



## WESTERN NATIVE TROUT INITIATIVE

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# Western Native Trout Initiative 2025 Small Grants Program Request for Proposals

September 22, 2025

The Western Native Trout Initiative (WNTI) and our partners are proud to announce our 2025 Small Grants Program Request for Proposals. WNTI is an initiative of the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and nationally recognized Fish Habitat Partnership under the National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) that seeks to cooperatively restore and recover 21 western native trout and char species and sub-species 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.

In addition to directing federal funding annually toward large, on-the-ground native trout conservation projects, WNTI administers a separate Small Grants Program to catalyze or accelerate smaller, high-impact efforts to restore or recover western native trout. The focus of WNTI's Small Grants Program is 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.

We would like to thank [RepYourWater](#), [Wilderness Lite Float Tubes](#), [Wild Fly Productions](#), [Western Native Trout Challenge anglers' registrations and donations](#), and all of our individual donors for contributing funds in support of the Small Grants Program this year. Approximately \$20,000 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.

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

**The deadline to submit a project application under the Small Grants Program is 5 pm Mountain time on November 16, 2025.** WNTI uses an online application form and 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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## 2025 Small Grants Program *Additional information*

### **WNTI Species**

At least one of WNTI's target native trout and char species or sub-species *in their historic range must be the primary species* to benefit from your project: 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.

### **Deadline**

**Applications are due on November 16, 2025. Applications must be received by 5:00 pm Mountain Time.**

### **Reporting**

A short (2-5 pages) report, with photos, is expected when the project is completed. The report 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 in December. If your application is selected for funding, you will receive your grant agreement early in 2026. **Project funds are awarded on a reimbursable basis and must be expended by July 1, 2027.**

***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 permanent staff salaries and benefits.

***Organizations that have received WNTI 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? Contact Martin Koenig at [WNTI.coordinator@wafwa.org](mailto:WNTI.coordinator@wafwa.org) or 208-331-9431 x 109