

# Funding for the Design and Replacement of Road Stream Crossing Barriers

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*This document summarizes sources of funding available in Wisconsin to assist in the design and replacement of high priority municipal road crossings that are barriers to stream connectivity. Opportunities that are now closed often have deadlines in a similar timeframe each year.*  
(Revision date: April 2016)

## **Tips for successful grant funding**

- Start with a road stream crossing inventory for the watershed or county to identify the highest priority barriers that will connect a significant length of stream habitat.
- Replacement of crossings that are detrimental to habitat and/or negatively impacting water quality (impounding water, outlet scouring, frequent flood failure, etc.).
- Cooperative efforts that align the priorities and utilize the expertise of municipalities and conservation agencies to best serve the public.
- Partnerships to help with inventory, grant application and management, and cost share.
- Projects that have very early coordination with DNR and other stakeholders.

## **Funding help to inventory culverts and identify priorities for restoration**

**Local Watershed Groups** may have interest in helping address stream barriers and may be a resource to assist with road stream crossing assessments. A listing of watershed groups in WI can be found on the following website: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/water/volmon.nsf/VST?openview>

**WI DNR** Staff may also be available to teach data collection methods using the following methods and field data sheets:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/sectors/documents/GLRoadStreamCrossingInventoryDatasheet.pdf>

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/sectors/documents/GLRoadStreamCrossingInventoryInstructions.pdf>

### **For assistance training volunteers, contact:**

Southern Wisconsin: Bobbi Jo Fischer: [Bobbi.Fischer@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Bobbi.Fischer@wisconsin.gov)

Northern Wisconsin: Jon Simonsen: [Jonathan.Simonsen@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Jonathan.Simonsen@wisconsin.gov)

**FishWerks:** Is a newly developed online mapping database that can calculate the estimated accessible habitat upstream of every barrier in a selected watershed. It will also estimate the increase in watershed connectivity by removing a specific barrier to help identify the highest priority barriers on the landscape. This tool is currently developed only for use in the Great Lakes drainage basin.

<https://greatlakesconnectivity.org/>

## **Funding sources for watershed surveys and/or high priority barrier replacement**

**Local Watershed Groups:** Partnerships with these groups may result in cost sharing of culvert replacements or providing assistance to apply for and/or administer grant funding. A listing of watershed groups in WI can be found on the following website:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/water/volmon.nsf/VST?openview>

**WI DNR Surface Water Grants:** <http://dnr.wi.gov/aid/surfacewater.html>

River Planning Grants are available for watershed inventories of road stream culverts to identify barriers and priorities for replacement. Award maximum is \$10,000. A 25% cost share is required and the application deadline for these grants is December 10<sup>th</sup>.

River Management Grants are awards of up to \$50,000 for river restoration activities. They may be used for education, planning and design activities necessary for completion of a management project. This funding source is also available for the removal and replacement of high priority road crossings that are acting as barriers to stream connectivity. A 25% cost share is required and the application deadline for these grants is February 1<sup>st</sup>.

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Admin. (NOAA):** Several times each year, proposals are requested for individual projects, either directly by NOAA's Restoration Center or through its partners. The table on the following website lists current and past funding opportunities.

<http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/funding/index.html>

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, The National Fish Passage Program (NFPP):** Provides funding and technical assistance to reconnect the aquatic habitat by removing or bypassing barriers. The National Fish Passage Program works with local communities to conserve our nation's aquatic resources and restore our free flowing rivers by removing or bypassing barriers. The funding can be used to conduct inventories and/or to replace high priority barriers. Preference is given to areas with a watershed assessment to identify high priority barrier removal. The funding cycle begins in August with grants awarded the following spring. Applications are accepted year round. To begin the application process, contact your regional fish passage coordinator. A 1:1 match is required and the average award is \$70,000.

<http://www.fws.gov/fisheries/whatwedo/nfpp/nfpp.html>

[http://www.fws.gov/fisheries/whatwedo/nfpp/nfpp\\_contacts.html](http://www.fws.gov/fisheries/whatwedo/nfpp/nfpp_contacts.html)

**National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF):** Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program. Funding priorities for this program include: on-the-ground wetland, riparian, in-stream and/or coastal habitat restoration, meaningful education and training activities, measurable ecological, educational and community benefits. Partnerships: Five Star projects should engage a

diverse group of community partners to achieve ecological and educational outcomes. A 1:1 match is required and the average award is \$10,000. Applications are generally open in late fall and the 2014 Request for Proposals are due in February.

<http://www.nfwf.org/whatwedo/grants/applicants/Pages/home.aspx>

## **Funding sources for high priority barrier replacements**

**County Land Conservation Departments & WI DATCP:** Technical design assistance and cost share of culvert replacements may be available through the WI Department of Agricultural, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP). To be eligible, the project needs to be sponsored and coordinated through the local County Land and Water Conservation Department. Eligibility for funds also requires a water quality concern that can be corrected by erosion control and stabilization methods to reduce sediment loads in streams. A directory of County contacts can be found on the following website.

[http://datcp.wi.gov/Environment/Land\\_and\\_Water\\_Conservation/Land\\_and\\_Water\\_Conservation\\_Directory/index.aspx](http://datcp.wi.gov/Environment/Land_and_Water_Conservation/Land_and_Water_Conservation_Directory/index.aspx)

**WI DNR State Park, Forest, and Riverway Road Aids:** Funding may be expended for the renovation, marking and maintenance of a town or county highway located within the boundaries of any state park, state forest or other property under the jurisdiction of the department of natural resources. Moneys may also be expended for the renovation, marking and maintenance of a town or county highway located in the lower Wisconsin state riverway. Outside the lower Wisconsin state riverway, or outside the boundaries of these parks, forests or property, moneys may be expended for the renovation, marking and maintenance of roads which the department of natural resources certifies are utilized by a substantial number of visitors to state parks, state forests or other property under the jurisdiction of the department of natural resources. Contact the local DNR property manager for additional information. <http://dnr.wi.gov/staffdir/newsearch/contactsearchext.aspx>

**WI DOT Local Roads Improvement Program:** Established in 1991, the Local Roads Improvement Program (LRIP) assists local governments in improving seriously deteriorating county highways, town roads, and city and village streets. LRIP is a reimbursement program, which pays up to 50% of total eligible costs with local governments providing the balance.

LRIP and other WI DOT funding sources can be found online:

<http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/localgov/highways/index.htm>

## **Replacing barriers on trout streams:**

**Trout Unlimited (TU):** Local TU volunteers may be able to assist with culvert inventories and assessments. Local Chapters can also apply for grant funding through the Embrace-A-Stream program or funding through the Orvis & TU partnership that focuses on addressing the needs of trout following TU's Protect, Reconnect, Restore, and Sustain conservation model. Local TU contact information can be found at: [www.wicouncil.tu.org](http://www.wicouncil.tu.org)

Embrace-A-Stream program awards up to \$10,000 with an average of \$5,200. 1:1 match required. Applications available in September. 2-year funding cycles (2015-2016).

<http://www.tu.org/conservation/watershed-restoration-home-rivers-initiative/embrace-a-stream>

Orvis/TU partnership: <http://www.tu.org/Orvis-TU-Fund>

**Trout Stamp Funds:** These funds are available for addressing problem road crossings on high priority trout waters. A cost share is often required and the funding focuses on crossings that would not otherwise be replaced or for projects that go above and beyond the minimal regulatory permit requirements. Contact the local DNR fisheries biologist for more information.

<http://dnr.wi.gov/staffdir/newsearch/contactsearchext.aspx>

## **Replacing barriers that prevent fish and aquatic organism movement to lakes:**

**WI DNR Lake Management Grants:** If the replacement of a road stream crossing would have a beneficial impact to fish movement and water quality between or to lakes, then these grants would be a possible funding source. For planning and assessment work, small scale planning grants of up to \$3,000 and large scale planning grants of up to \$25,000 are available. Applications for Planning grants must be received by February 1<sup>st</sup> for the spring grant cycle and August 1<sup>st</sup> for the fall grant cycle. For on the ground lake improvement work, protection grants of up to \$100,000 are available. Application for Management grants are due February 1. A 25% cost share is required.

<http://dnr.wi.gov/aid/surfacewater.html>

**Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership (MGLP) & Driftless Area Restoration Effort:** Funding source for projects that benefit fish habitat in Midwestern lakes and the driftless region. The source of funding is through the National Fish Habitat Partnership through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Funds can only be used for on-the-ground habitat conservation and improvement projects and related design and monitoring activities. Previously successful projects include fish passage projects. Grant awards generally range from \$10,000 to \$25,000. Requests for proposals can be found on the following websites:

<http://fishhabitat.org/partnerships>   <http://www.dare Restoration.com/>   <http://midwestglaciallakes.org/>

## **Funding Specific to Flood Damage**

**WI DOT Flood Disaster Damage Aids:** Disaster Damage Aids Program provides financial assistance to local governments to repair any highway that has had significant damage due to a disaster event. The program is governed by s. 86.34, Wis. Stats.

<http://www.dot.wi.gov/localgov/highways/dda.htm>

**Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA):** FEMA funding for roads, culverts, and bridges that have been damaged by floods when a disaster declaration has been issued. More information can be found on the following website:

<http://www.fema.gov/public-assistance-local-state-tribal-and-non-profit>

## **Funding Specific to the Great Lakes Watershed**

**The Nature Conservancy (TNC):** Has been very active to support research and development of assessment and prioritization tools in priority watersheds (primarily great lakes watersheds). Contact the local TNC chapter for more information:

<http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/wisconsin/>

**National Fish and Wildlife Foundation - Sustain Our Great Lakes Program:** Sustain Our Great Lakes is a public-private partnership designed to address these threats and improve the ecological health of the Great Lakes basin. Its mission is to sustain, restore, and protect fish, wildlife, and habitat in the basin by leveraging funding, building conservation capacity, and focusing partners and resources toward key ecological issues. Funding priorities for this program include aquatic connectivity (e.g., bridge and culvert replacement). A 1:1 cost share match is required. Grant awards range from \$25,000 to \$1,500,000. Pre-proposals are due February 17, 2016 (\$5 million is expected to be available in 2016.) <http://www.nfwf.org/greatlakes/Pages/home.aspx>

**Great Lakes Fish Habitat Partnerships:** One of the most important functions of a Fish Habitat Partnership is to seek out funding opportunities to advance local fish habitat conservation. They will notify you of all pending funding opportunities as they become available. Some of these will be through partner organizations where they will supply a link to more information. Others will be opportunities directly through one of the Fish Habitat Partnerships in the Midwest and Great Plains. The Great Plains FHP is one of nineteen partnerships that span the nation under the initiative of the National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP). The GPFHP area of focus; rivers, streams, riparian corridors and watershed health of the northern half of the Great Plains which spans all or portions of 10 states and 28 Tribes. If you have an aquatic conservation project aligned with the goals and objectives of the GPFHP and need financial assistance, they encourage you to submit a proposal.

<http://www.midwestfishhabitats.org/apply>

**Wisconsin Coastal Management Program:** Approximately \$1,500,000 is available through the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program (WCMP) to enhance and restore coastal resources within the state's coastal zone - all counties adjacent to Lakes Superior and Michigan, with their 1,000 miles of shoreline. WCMP Grants are available for coastal wetland protection and habitat restoration, nonpoint source pollution control, coastal resource and community planning, Great Lakes education, public access and historic preservation. Grant projects totaling \$60,000 or less require a 50% match. Applications are due in November.

<http://www.doa.state.wi.us/Divisions/Intergovernmental-Relations/Wisconsin-Coastal-Management/grant-program/>

**Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act (GLFWRA):** The Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act Grant Program provides federal grants on a competitive basis to states, tribes and other interested entities to encourage cooperative conservation, restoration and management of fish and wildlife resources and their habitat in the Great Lakes basin. The projects are funded under authority of the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act of 2006. The purpose of the Act is to provide assistance to encourage cooperative conservation, restoration and management of the fish and wildlife resources and their habitats in the Great Lakes Basin. Successful project awards have averaged \$112,700. All proposals require a 25% non-federal match. Deadline for proposal submission is in December. <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/fisheries/glfwra-grants.html>

**Healing Our Waters Great Lakes Coalition:** There are two funding areas offered. The Federal Project Support program provides funding to groups that are proposing federally funded projects or that have received project funding, but that need help with the development or implementation of on-the-ground work. Awards for this grant program will be up to \$15,000. The Community Engagement program provides funding to organizations that want to be involved in federally funded restoration activities in their communities. Awards for this grant program will be up to \$5,000. There is no deadline for proposals. Grants are given on a first come, first serve basis.

<http://healthylakes.org/category/funding-opportunity/>

<http://freshwaterfuture.org/grants/healing-our-waters-grant-program/>

**Great Lakes Restoration Initiative:** This program was launched in 2010 to accelerate efforts to protect and restore the Great Lakes. During FY15 -19, federal agencies will continue to use Great Lakes Restoration Initiative resources to strategically target the biggest threats to the Great Lakes ecosystem and to accelerate progress toward long term goals for this important ecosystem. These funds are administered through different federal agencies such as Federal Highway Administration, The Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, etc. <http://greatlakesrestoration.us/>

**Useful grant websites:**

<http://dnr.wi.gov/Aid/Links.html>

<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/home.html>

RA Smith National provides a monthly grant newsletter. (Not all funding sources are specifically related to fish passage and stream restoration.) <http://www.rasmithnational.com/grants/Default.aspx>

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