



Arctic Community Wildlife Grants

2024 CALL FOR PROPOSALS

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The WWF-US Arctic Community Wildlife Grants (ACWG) program supports conservation, stewardship, and research initiatives that focus on coastal Arctic ecology, community sustainability, and priority Arctic wildlife, including polar bears, walrus, ice seals, belugas, bowhead whales, and Arctic seabirds in the Bering, Chukchi, and Beaufort Seas and adjacent coastal areas. We are pleased to issue a call for proposals to identify projects that address community concerns and achieve meaningful outcomes for the conservation of Arctic wildlife and the people who depend on them.

ELIGIBILITY

US-based applicants from all backgrounds (community groups, Tribal councils, co-management bodies, governments, universities, independent research entities, non-governmental organizations, etc.) and fields (Indigenous Knowledge, natural sciences, social sciences, co-production of knowledge, conservation, sustainability, wildlife/ecosystem management, etc.) are eligible to apply.

FUNDING

Total annual funding amounts will depend on the availability of funds and other programmatic objectives. We anticipate the average award will be \$25,000 per project per year. Project proposals for amounts above or below this amount may be submitted and funded pending the availability of funds and other programmatic objectives. Proposals for multi-year projects are also welcomed, but funding will be determined annually.

WHEN TO APPLY

Project proposals are received and evaluated on an ongoing basis. Applicants are encouraged to discuss their potential project with WWF-US staff in advance.

Questions?

Contact ACWG@wwfus.org or call 907-279-5504 with any questions or concerns regarding the program or proposal process.

WWF US ARCTIC CONSERVATION PRIORITIES

ACWG projects should prioritize conservation for people and wildlife in the Bering, Chukchi, and Beaufort Seas and their adjacent coastal areas, for example:

- Development or implementation of climate adaptation and resilience initiatives that benefit Arctic people, wildlife, and marine and coastal ecosystems.
- Initiatives that build the capacity of communities and other interested parties to manage, monitor, and research wildlife and marine and coastal ecosystems, including real-time monitoring of marine mammals in or near Arctic shipping routes
- Initiatives that support the conservation, management, or research goals of Alaska Native marine mammal co-management bodies
- Initiatives that enable communities to participate in regulatory or management processes (e.g., Environmental Impact Assessments or Statements, Endangered Species Act listings) which may include engagement with relevant management agencies, advocacy and outreach to legislative bodies at the state or federal level on relevant legislation, etc.
- Development or implementation of methods to reduce human-polar bear conflict in communities
- Understanding the effects of marine vessel traffic, including underwater noise, the release of contaminants (black carbon, grey water, heavy metals, invasive species, microplastics, exhaust gas cleaning system discharge, etc.), ice breaking, or oil spill events, on marine mammals, people, or Arctic marine habitats

Applicants are encouraged to discuss other project ideas with WWF-US staff.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

1. Expected conservation outcomes

Applicants must identify tangible conservation outcomes for ecosystems, wildlife, or their habitats that will result from their projects. For example, what regulatory, management, policy, or decision-making process will your project contribute to? How will wildlife and people benefit from this work? What knowledge will be generated or documented?

2. Involvement and relevance of the proposed project to Alaskan coastal communities

Applicants are encouraged to discuss how their project will affect Bering, Chukchi, or Beaufort Sea coastal communities; outline the involvement of Indigenous or local communities and/or community members in their project; and must demonstrate broader community support (for example, from a Tribal Council, Alaska Native organization authorized to represent a community, Alaska Native marine mammal co-management body, etc.). We expect applicants to follow, as relevant, Indigenous-issued guidelines, recommendations, and best practices such as the [Circumpolar Inuit Protocols for Equitable and Ethical Engagement](#) and the [Kawerak-Region Tribal Research Protocols, Guidelines, Expectations, and Best Practices](#).

3. Relevance to WWF-US's Arctic Conservation Priorities

Applicants must specifically reference how their project will result in tangible outcomes that address WWF's current US Arctic Conservation Priorities, as outlined in this call for proposals or on the ACWG Program website.

PROPOSAL FORMAT

Choose one of these options to apply*:

- Option 1: Complete and submit a proposal form on the ACWG Program website
- Option 2: Download and fill out the proposal and budget forms electronically and email them to ACWG@wwfus.org or fax them to 907-921-7554.

**The proposal format can be altered for community organizations. Any individual or group requiring assistance in preparing a proposal is encouraged to reach out to WWF at ACWG@wwfus.org or 907-279-5504.*

GRANT CONDITIONS

Applicants will be notified of their proposal results within four months of receipt by WWF. Recipients of ACWG funding will then be required to negotiate and sign a WWF-US grant agreement. This process must be completed before the start of the project.

Recipient organizations must be eligible to receive funding from WWF. Recipients must provide the following documents. Ensure in advance that your organization can provide these materials:

- Articles of Incorporation or comparable document proving legal status to operate
- Recently audited financial statements
- Signed W-9 form
- Invoices and proof of completion of work to receive funds
- Bank account information or confirm means to cash a check

Successful recipients will submit two primary reporting items during project implementation:

1. Interim Report

Roughly one month after the completion of the first project milestone, recipients will be required to submit an interim report outlining the project's implementation, preliminary results, an updated work plan if necessary, and a financial report of funds spent to date. The method of submission (written, verbal, or other) will be agreed upon before signing the grant agreement.

2. Final Report and Deliverables

Recipients must submit a final report at the end of the agreement. The final report will follow a WWF template, including a discussion of project findings, the work's relevance to conservation, relevant metrics, an assessment of the project's success, aggregated or summarized data, any future plans, and a full financial statement. The method of submission (written, verbal, or other) will be agreed upon before signing the grant agreement. Any data generated from these projects will be owned by the grantee, and only the summarized data must be shared with WWF. The final report should be supplemented by media that can be used in WWF communications about the work to amplify voices and issues important to grant recipients. Recipients must submit agreed media (photos, videos, maps, etc.) from the project for communications purposes. Formats, quantities, uses, and limitations will be agreed upon before signing the grant agreement.