


Subject Specific Grant Guide

# Grants to Support Water and Ecosystem Restoration Projects

This guide identifies funding opportunities released in the previous year. Please note that this guide may not capture all available funding opportunities. Additionally, some programs may have changed or may not be released due to shifting administrative priorities among funding agencies. The grants included here represent traditionally offered opportunities intended to serve as a reliable foundation for your funding research.

**March 2026**

**Prepared by**
**The Ferguson Group**

1901 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20006

202.331.8500

**TheFergusonGroup.com**

# Contents


## Department of Agriculture

FY 2025 Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) (Part A): Agricultural Land Easements (ALE) . . . . . 1
FY 2025 Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP): Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE) . . . . . 5
FY 2025 Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program (CFP) . . . . . 8
FY 2025 Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program . . . . . 11
FY 2025 Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) Competitive Grant Program . . . . . 14
FY 2024 Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Classic . . . . . 17
FY 2025 Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) Program . . . . . 21
FY 2024 Wetlands Mitigation Banking Program . . . . . 25

## Department of Commerce

FY 2025 Coastal Habitat Restoration and Resilience Grants for Tribes and Underserved Communities, Under the BIL Round 3 . . . . . 28
FY 2025 Marine Debris Interception Technologies under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law . . . . . 32
FY 2025 Marine Debris Removal under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law . . . . . 36
FY 2024 NOAA Ocean Acidification Program Education Mini-Grant Program . . . . . 39
FY 2024 Restoring Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Grants . . . . . 42
FY 2024 Restoring Tribal Priority Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Grants . . . . . 46
FY 2025 Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grants . . . . . 50

## Department of the Interior

FY 2024 Aquatic Resource Management . . . . . 54
FY 2025 Candidate Species Conservation Program . . . . . 57
FY 2025 Coastal Program . . . . . 60
FY 2024 Eastern States (ES) Aquatic Resource Management Program . . . . . 63
FY 2024 Fisheries Restoration and Irrigation Mitigation Act (FRIMA) . . . . . 66
FY 2025 Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act . . . . . 69
FY 2024 IRA Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Headquarters Aquatic Resource Management . . . . 72
FY 2025 National Fish Passage Program . . . . . 75
FY 2025 North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) Small Grants Program . . . . . 78
FY 2025 North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) Standard Grants Program . . . . . 81
FY 2025 Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) Program . . . . . 85
FY 2025 Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue and Response Grant Program . . . . . 89
FY 2024 Recovery Implementation Program . . . . . 92
FY 2026 Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program . . . . . 96
FY 2025 Water Conservation Field Services Program Financial Assistance . . . . . 99
FY 2025 WaterSMART Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Projects . . . . . 102
FY 2025 WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Projects . . . . . 106

## Department of Transportation

FY 2025 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant . . . . . 111

## Environmental Protection Agency

FY 2025 Capitalization Grants for Clean Water State Revolving Funds . . . . . 116
FY 2025 Wetland Program Development Grant (Region 3) . . . . . 119

## National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

FY 2025 Conservation Partners Program . . . . . 122
FY 2025 Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program . . . . . 126
FY 2025 National Coastal Resilience Fund . . . . . 130

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE




**Department:** U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
**Agency:** Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

# FY 2025 Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) (Part A): Agricultural Land Easements (ALE)

## Grant Overview

The purpose of this program is to protect the agricultural viability and related conservation values of eligible land by limiting non-agricultural uses that negatively affect agricultural uses and conservation values, and protecting grazing uses and related conservation values by restoring or conserving eligible grazing land. Eligible applicants are American Indian tribes, state and local governments, including farmland protection boards and land resource councils established under state law, and non-governmental organizations.

## Program History

A program history is not available.

## Key Information

**Total Funding:** Unspecified
**Award Range:** Unspecified
**Match:** 50%
**Solicitation Date:** Unknown
**Proposal Due:** Varies

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/ale-agricultural-land-easements

## Tips

- NRCS provides landowners with free technical assistance, or advice, for their land. Common technical assistance includes resource assessment, practice design, and resource monitoring.

**Department:** U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
**Agency:** Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

# FY 2025 Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) (Part A): Agricultural Land Easements (ALE)

## Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to protect the agricultural viability and related conservation values of eligible land by limiting non-agricultural uses that negatively affect agricultural uses and conservation values, protect grazing uses and related conservation values by restoring or conserving eligible grazing land. The purpose of the Part A: Agricultural Land Easements (ALE) component is to protect the long-term viability of the nation's food supply by preventing conversion of productive working lands to non-agricultural uses. Land protected by agricultural land easements provides additional public benefits, including environmental quality, historic preservation, wildlife habitat and protection of open space. Additionally, Agricultural Land Easements leverage local partnerships to match NRCS funding and local partners are responsible for the long-term stewardship of the easement.

This program provides the following benefits:

- Keeping agricultural land in family hands
- Providing a means to remove marginal cropland from production
- Providing income
- Protecting the nation's best agricultural soils or grasslands
- Preserving wildlife habitat and protects biodiversity, including for threatened and endangered species
- Protecting and restoring wetlands and improving water quality
- Sequestering carbon and helping reduce greenhouse gases

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants include American Indian tribes, state and local governments, and non-governmental organizations that have farmland, rangeland, or grassland protection programs, and owners of privately held land including land that is held by tribes and tribal members. Eligible applicants may be located in the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

Lands eligible for agricultural easements are privately owned land or tribal agricultural land on a farm or ranch, including:

- Cropland
- Rangeland
- Grassland or land that contains forbs or shrubland for which grazing is the predominant use

- A land area that has been historically dominated by grassland, forbs, or shrubs and could provide habitat for animal or plant populations of significant ecological value
- Pastureland
- Non-industrial private forest land that contributes to the economic viability of an offered parcel, or serves as a buffer to protect such land from development
- Land that is in an area that has access to agricultural markets for its products, infrastructure appropriate for supporting agricultural production, and other support services
- Agricultural land that faces development pressure from non-agricultural use, or grassland that faces pressure of conversion to non-grassland uses

All landowners, including required members of landowner-legal entities, must meet adjusted gross income (AGI) limitations and must be compliant with the HEL/WC provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985.

Land eligible for agricultural easements includes private or Tribal land that is agricultural land, cropland, rangeland, grassland, pastureland, and nonindustrial private forest land. NRCS will prioritize applications that protect agricultural uses and related conservation values of the land and those that maximize the protection of contiguous acres devoted to agricultural use, including land on a farm or ranch.

Eligible Land Types must also meet one of the four following land eligibility criteria:

- Parcels enrolled to protect Prime, Unique, or Other productive soil.
- Parcels enrolled to provide protection of grazing uses and related conservation values.
- Parcels containing historical or archeological resources.
- Land that furthers a state or local policy consistent with the purposes of ACEP-ALE.

## Funding

In FY 2025, an unspecified amount of funding is available to support grant awards or cooperative agreements through this program.

Funds may be provided on a reimbursement basis or as an advance payment issued prior to closing.

## Matching and Cost-Sharing

In general, applicants must provide at least 50 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land easement via nonfederal cash contributions.

The funding agency may increase the federal share of the fair market value of the agricultural land easement to up to 75 percent if the applicant meets the following criteria:

- The applicant has identified in the application that the proposed parcel is applying for funding consideration as a Grassland of Special Environmental Significance (GSS)
- The funding agency determines prior to selection for funding that the proposed lands are GSS and meet all associated GSS land eligibility requirements
- The applicant agrees to incorporate and enforce additional deed restrictions to manage and enforce the easement to ensure the GSS attributes are protected

For GSS land, applicants must provide a nonfederal match that is at least equivalent to the federal share or comprises the remainder of the fair market value of the agricultural land easement, whichever is less.

Eligible types of matching contributions include:

- The applicant's own cash resources for payment of easement compensation to the landowner
- A landowner donation toward the easement value in the form of a charitable donation or qualified conservation contribution, as defined under Section 170(h) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, that results in an easement purchase price that is lower than the appraised fair market value of the agricultural land easement
- Procured costs paid by the applicant to a third party for the following items:
    - Appraisal
    - Legal boundary survey of the easement area
    - Full phase I environmental site assessment that meets the requirements of Title 40, Part 312 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)
    - Title commitment or report, title insurance
    - Closing cost
- Contributions of up to 2 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land easement for easement stewardship and monitoring costs from sources other than the landowner

If the amount of the combined contributions of the applicant's own cash resources and the landowner donation do not meet the minimum required match amount, procured costs may be used as a match. If the amount of the combined contributions of the applicant's own cash resources, the landowner's donation, and procured costs do not meet the minimum required match amount, easement stewardship and monitoring costs may be used as a match. Refer to pages 52-59 of the Guide file for information regarding additional match requirements.

## Contact Information

To learn more about ALE, please contact your NRCS state office programs staff to inquire about how you can partner with NRCS to enroll conservation easements on eligible land.

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/ale-agricultural-land-easements

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE




**Department:** U.S. Department of Agriculture
**Agency:** Natural Resources Conservation Service

# FY 2025 Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP): Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE)

## Grant Overview

The purpose of this program component is to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands on eligible private or tribal lands while maximizing wildlife habitat benefits and wetland functions and values through the purchase of wetland reserve easements. Eligible applicants are private landowners and Indian tribes, including Native Corporations.

## Program History

This is no available history for this program.

## Key Information

**Total Funding:** Unspecified
**Award Range:** Varies
**Match:** Varies
**Solicitation date**: Unspecified
**Proposal due:** Varies by state

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/wre-wetland-reserve-easements

## Tips

- Applications are accepted on a continuous basis, however, must be received by the applicable state-specific ranking date. Applications submitted after the applicable ranking date will automatically be deferred to the next funding cycle.
- To initiate the application process, applicants must contact the appropriate state USDA Service Center.

**Department:** U.S. Department of Agriculture
**Agency:** Natural Resources Conservation Service

# FY 2025 Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP): Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE)

## Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program component is to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands on eligible private or tribal lands while maximizing wildlife habitat benefits and wetland functions and values through the purchase of wetland reserve easements. This program intends to provide habitat for fish and wildlife, including threatened and endangered species; improve water quality by filtering sediments and chemicals; reduce flooding; recharge groundwater; protect biological diversity; and provide opportunities for educational, scientific, and limited recreational activities.

Lands eligible for wetland reserve easements include farmed or converted wetlands; croplands and grasslands flooded by overflow of a closed basin lake or pothole; riparian areas; lands in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP); other wetlands restored or protected under a private, state, or federal program; areas with hydric soil minor components and problematic hydric soils; and adjacent lands.

Easements supported through this component are expected to protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

- Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern
- Protection and improvement of water quality
- Attenuation of floodwater
- Recharge of groundwater
- Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality
- Carbon sequestration
- Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the nation’s natural heritage
- Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship

Enrollment options for land include:

- Permanent easements
- 30-year easements
- Term easements for the maximum duration allowed under applicable state laws
- 30-year contracts to enroll acreage owned by Indian tribes

Priority will be given to projects that provide the maximum wildlife benefits associated with restoration and protection of wetland functions and values, considering all associated acquisition and restoration costs and

the duration of the enrollment. Priority is also given to permanent easements over non-permanent enrollment options.

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants vary according to enrollment option, as follows:

- 30-year contracts: Indian tribes
- 30-year easements: private landowners and Indian tribes, including Native corporations
- Permanent easements: private landowners and Indian tribes, including Native corporations

Eligible applicants may be located in any US state, the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

## Funding

In FY 2025, an unspecified amount of funding is available to support awards through this component, as follows:

- Permanent easements: the funding agency will pay up to 100 percent of the easement value for the purchase of the easement, and between 75 percent and 100 percent of restoration costs
- 30-year or term easements: the funding agency will pay between 50 percent and 75 percent of the easement value for the purchase of the easement, and between 50 percent and 75 percent of restoration costs
- 30-year contracts: the funding agency will pay rates that are commensurate with 30-year easements

For all enrollment options, the funding agency will pay all costs associated with recording the easement in the local land records office, including recording fees, charges for abstracts, survey and appraisal fees, and title insurance.

## Matching and Cost Sharing

Matching requirements for this program component vary according to enrollment option, as follows:

- Permanent easements: the funding agency will pay up to 100 percent of the easement value for the purchase of the easement, and between 75 percent and 100 percent of restoration costs
- 30-year or term easements: the funding agency will pay between 50 percent and 75 percent of the easement value for the purchase of the easement, and between 50 percent and 75 percent of restoration costs
- 30-year contracts: the funding agency will pay rates that are commensurate with 30-year easements

## Contact Information

Applicants interested in easements should contact their local Service Center.

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/wre-wetland-reserve-easements

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE

**Department:** U.S. Department of Agriculture
**Agency:** U.S. Forest Service

# FY 2025 Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program (CFP)

## Grant Overview

The purpose of this program is to establish community forests by protecting forest land from conversion to non-forest uses. Supported projects should provide community benefits, including public recreation, environmental and economic benefits, and forest-based educational programs. Public access is required for all projects. Eligible applicants are units of local governments; Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations; and non-profit organizations.

## Program History

| | Total Funding | # of Awards |
|---|---|---|
| 2023 | $5.9 million | 13 |
| 2022 | $5.5 million | 11 |
| 2021 | $3.935 million | 10 |

## Key Information and Tips

**Total Funding:** Unspecified
**Award Range:** Up to $600,00
**Match:** 50%
**Solicitation date**: October 24, 2024
**Proposal due:** January 13, 2025

https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/private-land/community-forest/program

## Awardee Profile

Marshall Community Forest and Mountain Park, Missoula County, Montana
YEAR: 2023
AWARD AMOUNT: $600,000

The project will construct approximately 8 miles of additional trails and two trail heads to connect the entire project area including a 1.5 mile 'learning loop trail, a creek-side outdoor classroom, and a native plant demonstration area to accommodate school field trips.

**Department:** U.S. Department of Agriculture
**Agency:** U.S. Forest Service

# FY 2025 Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program (CFP)

## Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to establish community forests by protecting forest land from conversion to non-forest uses. Supported projects should provide community benefits, including public recreation, environmental and economic benefits, and forest-based educational programs. Public access is required for all projects. Acquired land must remain in a forested condition in perpetuity. Funding will support the establishment of community forests through fee simple acquisition of private forest land. Eligible lands must meet the following requirements:

- Be at least five acres in size
- Be suitable to sustain natural vegetation
- Be at least 75 percent forested
- Be threatened by conversion to non-forest uses
- Not be held in trust by the United States on behalf of any Indian tribe and not be tribal allotment lands
- Be offered for sale by a willing seller

Priority will be given to projects that maximize the delivery of community benefits, including:

- Economic benefits, such as timber and non-timber products
- Environmental benefits, including clean air and water, stormwater management, wildlife habitat, and cultural resources
- Benefits from forest-based experiential learning, including K-12 conservation education programs, vocational education programs in such disciplines as forestry and environmental science, traditional ecological knowledge, and environmental education through individual study or voluntary participation in programs offered by such organizations as 4-H, Boy or Girl Scouts, and Master Gardeners
- Benefits from serving as replicable models of effective forest stewardship for private landowners
- Recreational benefits, such as hiking, hunting, and fishing secured through public access

Award recipients must develop a community forest plan and are encouraged to work with the applicable state forester or equivalent tribal government official for technical assistance when developing the plan. Eligible costs include the purchase price, appraisals and appraisal reviews, land surveys, legal and closing costs, development of the community forest plan, and title examination.

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are units of local governments; Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations; and non-profit organizations. Additional consideration will be given to projects that provide direct benefits to disadvantaged communities. A proposed project cannot be submitted for funding consideration simultaneously for both the Community Forest Program and the Forest Legacy Program.

## Funding

In FY 2024, an unspecified amount of funding is available for multiple awards of up to $600,000 through this program.

## Matching and Cost Sharing

Applicants must provide at least 50 percent of the total project costs via nonfederal cash and/or in-kind contributions. Cost-share contributions must be accomplished within the award period. The purchase or donation of lands located within the community forest may be used as a match if the land is provided by an eligible entity and legally dedicated to perpetual land conservation consistent with the program's objectives.

Applicants may request that project due diligence costs, such as title review and appraisals, that were incurred up to one year prior to the issuance of the award, be counted toward the match.

## Contact Information

Scott Stewart
Program Coordinator
(202) 465-5038
scott.stewart@usda.gov

Margee Haines
(202) 384-7192
margaret.haine@usda.gov

https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/private-land/community-forest/program

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE

**Department:** U.S. Department of Agriculture
**Agency:** Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

# FY 2025 Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program

## Grant Overview

The purpose of this program is to provide financial and technical assistance to help local communities relieve imminent threats to life and property caused by floods, fires, windstorms, and other natural occurrences that impair a watershed. Eligible sponsors are entities with a legal interest in, or responsibility for, the areas threatened by a watershed emergency, including states, state agencies, or legal subdivisions of a state government; local units of government including cities, counties, towns, and conservation districts; and Native American tribes or tribal organizations.

## Program History

| | Total Funding | # of Awards |
|---|---|---|
| 2023 | $925 million | 28 |

## Key Information and Tips

**Total Funding:** Unspecified
**Match:** Varies
**Proposal due:** Rolling

- A disaster declaration by federal or state government officials is not required for program assistance to begin.

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/ewp-emergency-watershed-protection

## Awardee Profile

San Bernardino County Department of Public Works, CA

AMOUNT: Unspecified
YEAR: 2023

Intense rainfall occurred at 1-2 inches per hour over the area scarred by the El Dorado Fire in 2020. The rainfall resulted in high energy flows causing significant damage to homes, businesses and infrastructure. NRCS and the San Bernardino County Department of Public Works proposed measures that will contain anticipated flows within the channels to protect life and property using debris and flow barriers.

**Department:** U.S. Department of Agriculture
**Agency:** Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

# FY 2025 Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program

## Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to provide financial and technical assistance to help local communities relieve imminent threats to life and property caused by floods, fires, windstorms, and other natural occurrences that impair a watershed. Funding will support economically and environmentally defensible projects that will provide protection from flooding or soil erosion, reduce threats to life and property, and restore the hydraulic capacity to the natural environment.

Eligible activities may include:

- Removing debris from stream channels, road culverts, and bridges
- Reshaping and protecting eroded streambanks
- Correcting damaged or destroyed drainage facilities
- Establishing vegetative cover on critically eroding lands
- Repairing levees and structures
- Repairing certain conservation practices
- Purchasing EWP buyouts

EWP Recovery Buyouts are used where structural projects to reduce threats from flooding and erosion are not cost-effective and/or beneficial. Once NRCS determines that buying a flood prone property (for example) would provide the pivotal solution and sustainable course of action for a community, EWP has the authority to provide local sponsors with financial assistance to purchase and preserve the land for the purpose of restoring the natural environment.

NRCS may provide project sponsors up to 75 percent (and up to 90 percent for limited resource areas) of:

- the fair market value based on an appraisal for the property,
- eligible acquisition and relocation costs, and
- site restoration costs.

A disaster declaration by federal or state government officials is not required for program assistance to begin. The NRCS state conservationist may declare a local watershed emergency and initiate program assistance in cooperation with an eligible sponsor.

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible sponsors are entities with a legal interest in, or responsibility for, the areas threatened by a watershed emergency, including states, state agencies, or legal subdivisions of a state government; local units of government including cities, counties, towns, and conservation districts; and Native American tribes or tribal organizations.

Sponsors may be located in the 50 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, or the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Sponsors must have a legal interest in or responsibility for the areas threatened by a watershed emergency, and must be able to:

- Obtain all necessary property rights, water rights, and permits
- Provide their share of the construction costs
- Cover any unreimbursed expenses
- Operate and maintain any completed recovery measures

In general, private landowners seeking assistance through this program must work through an eligible sponsor.

## Funding

In FY 2025, an unspecified amount of funding is available to support awards through this program. Once financial assistance is approved and allocated for a project, the funding agency also provides technical assistance to complete the planning, design, and construction oversight of the recovery measures.

Funds will be provided on a reimbursement basis.

The design and construction of recovery measures must be completed within 220 days, or 10 days for exigent situations where the threat is immediate.

## Matching and Cost Sharing

In general, sponsors must provide at least 25 percent of the construction costs via nonfederal cash and/or in-kind contributions. For sponsors located in communities designated as limited resource areas, the matching requirement will be reduced to 10 percent of the construction costs.

## Contact Information

Questions should be directed to the appropriate local NRCS service center listed online at offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator, the appropriate state program manager listed online at www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives, or the appropriate NRCS state office listed online at www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics.

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/ewp-emergency-watershed-protection

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE

**Department:** U.S. Department of Agriculture
**Agency:** U.S. Forest Service / Western Forestry Leadership Coalition

# FY 2025 Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) Competitive Grant Program

## Grant Overview

This program supports collaborative, science-based restoration projects that focus on priority landscapes in the western United States and encourages the use of innovative cross-boundary approaches to support landscape restoration. Projects must focus on on-the-ground outcomes on nonfederal rural forest land, which is also considered non-industrial private forest land or state forest land. Eligible applicants include state forestry agencies, local governments, Indian Tribes, non-profit organizations, universities, and Alaska Native corporations.

## Program History

| | Total Funding | # of Awards |
|---|---|---|
| 2023 | $4.2 million | 19 |
| 2022 | $3.8 million | 11 |

## Key Information

**Total Funding:** Unspecified
**Award Range:** $25,000 - $300,000
**Match:** One-to-one
**Solicitation date**: August 9, 2024
**Proposal due:** November 15, 2024

https://www.thewflc.org/landscape-scale-restoration-competitive-grant-program

## Awardee Profile

Willamette Valley Oak Habitat Restoration, OR

AMOUNT: $300,000
YEAR: 2023

This project received funding to restore and enhance oak habitats, reducing hazardous fuels and improving ecosystem health.

**Department:** U.S. Department of Agriculture
**Agency:** U.S. Forest Service / Western Forestry Leadership Coalition

# FY 2025 Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) Competitive Grant Program

## Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to support collaborative, science-based restoration projects that focus on priority landscapes in the western United States, and to encourage the use of innovative cross-boundary approaches to support landscape restoration. Projects must focus on on-the-ground outcomes on nonfederal rural forest land, which is also considered non-industrial private forest land or state forest land. For the purposes of this program, rural areas are areas other than urbanized areas such as cities or towns with populations of greater than 50,000 inhabitants. Applicants are encouraged to prioritize addressing one of the following objectives:

- Reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfires
- Improve fish and wildlife habitats, including for threatened and endangered species
- Maintain and improve water quality and watershed function
- Mitigate invasive species, insect infestation, and disease
- Improve important forest ecosystems
- Measure ecological and economic benefits, including air quality, soil quality, and productivity

Priority will be given to proposals that:

- Promote cross-boundary collaboration
- Coordinate with or are in proximity to other complementary landscape-scale projects on National Forest System lands, or lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior or a state
- Coordinate with or are in proximity to other complementary landscape-scale projects on state land
- Coordinate with Natural Resources Conservation Service programs and appropriate state-level programs

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are state forestry agencies, local governments, nonprofits, Indian tribes, universities, and Alaska Native corporations. Eligible applicants must be located in Alaska, American Samoa, Arizona, California, Colorado, the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, the Northern Mariana Islands, Oregon, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, or Wyoming.

## Funding

In FY 2025, an unspecified amount of funding is available to support awards ranging from $25,000 to $300,000 through this program. Each state may submit up to five proposals; however, no state will receive more than 15 percent of the total funds available.

Project periods must be no longer than three years.

## Match and Cost Share

Applicants must provide a one-to-one match of the total award amount via nonfederal cash or in-kind contributions. Any match waiver must be acquired directly from the appropriate U.S. Forest Service region. Applicants that leverage funding from multiple entities will receive priority.

## Contact Information

Program Staff
Leena Visnak
Competitive Grants Manager
lvisnak@westernforesters.org

https://www.thewflc.org/landscape-scale-restoration-competitive-grant-program

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE




**Department:** U.S. Department of Agriculture
**Agency:** National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

# FY 2024 Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Classic

## Grant Overview

The purpose of this program is to promote the coordination of the funding agency's conservation activities with applicants (partners) that offer value-added contributions to expand the ability to address on-farm, watershed, and regional natural resource concerns. Eligible applicants are agricultural or silvicultural producer associations, state or local units of government, Indian tribes, farmer cooperatives, water districts, municipal water or wastewater treatment entities, institutions of higher education, conservation districts, and other qualified organizations.

## Program History

| | Total Funding | # of Awards |
|---|---|---|
| 2023 | $1.1 billion | 81 |
| 2022 | $200 million | 41 |

## Key Information and Tips

**Total Funding:** $1.5 billion
**Award Range:** $250,000 - $25 million
**Match:** Varies
**Solicitation date:** April 3, 2024
**Proposal due:** July 2, 2024

- Priority will be given to projects led by Indian tribes and applicants that meaningfully engage historically underserved (HU) farmers and ranchers.

More information can be found here.

USDA

## Awardee Profile

California Dairies, Inc.

AMOUNT: $21,431,689
YEAR: 2023

Through feed-based interventions, California Dairies will help producers reduce and avoid greenhouse gas (GHG). The Absolute Enter Methane Reductions in California Dairies project will help kickstart the use of these feed additives in a market that accounts for 9% of US' on-farm milk supply. This approach aims to reduce the GHG footprint of the dairy industry by 35%, a great start to achieving the industry's goal of net zero GHG by 2050.

**Department:** U.S. Department of Agriculture
**Agency:** National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

# FY 2024 Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Classic

## Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to promote the coordination of the funding agency's conservation activities with applicants (partners) that offer value-added contributions to expand the ability to address on-farm, watershed, and regional natural resource concerns. Through this program, the funding agency seeks to co-invest with applicants to implement projects that provide solutions to conservation challenges, thereby measurably improving the resources concerns they seek to address. Award recipients may be provided with both financial and technical assistance funds to carry out projects.

Applicants must propose projects that generate conservation benefits by addressing specific natural resource objectives in a state/multistate area or address one or more priority resource concerns within one of the designated critical conservation areas (CCAs). Projects must be for land management, land rental, and activities related to easements held by the U.S. government. Funding may also support the implementation of watershed or public works projects.

This program employs a co-investment approach through which the funding agency and applicants collaborate to design, promote, and implement projects on agricultural and non-industrial private forest land. The following are the key principles of the program:

- Impact: Applicants must propose effective and compelling solutions that address one or more natural resource priorities to help solve natural resource challenges. Partners are responsible for evaluating a project’s impact and results.
- Partner Contributions: Applicants are responsible for identifying any combination of cash and in-kind value-added contributions to leverage program investments. Partner contributions are evaluated based on their share of overall project costs and the value of qualified expertise that they add to achieving project goals and objectives.
- Partnerships and Management: Applicants must have experience, expertise, and capacity to manage the partnership and project, provide outreach to producers, and quantify the environmental impacts, and when possible, economic, and social outcomes of projects.

Successful applicants will bring an array of financial and technical capabilities to projects; demonstrate experience working effectively and collaboratively with agricultural producers and landowners; and propose sustainable and measurable approaches to achieving compelling conservation outcomes.

Priority consideration will be given to applicants that meaningfully engage historically underserved (HU) farmers and ranchers. The program's other priority areas include:

- Climate-smart agriculture and forestry approaches, systems, and practices that provide climate change mitigation benefits
- Projects that advance equity, justice, and equal opportunity

- Projects led by Indian tribes
- Projects that address the conservation needs of urban farmers in metropolitan areas

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are:

- Agricultural or silvicultural producer associations, or other groups of producers
- State or local units of government
- Indian tribes
- Farmer cooperatives
- Water districts, irrigation districts, acequia, rural water districts or associations, or other organizations with specific water delivery authority to agricultural producers
- Municipal water or wastewater treatment entities
- Institutions of higher education
- Organizations that have an established history of working cooperatively with producers on agricultural lands to address local conservation priorities related to agricultural production, wildlife habitat development, or non-industrial private forest land management and critical watershed-scale soil erosion, water quality, sediment reduction, or other natural resource issues
- Entities, such as Indian tribes, state governments, local governments, or nongovernmental organizations that have farmland or grassland protection programs that purchase agricultural land easements
- Conservation districts

Each project must have a single lead partner that is an eligible applicant.

## Funding

In FY 2024, approximately $1.5 billion is available for both the RCPP Classic and Alternative Funding Arrangement (AFA) programs to support awards ranging from $250,000 to $25 million through this program. Of the total funding available, up to $300 million is provided through the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (IRA), and the remainder is provided through the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill). Up to $100 million of the funds available for both programs will be set aside specifically to support awards to Indian tribes.

Of the total funding available, 50 percent is dedicated to funding agency-designated critical conservation areas (CCAs), and the remainder is dedicated to projects in the state/multistate category. Applicants must identify one of the funding pools in which to compete.

The funding agency intends to award a significant portion of the available funding to proposals that focus on climate-smart agriculture and forestry approaches, systems, and practices that provide climate change mitigation benefits.

Funding provided through this program is divided into two categories: financial assistance (FA) and technical assistance (TA). Applicants may request funding for up to 25 percent of TA activities, and the remainder of the proposed budget will be used for FA to implement eligible conservation activities. The total award amount for combined FA and TA for each project will range from $250,000 to $25 million.

Award announcements are expected to be issued in October 2024.

Applicants should generally anticipate a project start date no earlier than March 1, 2025. Generally, projects span five years, and all applicants must submit a justification of the proposed project period. Applicants may request project periods of longer than five years, with appropriate justification.

## Matching and Cost Sharing

Applicants are responsible for identifying any combination of cash and in-kind support that provides a significant portion of the overall costs of the project. Certain project activities, such as entity-held easements and public works activities, have specific minimum matching fund requirements.

The funding agency strongly recommends that applicants propose value-added contributions that enhance the overall impact and efficacy of a project. The magnitude and significance of partner contributions will be a factor in the proposal evaluation process.

Funding from federal agencies other than funding agencies may be counted as partner contributions, provided that such funding meets other criteria. Applicants are responsible for ensuring that the funding received from other federal agencies is used towards the proposed project, as it may affect the determinations of nonfederal match for those agencies' purposes. Partner contributions may also include administrative and indirect costs.

## Contact Information

Program Staff
rcpp@usda.gov

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/rcpp-regional-conservation-partnership-program

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE

**Department:** U.S. Department of Agriculture
**Agency:** National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

# FY 2025 Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) Program

## Grant Overview

The purpose of this program is to address resource concerns due to erosion, floodwater, and sediment, and to provide for improved utilization of land and water resources. This program provides technical and financial assistance to plan and implement authorized watershed project plans. Eligible applicants are local governments, state governments, units of the federal government, and federally recognized tribes.

## Program History

Program history is unavailable.

## Key Information and Tips

**Total Funding:** Unspecified
**Award Range:** Unspecified
**Match:** Varies
**Solicitation Date:** December 6, 2024
**Proposal due:** Rolling

- Projects though this program should be carried out jointly by eligible applicants with the support of community landowners and citizens in the watershed. Communities identify resource problems to be addressed; practices to be installed; and carry out major portions of a watershed plan, such as obtaining easements, rights-of-way, permits, and local cost share funding.

Click here for more information.

## Awardee Profile

Caldwell County Commission and Caldwell County Soil and Water Conservation District
Caldwell County, Missouri

AMOUNT: $15.3 million
YEAR: 2022

The Little Otter Creek watershed conservation project received funding to construct a 345-acre reservoir that will supply 1.24 million gallons of raw drinking water per day to communities in Caldwell County and surrounding areas, providing flood control along with recreational opportunities such as fishing, hunting, camping, hiking, biking, and wildlife habitat.

**Department:** U.S. Department of Agriculture
**Agency:** National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

# FY 2025 Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) Program

## Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to address resource concerns due to erosion, floodwater, and sediment, and to provide for improved utilization of land and water resources. This program provides technical and financial assistance to plan and implement authorized watershed project plans for the purposes of:

- Flood prevention
- Watershed protection
- Public recreation
- Public fish and wildlife
- Agricultural water management
- Municipal and industrial water supply
- Water quality management

A project can consist of a combination of structures, such as flood control dams or levees and conservation practices like terraces, grassed waterways, grade stabilization structures, animal waste facilities, or aquatic species crossings. Conservation measures can also involve the conversion of open channel irrigation canals to pressurized pipelines.

Eligible activities include the management of both agricultural and non-agricultural water supplies and measures to increase or conserve present and future water supplies in rural areas, improve water quality impacted by pollutants, and recharge groundwater. Management for non-agricultural uses such as municipal and industrial uses, recreational uses, and improved fish and wildlife habitat are other eligible activities.

Eligible watershed projects must cover an area of at most 250,000 acres and demonstrate benefits that are directly related to agriculture, including rural communities with these benefits making up at least 20 percent of the total benefits of the project.

Funding may be used for engineering and construction costs of flood-control measures, conservation practices for water quality and erosion and sediment control, and for agricultural or municipal/industrial water supplies and recreation facilities.

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are local governments, state governments, units of the federal government, and federally recognized tribes. Projects may be sponsored by one or more eligible applicants. All projects must have a local sponsor that can act as the fiscal agent and provide project management and oversight throughout the different phases of construction, implementation, and project lifespan. Historically, sponsorship involves local government agencies or tribal authorities that have the ability to create revenue to maintain the proposed structure/project over its lifetime and ensure the continued protection and safety of the community it serves.

At least one sponsor must be able to perform at least one of the following areas of responsibility mandated by the individual state's NRCS state conservationist:

- Have the power of eminent domain, unless the primary purpose of the proposed project involves land treatment long-term contracts
- Be able to acquire needed permits and licenses in accordance with local, state, and federal laws
- Have the authority to levy taxes
- Have formal soil and water conservation responsibilities inscribed in its bylaws, and be able to obtain agreements from all landowners that are impacted as part of a project that requires the implementation of soil conservation practices
- Be able to create and produce effective engagement campaigns, and support outreach materials that encourage public participation in the watershed planning process
- Have the ability to act as the watershed project's fiscal agent
- Provide watershed management oversight, such as permitting, zoning, land use regulations, easements, or upstream watershed protection
- Provide evidence that any proposed municipal or industrial (M&I) water supply will meet the anticipated water supply needs in quantity or quality
- Have the power and authority to ensure the installation, operation, and maintenance of the watershed project
- Are able to be solely responsible for all new storm and sanitary sewers or changes to, or relocation of, existing sewers or facilities in urban or built-up areas within the approved watershed project plan

Applicants must also demonstrate that an approved watershed plan is in place prior to initiation of any proposed corrective land treatment or structural solutions.

## Funding

In FY 2025, an unspecified amount of funding is available to support awards through this program. Funds will be provided on a reimbursement basis.

## Matching and Cost Sharing

Applicants are required to provide a matching cost of at least 50 percent for the following projects:

- Installation/construction costs for public recreation, public fish and wildlife, and municipal and industrial water supply projects
- Real property rights for public recreation and public fish and wildlife projects
- Engineering or engineering/technical assistance costs for wetland or floodplain conservation easements
- Engineering or engineering/technical assistance costs for mitigation of fish and wildlife habitat losses

Additionally, at least 25 percent matching funds are required for installation/construction costs for agricultural water management projects. Matching funds may also be required for engineering/technical assistance costs for agricultural water management projects, or for installation/construction costs for watershed protection projects.

## Contact Information

Questions can be directed to the appropriate NRCS State Watershed Program Managers found online at https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/watershed-programs/nrcs-state-watershed-program-managers.

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/watershed-and-flood-prevention-operations-wfpo-program

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE

**Department:** U.S. Department of Agriculture
**Agency:** National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

# FY 2024 Wetlands Mitigation Banking Program

## Grant Overview

The purpose of this program is to support the development and establishment of mitigation banks and banking opportunities solely for agricultural producers with wetlands subject to the wetland conservation compliance provisions of the 1985 Food Security Act. A producer may offset the loss of wetland functions and values resulting from a conversion activity by restoring, enhancing, or creating wetland functions and values on a different site. Eligible applicants are state and local units of government; federally recognized Native American tribal governments; for-profit entities; nonprofits with or without a 501(c)(3) status; private institutions of higher education; and public and state-controlled institutions of higher education.

## Program History

| | Total Funding | Awards |
|---|---|---|
| 2022 | $4.7 million | 6 |
| 2021 | $5 million | 7 |

## Key Information

**Total Funding:** $7 million
**Award Range:** $100,000 - $1,000,000
**Match:** 20 percent
**Solicitation Date:** May 30, 2024
**Proposal due:** August 2, 2024

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wetland-mitigation-banking-program

## Tips

- Priority will be given to banks in states with significant numbers of individual wetlands, wetland acres, and conservation compliance requests. Based on NRCS data, these states are: Iowa, Michigan, Nebraska, Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, Indiana, South Dakota, Pennsylvania, Georgia, and Ohio.
- Agricultural wetlands that have previously been converted or manipulated are ideal candidates for mitigation bank development under this program.

**Department:** U.S. Department of Agriculture
**Agency:** National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

# FY 2024 Wetlands Mitigation Banking Program

## Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to support the development and establishment of mitigation banks and banking opportunities solely for agricultural producers with wetlands subject to the wetland conservation compliance provisions of the 1985 Food Security Act. A producer may offset the loss of wetland functions and values resulting from a conversion activity by restoring, enhancing, or creating wetland functions and values on a different site. Producers can purchase offsetting wetland credits generated from wetlands drained prior to 1985 that have been restored and approved for wetland mitigation.

Award recipients must ensure that the following wetlands receive priority for mitigation:

- Farmed wetland
- Farmed wetland pasture
- Wetland less than five acres in size that is predominantly bordered by land that has been cropped in eight of the past ten years when the wetland is designated as degraded according to a financial assessment tool
- Converted wetland that, prior to conversion, qualified under one of the items above, as determined by funding agency staff

Funds may be used for:

- Development of the mitigation banking instrument
- Identification of suitable mitigation sites and performance of functional assessments to determine the available credits and a credit release schedule
- Market research and contracting for mitigation activities
- Land surveys, permitting, and title searches
- Design and formulation of mitigation plans
- Restoration, enhancement, or creation of wetland mitigation bank sites in accordance with the funding agency's conservation practice standards
- Tracking and management of wetland mitigation data
- Direct administrative costs associated with project implementation
- Funding the indirect costs of the awardee

Funding can be used to develop and establish a wetland mitigation bank **only** for use by agricultural producers. Agricultural wetlands that have previously been converted or manipulated are ideal candidates for mitigation bank development under this program.

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are state and local units of government; federally recognized Native American tribal governments; for-profit entities; nonprofits with or without a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS other than institutions of higher education; private institutions of higher education; and public and state-controlled institutions of higher education.

Priority will be given to banks in states with significant numbers of individual wetlands, wetland acres, and conservation compliance requests. Based on NRCS data, these states are: Iowa, Michigan, Nebraska, Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, Indiana, South Dakota, Pennsylvania, Georgia, and Ohio.

## Funding

In FY 2024, approximately $7 million is available to support an expected 10 awards ranging from $100,000 to $1 million through this program.

Projects may be between 1 and 4 years in duration. Applicants should plan their projects based on an estimated project start date of February 2025.

## Matching and Cost Sharing

Applicants are required to provide a matching cost of at least 20 percent. Match may be achieved with contributions of cash, services, materials, equipment, or third-party in-kind contributions.

## Contact Information

Grants Management Specialist
Tessa Garcia
Email: tessa.garcia@usda.gov with a copy to NFO.FPAC@USDA.GOV

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wetland-mitigation-banking-program

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE

**Department:** U.S. Department of Commerce
**Agency:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

# FY 2025 Coastal Habitat Restoration and Resilience Grants for Tribes and Underserved Communities, Under the BIL Round 3

## Grant Overview

This program supports opportunities for underserved communities, tribes, and/or tribal entities to meaningfully engage in coastal habitat restoration activities. Awards are intended to support capacity building, meaningful engagement, and restoration project activities that enhance resilience of communities and have the greatest potential to lead to habitat restoration in coastal, estuarine, marine, and Great Lakes areas. Eligible applicants are tribes, tribal entities, and underserved communities, or partner entities such as institutions of higher education, non-profit organizations, commercial organizations, U.S. territories, and state, local, and Native American and Alaska Native tribal governments.

## Program History

| | Total Funding | # of Awards |
|---|---|---|
| 2023 | $45 million | 27 |
| 2022 | $25 million | 35 |

## Key Information

**Total Funding:** $20 million
**Award Range:** $75,000 to $2 million
**Match:** Not required
**Solicitation Date**: December 13, 2024
**Proposal Due:** May 12, 2025

For more information, click here.

## Awardee Profile

Mid Klamath Watershed Council
Happy Camp, CA

YEAR: 2023
AMOUNT: $589,000

Funding will be used to restore spawning and rearing habitats for threatened coho salmon and other species on two tributaries of the Klamath River, the ancestral territory of the Karuk Tribe and the Tsnungwe Tribe. The project will work closely with the tribes to support tribal capacity for community-driven habitat restoration.

**Department:** U.S. Department of Commerce
**Agency:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

# FY 2025 Coastal Habitat Restoration and Resilience Grants for Tribes and Underserved Communities, Under the BIL Round 3

## Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to support opportunities for underserved communities, tribes, and tribal entities to meaningfully engage in coastal habitat restoration activities. Awards are intended to support capacity building, meaningful engagement, and restoration project activities that enhance resilience of tribal and underserved communities and have the greatest potential to lead to habitat restoration in coastal, estuarine, marine, and Great Lakes areas.

For the purposes of this program, underserved communities refer to populations sharing a particular characteristic, as well as geographic communities, that have been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life. Meaningful engagement of underserved communities is intended to ensure that communities are integral to the visioning, decision-making, and/or leadership for coastal habitat restoration projects; that the scope of such projects is inclusive of the priorities and needs of communities; and that the benefits of such projects flow back to underserved communities.

Projects should address the following program priorities:

- Enhancing habitat in support of ecosystem and community resilience: supporting work that will strengthen the resilience within the ecosystem and flow to underserved communities and tribes, and work that will enhance the ability to plan for, prepare for, and recover from adverse effects of extreme weather events or climate hazards or provide additional co-benefits to the community.
- Increasing organizational and technical capacity of underserved communities, tribes, and/or tribal entities to lead and/or participate in habitat restoration activities: supporting activities that build the capacity of underserved communities to lead and/or participate in habitat restoration activities.

Capacity building may include (but is not limited to) participation in municipal or regional-scale resilience planning, project planning and feasibility studies, and proposal development for future funding. Capacity building may also include hiring staff to enhance capacity to support the planning, design, and implementation of restoration actions. Meaningful engagement may include (but is not limited to) engaging the community through educational opportunities, community discussions, and/or paid experiences that support the successful execution of the proposed project activities. Restoration project activities, including for demonstration projects, may include engineering and design, planning, permitting, on-the-ground restoration, and pre- and post-project implementation monitoring.

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are tribes, applicants that can demonstrate status as a tribal entity, underserved communities, or entities that partner with tribes, tribal entities, and/or underserved communities such as institutions of higher education, non-profit organizations, commercial (for profit) organizations, U.S. territories, and state, local, and Native American and Alaska Native tribal governments. As part of their applications, applicants must demonstrate their status as, or connection to, a tribe, tribal entity, and/or an underserved community through proposed subawards, contracts, informal collaboration, or other engagement with, or approval of, one or more tribes, tribal entities, and/or underserved communities.

Applicants must propose work in coastal, marine, estuarine, or Great Lakes areas. Coastal areas are defined as those within coastal shoreline counties/parishes, or within coastal watershed counties/parishes. Coastal shoreline counties are directly adjacent to the open ocean, estuaries, or the Great Lakes. Coastal watershed counties are located along inland rivers and streams with a significant impact on coastal and ocean resources.

Applicants for Great Lakes projects must propose work within one of the eight U.S. Great Lakes states, including New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. Applicants may propose projects in American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Applicants may propose multiple project sites in a single application.

## Funding

In FY 2025, approximately $20 million in funding is available to support awards ranging from $75,000 to $2 million through this program. The funding agency anticipates typical funding awards will range from $250,000 to $1 million over three years. Up to 15% of total funding ($3 million) will specifically be available as direct awards and subawards to Indian and Native American organizations that represent Indian tribes through formal legal agreements (e.g. tribal commissions, tribal consortia, tribal conservation districts, and tribal cooperatives). The remaining funding ($17 million) will be available to all eligible applicants.

Projects requesting the upper limit of funding are expected to implement restoration actions in addition to capacity-building, versus being solely focused on capacity-building. Project periods of up to three years are encouraged, with the potential for extensions of up to five years at the funding agency's discretion based on project needs. The earliest anticipated award start date is January 1, 2026.

Selected applications will be funded through cooperative agreements, meaning that the funding agency expects to be substantially involved in many aspects of the awards. Substantial involvement may include, but is not limited to, collaboration on the scope of work, providing assistance with technical aspects of the habitat restoration project, review and comment on design plans, and review of procurement materials.

## Matching and Cost Sharing

Matching funds are not required for this program; however, the funding agency encourages partnerships among government, community, industry, and academia. This can be represented in letters of support and may result in informal leverage for the project. Non-federal match funds may be optionally included within the application to demonstrate stakeholder support for the proposed work, but they are not included in evaluation criteria and will not be scored during the technical review process.

## Contact Information

Julia Royster
(301) 427-8686
underserved.community.grants@noaa.gov

https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/grant/coastal-habitat-restoration-and-resilience-grants-tribes-and-underserved-communities

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE

**Department:** U.S. Department of Commerce
**Agency:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

# FY 2025 Marine Debris Interception Technologies under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

## Grant Overview

The objective of this funding opportunity is to support the installation, monitoring, and maintenance of proven marine debris interception technologies to benefit marine and coastal NOAA trust resources. Eligible applicants are state, local, tribal and territory governments whose activities affect research or regulation of marine debris; federally and non-federally recognized Tribes and Native or Indigenous organizations; institutions of higher education; non-profit organizations; and commercial (for-profit) organizations.

## Program History

History is not available for this program.

## Key Information

**Total Funding:** $7 million
**Award Range:** $100,000 - $1,000,000
**Match:** Not Required
**Solicitation date**: July 24, 2024
**Proposal due:** October 9, 2024 (Letter of Intent) – February 7, 2025 (Application)

https://marinedebris.noaa.gov/funding-opportunities/fy25-noaa-marine-debris-removal-under-bipartisan-infrastructure-law-applicant-resources

## Tips

- The highest priority is to fund projects focused on the deployment of proven marine debris interception technologies in riverine, shoreline, estuarine, and urban environments where trash, plastics, and other persistent, reaccumulating litter and marine debris can be captured and removed

**Department:** U.S. Department of Commerce
**Agency:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

# FY 2025 Marine Debris Interception Technologies under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

## Detailed Summary

The overall objective of this funding opportunity is to support the installation, monitoring, and maintenance of proven marine debris interception technologies to benefit marine and coastal NOAA trust resources. This program supports the development and implementation of marine debris assessment, removal, and prevention projects that benefit coastal habitat, waterways, and marine and Great Lake resources.

Marine debris is defined as "any persistent solid material that is manufactured or processed and directly or indirectly, intentionally or unintentionally, disposed of or abandoned into the marine environment or the Great Lakes".

The strongest applications will fully incorporate all of the following program priorities:

**Supporting the installation, monitoring, and maintenance of proven marine debris interception technologies to benefit NOAA trust resources.** The highest priority for this funding opportunity is to fund projects focused on the deployment of proven marine debris interception technologies in riverine, shoreline, estuarine, and urban environments where trash, plastics, and other persistent, reaccumulating litter and marine debris can be captured and removed. Debris removal through these technologies should benefit NOAA trust resources. For the purpose of this funding opportunity, marine debris interception technologies include devices (such as storm drain catchments, shoreline removal technologies, booms, skimmers, conveyors with receptacles, floating collection devices, etc.) that capture trash, plastics, and other litter or debris. These interception technologies may be utilized alone or together as part of a wider interception strategy.

**Long-term monitoring and maintenance of devices through a comprehensive plan.** Project proposals must provide a monitoring and maintenance plan which describes how the chosen technology/technologies will be monitored and maintained both throughout the award (if made), but also in the long-term with the absence of federal funding following any award. NOAA encourages projects to collect data on the types of debris captured and characterize the waste collected. Applicants should note that the long-term monitoring and maintenance plan is an element considered in the evaluation criteria. Priority will be given to those applications that have a long-term monitoring and maintenance plan which does not require additional future federal funding.

**Preventing the reaccumulation of debris through complementary and targeted marine debris prevention activities.** Successful interception technology proposals for this funding opportunity will be paired with a prevention strategy or plan, such as behavior change and/or awareness efforts through an education and outreach plan or other source reduction efforts. These strategies should incorporate efforts to raise awareness of the issue of marine debris and involve local stakeholders with the goals of preventing its

occurrence from activities such as littering or mismanagement of waste as well as to ensure the long-term maintenance of any deployed equipment that is procured with federal funding.

**Advance the principles of diversity, equity, justice, inclusion, and accessibility and install interception devices that will benefit local communities, especially those facing environmental/climate and socioeconomic burdens.** All applications should demonstrate how their work will advance the principles of diversity, equity, justice, inclusion, and accessibility throughout the proposed work. Applicants should also identify any project activities that will take place within, have a portion of the benefits flow to, and/or meaningfully engage with the local community impacted by the targeted debris.

**Demonstration of clear marine debris removal and disposal outcomes.** Applicants should identify and estimate clear marine debris removal metrics that the proposed project will measure, such as how many pounds of marine debris will be removed through the proposed project. Removals should also be conducted with a focus on alternative disposal methods when possible, which means applicants should use disposal methods that are the most environmentally friendly given the location, availability, and resources of the specific removal effort. Examples of alternative disposal may include: recycling, reuse, waste-to-energy, or other innovative disposal methods.

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are state, local, tribal and territory governments whose activities affect research or regulation of marine debris; federally and non-federally recognized Tribes and Native or Indigenous organizations; institutions of higher education; non-profit organizations; and commercial (for-profit) organizations.

NOAA is strongly committed to broadening the participation of veterans, minority-serving institutions, Tribes, and entities that work in communities facing environmental/climate and socioeconomic burdens.

## Funding

In FY 2025, up to $7 million is expected to be available through this program to support an unspecified number of projects ranging from $100,000 to $1,000,000. The typical funding level for the federal share of project awards ranges from $250,000 to $750,000.

Applications should cover a project period of two to four years in duration. The earliest anticipated start date for awards will be October 1, 2025. It is recommended that applicants include planning time into their proposal to avoid negative impacts if administrative or other delays occur. The start date should always begin on the first day of the month and the end date should always end on the last day of any given month when making a projection for the award start and end dates.

## Matching and Cost-Sharing

There is no non-federal matching requirement for this funding. However, the opportunity to provide cost sharing, leveraged funds, and in-kind support is acceptable.

## Contact Information

Sarah Lowe
(419) 287-6766
sarah.lowe@noaa.gov

https://marinedebris.noaa.gov/funding-opportunities/fy25-noaa-marine-debris-removal-under-bipartisan-infrastructure-law-applicant-resources

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE

**Department:** U.S. Department of Commerce
**Agency:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

# FY 2025 Marine Debris Removal under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

## Grant Overview

This program supports the development and implementation of marine debris assessment, removal, and prevention projects that benefit coastal habitat, waterways, and marine and Great Lake resources. Eligible applicants are state, local, tribal, and territory governments whose activities affect research or regulation of marine debris; federally and nonfederally recognized tribes and Native or indigenous organizations; institutes of higher education; nonprofit organizations; and commercial, for-profit organizations with expertise in marine debris removals.

## Program History

| | Total Funding | # of Awards |
|---|---|---|
| 2024 | $23 million | 13 |
| 2022-2023 | $69 million | 14 |

## Key Information and Tips

**Total Funding:** $47 million
**Award Range:** $1 million - $10 million
**Match:** Not required
**Solicitation date:** July 24, 2024
**Proposal due:** September 27, 2024 (Letter of Intent)

- Only selected applicants will be invited to submit full proposals which will be due on or before January 31, 2025.

Please visit here for more information.

## Awardee Profile

City of Oakland, CA

AMOUNT: $3,164,649
YEAR: 2024

Oakland, CA received funding to remove abandoned and derelict vessels and other large debris items including appliances, furniture, and a large debris pile from the Oakland Alameda Estuary. The project will also institute a boat buy-back program and lead shoreline cleanups and outreach efforts involving estuary stakeholders, marinas, local aquatic teams and clubs, businesses, neighborhood groups, and the extended estuary community to raise awareness and collaborate on solutions to prevent marine debris.

**Department:** U.S. Department of Commerce
**Agency:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

# FY 2025 Marine Debris Removal under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

## Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to support the development and implementation of marine debris assessment, removal, and prevention projects that benefit coastal habitat, waterways, and marine and Great Lake resources. The overall objective of the program is to support impactful, large marine debris removal projects that will improve the resilience of the coastal and marine environment. This program considers impactful projects to be those that will have long-lasting, transformational benefits to marine and coastal Trust resources, coastal communities, and/or local economies. Projects will remove debris and prevent reaccumulation of debris in the environment. The program is primarily aimed at supporting new or impactful removal efforts, or projects that require funding to scale up or expand their existing removal efforts to achieve broader and more impactful outcomes.

Marine debris is defined as any persistent solid material that is manufactured or processed and directly or indirectly, intentionally or unintentionally, disposed of or abandoned into the marine environment or the Great Lakes. Large debris is defined as abandoned and derelict vessels (ADVs), derelict fishing gear (DFG), and other debris that is unable to be easily collected by hand.

The highest priority for this program is to support impactful, large marine debris removal projects. Applicants may conduct removal activities on their own, collaborate with other organizations, pass through funding via subawards, or administer a nationally or regionally focused competitive funding opportunity to allow for funding of smaller projects. The funding agency will also prioritize projects that demonstrate clear removal and disposal outcomes. Removals should be conducted with a focus on alternative disposal methods, when possible, which means applicants should use disposal methods that are the most environmentally friendly given the location, availability, and resources of the specific removal effort.

Removal projects that include strategies to prevent the reaccumulation of marine debris in the future may be prioritized. Removal projects that include monitoring activities to demonstrate long-term outcomes are also encouraged.

All applicants should demonstrate how their work will advance the principles of diversity, equity, justice, inclusion, and accessibility. Prevention and removal activities should prioritize collaboration with diverse entities and groups.

Projects must take place throughout the coastal United States, Great Lakes, territories, and freely associated states.

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are state, local, tribal, and territory governments whose activities affect research or regulation of marine debris; federally and nonfederally recognized tribes and Native or indigenous

organizations; institutes of higher education; nonprofit organizations; and commercial, for-profit organizations with expertise in marine debris removals. Renewal or supplementation applications will be accepted. However, such applications will not receive preferential treatment.

## Funding

In FY 2025, up to an estimated $47 million is expected to be available to support cooperative agreements ranging from approximately $1 million to $10 million through this program. Typical awards are expected to range from $2 million to $6 million. Proposals requesting more than $6 million are expected to include subaward competitions for other organizations to identify and apply for funding for localized removal activities. Proposals requesting more than $6 million and involving only debris removal by award recipients must provide detailed justification.

Award notifications are expected to be issued by June 1, 2025.

Project periods will span from two to four years, with the earliest anticipated start date being October 1, 2025.

Pre-award costs will only be allowed with prior written approval.

## Matching and Cost Sharing

Matching funds are not required for this program; however, applicants have the opportunity to provide cost sharing, leveraged funds, and in-kind support. For funded proposals that include nonfederal matching contributions, the proposed matching contributions will be legally binding. Applicants may propose using indirect costs as matching contributions.

## Contact Information

Amanda Dwyer
(240) 533-0402
amanda.dwyer@noaa.gov

Program Staff
grants.marinedebris@noaa.gov

https://marinedebris.noaa.gov/funding-opportunities/fy25-noaa-marine-debris-removal-under-bipartisan-infrastructure-law-applicant-resources

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE




**Department:** U.S. Department of Commerce
**Agency:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

# FY 2024 NOAA Ocean Acidification Program Education Mini-Grant Program

## Grant Overview

This program will develop ocean and coastal acidification education tools and programs in underserved and/or Indigenous communities or Tribes. The program will support education programs that are responsive to the goals of the NOAA Ocean Acidification Education Implementation Plan and the 2021-2040 NOAA Education Strategic Plan. Eligible applicants are institutions of higher education; other nonprofits; commercial organizations; state, local and Indian tribal governments; and Federal agencies.

## Program History

A program history is unavailable.

## Key Information and Tips

**Total Funding:** $400,000
**Award Range:** Up to $50,000
**Match:** Not required
**Solicitation date**: June 29, 2023
**Proposal due:** February 23, 2024 Full Application

https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=348989

## Tips

- A webinar outlining required proposal elements and the review process will take place on Monday, July 10th, 2023 at 5 pm Eastern Standard Time (EST)
- Letters of Intent are strongly encouraged, and if submitted must be received by 11:59 pm EST on Friday, September 15th, 2023.

**Department:** U.S. Department of Commerce
**Agency:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

# FY 2024 NOAA Ocean Acidification Program Education Mini-Grant Program

## Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to develop ocean and coastal acidification education tools and programs in underserved and/or Indigenous communities or Tribes. The program will support education programs that are responsive to the goals of the NOAA Ocean Acidification Education Implementation Plan and the 2021-2040 NOAA Education Strategic Plan. Projects will respond to one of the following four NOAA Ocean Acidification Education Implementation Plan goals:

- Education and outreach products that incorporate data interpretation and/or visualization
- Multimedia educational tools
- Discrete hands-on lab modules that incorporate inquiry-based learning and align with Next Generation Science and/or Common Core Standards to be used in a formal education setting
- Protocol or tools for ocean acidification community science programs

All projects must promote stronger connections between diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) and ocean and/or coastal acidification as it relates to ocean literacy, stewardship, or workforce development in the United States, particularly in underserved and/or Indigenous communities or Tribes. Projects that incorporate NOAA or university-generated ocean acidification data, where applicable, are encouraged.

It is recommended that the project proposed feature a collaboration between NOAA educators and/or scientists and educators/scientists from an entity external to NOAA, such as a minority serving institution.

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are institutions of higher education; other nonprofits; commercial organizations; state, local and Indian tribal governments; and Federal agencies.

Preference will be given to proposals that include a partner from an underserved and/or Indigenous community or Tribal representative as a co-principal investigator

## Funding

In FY 2024, approximately $400,000 is available to support an unspecified number of awards up to $50,000. The project period will be up to 24 months with an anticipated start date of September 1, 2024.

## Matching and Cost Share

No cost-share is required under this program.

## Contact Information

Program Staff

Alexandra.Puritz@noaa.gov

https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=348989

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE

**Department:** U.S. Department of Commerce
**Agency:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

# FY 2024 Restoring Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Grants

## Grant Overview

The purpose of this program is to federal financial and technical assistance to fish passage through the removal of dams and other in-stream barriers for native migratory or sea-run fish. Funding will be used for fish passage that rebuilds productive and sustainable fisheries, contributes to the recovery and conservation of threatened and endangered species, enhances watershed health, promotes resilient ecosystems and communities, especially in underserved communities, and improves economic vitality, including local employment. Eligible applicants are institutions of higher education, non-profits, commercial (for profit) organizations, U.S. territories, and state, local, and Native American and Alaska Native tribal governments.

## Program History

| | Total Funding | # of Awards |
|---|---|---|
| 2023 | $158 million | 27 |
| 2022 | $87 million | 23 |

## Key Information

**Total Funding:** $75 million
**Award Range:** $750,000 - $8 million
**Match:** Not required
**Solicitation date:** October 30, 2024
**Due date:** February 10, 2025

https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/grant/restoring-fish-passage-through-barrier-removal-grants

## Tips

- Priority will be given to activities with the highest certainty to occur within a 2–3-year award period.
- Proposals that focus on removal of barriers will receive higher priority (e.g., dam removals will receive higher priority than installation of structures that require operations and maintenance, such as fish ladders).
- Applicant webinars will be held on November 20, 2024, and December 3, 2024. The link to register for the November 20th applicant webinar can be found here. The link to register for the December 3rd applicant webinar can be found here.
- Additionally, webinar information for two brief webinars with tips for applying for NOAA awards with the new eRA system is coming soon.

**Department:** U.S. Department of Commerce
**Agency:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

# FY 2024 Restoring Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Grants

## Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to provide federal financial and technical assistance to locally led fish passage through removals of dams and other in-stream barriers for native migratory or sea-run fish. Funding will be used for fish passage that rebuilds productive and sustainable fisheries; contributes to the recovery and conservation of threatened and endangered species; enhances watershed health; promotes resilient ecosystems and communities, especially for underserved communities; and improves economic vitality, including local employment.

Successful proposals will be those that meet the evaluation criteria most strongly. Applicants should address the following program priorities, which are the basis for the Importance and Applicability evaluation criteria:

- Achieving measurable and lasting benefits for migratory fish populations: The funding agency prioritizes proposed work that will achieve measurable, sustainable, and lasting benefits for migratory fish populations. Proposals that focus on removal of barriers will receive higher priority (e.g., dam removals will receive higher priority than installation of structures that require operations and maintenance, such as fish ladders).
- Enhancing community resilience to extreme weather and climate hazards and providing other co-benefits: Applicants should describe how the proposed fish passage will benefit human populations within or near the project site(s), and how these actions will reduce vulnerability to the climate hazards that are most threatening to the local communities. Applicants may also describe how the proposed work will enhance the ability to plan and prepare for adverse effects of extreme weather events or climate hazards or provide additional co-benefits to the community (e.g., economic vitality, increased access to natural resources).
- Fostering regionally important habitat restoration: This funding opportunity will fund restoration actions that demonstrate high priority within a defined geographic region. Applicants should refer to watershed plans, resilience plans, or other fishery-related strategic planning, conservation, or management documents to support the importance of the proposed work. Proposals should identify how the fish passage aligns with relevant planning documents, and if the proposed actions are ranked highly within a prioritized list of restoration needs within the defined geographic area.
- Providing benefit to and engaging with underserved communities, including through partnerships with Indian tribes and/or other indigenous communities: The funding agency is committed to the goals of advancing equity and support for tribal, indigenous and underserved communities. Applicants should identify if they are a tribe, indigenous or underserved community or if the project is located within underserved communities and how those communities have, and will continue to, meaningfully engage in the project. Applicants should indicate whether a portion of the resilience benefits or other co-benefits from the proposed work will flow to underserved communities and how those benefits will be measured. The Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) can assist

with identifying and assessing the marginalized, underserved and underrepresented communities that are connected to their proposed restoration actions.

Proposals submitted under this funding opportunity should describe how the proposed fish passage will:

- Contribute to the recovery of threatened and endangered species listed under the Endangered Species Act
- Sustain or help rebuild fish stocks and their prey managed under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
- Improve passage to support native fish species of the Great Lakes
- Enhance the sustainability of saltwater recreational fisheries
- Enhance community resilience, especially in tribal, indigenous and underserved communities, to climate hazards by removing or improving aging infrastructure and supporting other co-benefits
- Support hydroelectric license surrender to remove dams that are no longer economically viable or provide significant public benefits

Proposed activities may include future project development and feasibility studies; engineering and design; permitting; on-the-ground fish passage restoration; pre- and post-removal implementation monitoring; community engagement, including in tribal, indigenous and underserved communities; building the capacity of new and existing restoration partners to manage multi-faceted project design and construction; and education and outreach. Applicants may apply for funding to support one or more of these activities. Priority will be given to activities with the highest certainty to occur within a 2–3-year award period. Proposals may include multiple locations throughout a watershed or other geographic area and should demonstrate how multiple locations collectively contribute to priorities within the watershed or geographic area. Proposals that focus on the removal of barriers will score higher than proposals that install structures that require operations and maintenance.

The funding agency is committed to the goals of advancing equity and support for underserved communities. The funding agency encourages applicants to include and demonstrate principles of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility through proactive, meaningful, and equitable community engagement in the identification, design, and/or implementation of proposed projects. The funding agency also encourages applicants to propose projects with benefits to tribal, indigenous or underserved communities and that appropriately consider and elevate local or indigenous knowledge in project design, implementation, and evaluation. Applicants should identify if the project is located within tribal or underserved communities and/or whether a portion of the resilience benefits from the proposed work will flow to tribal, indigenous or underserved communities.

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are institutions of higher education, non-profits, commercial (for profit) organizations, U.S. territories, and state, local, and Native American and Alaska Native tribal governments. Federal agencies are strongly encouraged to work with applicants who are eligible to apply.

Applicants must propose work in areas that benefit United States migratory fish. Eligible applicants for Great Lakes projects must propose work within one of the eight U.S. Great Lakes states (New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota), within the Great Lakes basin. Eligible applicants that propose projects in the Commonwealth and Territories of the United States must propose work in American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, U.S. Virgin Islands, or Puerto Rico.

## Funding

In FY 2024, up to approximately $75 million will be available to support cooperative agreements ranging from $750,000 to $8 million through this program.

The funding agency anticipates that typical federal funding awards will range from $3 million to $5 million. The funding agency expects that any single fish passage project that is awarded the maximum allowed request ($8 million) will have significant ecological impact, detailed and credible cost estimates and clear justifications, and construction readiness.

The funding agency requests project periods of performance for most awards of two to three years. The earliest anticipated start date for awards will be January 1, 2026. Typically, the maximum length of award is five years.

## Matching and Cost Sharing

There is no non-federal matching requirement for this funding. The funding agency desires cost sharing to encourage partnerships among government, community, industry, and academia. To this end, applicants should note that cost sharing or leverage is an element considered in the evaluation criterion.

Non-federal match funds may be optionally included within the application to demonstrate community support for the proposed work.

## Contact Information

Melanie Gange
(301) 427-8664
fish.passage.grants@noaa.gov

https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/grant/restoring-fish-passage-through-barrier-removal-grants

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE

**Department:** U.S. Department of Commerce
**Agency:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

# FY 2024 Restoring Tribal Priority Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Grants

## Grant Overview

The purpose of this program is to provide federal financial and technical assistance to Indian tribes and organizations that represent Indian tribes through formal legal agreements to remove barriers to fish passage for native migratory or sea-run fish. Eligible applicants are Indian tribes and organizations that represent Indian tribes through formal legal agreements (e.g., tribal commissions, tribal consortia, tribal conservation districts, and tribal cooperatives).

## Program History

| | Total Funding | # of Awards |
|---|---|---|
| 2023 | $81 million | 19 |
| 2022 | $16 million | 13 |

## Key Information

**Total Funding:** $20 million
**Award Range:** $300,000 - $6 million
**Match:** Not required
**Solicitation date:** October 30, 2024
**Due date:** February 27, 2025

https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/grant/restoring-tribal-priority-fish-passage-through-barrier-removal-grants

## Tips

- Priority will be given to activities with the highest certainty to occur within a 2–3-year award period.
- Proposals that focus on removal of barriers will receive higher priority (e.g., dam removals will receive higher priority than installation of structures that require operations and maintenance, such as fish ladders).
- A tribal focused applicant webinar will be held on December 12, 2024. The link to register for this applicant webinar can be found here.
- Additionally, webinar information for two brief webinars with tips for applying for NOAA awards with the new eRA system is coming soon.

**Department:** U.S. Department of Commerce
**Agency:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

# FY 2024 Restoring Tribal Priority Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Grants

## Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to provide federal financial and technical assistance to Indian tribes and organizations that represent Indian tribes through formal legal agreements (e.g., tribal commissions, tribal consortia, tribal conservation districts, and tribal cooperatives) to remove barriers to fish passage. The funding agency recognizes that healthy fish populations are integral to the living culture of tribes. Funding will be used for fish passage that rebuilds productive and sustainable fisheries, contributes to the recovery and conservation of threatened and endangered species, enhances watershed health, promotes resilient ecosystems and communities, and increases tribal capacity to participate in fish passage barrier removal efforts while improving tribal commercial, recreational, subsistence and cultural practice opportunities. Proposed work may be located on tribal lands, throughout traditional use areas, or in coastal watersheds that support fish populations that are or have been integral to the living culture of tribes.

Successful proposals will be those that meet the evaluation criteria most strongly. Applicants should address the following program priorities, which are the basis for the Importance and Applicability evaluation criteria:

- Achieving measurable and lasting benefits for migratory fish populations: The funding agency prioritizes proposed work that will achieve measurable, sustainable, and lasting benefits for migratory fish populations. Proposals that focus on removal of barriers will receive higher priority (e.g., dam removals will receive higher priority than installation of structures that require operations and maintenance, such as fish ladders).
- Enhancing community resilience to extreme weather and climate hazards and providing other co-benefits: Applicants should describe how the proposed fish passage will benefit human populations within or near the project site(s), and how these actions will reduce vulnerability to the climate hazards that are most threatening to the local communities. Applicants may also describe how the proposed work will enhance the ability to plan and prepare for adverse effects of extreme weather events or climate hazards or provide additional co-benefits to the community (e.g., economic vitality, increased access to natural resources).
- Fostering tribally important barrier removal efforts that benefit migratory fish: This solicitation will fund restoration of habitats that improve migratory fish populations important to tribes, including usual and accustomed areas, habitat important for enhancing tribal treaty reserved fishing rights or native subsistence fishing, and tribal trust fishing opportunities. Applicants should refer to tribal knowledge, watershed plans, resilience plans, or other fishery-related strategic planning, conservation, or management documents to show the tribal importance of the proposed work.
- Increasing tribal organization fish passage capacity to support tribes in their role as managers and stewards of tribal trust resources for cultural, spiritual, economic, subsistence, and recreational purposes: Proposals may include activities that build tribal capacity (such as supporting tribal staff positions) to work on the fish passage project development process, including reviewing project

locations, reviewing design plans, conducting field assessments, leading fish passage projects guided by tribal knowledge, and/or managing multi-faceted fish passage project design and construction.

Proposals submitted under this funding opportunity should describe how the proposed fish passage will:

- Contribute to the recovery of threatened and endangered species listed under the Endangered Species Act
- Sustain or help rebuild fish stocks and their prey managed under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
- Improve passage to support native fish species of the Great Lakes
- Enhance the sustainability of saltwater recreational fisheries
- Enhance community resilience, especially in tribal, indigenous and underserved communities, to climate hazards by removing or improving aging infrastructure and supporting other co-benefits
- Support hydroelectric license surrender to remove dams that are no longer economically viable or provide significant public benefits

This is the final round of funding available through this program under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) competition. Consequently, the funding agency will prioritize proposed activities that have a high certainty of completion within a 2-3-year award period. The funding agency is seeking both projects that are ready for implementation ('shovel ready') and projects that are still in development or focused on capacity building.

Proposed project development activities may include feasibility studies, engineering and design, landowner buy-in and permitting. Proposed project implementation activities may include final design, permitting, on-the-ground fish passage restoration, and pre- and post-removal implementation monitoring. Both types of projects may include community engagement, building the capacity of new and existing restoration partners to manage multi-faceted project design and construction, and education and outreach. This funding opportunity will also support building tribal capacity to participate in developing current and future fish passage projects, either alone or in combination with project development or project implementation activities. Applicants may apply for funding to support any of these activities. Complex barrier removal projects (e.g. dam removal projects, bypasses, culvert replacements on heavily trafficked roads) that include both project development and implementation activities within the same award period will not be competitive. Proposals may include multiple locations throughout a watershed or other geographic area and should demonstrate how multiple locations collectively contribute to priorities within the watershed or geographic area. Proposals that focus on removal of barriers will score higher than proposals that install structures that require operations and maintenance.

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are Indian tribes and organizations that represent Indian tribes through formal legal agreements (e.g., tribal commissions, tribal consortia, tribal conservation districts, and tribal cooperatives).

Organizations that represent Indian tribes through formal legal agreements are encouraged to provide a clear description and supporting documentation (e.g., letters of support, Memoranda of Understandings) in the application, demonstrating a relationship between the tribe(s) and organization. Documentation should be submitted as part of the grant application.

An institution of higher education, non-profit organization, commercial (for profit) organization, U.S. territory, or state or local government, and organizations that identify as Indian tribes, which may include state

recognized tribes, can partner with Indian tribes and organizations that represent Indian tribes through formal legal agreements, but are not eligible to submit an application directly. A partnership may involve proposed subawards, contracts, informal collaboration, or other engagement.

Applicants must propose work in areas that benefit United States migratory fish. Eligible applicants for Great Lakes projects must propose work within one of the eight U.S. Great Lakes states (New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota), within the Great Lakes basin. Eligible applicants that propose projects in the Commonwealth and Territories of the United States must propose work in American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, U.S. Virgin Islands, or Puerto Rico.

## Funding

In FY 2024, up to approximately $20 million will be available to support cooperative agreements ranging from $300,000 to $6 million through this program.

The funding agency anticipates that typical federal funding awards will range from $500,000 to $4 million. The funding agency expects that any single fish passage project that is awarded the maximum allowed requested (up to $6 million) will have significant ecological impact, detailed and credible cost estimates and clear justifications, and construction readiness.

The funding agency requests project periods of performance for most awards of two to three years. The earliest anticipated start date for awards will be January 1, 2026. Typically, the maximum length of award is five years.

## Matching and Cost Sharing

There is no non-federal matching requirement for this funding. The funding agency desires cost sharing to encourage partnerships among government, community, industry, and academia.

Non-federal match funds may be optionally included within the application to demonstrate community support for the proposed work.

## Contact Information

Janine Harris
(301) 427-8635
infrastructure.tribal@noaa.gov

https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/grant/restoring-tribal-priority-fish-passage-through-barrier-removal-grants

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE

**Department:** U.S. Department of Commerce
**Agency:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

# FY 2025 Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grants

## Grant Overview

The purpose of this program is to support transformational habitat restoration projects that restore marine, estuarine, coastal, or Great Lakes ecosystems, using approaches that enhance community and ecosystem resilience to climate hazards. Eligible applicants are institutions of higher education, non-profits, commercial (for profit) organizations, U.S. territories, and state, local, and tribal governments. Applicants must propose work in coastal, marine, or estuarine areas that benefit species or fisheries outlined within the program priorities.

## Program History

| | Total Funding | # of Awards |
|---|---|---|
| 2024 | $220 million | 32 |

## Key Information

**Total Funding:** $100 million
**Award Range:** $750,000 - $10 million
**Match:** Not required
**Solicitation date**: December 6, 2024
**Application due:** April 16, 2025

https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/grant/transformational-habitat-restoration-and-coastal-resilience-grants

## Tips

- Projects that are most responsive to the program priorities and are more transformative (i.e., have higher positive impact) will be more competitive.
- Proposals that include on-the-ground implementation will be given priority compared to those that include only pre-implementation activities.

**Department:** U.S. Department of Commerce
**Agency:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

# FY 2025 Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grants

## Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to support transformational habitat restoration projects that restore marine, estuarine, coastal, or Great Lakes ecosystems, using approaches that enhance community and ecosystem resilience to climate hazards. Funding will prioritize habitat restoration actions that: demonstrate significant impacts; rebuild productive and sustainable fisheries; contribute to the recovery and conservation of threatened and endangered species; promote resilient ecosystems, especially in tribal or underserved communities; and improve economic vitality, including local employment.

The program will invest in transformational projects that have the greatest potential to provide holistic benefits, through habitat-based approaches that strengthen both ecosystem and community resilience. Examples of habitat restoration projects that are transformational at a regional or national scale include, but are not limited to: projects that provide significant benefits for ecosystems and community resilience; projects that catalyze broad initiatives or partnerships; large-scale projects; innovative projects, which may include new techniques for restoration; and projects that connect to or build upon other restoration or resilience work in a watershed. Projects that are most responsive to the program priorities and are more transformative will be more competitive, by providing important and lasting changes that make a difference for coastal communities and ecosystems.

Prioirty will be given to projects that meet the following areas:

Sustaining Productive Fisheries and Strengthening Ecosystem Resilience: Projects should describe how the proposed habitat restoration actions align with relevant plans to recover and/or manage the target species or fisheries. Proposals should also address how restoration will strengthen resilience within the target habitat and the surrounding ecosystem. Potential benefits for fisheries habitat will be evaluated based on how the proposed restoration actions will:

- Contribute to the recovery of threatened and endangered species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) that are under NOAA jurisdiction (hereafter, Listed Species)
- Sustain or help rebuild fish stocks managed under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (hereafter, Managed Species), which includes benefits to Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) for recreationally and commercially important species and their prey
- Enhance the sustainability of saltwater recreational fisheries by the restoration of habitat that supports the National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy and Implementation Plans
- Improve habitat to support native fish species of the Great Lakes

Enhancing Community Resilience to Climate Hazards and Providing Other Co-benefits: Projects should benefit human populations within or near the project site.

Fostering Regionally Important Habitat Restoration, including sites and species prioritized by tribal communities: Projects should prioritize restoration actions that demonstrate high priority and transformative potential within a defined geographic region. Applicants should refer to watershed plans, resiliency plans, or other fishery-related strategic planning, conservation, or management documents, as appropriate, to support the proposed work. Comprehensive planning documents may range in scale and scope from the level of a local watershed plan to a state- or basin-wide plan.

Proposals that include on-the-ground implementation will be given priority compared to those that include only pre-implementation activities. Proposals that include multiple sites should demonstrate how projects collectively contribute to the priorities within the same geographic area or watershed, and applicants should demonstrate the capacity to manage concurrent habitat restoration projects over multiple years.

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are institutions of higher education, non-profits, commercial (for profit) organizations, U.S. territories, and state, local, and tribal governments. Applications from federal agencies or employees of federal agencies will not be considered. Federal agencies and employees are not allowed to receive funds under this solicitation but may serve as collaborative project partners. Foreign entities can participate as partners (contractors, sub-recipients, or informal collaborators) of a prime recipient based in the U.S.

Applicants must propose work in coastal, marine, or estuarine areas that benefit species or fisheries outlined within the program priorities. Eligible applicants for Great Lakes projects must propose work within one of the eight U.S. Great Lakes states (New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota). Applications that propose projects in the Commonwealth and Territories of the United States, for this solicitation defined as American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico, are also eligible.

## Funding

In FY 2025, approximately $100 million is expected to be available to support an unspecified number of awards ranging from $750,000 to $10 million over the entire award period. Typical federal funding for awards will range from approximately $4 million to $6 million. Up to 15 percent of funding will be allocated to Indian Tribes and native American organizations.

The period of performance is two to three years. The earliest anticipated start date for awards will be January 1, 2026. Both federal and non-federal match pre-award costs, incurred up to 90 days prior to the award start date, may be requested and will be considered during pre-award negotiations between the applicant and funding agency.

## Matching and Cost Sharing

Matching funds are not required for this program however, cost sharing is an element considered within the evaluation criterion.

## Contact Information

Program Staff
resilience.grants@noaa.gov

https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/grant/transformational-habitat-restoration-and-coastal-resilience-grants

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE




**Department:** U.S. Department of Interior
**Agency:** Bureau of Land Management

# FY 2024 Aquatic Resource Management

## Grant Overview

The National Aquatic Resources Program conserves and restores riparian and wetland areas, aquatic habitats, and water resources to provide resource functioning ecosystems for a combination of balanced and diverse uses including fish and wildlife, and for the long-term needs of future generations. Eligible applicants are state, county, city or township governments; special district governments; independent school districts; institutions of higher education; Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized); public housing authorities/ Indian housing authorities; nonprofits; and private institutions of higher education.

## Program History

This is no program history available at this time.

## Key Information

**Total Funding:** $1 million
**Award Range:** $100,000 - $500,000
**Match:** Not required
**Solicitation date**: November 6, 2023
**Proposal due:** January 19, 2024

https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/350870

## Tips

- Applicants are encouraged to contact the Aquatic Resources Program Lead at the BLM state, district, or field office where the work is proposed to take place to discuss proposed projects in order to determine eligibility under the BLM priorities and criteria described in this NOFO.
- All proposed projects submitted under this funding opportunity must state a benefit to the public and must address national level priorities crossing state boundaries.

**Department:** U.S. Department of Interior
**Agency:** Bureau of Land Management

# FY 2024 Aquatic Resource Management

## Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to conserve and restore riparian and wetland areas, aquatic habitats, and water resources to provide resource functioning ecosystems for a combination of balanced and diverse uses including fish and wildlife, and for the long-term needs of future generations. The Program ensures that public land management based on multiple use and sustained yield provides healthy and productive riparian, wetland, and aquatic habitat, achieves land health standards, and considers society's long-term needs for healthy watersheds. The issues the Program addresses are diverse and include restoration, habitat fragmentation and degradation, drought resiliency, water availability, and aquatic invasive species.

Core functions of this program include:

- Decision Support: Inventory, assess, and monitor aquatic resources to inform our understanding of condition and trend, guide the BLM's management activities, and assess regulatory compliance
- Protection: Maintain and protect the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of aquatic resources
- Restoration: Restore aquatic resources affected by past and present impacts, aquatic invasive species, wildfire, drought, and floods; and increase their resistance, resilience, and adaptability to the impacts of climate change
- Water Resource Sustainability: Identify the quantity and quality of water required to conserve and restore riparian and wetland areas and aquatic habitats and secure water rights and protections so sufficient water is physically and legally available for all public land management purposes
- Environmental Compliance: Ensure full compliance with applicable Federal law, Executive Orders, regulations, and policy and with state laws where such compliance does not conflict with Federal law mandates
- Collaboration: Coordinate, cooperate, and consult with Federal, State, tribal, and local governments and other programs, partners, and communities, to foster adaptive approaches to conservation and restoration and implement education and outreach programs

The BLM (HQ) Aquatic Resources Program continues to advance the Department of the Interior's priorities to address the climate crisis, restore balance on public lands and waters, advance environmental justice, and invest in a clean energy future. Specific focus to implement the Department priorities include, but are not limited to those actions that: protect biodiversity; restore aquatic resources; increase resistance, resilience, and adaptability to climate change and help leverage natural climate solutions; contribute to conserving at least 30 percent of our lands and waters by the year 2030; engage communities of color, low income families, and rural and indigenous communities to enhance economic opportunities related to aquatics; and use the best science and data available to make decisions. The funding agency will work with partner organizations:

- Contributing to the above-described Program core functions.
- Combating climate change and habitat loss impacts to aquatic resources
- Restoring and connecting degraded aquatic resources
- Increasing ecosystem resistance, resilience, and adaptability to drought, wildfires, and floods

- Determining acceptable levels of hydrologic and ecological change given BLM management objectives
- Advancing inventory, assessment, and monitoring activities and tools.
- Preventing the establishment and spread of invasive species
- Increasing public knowledge of aquatic habitats on funding agency managed lands, including with a targeted focus on communities of color, low-income families, and rural and indigenous communities

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are state, county, local, and special district governments; school districts; institutions of higher education; Native American tribal governments; nonprofits; and public housing authorities. Eligible applicants are state, county, city or township governments; special district governments; independent school districts; institutions of higher education; Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized); public housing authorities/ Indian housing authorities; nonprofits; and private institutions of higher education.

## Funding

In FY 2024, approximately $1 million is available to support an estimated three awards between $100,000 and $500,000 through this program. The award period is five years.

## Matching and Cost-Sharing

Cost sharing or matching is not required for this program; however, a voluntary cost share is strongly encouraged.

## Contact Information

Program Contact
Scott Miller
720-545-8367
swmiller@blm.gov

https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/350870

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE

**Department:** U.S. Department of Interior
**Agency:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

# FY 2025 Candidate Species Conservation Program

## Grant Overview

The purpose of this program is to support conservation tasks for high-priority candidate species or other at-risk species across the United States, such that identified threats to the species may be reduced or eliminated. Eligible applicants are state, local, and tribal governments, independent school districts, institutions of higher education, public housing authorities and Indian housing authorities, Native American tribal organizations, individuals, nonprofit organizations, for-profit organizations, and small businesses.

## Program History

Funding history is not available.

## Key Information

**Total Funding:** $500,000
**Award Range:** Unspecified
**Match:** Not required
**Solicitation date**: January 21, 2025
**Proposal due:** Rolling

https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/358355

## Tips

- Applicants are expected to have demonstrated knowledge and understanding of the biology of the involved candidate or at-risk species and its ecosystem, including preferably having worked with the species in the field.
- Supported projects should show a clear conservation benefit that will help prevent listing of a candidate or at-risk species, remove identified threats or improve status, or contribute information on species response to changes in the environment.

**Department:** U.S. Department of Interior
**Agency:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

# FY 2025 Candidate Species Conservation Program

## Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to support conservation tasks for high-priority candidate species or other at-risk species across the United States, such that identified threats to the species may be reduced or eliminated. Projects should show a clear conservation benefit that will help prevent listing of a candidate or at-risk species, remove identified threats or improve status, or contribute information on species' response to changes in the environment.

Priority will be given to projects that meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Enhance partnerships with states, non-governmental organizations, private landowners, federal agencies, and other entities
- Leverage the funding agency's resources and authorities with those of the funding agency's partners

Priority will also be given to projects that will aid in improving the conservation status of a species that will preclude the need to list it under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), including activities that will secure scientific information about candidate or at-risk species and their habitat, the implementation of restoration actions that will lead to removing threats to the species, or helping to prevent extinction of a species.

Eligible species include candidate and at-risk species. A full list of candidate species can be found online at https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/. Candidate species with a listing priority number between one and six are considered by the funding agency to be especially important. All projects must demonstrate the purpose of conserving species that are candidates for ESA listing status, included in the Service National Listing work plan, or otherwise identified as priority at-risk species.

For the purposes of this program, at-risk species are defined as species that have a reasonable potential to be considered for listing. A list of at-risk species that is prioritized according to an assigned priority number is available in FWS' National Listing Workplan. The at-risk species with a priority number of three or four are considered by the funding agency to be especially important.

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are state, local, and tribal governments, independent school districts, institutions of higher education, public housing authorities and Indian housing authorities, Native American tribal organizations, individuals, nonprofit organizations, for-profit organizations, and small businesses.

Applicants are expected to have demonstrated knowledge and understanding of the biology of the involved candidate or at-risk species and its ecosystem, including preferably having worked with the species in the field.

## Funding

In FY 2025, approximately $500,000 is available to support grants and cooperative agreements for an unspecified amount through this program. The number of grants and cooperative agreements to be distributed and award amounts will vary by region.

Applicants are encouraged to contact their local Ecological Services program field office or the Regional Office personnel before applying.

The project period is 3 years.

## Matching and Cost Sharing

Matching funds are not required for this program, however, applicants that provide at least 10 percent of the total project budget will be awarded additional points during the application evaluation process. Projects should show how they enhance partnerships with states, non-profit organizations, private landowners, and others, and leverage our resources and authorities with those of our partners.

## Contact Information

Questions should be directed to the appropriate regional contact listed in the NOFO file or the appropriate local ecological services program field office of the funding agency.

https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/358355

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE

**Department:** U.S. Department of the Interior
**Agency:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

# FY 2025 Coastal Program

## Grant Overview

This program encourages the restoration and protection of fish and wildlife habitat on public and private lands by providing technical and financial assistance to coastal communities, conservation partners, and landowners. Eligible applicants are state governments, local governments, special districts, independent school districts, private and public institutions of higher education, federally recognized Native American tribal governments, public housing authorities and Indian housing authorities, Native American tribal organizations, nonprofits organizations, for-profit organizations, individuals and small businesses.

## Program History

| | Total Funding | # of Awards |
|---|---|---|
| 2023 | $2.07 million | 153 |
| 2022 | $6 million | 200 |

## Key Information and Tips

**Total Funding:** $6 million
**Award Range:** Up to $500,000
**Match:** Not required
**Solicitation date:** January 23, 2025
**Proposal due:** September 30, 2025

- In order for applications to be considered for funding in FY 2025, they must be submitted before May 30, 2025.
- Applications are accepted on a rolling basis from January 1, 2025, until September 30, 2025.

https://www.fws.gov/coastal/

## Awardee Profile

Valley Adventist Church School
Ventura County, CA

AMOUNT: $5,624
YEAR: 2015

The “Schoolyard Habitat Program” connects kids with nature by helping schools to create native wildlife habitat and sustainable outdoor classrooms. The program provides technical and financial assistance to administrators, teachers, and students to create effective schoolyard habitat projects.

**Department:** U.S. Department of the Interior
**Agency:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

# FY 2025 Coastal Program

## Detailed Summary

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Program is a voluntary, community-based program that helps coastal areas with technical and financial support to address complex conservation challenges of priority coastal ecosystems. This support is mainly provided through cooperative agreements with conservation partners and landowners, including state and Tribal agencies. The goal is to restore and protect fish and wildlife habitats on both public and private lands.

Lists of priority species and focus areas are specified for each U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service region in the program's current Strategic Plan and can be found at this link or by contacting your local Coastal Program office at this link.

The Coastal Program strives to achieve the following goals:

- Species Conservation: The program works on habitat projects in specific areas to help protect species at risk. This includes federally listed species, Birds of Conservation Concern, pollinators, and interjurisdictional fish. The goal is to improve the conservation status of these species of concern.
- Habitat Connectivity: The program connects habitats to make them better for wildlife. Connected habitats and migration paths are vital for fish and wildlife. These projects can also support other conservation efforts, like National Wildlife Refuges and other protected lands.
- Resilient Ecosystems: The program aims to make ecosystems healthier and more resilient for fish, wildlife, plants, and people. The program works with different partners to take action that helps ecosystems be more resilient to changes and benefits communities that depend on them.

The Coastal Program reserves the right to reject projects that do not align with the regional strategic implementation plans or program priorities. The funding agency does not support projects that generate compensatory mitigation credits under a Federal or state regulatory program or accept mitigation or in-lieu funds as non-Federal cost share for a project. The Coastal Program does not fund land acquisition, although it can support title searches and real estate appraisals.

Projects will be funded through cooperative agreements and grant awards. In the case of a cooperative agreement, the recipient should expect the Coastal Program to have substantial involvement in the project. The Coastal Program staff collaborate with the recipient in carrying out the project scope of work which may include budget development and execution; project oversight and monitoring; approval of project modifications and sub-grants; organizational structure and staffing; and performance monitoring. The Coastal Program staff have the ability to halt the project if performance specifications are not met.

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are state governments, county governments, city or township governments, special district governments, independent school districts, public and state controlled institutions of higher education, Native

American tribal governments, public housing authorities and Indian housing authorities, Native American tribal organizations, nonprofits with or without a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, private institutions of higher education, individuals, for profit organizations, and small businesses.

## Funding

In FY 2025, an estimated total of $6 million is available to support approximately 150 awards of up to $500,000 through this program. Awarded projects will have an anticipated project end date of September 30, 2029. Projects will be funded through cooperative agreements and grant awards.

## Matching and Cost Sharing

Cost sharing or matching funds are not required for this program.

## Contact Information

Chris Darnell
(202) 557-8163
chris_darnell@fws.gov

https://www.fws.gov/coastal/

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE

**Department:** U.S. Department of Interior
**Agency:** Bureau of Land Management

# FY 2024 Eastern States (ES) Aquatic Resource Management Program

## Grant Overview

The National Aquatic Resources Program protects and restores riparian and wetland areas, aquatic habitats, and water resources to provide functioning ecosystems for a combination of balanced and diverse uses including fish and wildlife, and for the long-term needs of future generations. Eligible applicants are state, county, city, or township governments; special district governments; independent school districts; institutions of higher education; Native American tribal governments (federally recognized); public housing authorities/ Indian housing authorities; nonprofit organizations; and private institutions of higher education.

## Program History

There is no program history available at this time.

## Key Information

**Total Funding:** $225,000
**Award Range:** $25,000 - $200,000
**Match:** Not required
**Solicitation date**: November 6, 2023
**Proposal due:** January 31, 2024

https://www.blm.gov/programs/aquatics

## Tips

- Applicants are encouraged to contact the Aquatic Resources Program Lead at the BLM state, district, or field office where the work is proposed to take place to discuss proposed projects in order to determine eligibility under the BLM priorities and criteria described in this NOFO.
- All proposed projects submitted under this funding opportunity must state a benefit to the public and must address national level priorities crossing state boundaries.

**Department:** U.S. Department of Interior
**Agency:** Bureau of Land Management

# FY 2024 Eastern States (ES) Aquatic Resource Management Program

## Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to protect and restore riparian and wetland areas, aquatic habitats, and water resources to provide resource functioning ecosystems for a combination of balanced and diverse uses including fish and wildlife, and for the long-term needs of future generations. The program ensures that public land management based on multiple use and sustained yield provides healthy and productive riparian, wetland, and aquatic habitat, achieves land health standards, and considers society's long-term needs for healthy watersheds. The issues the program addresses are diverse and include restoration, habitat fragmentation and degradation, drought resiliency, water availability, and aquatic invasive species.

Core functions of this program include:

- Decision Support: Inventory, assess, and monitor aquatic resources to inform our understanding of condition and trend, guide the BLM's management activities, and assess regulatory compliance.
- Protection: Maintain and protect the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of aquatic resources.
- Restoration: Restore aquatic resources affected by past and present impacts, aquatic invasive species, wildfire, drought, and floods; and increase their resistance, resilience, and adaptability to the impacts of climate change.
- Water Resource Sustainability: Identify the quantity and quality of water required to conserve and restore riparian and wetland areas and aquatic habitats and secure water rights and protections so sufficient water is physically and legally available for all public land management purposes.
- Environmental Compliance: Ensure full compliance with applicable Federal law, Executive Orders, regulations, and policy and with state laws where such compliance does not conflict with Federal law mandates.
- Collaboration: Coordinate, cooperate, and consult with Federal, State, tribal, and local governments and other programs, partners, and communities, to foster adaptive approaches to conservation and restoration and implement education and outreach programs.

The BLM (ES) Aquatic Resources Program continues to advance the Department of the Interior's priorities to address the climate crisis, restore balance on public lands and waters, advance environmental justice, and invest in a clean energy future. Specific focus to implement the Department priorities include, but are not limited to those actions that: protect biodiversity; restore aquatic resources; increase resistance, resilience, and adaptability to climate change and help leverage natural climate solutions; contribute to conserving at least 30 percent of our lands and waters by the year 2030; engage communities of color, low income families, and rural and indigenous communities to enhance economic opportunities related to aquatics; and use the best science and data available to make decisions.

The funding agency will work with partner organizations:

- Contributing to the above-described Program core functions.
- Combating climate change and habitat loss impacts to aquatic resources.
- Restoring and connecting degraded aquatic resources.
- Increasing ecosystem resistance, resilience, and adaptability to drought, wildfires, and floods.
- Determining acceptable levels of hydrologic and ecological change given BLM management objectives.
- Advancing inventory, assessment, and monitoring activities and tools.
- Preventing the establishment and spread of invasive species.
- Increasing public knowledge of aquatic habitats on funding agency managed lands, including with a targeted focus on communities of color, low-income families, and rural and indigenous communities.

Projects must assist BLM in meeting one or more of the Department of Interior priorities, as well as one of the Biden-Harris Administration priorities.

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are state, county, city, or township governments; special district governments; independent school districts; institutions of higher education; Native American tribal governments (federally recognized); public housing authorities/ Indian housing authorities; nonprofit organizations; and private institutions of higher education.

## Funding

In FY 2024, approximately $225,000 is available to support an estimated two awards between $25,000 and $200,000 through this program. Projects cannot be funded for more than a five-year period.

## Matching and Cost Sharing

Matching or cost sharing is not required for this program; however, a voluntary cost share is strongly encouraged.

## Contact Information

Irene Sattler
402-830-3941
isattler@blm.gov

https://www.blm.gov/programs/aquatics

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE

**Department:** U.S. Department of Interior
**Agency:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

# FY 2024 Fisheries Restoration and Irrigation Mitigation Act (FRIMA)

## Grant Overview

This program supports the development, improvement, or installation of fish screens, fish passage devices and related features to mitigate impacts on fisheries associated with irrigation water system diversions in Pacific Ocean drainages in Oregon, Washington, Montana, Idaho, and California. Eligible applicants are states, local governments, special districts, school districts, institutions of higher education, Native American tribal governments and organizations, public/Indian housing authorities, nonprofit organizations, and for-profit organizations and small businesses. Applicants must propose projects located in areas of California, Idaho, western Montana, Oregon, or Washington that drain into the Pacific Ocean.

## Program History

Award history is not available for this program.

## Key Information

**Total Funding:** $5 million
**Award Range:** Up to $1 million
**Match:** 35%
**Solicitation date:** July 11, 2024
**Proposal due:** September 30, 2024 (Pre-proposal), April 30, 2025 (Full Proposal)

The Fisheries Restoration and Irrigation Mitigation Act (FRIMA) | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (fws.gov)

## Tips

- All applicants are required to submit a Proposal to NFPP Regional Coordinator by September 30, 2024 to be considered for funding.
- It is strongly suggested that all potential applicants work with the local Fish and Aquatic Conservation Program (FAC) staff to ensure that their project meets conservation needs.

**Department:** U.S. Department of Interior
**Agency:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

# FY 2024 Fisheries Restoration and Irrigation Mitigation Act (FRIMA)

## Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to provide awards for projects supporting the Fisheries Restoration and Irrigation Mitigation Act (FRIMA). The act was established with the goals of decreasing fish mortality associated with the withdrawal of water for irrigation and other purposes without impairing the continued withdrawal of water for those purposes, as well as decreasing the incidence of juvenile and adult fish entering water supply systems.

Awards provided for the implementation of FRIMA will support the development, improvement, or installation of fish screens, fish passage devices, and related features to mitigate impacts on fisheries associated with irrigation water system diversions in Pacific Ocean drainages in California, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. Eligible projects must involve voluntary irrigation diversion passage, screening, barrier inventories, and related features.

Projects will be expected to address, mitigate, or resolve limiting factors or otherwise contribute to the recovery or sustainability of priority species and their habitats. For the purposes of this program, priority species include federal trust species, regional priority species, species that may be considered tribal trust resources, and species of greatest conservation need, as defined in state wildlife action plans.

The extent to which the project is expected to enhance ecological resilience, including the capacity to recover from or persist through disturbances or changes, for species and habitats vulnerable to climate change and extreme weather events will be considered during the evaluation.

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are states, local governments, special districts, school districts, institutions of higher education, Native American tribal governments and organizations, public/Indian housing authorities, nonprofit organizations, and for-profit organizations and small businesses. Applicants must propose projects located in areas of California, Idaho, western Montana, Oregon, or Washington that drain into the Pacific Ocean.

Applicants must propose projects that are implemented in coordination with Fish and Aquatic Conservation Program (FAC) staff that work collaboratively with potential applicants to identify common conservation priorities.

## Funding

In FY 2024, an estimated $5 million is available to support an expected 5 to 25 awards ranging from $100,000 to $1 million through this program. Awards will primarily be provided as cooperative agreements; however

the funding agency may also use grant awards, procurement instruments, or Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units as the funding instrument.

Applicants must provide 35 percent of the total project costs via nonfederal cash and/or in-kind contributions. For the purposes of the cost-share requirement, any amounts provided by the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) directly or through a grant award to another entity for a project carried out under the program will be credited toward the nonfederal share of costs for the project. Awarded project components will be ineligible to receive federal funds from any other source, with the exception of BPA funds, for the same project purpose.

The anticipated award date is June 2, 2025. The project period is three years.

## Contact Information

Programmatic Technical Assistance Contact:
John Netto
(503) 724-8366
john_netto@fws.gov

Program Administration Assistance Contact:
Monica Randolph
(816) 377-1341
monica_randolph@fws.gov

The Fisheries Restoration and Irrigation Mitigation Act (FRIMA) | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (fws.gov)

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE

**Department:** Department of Interior
**Agency:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services

# FY 2025 Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act

## Grant Overview

This program provides funding to protect, restore, and enhance Great Lakes fish and wildlife habitat under the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act. Eligible applicants are states, local governments, special district governments, independent school districts, institutions of higher education, Native American tribal governments, nonprofit organizations, and for-profit organizations and small businesses.

## Program History

| | Total Funding | # of Awards |
|---|---|---|
| 2022 | $2.83 million | 12 |
| 2021 | $1.92 million | 8 |

## Key Information and Tips

**Total Funding:** $1,640,000
**Award Range:** $2,000 - $500,000
**Match:** 25 percent
**Solicitation Date:** November 8, 2024
**Proposal Due:** January 8, 2025

Eligibility is limited to proposed activities that are within the Great Lakes Basin or that impact a fish or wildlife species present in the Great Lakes Basin which includes the states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.

Click here for more information.

## Awardee Profile

University of Wisconsin – Madison, WI

AMOUNT: $206.067
YEAR: 2022

Regional Analysis of Species Recovery: American Marten Demography, Connectivity and Population Viability in a Recovery Network in the Upper Great Lakes Region. This project will provide new information on the abundance, vital rates, connectivity, and the first viability analysis for this recovery network across the Great Lakes region to inform state, tribal and federal land management decisions to enhance the connectivity and viability of these populations.

**Department:** Department of Interior
**Agency:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services

# FY 2025 Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act

## Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to encourage cooperative conservation, restoration, research, and management of the fish and wildlife resources and their habitats in the Great Lakes Basin. All projects must be consistent with the goals of the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act of 2022, and the recommendations of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration's Strategy to Restore and Protect the Great Lakes. The six goals of the Act are:

- Restoring and maintaining self-sustaining fish and wildlife resources
- Minimizing the impacts of contaminants on fishery and wildlife resources
- Protecting, maintaining and, where degraded and destroyed, restoring fish and wildlife habitat, including the enhancement and creation of wetlands that result in a net gain in the amount of those habitats
- Stopping illegal activities adversely impacting fishery and wildlife resources
- Restoring threatened and endangered species to viable, self-sustaining levels
- Protecting, managing, and conserving migratory birds

Applicants may submit research, restoration, or regional projects.

Construction and engineering costs are allowed for restoration projects that directly benefit fish and wildlife resources in the Great Lakes Basin. Equipment purchases are allowable for those items necessary to meet the stated project objectives.

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are states, local governments, special district governments, independent school districts, institutions of higher education, Native American tribal governments and organizations, nonprofit organizations, for-profit organizations, small businesses, and individuals.

The proposed activities must be within the Great Lakes Basin or impact a fish or wildlife species present in the Great Lakes Basin, which includes the states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. There is no limit on the number of research or restoration proposals or regional project proposals an applicant may submit.

## Funding

In FY 2025, approximately $1,640,000 in funding is available to support awards ranging from $2,000 to $500,000. The award ceiling of $500,000 applies only to the Regional Project full proposals. Restoration and research full proposal recommended award ceiling is $250,000.

## Matching and Cost Sharing

All proposals require a 25 percent cash or in-kind match of total project costs using non-federal sources. A non-federal match may be provided at any time during the 2-year period preceding January 1 of the year in which the applicant receives the restoration and/or research pre-proposal or Regional Project proposal.

## Contact Information

Rick Westerhof
(231) 282-2736
rick_westerhof@fws.gov

Click here for more information.

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE




**Department:** U.S. Department of Interior
**Agency:** Bureau of Land Management

# FY 2024 IRA Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Headquarters Aquatic Resource Management

## Grant Overview

This program protects and restores riparian and wetland areas, aquatic habitats, and water resources to provide functioning ecosystems for a combination of balanced and diverse uses including fish and wildlife, and for the long-term needs of future generations. This funding supports projects that build drought resilience in arid watersheds and/or restore healthy waters through implementing and/or increasing the BLM's ability to implement riverscape and wet meadow restoration. Eligible applicants are state, county, city or township governments; special district governments; independent school districts; institutions of higher education; Native American tribal governments/organizations (Federally recognized); public/Indian housing authorities; and nonprofits.

## Program History

This is no program history available at this time.

## Key Information

**Total Funding:** $2 million
**Award Range:** $1,000,000 - $2,000,000
**Match:** Not required
**Solicitation date**: May 8, 2024
**Proposal due:** July 8, 2024

https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/354104

## Tips

- Applicants are encouraged to contact the Aquatic Resources Program Lead at the BLM state, district, or field office where the work is proposed to take place to discuss proposed projects in order to determine eligibility under the BLM priorities and criteria described in this NOFO.
- All proposed projects submitted under this funding opportunity must state a benefit to the public.

**Department:** U.S. Department of Interior
**Agency:** Bureau of Land Management

# FY 2024 IRA Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Headquarters Aquatic Resource Management

## Detailed Summary

This program protects and restores riparian and wetland areas, aquatic habitats, and water resources to provide functioning ecosystems for a combination of balanced and diverse uses including fish and wildlife, and for the long-term needs of future generations. This funding supports projects that build drought resilience in aird watersheds and/or restore healthy waters through implementing and/or increasing the Bureau's ability to implement riverscape and wet meadow restoration. The goals of this funding opportunity include ensuring water availability to sustain healthy riparian and wetland areas aquatic habitats, and local communities; restoring degraded water resources, riparian and wetland areas, and aquatic habitats, with a focus on process-based approaches and promoting riverscape health; and advancing decision support models, and the inventory, assessment, and monitoring information that feeds such models, to inform the protection of remaining high quality habitats and the strategic restoration of degraded systems.

Core functions of this program include:

- Decision Support: Inventory, assess, and monitor aquatic resources to inform our understanding of condition and trend, guide the BLM's management activities, and assess regulatory compliance
- Protection: Maintain and protect the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of aquatic resources
- Restoration: Restore aquatic resources affected by past and present impacts, aquatic invasive species, wildfire, drought, and floods; and increase their resistance, resilience, and adaptability to the impacts of climate change
- Water Resource Sustainability: Identify the quantity and quality of water required to conserve and restore riparian and wetland areas and aquatic habitats and secure water rights and protections so sufficient water is physically and legally available for all public land management purposes
- Environmental Compliance: Ensure full compliance with applicable Federal law, Executive Orders, regulations, and policy and with state laws where such compliance does not conflict with Federal law mandates
- Collaboration: Coordinate, cooperate, and consult with Federal, State, tribal, and local governments and other programs, partners, and communities, to foster adaptive approaches to conservation and restoration and implement education and outreach programs

The BLM Aquatic Resources Program continues to advance the Department of the Interior's priorities to address the climate crisis, restore balance on public lands and waters, advance environmental justice, and invest in a clean energy future. Specific focus to implement the Department priorities include, but are not

limited to those actions that: protect biodiversity; restore aquatic resources; increase resistance, resilience, and adaptability to climate change and help leverage natural climate solutions; contribute to conserving at least 30 percent of our lands and waters by the year 2030; engage communities of color, low income families, and rural and indigenous communities to enhance economic opportunities related to aquatics; and use the best science and data available to make decisions.

All proposed projects submitted under this funding opportunity must state a benefit to the public.

The funding agency will work with partner organizations to assist with:
• Prioritizing, designing, coordinating, and implementing riverscape and wet meadow restoration across multiple states
• Improving assessments of restoration effectiveness

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are state, county, local, and special district governments; school districts; institutions of higher education; Native American tribal governments; nonprofits; and public housing authorities. Eligible applicants are state, county, city or township governments; special district governments; independent school districts; institutions of higher education; Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized); public housing authorities/ Indian housing authorities; nonprofits; and private institutions of higher education.

## Funding

In FY 2024, approximately $2 million is available to support an estimated two awards between $1,000,000 and $2,000,000 through this program. The award period is five years.

## Matching and Cost-Sharing

Cost sharing or matching is not required for this program; however, a voluntary cost share is strongly encouraged.

## Contact Information

Irene Sattler
isattler@blm.gov

https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/354104

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE

**Department:** U.S. Department of Interior
**Agency:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

# FY 2025 National Fish Passage Program

## Grant Overview

The purpose of this program is to provide technical and financial assistance to partners to remove instream barriers and restore aquatic connectivity, improve community safety, and support local economies. Eligible applicants include state, local, and special district governments; independent school districts; institutions of higher education; tribal governments and organizations; housing authorities; nonprofits, small businesses; for-profit organizations; and individuals.

## Program History

| Year | Total Funding | # of Awards |
|---|---|---|
| 2023 | $9.2 million | 150 |
| 2022 | $38 million | 40 |

## Key Information and Tips

**Total Funding:** Up to $10 million
**Match:** Not required
**Solicitation date**: September 3, 2025
**Proposal due:** December 31, 2025

https://www.fws.gov/program/national-fish-passage

## Awardee Profile

Kenai Peninsula Borough, AK

AMOUNT: $780,000
YEAR: 2023

This project will replace a culvert on Tyonek Creek near the Native Village of Tyonek, A Dena'ina Athabascan community in remote western Cook Inlet, Alaska. This project benefits Coho and pink salmon, both vitally important environmentally, economically, culturally and as a subsistence resource.

**Department:** U.S. Department of Interior
**Agency:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

# FY 2025 National Fish Passage Program

## Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to provide technical and financial assistance to partners to remove instream barriers and restore aquatic connectivity, improve community safety, and support local economies. Aquatic connectivity promotes adaptation and resilience by enabling aquatic species to adapt, disperse, and adjust to changes in the quality and distribution of habitats, including shifts in habitats and in species geographic ranges. Fish passage projects benefit communities by reducing flood risk, improving recreational opportunities, and improving roads while supporting native fish populations and aquatic ecosystems. NFPP project examples include:

- Dam removals
- Culvert replacements
- Floodplain restoration
- Installation of fishways

The goal of the NFPP is to restore ecological connectivity of the Nation's aquatic systems to the maximum extent possible to reconnect fluvial and tidal processes that enable native fish and other aquatic organisms to access a full range of habitat types to meet their life history needs seasonally and annually.

Fish passage projects aim to restore flows, processes, and aquatic species movement by fully or partially removing barriers or providing effective means of bypassing them. The program works on a voluntary basis with Federal, State, local, and Tribal governments, as well as private partners and stakeholders.

Certified Local Governments are encouraged to prioritize projects in support of the celebration of America’s 250th birthday (American250). This may include, but is not limited to, preservation planning, interpretation, public engagement, and rehabilitation projects that recognize and honor the nation’s founding, history, and cultural heritage.

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants include state, local, and special district governments; independent school districts; institutions of higher education; tribal governments and organizations; housing authorities; nonprofits, small businesses; for-profit organizations; and individuals.

## Funding Details

In FY 2025, approximately $10,000,000 is available to support approximately 100 awards up to $1,000,000.

## Cost Sharing and Matching

Matching funds are not required for this program. However, the funder may give preference to projects leveraging partner support. The program strives for an overall 1:1 partner match, which may include both in-

kind and financial resources. A strength of the program is the ability to develop partnerships to leverage technical and financial assistance to maximize conservation resources and benefits to native aquatic species.

## Contact Information

Thomas McCann
thomas_mccann@fws.gov

https://www.fws.gov/program/national-fish-passage

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE

**Department:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

# FY 2025 North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) Small Grants Program

## Grant Overview

The NAWCA Small Grants Program aims to support projects that involve the long-term protection, restoration, and/or enhancement of wetlands and associated uplands habitats for the benefit of all wetlands-associated migratory birds. Eligible applicants include State and local governments, special district governments, independent school districts, institutions of higher education, Native American tribal governments, nonprofits, and small businesses.

## Program History

Program History not available for this program

## Key Information and Tips

**Total Funding:** $5 million
**Award Range:** $1,000 - $250,000
**Match:** 50 percent
**Solicitation Date**: July 25, 2024
**Proposal Due:** October 10, 2024

https://www.fws.gov/service/north-american-wetlands-conservation-act-nawca-grants-us-small-program

### Awardee Profile

Ducks Unlimited

AMOUNT: $75,000
YEAR: 2022

Ducks Unlimited was awarded funding for the acquisition of 160 acres in South Dakota for the conservation and enhancement of wetlands of migratory birds.

# FY 2025 North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) Small Grants Program

## Detailed Summary

The goal of the NAWCA Small Grants Program is to promote partnerships between public agencies and groups interested in:

- Long-term protection, restoration, and/or enhancement of wetlands and associated uplands habitats for the benefit of all wetlands-associated migratory birds
- Maintaining and improving the current distributions of wetlands-associated migratory bird populations
- Maintaining an abundance of waterfowl (ducks, geese, and swans) and other populations of wetlands-associated migratory birds

The Small Grants Program contributes to efforts to support climate resilience, leverage partnerships, and support land conservation and biodiversity efforts.

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants include State and local governments, special district governments, independent school districts, institutions of higher education, Native American tribal governments, nonprofits, and small businesses.

## Funding

In FY 2025, an estimated $5 million is available to support an unspecified number of awards ranging from $1,000 to $250,000.

The expected award date is July 1, 2025.

## Matching and Cost Share

This program requires at least a one-to-one match via nonfederal cash and/or in-kind contributions.

Each grant and match dollar, except for indirect costs, must be linked to an acre acquired, restored, enhanced, and/or established.

## Contact Information

Program Technical Contact

Stacy Sanchez
703-358-2017
Stacy_Sanchez@fws.gov

Program Administration Contact

Rodecia Davis
703-358-2266
Rodecia_Davis@fws.gov

https://www.fws.gov/service/north-american-wetlands-conservation-act-nawca-grants-us-small

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE




**Department:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

# FY 2025 North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) Standard Grants Program

## Grant Overview

The NAWCA Standard Grants Program aims to support projects that involve the long-term protection, restoration, and/or enhancement of wetlands and associated uplands habitats for the benefit of all wetlands-associated migratory birds. Eligible applicants include State and local governments, special district governments, independent school districts, institutions of higher education, Native American tribal governments, nonprofits, and small businesses.

## Program History

| | Total funding | Number of Awards |
|---|---|---|
| 2023 | $50 million | 30 |
| 2022 | $31 million | 23 |

## Key Information and Tips

**Total Funding:** $50 million
**Award Range:** $250,000 - $3 million
**Match:** One-to-one
**Solicitation Date**: December 18, 2023
**Proposal Due:** February 23, 2024

https://www.fws.gov/service/north-american-wetlands-conservation-act-nawca-grants-us-standard

## Awardee Profile

Open Space Institute (OSI)

AMOUNT: $2,000,000
YEAR: 2022

OSI was awarded funding to permanently protect 2,340 acres of strategic wetlands on the northern coast of South Carolina, specifically expansive Santee River floodplain wetlands, known as the Santee River Wilderness Corridor, in the Santee Focus Area and Carolina Bay habitat, expanding the Cartwheel Bay Heritage Preserve in the Little Pee Dee/Lumber Focus Area of the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture.

**Department:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

# FY 2025 North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) Standard Grants Program

## Detailed Summary

The NAWCA Standard Grants Program aims to support projects that involve the long-term protection, restoration, and/or enhancement of wetlands and associated uplands habitats for the benefit of all wetlands-associated migratory birds. This program supports the Department of Interior and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service mission of protecting and managing the nation's natural resources by collaborating with partners and stakeholders to conserve land and water and to expand outdoor recreation and access. Also, this program contributes to efforts to reduce climate pollution, support climate resilience, support land conservation and biodiversity efforts and leverage partnerships.

Funding under this program may be used to support the following activities:

- Land Acquisition
- Wetland Restoration
- Wetland Enhancement
- Wetland Establishment
- Prescribed Burn Activities
- Infrastructure
- Other Direct Long-Term Wetland Conservation Work

The program promotes partnership projects that must involve:

- Only long-term protection, restoration, enhancement and/or establishment of wetland and associated upland habitats to benefit diversity of wetland ecosystems
- Maintaining an abundance of waterfowl (ducks, geese, and swans) and other populations of wetlands-associated migratory birds consistent with the objectives of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan, Waterbird Conservation Plan for the Americas, and Partners in Flight Bird Conservation Plan.

Projects should demonstrate the following qualities:

- Meet the national and regional objectives of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP), the Partners in Flight (PIF) plan, the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan (USSCP), and the North American Waterbird Conservation Plan (NAWCP)
- Include partners involved in wetlands conservation
- Contain adequate wetlands-associated uplands to buffer, protect wetlands, and meet the needs of wetlands-associated wildlife
- Have a specifically defined boundary that includes tracts in a geographic area affected by awarded funds and partner funds, sites that are part of a wetlands conservation plan, sites in the same

wetlands system, sites that are managed to meet the same wetlands objectives, sites that are in proximity, and/or sites that provide direct benefits to each other
- Include public access on acquired lands to the extent that it is compatible with long-term conservation of fish and wildlife dependent on the area

Applicants for projects that involve multiple sites that are not specifically identified must provide an explanation of the method that will be used for selecting these sites.

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants include State and local governments, special district governments, independent school districts, institutions of higher education, Native American tribal governments, nonprofits, and small businesses.

Projects must include partners that are involved in wetlands conservation. Partner categories include state agencies, non-governmental conservation organizations, local governments, private landowners, profit-making corporations, Native American governments or associations, federal agencies, and/or other partner groups. Projects that include partners from more than one category will receive additional points during the application evaluation process.

Each project must have a designated project officer who is affiliated with the award recipient's organization and knowledgeable about the biological, partnership, and administrative aspects of the application.

If a new application requests funding for the same, ongoing work that was accomplished by a previously phased project, the applicant may request that the subsequent award be a continuation and expansion of the same award agreement, provided that the original award agreement is no more than 24 months old by the current, applicable proposal deadline. No more than two new proposals may be added to an existing award agreement, and these projects cannot extend for more than six years.

## Funding

In FY 2025, an estimated $50 million is available to support an unspecified number of awards ranging from $250,000 to $3 million through this program. Projects must involve work that has been completed within the past two years or can be completed in two years.

## Matching and Cost Share

This program requires at least a one-to-one match via nonfederal cash and/or in-kind contributions.

Applicants that provide a match greater than the minimum required amount will receive additional points during the proposal evaluation process. In addition, projects that include partners providing at least 10 percent of the funding request will receive additional points during the proposal evaluation process. The contributions of multiple private landowners cannot be lumped to achieve the 10 percent match.

Matching contributions must be no more than two years old. In general, eligible and ineligible types of matching contributions will correspond to eligible and ineligible uses of awarded funds; however, the following ineligible project costs may be eligible as a match under certain circumstances:

- Stewardship costs

- Monitoring or evaluation costs
- Proposal planning and development costs, including experiments, studies, or other investigations
- Interest on a loan
- Administrative salary costs incurred prior to award execution and after the project period
- Costs related to the enrollment of participants in other federal conservation programs

## Contact Information

Program Technical Contact

Stacy Sanchez
703-358-2017
Stacy_Sanchez@fws.gov

Program Administration Contact

Justin Markey
703-358-2007
Justin_markey@fws.gov

https://www.fws.gov/service/north-american-wetlands-conservation-act-nawca-grants-us-standard

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE

**Department:** U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI)
**Agency:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

# FY 2025 Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) Program

## Grant Overview

This program creates partnerships to help people and communities while supporting fish, wildlife, and their habitats. Eligible applicants are state, county, city or township, and special district governments; independent school districts; public, private, and state controlled institutions of higher education; Native American tribal governments (federally and non-federally recognized); public housing authorities/Indian housing authorities; nonprofit organizations (with or without 501(c)(3) status); individuals; for-profit organizations; and small businesses.

## Program History

| | Total Funding | # of Awards |
|---|---|---|
| 2024 | $15 million | 500 |

## Key Information and Tips

**Total Funding:** $15 million
**Award Range:** Up to $750,000
**Match:** Not required
**Proposal due:** Rolling from January 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025

- To be considered for funding in FY 2025, applications must be submitted before May 30, 2025.
- Applicants are required to contact their local PFW Program office before developing or submitting an application.

https://www.fws.gov/program/partners-fish-and-wildlife

## Awardee Profile

Merrill Creek Reservoir (MCR)
Warren County, NJ

AMOUNT: Unspecified
YEAR: 2024

MCR received funding for an ongoing project to restore 175 acres of native habitat through forest stand improvement, native grassland management, and creation of pollinator gardens. Work will continue in upcoming years to improve riparian habitat and wetlands that could potentially support bog turtle (Glyptemis muhlenbergii), a federally threatened species.

**Department:** U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI)
**Agency:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

# FY 2025 Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) Program

## Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to create partnerships to help people and communities while supporting fish, wildlife, and their habitats. It provides technical help and financial support, mostly through cooperative agreements with private landowners. This support aims to restore and conserve fish and wildlife habitats for the benefit of federal trust resources.

Program goals include:

- Species Conservation: The program works on habitat projects in specific areas to help protect species at risk. This includes federally listed species, Birds of Conservation Concern, pollinators, and interjurisdictional fish. The goal is to improve the conservation status of these species of concern.
- Habitat Connectivity: The program connects habitats to make them better for wildlife. Connected habitats and migration paths are vital for fish and wildlife. These projects can also support other conservation efforts, like National Wildlife Refuges and other protected lands.
- Resilient Ecosystems: The program aims to make ecosystems healthier and more resilient for fish, wildlife, plants, and people. The program works with different partners to take action that helps ecosystems be more resilient to change and benefit communities that depend on them.

To find lists of priority species and focus areas, you can contact your local PFW Program office by visiting here.

Each project has specific goals and activities outlined in an approved agreement. This agreement includes the scope of work, budget, and notice of award. A project's success will be measured by whether it meets the goals described in the agreement.

Projects meeting the factors below will be considered for program funding, based on annual funding appropriations. Projects must meet at least one of the factors below to be considered:

- Contributes toward achievement of one or more of the PFW Program strategic plan goals.
- Benefits federal trust species, regional priority species and other species of conservation concern to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service).
- Restores ecological integrity of habitat on lands with Farm Service Agency (FSA) conservation easements or that FSA has transferred in fee title to the Service.
- Implements a priority action/conservation strategy identified in a national/regional/state conservation plan or initiative including but not limited to the following: State Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy, State Wildlife Action Plan, Landscape Conservation Cooperative Science Plan, National Fish Habitat Plan, DOI or U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Initiative.
- Supports the objectives of other Service plans and programs, including, but not limited to, the National Wildlife Refuge System; Ecological Services and Fisheries program strategic plans; the National Invasive Species Management Plan; threatened and endangered species recovery plans;

Coastal Program management plans; fisheries management and restoration plans; ecosystem management plans; U.S. Migratory Bird Joint Ventures strategic plans and associated waterfowl, shorebird and land-bird conservation plans/initiatives; and other landscape habitat plans and assessments.

- Reflects the application of the most biologically sound and cost-effective techniques based on state-of-the-art methodologies and adaptive management.
- Improves capacity to achieve priority program goals and/or leverages non-federal funding partners.
- Promotes habitat conservation and stewardship of private lands and encourages voluntary public participation in on-the-ground conservation efforts.
- Broadens public understanding of fish and wildlife, habitat functions, and restoration techniques, and of the benefits derived from improved fish and wildlife habitat.

If all other considerations are equal, priority for funding will be given to projects that have a greater longevity, involve higher monetary and non-monetary partner contributions, and are the most cost-effective.

This program seeks projects year-round. Program staff work with applicants to find common conservation goals. All interested applicants are required to contact their local PFW staff before submitting an application.

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are state, county, city or township, and special district governments; independent school districts; public, private, and state controlled institutions of higher education; Native American tribal governments (federally and nonfederally recognized); public housing authorities/Indian housing authorities; nonprofit organizations (with or without 501(c)(3) status); individuals; for-profit organizations; and small businesses.

The PFW Program can reject projects that do not fit with regional plans or priorities. To get funding, PFW projects must be on private lands.

"Private lands" means any property not owned by the state or federal government. This includes tribal lands, Hawaiian homelands, cities, municipalities, non-governmental properties, and private properties. Groups with 501(c)(3) status should have proof of their status from the Internal Revenue Service. Tribal applicants may be required to provide an authorizing tribal resolution.

## Funding

In FY 2025, an estimated $15 million is available to support an expected 500 awards of up to $750,000 through this program.

The earliest anticipated project start date is January 1, 2025. Projects are initiated and funded throughout the year as opportunities arise and partnerships are formed. The anticipated project end date is September 30, 2029.

## Matching and Cost Sharing

Matching funds are not required for this program; however, the funding agency strives to achieve a one-to-one cost share on selected projects via cash or in-kind contributions.

## Contact Information

Andreas Moshogianis
andreas_moshogianis@fws.gov

https://www.fws.gov/program/partners-fish-and-wildlife

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE




**Department:** U.S. Department of Interior
**Agency:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

# FY 2025 Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue and Response Grant Program

## Grant Overview

The purpose of this program is to support the recovery, care, or treatment of sick, injured, or entangled marine mammals; respond to marine mammal stranding events that require emergency assistance; collect data and samples from living or dead stranded marine mammals for scientific research or assessments regarding marine mammal health; support facility operating costs that are directly related to such activities; and support the development of stranding network capacity, including training for emergency response, where facilities do not exist or are sparse. Eligible applicants include: marine mammal stranding participant entities; state, local, or eligible federal governments; or tribal personnel operating in the course of their official duties.

## Program History

| | Total Funding | # of Awards |
|---|---|---|
| 2024 | $4 million | 37 |
| 2023 | $2.162 million | 17 |
| 2022 | $1.137 million | 15 |

## Key Information

**Total Funding:** $1.1 million
**Award Range:** Up to $150,000
**Match:** 25%
**Solicitation date**: January 13, 2025
**Proposal due:** March 14, 2025

https://www.fws.gov/service/john-h-prescott-marine-mammal-rescue-and-response-grant-program

## Awardee Profile

Seward Association for the Advancement of Marine Science, AK

Year: 2024

Amount: $106,034

The Seward Association for the Advancement of Marine Science was awarded funding to support Wildlife Response Operations and Training Remote Responders in Alaska.

**Department:** U.S. Department of Interior
**Agency:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

# FY 2025 Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue and Response Grant Program

## Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to support the recovery, care, or treatment of sick, injured, or entangled marine mammals; respond to marine mammal stranding events that require emergency assistance; collect data and samples from living or dead stranded marine mammals for scientific research or assessments regarding marine mammal health; support facility operating costs that are directly related to such activities; and support the development of stranding network capacity, including training for emergency response, where facilities do not exist or are sparse.

This program is also intended to help foster the funding agency's relationship with partners that are closest to the resources by providing needed support for their response efforts. These efforts, in turn, may provide information important to the funding agency's management of these trust resources, as well as enhance the scientific database and knowledge of their needs in order to improve efforts to rescue, treat, rehabilitate, and release these species back to the wild.

Proposals must address at least one of the species-specific priorities identified for the current grant cycle as it pertains to species under the authority of the Department of the Interior (i.e., West Indian manatees, sea otters, Pacific walruses, and polar bears) within waters of the United States. An applicant may submit up to two project proposals. Each project must be completely independent in their objectives, goals, and budget requests. A single proposal may address more than one species, but the proposal(s) still must address at least one species-specific priority per species identified in the proposal(s). If more than one priority is identified, list first the priority that most accurately reflects the main objectives of the proposal.

Priority will be given to projects focusing on marine mammal strandings. The funding agency may also consider:

- Equitable distribution within the program's stranding regions
- Any episodic stranding, entanglement, or mortality events, except for unusual mortality events, that occurred in any stranding region in the preceding year
- Any data with respect to average annual stranding, entanglements, and mortality events per stranding region
- The size of the marine mammal populations inhabiting a stranding region
- The importance of the region’s marine mammal populations to the well-being of Indigenous communities
- The conservation of protected, depleted, threatened, or endangered marine mammal species

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are entities that meet one of the following requirements:

- Marine mammal stranding participant entities in good standing, which are entities authorized under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) Section 104(c) for response to injured or distressed marine mammals or scientific research regarding marine mammal health, or under MMPA Section 112(c) to take marine mammals as described in MMPA Section 109(h) in response to a stranding
- State, local, or eligible federal government or tribal personnel operating in the course of their official duties

Applicants are encouraged to describe, in detail, all cooperative efforts among their existing partnerships. These efforts may include in-kind contributions, shared resources/equipment, and/or monetary donations in relationship to the marine mammals identified in the application. All cooperative efforts described in the application will be considered during the application evaluation process.

## Funding

In FY 2025, an estimated $1.12 million is expected to be available to support approximately 12 grants ranging from $1,000 to $150,000 through this program. The expected award amount is $83,000.

Awards are expected to be issued on July 1, 2024, or approximately 120 days after the application due date.

Project periods may be up to three years.

Awards will be distributed, to the greatest extent practicable, equitably among the designated stranding regions. The program's four stranding regions are Alaska, California, the Pacific Northwest, and the South Atlantic-Gulf.

## Matching and Cost Sharing

Applicants must provide at least 25 percent of the total project costs via nonfederal cash and/or in-kind contributions. Third-party, in-kind contributions will be accepted. Proposed matching contributions in excess of 25 percent will become mandatory.

## Contact Information

Program Staff

Patrick McKenney
(703) 358-2341
fws_es_grants@fws.gov

https://www.fws.gov/service/john-h-prescott-marine-mammal-rescue-and-response-grant-program

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE




**Department:** U.S. Department of Interior
**Agency:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

# FY 2024 Recovery Implementation Program

## Grant Overview

The purpose of this program is to support the implementation of priority recovery actions for federally endangered and threatened species. Eligible applicants are state, county, city, township, and special district governments, independent school districts, public, state-controlled, and private institutions of higher education, federally recognized and nonfederally recognized Native American tribal governments, public housing authorities/Indian housing authorities, nonprofit organizations, both with and without 501(c)(3) designation, and for-profit organizations, including small businesses.

## Program History

There is no available award history for this program.

## Key Information and Tips

**Total Funding:** $14 million
**Award Range:** $1,000 - $2 million
**Match:** Not required
**Solicitation date**: October 18, 2023
**Proposal due:** September 30, 2024

https://www.fws.gov/program/recovery

## Tips

- Highest priority will be given to projects that develop and implement management actions designed to have a direct impact on recovery of listed species (e.g., reduce or eliminate threats).

**Department:** U.S. Department of Interior
**Agency:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

# FY 2024 Recovery Implementation Program

## Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to support the implementation of priority recovery actions for federally endangered and threatened species. This includes working with partners, using a range of conservation tools to "recover" endangered species to ensure that they are able to survive on their own in the wild. These tools include restoring habitat, removing invasive species, conducting surveys, monitoring individual populations, and breeding species in captivity to release them into their historic range. Collaborative efforts are critical to recovery success. Partners include many state and local agencies, tribal governments, conservation organizations, the business community, landowners, and other concerned citizens. The Endangered Species Act (ESA) conveys the importance of recovery plans as a central organizing tool for guiding each species' recovery process by requiring their development for every listed species. Recovery plans establish an overall recovery vision that, among other things:

1. Defines the point at which protections under the ESA are no longer needed
2. Identifies and prioritizes the most effective and feasible suite of recovery actions that will promote species survival and recovery
3. Provides the public and policy makers with an overall estimate of the time and cost to recover species, and the ability to measure success and resources needs, and 4. Aids the Service in working with others to improve the status for imperiled species.

Proposals will be prioritized based on the following:

1. Enhance partnerships with states, non-governmental organizations, private landowners, other Federal agencies, and others
2. Leverage the funding agency's resources and authorities with those of agency partners
3. Highest priority will be given to projects that develop and implement management actions designed to have a direct impact on recovery of listed species (e.g., reduce or eliminate threats). Examples of such projects may include the following:
    a. Stabilize endangered and threatened species on the brink of extinction by accomplishing Priority 1 and 2 Recovery Actions.
    b. Achieve downlisting and delisting criteria by accomplishing Priority 3 Recovery Actions.
    c. Contribute information on the species' current condition, changes from historical to current condition, or predict the species' response to environmental conditions or conservation efforts. d. Reduce the extinction risk to the species, such that the future condition of the species is likely to improve in terms of representation, resiliency, and/or redundancy.

Eligible project activities include:

1. Implementing activities that conserve the species diversity as represented by genetic, geographic, or life-history variation, which conserve the species' adaptive capacity

2. Implementing activities that improve demographic factors such as abundance, survival, productivity, and population growth rate, which enhance the species' ability to withstand stochastic disturbance events and persist at the population or meta-population scale
3. Implementing activities that improve spatial structure, such as increased distributional extent and connectivity between populations, which minimizes the species' risk to catastrophic events
4. Assessing the current condition of the species' population structure, distribution, abundance, demographic rates, diversity (ecological, genetic, life-history), and habitat
5. Assessing changes from the historical to current condition
6. Explaining the causes and effects of stressors and conservation efforts that have resulted in the current condition
7. Predicting the species' response to a range of plausible future scenarios of environmental conditions and conservation efforts.

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are state governments, county governments, city or township governments, special district governments, independent school districts, public and state controlled institutions of higher education, federally recognized Native American tribal governments, public housing authorities/Indian housing authorities, Native American tribal organizations (other than federally recognized tribal governments), nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education, nonprofits without 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education, private institutions of higher education, individuals, for-profit organization other than small businesses, small businesses, others, and unrestricted (open to any type of entity above.)

Applicants are expected to have demonstrated knowledge and understanding of the biology of the involved endangered or threatened species and their ecosystem, including preferably having worked with the species and holding a currently valid Endangered Species Act permit, issued by the Service, authorizing them to work with these species (or that have previously held a permit to do so). If funding is awarded, applicants that do not currently hold a valid permit for the proposed activity may need to apply for and obtain a Service permit before beginning the proposed activity. For more information about the permit requirements, please visit our Ecological Services Program's permit website at https://fws.gov/service/permits.

The applicant's participation as a CESU member must be verified by reviewing the current regional CESU agreement found at http://www.cesu.psu.edu/ if the applicant is requesting the use of the CESU 17.5% indirect rate. These awards must be issued as Cooperative Agreements.

## Funding

In FY 2024, an estimated $14 million is available to support an unspecified number of awards, as the number of awards through this program varies by region. Award amounts range from $1,000 to $2,000,000 through this program.

The expected award date for this program is February 28, 2024.

There are two funding instrument types through this program:

- Grants
- Cooperative Agreements

Under a cooperative agreement, there is a participatory relationship between the Service and the recipient during the award, with shared performance responsibilities. Examples of activities qualifying as substantial Service involvement:

- Participate and collaborate jointly with the recipient in carrying out the scope of work, including training recipient personnel or detailing Federal personnel to work on the project effort.
- Review and approve one stage of work before the next stage can begin.
- Help select project staff.
- Reserve the right to halt activity if detailed performance specifications are not met immediately.

Limit recipient discretion with respect to the scope of work, organizational structure, staffing, mode of operations, and other management processes, coupled with close monitoring or operational involvement during performance under the award. Substantial Service involvement does not include:

- awarding funds,
- assigning a project officer,
- reviewing and approving reports,
- processing payments,
- monitoring to ensure the project is completed on time or performing any other routine administrative or monitoring activities.

## Matching and Cost Sharing

Matching funds are not required for this program. However, projects should show how they enhance partnerships with states, non-profit organizations, private landowners, and others, and leverage our resources and authorities with those of our partners.

## Contact Information

Program Technical Contact:
Patrick McKenney
FWS_ES_GRANTS@fws.gov

Applicants should contact their regional office for their agency contact.

https://www.fws.gov/program/recovery

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE

**Department:** U.S. Department of the Interior
**Agency:** National Park Service

# FY 2026 Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program

## Grant Overview

The purpose of this program is to support community-led natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation projects across the nation. Eligible applicants are community groups and nonprofit organizations, tribal governments, national parks, and local, state, and federal agencies.

## Program History

In 2023, the program assisted more than 350 communities across the United States to improve parks, establish trails, access rivers, and protect special places.

## Key Information and Tips

**Total Funding:** Unspecified
**Match:** Not required
**Proposal due:** March 1, 2026

- Prior to submitting an application, applicants must contact the appropriate regional program manager to discuss the proposed project and the application process.
- Rather than providing monetary funds, this program provides technical assistance from National Park Service staff.

https://www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/index.htm

## Awardee Profile

City of High Point, NC

YEAR: 2022

The National Park Service will assist in facilitating the development of a master plan for the Deep River Blueway as well as coordinating a blueway maintenance and safety training workshop for the City of High Point's staff.

**Department:** U.S. Department of the Interior
**Agency:** National Park Service

# FY 2026 Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program

## Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to support community-led natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation projects across the nation. Rather than providing monetary awards, this program will partner the funding agency's conservation and recreation planning professionals with award recipients to help local communities realize their conservation and outdoor recreation visions and goals by providing a broad range of services and skills.

Projects typically fall under one of the following focus areas; however, the funding agency will consider other projects that fall outside of these focus areas:

- Build healthy communities through parks, trails, and outdoor opportunities: improve access to outdoor recreation and park amenities on land and water that support healthy lifestyles for all users
- Conserve natural lands, rivers, and watersheds: strengthen the conservation and stewardship of public lands, waterways, and wildlife habitat
- Engage youth in outdoor recreation and stewardship: connect young people to the outdoors to develop a lifelong appreciation of recreation and nature
- Strengthen the organizational capacity of project partners: develop and strengthen effective and sustainable community organizations and partner groups
- Support the funding agency and community networks: facilitate strategic planning and collaboration between national parks and communities to achieve shared goals

Examples of the types of assistance provided through this program include:

- Defining project vision and goals
- Inventory and mapping community resources
- Identifying and analyzing key issues and opportunities
- Engaging collaborative partners and stakeholders
- Designing community outreach and participation strategies
- Developing concept plans for trails, parks, and natural areas
- Setting priorities and building consensus
- Identifying funding strategies
- Developing a sustainable organizational framework to support the project
- Creating project management and strategic action plans
- Coaching teams, groups, and partnership networks

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are state, local, or federal government agencies, tribal governments, nonprofit organizations, community groups, and national parks.

Applicants must submit commitment letters from three or more project partners, and describe in the application each partner's role, responsibility, and contribution to the project. During the application evaluation process, the funding agency will consider whether the roles and contributions of the project partners are significant and well-defined, and whether there is evidence of broad community support for the project.

## Funding

Rather than providing monetary awards, this program will partner the funding agency's conservation and recreation planning professionals with award recipients to help local communities realize their conservation and outdoor recreation visions and goals by providing a broad range of services and skills.

Project start times will be coordinated with applicants who have been selected for assistance. Assistance will be provided on an annual basis with extensions based on mutual agreement.

## Matching and Cost Sharing

There are no stated matching requirements for this program; however, applicants must describe in their application any resources that they or their partners will be contributing to the project.

## Contact Information

Interested applicants must reach out to the appropriate state program manager to discuss the proposed project and current application process. Contact information is available here.

https://www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/index.htm

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE

**Department:** U.S. Department of Interior
**Agency:** Bureau of Reclamation

# FY 2025 Water Conservation Field Services Program Financial Assistance

## Grant Overview

This program provides funding for the planning, prioritizing, demonstrating technology/projects, and design of projects that conserve and use water more efficiently; mitigate conflict risk in areas at a high risk of future water conflict; and accomplish other benefits that contribute to sustainability in the Western U.S. Eligible applicants are states, Indian tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, and other organizations with water or power delivery authority located within the Lower Colorado Basin which includes Arizona and select areas of California and Nevada, Hawaii; and the territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

## Program History

| | Total Funding | # of Awards |
|---|---|---|
| 2024 | $700,000 | 12 |

## Key Information and Tips

**Total Funding:** $500,000
**Award Range:** Up to $100,000
**Match:** 50 percent
**Solicitation date**: November 6, 2024
**Proposal due:** February 3, 2025

- Reclamation can provide technical assistance after award of the project; however, it must be accounted for in the budget.
- Awards anticipated April 2025

Water Conservation | Bureau of Reclamation (usbr.gov)

## Awardee Profile

City of Mesa, Mesa, AZ

AMOUNT: $100,000
YEAR: 2019

The city will do a demonstration project to determine the use of software that analyzes water use and data through aerial imagery will help monitor and analyze water use at city parks and retention basins. The City will develop a program to use the software for landscaping at homeowner's association and other city properties.

**Department:** U.S. Department of Interior
**Agency:** Bureau of Reclamation

# FY 2025 Water Conservation Field Services Program Financial Assistance

## Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to provide funding for the planning, prioritizing, demonstrating technology / projects, and design of projects that conserve and use water more efficiently; mitigate conflict risk in areas at a high risk of future water conflict; and accomplish other benefits that contribute to sustainability in the Western U.S. Applicants should leverage existing funding and resources by cost-sharing water conservation planning activities with Reclamation to make more efficient use of existing water supplies.

Projects should address one of the following task component areas:

- Water Management and Conservation Planning: Provide an entities an opportunity to document data on current water supply and demand, prepare a forecast for future water demands, identify water conservation goals, and determine conservation measures (e.g., cost/pricing of water, water accounting, landscape efficiency, information and education, water use regulation, etc.). Priority is given to an entity having a water delivery contract in the Lower Colorado Basin that is required to develop a water conservation plan.
- System Optimization Review: A System Optimization Review (SOR) is a review of an applicant's water delivery system and processes. The SOR assesses the potential for water management improvements and identifies a plan of action containing recommendations for implementing specific improvements that have the potential to enhance water management. Eligible activities include gathering information, identifying, describing, and prioritizing water management issues, and identifying, evaluating, and prioritizing potential improvement projects with the aim to mitigate the identified deficiencies and accomplish targeted goals.
- Designing Water Management Improvements: Provides funding for the design of previously identified water management improvement projects such as pipelines, canal lining, water measurement structures, or other improvement projects that enhance water management. This includes necessary preliminary tasks needed to prepare a design such as surveying and acquiring pertinent site specific. Eligible subtasks under this activity also include peer-review for the design, cost estimate preparation, including cost scoping for regulatory compliance activities, and identification of necessary regulatory requirements.
- Demonstrating Conservation Project Technologies: Funding for activities that include the installation or application of a particular technology in an innovative way, or in a unique setting, with the intent of sharing the results with others for possible adoption. The activity should demonstrate innovative technologies in water conservation that increase technical understanding of unfamiliar water management and practices that have not been previously used locally. In order to qualify as a demonstration project, the applicant must not have conducted any portion of the proposed project or used the technology in the past or plan to conduct a large portion/phase of the project as a demonstration project.

Proposals for the development of planning studies, on-the-ground construction activities, and projects focused on normal operations, maintenance and replacement are not eligible for funding under this program.

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are states, Indian tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, and other organizations with water or power delivery authority located within the Lower Colorado Basin including southern California, Nevada, and Arizona, or the State of Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

## Funding

In FY 2025, an estimated $500,000 in funding is available to support approximately 5 awards of up to $100,000 through this program. For all projects, the duration from start to completion is generally two years.

## Matching and Cost Sharing

Applicants must provide at least 50 percent of the total project costs via nonfederal cash or in-kind contributions or donations. Contributions may be provided by the applicant or by third-party partners. Contributions from sources outside the applicant's organizations should be secured and available to the applicant prior to award.

## Contact Information

Program Staff
Ken Isakson
kisakson@usbr.gov
725.232.5386

Water Conservation | Bureau of Reclamation (usbr.gov)

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE

**Department:** U.S. Department of Interior
**Agency:** Bureau of Reclamation

# FY 2025 WaterSMART Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Projects

## Grant Overview

WaterSMART Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Projects provide funding for the restoration and protection of aquatic ecosystems. Eligible applicants are states, tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, and other organizations with water or power delivery authority located in Reclamation States, including entities and organizations that own a dam that is eligible for upgrade, modification, or removal. Nonprofit conservation organizations working in partnership with the entities listed above or that notify entities listed above are also eligible to apply.

## Program History

| | Total Funding | # of Awards |
|---|---|---|
| 2024 | $91.96 million | 19 |

## Key Information

**Total Funding:** $95,000,000
**Award Range:** Up to $10 million depending on category
**Match:** 35 percent
**Solicitation date**: December 10, 2024
**Proposal due:** April 15, 2025 (First application period)

https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/aquatic/index.html

## Awardee Profile

City of Sacramento, Programmatic Evaluation and Design of Juvenile Salmonid Rearing Habitat Restoration Sites

AMOUNT: $650,000
YEAR: 2024

The City of Sacramento will carry out a programmatic evaluation and produce restoration site designs for 30-acres of rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids on a 17-mile stretch of the lower American River in Sacramento. The City plans to create optimal salmonid rearing habitat and restore natural riparian conditions by conducting a baseline assessment of the area and carrying-out wetland delineation.

**Department:** U.S. Department of Interior
**Agency:** Bureau of Reclamation

# FY 2025 WaterSMART Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Projects

## Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to support the study, design, and construction of aquatic ecosystem restoration projects that are collaboratively developed; have widespread regional benefits; and are for the purpose of improving the health of fisheries, wildlife, and aquatic habitat through restoration and improved fish passage. As used here, "aquatic ecosystem" refers to freshwater and brackish water habitats such as lakes, ponds, rivers, streams, wetlands, swamps, and estuaries and the adjacent floodplains, riparian corridors, deltas, and shallow aquifers that interact with surface water.

To be eligible under this funding opportunity, the project must be for the purpose of improving the health of fisheries, wildlife and/or aquatic habitat, including through habitat restoration and/or improved fish passage via the removal or bypass of barriers.

Projects proposed for funding must have a clear nexus to aquatic ecosystems and be transformational in nature, providing clear and significant ecological benefits. Generally, project footprints should be limited to riparian, floodplain, and/or in-stream restoration work or other activities. Upland or dryland restoration projects with limited connection to aquatic ecosystems may be better suited for other Federal grant opportunities. Proposed projects will be reviewed by the Program Office to determine whether the application is eligible for evaluation.

Applicants can apply for funding for projects in one of two task areas:

- Task A: Study and Design: Projects must include study and design activities to develop an aquatic ecosystem restoration project, resulting in the development of a study and design package that can be used to apply for funding under Task B. To be eligible for Task B: Construction, applicants must have conducted study and design activities resulting in a design package at a 60 percent design level. A 60 percent design package should include technical study and design documentation supporting the preferred alternative in sufficient detail to be able to obtain the necessary permits and estimate funding required for project implementation. Prior to applying for Task A: Study and Design funding, it is expected that applicants will have already performed some general planning work and preliminary studies (e.g., a watershed restoration plan, planning on a river/stream-reach scale, or other planning effort) that was inclusive of stakeholder input and that led to the identification of a specific restoration concept and prioritization of the restoration project(s). Eligible activities may include, but are not limited to:
    - Project Outreach
    - Restoration Project Design Alternatives Analysis
    - Project Analysis and Design

  - Complete site-specific design and engineering of the restoration project to reach a target 60 percent level of final project design
  - Preparation of project cost estimates and development of project construction plan
  - Legal and Institutional Requirements Research

- Task B: Construction: Projects must include the construction of aquatic ecosystem restoration projects that are collaboratively developed, have widespread regional benefits, and are for the purpose of improving the health of fisheries, wildlife, and aquatic habitat through restoration and improved fish passage. Proposed projects submitted by the April 15, 2025 application deadline should not have an estimated construction start date that is prior to December 31, 2025, and proposed projects submitted by the February 17, 2026 application deadline should not have an estimated construction start date that is prior to November 1, 2026. Projects eligible for funding under Task B may include the following activities:
  - Completion of Final Design for Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Construction
  - Outreach to Affected Stakeholders
  - Restoration Activities
    - Removal or Modification of Barriers to Fish Passage
    - Restoration of Connectivity
    - Restoration of Aquatic Habitat
    - Improvement of Water Availability, Quality, and Temperature
    - Monitoring Plan Development, Baseline Assessment, and Equipment Installation

Projects that include the removal or modification of a dam must submit documentation verifying the dam owner has agreed to the study, design, or construction of the project and that impacted water or power delivery customers have been notified.

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are divided into Categories outlined below.

- Category A applicants: States, Tribes, irrigation districts, and water districts; state, regional, or local authorities, the members of which include one or more organizations with water or power delivery authority; agencies established under State law for the joint exercise of powers; and other entities or organizations that own a dam that is eligible for upgrade, modification, or removal.
- Category B applicants: Nonprofit conservation organizations that are acting in partnership with and with the agreement of an entity described in Category A. Category B applicants must include with their application a letter from the Category A partner stating that the Category A partner:
  - Is acting in partnership with the applicant;
  - Agrees to the submittal and content of the application; and
  - Intends to participate in the project in some way, for example, by providing input, feedback, or other support for the project.

All applicants must be located in a Reclamation State. The Reclamation States are defined as the following 17 States and 4 Territories: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, or the U.S. Virgin Islands.

## Funding

In FY 2025 and FY 2026, up to $95 million of funding is available to support approximately 10 to 20 projects during each application submittal period. Project awards will be made through grants or cooperative agreements as applicable to each project. Task A project awards are anticipated to range from $500,000 - $2 million per project and Task B project awards are anticipated to range from $3 million to $10 million per project. Task A projects are expected to be completed in two years and Task B projects are expected to be completed in five years.

The anticipated award date from the first application deadline is January 30, 2026. Task A projects will have an anticipated project completion date of January 30, 2028, and Task B projects will have an anticipated project completion date of January 30, 2031. The anticipated award date from the second application deadline is November 20, 2026. Task A projects will have an anticipated project completion date of November 20, 2028, and Task B projects will have an anticipated project completion date of November 20, 2031.

## Matching and Cost Sharing

Applicants must be capable of cost sharing 35 percent or more of the total project costs. The total project cost is defined as the total allowable costs incurred under a Federal award and all required cost share and voluntary committed cost share contributions, including third-party contributions. This cost-sharing requirement is not applicable to American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, or the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Cost share may be made through cash, costs contributed by the applicant, or third-party in-kind contributions. Third-party in-kind contributions include the value of non-cash contributions of property or services that benefit the Federally assisted project and are contributed by non-Federal third parties, without charge. Cost-share funding from sources outside the applicant's organization (e.g., loans or state grants) should be secured and available to the applicant prior to award.

## Contact Information

Alisha James
bor-sha-fafoa@usbr.gov
303-445-3939

https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/aquatic/index.html

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE

**Department:** U.S. Department of Interior
**Agency:** Bureau of Reclamation

# FY 2025 WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Projects

## Grant Overview

WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Projects provides funding for projects focused on environmental benefits and that have been developed as part of a collaborative process to help carry out an established strategy to increase the reliability of water resources. Eligible applicants are states, tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, and other organizations with water or power delivery authority located in the Western United States. Nonprofit conservation organizations working in partnership with the entities listed above or that notify entities listed above are also eligible to apply.

## Program History

| | Total Funding | # of Awards |
|---|---|---|
| 2022 | $36.1 million | 27 |
| 2023 | $51.1 million | 30 |

## Key Information and Tips

**Total Funding:** Unspecified
**Award Range:** Up to $5 million
**Match:** 25 percent
**Solicitation date**: April 18, 2024
**Proposal due:** For application period 2 the due date is March 11, 2025

https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/ewrp/index.html

## Awardee Profile

City of Pocatello, Idaho

AMOUNT: $1,635,276
YEAR: 2023

The City of Pocatello, Idaho, will implement a river restoration project on the Portneuf River in downtown Pocatello. Restoration will be accomplished by moving the river's existing riprapped levee, constructed in 1968 by the US Army Corps of Engineers, to an area of City-owned property. A wetland and side channel will be installed adjacent to the levee, along with ADA-accessible river access for anglers and floaters.

**Department:** U.S. Department of Interior
**Agency:** Bureau of Reclamation

# FY 2025 WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Projects

## Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to leverage their money and resources by cost sharing with Reclamation on Environmental Water Resources Projects, including water conservation and efficiency projects, water management and infrastructure improvements, and river and watershed restoration and nature-based solution projects that provide significant ecological benefits, have been developed as part of a collaborative process, and help carry out an established strategy to increase the reliability of water resources. Nature-based solutions are sustainable environmental management practices that weave natural features or processes into the built environment to promote adaptation and resilience. This program also prioritizes projects that provide benefits to multiple water use sectors.

Eligible projects include on-the-ground implementation projects where a primary purpose is to benefit ecological values or improve watershed health and have a nexus to water resources. This includes projects that benefit plant and animal species; fish and wildlife habitat; riparian areas; ecosystems; commercial, recreational, subsistence, or Tribal ceremonial fishing; and river-based recreation, which are supported by rivers, streams, or other water sources, or that are directly influenced by water resources management. This may include, but is not limited to, projects that improve the timing or quantity of water available; improve water quality and temperature; improve stream or riparian conditions for the benefit of plant and animal species, fish and wildlife habitat, riparian areas, watershed health, and ecosystems; implementation of a nature-based solution; and projects that otherwise mitigate against the impacts of climate change to fish and wildlife habitats. This includes projects that provide benefits to multiple sectors, such as projects that benefit agricultural, municipal, Tribal, or recreational water users in addition to providing ecological benefits.

Applicants can apply for funding for project components in one or more of the following three categories:

- Category A: Ecologically Focused Water Conservation and Efficiency Projects: To be eligible under this task area, a primary project purpose must be to provide more reliable water supplies for ecological benefits. Some means of ensuring that the conserved water will be made available for ecological benefits is required. This could include a formal mechanism to commit conserved water to instream flows (e.g., instream water right) or other types of assurances (e.g., Memorandum of Understanding between applicable water right holders and stakeholders). Eligible activities include:
    - Canal lining or piping
    - Irrigation flow measurements
    - Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) automation
- Category B: Ecologically Focused Water Management and Infrastructure Improvements: To be eligible under this task area, a primary project purpose must be to provide ecological benefits. Eligible activities include:

- Improving fish passage, including installation and/or modification of fish screens, ladders, bypasses, or removing small barriers to fish passage (e.g., diversion dams).
- Improving fish hatcheries (e.g., chillers, holding pens, transport, disease control, or prevention).
- Water management changes or infrastructure improvements that will improve water supply reliability and provide ecological benefits (e.g., installing a new diversion location downstream from critical temperature control points, treating return flows to improve water quality, water storage to improve streamflow, or improving the timing or volume of available flows at particular locations).
- Salinity or temperature control projects to provide ecological benefits (e.g., salinity barriers, temperature curtains, dam temperature shutters, powerplant bypass structures) and to aerate ecologically sensitive areas where dissolved oxygen levels are low.

- Category C: Restoration and Nature-Based Solution Projects: To be eligible under this task area, projects must have a clear nexus to water resources or water resources management. Eligible activities include:
  - Restoration of the riparian area, riverbanks, channels, and floodplains to bolster aquatic and riparian habitat and build natural resiliency.
  - Restoration of connectivity between the river and disconnected floodplains and wetlands to improve environmental flows, build system resiliency, and improve the lateral mobility of a river channel.
  - Implementation of nature-based solutions (e.g., installation of beaver dam analogs, post-assisted log structures, wetland construction for treatment of irrigation water or stormwater flows)
  - Restoration projects that improve water temperature, water quality, or the timing or volume of available flows to improve aquatic conditions.
  - Restoration projects that enhance commercial, recreational, subsistence, or Tribal ceremonial fishing, and river-based recreation.
  - Removing of invasive species, protection against invasive species, and restoration of native species. Projects must have a clear nexus to water resources or water resources management. Reclamation can only provide funding for invasive species removal one time per geographic footprint; secondary removal is considered operations and maintenance and is not eligible
    - Projects that include removal of invasive vegetation must include revegetation with native species at the removal site OR must provide a clear explanation of why revegetation is not necessary for the specific ecosystem in which the project is located.
    - Projects that include removal of non-vegetation invasive species must include measures to prevent reintroduction (e.g., fencing, fish barrier).
  - Forest management activities to protect water resources. Projects must have a clear nexus to water resources or water resources management. Reclamation can only provide funding for forest management activities one time per geographic footprint; additional treatments are considered operations and maintenance and are not eligible. Eligible activities include:
    - Fuels management to reduce the risk of severe wildland fire, through mechanical and/or chemical treatments.

- Post-wildland fire restoration activities, including measures to stabilize soil, reduce erosion, and remove post-fire sedimentation; invasive species removal; planting and seeding native vegetation; forest stabilization; and reforestation. Projects that include removal of post-wildland fire sediment must also (1) implement revegetation/reforestation and erosion control techniques to reduce future sedimentation and (2) complete habitat restoration in any river or reservoir from which sediment is removed.

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are divided into Categories outlined below.

- Category A applicants: States, Tribes, irrigation districts, and water districts; state, regional, or local authorities, the members of which include one or more organizations with water or power delivery authority; and other organizations with water or power delivery authority.
- Category B applicants: Nonprofit conservation organizations, including watershed groups, that are acting in partnership with and with the agreement of an entity described in Category A. Category B applicants must include with their application a letter from the Category A partner stating that the Category A partner:
    - Is acting in partnership with the applicant;
    - Agrees to the submittal and content of the application; and
    - Intends to participate in the project in some way, for example, by providing input, feedback, or other support for the project.
- Category C applicants: Nonprofit conservation organizations submitting an application for a project to improve the condition of a natural feature such as wetlands on Federal land without a Category A partner must demonstrate that entities described in Category A from the applicable service area have been notified and do not object to the project.

Applicants must be located in the states and territories of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, or Puerto Rico.

## Funding

In FY 2024 and FY 2025, an unspecific amount of funding is available to support approximately 20-40 awards during each application period. In general, up to $3,000,000 in Federal funds may be awarded for projects to be completed within three years and with total project costs no greater than $6,000,000. The budget must include the cost of all equipment, materials and supplies, and labor or contractual costs to complete the project. Up to $5,000,000 in Federal funds may be awarded to a watershed group for projects to be completed within five years, with no total project cost limitation. The Application Review Committee has final discretion to determine whether a project meets the total project cost limitation.

Multiple applications for funding may be submitted for consideration under this funding opportunity, provided that the project scopes are not duplicative. Category A entities are limited to a total of $3,000,000 in Federal funding per Application Period through this NOFO. Category B applicants may be considered for multiple

awards up to a total of $15,000,000 per Application Period, if the Category A partners are different for each project selected.

This funding opportunity has two application submittal periods. For proposals submitted under the first application period, the Bureau of Reclamation expects to contact potential award recipients and unsuccessful applicants in November 2024 (or later if necessary). The anticipated award date is April 30, 2025. The anticipated project completion date is April 30, 2028, with April 30, 2030 being the anticipated project completion date for Watershed Groups.

For proposals submitted under the second application period, the Bureau of Reclamation expects to contact potential award recipients and unsuccessful applicants in August 2025 (or later if necessary). The anticipated award date is January 31, 2026. The anticipated project completion date is January 31, 2029, with January 31, 2031 being the anticipated project completion date for Watershed Groups.

## Matching and Cost Sharing

Projects that fit one of the eligible project types, provide significant ecological benefits, have been developed as part of a collaborative process, and help carry out an established strategy to increase the reliability of water resources are eligible for up to a 75 percent Federal cost-share contribution.

Applications must be capable of cost sharing 25 percent or more of the total project costs. The total project cost is defined as the total allowable costs incurred under a Federal award and all required cost-share and voluntary committed cost-share contributions, including third-party contributions.

Cost share may be made through cash, costs contributed by the applicant, or third-party in-kind contributions. Third-party in-kind contributions include the value of non-cash contributions of property or services that benefit the federally assisted project and are contributed by non-Federal third parties without charge. Cost-share funding from sources outside the applicant's organization (e.g., loans or state grants) should be secured and available to the applicant prior to award.

## Contact Information

Alisha James
(303) 445-3939
bor-sha-fafoa@usbr.gov

https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/ewrp/index.html

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE




**Department:** U.S. Department of Transportation
**Agency:** Office of the Secretary for Transportation Policy

# FY 2025 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant

## Grant Overview

A revised Notice of Funding Opportunity has been reissued under the Trump Administration for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Program, renaming to the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant program and implementing amendments to reflect the Administration's priorities. The program supports surface transportation projects that will have a significant local or regional impact. Eligible applicants are state, local, tribal, and U.S. territorial governments, including special districts and public authorities with a transportation function, transit agencies, port authorities, and multi-state or multijurisdictional groups of eligible entities.

## Program History

| | Total Funding | # of Awards |
|---|---|---|
| 2024 | $1.8 billion | 148 |
| 2023 | $1.5 billion | 162 |

## Key Information and Tips

**Total Funding:** $150 million (Round 2 Funding Only)
**Award Range:** $1 million - $25 million (rural)
$5 million - $25 million (urban)
**Match:** 20 percent (urban)
**Solicitation date**: November 1, 2024
**Proposal due:** January 30, 2025

- FY 2024 RAISE (Round 1) Projects of Merit awards
- Review revised NOFO definitions and merit criteria prior to submitting

https://www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants

## Awardee Profile

County of Pueblo
Pueblo, CO

AMOUNT: $8,863,514
YEAR: 2024

This project will fund the planning and construction of phase 3 of a multi-use trail from Pueblo West to the City of Pueblo, expand access to mobility hubs, and plan and design a corridor to Water Works Park.

**Department:** U.S. Department of Transportation
**Agency:** Office of the Secretary for Transportation Policy

# FY 2025 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant

## Detailed Summary

Previously known as the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) and Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grants, the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) program provides funding for surface transportation infrastructure that will have a significant local or regional impact and improve transportation infrastructure.

Eligible **capital projects** include but are not limited to:

- Highway, bridge, or other road projects eligible under title 23, United States Code
- Public transportation projects eligible under chapter 53 of title 49, United States Code
- Passenger and freight rail transportation projects
- Port infrastructure investments (including inland port infrastructure and land ports of entry)
- Surface transportation components of an airport project eligible for assistance under part B of subtitle VII of title 49, United States Code (see Airport Improvement Program Handbook Appendix P for details)
- Intermodal projects
- Projects to replace or rehabilitate a culvert or prevent stormwater runoff for the purpose of improving habitat for aquatic species while advancing the goals of the BUILD program
- Projects investing in surface transportation facilities that are located on Tribal land and for which title or maintenance responsibility is vested in the Federal Government
- Other surface transportation infrastructure projects that the Secretary considers to be necessary to advance the goals of BUILD such as public road and non-motorized projects that are not otherwise eligible under title 23, United States Code

The following projects are also eligible: public road and non-motorized projects that are not otherwise eligible under title 23, United States Code; surface transportation components of transit-oriented development projects; and surface transportation components of mobility on-demand projects that expand access and reduce transportation cost burden. If an application includes right-of-way acquisition, the project will be considered a capital project.

Projects components that are presented together in a single application must ensure each component has independent utility and that there is a demonstrated relationship and connection between them.

Activities eligible for funding under BUILD **planning grants** are related to the planning, preparation, or design— for example environmental analysis, community engagement, feasibility studies, benefit-cost analysis, and other pre-construction activities—of eligible surface transportation capital projects. Eligible activities related to multidisciplinary projects or regional planning may include:

- Development of master plans, comprehensive plans, transportation corridor plans, and integrated economic development, land use, housing, and transportation plans
- Planning activities related to the development of a multimodal freight corridor, including those that seek to reduce conflicts with residential areas and with passenger and non-motorized traffic
- Development of port and regional port planning grants, including State-wide or multi-port planning within a single jurisdiction or region
- Risk assessments and planning to identify vulnerabilities and address the transportation system's ability to withstand probable occurrence or recurrence of an emergency or major disaster

Research, demonstration, or pilot projects are only eligible if they will result in long-term, permanent surface transportation infrastructure that has independent utility.

## Definitions

**Urban**: A project is designated as urban if it is located within (or on the boundary of) a Census-designated urban area that had a population greater than 200,000 in the 2020 Census. See the interactive map.

**Rural**: A project is designated as rural if it is located outside a Census-designated urban area that had a population greater than 200,000 in the 2020 Census. See the interactive map.

**Areas of Persistent Poverty (APP):** A project is located in an Area of Persistent Poverty if:

1. the **County** in which the project is located consistently had greater than or equal to 20 percent of the population living in poverty during the 30-year period preceding November 15, 2021, as measured by the 1990 and 2000 decennial census and the most recent annual Small Area Income Poverty Estimates; **OR**
2. the **Census Tract** in which the project is located has a poverty rate of at least 20 percent as measured by the 2014-2018 5-year data series available from the American Community Survey of the Bureau of the Census; **OR**
3. the project is located in any territory or possession of the United States.

See the interactive map to show Areas of Persistent Poverty.

**Historically Disadvantaged Communities (HDC):** A project is located in a Historically Disadvantaged Community if:

1. the **County** in which the project is located consistently had greater than or equal to 20 percent of the population living in poverty during the 30-year period preceding November 15, 2021, as measured by the 1990 and 2000 decennial census and the most recent annual Small Area Income Poverty Estimates; **OR**
2. the **Census Tract** in which the project is located has a poverty rate of at least 20 percent as measured by the 2014-2018 5-year data series available from the American Community Survey of the Bureau of the Census; **OR**
3. the project is located in any territory or possession of the United States.

See the interactive map to show Historically Disadvantaged Communities.

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are States and the District of Columbia; any territory or possession of the United States; a unit of local government; a public agency or publicly chartered authority established by one or more States; a special purpose district or public authority with a transportation function, including a port authority; a Federally recognized Indian Tribe or a consortium of such Indian Tribes; a transit agency; and a multi-State or multijurisdictional group of entities that are separately eligible. Recipients of previous RAISE/BUILD/TIGER grants may apply for funding to support additional phases of a project previously awarded funding through this program.

Multiple states or jurisdictions may submit a joint application and should identify a lead applicant as the primary point of contact and identify the primary recipient of the award.

## Funding

In FY 2025, a total of $150 million of infrastructure law funding is available to support awards through this round of the program. For capital awards, the minimum award amount is $5 million for projects located in urban areas and $1 million for projects located in rural areas. There is no minimum award amount for planning awards. The maximum award amount for both capital and planning grants is $25 million. Funds are available for obligation only through September 30, 2029. All funds must be expended (the grant obligation must be liquidated or actually paid out to the grantee) by September 30, 2034. Funds will be provided on a reimbursement basis.

Funding will be allocated as follows:

- Up to 50 percent of the total funding available, or up to $750 million, will be allocated to rural projects
- Up to 50 percent of the total funding available, or up to $750 million, will be allocated to urban projects, which, for the purposes of this program, are defined as census-designated urbanized areas that had a population greater than 200,000 in the 2020 Census
- At least 5 percent, or $75 million, will be allocated for planning awards.
- At least 1 percent, or $15 million, will be allocated to projects located in areas of persistent poverty or historically disadvantaged communities
- Up to 20 percent of the total funding available, or $300 million may be allocated to support the subsidy and administrative costs of projects receiving credit assistance under the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) Program, or the Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing (RRIF) Program.
- No more than 15 percent of the total BIL funding available, or $225 million, can be awarded to a single state.

## Matching and Cost Sharing

Applicants with projects located in urban areas must provide at least 20 percent of the total project costs non-federal cash match. For projects located in rural areas, historically disadvantaged areas, and areas of persistent poverty are eligible to fund the project up to 100 percent with Federal funding. Projects located in an urban area, that are not designated APP and/or HDC, that have more than 80 percent federal funding will be ineligible.

Non-Federal sources include State funds originating from programs funded by State revenue, local funds originating from State or local revenue-funded programs, or private funds. Applicants may also be allowed to use select federal funds as part of matching funds including tribal transportation program funds, TIFIA program funds, and Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing program funds. DOT considers an applicant's cost share during the evaluation and selection process only to confirm eligibility for urban projects that are not located in an APP or HDC.

## Contact Information

RAISEgrants@dot.gov

https://www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants/raise-nofo

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE

**Department:** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

# FY 2025 Capitalization Grants for Clean Water State Revolving Funds

## Grant Overview

The purpose of this program is to promote clean and safe water by providing capitalization grants to states to establish Clean Water State Revolving Funds (CWSRFs). States will provide loans and other types of financial assistance to local communities and intermunicipal and interstate agencies for the construction of publicly owned water treatment works, implementation of nonpoint source management activities, and reuse and recycling, among others. Eligible applicants are states and Puerto Rico.

## Program History

| | Total Funding | # of Awards |
|---|---|---|
| 2024 | $3.30 billion | 168 |
| 2023 | $3.08 billion | 168 |
| 2022 | $3.04 billion | 168 |
| 2021 | $1.58 billion | 56 |

## Key Information and Tips

**Total Funding:** Unspecified
**Match:** 20 percent
**Proposal Due:** Varies by state

- States are required to provide a match of 20 percent of the amount of each federal grant payment

https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf

## Awardee Profile

North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality
Raleigh, NC

AMOUNT: $41.043 million
YEAR: 2024

North Carolina's program will continue to be one of low-interest loans, supplemented with principal forgiveness. In addition to funding infrastructure projects, the NC CWSRF also allows the use of set-asides of capitalization grant funds for technical assistance. The State intends to access up to 2% of the capitalization grants (up to $294,660 of the base CWSRF and up to $820,860 from BIL CWSRF General Supplemental) for technical assistance.

**Department:** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

# FY 2025 Capitalization Grants for Clean Water State Revolving Funds

## Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to promote clean and safe water by providing capitalization grants to states to establish Clean Water State Revolving Funds (CWSRFs). States will provide loans and other types of financial assistance to local communities, intermunicipal and interstate agencies, and other eligible entities under Title VI of the Clean Water Act for the construction of wastewater treatment facilities and the implementation of other water quality management activities.

In general, eligible activities include:

- Construction of publicly owned water treatment works
- Implementation of nonpoint source management activities included in state plans developed pursuant to Section 319
- Development and implementation of a National Estuary Program comprehensive conservation and management plan under Section 320
- Construction, repair, or replacement of decentralized wastewater treatment systems that treat municipal wastewater or domestic sewage
- Measures to manage, reduce, treat, or recapture stormwater or subsurface drainage water
- Measures to reduce the demand for publicly owned treatment works capacity through water conservation, efficiency, or reuse for any municipality or intermunicipal, interstate, or state agency
- Development and implementation of watershed projects meeting the criteria set forth in section 122
- Measures to reduce the energy demand for publicly owned treatment works by any municipality or intermunicipal, interstate, or state agency
- Reusing or recycling wastewater, stormwater, or subsurface drainage water
- Measures to increase the security of publicly owned treatment works
- Support to qualified nonprofit organizations to provide assistance to owners and operators of small and medium-sized publicly owned treatment works to plan, develop, and obtain financing for eligible projects under section 603(c), including planning, design, and associated pre-construction activities and to assist such treatment works in achieving compliance with the Clean Water Act
- Support to qualified nonprofit organizations to provide assistance to eligible individuals for the repair or replacement of existing individual household decentralized wastewater treatment systems or the connection of households to available publicly owned treatment works

Funding provided through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) also makes additional capitalization awards available to each state to support projects that address emerging contaminants.

States are required to prepare and provide for public commenting on a plan identifying the intended uses of funds and how the proposed uses support program goals prior to submitting applications and intended use plans.

## Applicant Eligibility

States and the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico are eligible to receive capitalization grants. The District of Columbia, territories, possessions of the United States, and federally recognized Indian/Native American/Alaska Native tribal governments are eligible to receive grants for the construction of municipal wastewater facilities.

## Funding

In FY 2025, an unspecified amount is available to support formula awards through this program. Funds are available for obligation to the state during the fiscal year in which they are allotted and during the following year.

Award funding must be used to provide loans and other types of financial assistance to local communities, intermunicipal and interstate agencies, and other eligible entities under Title VI of the Clean Water Act. A portion of awarded funding must be used to provide additional subsidy in the form of grants, principal forgiveness, or negative interest loans.

Administrative costs are limited to 4 percent of the award amount, $400,000 each year, or one-fifth percent per year of the current valuation of the fund.

## Matching and Cost Sharing

For Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) base appropriations, states must provide a 20 percent match. For general supplemental capitalization grant appropriations provided through the FY 2025 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), states must provide a 20 percent match. Matching funds are not required for emerging contaminant supplemental capitalization funding provided through the IIJA. The match is also waived for the supplemental appropriation under the 2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act.

## Contact Information

Questions regarding the Capitalization Grants for Clean Water State Revolving Funds should be directed to the appropriate State Assistance Locations, or to the federal administering office contact:

Logan Loadholtz
(202) 564-1599
loadholtz.logan@epa.gov

https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE




**Department:** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

# FY 2025 Wetland Program Development Grant (Region 3)

## Grant Overview

This program assists state, Tribal, territory (Insular Areas), local government agencies, and interstate or intertribal entities in developing or refining state, Tribal, territory or local programs which protect, manage and restore wetlands. The goals of this program include increasing the quantity and quality of wetlands in the U.S. by conserving and restoring wetland acreage and improving wetland conditions. Eligible applicants are states, local governments, Indian Tribes, Institutions of Higher Education, interstate agencies and intertribal consortia with activities taking place in within states, Tribes and territories within EPA Region 3 (Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and/or West Virginia) and Tribal lands located within those states.

## Program History

Program history is not available.

## Key Information

**Total Funding:** $2.4 million
**Award Range:** Up to $160,000
**Match:** 25 percent
**Solicitation Date:** September 15, 2025
**Proposal Due:** November 13, 2025

https://www.epa.gov/wetlands/wetland-program-development-grants-and-epa-wetlands-grant-coordinators

## Tips

- Projects are encouraged to incorporate Traditional Ecological Knowledge (Voluntary Restoration/Protection and/or Regulatory Core Elements).
- Funding is prioritized for long-term wetland planning (e.g., Wetland Program Plans), one of two funding tracks under this program for which only Tribes and states are eligible.
- Applicants are encouraged to work with EPA Quality Assurance/Quality Control staff to determine appropriate Quality Assurance/Quality Control practices for the project.

**Department:** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

# FY 2025 Wetland Program Development Grant (Region 3)

## Detailed Summary

Wetland Program Development Grants assist state, Tribal, territory (Insular Areas), local government agencies, and interstate or intertribal entities in developing or refining state, Tribal, territory or local programs which protect, manage and restore wetlands. Wetlands are areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. For this grant program, the term wetlands generally includes swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas as described in Cowardin et al. 1979.

The goals of the program include increasing the quantity and quality of wetlands in the U.S. by conserving and restoring wetland acreage and improving wetland condition. Applicants do this through the development of Wetland Program Plans (WPP) or by developing core elements of wetland programs. WPPs are voluntary plans developed by state, Tribal or territorial agencies that articulate what the state, Tribe or territory wants to accomplish with their wetland programs over time. WPPs describe overall program goals along with broad-based actions and more specific activities that will help achieve the goals. Timelines for plans vary between three to six years, with more specific timeframes typically associated with the plan's actions/activities.

Two separate applicant tracks exist under this program. **Track one** is for the development of WPPs for with state, tribal, and territory governments, while **Track two** is for non -WPP projects for local governments, interstate agencies, intertribal consortia, and colleges and universities that are agencies of a state government. All projects must develop or refine state, Tribal, territory or local government wetland programs.

Track one WPP Applicants must demonstrate how they will develop/update a WPP, or reference one or more grant-eligible action(s) from an EPA-approved WPP they plan to undertake as part of the proposed project. Track two Non-WPP applicants must demonstrate which objectives and associated action(s) from Appendix A: Program Development and Refinement Actions their application is developing or refining. Interstate agency or intertribal consortia must reference one or more grant-eligible action(s) from an EPA approved WPP they plan to undertake as part of the proposed project. Track one WPP-eligible-applicants will only be ranked against other Track one: WPP-eligible applicants, while track two: non-WPP-eligible applicants will only be ranked against other track two: non-WPP-eligible applicants.

The funding agency has found that long-term wetland planning (e.g., Wetland Program Plans) helps states, Tribes and territories develop their wetland programs more effectively and efficiently; therefore, the funding agency is emphasizing WPPs as a national priority.

Wetland mapping and monitoring projects are eligible for funding under this announcement as they are considered studies or investigations that develop or refine state, Tribal, territory or local government programs to research, investigate, experiment, train, demonstrate, survey and study the causes, effects, extent, prevention, reduction and elimination of water pollution.

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are state agencies; any agency or instrumentality of local government; interstate agencies; federally recognized tribes and intertribal consortia; and colleges and universities that are agencies of a state. Activities must take place within states, Tribes and territories within EPA Region 3 (Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and/or West Virginia) and Tribal lands located within those states. Inter-jurisdictional watershed projects must primarily be conducted in EPA Region 3.

Under this announcement, the EPA will have two separate applicant tracks for eligible applicants.

1. States, Tribes and territories can apply under Track One: WPP or Track Two: Non-WPP.
2. Interstate agencies, Intertribal consortia, local governments and colleges and universities that are agencies of a state can only apply under Track Two: Non-WPP.

## Funding

In FY 2025, $2.4 million is available to support between 6 and 12 awards of up to $160,000. Funding available under track one is approximately $1.7 million, while $700,000 is available under track two. The project periods range from one to four years and may not exceed five years. Award notification is expected to occur by March 2026.

## Matching and Cost Sharing

Recipients must provide a non-federal cost share of at least 25% of the total project cost. The cost share may be provided in cash or by in-kind contributions.

## Contact Information

Megan Fitzgerald
Wetlands Branch – Water Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3
215-814-2721
Fitzgerald.Megan@epa.gov

https://www.epa.gov/wetlands/wetland-program-development-grants-and-epa-wetlands-grant-coordinators

FOUNDATION
GRANT PROFILE

**Department:** U.S. National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

# FY 2025 Conservation Partners Program

## Grant Overview

The purpose of this program is to accelerate the voluntary adoption of regenerative agriculture principles and conservation practices on private working lands in priority geographic areas. To support the program goal, award recipients will provide technical assistance to farmers and ranchers to help them develop conservation plans, design and implement conservation practices, enroll in Farm Bill conservation programs, and share their experiences and lessons learned. Eligible applicants include non-profit 501(c) organizations, state government agencies, local governments, municipal governments, tribal governments and organizations, and educational institutions.

## Program History

| | Total Funding | # of Awards |
|---|---|---|
| 2024 | $10.2 million | 17 |

## Key Information

**Total Funding:** Unspecified
**Award Range:** $200,000 - $1 million
**Match:** Not Required
**Solicitation Date**: May 8, 2025
**Proposal due:** July 15, 2025

https://www.nfwf.org/programs/conservation-partners-program/conservation-partners-program-2025-request-proposals

## Awardee Profile

Colorado Cattleman's Organization, CO

AMOUNT: $563,800
YEAR: 2024

Funds will be used to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate individualized grazing management plans on working rangeland in eastern Colorado. The project will also apply grazing management principles to support climate resilience, improve rangeland health and biodiverse working landscapes.

**Department:** U.S. National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

# FY 2025 Conservation Partners Program

## Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to accelerate the voluntary adoption of regenerative agriculture principles and conservation practices on private working lands in priority geographic areas. To support the program goal, award recipients will provide technical assistance to farmers and ranchers to help them develop conservation plans, design and implement conservation practices, enroll in Farm Bill conservation programs, and share their experiences and lessons learned.

Particular emphasis should be placed on implementing, designing, and promoting conservation practices that improve soil health, increase grazing system function, restore wetlands, develop perennial wildlife habitat, improve nutrient management, enhance forest health, and support social and economic resilience among agricultural producers. Successful projects will complement technical assistance capacity by helping to reduce the Farm Bill conservation practice planning, contracting, and implementation backlog.

Supported projects will:

- Direct staff resources to work with agricultural producers to develop site-specific conservation plans and design and implement regenerative agriculture systems and practices
- Help agricultural producers access financial assistance through Farm Bill conservation programs
- Develop innovative technical assistance approaches that reach new producers and modernize technical assistance delivery
- Foster the development of peer-to-peer networks to advance regional knowledge and identify and overcome barriers to adopting regenerative agriculture systems and practices
- Advance locally led conservation by incorporating local input into project design and aligning individual producer objectives with the community's natural resource conservation priorities
- Generate environmental benefits, such as improvements to wildlife habitat, soil health, and water quantity and quality
- Promote conservation systems to complement and advance producer economic interests and operational efficiency
- Align with program goals, resource conservation priorities, and capacity needs

Competitive projects will advance one or more of the following strategies:

- Crop management: Improve water quality and maximize soil health and wildlife values by increasing adoption of cover crops, reduced tillage, extended crop rotations, perennial cropping systems, nutrient and pesticide management plans, precision agriculture, and other soil health practices.
- Grazing management: Promote plant growth above and below ground, improve wildlife habitat, and maximize soil health by establishing native grasses and optimizing stocking rates, livestock rotations, utilization rates, and plant rest and recovery.
- Irrigation improvement: Improve hydrology, in-stream flows, aquifer recharge, water conservation, and flood and drought resilience by increasing efficiency of on-farm irrigation practices and reducing agricultural runoff.

- Habitat enhancement: Enhance habitat values of working grasslands, field buffers, forests, wetlands, riparian zones, floodplains and other adjacent areas through native plantings, removal of invasive species, beneficial mowing, prescribed burning, fencing and other conservation practices.

*S*upport is available for projects that align geographically with the following program priority categories:

Great Plains: This geography includes the region of historic tallgrass, mixed-grass, and shortgrass prairie spanning portions of Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Iowa, Missouri, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Oklahoma, Texas, and Wyoming. Key objectives for this category include:

- Improve soil health on grazing lands and crop lands.
- Sustain and enhance conservation and economic values associated with working grasslands.
- Conserve and sustainably manage limited water resources.
- Reduce nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment runoff to local waterways.
- Enhance habitat quality and connectivity for waterfowl, shorebirds, pollinators, and many other species that depend on the grassland–wetland complexes of the region.

Priority strategies include crop management, habitat enhancement, and grazing management. Under crop management, priority will be given to projects focused on lands with wheat in active rotation, particularly in North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Montana, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Colorado.

Upper Mississippi River Basin: This category includes states under the Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS') Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative (MRBI) that are upstream of the Ohio River confluence with the Mississippi River. Priority will be given to projects focused within the MRBI focus area watersheds. Key objectives for this category include:

- Improve soil health on crop lands, pastures, and other grazing lands.
- Reduce nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment runoff to local waterways.
- Enhance habitat for migratory birds, fish, and other aquatic species.

Priority strategies include crop management, grazing management, and habitat enhancement. Under crop management, priority will be given to projects on lands with corn in active rotation in Ohio, or wheat in active rotation in Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio. Proposals that contribute to the goals of an established Sentinel Landscape will also receive special consideration.

Great Lakes Basin: This category includes the U.S. portion of Great Lakes watersheds. Key objectives for this category include:

- Improve soil health on crop lands, pastures, and other grazing lands.
- Reduce nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment runoff to local waterways.
- Engage landowners in conservation and regenerative agriculture planning and peer-to-peer learning.
- Reduce Farm Bill practice contracting and implementation backlog

Priority strategies include grazing management, crop management, nutrient management, and habitat enhancement. Priority will be given to applicants that build upon established relationships with landowners through previous local work, incorporate partnerships with local entities and/or connect to demonstration farms or other efforts that align with regenerative agriculture priorities in the region.

Western Grazing Lands: This geography includes grasslands, shrublands, and pasturelands in the western United States. Key objectives for this category include:

- Sustain and enhance conservation and economic values associated with working grasslands, pasturelands, and shrublands.
- Improve soil health on grazing lands.
- Enhance habitat quality and connectivity for birds, pollinators, and other species that depend on grassland complexes in the region

Priority strategies include grazing management and habitat enhancement. Special priority will be given to projects that conserve and restore intact grazing landscapes, reduce the expansion of conifers and exotic annual grasses, restore wet meadows and other mesic areas, and increase drought resilience of farm operations. Successful projects will support the delivery of the NRCS Western Water and Working Lands Framework for Conservation Action, Sagebrush Biome Framework for Conservation Action, Great Plains Grasslands Biome Framework, and Working Lands for Wildlife Southwestern Willow Flycatcher.

All projects must generate impact on the order of thousands or tens of thousands of acres, with a strong preference for projects on the larger end of the scale.

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants include non-profit 501(c) organizations, state government agencies, local governments, municipal governments, tribal governments and organizations, and educational institutions. To be competitive, applicant organizations must demonstrate capacity and experience commensurate with the scale of the project being proposed and the funding being requested.

## Funding

In FY 2025, an unspecified amount is available to support awards ranging from $200,000 - $1 million through this program. The project start date cannot be before October 1, 2025 and should be within 6 months of the award announcement period. The project end date should be within 36 months of the project start date.

## Matching and Cost Sharing

While matching contributions are not required, applicants are encouraged to offer higher match ratios to be more competitive. To be eligible, matching contributions must be spent or applied during the period of performance indicated in the application. Matching contributions may include cash and in-kind contributions to the project objectives and outcomes. In addition, eligible indirect costs may be applied as match.

## Contact Information

Program Director
Greg Pilchak
greg.pilchak@nfwf.org
202-938-0640

https://www.nfwf.org/programs/conservation-partners-program/conservation-partners-program-2025-request-proposals

FOUNDATION
GRANT PROFILE

**Department:** U.S. National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

# FY 2025 Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program

## Grant Overview

This program seeks to develop community capacity to sustain local natural resources for future generations by supporting diverse local partnerships focused on improving water quality, watersheds, and the species and habitats they support. Eligible applicants include non-profit 501(c) organizations, state government agencies, local governments, municipal governments, tribal governments and organizations, and educational institutions.

## Program History

| | Total Funding | # of Awards |
|---|---|---|
| 2024 | $2.3 million | 43 |
| 2023 | $1.7 million | 38 |

## Key Information

**Total Funding:** $2.5 million
**Award Range:** $30,000 - $60,000
**Match:** 1:0.75
**Proposal due:** January 30, 2025

https://www.nfwf.org/programs/five-star-and-urban-waters-restoration-grant-program/five-star-and-urban-waters

NFWF

## Awardee Profile

New Roots Urban Farm Creating Urban Agricultural Space in St. Louis, MO

AMOUNT: $74,900
YEAR: 2024

The funds will be used to convert a vacant city lot into an urban agricultural space that will support pollinator habitats, mitigate urban heat islands and manage stormwater runoff. The project will restore 2.5 acres, plant 300 trees, install 50 educational signs and engage 1,000 volunteers in restoration activities to promote stewardship and community conservation practices that protect and recover natural resources.

**Department:** U.S. National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

# FY 2025 Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program

## Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to develop community capacity to sustain local natural resources for future generations by supporting diverse local partnerships focused on improving water quality, watersheds, and the species and habitats they support. Funding will support a variety of ecological improvements, along with targeted community outreach, education, and stewardship, including:

- Wetland, riparian, forest, and coastal habitat restoration
- Wildlife conservation
- Community tree canopy enhancement
- Wildlife habitat
- Urban agriculture and community gardens
- Wildlife and water quality monitoring
- Green infrastructure best management practices for managing run-off

Projects should increase access to the benefits of nature; reduce the impact of environmental hazards; and engage local communities, particularly underserved communities, in project planning, outreach, and implementation. The funding agency expects that more than half of projects supported will engage underserved communities.

Projects should address at least one activity under each of the following program priorities:

- On-the-ground restoration: restoring and/or creating wetlands and coastal or riparian areas through such activities as:
    - Addressing key species and habitats and linking directly to established watershed and conservation plans
    - Addressing stressors through restoration techniques and green infrastructure practices
    - Creating and enhancing community agriculture spaces that support pollinator and migratory bird habitats
    - Developing/implementing trash and litter prevention programs
    - Developing public open spaces, creating or enhancing community parks, improving and protecting community tree canopy, and/or enhancing brownfield sites beyond required remediation
- Environmental outreach, education, and training: integrating meaningful outreach, education, and/or training into the proposed on-the-ground activities that advance local watershed and conservation goals through such activities as:
    - Engaging the public, particularly youth, in hands-on, outdoor experiences
    - Engaging communities in restoration at public areas for public health and recreation
    - Establishing or advancing a community science or water quality monitoring program

    - Improving understanding of damaging trash and litter impacts in local waterways that affect community health and local economies
- Community partnerships: projects involving five or more partners, including the applicant, through such activities as:
    - Directly engaging a diverse group of community partners to achieve ecological and specific educational outcomes
    - Demonstrating that the project will advance existing local watershed or conservation plans and/or proposing to foster and coordinate a diverse stakeholder partnership that develops and/or implements new plans
    - Identifying plans to provide training, partnership meetings, and presentations to build support for projects
- Measurable results: projects resulting in specific, measurable ecological, educational, and community benefits through such activities as:
    - Identifying measurable activities and metrics that clearly link to watershed and community outcomes
    - Documenting a high level of community engagement and understanding
- Sustainability: projects including a plan for maintenance and care beyond the project period through such activities as:
    - A commitment to community strength and long-term capacity to remain engaged as partners
    - Addressing any priority and/or at-risk species, habitats, or conservation actions identified in state wildlife action plans or other recovery or conservation plans
    - Directly connecting outcomes to community benefits of watershed restoration
    - Fulfilling or advancing priorities identified through local planning efforts
    - Developing restoration and stewardship approaches that contribute to pre- and post-disaster planning and resiliency of community water assets

Funding provided through this program is available nationwide; however, additional funding available will vary based on geographic priorities.

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants include non-profit 501(c) organizations, state government agencies, local governments, municipal governments, tribal governments and organizations, and educational institutions.

## Funding

In FY 2025, approximately $2.5 million is available nationwide for projects meeting program priorities. Awards range from $30,000 to $60,000 with an average size of $45,000. Project periods span 12 to 18 months with a start date in late summer/early fall 2025.

## Matching and Cost Sharing

The ratio of matching contributions offered is considered during the review process, and projects are required to meet or exceed a 1:.75 match ratio to be competitive. Matching contributions must be non-federal in nature and may include in-kind contributions of staff and volunteer time, work performed, materials and services donated, cash or other tangible contributions to the project objectives and outcomes.

Additionally, partner contributions can serve as matching contributions and grantees for this grant program commonly use a large amount of in-kind matching contributions to reach this threshold by utilizing their community partnerships to generate match. Applicants are highly encouraged to contact NFWF for assistance in determining what qualifies as in-kind or any other matching contribution.

In addition, if not paid with requested grant funding, indirect costs may be applied as match by an applicant with a federally approved indirect rate.

To be eligible, matching contributions typically must be:

- Not paid by the federal government under another federal award
- Verifiable from the grantee's records
- Not included as matching contributions for any other award
- Necessary and reasonable for accomplishment of project or program objectives
- Allowable costs based on the program and funding source guidelines
- Committed directly to the project and used within the period of performance

## Contact Information

Sarah Vest
Coordinator, Regional Programs
(202) 595-2602
Sarah.Vest@nfwf.org

Kaitlyn Hill
Program Manager, Community Stewardship
(202) 595-2436
Kaitlyn.Hill@nfwf.org

https://www.nfwf.org/programs/five-star-and-urban-waters-restoration-grant-program/five-star-and-urban-waters

FOUNDATION
GRANT PROFILE

**Department:** U.S. National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

# FY 2025 National Coastal Resilience Fund

## Grant Overview

The purpose of this program is to support the planning, design, and implementation of nature-based solutions to enhance protection for coastal communities from the impacts of storms, floods, and other natural hazards while improving habitats for fish and wildlife. Eligible applicants include local government; academic institutions; Native American tribes; nonprofits; private sector; state government; tribal organizations/institutions.

## Program History

| | Total Funding | # of Awards |
|---|---|---|
| 2024 | $139 million | 94 |
| 2023 | $144 million | 109 |

## Key Information and Tips

**Total Funding:** Unspecified
**Award Range:** Depends on Project
**Match:** Not Required
**Proposal due:** May 6, 2025 (Pre-Proposal), July 17, 2025 (Full Proposal

- Applicants must be invited to apply to submit full proposals
- Full proposal invitations will be sent by mid-June 2025

https://www.nfwf.org/programs/national-coastal-resilience-fund/national-coastal-resilience-fund-2025-request-proposals

## Awardee Profile

Building Capacity for Euclid an Sims Park Shoreline Protectior City of Euclic, Ohio

AMOUNT: $243,200
YEAR: 2024

Funds will be used to conduct collaborative workshops and community engagement to build capacity to restore a half mile of Lake Erie's shoreline in the City of Euclid. The project will explore nature-based solutions to combat erosion, stabilize the shoreline and enhance natural habitat.

**Department:** U.S. National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

# FY 2025 National Coastal Resilience Fund

## Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to support the planning, design, and implementation of nature-based solutions to enhance protection for coastal communities from the impacts of storms, floods, and other natural hazards while improving habitats for fish and wildlife. Support for projects that advance nature-based solutions in the vicinity of U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) installations and ranges that decrease risks from coastal hazards to military assets and communities may also be supported through a dedicated source of funds.

Funding will support projects that fall under only one of the following categories:

- Community capacity building and planning: projects with demonstrated community leadership and engagement that support the development of plans that prioritize risk reduction strategies and projects and identify specific efforts that, when implemented, will meet community goals and improve habitat for fish and wildlife, with applicants encouraged to collaborate with a wide range of partners and sectors
- Site assessment and preliminary design: previously identified and prioritized preliminary design and feasibility assessments projects that lay the groundwork for successful implementation to meet risk reduction targets for communities and natural resources; proposals will be more competitive if they demonstrate an understanding of the regulatory context and include a description of how funded activities will help advance permitting of natural or nature-based project(s) in future phases of work
- Final design and permitting: support for final project design and permitting for on-the-ground projects
- Restoration implementation: construction of restoration projects that include post-construction monitoring, and which advance both community goals and conservation goals

All projects must address the following priorities:

- Nature-based solutions: projects must focus on identifying or implementing nature-based solutions, such as restoring coastal marshes, reconnecting floodplains, rebuilding dunes, or other natural buffers
- Community resilience benefit: projects must show clear benefits in terms of reducing current and projected threats to communities from natural coastal hazards, including sea-level rise, lake-level change, coastal erosion, increased frequency and intensity of storms, and impacts from other chronic or episodic factors
- Fish and wildlife benefit: projects must help to improve habitats for fish and wildlife species
- Community impact and engagement: projects must provide direct risk reduction and job creation benefits to communities; and must directly engage community members in planning, design, and implementation
- Transferability and sustainability: priority will be given to projects that include specific plans for transferring and scaling the approaches developed through projects

Projects that involve any of the following are encouraged:

- Are informed by local knowledge
- Promote co-stewardship among a wide range of projects partners
- Protect or enhance habitat for species, including subsistence species
- Contribute to food security
- Are community-led, incorporate outreach to communities, foster community engagement and decision-making, and pursue collaborative management for measurable conservation benefits
- Reshape thinking on what constitutes coastal community risk reduction, as experienced across different landscapes
- Involve larger landscapes and multiple landowners and/or partners and jurisdictions, as appropriate

Applicants are encouraged to collaborate with a wide range of partners and sectors.

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants include local government; academic institutions; Native American tribes; nonprofits; private sector; state government; tribal organizations/institutions. Eligibility is limited to projects located within the coastal areas of U.S. coastal states, including the Great Lakes states, U.S. territories, and coastal tribal lands.

## Funding

In FY 2025, an unspecified amount is available to support awards through this program. While there is no minimum or maximum limit on the size of awards under each program focus area, the funding agency expects that average awards will be as follows:

- Community Capacity Building and Planning: Awards between $100,000 and $1,000,000
- Site Assessment and Preliminary Design: Awards between $100,000 and $1,000,000
- Final Design and Permitting: Awards between $100,000 and $1,000,000
- Restoration Implementation: Awards between $1 million and $10 million

## Matching and Cost Sharing

A non-federal match is not required. However, it is encouraged to demonstrate broad support for the project, especially for larger-scale and/or higher-budgeted projects. Match can be any combination of in cash and/or in-kind goods and services (for example, external/partner services, volunteers, or grantee in-kind, etc.), and there is no priority given to higher cash percentages. In addition, if not paid with the requested grant funding, indirect costs may be applied as a match by an applicant at a federally approved indirect rate.

## Contact Information

NCRF Program Team

NCRF@nfwf.org

https://www.nfwf.org/programs/national-coastal-resilience-fund/national-coastal-resilience-fund-2025-request-proposals