



Driftless Area Restoration Effort FY2025 Call for Aquatic Habitat Project Proposals

The Driftless Area Restoration Effort National Fish Habitat Partnership is seeking FY2025 proposals that address aquatic habitat protection, restoration, and enhancements that benefit priority native fish species addressed by the DARE partnership or assessment and outreach/education proposals that raise awareness/benefit cold-water resources.

Funding through the National Fish Habitat Partnership Program is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Funds are made available under the authority of ***America's Conservation Enhancement Act 16 USC 8201***—National Fish Habitat Conservation Through Partnerships (Pub. L. 116-188 [S. 3051], 134 Stat. 924-938)

**America's Conservation Enhancement (ACE) Act was passed by Congress and signed by the President in October 2020. The legislation emphasizes actions that lead to better fish habitat conditions, increased fishing opportunities, and public use of the resource.*

National Fish Habitat Partnership Goals

- Protect & maintain intact and healthy aquatic systems
- Prevent further degradation of fish habitats
- Reverse declines in quality & quantity of aquatic habitats to improve overall health of fish/aquatic species
- Increase quality & quantity of fish habitat that support natural diversity of fish/aquatic species

Driftless Area partnership goals:

- Reduce sediment and nutrients inputs to Driftless Area.
- Conserve, restore and expand habitats that will increase the natural abundance, diversity, and health of fish and other aquatic life.
- Increase the quantity and quality of angling and other recreational opportunities.
- Increase awareness about Driftless Area resources and the importance of aquatic conservation and restoration through outreach and education.

Mission Statements:

The mission of the Driftless Area Restoration Effort is to *work together to protect, restore and enhance cold, cool, and warmwater streams for fish and other aquatic communities in the Driftless Area region for future generations.*

The mission of the National Fish Habitat Partnership is to protect, restore, and enhance the nation's fish and aquatic communities through partnerships that foster fish habitat conservation and improve the quality of life for the American people.

DARE Priorities:

- Improve riparian and in-stream habitat on cold, cool and warmwater streams
- Protect, maintain and expand self-sustaining brook trout and smallmouth bass populations
- Improve riparian and in-stream habitat for priority non-game species
- Monitor and evaluate conservation actions
- Increase angling and other recreational opportunities
- Raise awareness about upland and aquatic conservation through outreach and education

Application Deadline

Due Date: February 2, 2024

Application Procedure

Proposals should be submitted in Microsoft Word electronically to **Sara Strassman:**
sara.strassman@tu.org

Funding Request:

Funding floor \$15,000

Funding ceiling \$75,000 *increased this year!

Match Requirements. A minimum nonfederal 1:1 match is required. Match may be cash or in-kind services (documented). Volunteer tracking spreadsheet will be provided to projects utilizing volunteer services. The US rate for volunteer hours averaged \$31.80 for 2022 (Independent Sector report, 2023).

Note: Other Federal funding sources can be used to complete proposed project; however, other federal funds cannot be used as match to NFHP funds.

Eligible Projects:

Projects considered for funding should address habitat protection, restoration, and enhancement that benefit priority native fish species addressed by DARE partnership. NFHP funds may be used for on-the-ground habitat activities. Eligible on-the-ground activities may include riparian, wetland, and instream habitat enhancement, restoration, and barrier removal.

Non construction projects considered may include: population or habitat assessments (ie. barrier assessments) needed for planning/prioritizations leading to conservation actions; landowner/farmer BMP outreach/engagement; outreach and education; partnership support (**contact DARE manager to discuss**)

Applicant Eligibility.

State, county, and local governments

Small businesses directly associated with and approved by the partnership

Private, Public, and State controlled institutions of higher education

Nonprofits having a 501 (c)(3) status with the IRS

Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized)

Native American tribal organizations (other than Federally recognized)

Eligible expenditures. Expenditures of NFHP funds are appropriate for the following actions and activities:

(a) Time spent for project planning, directing project activities (e.g., earthwork, fence installation), site assessments, travel to and from the project, and project oversight.

(b) Equipment (e.g. monitoring equipment).

(c) Earthwork (e.g., contracts for earth moving, planting, structure installation, or other site preparation), materials (e.g. rock, gravel, plants and planting supplies, materials to construct habitat structures).

(d) Short term monitoring/evaluation. Funds may be used for pre-post project monitoring of NFHP projects to evaluate biological response to project activities. Long-term monitoring is not eligible for funding.

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure completion of the below enrollments if proposal is selected for federal funding.

Required Registrations and Enrollments of Successful Award Recipients

U.S. non-profit, non-governmental organizations must provide a copy of their Section 501(c)(3) or (4) status determination letter received from the Internal Revenue Service.

A. Obtain a DUNS Number:

Federal law mandates that all entities applying for Federal financial assistance must have a valid Dun & Bradstreet Data Universal Number System (DUNS) number and have a current registration in the System for Award Management (SAM). See Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 25 for more information. You can request a DUNS Number through the Dun & Bradstreet website. The official website address is <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>. For technical difficulties, send an email to the [D&B SAM Help Desk](mailto:SAMHelp@dnb.com). Please ensure that you are able to receive emails from SAMHelp@dnb.com. The Grants.gov "Obtain a DUNS Number" webpage also provides detailed instructions. Once assigned a DUNS number, your organization must maintain up-to-date information with Dun & Bradstreet. Applicants must enter their DUNS number in the "Organizational DUNS" field on the SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance form.

B. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM.gov) Registration:

This requirement does not apply to individuals applying for funds as a private citizen (i.e., unrelated to any business or nonprofit organization you may own or operate in your name) or any entity with an exception approved by the Service under 2 CFR 25.110(d). All other applicants are required to obtain a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number from Dun & Bradstreet and then register in <http://www.sam.gov> prior to submitting a Federal award application. Federal award recipients must continue to maintain an active SAM.gov registration with current information through the life of their Federal award(s). The Service may not make a Federal award to an applicant that has not completed the SAM.gov registration. If an applicant selected for funding has not completed their SAM.gov registration by the time the Service is ready to make an award, the program may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive an award. Once registered in SAM, entities must renew and revalidate their SAM registration at least every 12 months from the date previously registered.

C. Reimbursement Payments:

Your organization will be required to complete enrollment in U.S. Treasury's Automated Standard Application for Payment (ASAP) system (https://www.fiscal.treasury.gov/fsservices/gov/pmt/asap/asap_home.htm) before an award can be put in place with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

D. Enrollment in Grant Solutions:

Successful recipient will be required to register and set up an account in <https://grantssolutions.gov> to submit their application package, financial and performance reports.

TITLE II—NATIONAL FISH HABITAT CONSERVATION THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

SEC. 201. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this title is to encourage partnerships among public agencies and other interested persons to promote fish conservation—

- (1) to achieve measurable habitat conservation results through strategic actions of Fish Habitat Partnerships that
 - lead to better fish habitat conditions and increased fishing opportunities by—
 - (A) improving ecological conditions;
 - (B) restoring natural processes; or
 - (C) preventing the decline of intact and healthy systems;
- (2) to establish a consensus set of national conservation strategies as a framework to guide future actions and investment
 - by Fish Habitat Partnerships;
- (3) to broaden the community of support for fish habitat conservation by—
 - (A) increasing fishing opportunities;
 - (B) fostering the participation of local communities, especially young people in local communities, in conservation activities; and
 - (C) raising public awareness of the role healthy fish habitat play in the quality of life and economic well-being of local communities;
- (4) to fill gaps in the National Fish Habitat Assessment and the associated database of the National Fish Habitat Assessment—
 - (A) to empower strategic conservation actions supported by broadly available scientific information; and
 - (B) to integrate socioeconomic data in the analysis to improve the lives of humans in a manner consistent with fish habitat conservation goals; and
- (5) to communicate to the public and conservation partners—
 - (A) the conservation outcomes produced collectively by Fish Habitat Partnerships; and
 - (B) new opportunities and voluntary approaches for conserving fish habitat.