

# Bring Back the Natives 2019 Pre-Proposal Tip Sheet

# **STARTING AN APPLICATION**

When you are ready to begin the application process, go to <u>easygrants.nfwf.org</u>.

- New users to the system will be prompted to register before starting their application.
- Existing users should log in using their e-mail address and password. If you have forgotten your password, please click the "Forgot your password?" link on the Easygrants login page and a reset link will be sent to you. The link expires within 24 hours of being sent.
- Once you are logged in, click the **Apply for Funding** button, and select Bring Back the Natives 2018 from the list of "Available Funding Opportunities".
- Complete the Eligibility Quiz and Save and Submit your response.
- If you pass the Eligibility Quiz, Easygrants will return you to your personal Easygrants Home Page. From there, click on the Pre-Proposal for the Bring Back the Natives 2018. Now you are ready to get started! If you do not pass the Eligibility Quiz, please contact the NFWF Program Contact identified in the RFP.

\* \* \* \* \*

The instructions below follow sequentially through each section and field in Easygrants required for this program. You may, however, complete these sections and fields in any order. You are encouraged to use the **Help** feature in Easygrants for additional guidance and examples. Additional resources for applicants, including the Indirect Cost Policy, can be accessed on the NFWF website by clicking <u>here</u>. Use the Quick Launch box on the left hand side of the screen to locate your desired information.

# **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Take Note!

- **Pop-ups:** Easygrants uses pop-up windows to display some files. Please make sure your web browser allows for pop-ups. The internet browser pop-up blocker must be disabled prior to beginning the application process. You can also try holding the Shift or Control (CTRL) key when clicking the link.
- **Cookies:** Easygrants uses cookies to maintain the session information. Please make sure that your browser and computer can accept cookies.
- **PDF:** Easygrants uses PDFs extensively. Make sure you are able to use Adobe Reader.
- SAVING AND SUBMITTING: Once an application has been initiated, it may be saved and then modified and submitted at a later time, up to the application deadline of June 27, 2019 11:59 PM Eastern Standard Time. Please note DO NOT hit the "Submit" button until you are actually ready to submit. Once you hit submit the application is formally submitted and you may no longer make changes.

Enter the contact information for the primary person responsible for completing the Easygrants application (this person is tagged as the Principal). Additional personnel may be added to your Easygrants account by clicking the "Add" button and entering their information (tag as a Collaborator).

# **ORGANIZATION INFORMATION**

Use the "Select Organization" button to search for your organization; you can search by Name, EIN number, or DUNS number. When searching by Name, it is recommended that you enter as few words as possible to ensure your return list is comprehensive. Select your organization from the list that is the most complete (has DUNS and/or EIN numbers). If Easygrants informs you that your organization's EIN or DUNS already exists but you are unable to find your organization, please contact <a href="mailto:Easygrants@nfwf.org">Easygrants@nfwf.org</a> for support (include your organization's name, EIN, DUNS). If your organization is new to Easygrants, click the "Add New" button at bottom of list and fill out your organization's information.

## **PROJECT INFORMATION**

- **Project Title:** Please do not call your project "Bring Back the Natives Proposal". Give it a short, descriptive name that will distinguish it from other proposals and include, to the extent possible, the species/habitats benefited, the location, and the method

(e.g., prey, habitat conservation). Other tips to consider: do not use acronyms, abbreviations (other than state) or technical jargon. If location is not already indicated in the title, include a two-letter state abbreviation at the end of the title. (100 character limit, including spaces is preferred) Example: *Improve Fish Passage for Salmonids in Manzanita Creek (CA)* 

- **Project Start Date:** Projects should begin within six months of the award announcement time period listed in the RFP. The start date can be back-dated up to one year prior to the pre-proposal due date in order to seek reimbursement for costs already incurred or to capture matching contributions directly related to the scope of work.
- **Project End Date:** Projects should be completed within 12 to 24 months of the grant award. Projects that seek a period of performance longer than 12 months should include a bulleted list of milestones for the first year and an implementation timeline.
- **Description:** For database purposes the Project Description follows a specific two-sentence format. The first sentence should start with a verb and clearly state the main activity/method being used to address a specific species/habitat and location. The second sentence should start with "Project will..." and state the expected outcome from the investment and relevance to conservation. Avoid acronyms, abbreviations, or technical jargon. Example: *Support effective management of coral systems throughout the Florida Keys by reducing lobster trap impacts to corals reefs. Project will improve awareness of regulations and increase understanding of compliance and impact on neighboring corals.* Please refrain from using pronouns such as I, we, our, etc. (500 character limit preferred, including spaces)
- Abstract: Provide a more detailed description of your project; including location, purpose, major activities, target species, specific habitat, outcomes (deliverables at the end of the grant period) and partners. The Abstract should simply and clearly answer these questions: What is the action, and what species will benefit? What is the background and specific conservation challenge? What solutions will the project provide? What are the specific outcomes? If this is an international project (or if work is to be completed outside of the US or US territories), please provide one or two sentences explaining the importance/connection to the U.S. Please refrain from using pronouns such as I, we, our, etc. (1500 character limit, including spaces)
- Project Location Description: Please include the state and county/city where the project will occur. If multiple values are entered for a local project, they should be ordered from smallest to largest in terms of geographic scope (e.g., "Franklin, New London County, Connecticut"). State names should be spelled out. Do not include geographic coordinates. Example: Canyon Creek, a tributary to the Teton River, Idaho (300 character limit, including spaces)
- **Requested Amount:** Most grant requests for this program will be between \$50,000-\$100,000. (Please review the Request for Proposal for categories of funding).

## UPLOADS

To complete your application, you must upload one or more files into Easygrants. In general, please minimize the file size of your uploads, and especially files that include photos, diagrams or logos. There is a file size limit of 15 megabytes.

- **Pre-Proposal Narrative:** The most important upload is your actual pre-proposal narrative. The **pre-proposal narrative template** may be downloaded from Easygrants at any time and completed at your leisure. It must be uploaded back into your Easygrants application before your application may be submitted. The narrative may not exceed two (2) pages in total length.
- Map of Project Site: Two maps should be uploaded, location of project within the specific basin and a project specific map.

### **MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS**

This funding opportunity requires a 1:1 match ratio in non-federal funds. You will be asked to identify sources of match and what the funds will be directed to in the scope of work later in the application. You do not have to have the entire match in hand at the time of the application submission; however, you should feel very confident that the match ratio you pledge can be secured over the life of the grant as this will be a part of your grant agreement if awarded. Larger match ratios and matching fund contributions from a diversity of partners are encouraged and will be more competitive.

Click the "Add" button to add sources of matching contributions, and list each source separately in the space provided. Match consists of the portion of project costs not paid with NFWF funds and may be in the form of cash, in-kind or volunteer contributions. Match must meet all of the following criteria:

Non-federal Matching Contributions:

- Verifiable from the grantee's records
- Not included as contributions for any other Federal award
- Reasonable and necessary for accomplishment of project or program objectives
- Committed directly to the project and used within the period of performance
- Allowable under OMB 2 CFR 200 Cost Principles

Federal Matching Contributions\*:

- Verifiable from the grantee's records
- Reasonable and necessary for accomplishment of project or program objectives
- Committed directly to the project and used within the period of performance

\*While they do not count toward the non-federal matching requirement, applicants are encouraged to include federal contributions to demonstrate the full scope and support of the project or to meet the match requirement of a non-federal NFWF program.

### **REVIEW and SUBMIT**

When you are ready to submit, each section of your proposal should be indicated "Complete" with a green check mark ( $\checkmark$ ) in the "Status" column. If any section is indicated "Incomplete" with a red ( $\Join$ ), you will not be able to submit and must go back and check your work in each section that is "Incomplete". The Validation Status section in the Review and Submit section of the application explains why the system indicates a section is "Incomplete".

To view and save your proposal you may click on the "View PDF" button. This function creates a composite file with all of the fields and substantive uploads, which you may then save as a stand-alone document. Please note that some of the financial documentation will be excluded from the composite file, but will be received by NFWF upon submission. Once you have reviewed your pre-proposal for accuracy, click the "Submit" button to officially submit your proposal. Upon submission, you will receive a confirmation email from <a href="mailto:Easygrants@nfwf.org">Easygrants@nfwf.org</a>.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED EASYGRANTS QUESTIONS

#### 1. How do I get back into the Easygrants online system when locked out?

Please send an email to Easygrants Helpdesk (<u>Easygrants@nfwf.org</u>) with your name, easygrants ID #, e-mail address, phone number, program you are applying to, and a description of the issue.

#### 2. I forgot my Easygrants password. How do I get this information sent to me?

Please go to <u>easygrants.nfwf.org</u>, click the "Forgot your password?" link, enter your e-mail address as the Login ID, and click Submit. Easygrants will e-mail you a copy of your login information. Please note that the reset password link expires after 24 hours of being sent. If it has been longer than 24 hours since the initial request you will have to request another link in order to reset your password. If you are unable to log in after having attempted to reset your password please send an email to Easygrants Helpdesk (<u>Easygrants@nfwf.org</u>) with your name, easygrants ID #, e-mail address, phone number, program you are applying to, and a description of the issue.

#### 3. I have finished my proposal and it is not showing up as completed.

Please remember to hit the "submit" button in the Review and Submit section of the application when you have completed the application. When a task is properly submitted in easygrants the task will no longer be visible on the user's homepage.

#### 4. How will I know when NFWF has received my completed application?

You will receive an automated notification from Easygrants@nfwf.org.

#### 5. I completed the application and it will not submit. Why not?

If you are unable to submit your application, go to the Review and Submit form in the application. If any section is indicated "Incomplete" with a red  $(\times)$ , there will also be an explanation as to why the system indicates the section is "Incomplete". You must go back and check your work in each section that is "Incomplete". Below are two examples that frequently prevent submission:

- Check the Project Information section of the Easygrants online application "Requested Amount" to see if it matches your budget grand total. The amounts must match exactly (down to the cent) for you to be able to submit a proposal. Please edit your Requested Amount and/or budget if needed.
- 2) Do not complete sections of the budget where you have no costs. If you entered "0" for any budget line items, delete those line items. Placing a "0" in these line items will prevent you from submitting a proposal.

#### 6. What should I do if a page crashes in Easygrants?

If you receive a System Encountered Error it is important to follow the instructions on the page

- 1) First, click **Resume** and you should return to the previous page. Check if the action you tried to complete occurred. If the action did not complete, make a note of what page you are on and what button or link you are clicking.
- 2) Retry the action. If the system crashes again you must click the Send an E-mail to report the issue. This will open a Send Error Message E-mail page in a new window or tab. Do not skip these steps and e-mail Easygrants Helpdesk yourself; we need the information in this e-mail to resolve your issue.
- 3) In the email to Easygrants Helpdesk, please enter your name, easygrants ID #, e-mail address, phone number, and a description of what happened. The description needs to include what page you were on, what data you may have typed into the page, what button/link you clicked, and what you were trying to do.

4) Click **Submit** to send the message and report the error. This will be sent to the NFWF Easygrants Helpdesk along with additional technical information sent by Easygrants.

#### 7. I need to download a copy of my submitted proposal.

To download a copy of your proposal after submitting please go to your Home screen, click the **View All Tasks** button, and find your proposal in the list of tasks. Click **View PDF** to download a copy of your proposal. If the PDF does not open or begin downloading please try again, holding the Shift or Control (CRTL) key on your keyboard to override your pop-up blocker. Please note that proposals are only available for a limited time after a cycle closes.

### HELP WITH THE EASYGRANTS ONLINE SYSTEM

For Easygrants technical support please contact our Helpdesk at <u>Easygrants@nfwf.org</u> or leave a message at 202-595-2497. Please include your name, easygrants ID #, e-mail address, phone number, program you are applying to, and a description of the issue. Helpdesk hours are 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM EST, Mon-Fri.

### **GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE RFP**

Kirstin Neff Kirstin.Neff@nfwf.org 303-222-6482

OR

Kate Morgan Katherine.Morgan@nfwf.org 202-595-2469

IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED AN EMAIL FROM <u>EASYGRANTS@NFWF.ORG</u> INVITING YOU TO SUBMIT A FULL PROPOSAL, PLEASE CONTINUE WITH THE FOLLOWING PAGES OF INSTRUCTION.

# Bring Back the Natives 2019 Full Proposal Tip Sheet

#### IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED AN EMAIL FROM <u>EASYGRANTS@NFWF.ORG</u> INVITING YOU TO SUBMIT A FULL PROPOSAL, please continue on with these instructions.

# CONTINUING YOUR APPLICATION

When you are ready to continue the application process, go to <u>easygrants.nfwf.org</u>.

- Enter your login ID and password. If you have forgotten you password, Easygrants will e-mail one to you.
- Once you are logged in, the Full Proposal "To Do" item and its due date will appear on your Home page.
- Click "Full Proposal" task link to begin.

\* \* \* \* \*

The instructions below follow sequentially through each section and field in Easygrants required for this program. You may, however, complete these sections and fields in any order. You are encouraged to use the **Help** feature in Easygrants for additional guidance and examples. Additional resources for applicants, including the Indirect Cost Policy, can be accessed on the NFWF website by clicking <u>here</u>. Use the Quick Launch box on the left hand side of the screen to locate your desired information.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

### Take Note!

- **Pop-ups:** Easygrants uses pop-up windows to display some files. Please make sure your web browser allows for pop-ups. The internet browser pop-up blocker must be disabled prior to opening your application. You can also try holding the Shift or Control (CTRL) key when clicking the link.
- **Cookies:** Easygrants uses cookies to maintain the session information. Please make sure that your browser and computer can accept cookies.
- **PDF:** Easygrants uses PDFs extensively. Make sure you are able to use Adobe Reader.
- SAVING AND SUBMITTING: Modifications to applications may be saved and submitted at a later time, up to the application deadline of August 22, 2019 11:59 PM Eastern Standard Time. Please note DO NOT hit the "Submit" button until you are actually ready to submit. Once you hit submit the application is formally submitted and you may no longer make changes.

This section will be pre-populated with information from your pre-proposal; however, you may update this section with additional project personnel or changes to personnel roles.

# **ORGANIZATION INFORMATION**

This section will be pre-populated with information from your pre-proposal.

## **PROJECT INFORMATION**

The following fields will be pre-populated with information from your pre-proposal; however, you may edit these fields to make improvements or to reflect changes in your project:

- Project Title
- Project Start Date
- Project End Date
- Description
- Abstract
- Requested Amount

## **PROJECT LOCATION**

The following fields require new information not provided previously:

- Project Location Country: All projects must occur within "North America United States".
- **Project Location State/Province:** Select all states that apply.
- **Project Location U.S. Congressional District(s):** As of January 1, 2013, Congressional District lines were redrawn in many states. Please carefully review the district(s) for your project's location. If you are not sure what the Congressional District(s) should

be, you can enter the project zip codes or addresses at <a href="http://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/map">http://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/map</a> to determine the correct district(s) for your project. If your project takes place statewide, please select the "All Districts" option for that state.

- **Project Location Description:** This field will be pre-populated with information from your pre-proposal; however, you may edit to reflect changes or refinements to your project location.

### MAP

This section allows you to map the location(s) of your proposed project. Follow the page instructions provided in Easygrants. For more detailed assistance, refer to the <u>Map Page Help</u> document or <u>Mapping Video Tutorial</u>.

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

### **UPLOADS**

To complete your application, you must upload one or more files into Easygrants. In general, please minimize the file size of your uploads, and especially files that include photos, diagrams or logos. There is a file size limit of 15 megabytes.

- **Full Proposal Narrative:** The most important upload is your actual full proposal narrative. The **full proposal narrative template** may be downloaded from Easygrants at any time and completed at your leisure. It must be uploaded back into your Easygrants application before your application may be submitted. The narrative may not exceed eight (8) pages in total length.
- In addition to the narrative, several other files should be uploaded. Following is guidance regarding all required and optional uploads:

Upload	Required/Not Required	Notes	
Narrative	Required	Template provided in Easygrants online application "Uploads" section.	
Board of Trustees or Directors	Required	Provide a list of members. If your organization is not a nonprofit and does not have a Board, upload a document stating that none exists.	
Statement of Litigation	Required	Template provided in Easygrants online application "Uploads" section. Federal, state, and local government applicants are not required to complete this section.	
Photos	Not Required	Please compress photos to minimize file size. 5 photos maximum. Photos are not required but highly encouraged per the full proposal narrative, particularly to orient the reviewer to your project site or specialized equipment/methods.	
Letters of Support	Not Required	Recommended for projects that have significant implementation partners to show their commitment to contribute to the Scope of Work or for intended recipients of products (i.e. management authority) to demonstrate the need for the product in the form proposed. Letters of support should <i>not</i> be mailed directly to <u>NFWF</u> . Scan all letters of support into one single file and upload the file in the "Uploads" section of your online application.	
Project Site Maps	Not Required	Maps and/or diagrams are encouraged for on-site work proposed if a finer scale or labeling is needed to demonstrate specific aspects of your project's implementation beyond what the application mapping tool can provide.	
Other documents	Not Required	Ten (10) page limit. Should only be used if required to communicate the implementation of the project – not as reference material.	
IRS Form 990*	Required	Please refer to the <u>Required Financial Documents and FAQs</u> webpage for details on all financial information required for submission.	
Single Audit*	Required	Please refer to the <u>Required Financial Documents and FAQs</u> webpage for details on all financial information required for submission.	
GAAP Audited Financial Statements*	Required	Please refer to the <u>Required Financial Documents and FAQs</u> webpage for details on all financial information required for submission.	

\*If your organization has recently applied to NFWF for a grant and valid information is already on file in Easygrants and is current, you will not be asked for these uploads and these categories will not appear for you in Easygrants. Also, please note that financial documents may not show a 'successfully converted' status when you are uploading them. This is because financial documents are not pulled into the full proposal PDF but are stored in a separate part of the easygrants system which can only be accessed by NFWF staff once uploaded.

### **METRICS**

This section allows you to select the activity and outcome metrics you will use to measure your project's progress and success. Follow the directions provided in Easygrants to complete this section. A couple of pointers:

- A list of metrics associated with this program will be presented.
- Hover your mouse cursor over the "?" next to a metric to read its description and specific guidance.
- Please "Add" and complete at least one metric relevant to reporting your project's progress.
- For each metric you will need to provide values for "Starting Value" and "Target Value". In most cases the starting value will be zero (0).
- In your project narrative, you will have the opportunity to describe additional activities and outcomes associated with your project.

Conservation Action Proposed	Activity Category in Application	Metric	Directions for Using and Interpreting Metrics
Fish passage improvements (i.e. culvert replacements, barrier removals)	Fish passage improvements	# fish passage barriers rectified	Enter the number of fish passage barriers improved to allow fish passage or removed. Clearly define in the notes the type of barrier and anticipated change in fish passage from the project and the context of this barrier(s) (i.e. 1 of 3 prioritized for this tributary, etc.)
Fish passage improvements (i.e. culvert replacements, barrier removals)	Fish passage improvements	Miles of stream opened	Enter the number of miles between the barrier removal/improvement site to the site of the next barrier/blockage upstream or the headwaters (whichever comes first). Provide a narrative of how this metric will be quantified in the notes section.
Restore flow to stream (i.e. Improved irrigation practices, restore hydrology)	Restoring hydrology	Additional acre feet in stream/lake	Enter the number of <b>additional</b> acre feet of water entering the system per year as a result of BMPs, water transactions, hydrologic restoration, etc. undertaken as part of your project. Clearly describe the monitoring methods for this metric in your notes section.
Stream restoration/Aquatic habitat complexity (i.e. Instream and riparian restoration, woody material, streambank restoration)	Riparian restoration	Miles restored	Enter the number of miles from this project for which habitat quality has been restored to support/increase target fish presence. If there are multiple activities happening at different parts of the stream you can break out in the notes the 'distance' of impact for each activity. If you are restoring other wetland habitat please explain in the notes and convert acres to miles.
Monitoring population response (i.e. reduction in invasive species or increase in presence/use of habitat before and after project, restocking survival)	Population	# individuals	Enter the number of target population individuals before and after project improvements to the target stream/lake/wetland. This metric should be used if it is anticipated that the target population will utilize habitat within the project period or if an existing monitoring program for habitat use or invasive species is in place and you are evaluating change based on conservation action. Clearly define the target species you will be monitoring <b>and</b> your methods for establishing baseline and monitoring change in the population.
Engaging community volunteers in conservation activities	Volunteer participation	# volunteers participating in projects	Enter the number of volunteers participating in the project. Use the notes section to highlight if there are specific groups like fisheries associations, youth, veterans that are targeted for participation.
Habitat improvements or Best Management Practices on private lands	Improved management practices	Acres of private land under improved management	Enter the number of privately owned acres that will directly benefit from activities through this project.
Habitat improvements or Best Management Practices on public lands	Improved management practices	Acres of public land under improved management	Enter the number of publicly owned acres that will directly benefit from activities through this project <b>and</b> list the ownership (i.e. US Forest Service).

## BUDGET

Please refer to the Detailed Budget Instructions sheet in order to accurately complete a budget for this project.

- Budgets without narrative descriptions may be rejected and/or returned to the applicant for further details and clarification.
- Narratives should be written is such a way that someone not specifically familiar with the project can conceptually understand the rationale, purpose and calculation of the anticipated costs identified.
- The "Requested Amount" in the Project Information section must match your budget grand total exactly. The budget should
  only represent the grant amount being requested from NFWF; it should not include matching funds or represent the overall
  budget for the project.
- NFWF reserves the right to evaluate the cost-effectiveness of a budget, which may include, but is not limited to, an assessment of either or both direct and indirect costs in the proposed budget.

Indirect Costs: If you intend to include indirect costs in your budget, please review NFWF's Indirect Cost Policy.

- The federal government has determined that a *de minimis* 10% indirect rate is an acceptable minimum for organizations without a NICRA, as such NFWF reserves the right to scrutinize <u>ALL</u> proposals with indirect rates above 10% for costeffectiveness.
- If you are including indirect costs in your budget request, please provide a narrative description identifying what the indirect request will be supporting (e.g., CEO salary, rent for lab space central to project site, etc.).
- Indirect cost narratives should include a statement of whether the applicant has ever had a NICRA. If the applicant has a NICRA, it shall include supporting documentation.
- Budgets without narrative descriptions for indirect costs may be rejected and/or returned to the applicant for further details and clarification.

## MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS

The matching contributions tab will be pre-populated with information from your pre-proposal; however, you may edit these fields to make improvements or to reflect changes in matching funds status or to add additional match sources if pending proposals were declined.

This funding opportunity requires a 1:1 match ratio in non-federal funds. You will be asked to identify sources of match and what the funds will be directed to in the scope of work later in the application. You do not have to have the entire match in hand at the time of the application submission; however, you should feel very confident that the match ratio you pledge can be secured over the life of the grant as this will be a part of your grant agreement if awarded. Larger match ratios and matching fund contributions from a diversity of partners are encouraged and will be more competitive.

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Non-federal Matching Contributions:

- Verifiable from the grantee's records
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Federal Matching Contributions\*:

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\*While they do not count toward the non-federal matching requirement, applicants are encouraged to include federal contributions to demonstrate the full scope and support of the project or to meet the match requirement of a non-federal NFWF program.

## **PERMITS and APPROVALS**

If permits and/or approvals are required for this project, click the "Add" button to provide details for each permit and/or approval. Include extra information in the description section as necessary (e.g., pre-permit meeting held on Jan. 1, 2013, etc.).

### **REVIEW and SUBMIT**

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# **GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE RFP**

Kirstin Neff Kirstin.Neff@nfwf.org 303-222-6482

OR

Kate Morgan Katherine.Morgan@nfwf.org 202-595-2469