

Apalachicola Basin Outreach Coordinator

Contractor Scope of Work

Overview:

The Pew Charitable Trusts (Pew) is seeking a part time contractor to coordinate stakeholder outreach, and to build capacity for and consensus around projects that will improve aquatic connectivity and restore habitat in the Apalachicola River basin. Pew's interests include helping to initiate a federal feasibility study to improve fish passage at the Jim Woodruff Lock and Dam (JWLD); continuing efforts to restore sloughs and reconnect the river to its floodplain; restoring and managing oyster habitat; and improving natural river flows throughout the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint Rivers (ACF) system.

About the position:

The Apalachicola River basin is one of the most biologically diverse areas in the U.S. However, over a hundred years of riverbed dredging and channelization, plus the operation of federal dams upstream that have controlled flows since 1957, have altered the river, its floodplain, and the ecosystem of Apalachicola Bay. There is growing interest and stakeholder engagement around managing the Apalachicola River and Bay to protect and restore this biodiversity, and there are numerous restoration and conservation efforts underway. Better coordination among stakeholders and the various local, state, and federal agencies would allow each of these separate activities to build off each other and contribute towards complementary, system-scale goals to improve aquatic connectivity and restore habitat along the river and its floodplain.

About Pew:

Pew is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that uses data to make a difference. We address the challenges of a changing world by illuminating issues, creating common ground, and advancing ambitious projects that lead to tangible progress so that nature and communities can thrive for future generations. We engage partners and use science to inspire innovative, practical solutions that support people, wildlife, and the ecosystems upon which both depend.

Pew has been engaged in oyster restoration and management in Apalachicola Bay for the past five years as an active member of the Community Advisory Board to FSU Coastal and Marine Lab's Apalachicola Bay System Initiative. Currently, our staff are participating in the Partnership for a Resilient Apalachicola Bay and engaging with the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint Stakeholders, a non-profit organization that facilitates dialogue and coordination around water use and other regional issues.

For more information about Pew, please see <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/about/how-we-work>.

Contract Objectives:

1. Build capacity in the region by organizing one-on-one and group stakeholder meetings and strengthen connections between existing efforts to further aquatic connectivity and resilience priorities, including oyster habitat restoration, slough restoration, river flow modeling, and fish passage.

2. Coordinate with regional management and planning agencies to identify, prioritize and implement restoration, conservation, and management activities that will enhance aquatic connectivity and foster ecosystem and community resilience.
3. Help secure funding for long-term regional capacity-building, research, conservation and restoration:
 - a. Identify opportunities for state and federal funding and coordinate with stakeholders to match capacity and interest with regional priorities.
 - b. Draft grant proposals and supporting documents.
4. Help develop and execute an outreach and communications strategy to build support for these objectives.

Tasks:

In coordination with Pew staff:

1. Participate in regular meetings with individuals and small groups of stakeholders and agencies to coordinate, build consensus, and implement priorities.
 - a. Draft meeting summaries, identify next steps, coordinate with partners on meeting outcomes, and follow up on relevant action items. Regular meetings include but are not limited to:
 - i. Twice monthly Riparian Counties Stakeholder Coalition (RCSC) meetings.
 - ii. Monthly Partnership for a Resilient Apalachicola Bay meetings.
2. Organize and participate in meetings with state, federal, and local agency staff to build consensus and coordinate funding strategies for shared priorities on oyster restoration, improved river flows, and slough restoration.
 - a. Develop meeting agendas and materials, take notes, identify next steps, and follow up on action items.
 - b. Develop list of overlapping agency priorities, needs, and opportunities in coordination with agencies and stakeholders.
3. Secure demonstrable support from stakeholders and agencies within the ACF basin for priority projects and activities.
4. Work with Pew staff and other stakeholders to develop outreach and education materials.
5. Identify external funding sources that can be leveraged to implement priorities. Work with agencies and other stakeholders to identify appropriate fiscal agents for funding opportunities and submit two to four coordinated funding proposals.
6. Participate in regular coordination calls with Pew staff and submit regular written activity reports that include:
 - a. Summaries of outcomes, follow-up actions, and next steps from meetings with agencies and partners.
 - b. Recommendations for further developing and implementing strategies to achieve priorities and objectives.
 - c. A preview of near term priorities and anticipated activities.
 - d. Other relevant information.

Contract timeline:

ASAP through June 2025, with the possibility of extension.

Compensation:

- This is a part time, independent contractor position.
- Will involve some regional travel within the ACF basin, with reimbursement for reasonable travel expenses.
- Compensation: \$3,500-4,000 a month, depending on experience.

For More Information, contact:

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To Apply:

Submit resume and short cover letter (1-2pp) to chanson@pewtrusts.org