



AOP

NATIONAL CULVERT REMOVAL, REPLACEMENT, AND RESTORATION GRANT PROGRAM

Applications are due August 25, 2025.

ADMINISTERED BY: FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION (FHWA)

The Culvert Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) Program (authorized under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law as the National Culvert Removal, Replacement, and Restoration Program) will meaningfully improve or restore passage for anadromous fish, also referred to as sea-run fish, and make needed weir improvements. These fish migrate from freshwater rivers to the ocean and back to spawn in their natal streams. The program prioritizes projects opening more than 200 meters of upstream habitat including fish stocks that are threatened or endangered or may reasonably become so, prey stocks for threatened or endangered species, and climate resilient stocks.



CLIMATE CHANGE & RESILIENCY

ANADROMOUS FISH CONSERVATION

ECOSYSTEM BENEFITS

REGIONAL & WATERSHED HABITATS

PROJECT DESIGN, MONITORING, & EVALUATION

EQUITY

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Class I railroads are not eligible applicants under the Culvert AOP Program; however, they may partner with eligible applicants – as Project Partners – to pursue funding for projects.

- States
- Units of local government
- Tribes



BNSF PII

BNSF Railway’s Public Infrastructure and Investment (PII) team is committed to building strong partnerships that maximize the impact of funding opportunities. As Project Partners, we can collaborate to help secure funding that drives positive change and progress for communities where we work, live, and play.

AOP



AOP

\$196 Million

Provides funding for projects that meaningfully improve or restore fish passage for anadromous (sea-run) fish, involving the replacement, removal, or repair of culverts or weirs or provide passage around or over a weir, and be related to or near transportation infrastructure like roads or rail crossings

Changes from FY 2022 (Year One) NOFO:

- Switch to a multi-year format, covering FY 2023 to FY 2026
- First funding round for FY 2023 has a 90-day application period, while subsequent rounds are 60 days each
- Clarification on advance payment options
- Encouragement to use the NOFO application template
- Revised Selection Criteria based on previous feedback

Types of Projects:

- Preliminary and detailed design, environmental studies, and the NEPA process
- Replacement, removal, or repair of culverts or weirs, or weir improvements, related to or near transportation infrastructure
- Replacement of an eligible facility with a new facility that meaningfully restores fish passage near transportation infrastructure

Funding: \$196 Million

Project Min: N/A
Project Max: N/A
Funding Ceiling: \$196M
Funding Floor: N/A
Award Range: \$200K to \$50M

Upcoming AOP Application Periods:

- **Year Two (FY 2023):** June 25, 2024 through September 23, 2024
- **Year Three (FY 2024):** June 23, 2025 through August 25, 2025
- **Year Four (FY 2025):** June 22, 2026 through August 24, 2026
- **Year Five (FY 2026):** June 21, 2027 through August 23, 2027

Questions to ask yourself about the project:

Can an applicant include two or more projects in the same application?

Yes, an applicant may bundle two or more projects within a single application that focus on a similar fish stock, watershed, or region. In bundled applications, projects may be partially awarded funds at differing amounts and ratios.

Can funding be used for the acquisition of rights-of-way?

Yes, the acquisition of rights-of-way is an eligible activity under the program.

What is the Project Cost Share?

It is a 20% funding match for a state or a unit of local government. Tribes are not required to provide a cost share.



French F. Thompson, III
General Director
Public Infrastructure
& Investments
French.Thompson@bnsf.com
Office: 817-352-1549



Jeremy Wegner
Manager
Public Infrastructure
& Investments, Southern Region
Jeremy.Wegner@bnsf.com
Office: 913-551-4096



Michael Pruneau
Manager
Public Infrastructure
& Investments, Northern Region
Michael.Pruneau@bnsf.com
Office: 817-593-1109