



2024 Multistate Conservation Grant Program Announcement

****Submission Deadline: 5:00 pm Eastern Time on June 15th, 2023 ****

Full Grant Proposals

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Submission Instructions

You must submit your proposal through AFWA Portal at <https://afwamscgp.smapply.io/> by June 15th, 2023. It allows for AFWA review. **No proposals should be submitted through GrantSolutions at this point.**

If notified by August 15th, you must submit the Full Grant Proposals (please use the template), including all required federal forms, through www.GrantSolutions.gov by September 5th, 2023, at 5:00 PM EST. You will not be able to enter the grant after that. We (AFWA) do not manage the deadline for GrantSolutions, so calling or emailing us about your delays will not help. You have three weeks to update (if required) the Full Grant Proposal and complete all required federal forms, do not wait until the last minute and get into issues. Please make sure your organization has an account. – Allows for USFWS to review, award, and close the grant. Training will be available if this is your first time receiving a grant and you have ever used GrantSolutions/TRACS.

Please review the application carefully before submitting it. Once you submit, you can't go back to make changes!

Format - The Full Grant Proposal consists of the following:

Part I: Grant Proposal (submitted in AFWA Portal by June 15th)

1. Project Narrative
2. Budget
3. Qualifications (Limit – one paragraph per individual)

Part II: Required Federal Forms (submitted in AFWA portal and GrantSolutions-including the Grant Proposal) by September 5th)

1. Application for Federal Assistance (SF 424)
 2. Budget Information for Non-Construction Program (SF 424-A)
 3. NICRA (Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement) if indirect is requested in the budget.
 4. Organization's Required Statements
- **Deadline: Grant Proposals must be submitted in AFWA Portal no later than 5:00 pm EST on June 15th, 2023, and GrantSolutions by September 5th, 2023.**

Checklist before submitting your Full Grant Proposal (not before August 15th):

1. **Obtain Unique Entity Identifier:** A UEI is a unique, 9-digit number that verifies the existence of a business entity worldwide. Business entities with multiple physical locations may have more than one UEI number. Presently, the UEI is provided by Dun & Bradstreet and is commonly referred to as a DUNS number. You can obtain a DUNS number, free of charge, by going to the Duns and Bradstreet website. A DUNS number may be issued as rapidly as 1-2 days if initiated via their online portal. A DUNS number is required before an entity registers in SAM since one of the data fields needed is the entity's DUNS number.
2. **Register in SAM:** Unless you are waived, you must be registered in SAM before submitting a formal application for Federal funding to a Federal awarding agency. Once you have an active SAM registration, recipients must update their information in SAM on at least an annual basis to maintain the active registration. If you let your SAM registration expire, the FWS will not be able to make any financial amendments to your approved grant while your registration is expired. Information that you will need to register in SAM includes: (1) DUNS; (2) Legal business name; (3) Address; (4) Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)
3. **Enroll in ASAP:** Applicants who receive a Federal grant will be required to enroll in the U.S. Treasury's Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP) to receive payments under their grant. If you have never enrolled in ASAP or have never been enrolled in ASAP under an FWS grant, then WSFR staff will facilitate your enrollment. Please fill out sections 1-3 of the ASAP enrollment form (see AFWA's site) and submit it within your Federal application package. If your organization is awarded by the selection process and approved by WSFR, WSFR will initiate your enrollment into the ASAP payment system while processing your proposal. ASAP will notify your organization's POC on how to complete the enrollment process, including entering your organization's banking information into the system. Once your enrollment is complete, as you incur eligible and allowable costs under the grant, the person you designate with the "Payment Requestor" role can request payments as frequently as you want. Funds are typically deposited electronically into your account the next business day. IMPORTANT, recipients must not draw down all their funds immediately on a grant. Payments must minimize the time between requesting funds and your subsequent disbursement of those funds to pay for allowable costs or on a reimbursement basis.
4. **Register in GrantSolutions:** Once notified, complete steps 4 and 5. The financial assistance software platform allows Federal agencies to manage grants throughout the entire award life cycle. Go [HERE](#)
5. **Register in TRACS:** <https://tracs.fws.gov/> All TRACS users need to undergo training.

INSTRUCTIONS (Full Grant Proposal)

2024 Multistate Conservation Grant Program

I. Proposal Details

1. Descriptive Title:	2024 MSCGP – Write the proposal title		
2. Recipient Location (State/Territory):			
3. Grant Start Date:	January 1 st , 2024	4. Grant End Date:	December 31 st , 2024

5. **Project Abstract Summary/Public Description:** The Summary is the first aspect of your hard work that the National Grants Committee members will see and, if not drafted carefully, maybe the last. The summary is the first opportunity to outline your project and impress your proposal's importance to your reviewers. Be sure and indicate the local need for said project, alternatives in the absence of federal support, as well as the benefits of the project both before and after its implementation. The consequences of the proposal after funds are allocated should undoubtedly be highlighted, essentially ensuring that the National Grants Committee members reviewing the proposal will see, from the first page, the benefits of allocating funds.
6. **Grant Recipient Contact(s)** - list full name, title (optional), phone number, email address, and organization name
- Primary Principal Investigator of the recipient Organization:
 - Primary Authorizing Official of the recipient Organization:

II. Program(s)

1. Grant program(s) associated with this grant proposal (check all that apply)

- ☐ Modern Multistate Conservation Program - Wildlife Restoration (R3 MSCGP)
☐ Traditional Multistate Conservation Program - Sport Fish Restoration (T-MSCGP)
☐ Traditional Multistate Conservation Program - Wildlife Restoration (T-MSCGP)

III. Additional Information

1. **Organization Type** (check one):
- ☐ 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
☐ 00 – State governments
☐ 06 – Public and State controlled institutions of higher education
☐ The United States Fish and Wildlife Service, or a State or group of States
2. **Beneficiary Information.** Please choose one of the following categories that best describes the geographic scope of the project:
- Project benefits in at least 26 states. Using states' abbreviations, please list all states that will benefit.
 - Project benefits a majority (over 50%) of the States in a [U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Region](#) that will benefit. List the States in each Region that will benefit (use State abbreviations).
 - 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](#). Please indicate the regional fish and wildlife association that will benefit and list the States in each region that will benefit (use State abbreviations).

3. The Strategic Priority Addressed – [Please refer to 2024 Strategic Priorities](#)

4. Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement (check one)

- ☐ Not Applicable
- ☐ If applicable, enter the statement below

PROJECT STATEMENT

The project statement is one of the required documents (perhaps the most crucial document) to be included in an application for Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration program funding. Other WSFR-administered programs also require a project statement but sometimes refer to it by other means (i.e., project narrative or proposal). The project statement is the heart and soul of your grant application. It helps to identify a conservation issue, problem, or opportunity that must be addressed, as well as the actions that your agency/organization will implement to help resolve the issue, problem, or opportunity. A project statement is required for each specific project funded in a grant. There is no standard format that all applicants must use for their project statements. However, certain required elements must be included in a complete project statement. Project statements generated in TRACS contain the required details of the Project Statement per 50 CFR 80.82.

I. General Info

1. Project Statement Title	<input type="checkbox"/> Copy Grant Title, or <input type="checkbox"/> Enter the unique project statement title below:
2. Geographic Location:	
3. TRACS Group - Select the group responsible for the grant proposal at the lowest level (e.g., the state agency and/or division or sub-group):	

4. Point of Contact

- GrantSolutions – you can identify one (primary) or two contacts (secondary) who have or will have access to GrantSolutions if the grant is awarded.
 - 1. **Primary Principle Investigator** of the recipient Organization:
 - 2. **Primary Authorizing Official** of the recipient Organization:
- TRACS (identify a single point of contact for grant activities) - list full name, title (optional), phone number, email address, and organization name: Identify the single primary point of contact for the grant activities in this performance report (this may be the same person listed as the grant recipient in the Grant Proposal or maybe another staff member). Enter the search parameters by First and Last Name or Email Address or click Add Contact if needed.

II. Need & Purpose

1. **Need** (Identifying the Issue) This should be a clear and concise account of the problems or issues that need to be addressed and which were the foundation for applying for this specific grant in the first place. The important aspect is presenting the data about your proposal to clarify a need only grant funding can relieve. Applicants will want to note how the organization or individual noticed the problem or issue, the nature of the problem, what is currently being done, and the purpose for developing the proposal. Also, include the remaining (if limited) alternatives if funds are not allocated and what will happen if the project or problem is not addressed.

By a detailed chronicle of the problem or need, the facts, the solution, and the overall benefits of your solution, along with the unappealing alternatives, the Problem Statement can effectively make a case for why the proposed grant funds are a necessity. Explain how this project addresses the desired outcomes described in the Strategic Priority under which this proposal was submitted.

2. **Purpose:** The Purpose states the project's desired outcome by describing the benefits to users, habitat, and/or species and the expected results/outcomes from resolving a conservation need.

III. Objectives

TRACS provides grant applicants/recipients with a list of "standard objectives" that streamline performance reporting, increase transparency and demonstrate national accomplishments of the WSFR-administered financial assistance programs. TRACS formatted objectives consist of four components: Approach, Strategy, Objective, and Activity. The end result is an objective that is specific, measurable, time-bound, and clearly defines what you want to achieve.

See the Matrix and Fact Sheets on the WSFR Training Portal (TRACS Training menu > [Job Aids and Resources](#) page):

1. **Objective 1 Title** (e.g., Conduct 5 Leadership Training to 35 States' technical staff by December 31st, 2022). Objectives state the project's desired outcomes and are meant to be realistic targets or benchmarks that, if achieved, will resolve the need. Refer to the TRACS Performance Matrix and related tools for the best practice format for each objective title.
2. Select the **Standard Strategy for this objective** (pick one): A strategy is a high-level category used to define the type of work. Each Strategy has one or more standard objectives, a target date, and one or more activity tags that further define the objective. For some activities, the system asks for the target species or target habitat type(s), real property, and/or facilities information.
 - ☐ Coordination and Administration
 - ☐ Direct Habitat and Species Management
 - ☐ Environmental Review
 - ☐ Facilities/Areas Construction, Renovation, or Acquisition
 - ☐ Facilities/Areas O&M
 - ☐ Outreach and Communications
 - ☐ Planning
 - ☐ Research, Survey, Data Collection, and Analysis
 - ☐ Stakeholder Involvement
 - ☐ Technical Assistance
 - ☐ Training and Education
3. Select the Standard Objective by Strategy: Select a predefined Objective from the drop-down list based on your chosen strategy.
4. Target Date: The target date is the deadline when you plan to complete this objective and must match the grant end date or be within the overall grant start and end dates. The target date usually matches the grant end date.
5. Does this objective pertain to R3 (Recruitment, Retention, and Reactivation)?
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
6. List activities with a unit of measurement for tag one and list any tag 2s:
Activity = An activity further defines the intent of the objective. For each standard objective, a user must select one or more activities. All objectives require selecting at least one activity tag 1, and the unit of measure

is entered at this level. Some activities also require more specific information with an activity tag 2. For example, with the objective of “conduct training events,” activity tag 1 defines the type of training events as “hunter education.” TRACS will also ask the user to define further what type(s) of hunter education, such as firearms hunting and/or archery hunting.

7. **Principal Investigator (if applicable)** - list full name, title (optional), phone number, email address, and organization name: The Principal Investigator (PI) is the lead researcher for a research-based project, such as a field or laboratory study. Enter the search parameters by First and Last Name or Email Address or click Add Contact if needed.
8. List **Target Species and/or Habitat Types** (if applicable): Some activities have additional requirements, such as identifying target species and habitat(s). For more information on how to enter species and habitat(s), see “Course 5: Species and Habitat”.
9. **Approach Narrative:** The approach describes the specific methods necessary to accomplish the objective. The approach answers the question of “how” the objective will be accomplished by describing the actual work that will be done. This approach should include adequate detail to demonstrate sound design, appropriate procedures, and accepted fish and wildlife conservation, ten management or research principles. **A separate approach is required for each objective in TRACS (and encompasses all activities within that objective).**

Fill out Section III: Objectives and the associated questions for each additional objective (copy and paste the objectives section again here, as many times as needed to capture each objective).

IV. Results & Benefits

Describe the deliverables, including the evaluation results, how the results will be disseminated to the intended users, and the benefits of each deliverable. As best as possible, the benefits should be expressed in measurable outcomes when possible (i.e., the number of participants likely to continue the learned outdoor activity and purchase licenses in the future).

- Proposals should address in specific detail how grant products/materials/programs will be used, by whom, and the initial and continuing benefits beyond the life of the grant.
- Clearly describe the anticipated, extended use/life of the project’s results/products / services after the project is completed and how this extended use/life will be accomplished.

V. Budget Narrative

Budget Narrative: Applicants must include a budget narrative describing and justifies requested items and costs. For **personnel salary costs**, estimates were generally 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 any item of the cost that requires **prior approval** under the Federal cost principles, including any anticipated sub-awarding, transferring, or contracting out of any work under the award. See 2 CFR 200.407 “Prior written approval (prior approval)” for more information.

Provide a separate description and total estimated **contractual and sub-award costs**. Please note within your narrative the total costs budgeted to sub-recipients or contractors, how many sub-recipients or contractors are planned to work on your project, and how much each will be awarded for their part of the project. 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 it is necessary. Fiscal agents must clearly show in the budget what costs (if any) they charge for the grant.

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 the 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. The Department of the Interior's Unmanned Aircraft web page lists approved unmanned aircraft and related equipment and software.

Program Income: Program income is gross income received by the grantee or sub-recipient and earned only due to the grant during the grant period. Estimate the amount of program income that the project is likely to generate. Indicate the method or combination (deduction, addition, or matching) of applying your expected program income if necessary. The Service's approval is required for the additive or matching method. Please indicate whether the agency wants to treat income it earns after the grant period as additional funding for purposes consistent with the grant terms and conditions or program regulations.

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 that equals or exceeds the lesser of the capitalization level established by the non-Federal entity for financial statement purposes or \$5,000 (see 2 CFR 200.1 Equipment).

If equipment previously purchased with Federal funds is available for the project, provide a list of that equipment and identify the Federal funding source.

Grantees and sub-recipients must follow the requirements at 2 CFR 200 when acquiring equipment under an award, emphasizing 200.313, 200.317 through 200.327, and 200.439. Useful life: Propose a useful life for each capital improvement that costs at least \$25,000 to build, acquire, or install (see 50 CFR 80.2), and reference the method used to determine the useful life of a capital improvement with a value greater than \$100,000 (see 50 CFR 80.82(c)(5).)

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 (see 2 CFR 200.1). These costs should be described in the narrative and identified in the budget under the "OTHER" cost category. Grantees and sub-recipients must follow the requirements at 2 CFR 200 when expending participant support costs under an award, emphasizing 200.68, 200.75, 200.308, and 200.456.

Useful Life Narrative: Useful life is the total number of years and months during which federally funded structures and capital improvements can fulfill their intended purpose with adequate, routine maintenance. Propose a useful life for each capital improvement, and reference the method used to determine the useful life of a capital improvement. Please note that useful life determinations apply to capital improvements, not equipment. For Wildlife Restoration funds (also known as Pittman-Robertson or PR funds) and Sport Fish Restoration funds (also known as Dingell-Johnson or DJ funds), capital improvements mean 1. A structure that costs at least \$25,000 to build, acquire, or install; or the alteration or repair of a structure or the replacement of a structural component if it increases the structure's useful life by at least ten years or its market value by at least \$25,000. 2. An agency may use its definition of capital improvement if it includes all capital improvements defined here. (50 CFR 80.2) Other WSFR-administered programs may have their specific definition for capital improvements.

VI. Additional Info

1. Timeline

2. Monitoring and Evaluation

Most federal agencies that distribute grants require some project or process of evaluation among the grantees to ensure the funds allocated have been used as intended and milestones are being met. As such, it is beneficial to

both the reviewers and the applicants to include a proposed evaluation process to showcase how the project will be reviewed during and after its completion.

The proposal should include monitoring and evaluation processes to assess and measure the project's effectiveness in accomplishing the goals and objectives described earlier.

The original evaluation design may be altered as the project progresses, but having a solid background of how an evaluation will take place is helpful, as well as an idea of how the grant recipient will monitor the effectiveness of the project after the grant has ended.

Sample Budget Outline for Multistate Conservation Grant Proposals

PLEASE NOTE: This table represents the Association's preferred budget format. However, applicants are not required to use it. If an applicant wishes to use it, they may modify it to meet their needs as long as they include the budget categories required by the Federal Forms.

How to calculate your Modified Total Direct Costs?

Please refer to 2 CFR 200 Appendixes depending on your status:

States, Local Governments, and Indian Tribes - Appendix VII to 2 CFR 200

Universities and Institutions of Higher Education - Appendix III to 2 CFR 200

Nonprofit Organizations - Appendix IV to 2 CFR 200

Expenses	2024 MSCGP	Modified Total Direct Cost (MTDC)
Personnel		
Fringe (__ %)		
Travel		
Supplies		
Equipment		
***Contract (Total)		
1. Contract 1 - \$ _____		
2. Contract 2 - \$ _____		
3. Contract 3 - \$ _____		
Other (Specify)		
Participants support costs (travel,		
Etc.		
Subawards		
1. Subaward 1		
2. Subaward 2		
3. Subawards 3		
Subtotal		
Total Direct Costs		
Indirect Costs*(__ % MTDC) (Note: 20% voluntarily cap for MSCGP request)		
Total Expenses		

Funding Source **SFR:** _____\$ **WR:** T _____\$ **R3** _____\$

SFR \$ - Funding portion requested for sportfishing restoration (DJ) projects, including R3 anglers and boaters' grants (your grant may address Priority 1-6), e.g., research projects, boating access development, aquatic education, fish and wildlife habitat improvements, and other purposes consistent with the enabling legislation

\$ WR:

T (Traditional) - Funding portion requested for wildlife restoration (PR) grants that don't address R3 projects (Your donation may address Strategic Priority 1-5), e.g., research projects, hunter safety and education, wildlife habitat improvements, and other purposes consistent with the enabling legislation.

R3 \$ - Funding portion requested for R3 (PR only) grants for Wildlife Restoration projects (Hunting and Shooting Sports related) from the recent PR Modernization act (your budget may address Strategic Priority 6) - can only use the funds for making hunter recruitment and recreational shooter recruitment projects that promote a national hunting and shooting sports recruitment program, including related communication and outreach activities.

Qualifications of Key Personnel

(Limit - one paragraph per individual or if attaching resumes or CVs,
maximum one page per individual)

Instructions: Succinctly describe the qualifications of key personnel working on the project. A one-paragraph summary per person is ideal.

SF-424A, Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (Only if you are selected by AFWA Technical Review Teams to be considered for funding)

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 in GrantSolutions. Federal award recipients and sub-recipients 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 funding sources. 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 the SF-424A "Contractual" category total, do not combine estimated sub-awards and contractual costs. Use the "Contractual" category to reflect estimated contractual costs only. Enter estimated sub-award costs in the SF-424A "Other" category. Provide a separate description and total estimated contractual and sub-award costs in the required Budget Narrative (see below).

