Chesapeake Watershed Investments for Landscape Defense (WILD) Program

Habitat GIT Fall Meeting
November 29 - 30, 2023

All reported data subject to change

What is Chesapeake WILD?

- **America's Conservation Enhancement Act (2020)**

- Implement new landscape-scale program in a way that ensures equitable grant processes/access and fosters new and impactful partnerships, the Service is **partnering with NFWF to co-administer the WILD grants, along with Chesapeake Conservation Partnership to help us coordinate a network of partners.**

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Chesapeake WILD Program Pillars

fish & wildlife habitat — Improve the functionality and connectivity of habitat for at-risk and listed fish and wildlife

clean water — Improve water health to benefit both human and fish and wildlife communities

climate change — Enhance climate resilience and readiness in natural and human communities using nature-based solutions

public access — Equitably connect people with nature to improve wellbeing and grow support for restoration and conservation actions and funding

community partnership — Build capacity to access funding and implement coordinated restoration and conservation activities; emphasis on under-resourced partners and communities

WILD Grant Cycles (FY22 & FY23)

> **>$26M invested!**

- 2022: **awarded $3.5M to 12 projects** (>$4M match)

- 2023: **awarded $7.4M to 25 projects** (>$11M match)

WILD Grants Impact: Ecological

- **At-risk & SGCN listed species focus**

- **Science and data gaps**

- **Actions led by Indigenous and people of color**

- **Cross-jurisdictional management & capacity building**

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WILD Grants Impact: Ecological

- **Permanently protect forest, wetland, pollinator, and marsh habitats**: **>8Kac**

- **Restore riparian forest and wetland habitats**: **~1Kac**

- **Improve river and trail recreational access: ~31mi**

- **Aquatic connectivity/river opened for migratory species: ~130mi**

- **Trees planted: >97K**

- **Nature-based solutions** for stormwater & erosion management

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WILD Grants Impact: Connecting People with Nature

- **Restore cultural connections with living resources**

- **Equitable access**

- **Community led** and **managed greenspaces** and **pollinator habitat**

- **Faith-based** and **injustice-led conservation actions**

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WILD Grants Investment in Under-resourced Communities

- **83% of WILD proposals** are doing conservation work in places with **more diversity, higher poverty and unemployment,** and **lower household income,** than the national average!

- Projects will **restore habitat and conserve species**, **improve water quality**, **enhance climate resilience and readiness**, **equitably connect people with nature**, and provide many other benefits to surrounding communities.

Chesapeake WILD FY24 RFP

- **FY24 RFP release:** late Jan
- **Applicant Webinar:** TBD
- **FieldDoc Webinar:** TBD
- **Proposal Due Date:** late March
- **Proposal Review Period:** Apr – Aug
- **Awards Announced:** ~Sept

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Grant Tracks and Eligibility

Organization Type	WILD Implementation	WILD-PTA
501(C) non-profit organizations	☑	☑
Community based organizations	☑	☑
Local Governments	☑	☑
Municipal governments	☑	☑
Tribal governments and organizations	☑	☑
K-12 educational institutions	☑	☑
U.S. Federal Government agencies	☑	☑
State Government Agencies	☑	☑
Institutions of higher education	☑	☑
Businesses	☒	☒
Unincorporated Individuals	☒	☒
International Organizations	☒	☒

	WILD Implementation	WILD-PTA	
Project Award Range	$75,000 – 750,000	Up to $75,000	
Match Requirement	1:1*	Encouraged, but not required	

* Up to 50% of Implementation grants match requirement may be met through federal match from non-Department of Interior sources.

Chesapeake WILD: Technical Assistance

- **WILD Proposal Labs (Feb – Mar)**
- **Webinars (TBD)**
- **NFWF Field Liaisons (year-round)**
- **One-on-one meetings (year-round)**

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Questions?