Fishers & Farmers Partnership for the Upper Mississippi River Basin



Fishers & Farmers Partnership Seeks Aquatic Habitat Project Proposals for 2017 funding cycle

Deadline October 6, 2017

Fishers & Farmers Partnership (FFP) for the Upper Mississippi River Basin, a fish habitat partnership, is seeking project proposals to benefit aquatic habitat in Mississippi River basin streams. Federal funding may be available under the National Fish Habitat Partnership through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to fund the top ranked proposals.

About the Program:

<u>Fishers & Farmers Partnership for the Upper Mississippi River Basin</u> is a self-directed group of non-governmental agricultural and conservation organizations, tribal organizations and state and federal agencies united to add value to farms while protecting, restoring, and enhancing the 30,700 miles of streams and rivers of the Upper Mississippi River Basin. It is a partnership of the <u>National Fish Habitat Partnership</u>.

We Support the National Fish Habitat Partnership's Goals:

- Protect & maintain intact and healthy aquatic systems
- Prevent further degradation of fish habitats
- Reverse declines in quality & quantity of aquatic habitats to improve overall health of fish/aquatic species
- Increase quality & quantity of fish habitat that support a broad natural diversity of fish/aquatic species

Fishers & Farmers Partnership's Goals:

- Engage Farmers & Ranchers
- Support Fish Habitat Conservation Projects
- Continue Development of Long-Term Basin Scale Strategies
- Strengthen the Organization for Long-Term Action

Fishers and Farmers Partnership's Vision:

The Partnership's vision of the future is one in which landowners work together with conservationists and scientists to address the needs of their own farms, local streams, and the fishes of the basin. Lessons learned are shared with neighbors, participating organizations, and others outside of the basin. Fish populations and habitats are monitored at project sites and downstream. The Partnership helps landowners showcase successful practices to neighbors and others. With a focus on mutual respect, dialog is cultivated between agricultural and environmental organizations throughout the Upper Mississippi River Basin. This leads to better use of resources, less duplication of effort, and measurable progress toward common goals.

Our Mission:

The mission of the Fishers & Farmers Partnership is to support locally-led conservation projects that add value to farms while restoring aquatic habitat and native fish populations.

Priorities for FFP:

- Increase native fish/mussel populations Focal fish/mussel species: smallmouth bass, Topeka shiner, American brook lamprey, blacknose dace, black redhorse, blackside darter, brook/brown trout, channel catfish, hornyhead chub, southern redbelly dace, Higgins' eye mussel, pink mucket, scaleshell, spectaclecase
- Improve instream habitat
- Work with farmers/landowners to protect/maintain healthy aquatic systems, or prevent further degradation
- Increase landowner engagement/farmer-led committees that drive conservation
- Reduce sedimentation, phosphorus and nitrogen runoff to stream habitats
- Improve floodplain habitat, enhance flow regimes, improve connectivity
- Promote best management practices across the landscape
- Monitor effectiveness of conservation projects, then share our stories through outreach

Funding Amount:

Cost sharing by partners:

Funding floor \$15,000 FFP receives approximately \$100-\$150K, split among 3-5 successful projects. USFWS requires at least a 1:1 cost share. Cost share may be in-kind services such as time or cash. Cost share may include monitoring, farmer's time with project maintenance.

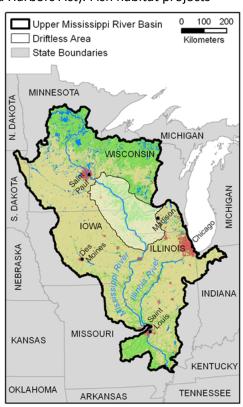
Applicant Eligibility:

Applicants can be federal, state, county, and non-government organizations in either natural resources or agriculture with the ultimate goal of adding value to farms while restoring aquatic habitat and native fish populations. Managers and supervisors responsible for implementing fish habitat projects must document compliance with all applicable Federal laws and regulations (e.g. National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, National Historic Preservation Act, Rivers and Harbors Act). Fish habitat projects

must also comply with any applicable State, local and tribal laws and regulations that do not conflict with, or are not preempted by, Federal laws and regulations.

Eligible expenditures. Expenditures of NFHP funds are appropriate for the following actions/activities:

- (a) Time spent for project planning, directing project activities (e.g., earthwork, fence installation), site assessments, travel to and from project, and project oversight.
- **(b)** Equipment (e.g. monitoring equipment, not farming equipment).
- **(c)** Earthwork (e.g., contracts for earth moving, planting, structure installation, other site preparation), materials (e.g. rock, gravel, plants and planting supplies, materials to construct habitat structures).
- (d) Short-term monitoring/evaluation. Funds may be used for pre-post project monitoring of NFHP projects to evaluate biological and/or physical response to project activities.
- **(e)** Outreach to advance conservation. Engaging farmers/landowners in farmer-led efforts, workshops/training.



Ineligible expenditures. The following activities are not eligible for NFHP funding:

- (a) Actions required by existing Federal or State regulatory programs. Fish habitat expenditures shall be in addition to, not in lieu of, other expenditures authorized or required from other entities under other agreements or provisions of law.
- **(b)** Realty costs (e.g. lease or purchase interests in real property, or to make rental or other land use incentive payments to landowners).
- (c) Pre-award costs such as preliminary design, surveys, and appraisals.
- (d) Operation, maintenance of facilities, structures, other construction.

General Requirements:

Project Duration: Work is to be completed within 18 months
Terms of Funding: Funding must be spent within 24 months
Priority habitat: Outside Driftless Area (DA), but DA projects

will be considered

Application Method/Submittal:

Project Proposals required to be submitted

to: Heidi_Keuler@fws.gov

Timeline:

Aug Develop project proposals for National Fish Habitat Partnership funding consideration

Oct 6 Application/Proposal Deadline

Oct/Nov Projects will be evaluated/ranked by FFP Steering Committee

Early Nov FFP provides priority project list to FWS

Project funding available after U.S. Congress approves FY 2017 budget, spring\summer 2017

Jun Announcement of Awards to recipients

Jun/Jul Agreements due Jul/Aug Funding available

Ranking Criteria:

Measureable Goals/Priorities: FWS, NFHP, FFP, Partners

State Wildlife Action Plans

Fish species (see list), priority areas – watersheds, COAs, etc. Habitat issues: connectivity, climate change, sediment/nutrients

Addresses root cause of problem within watershed

Conservation actions produce desired outcomes, goals, obj. Project follows design, collaborates with partners in watershed Outlines anticipated benefits to larger restoration focus area

Explains pre/post project evaluation/monitoring (required)

Life expectancy – goals sustainable Improves farms and fish habitat

Leverages maximum matching funds, cost-sharing

Reasonable budget

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Priority Watersheds

Seven Mile Creek - Minnesota River,

Minnesota

Cannon River Watershed, Minnesota

Root River, Minnesota Kickapoo River, Wisconsin Boone Watershed, Iowa

Rock Creek, Iowa

Indian Creek – Vermillion River, Illinois

Hutchins Creek, Illinois

Bourbeuse-Meramec, Missouri Peno Creek – Salt River, Missouri

Spring Creek – Chariton River, Missouri (These watersheds receive priority, but other

watersheds will be considered)

Please address questions to:

Heidi Keuler US Fish and Wildlife Service 555 Lester Avenue Onalaska, WI 54650 608-783-8417



The National Fish Habitat Partnership's mission is to protect, restore, and enhance the nation's fish and aquatic communities through partnerships that foster fish habitat conservation and improve the quality of life for the American people.



Fishers & Farmers Partnership's Proposal for Funding

National Fish Habitat Partnership & U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service



What type of action would you like the FHP to consider (check the one that applies)

 Project Funding Science, and Planning Support Communications Project Endorsement 		
FWS Funding Request:	Match: In-Kind	
Project Total (including all match):	Match: Cash	
CONTACT INFORMATION		
Project Officer(s	5)	Project Co-Officer(s)
Name:	Name:	
Affiliation	Affiliation	
Mailing Address:	Mailing Address:	
Email Address:	Email Address:	
Phone Number:	Phone Number:	

TITLE OF THE PROJECT: (99 characters max)

PROJECT TYPE (Construction/Non Construction) (circle)

Fish Passage - culvert/dam

Education/Outreach Habitat Assessment

Monitoring Recreational Bank Stabilization In-Stream Habitat

Coordination/Technical Assistance

Engineering/Project Design
Best Management Practices

SPECIFIC WATER BODY NAME AND LOCATION

Watershed/Stream Name	County	State	Latitude	Longitude	Section/Township/
					Range
Upper Mississippi River		WI, MN,			
Basin		IA,IL, MO			

STATE AND/OR FEDERAL AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR FISH MANAGEMENT:

Contact Name: Address:			
Telephone: Email:			
Section 1.			

PROJECT SUMMARY

State the proposed accomplishment summary: (max chars: 500)

PROPOSED SCOPE OF WORK

- 1. State the importance of the project to the resource. (max chars: 350)
- 2. State the problem and the specific root cause of the problem. (max chars: 350)
- 3. State the clear measureable objective(s) of the project with reference to the problem. (max chars: 350)
- 4. State the method or techniques that will be used to accomplish the objective(s). (max chars: 350)
- **5. State the monitoring plan (biological, chemical, physical, social).** (max chars: 350) (Fishers & Farmers Partnership requires monitoring and an annual summary of the data)
- 6. State any additional information describing the importance and/or urgency of completing the project. (max chars: 350)

PERFORMANCE

Amount and type of habitat affected (Fill in boxes)

to student with a masterial facility of	
In-stream miles restored/enhanced	
Riparian miles restored/enhanced	
Riparian acres restored/enhanced	
(length of stream x width of area)	
Wetland acres restored/enhanced	
Upland acres restored/enhanced	
Other habitat type restored/enhanced (specify)	
Number of management populations assessed	
Total number of miles in-stream/shoreline habitat assessed	
Number of acres of upland habitat assessed	
Number of acres of wetland habitat assessed	
Total number of fish passage barriers removed or bypassed	
Number of miles re-opened to fish passage	
Number of acres re-opened to fish passage	

Conservation Actions Taken (Check all that apply)

Conservation Actions Taken (Check all that apply)	
Install upland Best Management Practices	
Stream protection/ Protect healthy habitat	
Native prairie/Grassland restoration	
Riparian corridor protection	
Streambank stabilization	
Restore native riparian vegetation	
Reduce nutrient loading	
Reduce sediment loading	
Restore riparian habitat/Buffers	
Improve physical fish habitat (woody habitat, lunker	
structures, woody debris, etc.)	
Restore natural stream channel form	
Reconnect aquatic habitat	
Control/eradicate invasive species	
Restore natural stream flow/Hydrological processes	
Remove fish barrier	
Improve natural variability in river and stream flows	
Improve floodplain habitat	
Restore water temperatures	
Improve sediment transport	
Restore wetlands	
Watershed protection	

Support National Fish Habitat Partnership's Goals

(Check all that apply)

	11 //	
✓	Protect & maintain intact and healthy aquatic systems	
✓	Prevent further degradation of fish habitats that have been adversely affected	
✓	Reverse declines in the quality & quantity of aquatic habitats to improve the overall health of fish & other aquatic organisms	
✓	Increase the quality & quantity of fish habitat that support a broad natural diversity of fish/aquatic species.	

Support Fishers & Farmers Partnership's Goals and Strategic Plan

(Check all that apply)

1.	Engage Farmers & Ranchers	
	- Build awareness of Partnership	
	- Identify farmer/landowner needs/provide T.A.	
	- Increase landowner engagement/farmer-led committees that drive conservation	
	- Promote best management practices across the landscape with the help of farmers	
2.	Support Fish Habitat Conservation Projects	
	- Increase native fish/mussel populations	
	- Work with partners, to strategically place conservation on the ground	
	- Improve floodplain habitat, enhance flow regimes	
	- Reduce sedimentation, phosphorus and nitrogen runoff to stream habitats	
3.	Long-Term Basin Scale Strategies	
	- Gain knowledge of basin's aquatic communities	
	- Gain knowledge of basin's agricultural dynamics	
	- Monitor effectiveness of conservation projects, share our stories through outreach	
4.	Acquire Resources for Long-Term Action	
	- Form new partnerships "outside the box"	
	- Work with farmers/landowners to protect and maintain healthy aquatic systems or	
	prevent further degradation	

PRII	MΑ	RY	NA	TΙV	/E	SP	EC	CIES:
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SECONDARY SPECIES:

OTHER SPECIES/COMMUNITIES:

NUISANCE SPECIES MANAGED:

PROPOSED OUTREACH

- 1) Describe any planned outreach or educational component(s) and partners(s) involved. (max chars: 500)
- 2) What methods will you use to promote the project if it is funded? (max chars: 500)
- 3) Are there any unique aspects about this particular project? (max chars: 500)

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT(S):

PUBLIC INTEREST

1)	Describe the public interest in this resource. Why is this a good place to invest conservation dollars? (max chars: 500)
2)	Will this project enhance recreational fishing? Yes No N/A (circle one)
3)	Will public fishing access be available? Yes No N/A (circle one)
4)	Is there a stream/river designation or fishery/management designation identified by a federal or state natural resource agency?
5)	Land ownership at project location (check all that apply for project area – Note: more attention will be given to privately owned – farmed land) Federal State County City Private Non-governmental Organization Other
CONSE	RVATION EASEMENTS
	conservation easement in place or in the process of purchase? Yes NO (check one)
-	ou answered yes above, is it a new or existing easement? New (check one)
	he easement perpetual? Yes No (check one)
ıt n	o, what is the length of easement (years)
FUNDI	NG INFORMATION Estimate FWS funding for up to five years: Only one funding cycle/fiscal year
	can be funded with this request. Recipients have 2 years to spend funding. A successful application
does no	ot quarantee future funding.

 Year

 Total

 NFHP/FFP
 3
 4
 5

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION

A) PERSONNEL (SF-424A Object Class Category 6a.)

The cost of salaries & wages, not including fringe benefits, paid to Recipient employees working directly on this agreement. Indicate Key Personnel with an asterisk (*). Provide more detail in the Narrative Box if needed.

Name & Title or Position Title	Salary or Wage	Months or Hours	Matching Funds (if applicable)	FWS Funds
Example: James Smith, Executive Director	\$50 per hour	400 hours	\$5,000.00	\$15,000.00

A) TOTAL PERSONNEL COSTS:

(SF-424A Object Class Category 6a. Personnel)

Narrative:

We are requesting \$39,999.90 to pay a graduate research assistant to assist lead field research, including sampling, tagging, tracking, and downloading acoustic receivers and also to manage and analyze data, write a report (thesis), and present findings. Undergraduate students will assist with field research over the course of the project (\$15,500). Dr. xxxxxxx mentor the graduate student, assist with field sampling and data analysis, and complete the final report (total of two months summer salary requested from FWS, \$10,888, with \$3,000 (0.55 month of summer salary) provided as match from the College of xxxxx).

B) FRINGE BENEFITS (SF-424A Object Class Category 6b.)

The cost of fringe benefits, such as health insurance, vacation, FICA, etc., paid to Recipient employees working on this agreement. List employees or positions below, and their fringe benefit rates as percentages of their salaries. List what are included as fringe benefits in the Narrative Box.

Name & Title/Position	Salary/Wage Base (FWS Amounts budgeted in Section A above)	Fringe Benefit Rate (%)	Matching Funds (if applicable)	FWS Funds
Example: James Smith, Executive Director	\$20,000.00	30%	\$0.00	\$6,000.00
B) TOTAL FRINGE BENEFIT COSTS:				

b) TOTAL FRINGE BENEFIT COSTS.

(SF-424A Object Class Category 6b. Fringe Benefits)

Narrative:

We request funds for fringe benefits for a graduate research assistant (\$22,559.94), undergraduate technicians (\$1,029.50), and a requested 2 months of summer salary and 0.55 month of summer salary match for Dr. xxxxx. The University of xxxxxx determines fringe rates on an annual basis, therefore the rate shown for graduate research assistant and undergraduate student technicians is assuming increases consistent with past increases. The rate for Dr. xxxxxx is 53.9% for match and estimated as 63.9% in 2017-2018 and 68.9% in 2018-2019.

C) TRAVEL (SF-424A Object Class Category 6c.)

<u>LODGING & PER DIEM</u> - The cost of lodging & meals while travelling for agreement activities. Give details and purpose of the travel in the Narrative Box. Current Federal rates may be found online at: http://www.gsa.gov/portal/category/21287.

Proposed Travel Lodging & Per Diem		No. of People	No. of Days	Cost Per Person Per Day	Matching Funds (if applicable)	FWS Funds
To: From:						

<u>MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT</u> - The cost of reimbursement for estimated mileage traveled for agreement activities. Give details and the purpose of the travel in the Narrative Box. Current Federal mileage reimbursement rates may be found online at: <u>www.GSA.gov</u>.

	Proposed Travel Mileage Reimbursement	No. of Miles	No. of Trips	Cost Per Mile	Matching Funds (if applicable)	FWS Funds
To:						
From:						

OTHER TRAVEL COSTS - The costs of airfare, bus fare, car rental, etc., required for agreement activities. Explain the details and the purpose of the costs in the Narrative Box.

	Proposed Other Travel Reimbursement	Туре	Cost	No.	Matching Funds (if applicable)	FWS Funds
To:						
From:						
с) тот	C) TOTAL TRAVEL COSTS:					
(SF-4	(SF-424A Object Class Category 6c. Travel)					

Narrative:

We are asking for a total of \$15,000 for traveling expenses related to field research and \$2,000.00 for presenting our findings. We have estimated \$1,428.00 for two people to make up to 14 day trips to xxxx where the fish elevator is located. We also anticipated three partial days (not full per diem) for field research and meetings, accounting for \$66.90. In addition to day trips, extended periods at the fish elevator will be necessary and we have estimated \$10,505 for 2 people sharing lodging for up to 55 days across the study. Travel will be both to the fish elevator (262 miles round trip from xxxx) and to other xxxx River locations to download acoustic receivers and track fish (approximately 61 miles round trip from the fish elevator). We will be using a state

D) SUPPI	I ES (SF-424A	Object Class	Category 6e.	Supplies)
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The cost of materials and supplies used directly on this project, such as safety glasses, work gloves, office supplies, etc. Explain the details and purpose in the Narrative box below.

gloves, office supplies, etc. Explain the details and purpose in the Narrative box below.					
Item	Quantity	Cost per Unit	Matching Funds (if applicable)	FWS Funds	
D) SUPPLIES COST TOTAL:					
(SF-424A Object Class Category 6e. Supplies)					
Narrative:					

E) CONTRACTUAL (SF-424A Object Class Category 6f. Contractual)

The cost of contracted services and/or sub-recipient agreements. Provide names and explain the details and purpose of the costs in the Narrative box below.

details and purpose of the costs in the Narrative box b	CIOW.		
Contractor Name, Type, etc.	Cost	Matching Funds (if applicable)	FWS Funds
Example: Ace Backhoe Service / Excavator	\$2,500.0 0	\$0.00	\$2,500.00
E) CONTRACTUAL COST TOTAL: (SF-424A Object Class Category 6f. Contractual)			
Narrative:			

F) OTHER(SF-424A Object Class Category 6h. Other)			
Costs that don't fit any other Object Class Category, suc			_
and freight, rented equipment, etc. Explain the details	and purpose in th		x below.
Item	Cost	Matching Funds (if applicable)	FWS Funds
OTHER COSTS TOTAL:			
(SF-424A Object Class Category 6h. Other)			
<u>Narrative</u> :			
G) TOTAL DIRECT CHARGES (SF-424A Object Clas	s Category 6i Su	ım of 6a -6h)	1
The total of all direct costs applicable to this project.	s category or. se	iiii 01 0a. 011.,	
The total of all all est costs applicable to this project.		Matching	FIAC
Direct Costs		Funds	FWS Funds
6) TOTAL DIRECT COSTS:		(if applicable)	
(SF-424A Object Class Category 6i. Total, Sum of 6a6h.)		
H) INDIRECT COSTS (SF-424A Object Class Category	6j. Indirect Cha	irges)	
Base amount for this Grant:			
(Total Direct Costs, Total Labor Costs, MTDC, etc.)			
Rate to be used on this Grant (%):			
Indiana Cana		Matching	FWS
Indirect Costs		Funds (if applicable)	Funds
H) TOTAL INDIRECT COSTS:			
(SF-424A Object Class Category 6j. Indirect Charges)			
Narrative:	l		
TOTALS/SE ADAM OF THE STATE OF	1		
The sum total of Direct and Indirect Costs (Sum of 6).		thic agrees	.+
The sum total of Direct and Indirect Costs (Sum of 6i. &	Matching Fun		FWS
Total Project Costs	(if applicable		Fws Funds

I) TOTAL COSTS: (SF-424A Object Class Category 6k. TOTALS)	
By signing below, I certify that to the best of my knowledge the and complete and for the purposes set forth in the application	
Signature	
Printed Name & Title of Person Completing Budget	

<u>Contributing Partners</u> Please list specific partner names and proposed contributions, including in-kind service and/or cash value (example: 300 volunteer hours of shoreland restoration-Inkind value \$5,000).

Text will wrap to a new line if necessary.

Contributing Partner	Partner category (Fed/State/County/NGO / Business)	Project Need Addressed (Design, Equipment, Materials)	Cash	In-kind	Total Amount
Total					

Note: Projects with a higher match have a better chance of funding.

FEDERAL FUNDING

- 1. Have you received Federal funding in the past? Yes No (Circle)
- 2. Under what Federal Funding Opportunity? (provide Grants.gov Federal Opportunity Number)

- 3. Was your organization required to complete an A-133 Single Audit Report last year? Yes No (Circle)
- 4. Is your DUNS/SAM/ASAP profile currently active? Yes No (Circle)
- 5. Has National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) been completed on this project prior to making a funding request?

Yes No (Circle) (Please attach NEPA Documentation if applicable)

6. Has the (Endangered/Threatened Species Review) Section 7 with the USFWS and/or State Natural Resource Agency been completed? Yes No (Circle) (Please attach documentation if applicable)

7. Has the historic/cultural review with State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) been completed? **Yes No** (Circle) (Please attach documentation if applicable) **PROJECT COMPLETION** What is your approximate start/end date for this project ____/__ (indicate month/year) (Projects must be completed in 2 years) **Section 2.** Additional Project Information- This section is necessary due to the very strict space limitations from Section 1 and is your chance to provide more details about your project. WATERSHED LEVEL PLANNING Please provide any background information necessary to adequately address the below questions. Enter N/A for non-applicable 1. Is the proposed project part of a larger restoration effort on the stream or in the watershed? If So, what are the general stream or watershed goals or please provide the citation and/or web link to the stream or watershed strategic or management plan(s). 2. What is the current land use in the project area and watershed? (Circle all that apply) Cropland in current production Cropland in recent production (<5 yrs) Fallow land, cropland (>5 yrs ago) Grazed/pasture Orchard, grove, vineyard Other Ag land

Grassland/Prairie

Wetland

Riparian corridor

Forest

Park - State, County

Urban

Resort/Tourism

- 3. Is the project in an area of special conservation designation? (Check all that apply)
 - _ State Conservation Opportunity Area
 - Ten Waters to Watch
 - Ramsar (Convention on Wetlands of International Importance)
 - _ Joint Venture Focal Area
 - National Blueway
 - Class I Trout Stream
 - _ Class II Trout Stream
 - _ Class III Trout Stream
 - Protected stream/segment

- 303d listed
- Biologically significant
- Designated threatened and endangered critical habitat (federal and state)
- Other
- 4. What are the proposed riparian land protection/restoration efforts in and adjacent to the project area that will help ensure long term benefits?
- 5. What are the current/future plans for upland conservation/Best Management Practices in the watershed?
- 6. How does the project address climate change adaptation?
- 7. Describe why you feel you and your organization are qualified to successfully complete all aspects of this project.

PROJECT MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Accountability-Monitoring and/or pre-post project evaluation for NFHP projects.

- 1) Briefly explain any physical, chemical, biological, social components currently being monitored and name the partners conducting the monitoring. Projects that have data on current conditions are well positioned to measure positive change as a result of conservation work.
- 2) Please explain which indices will be used to evaluate target response to habitat work at the project or lake level (e.g., fish population, water quality metric, etc).

MAP OF PROJECT AREA

Please replace the example map with a map of the proposed project area showing the scope and location of project.

- Color or black and white
- Showing scope and location of project



PHOTOGRAPH(S) OF PROJECT AREA (Required)

Please include up to two photographs of proposed project area. Each photo should be in JPG, TIFF, GIF, WMF or bitmap format and accompanied by:

- A short, descriptive caption
- Credit: Photographer's name/organization

<u>DOCUMENTS</u> Please attach appropriate planning documents, work plans, construction designs, maps etc. in PDF format. Notice –construction designs must be turned in if this is a construction/ground-moving project.