



MANITOBA
**FISH AND
WILDLIFE**
ENHANCEMENT FUND



Guidelines for Project Proposals

REVISED AUGUST 2026

FISH AND WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT FUND GUIDELINES – AS OF AUGUST 2026

The Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Fund (FWEF), which recognizes the important contributions of licensed anglers, hunters and trappers to supporting conservation of fish and wildlife, provides funding to organizations for fish and wildlife enhancement projects. FWEF plays an important role in supporting Manitoba's priorities regarding the improved conservation, monitoring and stewardship of the fish and wildlife species of concern on which Manitobans rely.

Non-profit groups, local organizations and research organizations with interests in fish and wildlife may apply for grants from FWEF. Activities that enhance sustainable use and management of legally harvestable fish and wildlife populations within Manitoba will be considered, including:

- conserving and enhancing Manitoba's fish and wildlife populations,
- scientific study of fish and wildlife populations,
- promoting sustainable and ethical hunting and angling practices through education,
- protecting or improving critical fish and wildlife production habitat, and
- securing property or an interest in property to provide public access to angling and hunting opportunities or to protect critical fish and wildlife production habitat.

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. Project timelines must not exceed two years in duration.
3. Projects should demonstrate benefits to licensed 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 Conservancy (MHC)
6. Organizations who apply for more than \$15,000 must be incorporated or legally established and will be required to provide documentation. We will also require MHC to be added as an additional insured on the organization's general liability insurance.

Application Process

The FWEF uses a two-stage application process:

Stage 1: Letter of Interest (LOI)

Stage 2: Application

LOIs and Applications are completed through the online granting portal. Only accepted LOIs will proceed to the full application. For more information on FWEF, you may reach us by email at FWEF@mbhabitat.ca or visit mbhabitat.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. Organizations located outside of Manitoba are eligible for funding so long as projects have a direct impact on Manitoba.

Ineligible Applicants

- Organizations without established operations in Manitoba
- Governments (including provincial, federal, municipal, and Indigenous governments)
- Individuals

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

- 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
- Salaries and benefits*
- Travel & field costs*
- Administration and overhead costs directly associated with the project (i.e. project administration staff time, project management and coordination, financial reporting etc.)*
- Project communications costs* (i.e. print material, advertisements, promotion, radio/ad costs, website design etc.)

**A portion of indirect costs may be considered as an eligible project cost, providing they are directly tied to project delivery. Indirect costs will be reviewed at the time of submission.*

INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES 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
- Activities that relate to policy or regulation change or have an enforcement or compliance component
- Private 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
- Control of alien invasive 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:

- Core funding and general overhead (i.e. accounting and payroll unrelated to the project, organizational office rental and utilities, etc.)
- Salaries related to planning future activities and grant-writing
- Unanticipated cost overruns or retroactive project costs
- Undue miscellaneous costs
- Major capital assets not consistent with FWEF objectives
- Creation or management of stand-alone electronic databases, websites, or file systems
- Organizational fundraising

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 project categories. Projects must have all necessary Provincial and Federal permits, licenses, or approval prior to proceeding with a funding request.

FISH	
PROJECT CATEGORY	ACTIVITY TYPE
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 for new or existing anglers
Public Access	Projects focused on improving access to fisheries by licensed anglers

WILDLIFE	
PROJECT CATEGORY	ACTIVITY TYPE
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 that have primary or secondary benefits to 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

GUIDELINES – FISHERIES PROJECTS

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

1. Fish Population Enhancement

A. Existing Fisheries

- Activities that conserve, restore, or rehabilitate existing recreational fish populations (native or introduced species)

Ineligible activities:

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

B. New Fisheries

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

Ineligible activities:

- o Private (individual or organization) hatchery development
- o Introduction of species that pose a threat to other fisheries or habitat

2. Fish Habitat Enhancement

- Securement of land to protect habitats that are essential to conserve or enhance fish production that supports recreational angling.
- Activities that conserve, restore, or rehabilitate existing recreational fish (native or introduced species) habitat

Ineligible activities:

- o Acquisition of land that is already protected or the fisheries habitat is at low risk of future degradation
- o Private (individual or organization) hatchery development
- o Activities that have a negative impact on the habitat of endangered or threatened species as defined under either Provincial or Federal Law

3. Monitoring and Research

- Science-based activities that directly address critical information gaps required to support sustainable management of recreational fisheries and the participation of Manitobans in angling, including stock assessments, creel surveys, and applied fisheries research projects from accepted research institutions.

Ineligible activities:

- o Research where the focus species is not part of a sport fishery or the research does not contribute important information that can directly affect management of a sport fishery species

4. Angler Education

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

Ineligible activities:

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

5. Angler Access

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

Ineligible activities:

- o Annual maintenance costs
- o Projects that contradict fisheries management objectives
- o 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 listed under Division 1, 2, and 3 of [Schedule A of the Wildlife Act](#). Habitat projects, which illustrate primary or secondary benefits to wildlife listed under Schedule A, are also eligible for funding.

Species listed under Divisions 1, 2, and 3 of Schedule A of the Wildlife Act:

Division 1 – Big Game		Division 2 – Fur-Bearing Animals	
Moose	<i>Alces alces</i>	Beaver	<i>Castor canadensis</i>
Elk	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	Short-tailed Weasel	<i>Mustela erminea</i>
Barren-ground Caribou	<i>Rangifer tarandus groenlandicus</i>	Long-tailed Weasel	<i>Mustela frenata</i>
Woodland Caribou	<i>Rangifer tarandus caribou</i>	Coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>
White-tailed Deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>	Fisher	<i>Martes pennanti</i>
Mule Deer	<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>	Arctic Fox	<i>Canis lagopus</i>
Black Bear	<i>Ursus americanus</i>	Red Fox	<i>Canis vulpes</i>
Gray (Timber) Wolf	<i>Canis lupus</i>	River Otter	<i>Lutra canadensis</i>
Division 3 – Game Birds*		Badger	<i>Taxidea taxus</i>
Ruffed Grouse	<i>Bonasa umbellus</i>	Bobcat	<i>Felis rufus</i>
Gray (Hungarian) Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	Marten	<i>Martes americana</i>
(Wild) Turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopava</i>	Mink	<i>Mustela vison</i>
Rock Ptarmigan	<i>Lagopus mutus</i>	Muskrat	<i>Ondatra zibethica</i>
Willow Ptarmigan	<i>Lagopus lagopus</i>	Red Squirrel	<i>Tamiasciurus hudsonicus</i>
Spruce Grouse	<i>Canachites canadensis</i>	Wolverine	<i>Gulo gulo</i>
Sharp-tailed Grouse	<i>Pedioecetes phasianellus</i>	Raccoon	<i>Procyon lotor</i>
		Lynx	<i>Felis canadensis</i>

*Plus Migratory Game Birds protected in Canada under the Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994 (Canada).

1. Wildlife Population Enhancement

A. Existing Wildlife Populations

- Activities that conserve, restore, or enhance existing populations of harvestable wildlife.
- Activities that secure attractants posing a risk of disease transfer among or between harvestable species.

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

B. 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

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

2. Wildlife Habitat Enhancement

- Securement of land deemed to be critically important to the conservation and enhancement of wildlife with primary or secondary impacts on harvestable wildlife species
- Activities that protect, manage, restore or improve habitat of wildlife with primary or secondary impacts on harvestable species.
- Activities that secure attractants posing a health or safety risk to harvestable species.

Ineligible activities:

- Acquisition of land that is already protected, the habitat is at low risk of future degradation, or the site is not deemed to be critically important to a harvestable wildlife species
- Activities that have a negative impact on a harvestable wildlife species
- Activities that have a negative impact on endangered or threatened species as defined under either Provincial or Federal Law

3. Applied Research and Evaluation

- 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

Ineligible activities:

- Research where the focus is not a harvestable wildlife species or does not contribute important information that can directly affect management of a harvestable wildlife species

4. Hunter and Trapper Education

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

Ineligible activities:

- Annual fundraising events such as banquets
- Accommodations for participants

5. Hunter and Trapper Access

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

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. FWEF Projects will be reviewed by the Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Committee, a minister-appointed committee that provides advice and recommendations to the government on fish and wildlife enhancement initiatives that may receive grants from the fund.

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 will 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
- Provide supporting documentation such as letters of support and quotes for project costs
- Previous Grant recipients should have their existing projects in good standing

