

**TALLASSEE FUND**  
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

The Tallassee Fund is seeking proposals for conservation projects in the Lower Little Tennessee River Watershed. Proposed projects must be for mitigation, enhancement, restoration, conservation, research or other activities related to current and ongoing impacts of the Tapoco hydroelectric project.

The Tallassee Fund is administered by a “Fund Board” or “Board” consisting of one authorized representative each from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Great Smoky Mountains National Park (a unit of the National Park Service) (NPS), the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA), the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians (EBCI), The Nature Conservancy of Tennessee (TNC), the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA), the Tennessee Clean Water Network (TCWN), and American Rivers (AR).

The Tallassee Fund Priorities

Eligible projects include those by landowners and their partners who need financial assistance to improve habitat or implement other activities on private, state, or federal lands within the Tallassee area. The Tallassee Fund prioritizes on-the-ground conservation actions improving or protecting riparian, wetland, and other priority habitats. Proposals involving education and outreach, planning, or research activities, should clearly demonstrate the relationship to the Tallassee area, the Tapoco Hydroelectric Project, and how it will improve conservation values of fish and wildlife resources. Private landowners, individually or as a group, are encouraged to submit project proposals for their properties. Additionally, individuals or groups, such as land conservancies, community organizations, or conservation organizations, working with private landowners on conservation efforts, are also encouraged to submit project proposals provided they identify specific private landowners who have confirmed their

intent to participate on the project or provide other evidence in the project proposal to demonstrate landowner participation will occur.

Though not required, proposals that demonstrate cost sharing on the part of the landowner or other partners involved in the project are encouraged.

#### The Tallassee Fund – Background Information

A conservation fund, known as the Tallassee Fund, will address the unavoidable ongoing and cumulative impacts of the operation of the Tapoco Project (P-2169). The fund will provide for conservation activities to offset project-related impacts to land and water resources in the Lower Little Tennessee River Valley in the vicinity of the Chilhowee and Calderwood developments. A variety of conservation needs were identified during the collaborative licensing process; others are ongoing activities that address project-related impacts that should be considered as part of a mitigation package and settlement agreement for the Tennessee portion of the Tapoco Project. Specific objectives include:

- Provide funding for land and water conservation activities on an ongoing basis during the forty (40) year term of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issued license for the Tapoco Project.
- Encourage focused land and water stewardship, restoration, and enhancement activities that compliment regional conservation priorities.

Agency/Organization Goals. The specific objectives/goals of natural resource agencies/organizations for this area include:

- Restore limited areas of free-flowing warm- and cool-water habitats.
- Recover imperiled species.
- Restore extirpated plant and animal populations.
- Restore and protect riparian corridors and habitats.
- Provide outdoor recreational opportunities.
- Control invasive exotic species.
- Educate decision makers and citizens about the importance of this unique resource.

Conservation Activities. Broad categories of ongoing land and water management activities in the Lower Little Tennessee River area over the last 10 years provide an indication of what could be expected in the near future. Many of these activities are directly related to the ongoing impacts of the Tapoco project.

- Environmental education.
- Exotic species control (e.g., terrestrial and aquatic plants, wild hogs, etc.).
- Fish stocking.
- Fish propagation and translocation.
- Restoration effectiveness monitoring.
- Land/forest management.
- Land protection/conservation.
- Riparian conservation.
- Research related to impact assessment and management.
- Nature-based recreation management and enhancement.

Amount of Fund. The amount of the fund will be a maximum of \$100,000 annually for the term forty (40) year term of the license. Grants may be provided in multi-year increments to encourage sustained conservation efforts. Grants from the fund may be combined with funds from other sources for more comprehensive mitigation or enhancement projects.

Geographic Scope. The geographic scope of this proposal includes the Lower Little Tennessee Valley in the vicinity of the Calderwood and Chilhowee developments (Figure 1). The proposed mitigation fund will address project-related land and water conservation needs in the Lower Little Tennessee watershed downstream of the Tennessee – North Carolina state line.

Examples of current and future land and water conservation efforts in the Lower Little Tennessee River watershed, with a focus on activities related to the ongoing impairments cause by the Calderwood and Chilhowee Developments of the Tapoco Project (FERC #P-2169).

Activity	Partners
Native Fish	FWS, CFI, NPS, WWF, TVA, TWRA
Fish Stocking: Calderwood, Chilowee	TWRA, FWS
Mussel/snail restoration	FWS, TWRA , USFS, NPS
Exotic plant control	NPS, Alcoa Foundation
Zebra mussel monitoring/control	USGS, TVA
Streambank stabilization	NRCS, FWS
Hemlock adelgid control	NPS
Mussel habitat analysis, propogation	USFS, FWS, USGS
Public Awareness/Conservation Education efforts	WWF, FWS, NPS, CFI, TVA, USFS
Forest habitat enhancement	TWRA, FWS, USFS
Calderwood By-Pass management	USFS, TWRA, FWS, TDEC
Recreation enhancement	USFS, TWRA, NPS, TVA

# **GUIDELINES FOR PROPOSAL FORMAT AND CONTENT**

TALLASSEE FUND

GRANT REQUEST

Project Title

Contact Information

Organization

Contact

Email

Phone\*

Address

\* Federal Tax I.D. #

Executive Summary

Relation of Project to Tapoco Operational Impacts

Statement of Problem

Proposed Actions & Goals

Significance of Resource

Significance of Need

Feasibility

Schedule

Budget & Funding Schedule

Matching Funds

In-kind Contributions

Deliverables

Personnel & Statement of Expertise

Bibliography

## NOTES

1. What is the Significance of the Resource addressed in the proposal? [Which T&E to benefit? related to impact of reservoir? otherwise unique resource, etc.]
2. Severity of the Problem/Threat/Need. [Why can't this be put off until a later year? [Are irreplaceable resources or permanent damage at stake?]
3. Feasibility of Success. [Are the proposed methods standard and proven or experimental? Are adequate and quality of personnel available to complete the project, correctly?]
4. How will this project resolve the problem described above? [Does it completely resolve the problem or are there other phases that need to be disclosed in this proposal?]
5. Budget/Cost Effectiveness/Project Support from other Sources. Include information to indicate what portion of the total cost is contributed from sources other than Tallassee Fund.
6. Deliverables: data, reports, presentation at conclusion, etc. Data MUST be provided to land managers in electronic format compatible to their needs. Reports to be circulated, plans to publish, etc. Presentation of study results to the Tallassee Fund Board or at regional conservation meetings (SAMAB, ATBI) is encouraged. Publication of results in scientific journals are encouraged.
7. Proposals for work on federal, state, and/or private lands must provide documentation of landowner support for the proposed project and approved access or right of entry to conduct the project.

Length: Proposals should be limited to a maximum of 2,000 words (3-4 pages). Up to two additional pages of graphics may be submitted. Proposals should be submitted in both hard copy and electronic format.

