



# WESTERN NATIVE TROUT INITIATIVE

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## Western Native Trout Initiative 2019 Small Grants Program Request for Proposals

April 16, 2019

The Western Native Trout Initiative (WNTI) and our partners are proud to announce our 2019 Small Grants Program Request for Proposals. WNTI is an initiative of the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and a recognized National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) that seeks to cooperatively restore and recover 21 western native trout and char species and subspecies across their historic range by funding 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.

Since its inception in 2006, the Western Native Trout Initiative has directed almost \$5.3 million in federal fish habitat funds leveraged to \$23.4 million public and private matching dollars for 139 priority native trout conservation projects. With the collaboration and coordination of WNTI Partners, together we have removed 87 barriers to fish passage, reconnected or improved 1,130 miles of native trout habitat, and placed 30 protective fish barriers to conserve important native trout conservation populations.

In addition to directing NFHP federal funding annually toward large, on-the-ground native trout conservation projects, WNTI administers a separate Small Grants Program to 'jump start' or complete smaller, high-impact efforts by community groups to restore or recover western native trout. We would like to thank [RepYourWater](#), [Basin+Bend](#), [California Fly Fishers Unlimited](#), and [Sierra Pacific Fly Fishers](#), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and all of our individual donors for contributing funds in support of the Small Grants Program this year.

In 2018, the Western Native Trout Initiative's Steering Committee thoroughly reviewed and evaluated our Small Grants program goals and project selection guidelines, criteria, and process. In 2019 and going forward, the focus of WNTI's Small Grants Program will be on projects with a strong element or primary focus on community outreach, education and/or volunteer engagement; or design/planning/monitoring work. Outreach is our top priority for this program and outreach projects will be ranked the highest, all other things being equal. WNTI's Small Grants program funding is not intended to pay for a small portion of a large habitat restoration or construction project. Habitat restoration-related activities that are requesting support from this program should primarily involve outreach, education, or volunteer engagement, a community outreach event or work day, or project design/planning/monitoring tasks. Small grant funds this year are a combination of privately donated funds and federal funds. Approximately \$21,000 in funding is available for projects in the 12 western states that are WNTI's focus. **Individual projects can be funded at a maximum of \$5,000.**

In order to help applicants put forward the best possible projects, WNTI has [a set of criteria](#) by which projects are evaluated for funding. Applicants should address these criteria in their project applications.

**The deadline to submit a project application under the Small Grants Program is 5 pm Mountain time on June 18, 2019.** While all information we require for the application is the same as in previous years, WNTI has moved 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. Please feel free to contact us at [tthompson@westernnativetrout.org](mailto:tthompson@westernnativetrout.org) with questions.





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## 2019 Small Grants Program *Additional information*

**WNTI Species** - Proposed projects must primarily benefit at least one of WNTI's target native trout and char species or sub-species in their historic range: Apache Trout, Bonneville Cutthroat Trout, Bull Trout, California Golden Trout, Coastal Cutthroat Trout, Colorado River Cutthroat Trout, Gila Trout, Greenback Cutthroat Trout, Lahontan Cutthroat Trout, Little Kern Golden Trout, Paiute Cutthroat Trout, Interior Redband Trout, Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout, Westslope Cutthroat Trout, Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout, Alaskan native Arctic Char, Arctic Grayling, Dolly Varden, resident Rainbow Trout, native naturally-occurring freshwater Kokanee, or native naturally-occurring Lake Trout. Please also include any other fish species the project may benefit.

### **Deadline**

Applications are due on **June 18, 2019. Applications must be received by 5:00 pm Mountain Time.**

### **Reporting**

A several page report, with photos, is expected when the project is completed. It should describe what was accomplished, how it was done, who was involved, and before and after photographs of good quality. We post our small grant reports on our website for the public to read.

### **Selection Process**

Grant applications will be reviewed by the WNTI Steering Committee at the July meeting. Applicants will be notified as soon as final decisions are made. **Project funds are awarded on a reimbursable basis and must be expended by December 15, 2020.**

### ***Please note, the Western Native Trout Initiative will not consider:***

1. Late requests.
2. Requests for programs or projects already completed.
3. Refunding projects, programs or items purchased before the grant is approved or awarded.
4. Participating in or funding of any political campaign on behalf of any issues, organizations or candidates.
5. Funding for the purchase of private land, general organizational operating revenue, or staff salaries and benefits.

***Organizations that have received WNTI or NFHP funding in the past must have current progress and/or final reports on file with WNTI in order to be eligible for funding during this cycle.***

Questions? Please contact Therese Thompson at [tthompson@westernnativetrout.org](mailto:tthompson@westernnativetrout.org) or by phone 303-236-4402.