

NEWS RELEASE

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Native Fish Habitat Initiative Monies Available for Restoration Projects in the Pacific Northwest

Funds to benefit native trout and lamprey in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are announcing the availability of funds through the ***Native Fish Habitat Initiative – Pacific Northwest Fund*** and requesting proposals for conservation and restoration projects.

Native Fish Habitat Initiative – Pacific Northwest Fund

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (Foundation) launched the Native Fish Habitat Initiative Fund (the Fund) in Oregon, Washington and Idaho in Spring 2006, and will continue the program with a third round of grants to be awarded in Spring 2008. This program finances projects that benefit ***native trout*** and ***lamprey*** species and support on-the-ground habitat projects that help achieve the goals of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan and Western Native Trout Initiative. Continuing on the progress of the first two years of this grant program, the third year will help to finance projects which address the following purposes:

- On-the-ground habitat restoration/improvement and long term solutions to enhance at-risk native trout and/or lamprey habitat resources, including the prevention, early detection, control, and management of invasive species that directly affect native trout and lamprey habitat in riparian areas
- Increase in-stream flows in critical habitat areas impacted by low flows through innovative water transactions with willing landowners
- Provide or improve upstream or downstream fish passage past barriers to allow access to important fish habitat
- Projects that benefit the Service's National Wildlife Refuge System or other Federal, State, or Tribal lands or protected areas where fish and wildlife conservation is the primary purpose
- Projects on private lands where long-term resource protection is assured; landowner outreach and incentive programs for management and restoration of natural resources

- Collaborative projects from local communities; Development of multi-partner local community initiatives for guiding watershed conservation activities
- Applied ecological studies and assessments to advance knowledge and improve management practices for native trout and/or lamprey conservation (basic research will not be funded)
- Coordination and implementation of actions recommended in the National Fish Habitat Action Plan and/or the Western Native Trout Initiative

“We are inviting pre-proposals requesting funds from \$5,000 to \$50,000 and priority will be given to projects benefiting fish and wildlife habitat on National Wildlife Refuge System lands, other protected areas, as well as on private lands where long-term resource protection can be assured,” said Krystyna Wolniakowski, Director of the Foundation’s Western Partnership Office.

“The Native Fish Habitat Initiative Fund in Oregon, Washington and Idaho will continue the on-the-ground habitat and species conservation efforts in these areas, ensuring long-lasting sustainable results,” said Foundation Executive Director Jeff Trandahl. “Continuing on the progress of the first two years of this grant program is essential to the long-term preservation of endangered habitat for both people and wildlife.”

These funds are an opportunity for native fish conservationists to form local/regional partnerships for aquatic habitat restoration and to make a significant contribution in protecting and enhancing native trout and lamprey habitat resources that contribute to the goals of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan and the Western Native Trout Initiative. During this third round, priority consideration will be given to projects that request funds to:

- carry out on-the-ground habitat conservation, protection, restoration, or management actions that benefit native trout such as coastal cutthroat, westslope cutthroat, Yellowstone cutthroat, Lahontan cutthroat, Bonneville cutthroat, bull trout, and redband trout, along with Pacific lamprey and other native lamprey species. Pacific lamprey restoration projects are highly encouraged.
- provide habitat benefits on National Wildlife Refuge System lands or other Federal, State or Tribal refuges, reserves, and protected areas where the primary purpose is fish and wildlife conservation.
- assure long-term resource protection on private lands.

Pre-proposals should be submitted to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation by November 9, 2007. Pre-proposals will be evaluated and ranked in December 2007 and the strongest ones will be invited to submit a full proposal due in January 2008. Full proposal applicants will be notified of grant awards in spring 2008, with funds available for projects shortly thereafter. If un-obligated funds remain, a second round of proposals may be solicited.

The ranking and selection of projects will include a consideration of each project's relevancy to the program purposes stated above, quantifiable and measurable long term benefits to fish, wildlife and/or habitat, and inclusion of partners and volunteers. Projects should define outcomes and successes clearly, employ creative and innovative methodology, and replicate previous successes in new geographical areas. Successful proposals will demonstrate minimized administrative costs and maximized conservation investment.

Additional Information:

Those who may apply for grants include non-profit conservation organizations, watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, tribes, schools, local, state, and federal government agencies, and other special districts. The geographic scope of this program includes the States of Oregon, Washington, and Idaho.

Grant funds may not be used for political advocacy, litigation expenses, terrorist activities, legally required mitigation, equipment purchases not primarily related to the direct completion of the project, improvement of natural resources for commercial or private profit, required habitat Conservation Plan activities, indirect general administrative and overhead costs, website development, or videos.

Applicants are encouraged to include matching or cost-share funds where possible. Cost share or matching funds that are non-federal are preferable, however federal funds will be accepted as cost share or match. Please differentiate federal and non-federal cost share in your proposal.

Pre-proposals should be submitted through the Foundation's on-line pre-proposal application form at <http://www.nfwf.org/preproposalapplication>. When submitting the application, please choose the "NFHI-PNW" program from the "select the appropriate program" drag-down picklist menu at the bottom of the form. To avoid technical problems, please print out a copy of your pre-proposal for your records before submitting the form.

A nonprofit established by Congress in 1984, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation sustains, restores and enhances the Nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats. Through leadership conservation investments with public and private partners, NFWF is dedicated to achieving maximum conservation impact by developing and applying best practices and innovative methods for measurable outcomes. Since its establishment, NFWF has awarded nearly 9,500 grants to over 3,000 organizations in the United States and abroad and leveraged – with its partners – more than \$400 million in federal funds into more than \$1.3 billion for on-the-ground conservation. For more information, visit www.nfwf.org.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 97-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 548 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resources offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The Service enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign and Native American tribal governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the

Federal Assistance program, which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.