2017 Bats for the Future Fund Request for Proposals

Opp ID: 174090 | Research | Last edited on 18 May 2017

Full Details

Website
http://www.nfwf.org/bats/Pages/bff-2017-request-for-proposals.aspx
(http://www.nfwf.org/bats/Pages/bff-2017-request-for-proposals.aspx)

Sponsor
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) (/funding/results?spn=13424&spn=13424)

Amount
Upper $50,000 and
Lower $50,000 and
The Bats for the Future Fund (BFF) will award up to approximately $1 million in grants.

The BFF Fund has two categories of grants. Grants will range from $50,000 to $500,000. Matching funds are not required, but are... more »

Applicant Type
Academic Institution
Commercial
Government
Nonprofit
Small Business

Citizenship or Residency
United States

Activity Location
United States

Abstract
The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), is soliciting proposals to test or deploy White-Nose Syndrome (WNS) treatments and management tools that lead to solutions to combat WNS and the fungal pathogen Pseudogymnoascus destructans (Pd), as the causal agent.

The program seeks to promote the survival of bats in North America. The goals of the BFF are to:
- Prevent (or slow) the spread of WNS in North America
- Promote survival and recovery of WNS-affected bats through effective management solutions (treatment and management tools)

The objectives of the BFF are to:
- Advance management tools and treatments that minimize WNS-induced declines in bat populations by funding actions to identify, test, and deploy solutions that provide the greatest potential to improve survival and recovery of affected populations, or prevent exposure of bats to Pd
- Fund innovative research leading to management solutions for WNS that will perpetuate long-term, stable, and viable populations of bats

Epidemiological Focus
BFF grants will be awarded preferentially for projects that focus on treating or managing WNS at the leading edge of its march across North America, but this does not preclude work in other areas that advance BFF goals and objectives as stated in this RFP.

Program Priorities
The BFF will support research that develops or advances, tests, and deploys one or more tools or other activities that address the stated priorities below. Proposals that focus on treating or managing the host, pathogen, and/or environment to reduce spread and impacts of WNS will be considered. The topics that follow each category listed below do not represent a comprehensive list of what may be funded, rather they are examples of the types of activities for which the NFWF sees a need. Safety and feasibility at individual through ecosystem scales will be evaluated for all proposed actions. All applications must describe the benefits and risks of the proposed management solutions, including non-target effects to organisms and the environment.

Category 1: WNS Treatment and Management Strategy Grants will support management tools and treatments that provide the greatest potential to improve survival and recovery of affected populations or prevent or limit the exposure of
bat populations in the disease.
- Biological or chemical controls, which could be toxic to non-target organisms, may be effective in reducing the number of bats in areas affected by WNS. However, these methods may have unintended consequences for other wildlife species.
- Development of new disease control strategies that are effective against WNS. This could include the use of novel treatments or the development of new technologies that can be used to prevent the spread of WNS.
- Research on the role of bats in ecological processes. This could help to better understand the impact of WNS on bat populations and the broader ecosystem.
- Development of effective management plans for WNS-affected sites. This could include the implementation of targeted strategies to control WNS and protect bat populations.
- Development of educational programs to raise awareness about the impact of WNS on bat populations and how to prevent the spread of the disease.

**Category 2: WNS Innovation Grants**

WNS Innovation Grants will support the development of treatments and tools with the potential to produce management solutions for WNS that will have a lasting impact on bat populations in the affected areas. Projects submitted to Category 2 may be exploratory in nature or require critical information about the potential efficacy and application of these tools or treatments. The following criteria and objectives will be used to develop management solutions for WNS with revolutionary tools and techniques to minimize short and long-term impacts of the disease. Proposed innovations may be focused on host, pathogens, and/or environment. Please note that management solutions that are already in advanced stages of development are likely to be a better fit for Category 1 above.

**Criteria**

- Novelity: The proposed innovations should represent new ideas or approaches for controlling WNS and protecting bat populations.
- Potential Impact: The proposed innovations should have the potential to significantly reduce the spread of WNS and protect bat populations.
- Feasibility: The proposed innovations should be feasible to implement on a large scale.
- Sustainability: The proposed innovations should be sustainable over the long term.

**Objectives**

- Development of effective management plans for WNS-affected sites.
- Development of educational programs to raise awareness about the impact of WNS on bat populations and how to prevent the spread of the disease.
- Development of treatments and tools with the potential to produce management solutions for WNS that will have a lasting impact on bat populations in the affected areas.

**Supporting Resources**

- **Funding Opportunities:** Applications can be submitted online at fundingopportunities.com. For more information, please visit fundingopportunities.com.
- **Contact:** For more information, please contact support@fundingopportunities.com or call 1-800-FUNDET.

**Important Dates**

- **Application Deadline:** November 15, 2017
- **Notification of Award:** December 15, 2017

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