



## WESTERN NATIVE TROUT INITIATIVE

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## Western Native Trout Initiative 2019 NFHP Project Funding Opportunity

August 27, 2018

The Western Native Trout Initiative (WNTI) and our partners are proud to announce our 2019 Request for Project Proposals. As one of 20 federally recognized National Fish Habitat Partnerships, WNTI is a collaborative effort between 12 western states, 3 federal agencies, sovereign tribes, private businesses and individuals, non-governmental conservation groups, and other organizations that seek to cooperatively conserve (protect, restore, enhance, and recover) 21 western native trout and char species and sub-species across their historic range. WNTI works to achieve this vision by funding locally-based efforts that raise awareness for the importance of native trout and focus limited financial and human resources toward the highest-impact, locally-led, on-the-ground projects.

While WNTI is supported by different entities and partners, the bulk of project funding is currently made available to grantees annually through the National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

**Eligible Projects:** Projects considered for funding may include science-based voluntary and non-regulatory habitat protection, restoration, and enhancement activities to benefit 21 species of western trout and char addressed by WNTI ([click here](#) for a complete species list). Types of eligible activities may include riparian or instream habitat protection, enhancement, and restoration. Examples are: barrier removal or construction; rangewide population or watershed habitat assessments needed for prioritization and planning of habitat conservation and evaluation; assessment, collection, and information required for instream flow or lake water level quantification, protection and restoration; and habitat-related community outreach and education actions. NFHP funds can only be used for on-the-ground habitat projects and related design and monitoring activities; funds may not be used for acquisition in fee or easement, research, or solely to support personnel and staff salaries or benefits. Funded projects must be completed within 18-36 months of receipt of contract agreement. Multiyear projects **MUST** be broken into distinct phases by year for tasks, accomplishments, and budget.

**WNTI's Priorities:** As a National Fish Habitat Partnership, WNTI's #1 priority is the protection and restoration of habitat for western native trout and char species. Under this broad priority, we consider actions that achieve the following to be our highest priority:

- A. Actions that provide long-term protection of intact and healthy aquatic ecosystems that support priority populations.
- B. Restoration projects. Priorities are (in this order):
  1. Actions that protect or enhance multiple populations.
  2. Actions that provide immediate benefits to enhancing the viability of priority populations (e.g. restoring habitat connectivity where populations are isolated or threatened).
  3. Actions that support conservation of unique and rare functioning habitat, habitat diversity, life histories and genetic attributes.
  4. Actions that provide critical information needed for assessing success and making adaptive management decisions.

**WNTI's Focal Species:** Up to 75% of WNTI's NFHP funding could go toward the Focal Species listed below for the years indicated. Projects submitted for funding must support WNTI's priorities above to benefit these species.

2017-2019: Bonneville Cutthroat Trout, Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout, Interior Redband Trout.

2020-2022: Colorado River Cutthroat Trout, Lahontan Cutthroat Trout, Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout, Westslope Cutthroat Trout.

Proposals for other WNTI species for NFHP funding will still be considered, but will need to meet a high standard in terms of project quality and impact to one or more of our 21 focal species in order to be funded.

**Available Funding:** WNTI anticipates receiving between \$150,000 and \$230,000 in NFHP funds for FY 2019 projects. The exact amount of funding available to the partnership varies annually and is not known at this time. **This is a very competitive process and we anticipate the pool of applicants**



**will exceed the available pool of funding.** Typical funding per project is in the range of \$10K-\$50K. Successful proposals must demonstrate a minimum 1:1 match, which may include cash, time, materials, or other services and greater match is encouraged. Special consideration will be given to projects with more than the minimum match. Applications will be reviewed and ranked by the WNTI Steering Committee based on their ability to meet the partnership's key priorities and strategic objectives.

NFHP funds are federal funds, administered on WNTI's behalf through a federal agency. All organizations that receive NFHP funding are required to complete all requirements for federal grants, including registration on the federal System for Award Management (SAM.org) and Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP), and provide annual reports to the USFWS. NFHP funds are processed through the USFWS Regional Offices or local FWCO office. Grants are paid on a reimbursable basis. A project agreement will be completed with successful applicants through USFWS regional and/or local staff. WNTI also requires the timely provision of copies of progress and completion reports with before/after project photos to WNTI.

**Applications are due by 5:00 p.m. Mountain time on Friday October 26, 2018.**

**While all information we require for the application is the same as in previous years, WNTI is moving to an online application process this year,** All documentation with specific guidance for completing the application is available on the [WNTI website](#). Late or incomplete applications will be not accepted.

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