WESTERN NATIVE TROUT INITIATIVE

Information required to apply for WNTI Funding

Application Deadline: January 31, 2025 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**).
- WNTI 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 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

If you want to take a break and continue working on your application at a later date, you may exit your application and return to make edits or add information. **However, you <u>must</u> use the "Submit" button whenever you exit your application, or your information may not be saved**.

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

General Project Information and Project Status

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:

Short Description (less than 100 words):
A brief summary of the project. This will be used in outreach and communication materials by WNTI and the National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) about the project.

Statement of Need (less than 7,000 characters):
A short summary description of why the project is necessary and important (less than 7,000 characters).

Project summary (limited to 7,000 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 Map Coordinates (Lat/Long in decimal degrees, separate with a semi colon);
Project location (county, nearest town, state):
Location accuracy:
Watershed/Stream/Lake that your project benefits:
States (select all that apply):
Land ownership (dropdown choices are Public, Private, Public/Private)*:
Congressional District of Project: (Autofilled by the application form)
FWS region: (Autofilled by the application form)
* Land ownership: 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.

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 start date:

Project completion date:

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

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.

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

If yes, enter 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".

Project staff and organizational capability:
List names and relevant qualifications of project staff. You can either provide a list or write this in paragraph format. Example: *Protecting Alaska's Watershed (PAW) is a community-based nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting Alaska's watersheds, estuaries, and bays, and the life they sustain. Debbie Maughn has been the Science Director at PAW for 19 years. She holds a B.S. in Zoology from Washington State University and an M.S. in Fisheries Science from University of Idaho. Debbie has developed, coordinated, and implemented stream temperature monitoring networks across the state and*

conducted stream sampling for hundreds of miles of salmon habitat. She has successfully implemented federal grants through Western Native Trout Initiative, and collaboratively with non-profits and the Bureau of Reclamation. Joshua Moran. Marine Projects Manager, PAW. Joshua has managed PAW's freshwater monitoring program and community outreach since 2002.

Letter of support from state fish and wildlife agency? Dropdown choices are yes, no. You will be asked to upload your letter later in the application. Tribal projects do not require a state agency letter of support.

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

Name:

Title:

Organization/affiliation:

Mailing Address:

Email:

Phone:

Goals and Strategies

Project satisfies one or more of the National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) National Conservation Priorities (NCPs):
You will be given the dropdown list below of the FY26 NFHP National Conservation Priorities and can choose all that apply. More information about the FY26 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 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 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 later in the application. 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.

Here is an example of a concise budget narrative:
Supplies and materials: Costs for acquiring brush, willows, and other vegetation, and fencing materials for riparian revegetation units.
Contractual: Design costs for conceptual through 60% design (~$50K), final design and construction oversight (~$40K), and fencing contractor costs (~$25K).
Construction: Heavy equipment construction contractor costs for building brush bank and floodplain roughness structures and associated earthwork.
Other: Organizational overhead and $5K for video costs.

Project Components and Outcomes

Project components (you will be able to select all that apply):
☐ Riparian or In-Stream Habitat Restoration
☐ Barrier Removal or Construction
☐ Watershed or Population Assessment
☐ In-Stream Flow Acquisition Planning

☐ Watershed Connectivity
☐ Monitoring
☐ Education/outreach
☐ Watershed Planning

Anticipated outcomes (you will be able to fill in values applicable to project):
__ # Stream Miles Restored or Enhanced
__ # Stream Miles Reconnected or Reopened
__ # Acres of Lake/Wetlands Restored/Enhanced
__ # Barriers Removed or Constructed

__ # Watersheds or Rivers Assessed
__ # Stream Miles Assessed
__ # Populations Assessed

__ 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

Project Category (select one primary category for the project):
[1] On the ground (engineering assessment, design, construction, implementation, monitoring)
[2] Scientific assessment or research
]3] Outreach or communication
[4] Acquisition

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/supporting documentation (limited to 10,000 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, any existing species recovery plans and conservation strategies, watershed restoration plans, etc. Cite relevant plans and their specific objectives and goals that the project addresses. 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/.

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.

Is there a monitoring and evaluation plan: Yes/No

Project monitoring/evaluation of success (limited to 1,500 characters):
Brief summary of monitoring and evaluation plan. How will the success of the project be assessed, and who is responsible for long-term maintenance and monitoring? 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.

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 1,500 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

Will implementation of your project increase fish populations in a manner that leads to recreational fishing opportunities for the public? Yes/No

If yes, provide a brief description of fishing opportunity:

Will implementation of your project increase public access to land or water for fish and wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities? Yes/No
Activities may include any fish and wildlife-dependent opportunities such as hunting, fishing, hiking, bird watching, kayaking, etc.

If yes, provide a brief description of public access:

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.

Conservation plans (select all that apply):
Species of Greatest Conservation Need
Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
Other federal law
State wildlife action plan
Tribal restoration or conservation plan
Other

Climate change considerations (1,500 characters or less):
Please note how the project will function with climate change, or how it will benefit species affected by climate change.

Results dissemination (1,500 characters or less):
A brief summary of how results will be disseminated, including publicly available reports, datasets or other products.

Required Documents

You will be asked to upload the following documents:

1) **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.

2) **Budget documentation:** The completed budget template as an Excel form provided earlier in the RFP.

3) **Landowner Letter of Consent** (if on private land)

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

Please attach photos or maps of the project area. You can also upload design plans under "other". If your design plan files are too large, we can arrange an alternate method for you to transmit a copy to WNTI. <u>A sample project map can be viewed here.</u>

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

In addition to the required letter of support from the state fish and wildlife agency, you may attach any additional letters of support from federal or Tribal fish and wildlife agencies. 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.

Verification

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