

How do we apply?

The application process is entirely online through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation website. Applications are generally open in late fall, with award notification in late spring.

To learn more please contact:

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Building Partnerships
Empowering Communities
Restoring Our Natural Resources

What is Five Star?

The Five Star Restoration Program is a partnership among the National Association of Counties (NACo), the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC), and corporate sponsors Southern Company and Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E).

Five Star provides \$10,000 to \$40,000 grants on a competitive basis to support community-based wetland, riparian and coastal habitat restoration projects that build diverse partnerships and foster local natural resource stewardship through education, outreach and training activities.

Project sites may be public land - parks, streams, school campuses - or private land such as corporate facilities. Because public participation is paramount in community-based restoration, these sites should be accessible to the community.



Key Partnerships

Project partners are innovative, diverse and include at least five participants. Local governments, businesses, schools and youth groups as well as environmental and citizen organizations may apply as grantees or as part of a partnership.

Partner contributions can be cash or in-kind donations and should match the grant funds at a ratio of about 1:1. Our most competitive projects leverage grant funds at a rate of 2:1 or higher.

Key Project Elements

On-the-Ground Restoration

Ecological habitat restoration (wetland, riparian, in stream, coastal)

Environmental Education

Meaningful community participation and/or school curriculum integration

Partnerships

Engagement of diverse community partners to achieve project objectives

Measurable Results

Ecological and educational/social benefits that can be measured



Keys to Success



Five Star projects are **creating** stream buffers to improve local water quality and habitat. These grants **build** riverfronts, wetlands or coastal habitats for outdoor classrooms, ecotourism and recreation and **restore** natural function and community value to native ecosystems by enhancing parks and natural areas. These projects **empower** communities to support spaces for learning, recreation and growth while protecting vital resources and **fostering** stewardship of our local landscapes.

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