From: John Burk and Nick Oakley

To: Persons interested in applying for NWTF grant monies

Subject: NWTF super fund call for proposals

Through the Missouri State Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF), super fund dollars will be available to fund a variety of conservation and hunting heritage projects during 2024. The State Chapter of the NWTF is a nonprofit group of conservation-minded individuals that raise money through banquets and other activities for use in Missouri. Last year, the chapter funded habitat and shooting sports projects totaling over $200,000.

**If you are interested in submitting a proposal for habitat or hunter creation related projects, it should be e-mailed to NWTF District Biologist John Burk by 9/1/23 (jburk@nwtf.net).** We have a few specific requirements for proposal submission. All funding requests must be for an exact amount and submitted bills can be for only approved funds. If your proposal is approved, you will receive additional instruction on how to claim funding prior to the end of September. The State Chapter Board approves funding based upon projected banquet income. Therefore, we usually do not have a lot of money until later in our fiscal year. However, we do usually have some rollover money and successful applicants with time sensitive projects (habitat related projects with windows of opportunity at the front end of our fiscal year) will be given priority for those limited funds. Although extensions will be awarded, the board prefers that projects be completed and receipts for project costs submitted to John Burk by September 1, 2024. Another policy that is important to note is that NWTF **does not** reimburse for preexisting projects. In other words, you cannot purchase a piece of equipment or complete a project and then come to the NWTF to get some or all of your money reimbursed after the fact.

We typically spend all super fund money each year and therefore cannot carry incomplete projects to the next year. Any unused funding for projects that have not been used by mid-September 2024 will be added to funds available for projects during the following year unless a reasonable extension is requested in advance.

Recent research indicates that significant declines in poult survival is the primary reason for our turkey decline and the quality and quantity of early brood rearing habitat is the most effective way to address this problem. Therefore habitat projects should target the restoration and maintenance of quality early brood rearing habitat (i.e. pollinator friendly forb and short grass dominated NWSG restoration projects, old field, open woodland, savanna, and glade restoration projects). Much of our work targeting turkey habitat improvements align with goals and objectives identified in the White Oak Initiative (WOI) assessment and action plan. <https://www.whiteoakinitiative.org/assessment-conservation-plan> Attention will also be given to projects that fall within Missouri’s priority geographies identified by the Missouri Department of Conservation at the following link: <https://mdc.mo.gov/your-property/priority-geographies> .

Proposals that will be given strong consideration will contain the following attributes:

1. Specific line item budget (including shipping costs)
2. Specific project goals and objectives outlined (e.g., acres of expected impact, acres of hunting access gained, number of hunters created)
3. Address accountability (e.g., annual report of project progress, signage, news articles, pictures of equipment with NWTF stickers (provided…if applicable))
4. Multiple bids for equipment purchases
5. **Multiple matching partners or funds (include in-kind, but priority will be given to good projects with cash match)**

It is advisable that all potential project originators pay particular attention to bullet 5 (above). Funding is limited and it is the State Board’s desire to do both good work and spread the projects as evenly across the state as possible. Therefore, in addition to quality, projects with a greater percentage of matching dollars will be given a higher ranking when funding decisions are made. It should also be noted that although the State Board does make exceptions, single project allocations from the super fund should ideally be less than or equal to $5,000. In the case of shooting sports related projects such as Future Farmers of America (FFA), 4H, and National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP), typical allocations are $1,500 or 50% per project. In the case of NASP, because we get so many requests, we do not usually fund expansion or replacement of existing programs. Our funding is prioritized for getting the equipment into schools that don’t currently have it.

It is also required that an effort be made to involve a local NWTF chapter in your project. This could simply be a phone call to the local chapter president to make them aware of a potential project in their area. If you need location and contact information for the chapter nearest you, this information can be found at: <http://www.nwtf.org/events>.

The super fund committee will meet in early September to rank submitted proposals and the State Board will meet in mid-September to approve funding based on the recommendations of the super fund committee. To ensure that you are addressing all of the requirements for funding consideration, please use the attached proposal form. Also, if you are aware of other possible project contributors, feel free to forward this information.

We hope to see you at a banquet where these dollars are generated. Thank you for considering the Missouri State Chapter Super Fund Grant Program in your work to enhance conservation efforts in Missouri.

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