

Parr Hydroelectric Project
Habitat Enhancement Program
2024 Request for Proposals
Proposals due August 31, 2024

The Proposal Review Committee (PRC) of the Parr Habitat Enhancement Program (HEP) is soliciting proposals for natural resource stewardship grants in the Broad, Saluda, and Congaree River watersheds of South Carolina. The HEP Fund was established as part of the Comprehensive Relicensing Settlement Agreement (CRSA) during relicensing of the Parr Hydroelectric Project (Project) (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission [FERC] Project No. 1984). The HEP will be administered by the PRC to encourage, coordinate, and fund project proposals that restore, enhance, and protect aquatic, wetland, and riparian habitats and the associated natural resources of the Parr Hydroelectric Project area and portions of the Broad, Saluda, and Congaree River watersheds (See HEP Area – Attachment A).

The PRC comprises representatives of Dominion Energy South Carolina, the National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, American Whitewater, Congaree Riverkeeper, American Rivers, and CRSA signatory Jeff Carter.

Project Eligibility

Eligible project proposals must be for the following types of habitat enhancement projects:

- Conservation of lands for the purpose of protecting aquatic resources by fee simple acquisition, conservation easements, or other conservation measures agreed to by the PRC
- Restoration or enhancement of stream channels, stream banks, riparian areas, shorelines, and wetlands
- Removal of barriers to aquatic species
- Conservation, restoration, and enhancement of habitat for threatened and endangered species (T&E) and at-risk species, with an emphasis on aquatic species
- Conducting research, monitoring, enhancement of T&E and at-risk species' populations, with an emphasis on aquatic species
- Creation or construction of habitats and nesting boxes to support fish and wildlife species, with an emphasis on aquatic species
- Fertilizing and aquatic plant control in the Monticello sub-impoundment
- Conducting research and monitoring to support restoration of migratory fishes and other aquatic resources (such as conducting the fishway monitoring at Broad River diversion dam at the Columbia Canal should the FERC license be surrendered, and the Licensee is not obligated to continue this monitoring)
- Developing low-impact facilities to access waterways for fishing and boating
- Studies, design/engineering plans, monitoring, etc., are eligible for funding if their purpose is to support projects described in previous bullets

Geographically, proposals are limited to the area defined by the following watersheds or portions of watersheds (and federal hydrologic units codes [HUCs]) of the Broad, Saluda, and Congaree Rivers (also see map in Attachment A) (Reference: SCDHEC Watershed Atlas – <https://gis.dhec.sc.gov/watersheds/> - based on the National Watershed Boundary Dataset):

1. Lower Broad River 8 Digit Subbasin: HUC 03050106 – entire subbasin
2. Tyger River 8 Digit Subbasin: HUC 03050107 – that portion downstream of the towns of Pacolet and Woodruff
3. Enoree River 8 Digit Subbasin: HUC 03050108 – that portion downstream of the towns of Woodruff and Gray Court
4. Twelvemile Creek - Saluda River 10 Digit Watershed: HUC 0305010914 – entire watershed
5. Congaree River 8 Digit Subbasin: HUC 03050110 – entire subbasin

Proposal Scoring Criteria

Proposals are evaluated and scored according to the following criteria¹:

- Proposal objectives, methods, and outcomes are clearly outlined
- Proposal success indicators are clearly outlined in proposal and valid
- Applicant has demonstrated in proposal that it has resources necessary for project completion
- Project includes components within the Parr HEP boundary
- Project will restore, enhance, and/or protect aquatic, wetland, and/or riparian habitats within eligible geographic area
- Project will benefit rare, threatened, or endangered species
- Project will address management and control of exotic/invasive species
- Project places an emphasis on aquatic species and/or resources
- Project has long-term conservation benefits beyond proposal implementation
- Project has high potential for public outreach/involvement
- Project will provide secondary environmental/species/scientific knowledge benefits inside or outside the project area, above and beyond primary project
- Project has high benefit/cost ratio (e.g., habitat/dollar)
- Proposed budget is sufficient to accomplish project objectives
- Project does not require maintenance funds to ensure long-term viability/sustainability
- Applicant/project manager has demonstrated record of success and/or expertise
- Project includes cost sharing/in-kind support component
- Project partners with other organizations or companies to increase the scope and resources associated with the project

The HEP Fund will consider funding proposals for projects that will be implemented in 2025. Multiple year projects will also be considered. The present fund balance is \$116,658 with an additional annual contribution of at least \$50,000 available for award by the end of 2024. The HEP Fund is not obligated to spend a specific amount of funding in a given year. The allowable indirect costs rate for the HEP Fund is 20 percent.

¹ It is not necessary that the proposal meet all the listed scoring criteria to be considered for funding.

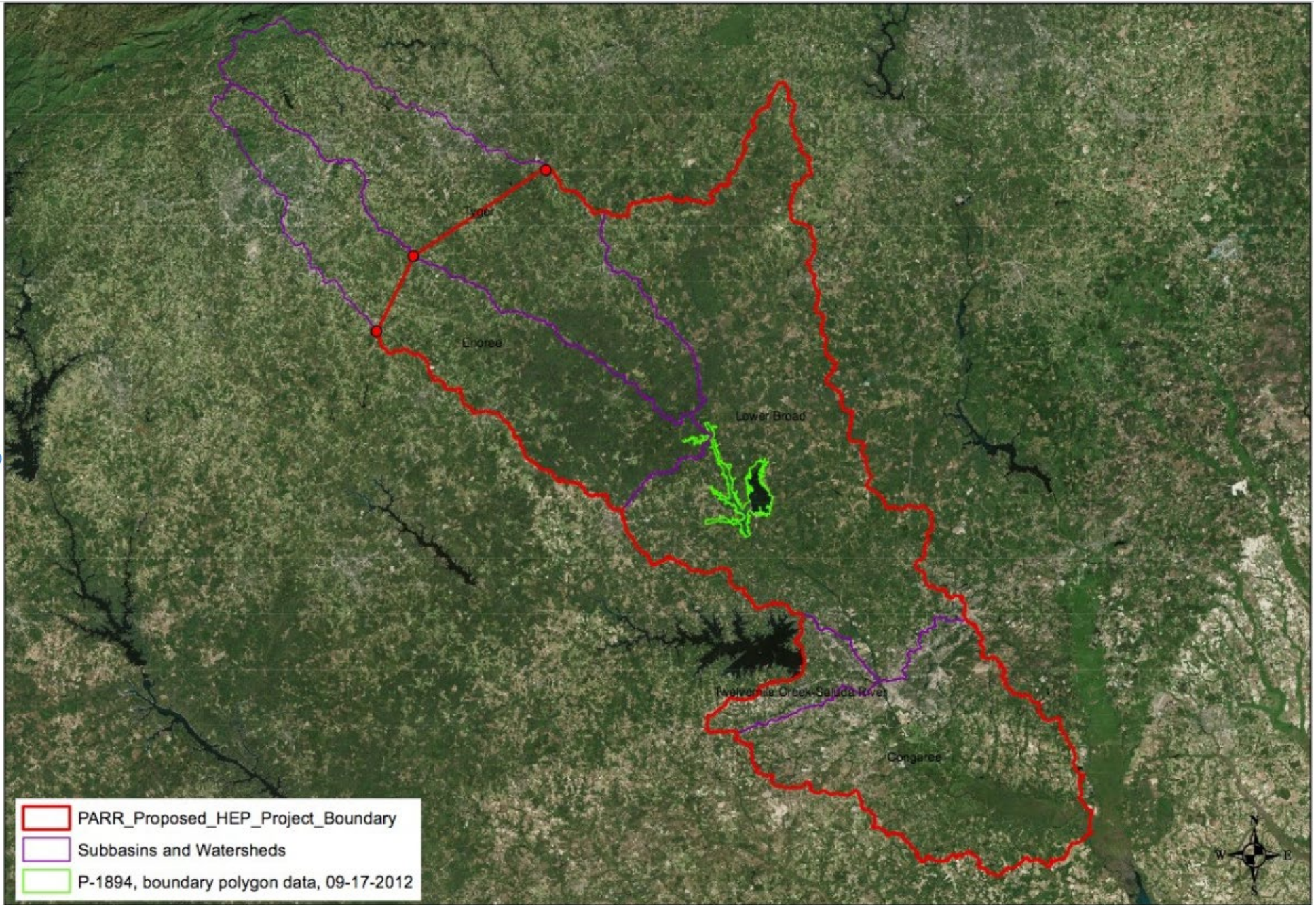
Proposals should be succinct (5 pages or less) and include a project introduction, objectives, approach, budget, and timeline. Matching funds from other sources are not required although applicants are encouraged to document additional sources of funding that will be applied to their project.

Proposals are due by 5 pm eastern on August 31, 2024. Proposals should be submitted via email with the subject line “Parr HEP Fund Proposal” to Jennifer Gut, Kleinschmidt Associates²: Jennifer.Gut@KleinschmidtGroup.com. For questions, please contact Jennifer via email or phone at 803.904.8680.

Proposals awarded funding will be required to submit a final report documenting geographic scope, methods, how funds (including matching funds, if applicable) were used to implement the project, and results. Multiple year proposals will be required to submit yearly interim reports.

² 2024 Fund Coordinator for the PRC.

Attachment A. Map of area for eligible HEP projects. The area is defined by the watersheds or portions of watersheds listed above.



Created: September 28, 2017
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