



APPLICANT FUNDING MANUAL RESTORATION PROGRAM

2026 Program Overview, Rating System, & Application Guidance

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Application forms can be accessed via <https://nclwf.nc.gov/apply> and are available January 15, 2026.
Applications must be submitted by midnight on March 1, 2026.

Grant Funding Overview

NCLWF will fund restoration projects that restore the natural hydrology, stream channel, floodplain and/or riparian habitat to provide ecological uplift and improve the long-term stability of natural resources. Eligible types of projects include:

- Stream restoration, enhancement, or stabilization.
- Wetland restoration, creation, or enhancement, including restoration of peat and pocosin wetlands.
- Floodplain restoration projects that improve floodplain connectivity and flood resiliency.
- Living shoreline projects that attenuate coastal erosion and create or protect coastal ecosystems.
- Dam and culvert removal projects that improve ecological connectivity.
- Riparian stabilization and planting cost-share programs that promote small-scale riparian protection projects.
- Other projects that would improve the quality of receiving surface waters. Consult your field representative for questions about potentially qualifying projects.

Eligible Applicants – To receive funds from NCLWF, the applicant must be either: a State agency; a local government unit; or a nonprofit corporation whose primary purpose is the conservation, preservation, and/or restoration of our State’s cultural, environmental, and natural resources.

Construction Contract Date – Grant recipients whose projects have a construction component will be required to sign a contract with a construction company within one year of the date that the contract between the grant recipient and NCLWF is signed. This deadline is mandated by General Statute §143B-135.238(e). The deadline may be extended by the NCLWF Board of Trustees if the Board finds that the grant recipient had good cause for failing to meet the deadline to enter into a construction contract.

Fund Purposes as described in SL 143B-135.234 (c) – “Moneys from the Fund under this part shall be used to help finance projects that enhance or restore degraded surface water, including drinking water supplies, and contribute toward a network of riparian buffers and greenways for environmental, educational, and recreational benefits; provide buffers around military bases to protect the military mission; acquire land that represents the ecological diversity of North Carolina; and acquire land that contributes to the development of a balanced State program of historic properties.”

Recent Changes

New in 2026:

Construction contingency budget line item removed

Budgets will no longer have an option for construction contingency funds. Instead, applicants are encouraged to anticipate potential construction cost increases and incorporate those estimates into your regular construction budget.

Project Administration reimbursements for state government applicants

It is still the case that state government grant recipients may not request reimbursement for project administration work done by state employees. However, state government grant recipients may now request reimbursement for project administration work done by non-state organizations assisting with the project.

New in 2025:

Match Value

The Value section of the Application Rating System has been updated to increase the relative value of secured matching funds. Unsecured match, and/or match with an undetermined source, will now receive the lowest multiplier when calculating points for match.

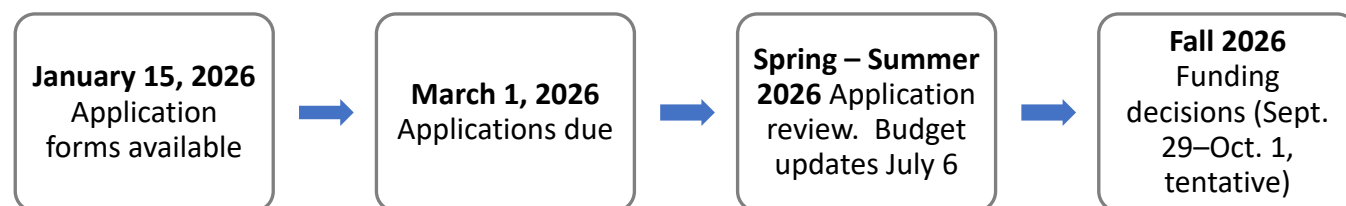
Construction Contract Date

As above, the legislature recently changed the requirement for projects with construction components. Projects that will require construction must sign a construction contract within one year of the date that the contract between the grant recipient and NCLWF is signed. This deadline may be extended by the Board of Trustees for good cause shown.

Landowner Letters of Intent for design-only projects

For design-only projects, i.e., projects that are only addressing the design of the restoration work, not undertaking the actual construction of the project, letters of intent from the landowner of the project location are not required, and will not receive points if submitted. It is still a requirement that the applicant has discussed the project with the landowner, and the landowner has indicated willingness to place a conservation agreement on the property.

Grant Cycle Timeline



March. Applicants help field representatives schedule site visits. Field representatives will contact applicants to initiate scheduling.

Late March-June 1. Applicants attend on-site field visit with the field representative who will be your primary point of contact throughout the application review.

Mid-June. Virtual project review meetings with the project team will be scheduled if deemed necessary by the field representative. Applicants will work with the field representative during the meeting to provide updates and corrections when requested. **Final updates are due July 7.** Applicants will receive email instructions for this process.

September 29-October 1 (tentative). Funding decision by the NCLWF Board of Trustees. Award meeting date is subject to change.

General FAQs

Who makes funding decisions?

The nine-member NCLWF Board of Trustees whose members are appointed by the state's Executive and Legislative Branches.

How are projects selected for funding?

Each application is scored and ranked per a rating system developed and adopted by the NCLWF Board of Trustees. The rating system considers the value of the resource being protected, the public benefits, the value to the state, and the project's readiness. The Trustees may also consider factors outside the scoring system, such as economic impact, in selecting projects for funding.

Are matching funds required?

No, but matching funds are considered in the Application Rating System and projects with little or no match are rarely funded.

Are letters of support required?

Letters of support are NOT required and will not be considered in the scoring process. If you have a letter of support you would like to include in your application package, please speak to your field representative.

How are applications reviewed?

Review of applications includes a site visit and possibly a virtual review meeting depending on the applicant's needs, both conducted by field representatives. Restoration Program staff and field representatives review the applications and use the Application Rating System to score each application.

Will I have the chance to review an application's scope and score?

Yes, all applicants will be given the opportunity to review the scope and score for their application(s) in August and will be required to give feedback on the scope and score at that time.

How will I be notified if my application is approved and funded or not approved?

Following the Board of Trustees' funding meeting, field representatives contact each applicant and let you know if your application was funded. You will also receive an email from NCLWF confirming the funding decision.

What is provisional funding?

The NCLWF Board of Trustees reviews more applications than available funds each year. They award funds available on the day of the funding meeting to as many projects as possible and then designate additional projects as "provisional" to be funded only if the required funds become available through the end of June. Being designated provisionally funded does not mean that you will receive an award or a grant contract; speak to your field representative for more information.

Who should I contact?

Field representatives are the first line of contact for general questions and for developing projects. Getting your field representative involved early will yield better results for your application and later contracting process.

To contact your field representative, please visit our website: <https://nclwf.nc.gov/contact-us>.

Restoration FAQs

What are the required property restrictions?

A permanent conservation agreement must be recorded on all project property as part of NCLWF grant contract requirements. In rare cases such as culvert replacement or dam removal, the NCLWF Board of Trustees may consider alternative protection schemes. Conservation agreements may be in the form of conservation easements, declaration of covenants and restrictions, and or articles of dedication under the State Nature Preserves Act. The area protected by the conservation agreement must include a vegetated riparian buffer at least 50' from the top of bank on both sides of the stream/project area. See the section on Long Term Conservation Agreements, below, for more detail.

What are the long-term obligations?

After a conservation agreement has been recorded, annual monitoring is strongly encouraged, and all applicants must comply with and enforce the terms of the agreement.

Does NCLWF help with stewardship funds?

Yes, in some cases. For Restoration projects where the conservation agreement is a conservation easement, the terms of the conservation easement meet or exceed NCLWF guidelines, and a certified land trust organization has agreed to steward the easement in question, applicants may request up to 50% of endowment funds established to monitor the project easement in perpetuity. If awarded, stewardship funds provided by the applicant organization must be deposited into a stewardship endowment before receiving funds from NCLWF.

What are the requirements for riparian buffer management?

Riparian buffers should be managed to maintain healthy native vegetation (beware of kudzu and invasive stiltgrass) and should limit activities to those that are consistent with the conservation easement and long-term success of the restoration goals. If adjacent activities such as mowing or clearing are expected, a fence or other clear boundary marker should be installed to preserve the buffer.

Landowner readiness

To be eligible for consideration for NCLWF construction funding, all landowners must be contacted and at least have indicated willingness to agree to a conservation agreement prior to submission of the grant application. Note that the long-term conservation agreements **MUST** be in place before proceeding with construction. NCLWF will not pay for ANY construction costs until the conservation agreement has been recorded and submitted for review. See section below on this topic.

Can NCLWF fund dam and culvert removal? Can road infrastructure be part of the budget for culvert projects?

Yes, NCLWF does fund dam removal assessment, design and construction/removal projects, as well as culvert removal and replacement projects. Just as we require of standard stream restoration projects, dam and culvert removal projects should be focused on natural channel design, full aquatic passage (if possible), and removal of infrastructure from floodplains. Depending on the amount of adjacent up- and down-stream restoration work in the scope, permanent conservation agreements may or may not be required at the project site. For culvert removal where aquatic passage structures or bridges are replacing the culvert, NCLWF can assist with structure costs, as long as they are directly related to and proportional to the restoration goals. However, most often bridge or large pipe replacements costs are better suited as match line items.

Can NCLWF fund restoration required by permits, mitigation activities, conditional zoning permits, or open space requirements?

No. NCLWF will not fund projects undertaken solely for compliance with regulations or permits. These aspects may be part of a larger project, but NCLWF funds should not be applied toward minimum required activities nor can minimum required activities be counted as match.

Long Term Conservation Agreements

NCLWF requires a permanently protected, vegetated riparian buffer at least 50' from the top of bank on both sides of the stream/project area. These buffers should be protected by permanent conservation agreements or other legal instrument of protection acceptable to NCLWF (see table at right) and should also be monitored by a designated land steward organization.

Conservation agreements are not required for projects on property owned by the State of North Carolina. However, NCLWF does request that State Agencies do provide a management plan for the project property and identify key stewardship staff.

Conservation agreements for NCLWF restoration projects must be similar in form and content to the document templates specific to the restoration program available at <https://NCLWF.nc.gov/stewardship#conservation-agreement-templates>. The party responsible for holding and enforcing easement conditions must be identified in the application.

Conservation Agreements Applicable to NCLWF-Funded Projects	
Land Ownership	Agreement Type
Private	Easement held by third party
Non-Profit	Easement held by third party or on case-by-case basis, declaration of covenants and restrictions
Local Government	Easement held by third party or declaration of covenants and restrictions
State of NC	Natural Heritage dedication as applicable

Release of NCLWF funds for project design and/or permitting is contingent on NCLWF's receipt of letters of intent from each landowner stating that the landowner agrees with the project and is willing to record a permanent conservation agreement on the property.

Release of NCLWF funds for any construction activity is contingent on the permanent conservation agreement being approved and recorded. If the grant recipient is unable to record easements, the project will not be permitted to continue with NCLWF funding, and the grant recipient may not be eligible for reimbursement of incurred costs spent prior to ending the project.

Agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs) and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) have specific funding guidelines based on the type of easement and size of riparian buffer. For projects with a permanent conservation easement, NCLWF can fully fund any BMPs built. For projects with a 30-year term easement and 50' riparian buffers, NCLWF can fully fund any BMPs built. For projects with a 30-year term easement and 30' riparian buffers, NCLWF can fund up to 85% of the cost of any BMPs built. The above guidelines also apply to livestock exclusion structures for any stream greater than 3' wide.

For livestock exclusion structures on streams 3' wide or less, a buffer of at least 15' is required. If such a project has a permanent conservation easement, NCLWF can fully fund any livestock exclusion structures built. If such a project has a 30-year term easement, NCLWF can fund up to 85% of the cost of any livestock exclusion structures built.

Restoration Types

Important notes concerning definitions of stream restoration, stream enhancement level 1 and level 2, and stream stabilization:

The following definitions are derived from the Stream Mitigation Guideline, April 2003, by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District (District), North Carolina Division of Water Quality (DWQ), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IV (EPA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC).

Stream Restoration - The process of converting an unstable, altered, or degraded stream corridor, including adjacent riparian zone (buffers) and flood-prone areas, to its natural stable condition considering recent and future watershed conditions. This process should be based on a reference condition/reach for the valley type and includes restoring the appropriate geomorphic dimension (cross-section), pattern (sinuosity), and profile (channel slopes), as well as reestablishing the biological and chemical integrity, including transport of the water and sediment produced by the stream's watershed in order to achieve dynamic equilibrium.

Stream Enhancement - Stream rehabilitation activities undertaken to improve water quality or ecological function of a fluvial system. Enhancement activities generally will include some activities that would be required for restoration. These activities may include in-stream or stream-bank activities, but in total fall short of restoring one or more of the geomorphic variables: dimension, pattern and profile. Any proposed stream enhancement activity must demonstrate long-term stability. Work will be based on reference reach information.

Streambank Stabilization – The in-place stabilization of an eroding streambank. Stabilization techniques, which include primarily natural materials, like root wads and log crib structures, as well as sloping stream banks and revegetating the riparian zone. When streambank stabilization is proposed, the completed condition should be based on a reference condition. Stream stabilization techniques that consist primarily of “hard” engineering, such as concrete lined channels, rip rap, or gabions, while providing bank stabilization, will not be considered as stream restoration or enhancement.

Budget Guidelines

How can the funds be used?

- The funding or match credit for any item not listed on this chart will be determined by NCLWF.
- All expenses reimbursed by NCLWF must occur after the award date and be substantiated by invoices.
- All expenses credited for match incurred prior to award date must be requested at time of application.
- Match funding must be for items otherwise eligible for NCLWF funding.
- See the Budget section Guidelines for details and restrictions on use of NCLWF and match funds.

Item	NCLWF Funds - expenses incurred <i>after</i> award date only	Match Funds - expenses incurred <i>after</i> award date	Match Funds - expenses incurred <i>prior to</i> award date
Design and/or restoration of streams and/or wetlands using natural channel design principles.	Yes	Yes	Yes

Removal of material/structures from the stream or floodway, replace with restored habitat**	Yes	Yes	Yes
Transaction costs required for securing easement ¹	Yes	Yes	Yes
Project administration	Yes*	Yes*	No
Acquisition of conservation easement	No	Yes	Yes
Stewardship Endowment (easement monitoring)	Yes*	Yes*	No
Replacing culvert or other in-stream structure	Case by case approval	Case by case approval	Case by case approval
Overhead (office rent, telephone, etc.)	No	No	No
Educational signage	No	Yes	No
Education facilities	No	No	No
Greenway/trail design, permitting, and/or construction	No	No	No
Park improvements and amenities	No	No	No
Cleaning up property (debris, structures) outside the floodway**	No	No	No

* limitations apply to the use of funds for this purpose, see “Do we help with stewardship funds?” above.

**Floodway here is defined as the FEMA designation of “Regulatory Floodway,” and does not include Flood Hazard areas or Floodplains not in the Regulatory Floodway.

Matching Resources - Match must be for activities necessary for the completion of the project and must be backed up with receipts or other verifiable documentation of expenses. Matching resources must be for items eligible for NCLWF funds. For example, overhead may not be counted as matching resources.

NCLWF grant awards may not be used as matching funds for other NCLWF awards. Funds used as match on prior NCLWF grant awards may not be used as match on other NCLWF grant awards.

Expend matching resources at approximately the same rate as NCLWF funds and in proportion to the original funding commitment by NCLWF. NCLWF may choose to hold requests for reimbursement of project funds if the rate of matching funds expenditures lag behind expected rates. Further, upon project completion, the original funding ratio of NCLWF funds to matching funds is to be achieved. For instance, if a grant award is approved with NCLWF providing 50% of the total budgeted project cost, NCLWF will expect at project closeout to have only contributed up to 50% of the total project cost.

Declare in the grant application any project costs that may be incurred before the project award date. NCLWF may include matching funds contributions for costs incurred prior to the grant award date but only if such costs are specifically identified and requested by applicant at time of application.

NCLWF will reimburse project costs incurred after the grant award date - However, funds will not be available until after the execution and encumbrance of a NCLWF grant contract. Funds will be reimbursed only if they were necessary to comply with the proposed delivery schedule of the project or period of performance, are necessary and reasonable for proper and efficient accomplishment of the project and comply with all terms and conditions in the subsequent grant contract.

Property or easement acquisition: NCLWF funds may not be used for purchasing of riparian buffer conservation easements along stream restoration projects.

Land (fee simple) or conservation easements must be donated or purchased with matching funds for NCLWF-funded restoration projects. The value of donated easements may receive credit as matching funds. The value of a conservation easement (or other legal instrument acceptable to the Fund) donated to the project by a property owner may be claimed as matching funds contributed to the project only after the Grant Recipient has provided to the Fund all of the following information for that donated easement: (a) calculated area of the easement, (b) copy of the easement document as recorded by the county register of deeds, and (c) basis for the claimed value of the easement, which may be in the form of appraisal summaries, if recent appraisals have been prepared, or current property tax valuation assessed by the County Tax Assessor's Office showing total value of land and/or improvements, if any, with indicated year of the actual assessment. If match value to be claimed is above \$500,000, a contemporary appraisal will be required.

Project Administration costs are limited to direct labor toward Progress Reporting, Reimbursement Requests, Project Scope Management, Budget Management, and Project Schedule Management. If you request Project Administration reimbursement or want to demonstrate Project Administration as match, you must submit itemized documentation of staff/contractor hours and hourly compensation rates (salary and fringe benefits) for time spent on project administration.

Special equipment may be purchased as a monitoring expense. Special equipment is defined as equipment used only for research or other technical activities on the specific project area. An example of special equipment is a water quality monitor installed on the site. Special equipment with a unit cost over \$5,000 must have prior written approval to be purchased with NCLWF grant funds.

General equipment may not be purchased without prior written approval. General equipment is generally not permitted to be purchased with NCLWF funds. General equipment is defined as equipment not limited technical activities, which could be used on other project sites. Examples of general equipment include computers, motor vehicles, safety vests, or work boots. If an item can be used to work on other projects, it is likely general equipment and not eligible for purchase with NCLWF funds.

Travel costs are eligible for reimbursement. Travel that is specifically related to carrying out the project may be included in the project budget as match and/or requested funds. Travel expenses may be determined using a reasonable metric that the grantee otherwise uses to calculate travel expenses, or by using the standard mileage rates established by the United States Internal Revenue Service. NCLWF will only reimburse travel expenses for trips shown to be necessary to complete the project.

Sales tax for items purchased by a grantee which is a nonprofit corporation is not eligible for reimbursement using NCLWF funds. The NCLWF cannot provide funding for expenses which a nonprofit corporation could otherwise seek reimbursement for from other parts of the government, i.e., sales tax on purchases for the project. Sales tax must be subtracted from any invoices submitted by a nonprofit corporation to the NCLWF for reimbursement.

Overhead, postage, phone charge, and audit costs are not eligible as match or reimbursable project costs.

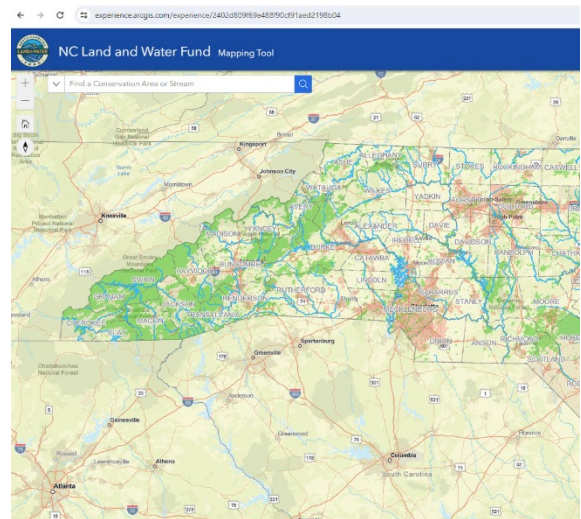
Application Map Guidelines

The following mapping guidelines are **STRONGLY RECOMMENDED**.

Following these guidelines will greatly help our staff and trustees understand your proposal and the 100-200 applications that are reviewed each year. **Please remember:**

- Only georeferenced PDF, no JPG, PNG, TIF, etc.
- Landscape orientation
- **If you do not have access to GIS software**, please use the [Application Mapping Tool](#) (directions [here](#)) or contact your field representative for assistance.

[Application Mapping Tool](#)



Your application should contain the following maps, listed below and then detailed by map.

1. Location map - required
2. Project map with aerial photo as background - required
3. Project map/design drawings with topo lines – strongly encouraged
4. Additional property maps as necessary to best illustrate project – optional

1) Location Map. Show the location of the project in context of major streams, major roads, nearby protected property, nearby municipalities, etc. This map should orient the viewer to the location of the project on a county or regional scale.

Background: no specific requirement, but should be a neutral color

Major Streams: **Blue**

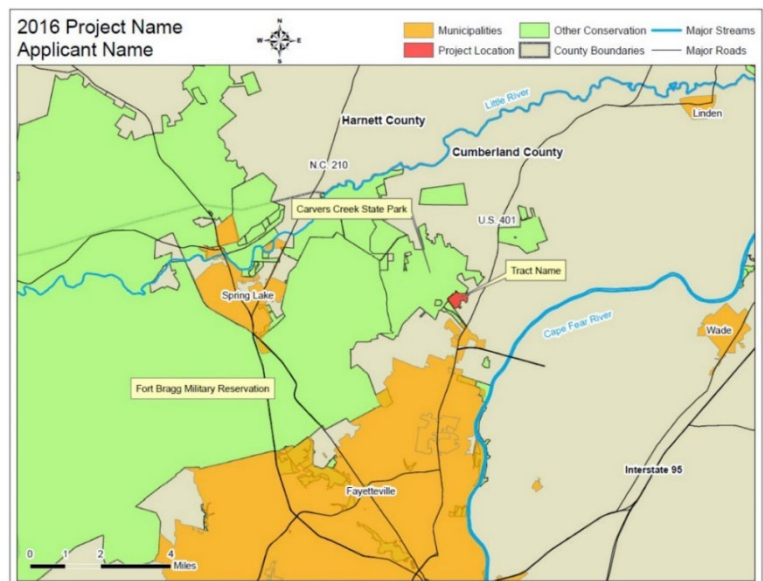
Municipalities: **Orange**

Project: **Red**

Other Conservation: **Green**

Major Roads: **Black**, or standard DOT color codes using ArcGIS online hosted layers

Labels: Major streams, major roads, municipalities, and county boundaries should be clearly labeled. Any significant landmarks or other conservation lands should be labeled as well.



Location Map Example

2) Project Map(s). Show details of the project including a clear property boundary, legal access to the property, all streams and/or wetlands on the property, roads, and the proposed easement area(s) (if applicable).

Background: A recent **aerial image**; if an aerial photo is not possible, please use a neutral color

Easement/Buffer Boundary: **Red** outline, no shading or hatching. **NOTE:** NCLWF minimum buffer requirements are from the **top of bank**. For example, if the stream is 10 feet wide from bank to bank, and 50' buffers are placed on the stream, the mapped buffer width from a single center line would be 55' on either side

Property Boundary: **Yellow** outline

Other Conservation: **Green** outline

Roads: **Black**, or standard DOT color codes using ArcGIS online hosted layers

Streams: **Blue**

Restoration Reach: No specific requirement but should be easy to distinguish from other streams. Show levels of restoration/enhancement/stabilization if possible

Labels: Named streams, roads, adjacent conservation lands, and landmarks should be labeled

Excluded areas: Should be clearly hatched/shaded and labeled

Scale Bar: Please use scale/divisions that are easily applied to the project

Project Map Example 1 – Stream & Wetland Restoration

Project Name/ Applicant Name



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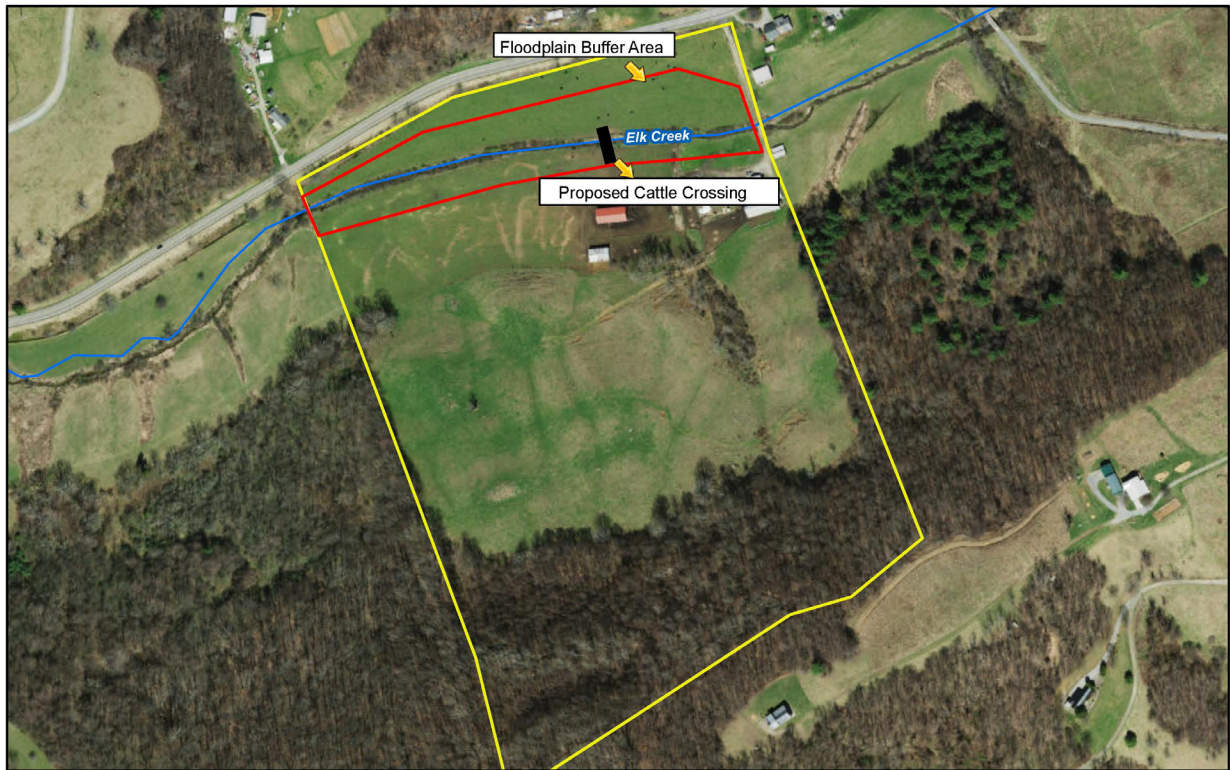
Other Conservation
Parcels
Streams
NC Counties
Non-System Roads
Other System Roads
Federal Route
Non-System
Other System Roads
Ramps, Rest Areas, Non-Mainline
Projected Route
Other State Agency Route
Secondary Route

1:2,257
0 0.01 0.03 0.06 mi
0 0.03 0.05 0.1 km
NCDOT GIS Unit, NC CGIA, Maxar



NC CGIA, Maxar, Microsoft | NC Center for Geographic Information and Analysis (NCCGIA) | NCDOT GIS Unit | This dataset was transformed by the Project Team and Vendor Team for the NC Integrated Cadastral Data Exchange Project, funded by US EPA.

Project Map Example 2 – Stream & Wetland Restoration

Project Name/ Applicant Name



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 Proposed NCLWF Easement
 Streams

1:4,514
0 0.03 0.06 0.12 mi
0 0.05 0.1 0.2 km
NC CGIA, Maxar

NC CGIA, Maxar | NC Center for Geographic Information and Analysis (NCCGIA) | NCDOT GIS Unit | This dataset was transformed by the Project Team and Vendor Team for the NC Integrated Cadastral Data Exchange Project, funded by US EPA Environmental

Application Rating System - Restoration

General Statute 143B-135.242(c) states that the Trustees may develop guidelines in addition to the minimum criteria to assist with the allocation of grant funds. The following rating system was approved by the full NCLWF Board of Trustees at its meeting on December 10, 2025.

Rating System Overview

The major components of the rating system and percentages are listed below.

Resource Significance (15%)

- A. Primary Resource Benefits

Effectiveness/Measurable Outcomes (45%)

- A. Effectiveness of Project (35%)
- B. Consistency with a Basinwide Plan or a Comprehensive, Long-term Land-use Plan by a State Agency, Local Government, or Nonprofit Corporation. (5%)
- C. Local Watershed Protection and Watershed Stability (5%)

Other Public Benefits (10%)

- A. Recreational Uses and Public Access (2%)
- B. Provides Public or Scientific Education (2%)
- C. Development of Riparian Greenways (2%)
- D. Location Relative to Existing and Future Public Drinking Water Supply (4%)

Readiness (10%)

- A. Landowner Interest (4%)
- B. Funding Status (3%)
- C. Plan and Design Status (3%)

Value (20%)

- A. Matching Resources

Rating System Details

Resource Significance (15 points)

A. Primary Resource Benefits (maximum 15 points).

Points in this subsection will be awarded based on the highest level for which the project qualifies.

15 Points

- Outstanding Resource Waters classification
- Impaired waters identified by the Division of Water Resources or on the 303(d) list
- Classified shellfishing SA approved for harvest by the Division of Environmental Health

13 Points

- High Quality Waters classification – does not include HQW “by definition” such as WSI, II or SA waters
- Wild trout as determined by the Wildlife Resources Commission
- Excellent bioclassification as determined by the Division of Water Resources
- Water Supply I classification
- Water Supply II classification
- Water Supply Critical Area classification

11 Points

- Classified shellfishing SA conditionally approved for harvest by the Division of Environmental Health
- Streams supporting species listed as Federally Threatened or Endangered
- Water Supply III classification
- Water Supply IV classification
- Primary Nursery Areas identified by the Division of Marine Fisheries
- Inland Primary Nursery Areas identified by the Wildlife Resources Commission

9 Points

- Division of Coastal Management exceptional wetland
- Division of Water Resources unique wetland
- Nutrient Sensitive Waters classification
- Water Supply V classification
- Surface Drinking Water Susceptibility Rating of “Higher”

7 Points

- B stream classification
- Surface Drinking Water Susceptibility Rating of “Moderate”
- National Scenic Waters, National Heritage River or National Seashore.
- National or State Park, National Wildlife Refuge or Coastal Preserve

5 Points

- Good bioclassification as determined by the Division of Water Resources
- Wetlands on or hydrologically connected to the project area
- Trout classification

3 Points

- Other SA (not approved or conditionally approved for harvest)
- Surface Drinking Water Susceptibility Rating of “Lower”

Effectiveness/Measurable Outcomes (45 points)

A. Effectiveness of Project (maximum 35 points).

1. Functional Uplift of Stream/Catchment (maximum 10 points). [relative to problems identified; uplift = improving hydrology, water quality, and/or habitat; based on restoring maximum remaining functional potential]

- a. The majority of the linear feet (LF) of stream work, or the majority area of floodplain and wetland work, qualifies as stream restoration and the current condition of the stream geomorphology and hydraulics is:

10 points

- i. Severely degraded or threatened with imminent degradation

6 points

- ii. Moderately degraded

- b. The majority of the LF of stream work, or the majority area of floodplain and wetland work, qualifies as Enhancement and the current water quality or ecological function is:

7 points

- i. Severely degraded or threatened with imminent degradation

4 points

- ii. Moderately degraded

- c. The majority of the LF of stream work, or the majority area of floodplain and wetland work, qualifies as Enhancement Level II Streambank Stabilization and the riparian zone condition is:

5 points

- i. Severely degraded

3 points

- ii. Moderately degraded

- d. The project area is generally stable and not clearly threatened by degradation

0 points

2. Proximity of Restoration Stream Reach to Other Restored Reaches or Land Conservation in the Same Stream System (maximum 5 points).

5 points

- Project is <1 stream mile from one of these

3 points

- Project is 1 stream mile or up to 3 miles from one of these

2 points

- Project is more than 3 stream miles and up to 4 stream miles from one of these

1 point

- Project is more than 4 stream miles or up to 5 stream miles from one of these

0 points

- Project is > 5 stream miles from one of these

3. Cost per Unit (maximum 10 points). [in design dollars or construction dollars per LF restored]. If scope is design only, use sum of total costs for design and permitting. If scope is construction only, use sum of total costs for construction, and construction admin/observation. If scope is design and construction, use same as for construction only. **See table below.**

COST PER UNIT (\$/lf)

Score	Design ¹	Construction ²
10	<20	<75
9	20-29	75-99
8	30-39	100-124
7	40-49	125-149
6	50-59	150-199
5	60-69	200-249
4	70-79	250-299
3	80-89	300-399
2	90-99	400-499
1	100-120	500-600
0	>120	>600

Notes:

¹ \$ = design + permitting

² \$ = construction + construction administration/observation

4. Habitat and/or Ecological Uplift (maximum 10 points).

Option 1: Estimate habitat uplift by calculating sediment load transport reduction [in pounds per LF restored per year]. Use a NCLWF approved sediment load estimation method to calculate load as described the Restoration Guidelines document and then see table below.

SEDIMENT REDUCTION

Score	(lb/LF/Yr)
10	>500
9	450-500
8	400-459
7	350-399
6	300-349

5	250-299
4	200-249
3	150-199
2	100-149
1	10-99
0	<10

Option 2: Estimate habitat uplift by determining the percentage of project length or area that is predicted to receive significant habitat improvement. Use a NCLWF approved assessment to determine existing habitat conditions as described in the Restoration Guidelines Document to determine the percent of the existing project that does not contain functioning habitat and the percentage that contains habitat of limited function.

Completed field assessment forms from the North Carolina Stream Assessment Method (NC SAM*), the North Carolina Wetland Assessment Method (NC WAM*) or the Stream Quantification Tool (SQT) should be attached to the project application in order to receive points using Option 2.

Points will then be determined by NCLWF staff based on the general function:

$$\text{Habitat uplift score} = (\% \text{ project that will raise nonfunctional habitat to functioning}) \times 10 \\ + (\% \text{ project that will raise poorly functioning to functioning}) \times 5$$

*These stream and wetland assessment methods are endorsed by NCDEQ and USACE.

B. Consistency with the Objectives of a Basinwide Plan Adopted at the Regional Level or a Comprehensive, Long-term Land-use Plan by a State Agency, Local Government, or Nonprofit Corporation (maximum 5 points). The primary purpose of the agency, government, or corporation must be the conservation, preservation, or restoration of the State's cultural, environmental, or natural resources.

5 points

- Project site and purpose are explicitly mentioned as needed

3 points

- Project type and purpose are explicitly mentioned as needed

1 point

- Project type generally supports the goals of a surface water plan as defined above

0 points

- No connection to surface water plans as defined above

C. Local Watershed Protection and Watershed Stability (maximum 5 points).

1. Local Water Quality Protection Currently in Effect in the Project's Watershed (maximum 3 points).

3 points

- Local protection includes stormwater management program, ordinances, and/or planning; and local buffer, wetland and/or floodplain protection ordinances

2 points

- Local protection includes either stormwater management program, ordinances, and/or planning; or local buffer, wetland and/or floodplain protection ordinances

0 points

- No protection ordinances are in place

2. Watershed Stability [rate of land-use change in the project watershed over the next 20 years] (**maximum 2 points**).

2 points

- Little or no change expected because the area is currently rural or protected and not likely to develop or already fully developed as urban/suburban

1 point

- Moderate rate of change is expected.

0 points

- Rapid rate of development is expected from rural to urban/suburban.

Other Public Benefits (10 points)

A. Recreational Uses and Public Access (maximum 2 points).

- Improves recreational use related to water (e.g., fishing, boating); must have public access

B. Provides Public or Scientific Education (maximum 2 points).

2 points

- Part of an organized educational effort open to public or educational institutions. This effort would include active promotion by outreach, which could include a presence on the internet (e.g., a website) and signage, etc. at the project site

0 points

- No educational component (0 points)

C. Development of Riparian Greenways (maximum 2 points).

2 points

- Will establish a greenway system or add to an existing greenway as part of this project

0 points

- No greenway to be developed

D. Location Relative to Existing and Future Public Drinking Water Supply (maximum 4 points).

4 points

- By addressing sediment and nutrient pollution, the proposed project plans to preserve the capacity of an existing surface drinking water supply that has an intake or NC DEQ designated critical area less than 1 mile downstream of the planning area (measured as stream miles)

3 points

- By addressing sediment and nutrient pollution, the proposed project plans to preserve the capacity of an existing surface water supply intake or NC DEQ designated critical area less than 3 miles downstream of the planning area (measured as stream miles)

2 points

- By addressing sediment and nutrient pollution, the proposed project plans to preserve the capacity of an existing surface drinking water supply that has an intake or NC DEQ designated critical area less than 4 miles downstream of the planning area (measured as stream miles)

1 point

- The proposed project watershed does not address sediment and nutrient pollution but is less than 5 stream miles upstream of an existing public water supply as defined above

0 points

- The proposed project watershed is not within 5 stream miles upstream of an existing public water supply as defined above

Readiness at the Date of the Project Application (10 points)

A. Landowner Interest (maximum 4 points).

NOTE: In order to be eligible for consideration for NCLWF funding, all the landowners must be contacted and at least have indicated willingness to agree to a conservation easement prior to submittal of the grant application. For design-only projects, landowner Interest points are not available, and letters of intent from landowners are not required.

4 points

- Majority of landowners have signed a conservation agreement

2 points

- Majority of landowners have provided a letter of intent to sign a conservation agreement

0 points

- All landowners have been contacted and some or all have verbally agreed to sign a conservation agreement

B. Funding Status (maximum 3 points).

Status of match resources (e.g., matching funds, personnel, services, equipment, access to land) needed to implement the project:

Portion of the proposed matching resources that are already available and committed to the project:

Points Score = % Committed x 0.03

C. Plan and Design Status (maximum 3 points).

3 points

- Plans and specifications are ready to begin construction and all required permits have been obtained or permit application submitted

2 points

- An existing conditions survey of the project site has been completed, a reference site has been identified and conceptual plans have been developed

1 point

- An existing conditions survey of the project site has been completed and attached to the application

Value (20 points)

A. Matching Resources (maximum 20 points). Matching resources will be given a value based on the percentage and type of secured match. Any fraction in the final total will be rounded up.

1. Secured private funds (including bargain sale and donated value) = % of total x 0.22
2. Secured federal or local government funds = % of total x 0.18
3. Other secured State funds = % of total x 0.14
4. Unsecured match and/or source TBD = % of total x 0.10

Matching Value Example: In this example, the request is for \$40K from NCLWF with matching resources coming in the form of cash from a land trust and bargain sale from the landowner (\$30K) and an active application for a federal grant (\$30K):

Match source	Match (%)	Multiplier	Points
Secured private funds, including bargain sales and property value			
	30%	0.22	6.6
Secured federal or local government funds			
	0%	0.18	
Other secured State funds			
	0%	0.14	
Unsecured match and/or source TBD			
	30%	0.10	3.0
TOTAL (Rounded up):			10

Sample Application

This is a copy of the application questions for the current grant cycle. It is provided to give the entire scope of the application and let you see all questions that will be asked as you complete the questions online. **This is not the actual application.**

The application is a web-based form available at <https://nclwf.nc.gov/apply>

You will need to enter a username and password to access the form for the first time.

We suggest using the Gmail or Microsoft account option, or your email as your username. Once signed in, you will be able to save your progress and re-access your application. You can also start subsequent applications under the same username.

We suggest using your email as your username. Once signed in, you will be able to save your progress and re-access your application. You can also start subsequent applications under the same username.

(Application form copy follows)

NCLWF Restoration Funding Application - 2026

The entire NCLWF Restoration Program application form is below. Please use the Save and Return function to save your work.

Formsite Logistics: You must have a Formsite account to access this form, so you've completed the first step! If you did not use the Google or Microsoft sign-in option, please save your user-name and password.

- The same login will allow access to all applications **within a given program** and year. If you apply to multiple programs, you may use the same credentials, but you will need to initiate each program separately.
- To prevent accidental data loss in the event of internet connectivity issues, we **strongly encourage** you to write and save any narrative sections on your own device and copy and paste into this form.
- SAVE YOUR WORK with the 'save' or 'continue' buttons at the bottom of each page.
- You may edit/re-edit your form and click '**Submit**' as many times as needed prior to the deadline of 11:59pm, March 1. You will receive an email with a copy of your application attached after each instance of clicking 'Submit'.



Staff will not review your submission until after the deadline.

It is critical that you use the Restoration Program's [Applicant Funding Manual](#) as a reference when filling out this application. Referencing the funding manual, even for returning/seasoned applicants, will result in additional score opportunities, reduced issues with scope, contract and closings, and better likelihood of a successful outcome. Please use the Funding Manual!

Budgets must be filled out using this [PDF Budget Form](#). The document will open in a new window. Download the form, save to your project files, complete the budget using Adobe Acrobat or comparable dedicated software, and then upload it below.

NCLWF Application Mapping Tool: NCLWF provides a web-based mapping application that may help you create the required maps. The [Application Mapping Tool is available here](#).

Public information: Applications submitted to NCLWF are subject to the North Carolina Public Records Law and may be disclosed to third parties upon their request.

SECTION 1 - APPLICANT INFORMATION

1.1 - Organization Name *

1.2 - Organization Type *

1.3 - Person from the applicant's organization that will administer the grant contract, if awarded:

Name (Contract Administrator) *

Title (Contract Administrator) *

Mailing Address (Contract Administrator/Payments) *

Email (Contract Administrator) *

Phone Number (Contract Administrator) *

1.4 Person that will manage the actual project:

Name (Project Manager) *

Title (Project Manager) *

Email (Project Manager) *

Phone Number (Project Manager) *

1.5 Person who will sign the grant contract if awarded: (if different from Contract Administrator, above)

Name (Contract Signee)

Title (Contract Signee)

Email (Contract Signee)

1.6 - Fiscal Year of Applicant/Contract Administrator *

- ☐ January 1 - December 31 (Calendar/Annual)
- ☐ July 1 - June 30 (Fiscal)
- ☐ October 1 - September 30 (Federal)
- ☐ April 1 - March 31 (Alternative)

1.7 - State of Non-Profit Incorporation (if applicable) *

▲ 1 / 2 ▼

SECTION 2 - PROJECT INFORMATION

2.1 - Project Name

(100 character maximum) *

2.2 - Duration (in months)

Not more than 36 months. *

2.3 - Primary County *

2.4 - Project Coordinates

Please use Decimal Degrees from the [Application Mapping Tool](#) coordinate widget, www.latlongdata.com or similar site. Place at the center point of the project and test the coordinates before submitting. You may also upload an optional shapefile at the end of this application.

Latitude:

This is a positive number, between 33 and 36. *

Longitude:

This is a negative number between -84 and -75. *

For all narratives below - Be concise and discerning with information, covering key components and background if needed. Narratives are limited in word length as noted below each text box.

2.5 - Project Brief Description

Describe what your project will achieve. Include the resource your project will restore, and the problem your project will address. 100 word limit. *

0/100 words

2.6 - Enduring Outcomes and Benefits

Describe the long-term benefits your project will deliver for the surrounding environment and for nearby communities. *

0/100 words

2.7 - Causes of Impairment

List the likely causes of impairment and efforts made to identify these issues. *

2.8.A - Type of Work

For linear features, please give linear feet. For non-linear features, such as wetlands and floodplains, please provide circumference AND acres. Areas of stream or floodplain that are being conserved but not restored should be summarized in the 'Conservation agreement only' row.

	Reach Name(s)	Linear Feet/Circumference	Acres (if applicable)
Restoration	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Enhancement	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Stabilization	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Wetland	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Floodplain restoration	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Conservation agreement only	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Other	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

2.8.B Other - If you have entered any values in 'Other' above, please describe what is being measured:

2.9 - Total Linear Feet (This is not a calculated field.)

2.10 - Total Acres (This is not a calculated field.)

2.11 - Scope of Work Items Below

A, B, and C below are used in the summary and contract - please be concise and precise.

2.11.A - Exact Project Location

Describe the exact reach/site location in terms that define the project extent. For example:

"1,200 feet of Swift Creek including left and right bank and 50' riparian buffers, starting at the crossing of the road and ending at the confluence of an unnamed tributary and the property boundary."

OR: "600 feet of Watery Creek and riparian buffers on the Smith farm parcel, excluding the right bank adjacent to the barn."

OR: "5.7 acres of wetland on the landowner's parcel south of Watery Creek."

100 word limit.

★

2.11.B - Scope of Work Item List:

Please mark all that apply. These items are used to describe the project and create contract deliverables. ★

- ☐ Consult with relevant permitting and regulatory agencies.
- ☐ Draft and complete engineering designs and plans.
- ☐ Secure all required local, State, and Federal permits.
- ☐ Secure conservation agreements on riparian areas.
- ☐ Construct Project per engineering design and plans.
- ☐ Develop maintenance plan.
- ☐ Develop educational features.
- ☐ Secure stewardship agreement.

- ☐ Conduct non-native invasive plant management.
- ☐ Manage the Project in total and report to the NCLWF.

2.11.C - Scope of Work Additional (if necessary)

Add any tasks - **ONE ITEM PER ROW that are not covered by the checkboxes above.** The scope of work is measurable tasks that will be completed as part of this project, and any tasks that will continue afterwards (such as stewardship monitoring). Scope items include work completed with NCLWF and match funds.

You may add a brief justification, for example: "Complete soil boring and analysis in order to confirm lack of landfill material." **Itemization of your construction tasks is not needed below.**

100 characters per line, maximum of 10 lines.

2.12 - Project Review Team

Provide name(s), title(s), and brief qualifications of professional(s) who evaluated the need for this project. *

0/150 words

2.13.A - Conservation Agreement Type

NCLWF requires vegetated riparian buffers, typically at least 50 feet wide, along restored streams. In addition, NCLWF requires that the stream riparian buffers be protected by permanent conservation agreements or other legal instrument of protection acceptable to NCLWF. See the Funding Manual for details on qualified easement holders, templates and other details.

*

- ☐ New conservation easement
- ☐ Existing conservation easement
- ☐ Declaration of Covenants and Restrictions
- ☐ State Nature Preserve Dedication
- ☐ Federally managed land
- ☐ EQIP Landowner Agreement
- ☐ Not applicable (NCLWF staff confirmed)

2.13.B - Conservation Agreement Holder and Steward

Provide information on both the proposed holder and proposed steward of the new conservation agreement, or holder of existing agreement. Include organization name, contact name and, if not the applying organization on this form, confirm that the organization has agreed to accept responsibility for the conservation agreement.

If the project is on an existing conservation agreement, please describe and attach below in Section 9.

*

0/100 words

2.13.C - Conservation Agreement Copy Upload

If applicable, you may upload documents of existing conservation agreements mentioned above.

Choose File

No file chosen

NOTE: The Schedule of Properties for Legal Protection of Riparian Buffers will be filled out as part of the Project Budget document, which is uploaded below.

2.14 - What agencies will be consulted during the design and/or construction process? *

- ☐ NC Natural Heritage Program
- ☐ US Fish and Wildlife Service
- ☐ NC Wildlife Resources Commission
- ☐ US Army Corps of Engineers
- ☐ NC Division of Water Resources
- ☐ DEQ Div. of Coastal Management (CAMA)

☐ Other:

▲ 2 / 3 ▼

SECTION 3 - ADDITIONAL PUBLIC BENEFITS

3.1 - Recreational Uses and Public Access

Note: this use/access must be directly to the water. *

- ☐ Improvements (with access) to recreational uses related to water (e.g. fishing, boating)
- ☐ No recreational component

3.2 - Explain Recreational Use & Public Access (if applicable)

Required, if improvements are claimed, above.

0/200 words

3.3 - Public or Scientific Education *

- ☐ Active promotion of an organized educational effort open to public educational institutions.
- ☐ No educational component

3.4 - Explain Public and/or Scientific Education (if applicable)

Required, if educational efforts are claimed, above.

0/200 words

3.5 - Establishment of Riparian Recreational Greenway *

- ☐ Will establish a recreational greenway system or add to an existing greenway as part of this project.
- ☐ No greenway to be developed.

3.6 - Briefly explain the development of the riparian greenway, if applicable

0/200 words

3.7 - Location Relative to Existing Public Drinking Water Supply

Use the [Application Mapping Tool](#) to help find these answers. *

- ☐ Preserves the capacity of an existing surface drinking water supply intake or designated critical area within 1 mile downstream by addressing sediment and nutrient pollution
- ☐ Preserves the capacity of an existing surface water supply intake or a designated critical area less than 3 miles downstream by addressing sediment and nutrient pollution
- ☐ Preserves the capacity of an existing surface drinking water supply that has an intake or designated critical area less than 4 miles downstream by addressing sediment and nutrient pollution
- ☐ Project watershed does not address sediment and nutrient pollution but is less than 5 stream miles upstream of an existing public water supply
- ☐ Project watershed is not within 5 stream miles upstream of an existing public water supply

▲ 3 / 4 ▼

SECTION 4 - RESOURCE SIGNIFICANCE

4 - Receiving Waters Information

NCLWF has abbreviated the waterbody research required by applicants. In addition to your summary information below, program staff will further research and classify these designations during the grant cycle, and you will have a chance to review the assigned classifications when project/score summary previews are released (usually in August).

The [Applicant Funding Manual](#) describes in detail and gives links to the waterbody classifications that we use to score the application:

DWR Stream Classification, biological rating, 303d listing, wetland protection, fish habitat, Threatened or Endangered species, shellfish areas, drinking water susceptibility, and links with other protected riparian buffers.

4.1 - Receiving Waters

Using the [Application Mapping Tool](#), or the additional map resources named in the Application Funding Manual, list the primary waterbodies associated with the project (on the parcel, and within 1 mile downstream), and their associated ratings that NCLWF uses for scoring (see above).

NCLWF staff will review the stream classification, biological stream rating and 303(d) status using the most recent data from the Division of Water Resources (DWR). Categories 4 and 5 both considered as 303(d) waters by NCLWF.

	Name of Receiving Water	Waterbody Classification (DWR)
1	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
2	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
3	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
4	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
5	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
6	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

4.2 - Aquatic Habitat

Mark any of the following that apply directly to the receiving waters, or within 1 stream mile downstream of the proposed project.

- ☐ Streams supporting species listed as Federally Threatened or Endangered
- ☐ Division of Coastal Management exceptional wetland
- ☐ Division of Water Resources unique wetland
- ☐ Division of Marine Fisheries Primary Nursery Areas
- ☐ Inland Primary Nursery Areas identified by the Wildlife Resources Commission
- ☐ Wildlife Resources Commission Wild Trout
- ☐ Division of Marine Fisheries Shellfish Area

NOTE: Drinking water assessment will be assigned by staff and can be reviewed by the applicant in August.

4.3 - Protection or Improvement of Waters with Special Uses

Mark any of the following that apply directly to the receiving waters, or within 1 stream mile downstream of the proposed project.

- ☐ n/a
- ☐ National Scenic Waters
- ☐ National Heritage River
- ☐ National Seashore, National or State Park, National Wildlife Refuge or Coastal Preserve stream mile downstream of the proposed project

4.4 - Area of wetlands on or hydrologically connected to the project area.

Acres.

SECTION 5 - PROJECT DETAILS

5.1 - Regulatory Mandates

Identify and describe any aspects of the proposed project that are for complying with regulatory mandates or permit conditions.

NCLWF will not fund projects solely for compliance with regulations or permits. These aspects may be part of a larger project, but NCLWF funds should not be applied toward minimum required activities.

0/150 words

5.2 - Proximity to Nearest Water Quality or Conservation Project in the Watershed

Please provide the name and a brief description of the nearest water quality or conservation project in the watershed within one (1) stream mile of the proposed project, if applicable. Indicate whether the completed project is upstream or downstream and the approximate distance to the proposed project area.

	Name	Type of Project	Stream Miles	Upstream/Downstream
1				

5.3 - Local Measures to Protect Water Quality

Select one of the following that applies to local water quality protection currently in effect in the project's watershed: *

- ☐ Local measures include stormwater management program, ordinances, and/or planning; AND local buffer, wetland and/or floodplain protection ordinances.
- ☐ Local measures include either stormwater management program, ordinances, and/or planning; OR local buffer, wetland and/or floodplain protection ordinances.
- ☐ No protection ordinances are in place.

5.4 - Ordinances Protecting Waterbodies & Riparian Area

Identify local ordinances the community has implemented to protect water resources. Examples include stormwater management; stream buffer, wetland, or floodplain protection; soil erosion and sediment control program, etc. Include a description of the effects these ordinances might have on the proposed project.

0/150 words

5.5 - Expected Land Use Change

Select the choice that most accurately describes the expected change in land use over the next 20 years. *

- ☐ Little or no change is expected because the area is rural or protected and not likely to develop.
- ☐ Little or no change is expected because the area is already fully developed as urban/suburban.
- ☐ Moderate rate of change is expected.
- ☐ Rapid rate of development is expected from rural to urban/suburban.

5.6 - Development Pressure in Watershed

Briefly describe anticipated development and/or land use change in the project watershed. *

0/100 words

5.7 - Is the project part of a conservation or basin-wide plan?

NCLWF seeks to consider your project's consistency with the objectives of:

- A basin-wide plan adopted at the regional level
- A comprehensive, long term land-use plan by a State agency, local government or nonprofit corporation whose primary purpose is the conservation, preservation, or restoration of the State's cultural, environmental, or natural resources

*

☐ Yes ☐ No

5.8 - How does the plan mention/support your project?

- ☐ Site and purpose is explicitly mentioned as needed
- ☐ Type and purpose is explicitly mentioned as needed
- ☐ Type generally supports the goals of a surface water plan as defined above
- ☐ No connection to surface water plans as defined above

5.9.A - Plan Information (if applicable).

Provide information that supports the project's consistency with the objectives of a basinwide plan adopted at the regional level or a comprehensive, long-term land-use plan by a state agency, local government, or nonprofit corporation. The primary purpose of the agency, government, or corporation must be the conservation, preservation, or restoration of the State's cultural, environmental, or natural resources.

	Plan Title	Adopting Org & Date of Plan	Page reference to Project/Project Type
1			
2			

5.9.B - Plan Details - Context if Needed

Explain how the proposed project is strategically related to the referenced long-term or regional management plan.

The plan covers this project because...

0/250 words

5.9.C - Plan Screenshot/document page extract/Image Attachments

NOTE new plan submission details: Please only submit a screenshot/image/capture of the pertinent plan pages that cover the property or the plan goals that cover the property. Do not provide the entire plan. DO provide plan information on date, adoption, page number in the fields above. For the plan/file itself, only share screenshot(s), image or page extraction of pertinent plan pages. File size, plan complexity and file access were significant challenges in 2021 so thank you in advance for helping with this change. Plan excerpts are reviewed but not archived.

Limit of 5 10MB files. combine files into one PDF if possible.

Choose Files No file chosen

5.10 - Restoration Approaches

Please add ONE ITEM PER LINE below for the primary approaches used. Use the green plus button for each item. Maximum of 6 lines, 75 characters each.

Common items include:

Construction of new channel	Installation of crossing/aquatic passage structure *
Reconnection to existing floodplain	Instream structures (geolifts, vanes, toe wood, etc.)
Creation or enhancement of floodplain wetlands	Agricultural BMPs
Bank stabilization	Wetland/peat restoration
Riparian buffer plantings	Water control structures
Removal of invasive species	Fencing (needed if adjacent to mown areas)
Removal of instream barrier (dams, culverts)	

5.11.A - Restoration Plan and Design Status *

- ☐ Plans and specifications are ready to begin construction and all required permits have been applied for.
- ☐ An existing conditions survey of the project site has been completed, a reference site has been identified and conceptual plans have been developed (Plans and specifications are not ready).
- ☐ An existing conditions survey of the project site has been completed (Plans and specifications are not ready)

5.11.B - UPLOAD your current plans/designs/existing conditions survey information here, if applicable. Single PDF please, 20MB max

Choose File No file chosen

5.12 - Project Maintenance

Please provide the name of the organization that will inspect the project site and conduct/oversee maintenance and repair as needed.

NOTE: For projects awarded with construction in the scope of work, the grant recipient will be contractually responsible for maintaining the project's function for 10 years. *

0/150 words

5.13 - Water Quality Monitoring:

If water quality monitoring is proposed as a matching contribution, please describe who would conduct the monitoring, what parameters would be monitored, what methods would be used, and a timetable for the monitoring.

NOTE: NCLWF will not provide funds for water quality monitoring. In order to qualify as match, the water quality monitoring must be directly targeted at documenting improvements in water quality as a result of the proposed project.

0/150 words

▲ 5 / 6 ▼

SECTION 6 - EFFECTIVENESS & MEASURABLE OUTCOMES

6.1 - Which type of ecological uplift will you use to demonstrate uplift for this project?

Complete fields after selecting Option A OR Option B. Only one option will be scored.

- ☐ Option A - Sediment Load Transport Reduction
- ☐ Option B - Approved Models (NCSAM, SQT, others)

OPTION A - Sediment Load Reduction to Predict Uplift (you have selected this option)

You have not selected Option A, please scroll to Option B, below.

6.A.1 - Estimated annual sediment load reduction (pounds/linear foot/year):

NOTE units in this question is pounds per linear foot per year, NOT total tons.

For projects with more than one project site, provide information for each project site.

0/100 words

6.A.2 - Outline how annual sediment load reduction was determined.

0/100 words

6.A.3 - Other pollutant reduction, if applicable.

0/100 words

You have not selected Option B. If you have completed 6A 1, 2 & 3, you may move on to the next Section.

OPTION B - Ecological Uplift Model to Predict Effectiveness (you have selected this option)

Predicting ecological uplift through approved models:

Estimate habitat uplift by determining the percentage of project length or area that is predicted to receive significant habitat improvement.

Use a NCLWF approved assessment to determine existing habitat conditions as described in the Restoration [Applicant's Funding Manual](#) to determine the percent of the existing project that does not contain functioning habitat and the percentage that contains habitat of limited function.

For projects with more than one project site, provide information for each project site.

6.B.1 - Which ecological uplift model did you use? Does the model adequately capture your anticipated uplift?

0/150 words

6.B.2 - Uplift Data Enter length of stream.

If floodplain or wetlands are being restored, you may add a row for acres/area as well.

	Reach name/number	Reach (feet or acres)	Present Habitat Condition	Predicted post-project condition
1	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
2	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
3	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
4	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
5	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
6	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

NOTE: Assessment model data and results must also be included in application attachments that are uploaded to this application.

6.B.3 - If needed, describe additional reaches and habitat condition below:

0/150 words

6.B.4 - UPLOAD uplift data here, if applicable. Single PDF please.

Completed field assessment forms from the North Carolina Stream Assessment Method (NC SAM), the North Carolina Wetland Assessment Method (NC WAM) or the Stream Quantification Tool (SQT) should be attached to the project application in order to receive points using Uplift Option B. 20MB file size max.

No file chosen

▲ 6 / 7 ▼

SECTION 7 - BUDGET

Detailed guidance for completing the project budget can be found in the current year Restoration [Applicant Funding Manual](#).

Budgets must be filled out using this [PDF Budget Form](#). The link will open the link in a new window. Click to download, save to your project files, complete the budget, and then upload it below.

The Budget has four sub-tables Please fill them all out.

- 1) Project Budget
- 2) Matching Resources
- 3) Schedule of Properties for Legal Protection
- 4) Basis of Claim of Value of Conservation Easements

7.1 - What is your total request from NCLWF?

This number should match your budget sheet total request column that will be submitted at the end. Please double-check before submitting!

No decimals or dollar signs, just a formatted whole number like: 12,340

*

7.2 - What is your total match to NCLWF?

This number should match your budget sheet total match column. Please double-check before submitting!

No decimals or dollar signs, just a formatted whole number like: 12,340

*

12,340

7.4 - Budget Upload

Download the PDF file listed above, edit using Adobe Acrobat or similar, (but NOT the browser), and upload here. Budget totals in your sheet MUST match the budget summary questions below.

You may edit and replace this uploaded budget at any time up until the submission deadline.

NOTE: Do not scan and upload -the budget must be the original 'live' budget form.

No file chosen

7.5 - Costs Before Award Date

Identify any costs to be incurred before NCLWF grant award decisions for which you would request approval of matching funds, including fee simple property purchases. Staff time to complete and submit an application is not eligible.

NCLWF will not reimburse funds for expenses incurred prior to the grant award date.

0/150 words

▲ 7 / 8 ▼

SECTION 8 - OTHER UPLOADS

Attachments are uploaded below by individual category. Please name your files based on your project name of [pipe:37] as follows:

Smith_Location Map.pdf
Smith_Project Map.pdf
Smith_LOI.pdf
Smith_Regional Plan.pdf
etc.

For maps, a georeferenced PDF is requested. Avenza-ready PDF files exported from exported from ArcGIS with embedded georeferenced information are best, if possible. Maps will be displayed in a square format for board presentations.

PLEASE use the map guidance (updated this year) in the [Applicant Funding Manual](#) to guide map making, colors, types, content, etc. The [Application Mapping Tool](#) is now available for applicant's who do not have ArcGIS options. Detailed instructions are in the funding manual - the tool may take a minute to load. Please use this tool rather than upload images and screenshots of other mapping tools if you do not have ArcGIS/PDF export options.

We receive hundreds of maps and using our standard format makes it easier for staff and Trustees to understand your project accurately for funding decisions.

If you feel that other attachments are necessary, you may use the 'Other' file upload field and **load individual files**. Note that not all 'Other' attachments will be included in the final application packet.

Location Map

****File name should be: Smith_location_map.pdf or similar. Short file name please. ***

No file chosen

Project Map 1

****File name should be: Smith_project_map.pdf or similar. Short file name please. PDF only. ***

No file chosen

Project Map 2

****File name should be: Smith_site_map2.pdf or similar. Short file name please. PDF only**

No file chosen

Shapefile (zipped) - Optional but requested.

No file chosen

Letter of Intent to place conservation easement on riparian buffer.

No file chosen

OTHER ATTACHMENTS

NOTE: Please upload multiple PDFs as needed. Please do not group dissimilar types of into single PDFs.

Letters of Support: Letters of support are NOT required and will not be considered in the scoring process. If you have a letter of support you would like to include in your application package, please speak to your field representative.

Max 10 files, 20mb per file

No file chosen

▲ 8 / 9 ▼

SECTION 9 - AGREEMENTS & AFFIRMATION

9.1 - Conflict of Interest Statement

Do any members of your staff or board, or their immediate family, have a conflict of interest or an appearance of a conflict of interest, including but not limited to any financial interest in the subject project or adjoining properties, or in contracts for services proposed in this application? *

- ☐ No known conflict of interest or appearance of conflict
- ☐ Yes, there is a conflict of interest or appearance of conflict

9.2 - Conflict of Interest Summary

If a conflict of interest or an appearance of a conflict of interest exists, briefly explain and summarize actions taken by your organization. This content should also be summarized in attachments.

0/250 words

9.3 - Conflict of Interest Uploads

If a conflict of interest or an appearance of a conflict of interest exists, upload a copy of the applicant and/or partner organization's Conflict of Interest Policy and any minutes, notes or memoranda related to any actions or discussion of the project. (combine into a single PDF, no larger than 15mb)

No file chosen

9.4 - Grant Withdrawal

Pursuant to NCGS 113A-254(f), the grant award may be withdrawn by the Board of Trustees if the project has not entered into construction contract within one year of grant award date. *

- ☐ Yes, applicant commits to entering into a construction contract within one year of the award date.
- ☐ No, applicant cannot commit to entering into a construction contract within one year of the award date.
- ☐ Not applicable: no construction included in budget.

9.5 - Data Use Agreement: NCLWF uses third-party, cloud-based platforms to accept, review and store application materials. These platforms are restricted to staff users only and have a high level of security and privacy protections in place. Current platforms are: [Airtable](#) and [Formsite](#). Applications are subject to the North Carolina Public Records Law and may be disclosed to third parties upon their request.

Do you agree to allow NCLWF to handle and store your application materials via cloud-based third-party performs?

If you cannot say 'Yes' below, please do not submit this application, and contact your Field Representative for help with an alternative application process TBD.

*

- ☐ Yes, I consent to have my application data processed on these highly secure platforms
- ☐ No, I do not consent to have application data reviewed on these platforms. I will NOT submit this application now.

9.6 - Affirmation of Application Materials

Do you affirm that the information in this application and the statements and attached exhibits are true, correct, and complete to the best of your knowledge and belief? Do you further confirm that you are authorized to file this application and the organization I am representing has the authority to enter into a grant contract that may result from this application? *

☐ I affirm the above statement.

Name of Affirmed *

*

[clear](#)

SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION

You may edit/re-edit your form and click '**Submit**' as many times as needed prior to the deadline of 11:59pm, March 1. You will receive an email with a MS Word of your application attached after each submission.

Staff will not review your submission until after the deadline.

Bookmark the Save and Return link available at <https://nclwf.nc.gov/apply> to re-access and edit your applications for this program area.

Applications must have been submitted at least once prior to the deadline as indicated on your log-in landing page. Sample below:

View your stored results below.

[Start New](#)

	Reference #	Updated
Edit	14281172	2020-10-21 14:08:54
Edit	14281154	2020-09-21 14:08:54
Edit	14265608	2020-10-20 16:33:17
Edit	14257376	2020-09-25 09:10:14
Edit	14248381	2020-09-21 14:13:35
Edit	14248357	2020-09-21 14:08:54

Ready for deadline

Not ready for deadline

Project Name (official)

Project Number

Powered by formsite

Close

DO NOT SCAN OR FLATTEN - Submission must be the 'live' form as downloaded.



2026 NCLWF Restoration Application Budget Form

Project ID Number (admin use)	2026 REST Budget v2.pdf
Project Title	
Applicant Organization	
Name of Project Manager	

Whole dollar amounts only please.

NOTE: Budget guidance from the Funding Manual is reproduced below - please review before completing this form.

Requested Funds	Matching Funds	Total Cost
\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0

GMS #	Item	Requested NCLWF	Matching Funds	Cost
D044	Property or Easement Acquisition			\$ 0
D041	Design and Permitting			\$ 0
D046	Construction			\$ 0
D047	Construction Admin/Observation			\$ 0
D049	Project Administration			\$ 0
D045	Easement Prep & Recordation			\$ 0
D043	Value of Easements to be donated		\$ 0	\$ 0
D014	Addnl. Expense 1			\$ 0
D015	Addnl. Expense 2			\$ 0
D016	Addnl. Expense 3			\$ 0
		\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0

Matching Resources Table

Sources of Matching Funds (Name of Org/Entity)	Origin/Type of Matching Funds	Matching Funds Primarily Applied To	Amount	Secured/ Committed?
		?		?
		?		?
		?		?
		?		?
		?		?
		?		?
		?		?
		?		?
Total Matching Funds			\$ 0	

NOTE: *Please group match by source and commitment status*. One source/match line may apply to multiple funding lines above, as summarized in the 'Match Funds Primarily Applied To' column.

Schedule of Properties for Legal Protection of Riparian Buffers

Property Owner	PIN	Stream RIGHT			Stream LEFT			Status
		Stream Frontage (LF)	Approx. Easement Width	Approx. Easement Acres	Stream Frontage (LF)	Approx. Easement Width	Approx. Easement Acres	
				0.0			0.0	?
				0.0			0.0	?
				0.0			0.0	?
				0.0			0.0	?
				0.0			0.0	?
				0.0			0.0	?
				0.0			0.0	?
				0.0			0.0	?
Totals		0		0.0	0		0.0	?
Avg Protected Buffer Widths			NA			NA		

NOTE: If your project has more than five individual landowners, and they have not all signed an option contract for conservation easement, you must discuss with the field rep and also attach the extended schedule of properties to the Additional Attachments upload on the application form.

Basis of Claim of Value of Conservation Easements

Owner Name	PIN	Deed book /page	Parent Parcel			Easement Area	
			Tax Card Land Value	Acres	Value/Ac.	Acres	Acres Value
							\$ 0
							\$ 0
							\$ 0
							\$ 0
							\$ 0
							\$ 0
							\$ 0
							\$ 0
							\$ 0
TOTAL VALUE							\$ 0

Comments on Ownership/Schedule of Properties/Basis of Claim: