

**Notice of Funding Opportunity / Request for Proposals**  
**National Fish Habitat Partnership Funding**  
**For Federal Fiscal Year 2026**  
**(October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026)**  
**Southwest Alaska Salmon Habitat Partnership**



**Deadline for Proposals:** 11:59 P.M. (AST), Friday, February 7, 2025

**Where to Submit:** VIA email to [nmwlandtrust@hotmail.com](mailto:nmwlandtrust@hotmail.com)

**Contact for Questions:** Tim Troll, Coordinator – [nmwlandtrust@hotmail.com](mailto:nmwlandtrust@hotmail.com)

The Southwest Alaska Salmon Habitat Partnership (SWASHP) is soliciting proposals for project funding through the National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) Program for Federal Fiscal Year 2026 (October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026). The NFHP Program is now a part of the America's Conservation Enhancement (ACE) Act, Public Law 116-188, that was passed by Congress and signed by the President on October 30, 2020. As a reminder, the legislation changed the program SWASHP administered for many years. Among the most significant changes are:

**Match:** Requested NFHP grant funds MUST now be matched 1:1 with non-federal funds. Non-federal match can include cash and/or in-kind labor, materials, or equipment if there are no federal ties to those funds. State agency funds can be used for the non-federal match if labor and/or materials are not being matched to another federal grant. State agency funds that are used to match other federal grants would not be eligible as match. Funds that have a federal origin but come from, or are to be used by, a tribal organization may be considered non-federal for purposes of match.

**Outreach:** All NFHP funded projects MUST include an outreach/education component, whether it is informing the public at a community meeting or creating a small article or news release in the local paper. All funded projects are also requested to present results through an oral presentation at the Southwest Interagency Meetings or other appropriate gathering in the region.

**Monitoring Proposed Project:** Monitoring and evaluation measures MUST be included as part of the project application, where appropriate. For on-the-ground restoration or enhancement projects provide a description of monitoring activities used to compare pre and post project results. For projects that are assessments or directed to protection consider whether the project may address the factors for continued habitat viability as suggested in the *Framework for Monitoring the Health of Salmon in Southwest Alaska Watersheds* in the Strategic Conservation Plan for Southwest Alaska Watersheds (Plan) <https://bristolbaylandtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/SWASHP-Plan-Final-2017-illustrated.pdf> (Plan p. 21)

**Land Acquisition:** The ACE Act allows a state, local government, or other non-federal entity to receive NFHP funds for the acquisition of real property from willing sellers if the acquisition ensures public access for fish and wildlife-dependent recreation or contributes a scientifically based, direct enhancement to the health of

fish and fish populations as determined by the NFHP Board. All real property acquisition projects funded in Alaska with NFHP funds must be approved by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources. Please contact SWASHP Coordinator Tim Troll if you have a project request that includes real property acquisition.

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**Project Selection:** As in the past, proposals will be forwarded to the Partnership Steering and Science and Data Committees. With technical evaluation from the Science and Data Committee, the Southwest Salmon Partnership Steering Committee will review the proposals in light of the priorities and strategies set forth in the Partnership's Strategic Conservation Action Plan. A prioritized list of projects will then be forwarded to the national (and now expanded) NFHP Board of Directors. However, under the ACE Act the NFHP Board now reviews and prioritizes all proposals submitted by the twenty national partnerships and recommends projects for funding to the Secretary of the Interior.

Funded proposals will be habitat-based projects that address the national priorities to "protect, restore, or enhance" fish and aquatic habitats and directly support habitat-related priorities of the Southwest Alaska Salmon Habitat Partnership by addressing one or more objectives in our Strategic Conservation Plan for Southwest Alaska Watersheds (Plan) <https://bristolbaylandtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/SWASHP-Plan-Final-2017-illustrated.pdf> A close reading of the Plan is strongly encouraged.

### **SWASHP Selection Criteria**

Eligible Projects: For the present funding cycle, all funds awarded through SWASHP are for projects that support the fundamentals of fish habitat conservation within the region served by the Partnership. Projects considered for funding may include science-based voluntary and non-regulatory fish habitat conservation (protection, restoration, and enhancement) activities. Types of eligible activities may include riparian or instream habitat protection, restoration, or assessment projects that address criteria described in more detail in the Conservation Action Plan of the Partnership.

Primary Consideration: The extent to which a proposal addresses any of the following objectives. The objectives are listed in the order of importance established in the Plan: (Plan p. 41):

1. Protect Water Quantity and Flow
2. Preserve Connectivity Between Habitats
3. Protect Water Quality
4. Protect Riparian Corridors from Fragmentation
5. Understand and Address the Impacts of Climate Change
6. Maintain an Informed Constituency that Values Salmon
7. Provide Tools and Assessments Useful for Land Management
8. Prevent the Establishment of Invasive Species

### Further Considerations:

Climate Change: Evaluation by the SWASHP may include the extent to which climate change is factored into the proposal (Plan p. 51), in particular whether a proposed project:

- provides or may lead to landscape scale protection in one of the least protected watersheds;
- provides or may lead to protection for an unprotected microhabitat within a protected landscape; or
- provides or may lead to protection for an unprotected microhabitat within an unprotected landscape.

Decline of Chinook (King) and Chum (Dog) Salmon. In recent years the Alaska Department of Fish & Game and other partners have noted significant declines in Chinook and Chum salmon returning to major watersheds in Southwest, Alaska. Evaluation by the SWASHP may include the extent to which a proposal is designed to assess the causes of these declines, and in particular, whether there may be emerging habitat viability issues as suggested in the *Framework for Monitoring the Health of Salmon in Southwest Alaska Watersheds* (Plan p. 21) underlying the declines of these species.

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**Funding Limits:** There are no set minimums or maximums but funds are all subject to availability. In past years, under the prior program, the Partnership has funded 2 to 3 projects a year generally in a range from \$25,000 to \$100,000.

**Proposal Format:** A proposal format attached to this RFP.

### **What criteria are used to score proposals?**

We will use the scoring criteria listed in Attachment 3 to evaluate proposals.

### **Must a proposal address Climate Change?**

Projects that promote adaptation to climate change are encouraged. Prospective proposers should review the Partnership Strategic Conservation Plan at page 51 to understand how climate change may weigh into the evaluation and ranking of project proposals.

### **Are support letters required?**

Support letters from project partners are welcome, but not required.