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Fiscal Year 2018

NOAA Great Lakes Habitat Restoration Project Grants under the U.S. Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service

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Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) Orientation

1. Funding Opportunity Description
2. Award Information
3. Eligibility Information
4. Application and Submission Information
5. Application Review Information
6. Award Administration Information
7. Agency Contacts
8. Other Information



NOAA Great Lakes Funding Opportunity



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- In the first year, approximately \$3 million may be available to initiate between two to five projects.
- NOAA anticipates that up to \$10 million may be available for Great Lakes habitat restoration over **the next three years**.
- Important Dates: Applications must be received by www.grants.gov, postmarked, or provided to a delivery service by 11:59 PM Eastern Time **on March 12, 2018**.

NOAA Great Lakes FFO Program Objective

FFO Section 1.A.



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Objective: provide federal financial and technical assistance to habitat restoration projects that both meet NOAA's mission to restore coastal habitats and support the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) goal to protect and restore habitats to sustain healthy populations of native fish species in the eight U.S. Great Lakes states.

Priority 1: Native Fish Species

FFO Section 1.B.



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Creating **functional habitats** for native **fish** species migration, reproduction, growth, and seasonal refuge, including improvements for fish passage, wetlands and nearshore habitats





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Priority 2: Outside of AOCs

FFO Section 1.B.



Restoration of sites **outside of Areas of Concern (AOC)** including delisted AOCs and AOCs in recovery with all management actions complete



Priority 3: Long Term Protection

FFO Section 1.B.



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Ensuring the long term protection of the restored site through **partner-supported acquisition** of land or a conservation easement.



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Funding Guidelines:

- **Habitat restoration implementation proposals** requesting between \$250,000 and \$3 million of federal funds, for projects that can be completed within 12-18 months.
- **Planning only proposals** requesting between \$50,000 and \$500,000 of federal funds, for projects that can be completed within 12-18 months.
- **Multi-year, multi-phase proposals** covering engineering, design, and/or restoration implementation requesting between \$500,000 and \$10 million for a time frame of 18-48 months.



NOAA Great Lakes FFO Eligibility

FFO Section III. A. & C.



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Eligible applicants:

- ✓ institutions of higher education
- ✓ non-profit organizations
- ✓ commercial (for profit) organizations
- ✓ U.S. territories
- ✓ state, local and Native American tribal governments
- ✓ Projects must be within the Great Lakes Basin

Ineligible projects:

- projects that are legally required mitigation or are otherwise required by law or settlement
- land acquisition
- proposals addressing only water quality improvement measures
- projects seeking funds only for invasive species removal and management.
- NOAA will not accept proposals with a federal funding request of less than \$50,000 or more than \$10 million over three years

NOAA Great Lakes FFO Potential Project Types

FFO Section IV. B.



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- **Hydrologic reconnection**: projects may include berm breaching, culvert removal/replacement to allow natural flooding of wetlands, complete removal of levees and dikes or other impediments to historic/natural flow or hydrology, floodplain reconnection, or creation/restoration of off-channel habitats.
- **Fish passage**: fish passage projects include, but are not limited to, dam removals, fish ladders, by-pass channels, nature-like fishways and culvert removal and replacement with bottomless arch culverts or bridges.
- **Native Great Lakes fish habitat**: activities that contribute to the restoration of estuarine, coastal, and freshwater, native Great Lakes fish habitats to functioning habitats including removing fill and debris, removing hardened structures, stabilizing the shoreline with natural materials and vegetation, installing nearshore rock reefs, and restoring spawning beds.



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Evaluation Criteria

Section V.A

- The project narrative should closely follow the organization of the evaluation criteria
- Reviewers consider these criteria in evaluating proposals
- Priority will be given to project proposals that feature on-the-ground restoration activities.



Submission information

Section IV.B



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- What to submit and how?
- Reminders to include:
 - Letters of support from the appropriate State agency (or agencies) ensuring support of project;
 - Appropriate documentation demonstrating support from the US Fish and Wildlife Service Sea Lamprey Control Program



Reminders and Tips



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- ✓ Apply through grants.gov **preferred
 - It may take Grants.gov up to two business days to validate or reject the application.
 - SAM and DUNS registration are required
- ✓ Paper applications: make sure to hand sign (ink) standard forms
- ✓ See Sections III.C and IV.C for more information on submission options and requirements
- ✓ Don't assume the reviewers know anything about your project so make sure your application is complete and thorough
- ✓ Consult the applicant resources website for <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/habitat-conservation/resources-noaa-restoration-center-applicants>



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Frequently Asked Questions



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Frequently Asked Questions

How is this funding opportunity different (or similar) to previous competitions NOAA has had in Great Lakes?

- Previous competitions focused on habitat restoration in Areas of Concern (AOC). Priority for this funding opportunity is for restoration of sites outside of AOCs. Similarly, additional priorities include long-term protection of restored sites and benefits to native fish species.



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Frequently Asked Questions

Will this FFO fund projects within the boundary of an AOC that are not identified as a required AOC management actions?

One priority for this competition is “restoration of sites outside of AOCs including delisted AOCs and AOCs in recovery with all management actions complete.” Although projects within the AOC's geographic boundary are eligible (see Eligibility, Section III.A) to apply, technical reviewers will use the evaluation criteria (Section V.A) to evaluate and score proposals. Projects proposed within an AOC will not score as high as a project outside of the AOC.



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Frequently Asked Questions

There was a recent announcement for a Coastal Resilience funding opportunity through NOAA. Are these different?

This **national competition** seeks coastal habitat restoration activities that:

- re-establish hydrologic connectivity and sediment processes that provide wetland habitat and reduce flooding (extent or frequency) in coastal communities;
- remove dams that block migration for migratory fish and pose a risk to surrounding communities; or
- improve stream flow levels to provide habitat for fish during migratory periods and reliable access to water for communities and agriculture.

Closing date for **pre-proposals** is **March 7, 2018**. Visit our [Coastal Resilience Grant page](#) for details. If you have questions please contact Melanie Gange (melanie.gange@noaa.gov) or call 301-427-8664.



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Frequently Asked Questions

How will NOAA ensure that projects selected are a priority?

- See Section V. A. 1. Evaluation Criteria - Importance and Applicability
 - The extent to which the project is a priority as identified in publicly vetted plans including **letter(s) of support** from a relevant state agency or agencies
- See Section V. B. Review and Selection Process
 - Eligible applications will be evaluated by at least 3 reviewers as part of a **technical review** based on the Evaluation Criteria. After the technical review, an interagency **panel** may meet to make final recommendations regarding which proposals best meet the program objectives and priorities (Sections I.A. and I.B.).



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Frequently Asked Questions

Why would a state apply to this funding opportunity when they can receive funds non-competitively from GLNPO?

The GLNPO funding is limited and may not be able to fund all of the state's identified priorities. This opportunity provides potential support for those projects that may not be selected.



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Frequently Asked Questions

Are match funds required?

- Match is not required but is encouraged.
- See Section III. B. Eligibility Information, Match requirement.
- Match is also part of the evaluation criteria and projects proposing match or leverage funds will be more competitive.



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Frequently Asked Questions

Will this opportunity be available annually?

- Subject to annual appropriations process.
- It depends on the demand this year for projects and number of requests for multi-year awards.
- Also, NOAA plans to re-compete Regional Partnerships in FY19.



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Frequently Asked Questions

Will invasive species treatment/management be eligible?

- See Section III.C.
- Projects seeking funds only for invasive species removal and management will not be considered under this solicitation. However, NOAA may fund invasive species removal as a component of an overall habitat restoration project proposal.



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Frequently Asked Questions

Where can the application be found?

- Grants.gov - Search for opportunity number NOAA-NMFS-HCPO-2018-2005487.
- Additional information to assist in developing an application is at:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/funding-opportunities>



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Frequently Asked Questions

What is the timeline for projects to be selected and awarded?

- See timeline - Section V. D.
- NOAA will attempt to notify highly-ranked applicants by June 30, 2018.
- The earliest anticipated start date for awards will be October 1, 2018.



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Questions

Contacts for FY18 NOAA Great Lakes Habitat Restoration Project Grants under the U.S. Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

Funding opportunity website:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/grant/2018-great-lakes-restoration-initiative-funding-opportunity>

Applicant guidance

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/habitat-conservation/resources-noaa-restoration-center-applicants>

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