



WESTERN NATIVE TROUT INITIATIVE

Information required to apply for WNTI Funding

Application Deadline: January 22, 2024 5 pm Mountain time

This document is intended to assist you in collecting the information you will need to enter your application into our online application form. The online form will ask you for the information listed below, in the order listed. You must fill in each box in the online form in order to submit your application (the system will not allow you to submit an application with blank boxes). We recommend that you type your information into this document first, and then use it to cut and paste into the online form.

Additional Documents you will need to upload to complete your application:

- Letter of support from your state fish and wildlife agency (this is **mandatory** for all projects except those located on tribal lands).
- If your project is located on private land, a consent letter is also required from the private landowner. A standard letter is fine, or you can use our template:

<https://westernnativetrout.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Private-Land-Owner-Consent-Form-Template.docx>

- WNTI's budget template is available and will open at the bottom of your screen as an excel spreadsheet: <https://westernnativetrout.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Budget-template.xlsx>

If you want to take a break and continue working on your application at a later date, click "Save and Continue Later". The system will generate a link for you to return to your form – please make a copy of the link. You may also choose to have the link emailed to you – we recommend that you **copy the link first to ensure you have it, and then look in your spam folder if you do not see the link in your inbox. Your link will expire after 30 days and the software will not allow us to extend that time period.**

Once you are certain you are done with your application, click "Submit". Once you click submit, you cannot return and edit your application. We will send you a copy of your application as recorded in our online system and you will have an opportunity to read over and make minor edits to what you submitted.

Please do not wait until the last minute on deadline day to begin your application!

Application Questions

Project title:

Lead applicant organization or entity information:

Lead Applicant Organization or Entity:

Contact Person Name:

Street Address for Applying Entity:

City, State, Zip:

Contact email:

Contact telephone:

Website address:

Project summary (limited to 3,000 characters):

A concise description (abstract-style) of why this project is important, what activities you will undertake to meet your objectives and the conservation benefit to target species, and why the project should be selected for National Fish and Habitat Partnership (NFHP) funding. This is your first chance to give reviewers a snapshot of your project and the anticipated benefits to the target species.

For habitat restoration and protection projects: provide details such as an overview of existing habitat conditions and the desired or target conditions, species that will benefit from the restoration, project outputs expected (for example, the size of area to be restored/protected, number of habitat structures to be altered, added or removed), project outcomes (for example, reconnecting smaller populations to create a meta-population, reconnecting a population to spawning habitat, barrier construction to prevent upstream movement of fish into trout conservation areas, providing cooler water temperatures) and the specific restoration methods and techniques that will be used.

For assessment projects: provide details such as an overview of how the project provides a conservation benefit to the target species, project outcomes, and what actionable results may be produced by the project. Assessments must be either range-wide, Geographic Management Unit (GMU) or watershed wide, or actionable to inform management strategies for a specific, already-identified restoration project that provide a benefit to the conservation of the target species.

Project location information:

Project location (county, nearest town, state):

Project Map Coordinates (**Lat/Long in decimal degrees**, separate with a semi colon);

Congressional District of Project:

Watershed/Stream/Lake that your project benefits:

WNTI species benefited in their historic range (you will be given a drop down list and can choose all that apply):

Alaskan Kokanee

Alaskan Lake Trout

Alaskan Rainbow Trout

Apache Trout

Arctic Char

Arctic Grayling

Bonneville Cutthroat Trout
Bull Trout
California Golden Trout
Coastal Cutthroat Trout
Dolly Varden
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

Project satisfies one or more of the National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) National Conservation Priorities (NCPs):

You will be given a dropdown list of the seven FY25 NFHP National Conservation Priorities and can choose all that apply. More information about the FY25 NFHP National Conservation Priorities and example strategies is available [here](#).

National Conservation Priorities:

- 1) **Conserve waters and habitats where all processes and functions are operating within their expected range or natural variation.** This priority focuses action on acquiring or protecting in other ways fish habitats that are currently functioning and are considered intact for the purpose of preventing future degradation. In essence: protect what is currently working.
- 2) **Conserve hydrologic conditions for fish.** This priority focuses on ensuring that appropriate hydrologic (annual and daily flows) and hydrodynamic (current or velocity) conditions are always available to allow fish to optimize their production. This is accomplished by rehabilitating degraded and improving engineered hydrographs and hydrodynamic conditions to ensure all needed fish habitats are available at the appropriate times.
- 3) **Conserve physical and living habitats and features that support viable and sustainable species and/or populations in impacted or at-risk systems.** This priority focuses on protection, rehabilitation, and/or enhancement of those critical habitat features within a waterbody that are necessary to support ecological function and processes such as structure, vegetation, habitat complexity, etc. that may be lacking, may have been altered, or simply may not be functioning effectively.
- 4) **Reconnect fragmented fish habitats.** When aquatic habitats lack full connectivity, fish cannot freely move among the places they need to complete their life cycle and optimize their production. This priority is focused on identifying, removing, rehabilitating, or otherwise addressing anthropogenic barriers so they no longer restrict fish movement and instead allow fish to access habitats, migrate, locate refugia, and seek food and mates.
- 5) **Conserve water quality for fish.** This priority focuses on efforts to conserve the physical, chemical, and biological aspects of water quality, mitigate causes of impairment, and restore degraded conditions in support of fish habitat and fish populations.
- 6) **Support the structure and function of FHPs.** The Fish Habitat Partnerships (FHPs) conduct the foundational work necessary to ensure that NFHP achieves its mission 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. This priority focuses on supporting strong and effective FHPs and their unique approaches to collaborative, science-driven fish habitat conservation.

7) **Enhance recreational, commercial, subsistence, and traditional fishing opportunities when conducting projects that conserve fish habitat.** This priority includes actions that are intended to broaden support for fish habitat conservation, increase fishing opportunities, support traditional practices, and increase participation in fish habitat conservation activities by local community, particularly young people, by improving access, education, and participation.

Project satisfies one or more WNTI goals: This is a dropdown list of the four WNTI goals. Choose all that apply. More information about WNTI's goals is available [here](#).

Goals:

- 1) Protect, restore, and enhance western native trout populations and measure success in improving the status of western native trout.
- 2) Ensure protection and enhancement of intact watersheds, and enhancement or restoration of habitats that have been impacted by human activities or catastrophic natural events.
- 3) Develop collaborative approaches and partnerships among agencies and stakeholders that emphasize cooperation and shared effort and increase funding to implement high-priority projects for the protection, restoration, or enhancement of western native trout.
- 4) Develop and implement effective communication, education, and outreach programs as a tool to increase public awareness and encourage partnerships that benefit western native trout.

Project start date:

Project completion date:

Is there a monitoring and evaluation plan? Yes No

Describe any previous support of this project by WNTI:

Either for design phase, habitat assessments, genetic studies, or a funding of earlier construction/implementation phases. What was the name of the project (if different from the name of the project you are entering for this application cycle)? If there was no previous WNTI support just type None.

If multiyear project, is there a breakdown of tasks, accomplishments, and budget by year in distinct phases? Yes No Not multiyear project

Letter of support from state fish and wildlife agency:

A letter of support from your state fish and wildlife agency is **required** for all projects on public or private land. Projects on tribal lands **do not** require a letter of support from a state fish and wildlife agency. Additional letters of support from federal or tribal fish and wildlife agencies are encouraged and can be attached under supplemental information later in this application.

Land ownership (Public or Private or Tribal; if Public, specify managing agency):

If your project is located on private land, you are required to attach a letter of support from the landowner. If you need a template, ours can be downloaded at <https://westernnativetrout.org/private-land-owner-consent-form-template/>. You will need to save the file with a new name and upload it where requested in the online application.

Legacy U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Region where the project is located (you will make a selection):

Region 1: Idaho, Oregon, Washington

Region 2: New Mexico, Arizona

Region 6: Montana, Colorado, Utah, Wyoming

Region 7: Alaska

Region 8: California, Nevada

Is your project listed in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife FIS system? Yes / No /Unknown

If yes, please indicate the FIS project number (if known):

Note: Previously submitted, but unfunded projects may have been placed in the Fishery Operational Needs System (FONS). Please check with your local U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office if you are unsure about this question or select “unknown”.

Sponsoring professional (state, federal, or tribal agency resource manager):

Name:

Title:

Organization/affiliation:

Mailing Address:

Email:

Phone:

Project Costs

Total project cost:

WNTI/NFHP funds requested:

Non federal match:

Requested NFHP grant funds must be matched 1:1 with nonfederal funds. Nonfederal match can include cash and/or in-kind labor, materials, equipment if there are no federal ties to those funds. State agency funds can be used for the nonfederal match if labor and/or materials are not being matched to another federal grant. State agency funds that are being used to match other federal grants would not be eligible as match.

Total cash or in-kind contributions:

This is the *total amount* of other contributions (cash and in-kind) that will be included in your project. Include ALL contributions here (both pending and secured) whether or not you have secured them at the time of your application and from all sources (federal and non federal).

Total cash or in-kind contributions secured:

This is the total amount of other contributions (cash and in-kind) that you have SECURED at the time of your application. Include all secured contributions here from all sources (federal and non federal).

Contributions Match ratio (WNTI/NFHP request: all Partners contributions): _____ : _____

Partner Contribution Details

List each partner and their financial contributions. The online form has a table that you can fill in and add additional partners (+) as needed for your application.

Organization	Cash contributed (federal)	Cash contributed (non-federal)	In-Kind contributed (federal)	In-Kind contributed (non-federal)	Is this contribution Secured or Pending	Contact name	Position	Email	Phone

Budget

You will be asked to upload the WNTI budget template. The information in the template is pasted below. You can download a template and it will open as an excel spreadsheet at the bottom of your screen:

<https://westernnativetrout.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Budget-template.xlsx>

Expense Category	WNTI Request	Partner Amount Contributed	Total
a. Personnel	N/A		
b. Travel			
c. Equipment*			
d. Supplies			
e. Contractual			
f. Construction			
g. Other			
TOTAL			

*Equipment is any individual item over \$5,000 **that you are purchasing**. Even if an item is tangible, nonexpendable, and having a useful life of more than one year, items costing less than \$5,000 should be placed under the Supplies category. If you are not purchasing equipment, rental of equipment should be listed under contractual or construction.

Budget narrative:

For supplies and contractual, provide some detail, and explain budget categories and amounts listed in your budget template as needed. If a multi-year project, please provide a budget breakdown by year (e.g. Phase 1 – 2023, Phase 2 – 2024). If your budget includes WNTI funding from a previous year or phase of the project, please make that clear in your narrative.

Project Components and Outcomes

Project components (you will be able to select all that apply):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Riparian or In-Stream Habitat Restoration | <input type="checkbox"/> Watershed Connectivity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barrier Removal or Construction | <input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Watershed or Population Assessment | <input type="checkbox"/> Education/outreach |
| <input type="checkbox"/> In-Stream Flow Acquisition Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Watershed Planning |

Anticipated outcomes (you will be able to fill in values applicable to project):

___ # Stream Miles Restored or Enhanced

___ # Watersheds or Rivers Assessed

___ # Stream Miles Reconnected or Reopened

___ # Stream Miles Assessed

___ # Acres of Lake/Wetlands Restored/Enhanced

___ # Populations Assessed

___ # Barriers Removed or Constructed

___ Other: (i.e. number of individuals reached by an educational program or volunteer event, number of presentations given, number of materials produced, etc.)

Project Narrative

Problem the project addresses (limited to 5,000 characters):

A description of why the project is necessary and important. Identify the conservation issue or problem to be addressed. What are the major factors (historical and/or or current) limiting the healthy function of the watershed/habitat? What are the existing habitat conditions? Describe how your proposed project addresses the causes of degradation rather than the symptoms, and how your project addresses species recovery needs or other species conservation needs. Describe how the project is important to the long-term persistence of the species.

Project objectives (limited to 5,000 characters):

List your project objectives. (Objectives are meant to be realistic targets or benchmarks that, if achieved, resolve the project need. Objectives are written in an active tense and use action verbs such as construct, survey, train, establish, repair, conduct, provide.) Describe how these objectives support the objectives of the WNTI Strategic Plan/strategic priorities and the National Fish Habitat Partnership objectives.

National Fish Habitat Partnership Action Plan objectives can be found at

<http://www.fishhabitat.org/about/national-fish-habitat-action-plans/>. WNTI strategic plan, strategic priorities and Species of Emphasis can be found at <https://westernnativetrout.org/strategic-plan/>.

List relevant state, federal, or other conservation plans (limited to 1,500 characters)

List relevant plans that the project addresses. This can include State Wildlife Action Plans, other state, federal, tribal, or local conservation, management or species recovery plans, watershed plans, etc.

Project methodology (limited to 10,000 characters):

Describe the activities or methods you will use to achieve the stated objectives –what is the actual work that will be done. How do your methods demonstrate sound design, appropriate procedures, and accepted fish and wildlife conservation or management principles. Any specific deliverables supported by WNTI funding should be noted in this section. How will the project be completed, and who is responsible for actually doing the work? Multi-year projects must be broken into distinct phases with measurable tasks and accomplishments broken down by year, what year(s)/phase the funding you seek will cover, and how other years of the project will be funded.

Project methodology photos/maps (you can attach five documents up to 10 MB each in size):

Please attach design plans, photos, and map of the project area. If your design plan files are too large, we can arrange an alternate method for you to transmit a copy to WNTI. [A sample project map can be viewed here.](#)

Project monitoring/evaluation of success (limited to 2,000 characters):

How will the success of the project be assessed, and who is responsible for long-term maintenance and monitoring? Has an evaluation/monitoring plan been completed? The benefit(s) should be quantifiable; that is, you can measure or count the amount of habitat and/or species benefited, or the

outcomes/results of your project. Also include a brief description of adaptive management strategies that will be used if the monitoring or evaluation indicates that project objectives are not being met.

Will project implementation increase public access to land or water for fish and wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities?

Select one answer from the dropdown list that best describes how the project affects public access to land or water for fish and wildlife dependent recreation. Activities may include any fish and wildlife-dependent opportunities such as hunting, fishing, hiking, bird watching, kayaking, etc.

- Direct: provides new or improved direct public access
- Indirect: provides new or improved indirect public access
- Maintains current public access
- Does not provide public access
- Unknown
- Not applicable

Brief description of how the project affects public access (limited to 1,000 characters)

Write a brief description describing how the project affects public access based on your response to the question above.

Will project implementation increase fish populations leading to recreational fishing opportunities for the public or tribal fishing opportunities?

Select one answer from the dropdown list that best describes how the project will increase fish populations in a manner that leads to recreational or tribal fishing opportunities. Tribal fishing includes treaty-reserved and tribal harvest, as well as traditional tribe use of fish species.

- Provides direct benefits to recreational or tribal fishing
- Provides indirect benefits to recreational or tribal fishing
- Maintains current recreational or tribal fishing benefits
- Does not clearly provide benefits to recreational or tribal fishing
- Unknown
- Not Applicable

Brief description of how the project increases fish populations for recreational or tribal fishing (limited to 1,000 characters)

Write a brief description describing how the project increases fish populations for fishing based on your response to the question above.

Partnerships for this project (limited to 4,000 characters):

Briefly describe the project partners' involvement in planning, implementation, and evaluation of this project. Projects that have secured matching funds or in-kind support from partners and/or involve diverse stakeholders are highly valued and encouraged.

Project timeline:

Please provide an estimated timeline for the project, including major milestones and achievements, including plans and responsible person to prepare and submit a final report with high quality digital photographs.

Outreach/education (limited to 4,000 characters):

Describe outreach or education efforts associated with this project, including public workshops, tours, signs, newsletters, scientific journal articles, scientific conference presentations, educational forums, etc.

Supplemental Information

Status of project design and environmental compliance:

Identify the stage of project design and when implementation is expected to occur. Identify what environmental compliance documents are completed, which are still needed and the status of completion for these documents. If you are waiting on compliance approvals what is your timeline for receiving expected permits? Some common federal environmental compliance review requirements are National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). Other needed permits will vary by state or tribe.

All species present:

List all species (including non-WNTI aquatic, terrestrial or plant species) that will directly benefit or be affected by your project, and how. Include special status designations if applicable—ESA status, species of special concern, etc.

Project staff and organizational capability:

List the names and relevant qualifications of key project staff. Describe the capabilities and experience of project staff or your organization to successfully implement the project

Additional supporting documents (you may upload up to 5 documents, with a maximum file size of 8MG each):

You may attach any additional letters of support from federal or Tribal fish and wildlife agencies here. Project proposals on public lands must be supported by the federal fish and wildlife management/natural resource agency or Tribal governments within project-area jurisdictions.

Signature of applicant:

You will be asked to certify that the information in your application is true and provide a digital signature.

I certify that the above information is true and accurate

Name – Title – Organization – Date