



## WESTERN NATIVE TROUT INITIATIVE

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## Western Native Trout Initiative 2016 NFHP Project Funding Opportunity

August 28, 2015

The Western Native Trout Initiative (WNTI) and our partners are proud to announce our 2016 request for project proposals. As one of 19 federally recognized National Fish Habitat Partnerships, WNTI is a collaborative effort between 12 western states, 5 federal agencies, sovereign tribes, and private conservation groups that seek to cooperatively protect, restore, and recover 21 western native trout and char species and sub-species across their historic range. WNTI works to achieve this vision by funding locally-based efforts that raise awareness for the importance of native trout and focus limited financial and human resources toward the highest-impact, locally-led, on-the-ground projects.

While WNTI is supported by several different entities and partners, the bulk of project funding is made available to grantees annually through the National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Since 2006, WNTI has helped to invest over \$14 million of private and public funding toward 113 native trout projects that have reconnected, restored and enhanced over 485 stream miles; and helped complete native trout population assessments to guide collaborative watershed planning and management.

**Eligible Projects:** Projects considered for funding may include protection, restoration, and enhancement activities to benefit 21 species of western trout and char addressed by WNTI (for a complete list, visit <http://www.westernnativetrout.org/what-are-western-native-trout-and-char>). Types of activities may include riparian or in-stream habitat restoration, barrier removal or construction, rangewide population or watershed habitat assessments needed for prioritization and planning of habitat conservation, evaluation of stream flows or lake water levels, and habitat-related community outreach and education. Projects not eligible for WNTI NFHP funding include research or solely to support personnel and staff salaries or benefits. WNTI funded projects must be completed within 18-36 months of receipt of funding. Multiyear projects **MUST** be broken into distinct phases by year for tasks, accomplishments, and budget.

**Available Funding:** WNTI anticipates receiving between \$70,000 and \$200,000 in NFHP funds for FY 2016 projects. However, the exact amount of funding available to the partnership varies annually and is not known at this time. **This is a very competitive process and we anticipate the pool of applicants will exceed the available pool of funding.** Typical funding per project is in the range of \$10K-\$50K. NFHP funds can only be used for on-the-ground habitat conservation projects and related design and monitoring activities; they may not be used for acquisition in fee or easement. Successful proposals must demonstrate a minimum 1:1 match, which may include cash, time, materials, or other services. Special consideration will be given to projects with more than the minimum match.

Applications will be reviewed and ranked by the WNTI Steering Committee based on their ability to meet the partnership's key priorities and strategic objectives ([www.westernnativetrout.org/strategic-plan](http://www.westernnativetrout.org/strategic-plan)).

All projects that receive NFHP funding are required to provide annual reports to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and also to provide project progress and completion reports with before/after project photos to WNTI.

**Applications are due by 5:00 p.m. Mountain time on Monday October 12, 2015.**

The funding Cover Sheet and all application related documentation with specific guidance for completing the application is available on the WNTI website ([www.westernnativetrout.org/2016-wnti-rfp-for-grant-funding](http://www.westernnativetrout.org/2016-wnti-rfp-for-grant-funding)). Late or incomplete applications will be not accepted.

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