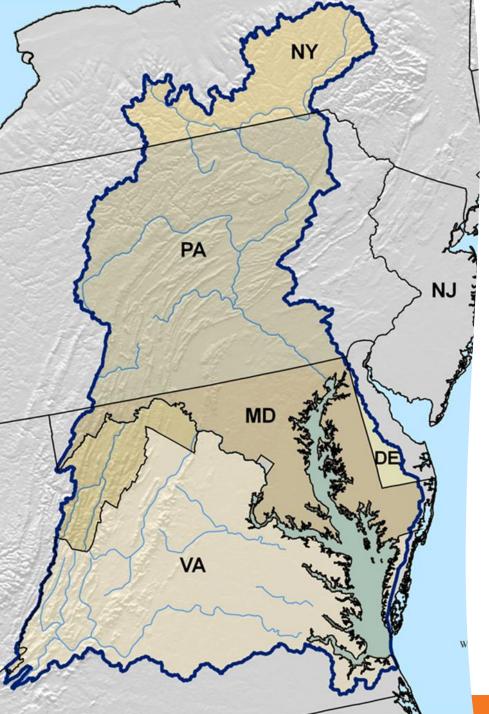


Habitat GIT Fall Meeting

November 29 - 30, 2023







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 coadminister the WILD grants, along with Chesapeake Conservation Partnership to help us coordinate a network of partners.

Chesapeake WILD Program Pillars





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



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



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



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



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

WILD Grant Cycles (FY22 & FY23)





- 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

All reported data subject to change





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

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











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

Grant Tracks and Eligibility



| Organization Type | WILD Implementation | WILD-PTA |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 501(C) non-profit organizations | \checkmark | \checkmark |
| Community based organizations | \checkmark | $\overline{\mathbf{Z}}$ |
| Local Governments | \checkmark | $\overline{\mathbf{A}}$ |
| Municipal governments | \checkmark | \checkmark |
| Tribal governments and organizations | \checkmark | $\overline{\mathbf{A}}$ |
| K-12 educational institutions | \checkmark | $\overline{\checkmark}$ |
| U.S. Federal Government agencies | \checkmark | $\overline{\checkmark}$ |
| State Government Agencies | \checkmark | \checkmark |
| Institutions of higher education | \checkmark | $\overline{\checkmark}$ |
| 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)





Questions?

