



Bring Back the Natives: A Public-Private Partnership for Restoring, Protecting, and Enhancing Populations of Native Fish Species

Request for Proposals 2012

Pre-proposal Due Date: **January 20, 2012 5:00PM Pacific time**

Full Proposal Due Date: **March 16, 2012 5:00PM Pacific time**

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is requesting proposals to restore, protect, and enhance native populations of sensitive or listed fish species, especially on lands on or adjacent to federal agency lands. The program is funded with Federal funds provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and U.S. Forest Service (USFS). Grants may be awarded using one or more of these sources of funding.

PROGRAM FUNDING PRIORITIES

In 2012, the Bring Back the Natives program will provide funding to projects that identify a measureable conservation outcome for native fish species of special concern. Because the two leading factors in native fish species decline are habitat alteration and invasive species, projects that address either, or both, of these threats are of particular interest. Projects benefitting one or more of the following native fish species will be the priority for funding this year:

- Upper Colorado native fish (flannelmouth and bluehead suckers, roundtail chub, and Colorado cutthroat trout)
- Lahontan cutthroat trout
- Sierra Nevada native fishes
- Apache trout
- native brook trout and associated native aquatic species (Chesapeake and Upper Ohio River)
- Russian River (CA) Coho
- Klamath suckers, redband trout and Coho
- Southeast native bass
- Other native fish species identified in state, federal, and tribal fish and wildlife agency planning documents (such as the USFS or BLM Aquatic Sensitive Species Lists) and/or by recognized and candidate National Fish Habitat Board Fish Habitat Partnerships organized under the National Fish Habitat Action Plan
- Native fish identified in state Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plans as being at risk from invasive species

FUNDING AVAILABLE

\$1,250,000 in grant funds is available. Grant awards generally range in size from \$25,000 to \$100,000 although grants greater than \$100,000 will be considered.

CRITERIA FOR COMPETITIVE PROPOSALS

Competitive proposals will include the following information:

- The native fish species at risk or potentially at risk, requiring restoration, protection, and/or enhancement, a description of its historic and current range, and its importance as part of the greater aquatic ecosystem.
- The factors or threats that have caused a decline in the species population or other similar populations.
- The temporal significance of short (1 year or less) - or longer-term risks (2 or more years) that result or will result from an existing or potential threat, and the impacts of no action(s) taken over the short- or long-term.
- All of the on-the-ground actions needed to restore, protect, and enhance the population(s) and how this proposed project either initiates or fits into larger efforts in the watershed. Or, if this is a stand-alone project, how it will succeed in and of itself in restoring, protecting, or enhancing the species population(s).
- Whether the project supports the implementation of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP) and/or addresses the priorities of a recognized or candidate Fish Habitat Partnership. If so, a description of how the project meets one or more of the following NFHAP goals and strategies and how the outcomes will be measured and reported consistent with NFHAP guidelines:
 - Goal 1: Protect and maintain intact and healthy aquatic systems
 - Goal 2: Prevent further degradation of fish habitats that have been adversely affected
 - Goal 3: Reverse declines in the quality and quantity of aquatic habitats to improve overall health of native fish and other aquatic organisms
 - Goal 4: Increase the quality and quantity of fish habitats that support a broad diversity of native fish and other aquatic species

NFHAP interim fish habitat conservation strategies can be found at:

www.fishhabitat.org/images/documents/science/Final_Interim_Strategies_Targets.pdf

NFHAP reporting guidelines can be found at:

http://fishhabitat.org/images/stories/NFHAP_Science_and_Data_Team_Report.pdf

- Any nexus the project has with USFWS, BLM, and/or USFS lands or trust resources, and current agency involvement in the proposed project.
- Other partners and interests that will be involved in the project, including private landowners, state fish and wildlife agencies, and federal and tribal fish and wildlife agencies.
- The outreach strategy and educational values of the proposed project in tangible terms that can be used to measure the efficacy of outreach efforts in resulting in a quantifiable protection, restoration or enhancement of a species population(s).
- A budget that describes how requested grant funds and the non-federal match will be used to support the project's goals.
- Whether the project restores or enhances resistance or resilience to climate change in native fish populations by restoring habitat, preventing or controlling invasive species, increasing population production, expanding habitat for isolated populations, reducing outside stressors, enhancing riparian shade in grazed meadows of cold water habitats, reconnecting habitats, or restoring migratory life histories without introducing new threats by also opening access for invasive species.
- For those projects which include a fish passage barrier inventory component, whether barrier data will be submitted to the national fish passage barriers database housed in the USFWS's Fish Passage Decision Support System.

FUNDING POLICIES

Applicants must provide **non-federal match of at least \$2 for every \$1** of grant funds requested. Eligible non-federal matching sources can include cash, in-kind donations, and/or volunteer labor.

No part the grant funds or the non-federal match may be used to:

- Support litigation expenses or lobbying activities
- Cover permanent federal employee salary expenses
- Supplement shortfalls in government agency budgets
- Support multi-year grants due to the nature of NFWF's annual appropriations (applicants may apply for funds to continue previous NFWF funded projects if substantial progress has been made on the original grant)
- Support basic research
- Support basic planning, outreach, or education projects without an "on-the-ground" component

Additional information on funding policies, including financial documents required from applicants and the Foundation's policy on indirect costs, can be found on the Foundation's website at:

<http://www.nfwf.org/Content/NavigationMenu/GrantPrograms/GranteeRegistration1/ApplicantInformation/default.html>

APPLICATION PROCEDURE AND TIMELINE

Applicants should log onto the Foundation's website: www.nfwf.org, go to *Special Grant Programs* and select the ***Bring Back the Natives*** opportunity, and use the online process to submit a pre-proposal. (The Bring Back the Natives program webpage can also be found at <http://www.nfwf.org/bbn> .) Pre-proposals will be evaluated and ranked by the BBN Review Committee according to the priorities and criteria outlined above. In February 2012, the strongest pre-proposals will be invited to submit a full proposal due March 16, 2012. If invited for a full proposal, applicants may be required to solicit peer reviews of their proposal by up to five qualified and objective reviewers. The Foundation also retains the right to require additional peer review of proposals by external experts. Full proposal applicants will be notified of grant awards by July 2012. For more information or questions about the application process, please contact:

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