



NFWF



Northeast Forests and Rivers Fund
2024 Applicant Webinar-May 29, 2024

Wood Turtle

1. NFWF Staff Roles

Carrie Clingan, Program Director,
Northeast Watersheds



John Wright, Manager,
Northeast Watersheds

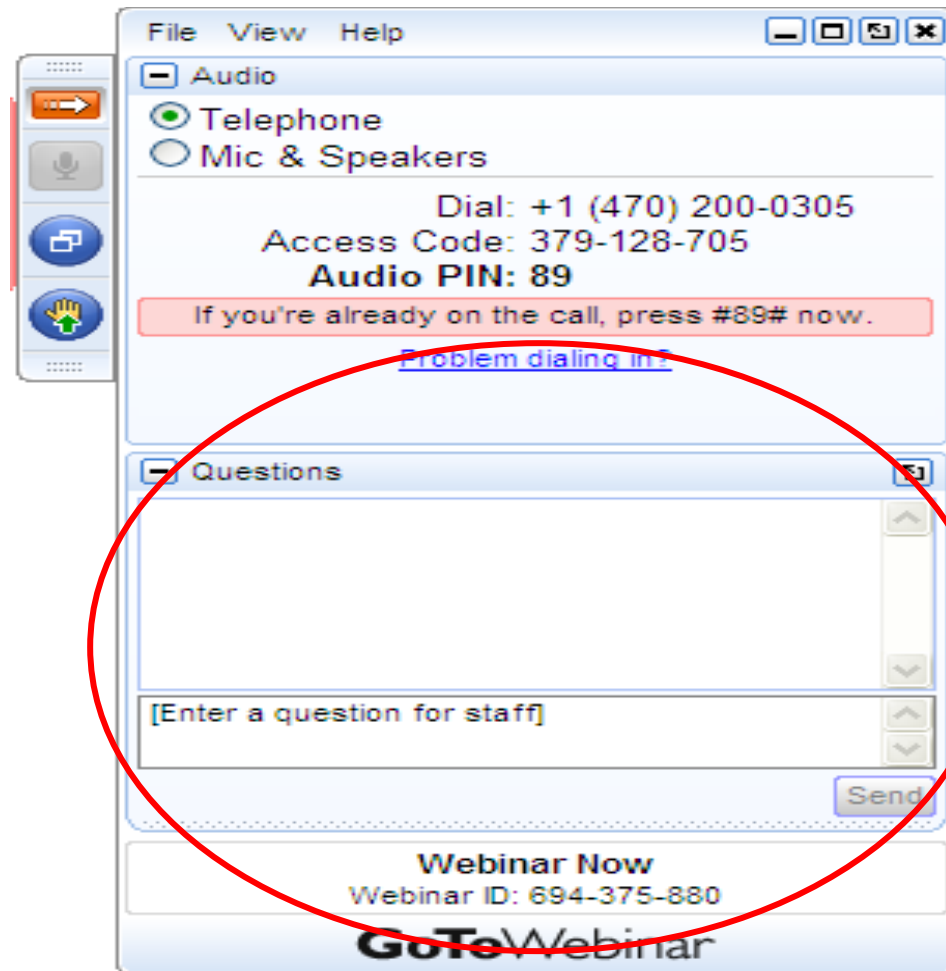


Victoria Moreno, Program
Coordinator, Northeastern
Regional Office



Webinar Instructions

- To improve sound quality, all participants will be muted for the duration of the webinar.
- Questions...
 1. Enter your question where it says “Enter a question for staff” circled in red and click send. We will answer during webinar.
 2. Write question down and contact us after the webinar.
- **Technical glitch, type it into the question box.** We will try to resolve it during the webinar. **However.....**
- **Recording & powerpoint will be at nfwf.org/nefrf under the tab “Application Information.”**



About Us

Who We Are

- Chartered by Congress in 1984
- Independent 501(c)(3) organization
- 30 member Board appointed by Secretary of the Interior
 - Includes FWS Director and NOAA Administrator

What We Do

- Sustain, restore and enhance wildlife
- Bring collaboration among federal agencies and private sector

How We Do It

- Leverage public funding with corporate, foundation and individual philanthropic donations to maximize the resources available for conservation



Bald eagle

NFWF is

- An implementer – we fund projects

NFWF is not

- An advocacy organization that funds lobbying or litigation



How We Do It



Our Results

Overview of NFWF Funds Invested			
	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 1984 – FY 2023
Federal Funds	\$ 226.6 million	\$ 463.1 million	\$ 2.43 billion
Non-Federal Funds	\$ 187.8 million	\$ 840.5 million	\$ 3.41 billion
Grantee Matching Funds	\$ 319.8 million	\$ 410.3 million	\$ 3.94 billion
Total Funds Invested	\$ 734.2 million	\$ 1,713.9 million	\$ 9.78 billion

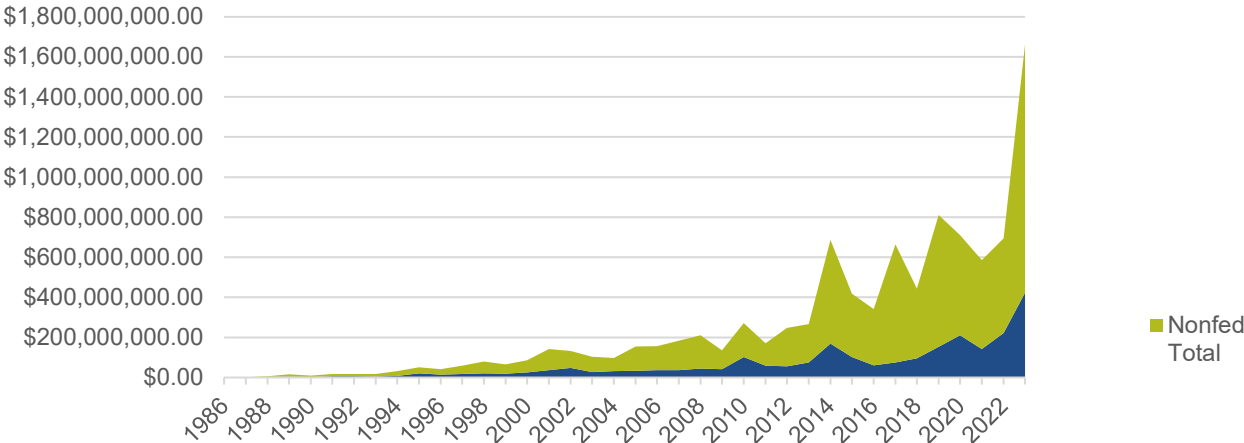
of Projects Awarded

841

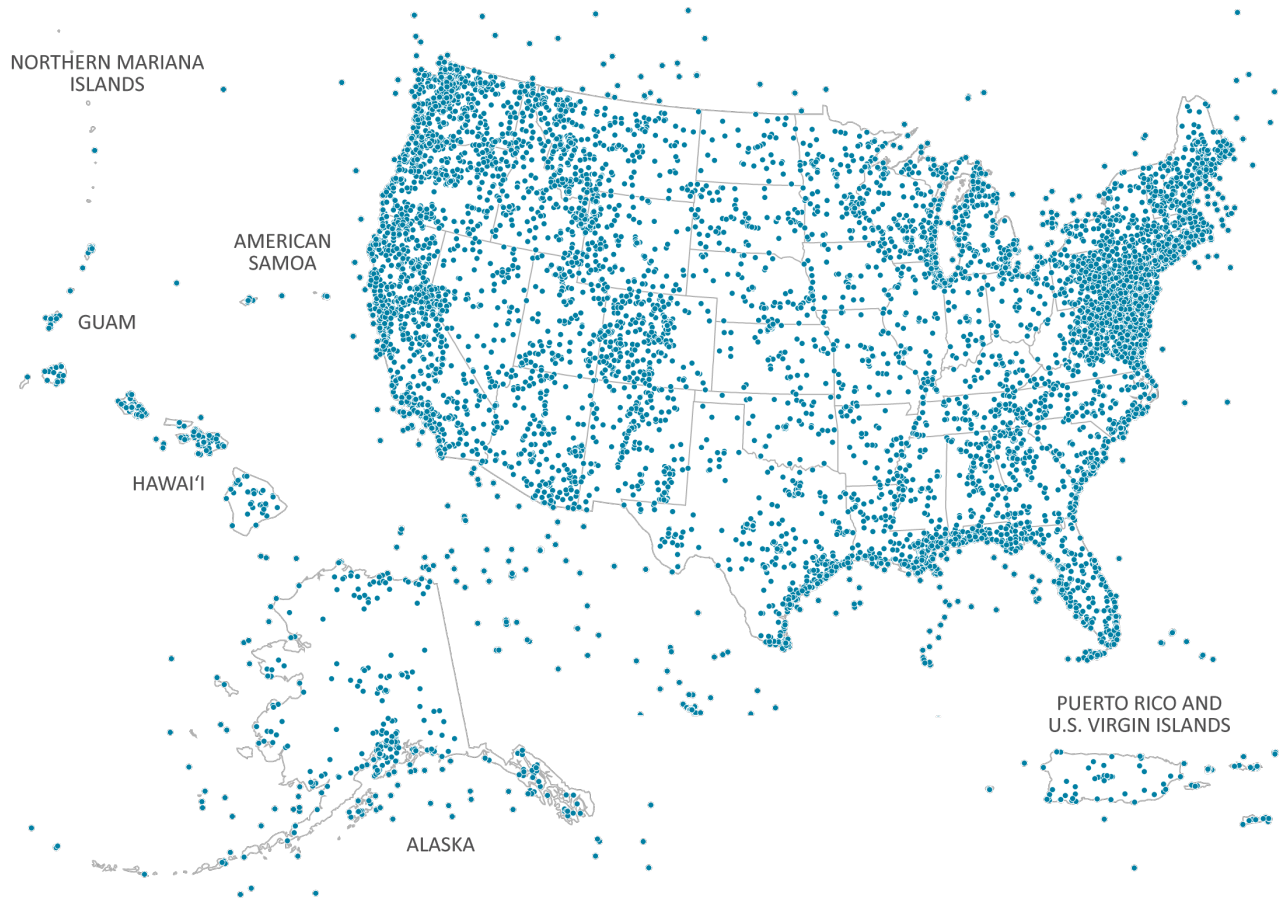
797

22,167

**NFWF
Conservation
Investments
FY 1984 – FY 2023**



NFWF Conservation Investments (1984 – 2023)



- **22,100 Investments**
- **6,800+ Organizations**
- **All 50 states**

3. Program History and Outcomes

- *Launched in 2015 with the goal to “Restore and sustain healthy forests and rivers that provide habitat for diverse native bird and freshwater fish populations”*
- *New 10-year conservation investment strategy (business plan) for the region was approved in March 2023*
- Over \$12.8 million in grant funds have been awarded to 96 projects, including:
 - \$9.1 million from our federal partners, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service and U.S. Forest Service
 - \$3.7 million from our private partners, including Zoetis Foundation and Avangrid Foundation



Conservation Impact: 2015-2023

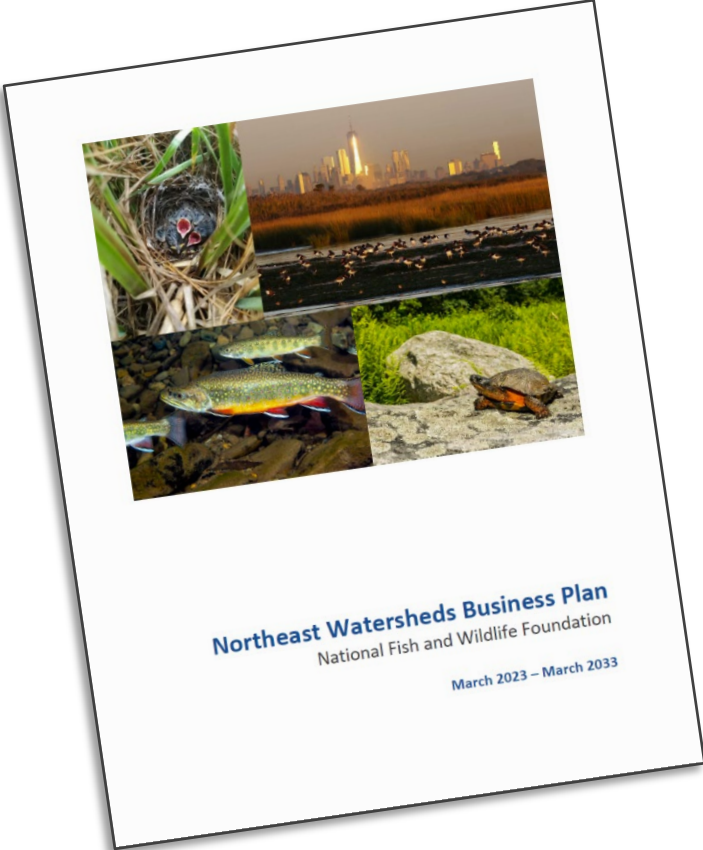


Program Outcomes:

- ✓ Re-connect 1,270 miles of stream for eastern brook trout, river herring and Atlantic salmon
- ✓ Remove or replace 167 barriers to fish passage
- ✓ Restore 15,325 acres of young, mature and old forest habitat
- ✓ Restore 98 miles of riparian forest buffer
- ✓ Engage over 2,600 volunteers in hands-on conservation

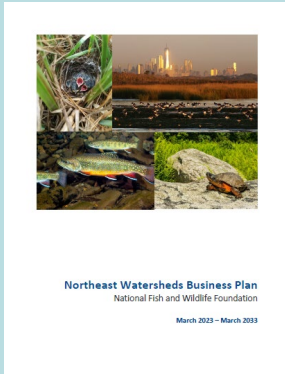


Northeast Watersheds Business Plan

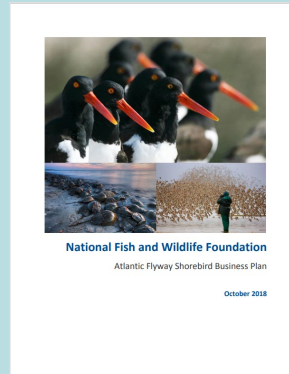


Northeast Landscape

Business Plans



Northeast Watersheds



Atlantic Flyway Shorebird Plan

Programs

Long Island Sound Futures Fund

New England Forests and Rivers Fund

National Coastal Resilience Fund

America the Beautiful Challenge

Grants

Grant

Grant

Grant

Grant

Grant

Grant

Grant

Grant

Grant

Grant

Grant

Grant

Grant

Grant

Grant

Grant

Northeast Watersheds: Essential Fish & Wildlife Habitats



American Oystercatcher

Coastal Habitats



Saltmarsh Sparrow



Atlantic Salmon

Stream and Riparian Habitats



River Herring



Brook Trout



Wood Turtle



New England Cottontail



Golden-winged Warbler

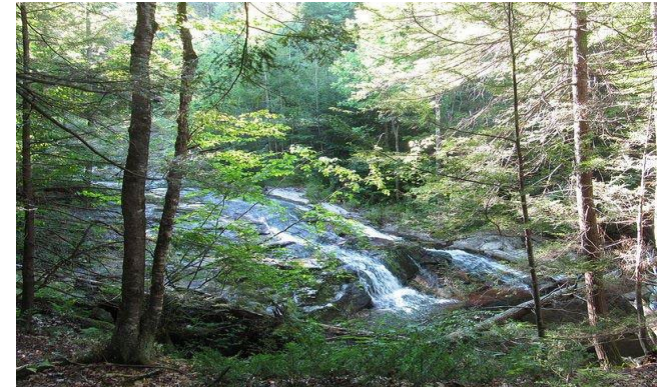
Upland Forests and Grasslands



Bobolink

4. 2024 Program Overview

- ✓ Grants between \$75k and \$300k to restore and sustain healthy forests and rivers throughout New England and eastern New York
- ✓ Approximately 10 to 12 grants awarded each year
- ✓ 1:1 non-federal match strongly encouraged but not required
- ✓ Nonprofits, state and local governments, tribal organizations and governments, and educational institutions are eligible



zoetis foundation



Application, Review and Award Process

February-March: RFP development and issuance



July: Grant proposals due



Mid-July to Late-August: Technical Review

- NFWF Review
- Subject matter experts from state and Federal agencies, academia and NGOs
- NFWF synthesizes reviews and makes awards decisions



Mid-September to Mid-October: Notifications

- Congress is notified of recommended grants. 30 days to comment.
- NFWF Board reviews grants in early November.



Late November: Grant awards announced

2024 Funding Available

Approximately \$2 million available

- Sylvamo
- USDA's Forest Service
- USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Zoetis Foundation



zoetis foundation



5. REVIEW OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

- **Goals**
- **Geographic Focus**
- **Program Eligibility**
- **Program Priorities**
- **Metrics**
- **Organization Eligibility**
- **Evaluation Criteria**
- **Compliance**
- **Timeline**
- **Important Reminders**
- **Easygrants Basics**



Conservation Goals

- Restore the quality and connectivity of **stream and riparian habitats** to benefit river herring, Atlantic salmon, eastern brook trout and wood turtle
- Improve the management of **forest blocks** to enhance age and structural diversity to benefit golden-winged warbler and New England cottontail
- Promote **hayfield management** that allows for successful grassland bird breeding, with a specific focus on habitat for bobolink.

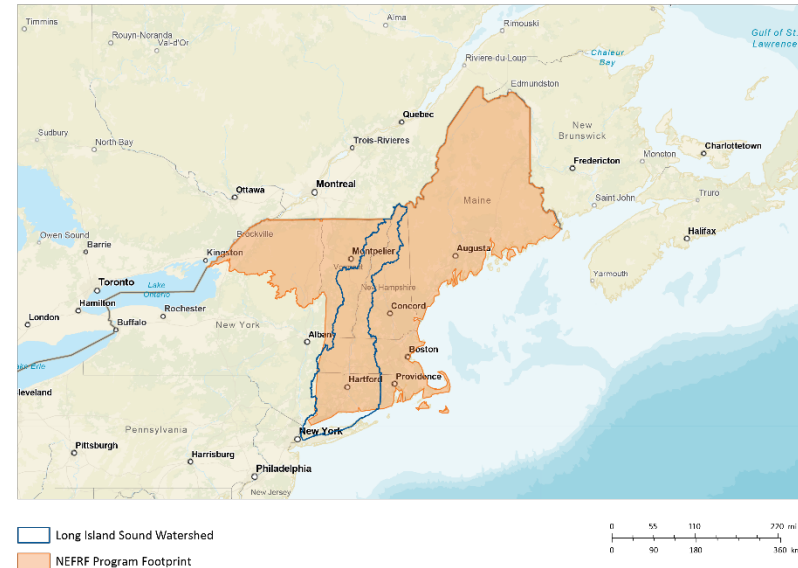
Geographic Focus

- *Throughout* CT, ME, MA, NH, RI and VT
- Lake Champlain, Saranac, St. Lawrence and Upper Hudson watersheds in NY

NOTE:

Applicants seeking funding for fish passage projects in Connecticut and/or water quality projects that benefit Long Island Sound were strongly encouraged to apply to the Long Island Sound Futures Fund (LISFF) rather than NEFRF. LISFF has significantly more funding available.

New England Forests and Rivers RFP



Program Eligibility

NFWF Program Eligibility	Connecticut and Long Island	Upper Connecticut River Basin (MA, VT, NH)	Outside the LIS and Connecticut River Watershed
Restore aquatic connectivity	LISFF	NEFRF	NEFRF
Restore riparian habitat	LISFF	LISFF	NEFRF
Restore in-stream habitat (large wood)	Consult w/ NFWF staff	NEFRF	NEFRF
Reduce agricultural runoff/soil health	LISFF	LISFF	NEFRF



NFWF

2024 Priorities

(on pages 2-5 of RFP)



A. **Restore Stream and Riparian Habitats**

Restore **quality and connectivity** of stream and riparian habitats to enhance long-term persistence of **native aquatic species**

- ✓ Restore aquatic connectivity
- ✓ Restore riparian habitat
- ✓ Restore in-stream habitat (large wood)
- ✓ Reduce agricultural runoff/improve soil health

B. Improve Upland Forest Health

Improve forest management on **public and private lands** to enhance age and structural diversity

- ✓ Forest Block (5,000+ acres) Planning
- ✓ Young Forest Restoration within the context of large forest blocks
- ✓ Outreach and Technical Assistance

Signage to explain the work being done is encouraged!

C. Increase Grassland Bird Habitat

Provide technical and financial assistance to private landowners

- ✓ Adjust the timing of hay harvests that allow bobolink and other grassland birds to nest and fledge young before or between harvesting

- ✓ **Three priority areas:**

VT side of Lake Champlain Basin

Connecticut River Valley (MA, VT, NH)

Central Maine

6. Metrics

Restore Stream and Riparian Habitats

Priority 1: Restore aquatic connectivity

NEFR - Fish passage improvements - # passage barriers rectified

NEFR – Fish passage improvements - # miles of stream opened

NEFR - Fish passage improvements - Acres of lake/pond habitat opened

NEFR - Fish passage improvements - # of barriers assessed and/or with design plans

6. Metrics Continued

Restore Stream and Riparian Habitats cont.	Priority 2: Restore Riparian Habitat and In-stream Habitat	NEFR – Land, wetland restoration- # of trees planted
		NEFR - Riparian restoration - Miles restored
		NEFR - Riparian restoration - Acres restored
		NEFR - Instream restoration - Miles restored
		NEFR - Wetland restoration - Acres restored

6. Metrics Continued

Restore Stream and Riparian Habitats Cont.

Priority 3: Reduce Agricultural Runoff and Improve Soil Health

NEFR - Improved management practices - Acres with managed grazing

NEFR - BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction - Acres with conservation tillage

NEFR - BMP implementation for livestock fencing - Miles of fencing installed

NEFR - BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction - Acres with cover crops

NEFR - BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction - Acres with enhanced nutrient mgt

NEFR - BMP implementation for livestock manure - Tons of manure

NEFR - BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction - Acres with BMPs

NEFR – Number of people reached

NEFR–Outreach/Education/Technical Assistance - # of people with changed behavior

6. Metrics Continued

Improve Upland Forest Health	Priority 4: Forest Block Planning	NEFR - Forest Management Planning - # of acres covered by dynamic forest plans
	Priority 5: Young Forest Restoration	NEFR - Improved management practices - Acres under improved management
		NFFR - Early successional forest - Improved management practices - Acres under improved management
	Priority 6: Outreach and Technical Assistance	NEFR - Outreach/ Education/ Technical Assistance - # people reached
		NEFR – Outreach/Education/Technical Assistance - # of people with changed behavior

6. Metrics Continued

Increase Grassland
Bird Habitat

Priority 7: Grassland
Management on
Hayfields

NEFR - Bobolink - Improved management practices - Acres under improved management

NEFR - Outreach/ Education/ Technical Assistance - # people reached

NEFR – Outreach/Education/Technical Assistance - # of people with changed behavior

6. Metrics Continued - Other

Other Activities	Restore Pollinator Habitat	NEFR – Land Restoration – Acres restored
		NEFR - Land Restoration - Acres of field buffers created
	Land Protection	NEFR - Conservation easements - Acres protected under easement
		NEFR - Land acquisitions - Acres acquired in fee
	Conduct Native Trout Inventory and Assessments	NEFR - Eastern Brook Trout - Research - # sites assessed
	Monitor Native Trout and River Herring	NEFR – Monitoring – Miles being monitored



6. Metrics Continued - Other

Other Activities	Wildlife population monitoring	NEFR - Acres monitored
		NEFR - Monitoring - # monitoring programs
		NEFR - New England Cottontail - Translocation - # Translocated/stocked
	Engaging volunteers in restoration activities	NEFR – Volunteer Participation -# volunteers participating
	Management Planning	NEFR - Management or Governance Planning - # plans developed
	Research	NEFR - Research - # studies used to inform mgmt
Tools Developed		

7. Species Outcomes

Species Outcomes – Wildlife population monitoring

Golden-winged warbler		NEFR - % population GWWA relative to all Verminvora detected in managed patches
New England cottontail		NEFR - % increase in population – Managed sites
		NEFR - New England Cottontail - Translocation - # Translocated/stocked
Bobolink		NEFR - # individuals - females per 10 acres NEFR - # young per breeding pair
Atlantic salmon		NEFR - # of habitat units improved
River herring		NEFR - # individuals
Brook trout		NEFR - # habitat units improved
Wood turtle		NEFR - # sites occupied by species NEFR - # individuals

Eligibility

Eligible and Ineligible Entities

- **Eligible:** Eligible applicants include non-profit 501(c) organizations, state government agencies, local governments, municipal governments, Tribal governments and organizations, and educational institutions.
- **Ineligible:** Federal government agencies, businesses, unincorporated individuals and international organizations

Ineligible Use of Funds

- **Equipment:** Applicants are encouraged to rent equipment where possible and cost-effective or use matching funds to make those purchases.
- 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 and matching contributions may not be used to support **political advocacy, fundraising, lobbying, litigation**, terrorist activities or Foreign Corrupt Practices Act violations.
- 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

- ✓ **Program Goals and Priorities**
- ✓ **Technical Merit and Work Plan**
- ✓ **Budget/Cost Effectiveness**
- ✓ **Partnership and Community Impact**
- ✓ **Other Important Information**
 - Applicant Demographic Information
 - Compliance Requirements
 - Federal Funding
 - Procurement

Compliance

- ✓ **2024 funding is a mix of federal and non-federal sources**
- ✓ **Grantees receiving USFWS funds will need to comply with NEPA, ESA, NHPA**
- ✓ **Grantees will not know until after awards are announced if they are receiving USFWS funds**
- ✓ **It's best to assume you will need to comply**
- ✓ **You may review template and checklist at www.nfwf.org/northeast-forests-and-rivers-fund in order to plan time and resources accordingly**

TIMELINE

RFP Issued -	4/11/24
Applicant Webinar -	Today
Proposals Due -	7/11 @ 11:59 pm
Review Period -	July – October
Awards Announced -	Late November

Cycle will repeat in 2025!

Reminders

- Projects must start **within 6 months** of award notification and be completed within **three** years from the start date.
- If you haven't thought about permits yet, **START NOW!!**
- Review documentation requirements for federal compliance with NEPA, ESA and NHPA.
- Start collecting your letters of support. Combine them in **one** PDF and upload them.
- 1:1 Non-Federal match is encouraged. If you're coming up short, call us.
- Federal agencies, for-profits and individuals are **not** eligible.
- Indirect costs are allowed. Review the policy on our website.
- Read, and then re-read the **RFP** and **Tip Sheet**. Use the Help feature in Easygrants and call us if you're confused.

7. Using Easygrants

easygrants.nfwf.org

1. Log in with an existing email and password. **Or** create an account **now** – this will give you time to familiarize yourself with the system. If you have trouble logging in, use the help feature.
2. Turn off your pop-up blockers. Chrome browser works best.
3. Download and use the **tip sheet** available on the program webpage.
4. You can work on the narrative offline – just download the **Word** document and upload it when you're finished.
5. With the mapping feature – please be as specific as possible AND provide narrative location information on your project.
6. Click save frequently. **Do not click SUBMIT until all sections are complete**
Make sure all your check marks on the Review and Submit page are **green**.

How to Apply in Easygrants

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Log In

[New User?](#)

Login ID / Email

Password

Remember Me [Forgot Password?](#)

Log In

For the optimal Easygrants experience, please:

- [Use a Supported Browser](#)
- [Enable Pop-ups](#)
- [Allow Cookies](#)
- [Only Use One Tab](#)
- [Get Adobe Reader](#)
- [Log Out and Close Browser for Security](#)

Register

First Name *

Middle Name

Last Name *

Login ID / Email *

Confirm Login ID / Email *

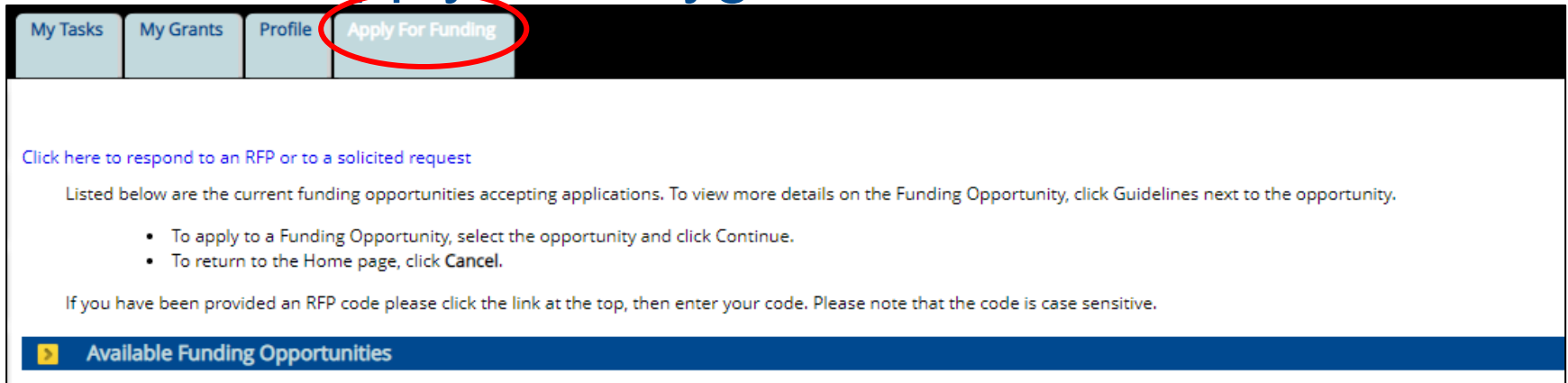
Password *

[Password Requirements](#)

Confirm Password *

Register **Back**

How to Apply in Easygrants




My Tasks My Grants Profile **Apply For Funding**

[Click here to respond to an RFP or to a solicited request](#)

Listed below are the current funding opportunities accepting applications. To view more details on the Funding Opportunity, click Guidelines next to the opportunity.

- To apply to a Funding Opportunity, select the opportunity and click Continue.
- To return to the Home page, click **Cancel**.

If you have been provided an RFP code please click the link at the top, then enter your code. Please note that the code is case sensitive.

 Available Funding Opportunities

Once you are on your Easygrants homepage, click on “Apply for Funding”

Choose the Funding Opportunity you’re applying to.

How to Apply in Easygrants

Home

Main

Contact Information

Organization Information

Project Information

Project Location

Map

Uploads

Metrics

Budget

Matching Contributions

Permits and Approvals

Review and Submit

▶ **Project Information**

Due: 7/14/2016 11:59 PM ET Easygrants ID: 54375

Test, Heather | Grants | Killer Whale Research and Conservation Program | Killer Whale Research and Conservation 2016

▶ **Instructions**

Click the page links on the left navigation bar, or in the summary below to view the pages where you will enter the information required for this submission. save and return to edit your information as many times as needed until you submit. Once you submit, you will no longer be able to make changes. Click here for other useful links that will appear in the navigation bar at left include:

- Home** brings you back to your Home page and out of this submission task.
- FAQ** provides answers to common questions about the Foundation's proposal elements.
- Help** provides guidance on both content and technical aspects related to completing many of the pages in the system.
- Log Out** logs you out of the system.

▶ **Validation Summary**

Page Name	Status
Contact Information	✓ Complete
Organization Information	✗ Incomplete
Project Information	✗ Incomplete
Project Location	✗ Incomplete
Map	✗ Incomplete
Uploads	✗ Incomplete
Metrics	✗ Incomplete
Budget	✗ Incomplete
Matching Contributions	✓ Complete
Permits and Approvals	✓ Complete



8. Final Tips for Applicants

1. Re-read the **RFP** and reference the information provided through the links. Call us if you're confused.
2. Review the **Northeast Watersheds** business plan.
3. These are competitive grants. Projects should address all criteria and have a “**wow**” factor.
4. Include lots of context and details—**don't assume** we know your plan, partnership or watershed.
5. Be strategic first, opportunistic second.
6. Submit your proposal ON OR BEFORE July 11th.
7. Note that NFWF staff will not be answering phones and e-mail at 11:59 pm on July 11th!

Northeast Forests and Rivers Fund

RFP and program questions:

John Wright, Manager, Northeast Watersheds, NFWF

John.Wright@nfwf.org

(202) 595-2478

www.nfwf.org/newengland

Proposals are Due

***Thursday, July 11, 2024* by
11:59 PM Eastern Time**

**Awards will be announced
in late November**



zoetis foundation

