



MANITOBA
**FISH AND
WILDLIFE**
ENHANCEMENT FUND

Guidelines For Project Proposals

Revised September 2021

FISH AND WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT FUND GUIDELINES - AS OF SEPTEMBER 2021

The Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Fund Trust (FWEF) funds activities that benefit licenced recreational anglers, hunters, and trappers and the fish and wildlife resources on which they rely.

Important Terms and Conditions

- 1 All projects are subject to review by the province of Manitoba wildlife and fisheries staff prior to the FWEF Committee review process
- 2 Eligible projects may include multi-year projects with phased payments (projects of less than a two-year duration or less are preferred)
- 3 Projects should demonstrate benefits to licenced recreational fishers, hunters, and trappers and the fish and wildlife resources on which they rely
- 4 Project objectives are consistent with, and are expected to fulfill, the purpose of FWEF
- 5 Funding recipients (grantees) are required to enter into a contribution agreement with the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation (MHHC)

Application Process

The FWEF uses a two-stage application process:

Stage 1: Letter of Interest (LOI)

Stage 2: Accepted LOIs proceed to full project application

Applications will be completed entirely online. For more information on the FWEF, email granting@mhhc.mb.ca or visit mhhc.mb.ca/fwef/



APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

Eligible Applicants

- Local, provincial, or national not-for-profit groups with established Manitoba operations
- Academic Institutions including universities, colleges, and schools
- Community Groups

Eligible applicants may include ineligible applicants as project partners

Ineligible Applicants

- Organizations without established operations in Manitoba
- Governments (including provincial federal, municipal, and Indigenous governments)
- Individuals
- Groups that are not incorporated or otherwise legally established

Applicants are encouraged to seek knowledge and partnerships from various experts in the field. Ineligible applicants are encouraged to participate as project partners with eligible applicants. Organizations are not restricted from collaborating multiple times in the same funding cycle.

ELIGIBLE PROJECT EXPENSES

A. Direct Project Costs

- Consulting/professional services: includes contractors, consultants, technicians, crews or equipment operators including equipment, and legal fees
- Construction contracts
- Materials and Supplies: Required for the project
- Equipment rentals

B. Indirect Project Costs

A portion of indirect costs may be considered as an eligible project cost, including:

- Salaries and benefits
- Travel & Field Costs
- Administration and Overhead costs directly associated with the project
- Project Communications costs

INELIGIBLE PROJECTS AND EXPENSES

Ineligible Activities

- Any activity that must be undertaken because of a government order or regulatory requirement (e.g. the restoration of wetlands that are already required by regulation)
- Any activity that conflicts with current Provincial mandates and management of fish and wildlife
- Any activity that is contrary to Provincial or Federal legislation
- Any activity that overlaps with Provincial programs (e.g. Aquatic Invasive Species Program)
- Activities that relate to policy or regulation change or have an enforcement or compliance component
- Fish or wildlife rearing, farming, or hatcheries projects
- Feeding or control of wildlife species
- Rearing or rehabilitating wildlife in captivity
- Conferences, lecture series, or conventions
- Advocacy activities
- Ongoing control of alien invasive aquatic or wildlife species

Ineligible Expenses

The FWEF is a project funder and it is not the intent of the fund to provide ongoing operating or programming support. The following expenses are ineligible,

- Salaries for core personnel and general overhead
- Salaries related to planning future activities and grant writing
- Unanticipated cost overruns
- Undue miscellaneous costs
- Major capital assets such as buildings (shelters for sensitive equipment may be considered)
- Maintenance of existing projects
- Creation or management of stand-alone electronic databases, websites, or file systems
- Organizational fundraising
- Retroactive project costs

Other

Project Agreements with Landowners: All activities occurring on properties not owned or controlled by the applicant are to be supported by written agreements or permits. Those agreements should include responsibilities of the landowner and the applicant as well as the duration of the agreement and the project area.

FWEF PROJECT CATEGORIES

Projects must apply under one of the following FWEF Trust project categories. Note that individual calls for Letters of Interest (LOIs) may not include all categories. Projects must have all necessary Provincial and Federal permits, licenses, or approval prior to proceeding.

FISH	
PROJECT CATEGORY	ACTIVITY TYPES
Population Enhancement	Projects focused on conservation, restoration or enhancement of fish populations utilized by licensed anglers
Habitat Enhancement	Projects focused on conservation, restoration or enhancement of important habitats for fish population utilized by licensed anglers
Monitoring and Research	Projects focused on structured monitoring or applied research tied to fish populations that are utilized by licensed anglers
Angler Education	Projects focused on education projects for new anglers or educating existing anglers
Public Access	Projects focused on improving access to fisheries by licensed anglers
Critical Fish Habitat Protection	Projects focused on conservation of habitats that are deemed to be critically important to fish populations utilized by licensed anglers

WILDLIFE	
PROJECT CATEGORY	ACTIVITY TYPES
Population Enhancement	Projects focused on conservation restoration and enhancement of wildlife populations utilized by licensed hunters/trappers
Habitat Enhancement	Projects focused on conservation, restoration or enhancement of important habitats for wildlife populations utilized by licensed hunters/trappers
Monitoring and Research	Projects focused on science-based monitoring or applied research tied to wildlife populations that are utilized by licensed hunters/trappers
Hunter/Trapper Education	Projects focused on recruitment and education for hunters/trappers
Public Access	Projects focused on improving access for licensed hunters/trappers
Critical Wildlife Habitat Protection	Projects focused on conservation of habitats that are deemed to be critically important to wildlife populations used by licensed hunters/trappers

GUIDELINES - FISHERIES PROJECTS

All fisheries projects will focus on activities that support recreational fisheries and licensed recreational anglers.

1. Fish Enhancement

Projects will:

- Be based on sound fisheries management principles
- Be sustainable over a significant period of time
- Result in significant recreational opportunities for Manitoba anglers

Existing Fisheries

- Activities that protect, restore, or rehabilitate existing recreational fisheries (native or introduced species)

Eligible activities:

- Improving fish habitat (e.g. spawning shoals)
- Removing barriers to fish movement

Ineligible activities:

- Introducing non-native species as a food source or as a predator to alter native fish communities
- Activities that have a negative impact on endangered or threatened species as defined under either Provincial or Federal Law

New Fisheries

- Activities that create significant recreational fisheries where none or limited opportunities currently exist
 - May include new stocks of native or non-native species for recreational angling purposes
- Activities that establish new species into existing recreational fisheries
 - May include native or non-native species for recreational angling
 - May include removal of existing fish populations prior to establishing new stocks

Eligible activities:

- Projects where an existing fishery does not exist (e.g. aeration projects designed to sustain new recreational fisheries)
- Conversion from one type of fishery to another (e.g. stocked trout to stocked largemouth bass)

Ineligible activities:

- Hatchery development
- Introduction of species that pose a threat to other fisheries or habitat

Critical Habitat Protection

- Securement of land to protect habitats that are essential to conserve or enhance fish production that supports recreational angling

Eligible activities:

- Land purchases, leases, conservation agreements, or other means in targeted locations where quality habitat is limited or in danger of being degraded

Ineligible activities:

- Acquisition of land that is already protected or the fisheries habitat is at low risk of future degradation

2. Applied Research and Evaluation

Projects will:

- Be science-based activities that directly address critical information gaps required to support sustainable management of recreational fisheries and the participation of Manitobans in angling

Eligible activities:

- Stock assessments
- Creel Surveys
- Applied fisheries research projects from accepted research institutions

Ineligible activities:

- Research where the focus species is not part of a sport fishery or the subject is not a significant aspect of a sport fish species ecology

Angler Education

- Activities that recruit new anglers
- Activities that communicate best practices to anglers, consistent with sustainable fisheries management
- Fisheries education programs

Eligible activities:

- Workshops and open houses
- Learn-to-fish clinics
- Educational signage

Ineligible activities:

- Annual fundraising events such as banquets
- Accommodations for participants
- Support for fishing derbies and tournaments

3. Angler Access

- Activities that overcome significant barriers to recreational angler access and/or where use by people with disabilities is a priority

Eligible activities:

- Purchase and installation of docks, boat ramps, trails, roads, and other infrastructure that provide or enhance public access for angling

Ineligible activities:

- Annual maintenance costs
- Projects that contradict fisheries management objectives
- Projects that conflict with objectives from another jurisdiction such as Manitoba Parks (e.g. small lakes that are intended to be 'walk-in' lakes only)

GUIDELINES - WILDLIFE PROJECTS

Wildlife projects will target species that are legally harvested by licensed hunters and trappers and complementary activities that support licensed hunters and trappers.

1. Wildlife Population Enhancement

Existing Wildlife Populations

- Activities that conserve, restore, or enhance existing populations of harvestable wildlife

Eligible activities:

- Improving wildlife habitat (e.g. prescriptive burns, brush mowing, wildlife-friendly grazing)
- Water control structures

Ineligible activities:

- Activities that have a negative impact on an existing harvestable wildlife species
- Activities that have a negative impact on endangered or threatened species as defined under either Provincial or Federal Law

New Wildlife Populations

- Activities that create significant hunting and trapping opportunities where limited opportunities currently exist
- Re-establishment of native harvestable wildlife species in areas of suitable habitat that historically supported said species

Eligible activities:

- Wildlife relocations to create new recreational hunting opportunities

Ineligible activities:

- Activities that have a negative impact on an existing harvestable wildlife species
- Activities that have a negative impact on endangered or threatened species as defined under either Provincial or Federal Law

Critical Habitat Protection

- Securement of land to protect and enhance production of harvestable wildlife species

Eligible activities:

- Land purchases, leases, conservation agreements or other means in targeted locations where quality habitat is limited

Ineligible activities:

- Acquisition of land that is already protected or the wildlife habitat is at low risk of future degradation

2. Applied Research and Evaluation

Projects will:

- Be science-based activities that directly address critical information gaps required to support sustainable management practices for wildlife species that are legally harvestable by licensed hunters and trappers

Eligible activities:

- Population assessments
- Hunter Harvest Surveys
- Applied wildlife research projects from acceptable research institutions

Ineligible activities:

- Research where the focus is not a harvestable wildlife species or a significant part of that species' ecology

3. Hunter and Trapper Education

- Activities that recruit new, licensed hunters and trappers
- Activities that inform hunters and trappers of best practices that are consistent with sustainable wildlife population management objectives

Eligible activities:

- Workshops and open houses
- Learn to hunt or trap clinics
- Hunter and trapper educational facilities

Ineligible activities:

- Annual fundraising events such as banquets
- Accommodations for participants

4. Hunter and Trapper Access

- Activities that overcome significant barriers to access to harvestable wildlife populations by licensed hunters and trappers

Eligible activities:

- Creating new or improving existing access points on public land or other lands available for licensed hunting and trapping
- Improving awareness of accessible areas for licensed hunting and trapping (e.g. maps)

Ineligible activities:

- Annual maintenance costs
- Projects that contradict wildlife management objectives
- Projects that are in conflict with another jurisdiction, such as Manitoba Parks

PROPOSAL REVIEW

Eligible and ineligible activities will be determined on a case-by-case basis by FWEF Projects will be reviewed by the Technical Advisory Committee or provincial fisheries staff.

Full proposal applications undergo a three-tier review process:

1. Application review and pre-screen
2. Technical review and evaluation
3. Final review

Successful proposals will meet or exceed basic eligibility requirements and that clearly provide benefits to licensed recreational anglers, hunters and trappers in Manitoba. Preference will be given to projects which:

- Address an evident need that is a priority for the FWEF
- Have significant, measurable, and/or multiple beneficial outcomes
- Involve active partnerships and have effective engagement with other organizations
- Show how funds help to directly achieve measurable results

