goals, and vision of the project, and articulate the activities and impact
- Very similar to the pre-proposal format, with a few updates
- 18 questions total, should not exceed 9 pages
- You can adjust the formatting (e.g., change to single spaced, adjust the margins)
- Do not use a font smaller than 10 pt.
- Please ensure the project is eligible for the grant category selected
  - If this needs to change for some reason reach out to ATBC staff immediately
  - Only ONE project type should be selected

### Full Proposal Narrative Grant Category and Questions 1 and 2

#### Select a Grant Category from the drop-down menu

- 1. What are the primary project outcomes (the intended result of the project) and why is this project needed?
- Describe the overall goal of the project or the ultimate vision
- Provide context about why this project needs to occur in this location, at this time, and with these partners
- Highlight the importance and impact of the project
- 2. What are the major project activities that will lead to the outcomes provided above (project actions and tasks/workplan)?
- Detail the specific actions and activities that will occur between the start and end date of this project
- Include a clear timeline and/or workplan of the tasks (can be an estimate!)



#### **Full Proposal Narrative Questions 3 and 4**

- 3. Which Program Priorities listed in the RFP will be addressed by the project?
- Re-read the "Program Priorities" section from the of the RFP
- Check the priorities that are directly related to the project and the project activities that will be completed
- 4. How will the project outcomes or activities contribute to the priorities selected above?
- Explain the direct project activity/outcome connections to the checked program priorities



### **Full Proposal Narrative Question 5 and 6**

- 5. How will the project metrics be monitored/measured and how will challenges or limitations with tracking be addressed?
- List the metrics that will be used to measure success of this project, and how they will be tracked
- Can include other metrics in this response that are not listed in the Metrics section of Easygrants
- 6. How will the project address established plans (e.g., management, conservation, species recovery), Indigenous Knowledge, or an identified conservation planning need or gap?
- Specifically list the plan(s) that this project is contributes to and explain HOW the project connects
- If project will lead to a creation of a plan, describe any connections to existing priorities from stakeholders and explain how this plan will fill a gap
- Projects in Category 4 <u>must connect to a USFS water source protection plan OR a watershed restoration action plan</u> (https://www.fs.usda.gov/naturalresources/watershed/condition\_framework.shtml)



#### **Pre-Proposal Narrative Question 7 and 8**



- 7. Who are the partners working on this project and what are their roles? (e.g., NGOs, agencies, landowners, community groups)
- Tell us who your partners are and explain how they will support and contribute to the project outcomes and activities
- Include detail about existing relationship with partners when possible
- 8. Who are the key individuals on the project team and what are their relevant qualifications for project implementation?
- List the specific people that will be working on the project and their expertise (resumes are NOT required)
- This can include people from the applicant organization and partner organizations

#### **Full Proposal Narrative Questions 9 and 10**

- 9. Who was or will be engaged in project development and implementation (beyond the project partners)? (e.g., communities, user groups, affected/impacted constituencies and stakeholders) And how will they or were they engaged?
- There can be some overlap here with partners, but it generally should include additional entities, communities, stakeholders
- List any outreach and engagement activities that will occur throughout the project and explain who will be impacted by or benefit from those activities and why you are doing them (i.e., who are these activities for and why?)
- Include any relevant engagement activities done prior to this specific project (e.g., maybe you've worked with or engaged the same stakeholder group or prior engagement activities impacted the design on the project)
- If your project does not include engagement activities that's okay! Just state that directly and explain why
- 10. What is the demographic information of the engaged community(ies)? Use table below, only one factor needed per community(ies)) (i.e., you do not need to provide Race/Ethnicity %, poverty rate, low income %, and annualized unemployment rate for every community, rather you only need to provide ONE of any of the factors listed below).
- List the community(ies) that will be engaged as part of the project and include one statistic to the right
- You can find most of this data using the <u>Census</u>, State census websites, or other places like <u>EJ Screen</u>

#### **Pre-Proposal Narrative Question 11**

- 11. How will long term project sustainability or implementation be ensured (i.e., beyond the grant period) and what are the plans for ongoing monitoring, maintenance, and stewardship?
- How will lessons learned be shared with partners or applied to future projects?
- For project completing on the ground implementation activities
  - Is there a plan and resources for continued maintenance beyond the life of the project?
  - Will partners assist or play any roles?
- For projects completing planning activities
  - How will this lead to implementation?
  - How will you and partners ensure the plan will be used?



#### **Proposal Narrative Question 12 – 15**

- 12. Is this project connected to another ATBC 2024 proposal? If yes, please provide the 5-digit Easygrants ID number.
- Only include another project here if they are joint proposals
- 13. Did you apply to any other currently open NFWF RFP with this project? If yes, please provide the 5-digit Easygrants ID number
- E.g., if you applied National Coastal Resilience Fund include the Easygrants ID number
- 14. Are you submitting this project as a full proposal to another program? Yes □ If yes, which program?
- E.g., if you submitted this same project to a grant program outside of NFWF, list the program
- 15. Did you include additional uploads (e.g., letters of support, photos)? If yes, please list them. Include an optional cover page for your uploads to provide more information. Check the Tip Sheet for upload size limits and file type requirements.
- If you uploaded anything in addition to the required documents, list them here
- If you include quite a few uploads, we recommend including a cover page
- Reminder: If the information is crucial to the project, it should be in the narrative. If an upload will supplement the information, include a reference to the specific upload in the narrative

#### **Proposal Narrative Question 16 – 18**

	s in Categories 1-4, have you started federal environmental compliance (e.g., National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, or storic Preservation Act) for project activities?
	<ul> <li>If yes, please provide a summary of the federal agency(ies) that are involved and what documentation has been/or will be produced.</li> <li>FAQ document for more information.</li> </ul>
For National	Forest Grants only:
•Letters of su	upport provided by each Forest Service Unit $\square$ Yes $\square$ No
•Federal Envi	ironmental Compliance (NEPA, ESA, NHPA) discussed with Forest Service Units $\square$ Yes $\square$ No
For Sentinel L	Landscape Grants only:
	dorsement from the lead Military Service to display support for the proposed activities $\Box$ Yes $\Box$ No
-	ironmental Compliance (NEPA, ESA, NHPA) discussed with the lead Military Service $\square$ Yes $\square$ No

- Federal environmental compliance must be completed before project activities commence. Therefore, while completed environmental compliance is not required at this full proposal stage, progress may be considered positively by reviewers.
- National Forest grants are strongly encouraged to communicate and receive support from the related Forest Service Unit
- Sentinel Landscape grants must have an endorsement letter from the lead Military Service, such as the installation commanding office to signify the lead Military Service accepts all necessary environmental compliance oversight responsibility

#### 17. Anything else we should know?

- Include any important project information here not found in the narrative; a good place for helpful links
- 18. Would you like to opt OUT of consideration for other funding opportunities (within NFWF and with other ATBC funding partners)?

  Yes □
- Some partners may have interest in funding declined proposals, check yes to opt out of consideration

### **Uploads – Optional Documents**



- Letters of Support combine into one document with a cover page, check out our detailed <u>Letters of</u> <u>Support Best Practices</u> guide; avoid Adobe Portfolio (sorry!)
- Project Map a more detailed map can be helpful context for reviewers
- Other Documents e.g. photos, supplemental partner budgets, detailed workplans, fact sheets (do NOT upload full plans or designs with massive file sizes, please consider links when possible)

#### **Metrics**



- Review the full list of metrics in <u>Appendix</u>
   1, and select at least one metric in Easygrants
- Only add metrics for activities that will be completed within the start and end date of the project
- Starting values should always be ZERO
- Include a brief note for each metric to provide reviewers with more detail
- If awarded, progress will need to be tracked, so avoid including too many metrics

#### **Budget and Matching Contributions**

#### **Budget Tips**

- Include a detailed narrative for each budget line, see the <u>detailed budget narrative guide</u>
- Itemize within categories as much as possible (e.g., do not include a lump sum for "office supplies")
- Total budget must match the "amount requested" in the project information section – only include amount requested from NFWF in the budget (do not include match)
- This can change from the preproposal amount requested, but if this is changing substantially, reach out to program staff to discuss.

#### **Matching Contributions Tips**

- This section is auto-populated from information in the pre-proposal
- Doublecheck the amount of non-federal match requirement for your applicant type and grant category
- Tribal and Native Nation applicants and territories can leave this section blank
- Must be incurred between the start and end date of the project



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    - 5. Q&A
    - 6. Using Easygrants



Q: Is land acquisition or conservation easement eligible under this program?

A: The focus of the 2023 ATBC is on implementing restoration priorities identified in established or new conservation plans, broader ongoing restoration efforts and/or projects that are informed by Indigenous Knowledge (IK) and promote Tribal co-stewardship. Voluntary acquisition and easement projects are not excluded, but to be competitive the application would need to demonstrate how the acquisition or easement is critical to the overall landscape restoration and stewardship work being conducted. Land acquisition and conservation easement proposals will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis — particularly with respect to the conservation and restoration outcomes that can be delivered, the degree to which they incorporate a public access component, and the overall cost effectiveness of the proposed approach, among the other evaluation criteria detailed in the RFP. Only grant categories 1 and 3 allow for land acquisition. This type of transaction would require an appraisal and compliance with federal acquisition rules, and the details of the particular project may affect the type of appraisal needed.

In short, acquisition or easement could be a means to achieving a broader conservation goal, but not the goal of the project itself.

An example would be protecting land within a high priority migration corridor as part of a broader effort to improve the overall health and functionality of that corridor.

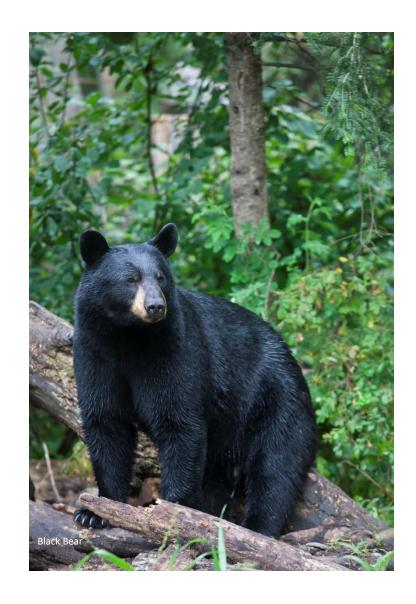


Q: What sort of information should be included in project context?

A: While NFWF, our funding partners, and our proposal reviewers have extensive conservation and restoration expertise, they may not know the context of your particular project. Please do make every effort to tell us why this is the right time for this project, why these are the right actions to take, and why it should happen in this geography. Also describe any additional plans (In, municipal, federal, state, etc) and goals this project helps deliver—but do not upload each of those full plans with your proposal (you may provide links). If you are submitting a proposal for planning, collaboration, or capacity building, please be sure to clearly characterize the final project vision and what implementation will achieve/benefit.

Q: How do we pick which metrics showcase the potential impact of our project? How do we calculate or estimate the target value?

A: Metrics should be reasonable, achievable, and tell a story about your project. You can see the full list of metrics in Appendix 1 of the RFP. Please include at least one metric relevant to reporting your project's progress. When in Easygrants, hover your mouse cursor over the "?" next to a metric to read its description and specific guidance. For each metric you will need to provide values for "Starting Value" and "Target Value." In all cases the starting value will be zero (0). In your project narrative, you will have the opportunity to describe additional activities and outcomes associated with your project. Please only select metrics associated with the project elements for which you are requesting funding in this grant. Be sure to add metrics notes, click the small notepad icon to the right of a selected metric to add notes. Adding notes to metrics assists reviewers in understanding how values were determined.





Q: Can we request funding for planning, collaboration, engagement and capacity building activities? What if my project is doing both implementation and planning?

A: Yes, activities associated with planning, collaboration, engagement, and capacity building are eligible. It will be helpful to show what initial steps are already underway and what partners and/or impacted communities have offered support or buy-in. Be sure to articulate the ultimate potential and vision for the effort. Giving reviewers the full picture—in addition to describing the activities for which funding is requested—will be helpful. If your project includes a combination of planning and implementation, please focus on the primary activities for the funding category that your proposal is associated with. When explaining proposed activities, clearly describe each part and how both aspects work together in a seamless effort. If the planning and implementation work does not fit together, then please remove the actions which do not align with the category.

Q: Can you clarify what you mean by capacity building? Will you fund staff positions to help deliver conservation and restoration?

A: We are open to a wide variety of capacity building activities as it relates to increasing the capacity of an organization or collaborative network to deliver on-the-ground restoration or conservation that aligns with the program priorities. In terms of funding full-time positions, while this is an eligible use of funds and budgets should be constructed to adequately reflect what's needed to deliver the project, be aware that full or partial funding of a staff position is not guaranteed after the end date of your project. Be sure to include context on the need for the position and how it will be sustained post-award. This context should be provided in the budget and proposal narratives.



Q: If we didn't have to undergo an A-133/Single Audit, do we upload a statement to that effect?

A: Depending on your organization type, you may not be required to provide this upload. To see which documents are required of your organization go here: <a href="https://www.nfwf.org/apply-grant/applicationinformation/required-financial-documents">https://www.nfwf.org/apply-grant/applicationinformation/required-financial-documents</a>. If an upload does not apply to your organization, you will need to upload a simple document stating it is not needed and why in one to two sentences in lieu of the financial document itself. The same applies for the Statement of Litigation requirement (Tribal, state and local government applicants are not required to complete this document).





Q: We have privacy concerns when it comes to submitting a full proposal. How will the data provided in the proposal be used and distributed?

A: As stated earlier, the applicant demographic data will not be shared with reviewers, nor used to make grant decisions. Additionally, all financial documents submitted will not be shared with reviewers or externally to NFWF. The Foundation will not share identifying information about any particular entity or project and proposal content will be kept confidential.

All reviewers are subject to a confidentiality clause in order to participate, and are not allowed to share any proposal details outside of their own personal review

#### **Final Tips for Applicants**

- 1. Print/download the tip sheet and use it as a reference
- 2. Re-read the RFP and reference the linked-information provided
- 3. These are competitive grants; projects should address all criteria, respond to all requirements and have a "wow" factor
- 4. Include lots of context and details—do not assume reviewers know about or understand your project!
- 5. Submit your full proposal ON OR BEFORE July 18
- 6. Note that NFWF staff will not be in the office at 11:59 pm on **July 18**<sup>th</sup>!
- 7. Reach out if you need help

#### **RESOURCES:**

- Tip Sheet
- Bookings Link (Proposal Lab)
- Webinar Recording
- FAQ Document
- Letters of Support Guide
- Quick Reference Guide
- NFWF Staff
- Field Liaisons



#### General Session Agenda

- 1. Webinar Instructions
- 2. Program Context and Priorities
- 3. Review of Request for Proposals
  - Five Grant Categories
  - Evaluation and Guidelines
  - Proposal Component Breakdown
  - 4. Frequently Asked Questions
    - 5. Q&A
    - 6. Using Easygrants





### **Questions?**

Full proposals are Due Thursday, July 18<sup>th</sup>!!

Full Proposals invited June 4th

Awards will be announced in Late November

www.nfwf.org/challenge

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#### General Session Agenda

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#### **General Tips - Easygrants System**

### easygrants.nfwf.org

- 1. Log in with existing email and password
  - Register now if you do not have one this will allow for time to familiarize yourself with the system
  - If you have trouble logging in, use the help feature
- 2. Turn off your pop-up blockers
- 3. Download and use the tip sheet available on the program webpage
- 4. You can work on the narrative offline download the template and upload when you're finished
- 5. Please be as specific as possible with mapping AND providing location information on your project
- 6. Click save frequently
- 7. Input budget line-item narratives!
- 8. Make sure all your check marks are green; do not click SUBMIT until you are completely finished



# Submitting a Proposal Step One: Logging in



Enter your login ID and password and click **Log In** below. If you have forgotten your password, click **Forgot your password?** below.

If you are a first time visitor to this system, click **Register here** below.

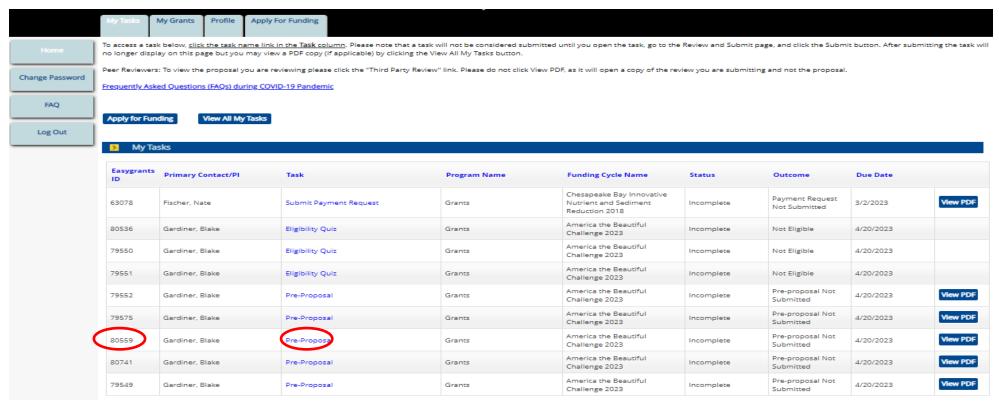
	Frequently Ask	ed Questions	
Log In			New User?
Login ID / Email			
Password			
<b>☑</b> Remember Me		(	Forgot Password?
	Log	In	
	For the optimal Easygran	nts experience, pleas	se:
=	ted Browser	♣ Get Adobe R	

For Technical assistance, please contact us via **e-mail** or phone 202-595-2497.

Download Adobe Reader

Powered by Easygrants \*\*\* v9.5.0

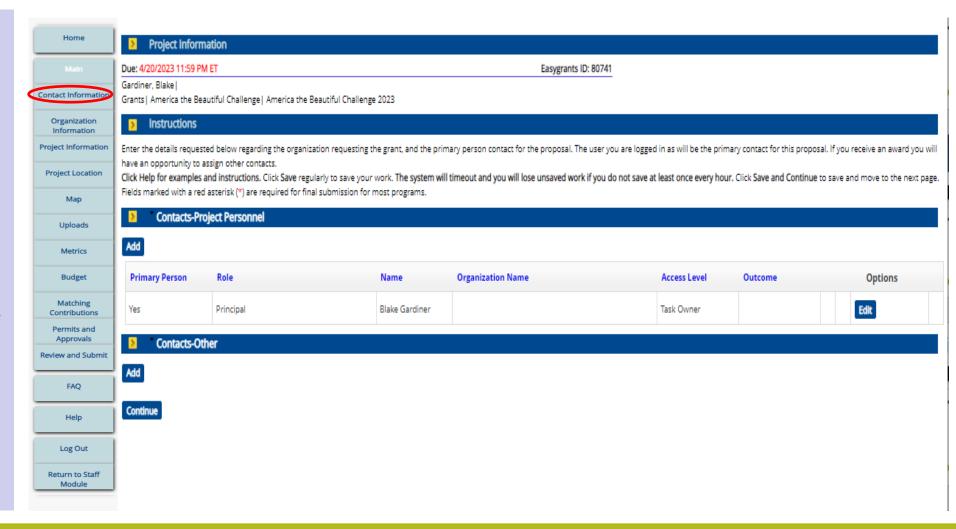
# Submitting a Full Proposal Step Two: Selecting the Proposal Task





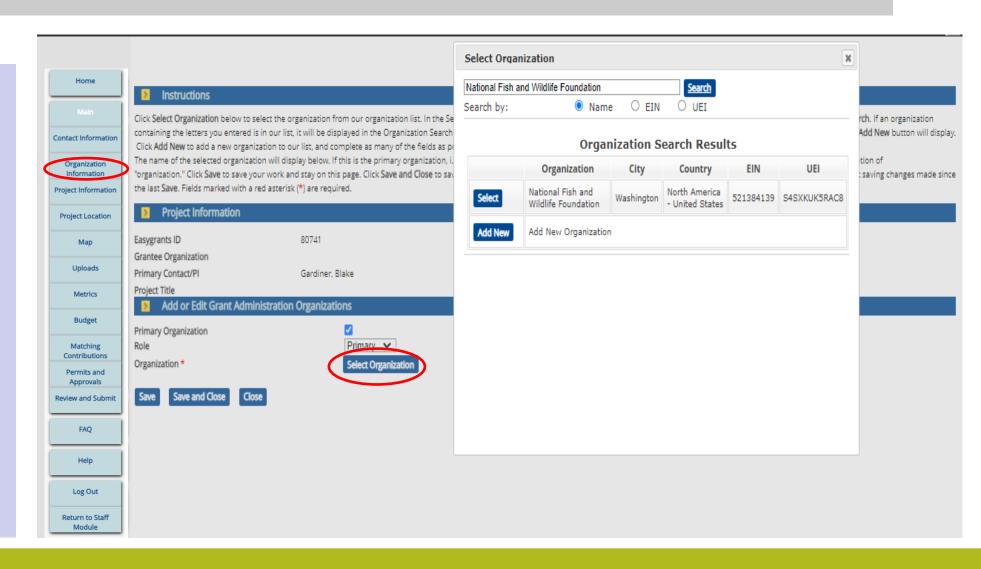
# Submitting a Full Proposal Step Three: Contact Information

- This information should automatically populate
- This contact should be the individual most involved with this project as they will be the one who completes the rest of the proposal and receives communication about the submission. This must be someone who is from the primary applicant organization.
- If awarded, you will be able to assign tasks (Financial reporting, programmatic reporting, etc.) to specific individuals within your organization



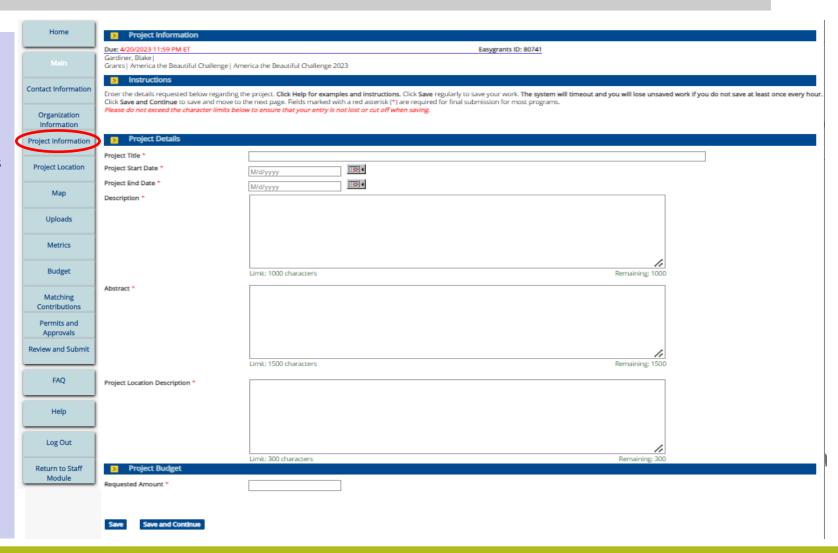
# Submitting a Full Proposal Step Four: Organization Information

- This information should automatically populate
- The organization section is <u>only</u> for the primary applicant. Please enter information for an eligible organization.
- This should not change from the pre-proposal. If you do intend to adjust this reach out to ATBC staff



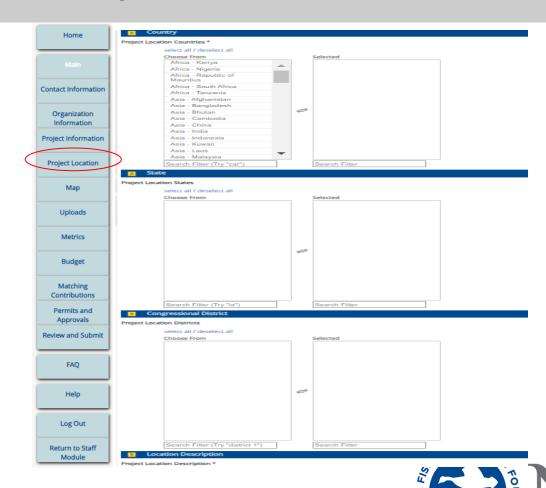
# Submitting a Full Proposal Step Five: Project Information

- This information should automatically populate
- Project Title- should be short, descriptive, and have a name that will distinguish it from other proposals while indicating the project purpose.
- **Project Dates-** Projects should begin within eight months of the award announcement date.
- Description- Two sentences. The first sentence should state the activity/method being used to address a specific species/habitat and location. The second sentence should state the expected outcome from the investment and relevance to conservation.
- Abstract- Three to four sentences and derived from the project description. Provide a more detailed description of your project; including location, purpose, major activities, target species, specific habitat, outcomes (deliverables at the end of the grant period) and partners..
- Requested Amount- Please adhere to the funding requirements that correspond with each category. This needs to match the budget total.



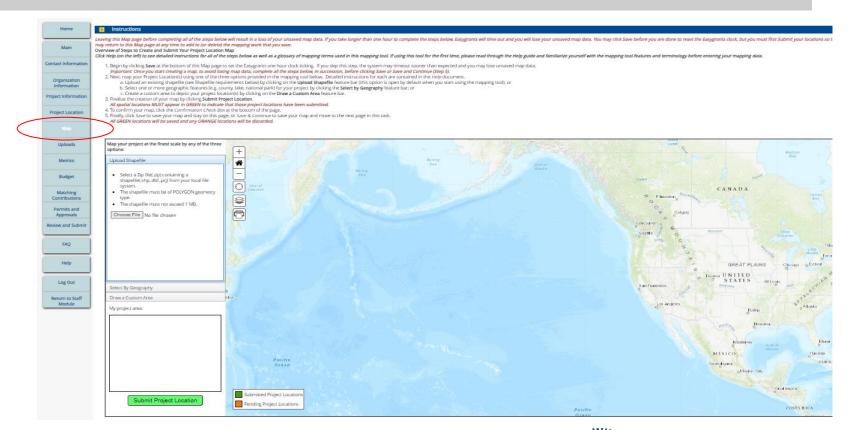
### Submitting a Full Proposal Step Six: Project Location

- **Project Location Country:** All projects must occur within "North America United States".
- Project Location State/Province: Select all states that apply. Projects throughout the U.S., U.S. territories, and Tribal Nations are eligible for funding.
- Project Location U.S. Congressional District(s): As of January 1, 2013, Congressional District lines were redrawn in many states. Please carefully review the district(s) for your project's location. If you are not sure what the Congressional District(s) should be, you can enter the project zip codes or addresses a <a href="http://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/map">http://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/map</a> to determine the correct district(s) for your project. If your project takes place statewide, please select the "All Districts" option for that state.
- Project Location Description: This field will be prepopulated with information from your pre-proposal; however, you may edit to reflect changes or refinements to your project location.



## Submitting a Full Proposal Step Seven: Map

- This section allows you to map the location(s) of your proposed project..
- Navigate to the map window and click "Save" at the bottom of the page to begin mapping your project.
- There are three methods of submitting the location(s) of your project:
  - I. Upload a Shapefile
  - II. Select by Geography
  - III. Draw a Custom Area
- Once your location(s) have been created, click "Submit Project Location".
- To finalize your location, click the "Confirmation" check box at the bottom of the page.
- Then click "Save" (or "Save & Continue") to save your map and move to the next task.





## Submitting a Proposal Step Eight: Uploads

+ Add files...

Start upload

#### Required uploads:

- **Full Proposal** Narrative Template
- Statement of Litigation
- Board of Trustees. Directors, or Equivalent
- **Applicant Controls** Questionnaire
- **GAAP** Audited **Financial** Statements
- Single Audit **Optional Uploads**
- Letters of Support

Module

Uploads

Choose Upload Type

Choose Upload Type

Statement of Litigation

Indirect Rate Agreement Other Documents

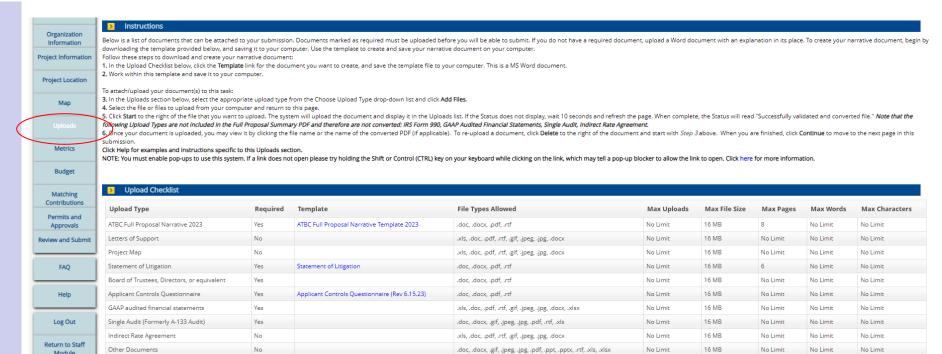
Letters of Support

ATBC Full Proposal Narrative 2023

Applicant Controls Questionnaire GAAP audited financial statements Single Audit (Formerly A-133 Audit)

Board of Trustees, Directors, or equivalent

- Project Map
- Indirect Rate Agreement
- Other Documents

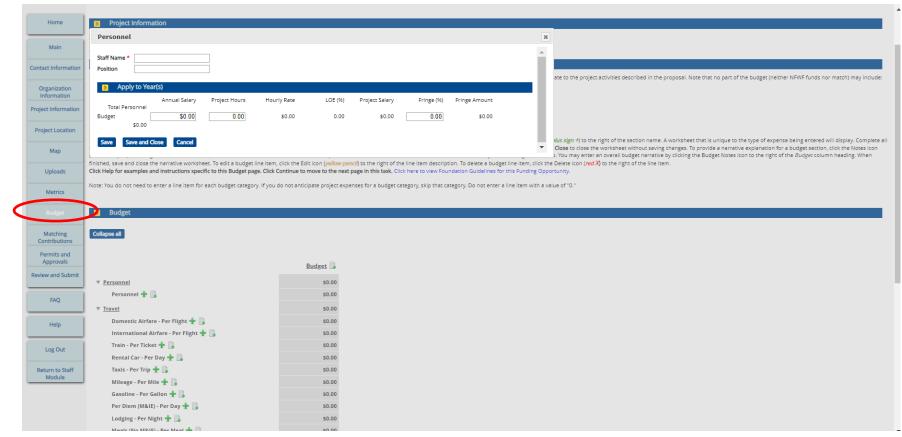


Cancel upload



## Submitting a Full Proposal Step Nine: Budget

- There are two main components to editing the budget, the expenses and the narratives
- To add an expense, click the green plus button then enter the basic information.
- To add a narrative, click the paper icon next to the green plus
- Please follow each step carefully and input all required information. We highly recommend viewing "<u>Detailed</u> <u>Budget and Narrative Guide</u>" on the NFWF website.





# Submitting a Proposal Step Nine: Matching Contributions

- When on the match page, click the "Add" button to add sources of matching contributions and list each source separately in the space provided. Match consists of the portion of project costs not paid with NFWF funds and may be in the form of cash, in-kind or volunteer contributions.
- To determine how much match is needed or if match is needed, please review the tables on the right.

#### DOI Conservation and Restoration Funds (Categories 1 and 2)

Recipient Type	Federal cost share	Non-federal cost share (match)
States	90% of total project costs	10% of total project costs (11.12% of grant request), of which at least 2.5% must be cash
Tribal Nations & territories*	97% of costs	3% of costs, of which at least .75% must be cash  (COVERED for Tribal Nations, fully covered by partnership with Native Americans in Philanthropy; WAIVED for territories per DOI legal interpretation, see below)**

#### DOD Conservation and Restoration Funds (Category 3)

Recipient Type	Federal cost share	Non-federal cost share (match)
All entities	100% of costs	Not required. DOD REPI Program funds can serve as a non-federal match for the other federal programs in the ATBC grants.

#### USFS Conservation and Restoration Funds (Category 4)

Recipient Type	Federal cost share	Non-federal cost share (match)
All entities	80% of total project costs	20% of total project costs (25% of grant request)  (COVERED for Tribal Nations, fully covered by Native Americans in Philanthropy)*

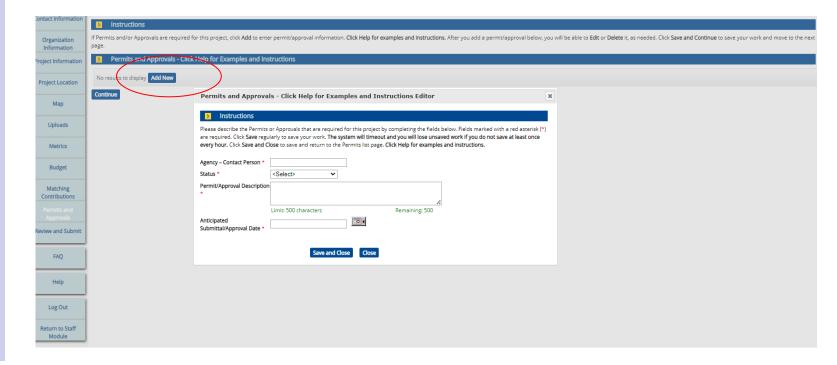
#### NRCS Technical Assistance Funds (Category 5)

Recipient Type	Federal cost share	Non-federal cost share (match)
All entities	100% of project costs	Not required.



## Submitting a Proposal Step Ten: Permits and Approvals

- When on the permit and approval page, click the "Add" button to add any regulatory compliance or permitting that you have completed or started to work through.
- Categories 1,2,3, and 4 are required to receive NEPA approval before moving forward. Demonstrating this awareness through any progress on this section is not required, but viewed positively.





## Submitting a Proposal Step Eleven: Review and Submit

- To submit, each section of your proposal should be indicated "Complete" with a green check mark in the "Status" column. If any section is indicated "Incomplete" with a red X, you will not be able to submit and must go back and check your work.
- To view and save your proposal you may click on the "View PDF" button. Please note that some of the financial documentation will be excluded from the composite file, but will be received by NFWF upon submission. After submission, you will receive a confirmation email from Easygrants@nfwf.org

