

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

FWS - Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration

<https://www.fws.gov/program/multistate-conservation>

F25AS00007 Multistate Conservation Grant Program Announcement
Fiscal Year: 2025
F25AS00007

Due Date for Applications: 06/07/2024

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A. Program Description

A1. Authority

The Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 777 et seq.) and the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669 et seq.) as amended by the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106-408, 114 STAT. 1766 §113 and 114 STAT. 1722 §122) authorize the Secretary of the Interior to make up to \$6,000,000 available annually to fund Multistate Conservation project grants. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) will cite this traditional portion of the Multistate Conservation Grant Program (MSCGP) as Traditional Multistate Conservation Grants (T-MSCG). In addition, the Modernizing the Pittman-Robertson Fund for Tomorrow’s Needs Act (Modernizing PR Act, 16 U.S.C. 669) amended the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to, among other measures, authorize the Service to make hunter recruitment and recreational target shooter recruitment grants that promote a national hunting and shooting sports recruitment program, including related communication and outreach activities. The Service will cite this portion of the MSCGP as R3 Multistate Conservation Grants (R3-MSCG). There will be up to \$5,000,000 available specifically for the R3-MSCG grants.

A2. Assistance Listing Number

Assistance Listing Number

15.628

A3. Background, Purpose and Program Requirements

The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) and the Service work cooperatively to manage T-MSCG and R3-MSCG. AFWA sets the Strategic Priorities for project activities and provides the Service with a list of recommended projects to be considered for awards. The Service administers the program and manages the awards. This Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), also called a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA), provides application guidance for both types of projects (i.e., T-MSCG and R3-MSCG) under the competitive Multistate Conservation Grant program.

Proposals must address eligible activities in one or more of the selected AFWA Strategic Priorities to be considered for funding. AFWA updates the Strategic Priorities annually. The Strategic Priorities are used to guide the proposal development and project selection. The primary goal for both types of projects, T-MSCG and R3-MSCG, in the Multistate Conservation Grant program is to provide grant funds to address regional or national priority needs of the

States and their partners that are beyond the scope and capabilities of a single State within the scope of eligible activities. Information on the projects selected and awarded will be published annually in the Federal Register. Lists of past awards are also available from the Service and AFWA (see Section G, Federal Awarding Agency Contacts).

Eligible activities for T-MSCG include projects involving research, surveys, restoration, conservation, management, habitat improvements, and other purposes consistent with the enabling legislation. R3 activities for fishing or boating are only eligible under T-MSCG.

Eligible activities for R3-MSCG are hunter recruitment and recreational shooter recruitment activities that promote a national hunting and shooting sports recruitment program, including related communication and outreach activities.

Please be advised that, at the time of publication of this NOFO, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) proposed rule changes affecting OMB Guidance for Grants and Agreements located in Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations (2 CFR), including changes that may affect definitions, allowable costs, and other grant guidance found in sections of 2 CFR 200 that are referenced throughout this NOFO. Please be sure to check current [2 CFR 200](#) regulations posted online and review the final rule describing the changes to 2 CFR 200 once it is published in the Federal Register. Once published in the Federal Register, it is anticipated the final rule will be effective October 1, 2024.

2025 Multistate Conservation Grant Program Strategic Priorities, as established annually by AFWA (Detailed information can be found at the AFWA website, <https://www.fishwildlife.org/afwa-informs/multi-state-conservation-grants-program>):

[Conservation & Science](#)

Climate Change

Fish and Wildlife Health (“One Health”)

Human Dimensions & Conservation Social Science

Invasive Species

Emerging Technologies for fish and wildlife management

[Expanding Relevancy and Engagement \(ERE\)](#)

Enhancing Conservation Through Broader Engagement

Enhance efforts to make fish and wildlife-based recreation accessible and welcoming to everyone, emphasizing actions targeting underrepresented groups.

Research

[Capacity Building, Conservation Education, and Coordination of Conservation Policies](#)

Leadership Development

Conservation Education

Coordination of Conservation Policies

Integration of Law Enforcement

AFWA Priorities Identified in AFWA Funding Principles (submitted by ExCom)

Management Assistance Team

Management of the Multistate Conservation Grant Program

CITES and International Conservation Programs and Their Impact on State Agencies

Coordination of Conservation on a National Scale

National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation

Recruitment, Retention, Reactivation (R3)

Marketing

Engaging Participants

Monitoring and Evaluation

Hunting and Shooting Sports Access and Infrastructure

A4. Funding Opportunity Goals

The goal of the Multistate Conservation Grant funding opportunity is to support projects that address regional or national priority needs of State fish and wildlife agencies and their partners that are beyond the scale, scope, and capabilities of a single State. The priority needs, also known as Strategic Priorities, are identified annually by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies with input from State fish and wildlife agencies and their partners. Eligible proposals funded under this opportunity may address Strategic Priorities related to traditional wildlife or sport fish projects involving research, restoration, conservation, management, and enhancement of wild birds, wild mammals, sport fish, or their habitats or projects providing for public use and benefit from these resources. Eligible proposals funded under this opportunity may also address Strategic Priorities related to hunter, recreational target shooter or angler recruitment, retention and reactivation, also known as R3.

B. Federal Award Information

B1. Total Funding

Estimated Total Funding

\$11,000,000

Estimated Funding for T-MSCG: \$6,000,000

Estimated Funding for R3-MSCG: \$5,000,000

B2. Expected Award Amount

Maximum Award

\$1,000,000

Minimum Award

\$50,000

B3. Expected Award Funding and Anticipated Dates

Expected Award Funding

\$250,000

Expected Award Date

January 01, 2025

Grants are traditionally approved for one year of funding. Applicants whose projects are expected to take more than one year to complete are encouraged to describe in their proposals the need and intent to apply for a subsequent year(s) of funding for the project. Subsequent year(s) of funding is not guaranteed and will depend on project merits, available funding, and progress made to date upon applying for the subsequent year(s) of funding. Grant recipients will be required to report on progress made in the first year as part of the justification for subsequent year(s) of funding. Under special circumstances, the National Grants Committee coordinated by AFWA will consider recommending multiple years of funding. The criteria for multiyear funding established by the National Grants Committee are in AFWA's MSCGP Multiyear Proposal Criteria found on the [AFWA MSCGP website](#). Please note there is a very high bar to justify multiyear funding, and most applicants will be requested to apply for one year of funding at a time.

B4. Number of Awards

Expected Number of Awards

55

T-MSCG Expected Number of Awards is 25 to 35. R3-MSCG Expected Number of Awards is 20 to 25.

B5. Type of Award

Funding Instrument Type

G - Grant

C. Eligibility Information

C1. Eligible Applicants

Eligible Applicants

00 – State governments

06 – Public and State controlled institutions of higher education

12 – Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education

13 – Nonprofits without 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education
25 – Others (see text field entitled “Additional Information on Eligibility” for clarification)

Additional Information on Eligibility

Eligible applicants also include the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, or a State or group of States, for the purpose of carrying out the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation. The State governments designation refers to agencies with lead management responsibility for fish and wildlife resources in each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia (Sport Fish Restoration only), Commonwealths of Puerto Rico and the Northern Mariana Islands, and the territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, or a group of these agencies.

C2. Cost Sharing or Matching

Cost Sharing / Matching Requirement

No

Percentage of Cost Sharing / Matching Requirement

0

C3. Other

Eligible project proposals must address eligible activities under at least one of the [2025 AFWA Strategic Priorities](#) to be considered for funding.

Eligible activities for T-MSCG include research, restoration, management or habitat improvement, or projects providing for public use and benefit from these resources, and other purposes consistent with the enabling legislation. R3 activities for fishing or boating are only eligible under T-MSCG. Eligible activities for R3-MSCG are hunter recruitment and recreational target shooter recruitment activities that promote a national hunting and target shooting sports recruitment program, including related communication and outreach activities.

Eligible species include wild birds, wild mammals, or sport fish. Sport fish are defined as aquatic, gill-breathing, vertebrate animals with paired fins, having material value for recreation in the marine and fresh waters of the United States.

Eligible project proposals must benefit:

1. A majority of States.
2. A majority (over 50%) of the States in a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Region. Please list the Regions and States in each Region that will benefit (use State abbreviations).
3. A majority (over 50%) of the States belonging to a regional association of State fish and wildlife agencies (click each of the Associations for the state members, [WAFWA](#), [MAFWA](#), [NEAFWA](#), [SEAFWA](#)). Please indicate the regional fish and wildlife association that will benefit and list each region's States.

Required Certification Statement for Nongovernmental Organizations: Any nongovernmental organization that applies for a grant shall submit with the application a certification that the organization will not use the grant funds to fund, in whole or in part, any

activity of the organization that promotes or encourages opposition to the regulated hunting or trapping of wildlife, to recreational shooting activities, or to the regulated taking of fish.

Foreign Entities or Projects:

State Sponsors of Terrorism: This program will not fund projects in [countries determined by the U.S. Department of State to have repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism](#) and therefore are subject to sanctions restricting receipt of U.S. foreign assistance and other financial transactions.

Office of Foreign Assets Control Sanctions: This program will not fund projects in countries subject to [comprehensive sanction programs administered by the U.S. Department of Treasury, Office of Foreign Asset Control](#) without proper licenses.

In-Country Licenses, Permits, or Approvals: Entities conducting activities outside the U.S. are responsible for coordinating with appropriate U.S. and foreign government authorities as necessary to obtain all required licenses, permits, or approvals before undertaking project activities. The Service does not assume responsibility for recipient compliance with the laws, regulations, policies, or procedures of the foreign country in which they are conducting work.

Excluded Parties:

The DOI conducts a review of the SAM.gov Exclusions database for all applicant entities and their key project personnel prior to award. The DOI cannot award funds to entities or their key project personnel identified in the SAM.gov Exclusions database as ineligible, prohibited/restricted or otherwise excluded from receiving Federal contracts, certain subcontracts, and certain Federal assistance and benefits, as their ineligibility condition applies to this Federal program.

D. Application and Submission Information

D1. Address to Request Application Package

There is a two-phase process to apply:

Phase I: You must first submit your **Grant Proposal**, comprised of a Project Statement, Budget Narrative and Budget Table (without Federal forms), through the [AFWA MSCGP Portal](#) by **June 7, 2024, no later than 11:59 PM ET**. The [AFWA MSCGP webpage](#) provides information for submitting Grant Proposals via the [AFWA MSCGP Portal](#). **Proposals should not be submitted through GrantSolutions during Phase I. Proposals should not be submitted in Grants.gov in either Phase I or Phase II.**

Phase II: If your Grant Proposal is selected for further consideration, **you will be invited via email to submit your Complete Grant Application through a Directed Announcement posted in GrantSolutions.gov** by early to mid-September 2024. The **Complete Grant Application**, comprised of a Project Statement, Budget Narrative, Budget Table and Federal forms, should be submitted in **GrantSolutions.gov**. Federal forms will be available in GrantSolutions once invitations to apply are sent to selected applicants. Only Grant Proposals invited for further consideration will submit Complete Grant Applications in GrantSolutions.

The deadline for submitting a Complete Grant Application in GrantSolutions will be identified in the Directed Announcement. Proposals should not be submitted in Grants.gov.

Please be advised that, at the time of publication of this NOFO, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) proposed rule changes affecting OMB Guidance for Grants and Agreements located in Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations (2 CFR), including changes that may affect definitions, allowable costs, and other grant guidance found in sections of 2 CFR 200 that are referenced throughout this NOFO. Please be sure to check current [2 CFR 200](#) regulations posted online and review the final rule describing the changes to 2 CFR 200 once it is published in the Federal Register. Once published in the Federal Register, it is anticipated the final rule will be effective October 1, 2024.

Program Website Link

<https://www.fws.gov/program/multistate-conservation>

D2. Content and Form of Application Submission

SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance

All applicants must submit the Standard Form (SF)-424, Application for Federal Assistance. This form is available with the announcement on Grants.gov and in GrantSolutions. The form must be complete and signed by an Authorized Representative. For all applicants except individuals and commercial entities, the Authorized Representative's signature on a standard application form submitted to the Service represents their certification that the entity's financial management system meets [2 CFR §200.302](#) financial management requirements. The non-Federal entity's financial management system must be sufficient to:

1. Permit the preparation of required reports;
2. Trace funds to a level of expenditures adequate to establish that the entity has used such funds per Federal statutes, regulations, and terms and conditions of the Federal award;
3. Provide for the requirements in [2 CFR §200.302\(b\)](#); and
4. Comply with [§200.334](#) Retention requirements for records, [§200.335](#) Requests for transfer of records, [§200.336](#) Methods for collection, transmission, and storage of information, and [§200.337](#) Access to records.

If this application requests more than \$100,000 in Federal funds, the Authorized Representative's signature on or submission of the SF-424 form in GrantSolutions also represents their certification of the statements in 43 CFR Part 18, Appendix A-Certification Regarding Lobbying.

When completing the SF-424 Application form, enter only the amount requested from this Federal program in Box 18a, Estimated Federal Funding. Include any other Federal sources of funding in Box 18e. Estimated Other Funding and identify any such sources and amounts in the required Budget Narrative (see below). For individuals applying as a private citizen (i.e., unrelated to any business or nonprofit organization you may own or operate in your name), do NOT include your Social Security Number on this or any other document to be submitted with your application! When completing the SF-424 Application form, individuals must enter in Box 8b. Employee/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN) the substitute number "444-44-4444." Individuals may register in SAM.gov but are not required to have a SAM.gov registration. For individuals without a SAM.gov registration enter in Box 8c. the substitute Unique Entity

Identifier (UEI) "KA5HQCLKUVW1". For instructions on completing the SF-424, please reference: [Instructional Video: Completing the SF424](#).

Project Abstract Summary (OMB Number 4040-0019)

Applicants must complete and submit the Project Abstract Summary form. The Project Abstract Summary form must provide a brief award description. The description must be in plain language that the public can understand without viewing the full application proposal. It should include a brief, simple description of the project purpose, activities to be performed, deliverables and expected outcomes, intended beneficiaries, and subrecipient activities, if known at the time of submission.

Do not include personally identifiable, sensitive, or proprietary information in the award description as this is available to the public. Use only English characters, numbers, punctuation, and standard symbols. Use of non-English, non-standard characters (also referred to as special or extended ASCII characters) will result in the award description failing to be reported correctly to USASpending.gov. Award descriptions are limited to 4,000 characters or less. Applicants should check the length of the award description and proofread for proper grammar and spelling.

For applicants applying through Grants.gov: Applicants must download and complete the Grants.gov "Project Abstract Summary" form from the full text announcement. To submit the Grants.gov "Project Abstract Summary" form with the application, applicants must add the form as an attachment to the Grants.gov "Attachments" form that is included in the application package.

For applicants applying through GrantSolutions-Grants Management Module (GS-GMM): Applicants must enter the information in the Project Abstract Summary screen. Do not upload a document in place of entering the information directly into GS-GMM Project Abstract Screen.

Project Narrative

Applicants applying for awards on a project-by-project basis must submit a Project Statement (also referred to as a Project Narrative or Project Proposal) containing the required elements as outlined below and in the specific format required by AFWA and found on [AFWA's MSCGP website](#). The Project Statement must provide sufficient information that reviewers will use to verify proposed activities and species are eligible for funding and that the proposal project is *substantial in character and design*. A proposed project qualifies as substantial in character and design if it: (a) describes a need consistent with the Wildlife Restoration Act or Sport Fish Restoration Act, (b) states a purpose and sets objectives, both of which are based on the need identified in the proposal, (c) uses a planned approach, appropriate procedures, and accepted principles of fish and wildlife conservation and management, research, or education, and (d) is cost-effective. All information the applicant wants to be considered during the selection process should be presented in the Project Statement. The technical scoring criteria listed in this package reference specific information requirements relative to project scoring. Applicants are encouraged to review the technical scoring criteria in section E1 of this NOFO to ensure proposals appropriately address these scoring criteria. The Project Statement should include the following information:

- **Project Title.** Be descriptive but brief.
- **Organization Type.** Identify the Organization undertaking the project as defined under section C1. Eligible Applicants.

- **Grant Recipient Contacts(s).** You must identify one primary contact and any additional contacts (secondary contacts) who will have access to GrantSolutions if a grant is awarded. You must identify the project's Principal Investigator and Authorizing Official within GrantSolutions.
- **Beneficiary Information.** Choose **one** of the following categories that best describes the geographic scope of the project:
 - Project benefits at least 26 states. List state abbreviations for all states that will benefit.
 - Project benefits a majority (over 50%) of the states in a [U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Region](#). Indicate which region of the Service and list state abbreviations for all states that will benefit in the region.
 - Project benefits a majority (over 50%) of the states belonging to a regional association of state fish and wildlife agencies. Click each of the Associations for the state members: [WAFWA](#), [MAFWA](#), [NEAFWA](#), [SEAFWA](#). Indicate which regional fish and wildlife association will benefit and list state abbreviations for all states that will benefit in the region.
- **Strategic Priority.** Please identify one or more [2025 AFWA MSCGP Strategic Priorities](#) addressed by the project.
- **Need.** Identify and describe the specific concern, problem, or issue to be addressed or opportunity to be leveraged by the project, including the consequences of not addressing the need, and how the proposed project fulfills the purposes of the relevant Acts (Wildlife Restoration Act or Sport Fish Restoration Act).
- **Purpose.** State the purpose of the project based on the statement of need. The purpose states the desired outcome of the proposed project.
- **Objective(s).** State project objectives that support resolving the need. Objectives must be specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and time-bound.
- **Approach(es).** Describe the methods that will be used to achieve each stated objective. Include detail addressing all the following: what activities will be carried out, how, where (include specific locations, maps or GIS data, as applicable), when (specify dates or date ranges), and by whom. Include a description of stakeholder involvement, if applicable. Sufficient information must be provided to support environmental compliance review requirements. Note: Although environmental compliance laws are primarily applicable to projects carried out in the U.S., projects carried out on the high seas are subject to compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and projects outside the U.S. on any property on the UNESCO World Heritage List or the in-country equivalent of the U.S. National Register of Historic Places are subject to compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.
- **Results or Benefits Expected.** Describe the intended results, expected benefits, and outcomes if the project objectives are completed and the identified need is resolved or significantly improved by your project. Benefits can be described regarding the improved state of fish and wildlife resources, users, economy, and/or society once your project has been completed. Address how the project benefits will be continued after project completion beyond the life of the grant by describing the anticipated, extended use/life of the project's results, products, or services after the project is completed and how this extended use/life will be sustained.

- **Deliverables.** Identify and describe deliverables that will be produced by the project. Deliverables may include but are not limited to, designed reports, peer-reviewed publications, photo and video collections, marketing templates, toolkits, and presentations and webinars. Also, describe how deliverables will be disseminated to intended users. All deliverables made available for distribution in digital or hard copy format **must** include acknowledgment of the MSCG federal award number and program logos, which will be provided by the Service if you receive an award.
- **Timeline.** Identify time frames within which key project tasks and activities will be carried out and milestones reached. A timeline may be presented as a list or chart. The timeline will help reviewers determine whether the project Objective(s) and Approach(es) are realistic for the grant period. Grants are traditionally approved for one year of funding. Applicants whose projects are expected to take more than one year to complete are encouraged to describe in their proposals the need and intent to apply for a subsequent year(s) of funding for the project. Subsequent year(s) funding is not guaranteed and will depend on project merits, available funding, and progress made to date upon applying for the subsequent year(s) of funding. Grant recipients will be required to report on progress made in the first year as part of the justification for subsequent year(s) of funding. Under special circumstances, the National Grants Committee coordinated by AFWA will consider recommending multiple years of funding. The criteria for multiyear funding established by the National Grants Committee are included in AFWA's Multiyear Proposal Criteria found on the [AFWA MSCGP website](#). Please note there is a very high bar to justify multiyear funding, and most applicants will be requested to apply for one year of funding at a time.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation.** Describe how you will monitor and evaluate your project's progress according to the proposed timeline. Evaluation of your project will help ensure the funds allocated have been used as intended, and milestones are being met. Significant developments, defined as problems, delays, or adverse conditions that will materially impair the ability to meet the objective(s) of the grant or favorable developments that enable meeting time schedules and objectives sooner or at less cost than anticipated or producing more or different beneficial results than originally planned, must be disclosed and communicated with AFWA and the Service as soon as recognized.
- **Qualifications of Key Personnel.** Provide a description of personnel working on the project, including details about their role, relevant expertise, skill, and significance to project.

SF-424A, Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs

Applicants must complete and submit the SF-424A Budget Information form for Non-Construction Programs or Projects. All required application forms are available with this announcement on Grants.gov or in GrantSolutions. Federal award recipients and subrecipients are subject to Federal award cost principles in Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part 200. Applicants must show funds requested from this Federal program separately from any other Federal sources of funding. In “Section A – Budget Summary” on the SF-424A form enter the funding requested from this Federal program in the first row. Identify any other Federal funding sources and amounts in the required Budget Narrative (see below). In “Section B – Budget Categories” on the SF-424A form enter the funding requested for each Object Class Category. For the SF-424A “Contractual” category enter estimated contractual costs only. Do

not include subaward costs in the “Contractual” category. Enter estimated subaward costs in the SF-424A “Other” category. Provide a separate description and total estimated costs for both contractual and subaward costs in the required Budget Narrative (see below). For more information about subrecipient and contractor determinations, see 2 CFR §200.331. For instructions on completing the SF-424A, please reference: Instructional Video: Completing the SF424A.

Budget Narrative

Applicants must include a budget narrative that describes and justifies requested budget items and costs. In your budget narrative, describe how the SF-424 Budget Information, “Object Class Category” totals were determined. Include a complete description of each cost category. For personnel salary costs, generally describe how estimates were determined by identifying what type of staff will support the project and how much time they will contribute to the project (in hours or workdays). Describe proposed [items of cost that require prior approval](#) under the [Federal award cost principles](#), including any anticipated subawarding, transferring, or contracting out of any work under the award. If known at the time of application, include an estimated number of subawards and the dollar amount anticipated for each subaward. If equipment previously purchased with Federal funds is available for the project, provide a list of that equipment and identify the Federal funding source. Identify any third-party cash or in-kind contributions that a partner or other entity will contribute to the project and describe how the contributions directly and substantively benefit completion of the project. For in-kind contributions, identify the source, the amount, and the valuation methodology used to determine the total value. See [2 CFR §200.306](#) for more information. Please note the prohibitions on certain telecommunications and video surveillance services or equipment in [2 CFR 200.216](#). Recipients may not earn, make, or keep any profit resulting from any financial assistance awards. These costs are not allowable and should not be included in any proposed costs.

The **Budget Narrative and Budget Table** should include the specific content required by AFWA, which can be found at the [AFWA MSCGP website](#).

The Budget Narrative must indicate the total amount of funding requested under each funding source (i.e., T-MSCG SFR, T-MSCG WR, and/or R3-MSCG).

Traditional Multistate Conservation Grants – Sport Fish Restoration (T-MSCG SFR) means the funding portion requested for sport fish restoration projects, including angler and boater R3 projects. Proposals may address Strategic Priorities 1-5.

Traditional Multistate Conservation Grants – Wildlife Restoration (T-MSCG WR) means the funding portion requested for wildlife restoration projects that do not address R3. Proposals may address Strategic Priorities 1-4.

Modern Multistate Conservation Grants – Wildlife Restoration (R3-MSCG WR) means the funding portion requested for Hunting and Target Shooting Sports-related R3 projects under Wildlife Restoration and the Pittman-Robertson Modernization Act. Proposals must address Strategic Priority 5.

In addition to the requirements specified above, the Budget Narrative should include a budget table showing details address all Object Class Categories, and for those categories that do not apply to your project proposal and budget, indicate “not applicable”.

The Budget Narrative should include the following information for these additional items that require prior written approval ([2 CFR 200.407](#)):

Travel: Describe how travel supports the project objectives, including the purpose of travel, including the specific name of the meeting or event that employees are attending. For each travel, describe who is traveling to the meeting or event and their individual roles (e.g., presenting, leading program, facilitating, or participating in the discussion), and describe the breakdown of estimated costs per traveler (e.g., airfare, lodging, meals), as allowable under [2 CFR 200.475 Travel costs](#).

Equipment: Equipment means tangible personal property (including information technology systems) having a useful life of more than one year and a per-unit acquisition cost which equals or exceeds the lesser of the capitalization level established by the non-Federal entity for financial statement purposes, or \$5,000 ([2 CFR 200.1](#)). Grantees and subrecipients must follow the requirements at 2 CFR 200 when acquiring equipment under an award, with emphasis on 200.313, 200.317 through 200.327, and 200.439.

Contractual: Provide a separate description of services and total estimated cost for each *contract* anticipated during the project. Do not describe subawards and subrecipients in this section. See [2 CFR 200.331](#) “Subrecipient and contractor determinations” to learn how to determine the difference.

Subawards: Provide a separate description of services and total estimated cost for each *subaward* anticipated during the project. Do not describe contracts and contractors in this section. See [2 CFR 200.331](#) “Subrecipient and contractor determinations” to learn how to determine the difference. Applicants intending to act as a **fiscal agent** (a pass-through) for another organization must clearly state that they are acting as a fiscal agent and why this role is necessary for the project. Fiscal agents must be clearly identified in the budget and described in the narrative, including which costs (if any) they will charge to the grant. These costs should be described in the narrative and identified in the budget under “OTHER” cost category on the SF-424A.

Participant Support Costs: Participant support costs means direct costs for items such as stipends or subsistence allowances, travel allowances, and registration fees paid to or on behalf of participants or trainees (but not employees) in connection with conferences, or training projects ([2 CFR 200.1](#)). These costs should be described in the narrative and identified in the budget under “OTHER” cost category on the SF-424A. Grantees and subrecipients must follow the requirements at 2 CFR 200 when expending participant support costs under an award, with emphasis on 200.68, 200.75, 200.308, and 200.456.

Program Income: Program income is gross income received by the grantee or subrecipient and earned only as a result of the grant during the grant period. Estimate the amount of program income that the project is likely to generate. If necessary, indicate the method or combination of methods (deduction, addition, or matching) of applying your expected program income ([2 CFR 200.307](#)). The Service’s approval is required for the additive or matching method. Indicate whether the agency wants to treat income that it earns after the grant period as additional funding for purposes consistent with the grant terms and conditions or program regulations.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Per the Financial Assistance Interior Regulation (FAIR), [2 CFR §1402.112](#), applicants must state in their application if any actual or potential conflict of interest exists at the time of submission.

a. *Applicability.*

1. This section intends to ensure that non-Federal entities and their employees take appropriate steps to avoid conflicts of interest in their responsibilities under or with respect to Federal financial assistance agreements.
2. In the procurement of supplies, equipment, construction, and services by recipients and by sub recipients, the conflict of interest provisions in [2 CFR§200.318](#) apply.

b. *Notification.*

1. Non-Federal entities, including applicants for financial assistance awards, must disclose in writing any conflict of interest to the DOI awarding agency or pass-through entity in accordance with [2 CFR §200.112](#).
2. Recipients must establish internal controls that include, at a minimum, procedures to identify, disclose, and mitigate or eliminate identified conflicts of interest. The recipient is responsible for notifying the Financial Assistance Officer in writing of any conflicts of interest that may arise during the life of the award, including those that have been reported by sub recipients.

c. *Restrictions on lobbying.* Non-Federal entities are strictly prohibited from using funds under a grant or cooperative agreement for lobbying activities and must provide the required certifications and disclosures pursuant to [43 CFR §18](#) and [31 USC §1352](#).

d. *Review procedures.* The Financial Assistance Officer will examine each conflict of interest disclosure on the basis of its particular facts and the nature of the proposed grant or cooperative agreement, and will determine whether a significant potential conflict exists and, if it does, develop an appropriate means for resolving it.

Enforcement. Failure to resolve conflicts of interest in a manner that satisfies the government may be cause for termination of the award. Failure to make required disclosures may result in any of the remedies described in [2 CFR §200.339](#), Remedies for noncompliance, including suspension or debarment (see also [2 CFR §180](#)).

Uniform Audit Reporting Statement

All U.S. states, local governments, Indian tribes, institutions of higher education, and non-profit organizations expending \$750,000 USD or more in Federal award funds in the applicant's fiscal year must submit a Single Audit report for that year through the [Federal Audit Clearinghouse's Internet Data Entry System](#), in accordance with 2 CFR 200 subpart F. U.S. state, local government, Indian tribes, institutions of higher education, and non-profit applicants must state if your organization was or was not required to submit a Single Audit report for the most recently closed fiscal year. If your organization was required to submit a Single Audit report for the most recently closed fiscal year, provide the EIN associated with that report and state if it is available through the [Federal Audit Clearinghouse](#) website.

Certification Regarding Lobbying

Applicants requesting more than \$100,000 in Federal funding must certify to the statements in [43CFR Part 18, Appendix A-Certification Regarding Lobbying](#). If this application requests more than \$100,000 in Federal funds, the Authorized Official's signature on the appropriate SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance form also represents the entity's certification of the statements in [43 CFR Part 18, Appendix A](#).

Disclosure of Lobbying Activities

Applicants and recipients must not use any federally appropriated funds (annually appropriated or continuing appropriations) or matching funds under a Federal award to pay any person for lobbying in connection with the award. Lobbying is influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any U.S. agency, a Member of the U.S. Congress, an officer or employee of the U.S. Congress, or an employee of a Member of the U.S. Congress connection with the award. Applicants and recipients must complete and submit the [SF-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities"](#) form if the Federal share of the proposal or award is more than \$100,000 and the applicant or recipient has made or has agreed to make any payment using non-appropriated funds for lobbying in connection with the application or award. The SF-LLL form is available with this Funding Opportunity on Grants.gov. See 43 CFR, Subpart 18.100 for more information on when additional submission of this form is required.

Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement

Applicants must provide a statement indicating if there is any overlap between this Federal application and any other Federal application, or funded project, in regard to activities, costs, or time commitment of key personnel. If no such overlap or duplication exists, state, "There are no overlaps or duplication between this application and any of our other Federal applications or funded projects, including in regard to activities, costs, or time commitment of key personnel". If any such overlap exists, provide a complete description of overlaps or duplications between this proposal and any other federally funded project or application in regard to activities, costs, and time commitment of key personnel, as applicable. Provide a copy of any overlapping or duplicative proposal submitted to any other potential funding entity and identify when that proposal was submitted, to whom (entity name and program), and when you anticipate being notified of their funding decision. When overlap exists, your statement must end with "We understand that if at any time we receive funding from another source that is duplicative of the funding we are requesting from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in this application, we will immediately notify the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service point of contact identified in this Funding Opportunity in writing."

D3. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM)

Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM.gov) Registration:

This requirement does not apply to individuals applying for funds as an individual (i.e., unrelated to any business or nonprofit organization you may own, operate, or work within), or any entity with an exception to bypass SAM.gov registration with prior approval from the funding bureau or office in accordance with bureau or office policy. All other applicants are required to register as a financial assistance recipient in SAM.gov prior to submitting a Federal award application

and obtain a [Unique Entity Identifier \(UEI\)](#). A Federal award may not be made to an applicant that has not completed the SAM.gov registration. If an applicant selected for funding has not completed their SAM.gov registration by the time the program is ready to make an award, the program may determine the applicant is not qualified to receive an award. Federal award recipients must also continue to maintain an active SAM.gov registration with current information through the life of their Federal award(s). Entities already registered in SAM.gov should review their registration to confirm that they are registered as a financial assistance recipient, which requires completion of the SAM.gov “Financial Assistance General Certifications and Representations”. See the “Submission Requirements” section of this document below for more information on SAM.gov registration.

Applicants can register on the [SAM.gov](#) website. The “Help” tab on the website contains User Guides and other information to assist you with registration. Applicants can contact the supporting Federal Service Desk for help registering in SAM. Once registered in SAM, entities must renew and revalidate their SAM registration at least once every 12 months from the date previously registered. Entities are strongly encouraged to revalidate their registration as often as needed to ensure their information is up to date and reflects changes that may have been made to the entity’s IRS information. If applicable, foreign entities who want to receive payment directly to a U.S. bank account must enter and maintain valid, current banking information in SAM.

D4. Submission Dates and Times

Due Date for Applications

06/07/2024

Application Due Date Explanation

You must first submit your **Grant Proposal** comprised of a Project Statement, Budget Narrative and Budget Table (without Federal forms) through the [AFWA MSCGP Portal](#) by **June 7, 2024, no later than 11:59 PM ET**.

If your Grant Proposal is selected for further consideration, **you will be invited via email by early to mid-September 2024 to submit your Complete Grant Application through a Directed Announcement posted in GrantSolutions.gov**. The **Complete Grant Application**, comprised of a Project Statement, Budget Narrative, Budget Table and Federal forms, should be submitted in **GrantSolutions.gov**. Federal forms will be available in GrantSolutions once invitations to apply are sent to selected applicants. Only Grant Proposals invited for further consideration will submit Complete Grant Applications in GrantSolutions. **The deadline for submitting a Complete Grant Application in GrantSolutions will be identified in the Directed Announcement. Proposals should not be submitted in Grants.gov.**

D5. Intergovernmental Review

An intergovernmental review may be required for applications submissions from a U.S. state or local government prior to submission. Applicants must contact their State’s Single Point of Contact (SPOC) to comply with the state’s process under [Executive Order 12372](#). The State

Single Point of Contact list is available on the [OMB Office of Federal Financial Management website](#).

D6. Funding Restrictions

Indirect Costs: Individuals

Individuals applying for and receiving funds separate from a business or non-profit organization they may operate are not eligible to charge indirect costs to their award. If you are an individual applying for funding, you must not include any indirect costs in your proposed budget.

Indirect Costs: Organizations

The Federal awarding agency that provides the largest amount of direct funding to your organization is your cognizant agency for indirect costs, unless otherwise assigned by the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB). If the Department of the Interior (DOI) is your organization's cognizant agency, the Interior Business Center (IBC) will negotiate your indirect cost rate. Contact the IBC by phone 916-930-3803 or using the [IBC Email Submission Form](#). See the [IBC Website](#) for more information.

Organizations must have an active Federal award before they can submit an indirect cost rate proposal to their cognizant agency. Failure to establish an approved rate during the award period renders all costs otherwise allocable as indirect costs unallowable under the award. Recipients may not shift unallowable indirect costs to another Federal award unless specifically authorized to do so by legislation.

Required Indirect Cost Statement to be submitted by Organization:

U.S. state or local government entities receiving more than \$35 million in direct Federal funding must include the following statement in their application and attach a copy of their most recently negotiated rate agreement:

- We are a U.S. state or local government entity receiving more than \$35 million in direct Federal funding. We submit our indirect cost rate proposals to our cognizant agency. Our current indirect cost rate is [insert rate]. Attached is a copy of our most recently negotiated rate agreement/certification.

U.S. state or local government entities receiving \$35 million or less in direct Federal funding must include the applicable statement from this list:

- We are a U.S. state or local government entity receiving \$35 million or less in direct Federal funding. We prepare and retain for audit an indirect cost rate proposal and documentation per 2 CFR 200, Appendix VII. Our current indirect cost rate is [insert rate], which is charged against [insert a complete description of the direct cost base used to distribute indirect costs to the award].
- We are a U.S. state or local government entity receiving \$35 million or less in direct Federal funding. We have not prepared an indirect cost rate proposal and documentation per 2 CFR §200, Appendix VII and elect to charge the de minimis rate of 10% of Modified Total Direct Costs as defined in 2 CFR §200.1. We understand we must use this methodology consistently for all Federal awards until we choose to establish a rate per 2

CFR §200. We understand we must notify the Service in writing if we establish a rate that changes the methodology used to charge indirect costs during the award period. We understand that additional Federal funds may not be available to support an unexpected increase in indirect costs during the project period and that such changes are subject to review, negotiation, and prior approval by the Service.

All other organizations must include the applicable statement from this list and any related documentation in their application. Please note, an organization with a current negotiated (including provisional) rate may not elect to charge the 10% de minimis rate of Modified Total Direct Costs during the period covered by their current negotiated rate.

- We are an organization with a current negotiated indirect cost rate. In the event we receive an award, we will charge indirect costs per our current negotiated rate agreement. Attached is a copy of our current rate agreement.
- We are an organization with a negotiated indirect cost rate that has expired. Attached is copy of our most recently negotiated rate agreement. If we receive an award, we will submit an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency within 90 calendar days after the award date. We understand we must provide the Service a copy of our approved rate agreement before charging indirect costs to the Federal award.
- We are an organization that has never negotiated an indirect cost rate with our cognizant agency. Our indirect cost rate is [insert rate], which is charged against [insert a complete description of the direct cost base used to distribute indirect costs to the award]. If we receive an award, we will submit an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency within 90 calendar days after the award date. We understand we must provide the Service a copy of our approved rate agreement before charging indirect costs to the Federal award.
- We are an organization that does not have a current negotiated (including provisional) rate. In the event an award is made, we elect to charge the de minimis rate of 10% of Modified Total Direct Costs as defined in 2 CFR §200.1. We understand we must use this methodology consistently for all Federal awards until such time as we negotiate a different rate with our cognizant agency. We understand that we must notify the Service in writing if during the award period we establish a rate that changes the methodology used to charge indirect costs to the award. We understand that additional Federal funds may not be available to support an unexpected increase in indirect costs and that such changes are subject to review, negotiation, and prior approval by the Service.
- We are an organization submitting a [insert either “Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit Program” or “Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit Network”] project proposal, which has an indirect cost rate cap of [insert rate; CRU is currently 15%; CESU is currently 17.5%]. In the event we receive an award, we understand that if we have a current negotiated (including provisional) indirect cost rate agreement we must charge the capped indirect cost rate to the same base identified in our approved indirect cost rate agreement. We understand we must request prior approval from the awarding program to use the [2 CFR 200.1 Modified Total Direct Costs](#) (MTDC) base instead of our approved base and that we must submit such requests with our application, including a calculation showing how use of the MTDC base results in an overall reduction in the total indirect costs recovered. If we do not have current negotiated (including provisional) rate, we understand we must charge the capped indirect cost rate against Modified Total Direct

Costs (MTDC) as defined in 2 CFR §200.1. If we have never negotiated a rate, we understand we must use the de minimis rate of 10% of MTDC.

- We are an organization that will charge all costs directly.

Please Note: Cooperative Agreements are not an allowable Funding Instrument Type for MSCGP funding, thus indirect rates governed by agreements under “Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit Programs” or “Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit Networks”, are not applicable.

D7. Other Submission Requirements

GrantSolutions Application Procedures

The Service uses the GrantSolutions system to manage financial assistance applications and awards. Applicants must register in and conduct any subsequent award business with the Service in GrantSolutions. To apply, your organization and organization officials must be established in GrantSolutions. To register your organization in GrantSolutions, send an email to help@grantsolutions.gov. The following information must be included in your email and must match your organization’s SAM.gov entity record:

Subject: New Organization Request

- Organization/Individual Name
- Point of Contact first and last name, email, and phone number
- Organization Type
- SAM.gov Unique Entity Identifier (not required for individuals or Service-waived entities)
- Organization Employer Identification Number (Applicants that are INDIVIDUALS DO NOT include your social security number)
- Address

To establish organization official accounts and user role(s), complete a Recipient User Account Request Form for each official and email it to help@grantsolutions.gov. The GrantSolutions entity user roles are: Authorizing Official (ADO); Principal Investigator/Program Director (PI/PD); Support Specialist (GSS); Financial Officer (FO); and Financial Support Staff (FSS). All roles can do the following: enter applications, amendments, and reports, view awards, and view and create notes. The ADO and the PI/PD roles can also submit applications, amendments, and reports. The FO role can also submit reports. At a minimum, registered organizations must assign someone to the ADO and PI/PD roles. For GrantSolutions registration, submission, and other assistance contact their Customer Support by telephone at 1-866-577-0771 or by email at help@grantsolutions.gov. To access GrantSolutions, users must establish a Login.gov account at <https://login.gov/>. For assistance, contact their customer support by telephone at (844) 875-6446 or submit a request for assistance online at <https://login.gov/contact/>.

To apply through GrantSolutions, log in to GrantSolutions. If this is your first application submission, click on the "Begin an application" link that appears on screen. If you have previously applied, click on the "Funding Opportunity" link in the blue header bar at the top of the screen. Either action should take you to the "Competing Announcements-Application Kits"

list screen. To find this Funding Opportunity, search the list for the Funding Opportunity Number and Title provided on the first page of this document (also provided on the corresponding Grants.gov Grant Opportunity Synopsis screen). To start an application, click on the “Apply” link associated with the correct Funding Opportunity on the list. For more information on how to complete and submit an application, see the [GrantSolutions Training Resources web page](#).

E. Application Review Information

E1. Criteria

Once proposals have been submitted to AFWA, they will be distributed to the respective Technical Review Teams (TRT) based on the Strategic Priority the applicant selected in the AFWA MSCGP Portal. TRTs review and score their assigned Grant Proposals using the **technical scoring criteria** described below. The TRTs are: Conservation and Science TRT, Engagement TRT, Coordination TRT, AFWA ExCom Members for AFWA Priority TRT, and R3 TRT.

Each Grant Proposal will be scored by each TRT reviewer based on 12 technical scoring criteria. Each of the 12 criteria have a point scale ranging from 0 to 5, with 0 representing the lowest point value and 5 representing the highest point value. Each proposal may receive a maximum score of 60 points from each reviewer (e.g., 5 points x 12 criteria = 60 points). Scores will be compiled from each TRT reviewer, an average score will be calculated for each proposal, and then proposals will be ranked within the assigned TRT from highest to lowest score.

The point scale is: 5 = Exceptional; 4= Very Good; 3 = Good; 2 = Fair; 1 = Poor; 0 = Very Poor

Relevance:

1. How adequately does the proposal respond to the strategic priority?
2. How adequately does the proposal incorporate the most relevant science and other best practices needed to address the strategic priority effectively?
3. Is it clear how the deliverables (tools, resources, publications or information) developed in this project will help agencies manage fish, wildlife, or constituent resources?

Project Objectives:

4. Are the project objectives specific, measurable, time-bound, and clearly define what the applicant wants to achieve?

Methods:

5. How well does the Approach section describe the methods that will be used and are the methods described following sound practices?
6. How likely is it that the proposal’s methodology will accomplish the stated goals and objectives within the time frame proposed?

Outcomes and Sustainability:

7. How likely is it that proposed methodology will produce dependable and useful deliverables for state fish and wildlife agencies and their partners?
8. How effectively does proposal describe the project's desired outcomes and are the outcomes realistic and achievable?
9. Will the project have a long-term, sustainable impact, and can that long-term impact be adequately quantified?
10. Is there an expressed commitment to continued distribution and availability of deliverables and project results after the grant ends?

Project Costs:

11. Are the proposed project costs reasonable?

Guidelines:

12. Did the Applicant follow the guidelines for preparing this proposal?

Open-Ended Questions:

Possible overlaps with other projects?

Possible improvements?

Are there major changes the applicant needs to resubmit with the proposal?

Other comments?

E2. Review and Selection Process

Prior to award, the program will review any applicant statement regarding potential overlap or duplication between the project to be funded and any other funded or proposed project in terms of activities, funding, or time commitment of key personnel. Depending on the circumstances, the program may request modification to the application, other pending applications, or an active award, as needed to eliminate any duplication of effort, or the FWS may choose not to fund the selected project.

Prior to award, the program will conduct and document a review of the proposed budget to ensure figures are calculated correctly, proposed costs are clearly linked to the project narrative and seem necessary and reasonable, no obviously unallowable costs are included, costs requiring prior approval are identified and described, indirect cost are applied correctly, and any program match or cost share requirements are addressed.

The program may not make a Federal award to an applicant that has not completed the SAM.gov registration. If an applicant selected for funding has not completed their SAM.gov registration by the time the Bureau is ready to make an award, the program may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive an award. The program can use that determination as a basis for making an award to another applicant.

Prior to award, the program will evaluate the risk posed by applicants as required in [2 CFR §200.206](#). Prior to approving awards for Federal funding in excess of the simplified acquisition threshold (currently \$250,000), the Bureau is required to review and consider any information about or from the applicant found in the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System. The Bureau will consider this information when completing the risk review. The Bureau uses the results of the risk evaluation to establish monitoring plans, recipient reporting frequency requirements, and to determine if one or more of the specific award conditions in [2 CFR §200.208](#) should be applied to the award.

Once proposals have been submitted to AFWA, they will be distributed to the Technical Review Teams, also referred to as TRT or TRTs, including the Conservation and Science TRT, Engagement TRT, Coordination TRT, AFWA ExCom Members for AFWA Priority TRT, and R3 TRT. Each TRT member will review proposals assigned to the TRT, and will score each proposal using the technical scoring criteria. AFWA will compile proposal scores from TRT members. Proposals will be ranked within each TRT based on the proposal's average score.

Each TRT will recommend proposals for selection. The TRTs may request that an applicant adjust funding requested or that requests be assigned to funds different from those requested in the proposal (T-MSCG or R3-MSCG). AFWA reserves the right to make such changes to requested funds. Applicants will be made aware if any proposed changes are suggested for their submitted proposal(s) after the conclusion of the proposal selection process.

The results of the proposals selected by the TRTs will be referred to as the Draft Priority List of Projects. The Draft Priority List of Projects will be forwarded to the AFWA National Grants Committee (NGC), comprised of directors of State fish and wildlife agencies, at least 21 days before the NGC meets at the AFWA Annual Meeting in September 2024. The NGC will review the Draft Priority List of Projects and the associated proposals.

Once the NGC has the Draft Priority List of Projects for review, no additional proposal scoring will take place by the NGC or any other entity. However, the NGC will discuss the proposals at their meeting and will vote to support the Draft Priority List of Projects or vote to revise and finalize the list. The resulting Final Draft Priority List of Projects will be introduced at the annual AFWA Business Meeting that will be held in September 2024. After any discussion or changes, AFWA members will vote on the Final Draft Priority List of Projects. If a majority of the members approve the proposed Final Draft Priority List, it becomes the Priority List of Projects.

The Priority List of Projects will be sent to the Service by October 1, 2024. The Service will undergo internal review of the Priority List of Projects for eligibility, compliance, and budget and Federal form completeness. The final selection of awards by the Service must include only projects on the Priority List of Projects; however, projects may be removed or adjusted by the Service. The Service Director, or their designee, will determine the final approved selection of awards. Once the final selections have been approved by the Service Director, Service representatives will notify the successful applicants of their award(s) and any requirements for receiving the award.

E3. CFR – Regulatory Information

See the [Service’s General Award Terms and Conditions](#) for the general administrative and national policy requirements applicable to Service awards. The Service will communicate any other program- or project-specific special terms and conditions to recipients in their notices of award.

E4. Anticipated Announcement and Federal Award Dates

The Service anticipates the announcement of awards by January 2025.

F. Federal Award Administration Information

F1. Federal Award Notices

The Service Headquarters Office will contact applicants for any additional information required during the review process, including satisfactory completion of compliance requirements. When these requirements are met, GrantSolutions will email the organization’s point of contact requesting that they log onto the system to obtain the Notice of Award letter. This document will provide the details of the terms and conditions of the award. Notice of funding approval is not an approval of pre-award costs.

F2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

See the [DOI Standard Terms and Conditions](#) for the administrative and national policy requirements applicable to DOI awards.

See the [Service’s General Award Terms and Conditions](#) for the general administrative and national policy requirements applicable to Service awards.

Buy America Provision for Infrastructure: Required Use of American Iron, Steel, Manufactured Products, and Construction Materials. Per 2 CFR 184, none of the funds provided under a Federal award may be used for a project for infrastructure unless:

1. All iron and steel used in the project are produced in the United States. This means all manufacturing processes, from the initial melting stage through the application of coatings, occurred in the United States,
2. All manufactured products used in the project are produced in the United States. This means the manufactured product was manufactured in the United States, and the cost of the components of the manufactured product that are mined, produced, or manufactured in the United States is greater than 55 percent of the total cost of all components of the manufactured product, unless another standard for determining the minimum amount of domestic content of the manufactured product has been established under applicable law or regulation, and

3. All construction materials are manufactured in the United States. This means that all manufacturing processes for the construction material occurred in the United States. For construction material standards see 2 CFR §184.6.

The Buy America preference only applies to articles, materials, and supplies consumed in, incorporated into, or affixed to an infrastructure project. As such, it does not apply to tools, equipment, and supplies, such as temporary scaffolding, brought to the construction site and removed at or before the completion of the infrastructure project. Nor does a Buy America preference apply to equipment and furnishings, such as movable chairs, desks, and portable computer equipment, used at or within the finished infrastructure project but are not an integral part of the structure or permanently affixed to the infrastructure project.

Department of the Interior General Applicability Waivers:

There may be instances where a project qualifies, in whole or in part, for an existing Department of the Interior (Department) general applicability waiver. If a project is selected for funding, recipients are responsible for determining if an approved waiver applies to their project. A list of active waivers is available on the [Department's General Applicability Waivers web page](#). For more information on the waiver process and how to request a waiver, see the [Service's General Award Terms and Conditions](#).

F3. Reporting

Financial Reports

All recipients must use the [SF-425, Federal Financial Report](#) form for financial reporting. At a minimum, all recipients must submit a **final** financial report. Final reports are due no later than 120 calendar days after the award period of performance end date or termination date. For awards with periods of performance longer than 12 months, recipients are required to submit **interim** financial reports on the frequency established in the Notice of Award. The only exception to the interim financial reporting requirement is if the recipient is required to use the SF 270/271 to request payment and requests payment at least once annually through the entire award period of performance. We will describe all financial reporting requirements in the Notice of Award. For instructions on completing the SF-425, please reference: [Instructional Video: Completing the Federal Financial Report](#).

Non-Construction Performance Reports

Performance reports must contain a comparison of actual accomplishments with the established goals and objectives of the award; a description of reasons why established goals was not met, if appropriate; and any other pertinent information relevant to the project results. **Final** reports are due no later than 120 calendar days after the award period of performance end date or termination date. For awards with periods of performance longer than 12 months, recipients are required to submit **interim performance** reports on the frequency established in the Notice of Award.

Construction Performance Reports

For construction awards, onsite technical inspections and certified percentage of completion data may be relied on to monitor progress for construction. Additional performance reports for construction activities may be required only when considered necessary. However, awards that

include both construction and non-construction activities require performance reporting for the non-construction activities. See [2 CFR§200.329](#) for more information. The USFWS will describe all performance reporting requirements in the Notice of Award.

Significant Development Reports

Events may occur between the scheduled performance reporting dates which have significant impact upon the supported activity. In such cases, recipients are required to notify the Bureau in writing as soon as the recipient becomes aware of any problems, delays, or adverse conditions that will materially impair the ability to meet the objective of the Federal award. This disclosure must include a statement of any corrective action(s) taken or contemplated, and any assistance needed to resolve the situation. The recipient should also notify the Service in writing of any favorable developments that enable meeting time schedules and objectives sooner or at less cost than anticipated or producing more or different beneficial results than originally planned.

Real Property Reports

Recipients and subrecipients are required to submit status reports on the status of real property acquired under the award in which the Federal government retains an interest. The required frequency of these reports will depend on the anticipated length of the Federal interest period. The Bureau will include recipient-specific real property reporting requirements, including the required standard form or data elements, reporting frequency, and report due dates, in the Notice of Award when applicable.

Conflict of Interest Disclosures

Per 2 CFR §1402.112, non-Federal entities and their employees must take appropriate steps to avoid conflicts of interest in their responsibilities under or with respect to Federal financial assistance agreements. In the procurement of supplies, equipment, construction, and services by recipients and by subrecipients, the provisions in [2 CFR §200.318](#) apply. Non-Federal entities, including applicants for financial assistance awards, must disclose in writing any conflict of interest to the DOI awarding agency or pass-through entity in accordance with [2 CFR §200.112](#). Recipients must establish internal controls that include, at a minimum, procedures to identify, disclose, and mitigate or eliminate identified conflicts of interest. The recipient is responsible for notifying the Service Project Officer identified in their notice of award in writing of any conflicts of interest that may arise during the life of the award, including those that reported by subrecipients. The Service will examine each disclosure to determine whether a significant potential conflict exists and, if it does, work with the applicant or recipient to develop an appropriate resolution. Failure to resolve conflicts of interest in a manner that satisfies the government may be cause for termination of the award.

Other Mandatory Disclosures

The Non-Federal entity or applicant for a Federal award must disclose, in a timely manner, in writing to the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity all violations of Federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the Federal award. Non-Federal entities that receive a Federal award including the terms and conditions outlined in 2 CFR 200, Appendix XII—Award Term and Condition for Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters are required to report certain civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings to SAM. Failure to make required disclosures can result in any of the remedies for noncompliance described in 2 CFR §200.339, including suspension or debarment.

Reporting Matters Related to Recipient Integrity and Performance

If the total value of your currently active grants, cooperative agreements, and procurement contracts from all Federal awarding agencies exceeds \$10,000,000 for any period of time during the period of performance of this Federal award, then you as the recipient during that period of time must maintain the currency of information reported to the [System for Award Management](#) that is made available in the designated integrity and performance system about civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings in accordance with [Appendix XII to 2 CFR 200](#).

G. Federal Awarding Agency Contact(s)

G1. Program Technical Contact

For **programmatic technical assistance**, contact:

First and Last Name:

Karen Bennett

Telephone:

706-615-3226

Email:

karen_bennett@fws.gov

G2. Program Administration

For **program administration assistance**, contact:

First and Last Name:

Karen Bennett

Telephone:

706-615-3226

Email:

karen_bennett@fws.gov

G3. Application System Technical Support

For **Grants.gov technical registration and submission, downloading forms and application packages**, contact:

Grants.gov Customer Support

Numeric Input Field: 1-800-518-4726

Support@grants.gov

For **GrantSolutions technical registration, submission, and other assistance contact**:

GrantSolutions Customer Support

1-866-577-0771

Help@grantsolutions.gov

H. Other Information

Payments

Domestic recipients are required to register in and receive payment through the U.S. Treasury's Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP), unless approved for a waiver by the Service program. Foreign recipients receiving funds to a final destination bank outside the U.S. are required to receive payment through the U.S. Treasury's International Treasury Services (ITS) System. Foreign recipients receiving funds to a final destination bank in the U.S. are required to enter and maintain current banking details in their SAM.gov entity profile and receive payment through the Automated Clearing House network by electronic funds transfer (EFT). The Bureau will include recipient-specific instructions on how to request payment, including identification of any additional information required and where to submit payment requests, as applicable, in all Notices of Award.

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT:

OMB Control Number: 1018-0100

Per the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA; 44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) collects information in accordance with program authorizing legislation to conduct a review and select projects for funding and, if awarded, to evaluate performance. Your response is required to obtain or retain a benefit. We may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Privacy Act Statement: This information collection is authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5701 et seq. The information provided will be used to administer all Service financial assistance programs and activities including to: (1) determine eligibility under the authorizing legislation and applicable program regulations; (2) determine allowability of major cost items under the Cost Principles at 2 CFR 200; (3) select those projects that will provide the highest return on the Federal investment; and (4) assist in compliance with laws, as applicable, such as the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970. This information may be shared in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 and the routine uses listed in INTERIOR/DOI-89, Grants and Cooperative Agreements: FBMS - 73 FR 43775 (July 28, 2008). Furnishing this information is voluntary; however, failure to provide all requested information may prevent the Service from awarding funds.

Estimated Burden Statement: We estimate that it will take you on average about 40 hours to complete an initial application, about 3 hours to revise the terms of an award, and about 8 hours per report to prepare and submit financial and performance reports, including time to maintain records and gather information. Actual times for these activities will vary depending on program-specific requirements. Direct comments regarding the burden estimates or any other aspect of the specific forms to the Service Information Clearance Officer, USFWS, U.S. Department of the Interior, 5275 Leesburg Pike, MS: PRB (JAO/3W), Falls Church, VA 22041-3803, or by email to Info_Coll@fws.gov.