



AMERICAN RIVERS-NOAA COMMUNITY-BASED RESTORATION PROGRAM PARTNERSHIP



FUNDING GUIDELINES

American Rivers, through its habitat restoration partnership with the NOAA Community-Based Restoration Program, provides funding for stream barrier removal projects benefiting diadromous fish species.¹ Program funding is through NOAA's Open Rivers Initiative, which seeks to enable environmental and economic renewal in local communities through barrier removal. Eligible recipients include: individuals; organizations such as civic associations and conservation groups; state, local and Tribal governments; and other commercial and non-profit organizations. Federal agencies are not eligible to apply. American Rivers and NOAA reserve the right to determine, at their sole discretion, the eligibility of a project for support.

How does my organization apply for funds?

All potential applicants should contact American Rivers prior to submitting an application. Applications are currently being accepted for 2009 project funding with a deadline of December 3, 2008. Applications for projects must be received by the deadline for consideration for this funding cycle. All project grants are non-renewable² and may last up to 18 months. We expect to notify applicants about funding decisions by late February 2009.

The following information must be included in the application package (preferably in electronic format):

- Completed Application for Financial Support including detailed budget;
- Map with barrier/project location indicated;
- Photographs of the project site (preferably as individual JPEGs and not imbedded in a word document or PDF);
- Project Design Plans (for all construction proposals); and
- Letter of concurrence from owner of dam or barrier (if owner is not the applicant).

Supporting documentation such as other maps and letters of support are encouraged, but not required. Additional information may be requested from the applicant before an award is finalized. Applicants should contact American Rivers to discuss the potential project prior to submitting an application. Select from the appropriate regional contact below.

Northeast (CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT): Brian Graber, 413-585-5896
Mid-Atlantic (NJ, NY): Stephanie Lindloff, 518-482-2631
Mid-Atlantic (PA, DE): Sara Deuling, 717-763-0741
Mid-Atlantic (MD, VA, DC): Serena McClain, 202-347-7550 x3004
California: Steve Rothert, 530-478-5672
Northwest (ID, OR, WA): Kavita Heyn, 503-827-8648

¹ "Diadromous" fish migrate between freshwater and saltwater during their life cycle. Examples include alewife, American eel, American shad, blueback herring, salmon, steelhead, shortnose sturgeon and striped bass.

² Successful applicants will not be eligible to receive additional funding for the same project phase in future grant rounds.

What types of projects will be funded by the American Rivers – NOAA Community-Based Restoration Program Partnership?

The Partnership funds projects in the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Northwest and California that help restore riverine ecosystems, enhance public safety and community resilience, and have clear and identifiable benefits to diadromous fish populations. Projects located within the St. Lawrence/Great Lakes Basin are not eligible for funding this grant round.

The Partnership will consider funding the following phases of eligible projects:

1. **Construction** of stream barrier removal projects. Eligible projects include dam removal and culvert removals/replacements (i.e., “open-bottom” solutions are strongly preferred). Fishway projects are not eligible for this phase of funding.
2. **Engineering design** essential to the permitting and construction of a stream barrier removal project. Eligible designs include dam and culvert removals/replacements (i.e., “open-bottom” solutions are strongly preferred). Fishway projects are not eligible for this phase of funding.
3. **Feasibility analyses** essential to the development of a stream barrier removal project. Fishway projects that do not remove barriers may be included in the analysis but removal of the barrier must also be evaluated for the project to be eligible for funding. A limited number of proposals submitted under this category will be selected for funding.

The American Rivers-NOAA Community-Based Restoration Program Partnership will consider inclusion of funds for salaries and/or travel that are directly related to completion of the project as part of a restoration grant. A maximum of 15% of requested funding is eligible for overhead/administrative expenses. Additionally, these funds are project-based; general organizational support or campaign funding are not eligible activities under this grant program.

We expect the average restoration grant to fall within the range of \$25,000 to \$50,000. Proposals requesting more than \$50,000 will not be accepted. Proposals can be part of a larger restoration project funded through additional sources; however, organizations receiving awards must be able to demonstrate achievement of stated project objectives within the 18-month time frame of the grant. A 1:1 federal:non-federal match is not required, however matching funds greatly enhance the merit of the application and are strongly encouraged.

How are projects selected for funding?

A regional river restoration steering committee, comprised of staff from American Rivers and the NOAA Community-Based Restoration Program, as well as select regional representatives, will evaluate each proposal and make recommendations. American Rivers will consult with NOAA staff to make a final decision on funding and will notify applicants once a decision has been made.

Are there any other things I should be aware of when considering whether to apply for funding?

The ability to ascertain a project’s effectiveness is an important component of any undertaking and adds to the collective body of knowledge of the restoration community. A well-rounded proposal will clearly identify project goals (broad in scope) and specific, measurable objectives associated with the barrier removal. Evaluating these objectives may involve pre- and post-implementation monitoring during the award period to ensure a basic level of assessment of project success and determination of project

outcomes. American Rivers and NOAA will look for a monitoring approach and methodology that includes the following parameters:

- Number of stream miles made accessible;
- Final project designs as compared to as-built conditions/ designs; including whether or not the site as constructed meets regionally appropriate fish passage criteria or target measurements for channel width, channel gradient, and maximum jump height;
- Presence/absence of target diadromous fish upstream of project site before and after barrier removal;
- Number of community participation hours associated with the project;
- Community enhancement activities associated with barrier removal, if applicable;
- Change in operations, maintenance, and/or liability costs as a result of the project, if applicable; and
- Change in public safety as result of the project, if applicable.

Up to 20% of requested funding can be applied to pre- and post-project monitoring expenses. Maintenance of an existing fishway is not eligible for funding from the American Rivers-NOAA Community-Based Restoration Program Partnership.

How do I contact American Rivers?

Potential applicants with specific questions about the application process are encouraged go to our web site www.americanrivers.org/NOAAGrants. If the information cannot be found on the web site, please contact:

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