

# Welcome to the MSCGP Applicant Information Session!

- **Session Length:** 70 - 90 minutes followed by Q&A session
- This session is being recorded; the recording will be sent out to all who registered after the event
- Submit all questions via the chat during the presentation
- Moderator will compile and share chat questions with presenters
- At the start of the Q&A session, we will unlock the microphones for live questions
- Questions not addressed during the session will be answered afterward and shared along with the PowerPoint
- All referenced links and resources will be included in the PowerPoint

# Multistate Conservation Grant Program



August 7, 2025



This Project was funded by Multistate Conservation Grant F25AP00156, a program funded from the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program, and jointly managed by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.



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# Multistate Conservation Grant Program:

## Training Overview

- ❑ Multistate Conservation Grant Program (MSCGP) Background
  - Purpose & Administration
  - Funding Source
  - Quick Facts
- ❑ 2026 MSCGP Process
  - Eligibility
  - Elements of the Proposal
  - Project Statement Requirements
  - Budget Requirements & Tips
  - Application Review Process
  - Resources for Applicants
- ❑ Q&A





Multistate Conservation  
Grant Program (MSCGP):

## Purpose

*“To fund 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.”*



# Multistate Conservation Grant Program

Established in 2000 under the **Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act** - "Traditional" Multistate Conservation Grant Program:

- T-MSCGP: Up to \$6 million available annually the program:
  - \$3 million in Wildlife Restoration funds annually
  - \$3 million in Sport Fish Restoration funds annually
- For wildlife and sport fish conservation, restoration and management projects, and projects that provide public use and benefit from these resources, including R3.



In 2019, the **Modernizing Pittman-Robertson Fund for Tomorrow's Needs Act** authorized additional \$5M for Hunter and Target Shooter "Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation" ("R3"):

- R3-MSCGP: \$5 million in Wildlife Restoration funds annually
- For projects that promote national hunting and target shooting "R3" programs





# Multistate Conservation Grant Program: Annual Source of Funding

## Wildlife Restoration Act



Federal excise tax paid by manufacturers on:

- firearms
- ammunition
- archery equipment

Initial Deductions

Traditional Multistate Conservation Grant Program

\$3 million

R3 Multistate Conservation Grant Program

\$5 million

## Sport Fish Restoration Act



Federal excise tax from:

- manufacturers of fishing equipment
- a portion of motorboat fuel tax
- import duties on tackle and boats

Initial Deductions

Traditional Multistate Conservation Grant Program

\$3 million

Please visit for more information:  
<https://partnerwithapayer.org/>

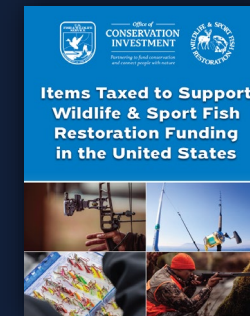
Partner With A Payer



Office of  
**CONSERVATION INVESTMENT**  
Partnering to fund conservation and connect people with nature



Partnering to fund conservation and connect people with nature





# MSCGP Program Administration

The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) cooperatively administer the MSCGP process.

AFWA develops/updates **Strategic Priorities** in consultation with state agencies, conservation partners, and industries.



USFWS publishes the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).



AFWA solicits grant proposals that address the annual **Strategic Priorities** and selects projects that best address the priorities.



AFWA then submits a recommended list of **Priority Projects** to the USFWS for Director's approval.



USFWS completes review and approval of MSCGP grant applications, issues awards, and manages and monitors the grant awards.





# Multistate Conservation Grant Program: Quick Facts

- Since 2000, over **650 grants** have been awarded through MSCGP, which adds up to about \$170M.
- Approx. **45-55 grants** have been awarded annually since R3-MSCGP funds were added in 2020.
- Typical range of grant funds awarded per grant:
  - T-MSCGP: \$50,000 – \$ 350,000
  - R3-MSCGP: \$100,000 – \$ 1,000,000
- 100% Federal Funds – **no matching/cost-sharing funds required!**
- **Performance Period** is January 1 - December 31 (with few exceptions).

# Multiyear Funding

Multi-year proposals will be considered if there is a demonstrated and clearly articulated adherence to the criteria set by National Grants Committee

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***Inability to complete*** the outlined work within an annual funding cycle

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Ongoing and continuous efforts for which ***permanent dedicated capacity is needed***

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Merits of the project are broadly supported by technical review teams and the National Grants Committee

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Proposals shall not request funding more than five years in duration

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Annual funding amounts obligated to each year will ***not be more than 25%*** of total fund availability by category (WR, SFR, R3) so that adequate funds remain for new proposals in subsequent years.

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***Previously awarded multi-year obligations will be included*** as part of the 25% calculation for each year's determination of multi-year fund availability.

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# 2026 Multistate Conservation Grants:

# Application Requirements & Process



Office of  
**CONSERVATION  
INVESTMENT**



# Resources for Eligibility, Allowable Costs and Application Content:

- [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\) F26AS00006](#)
- 2 CFR 200 Uniform Guidance for Federal Awards, [Subpart E – Cost Principles](#)
- [AFWA MSCGP Website](#)
  - 2026 Strategic Priorities
  - AFWA Grant Proposal Guidelines
  - Templates for:
    - ✓ Project Statement
    - ✓ Budget Narrative and Table
    - ✓ Required Statements – Certifications, Single Audit, Conflict of Interest, and Overlap and Duplication
  - Link to [AFWA Portal](#) for submitting proposals and budgets by 11:59 pm ET September 22, 2025.





# Eligibility

## Applicants:

- A State or a group of States;
- Nonprofit organizations;
- Public Institutions of higher education (IHE); and
- USFWS, to carry out the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation.

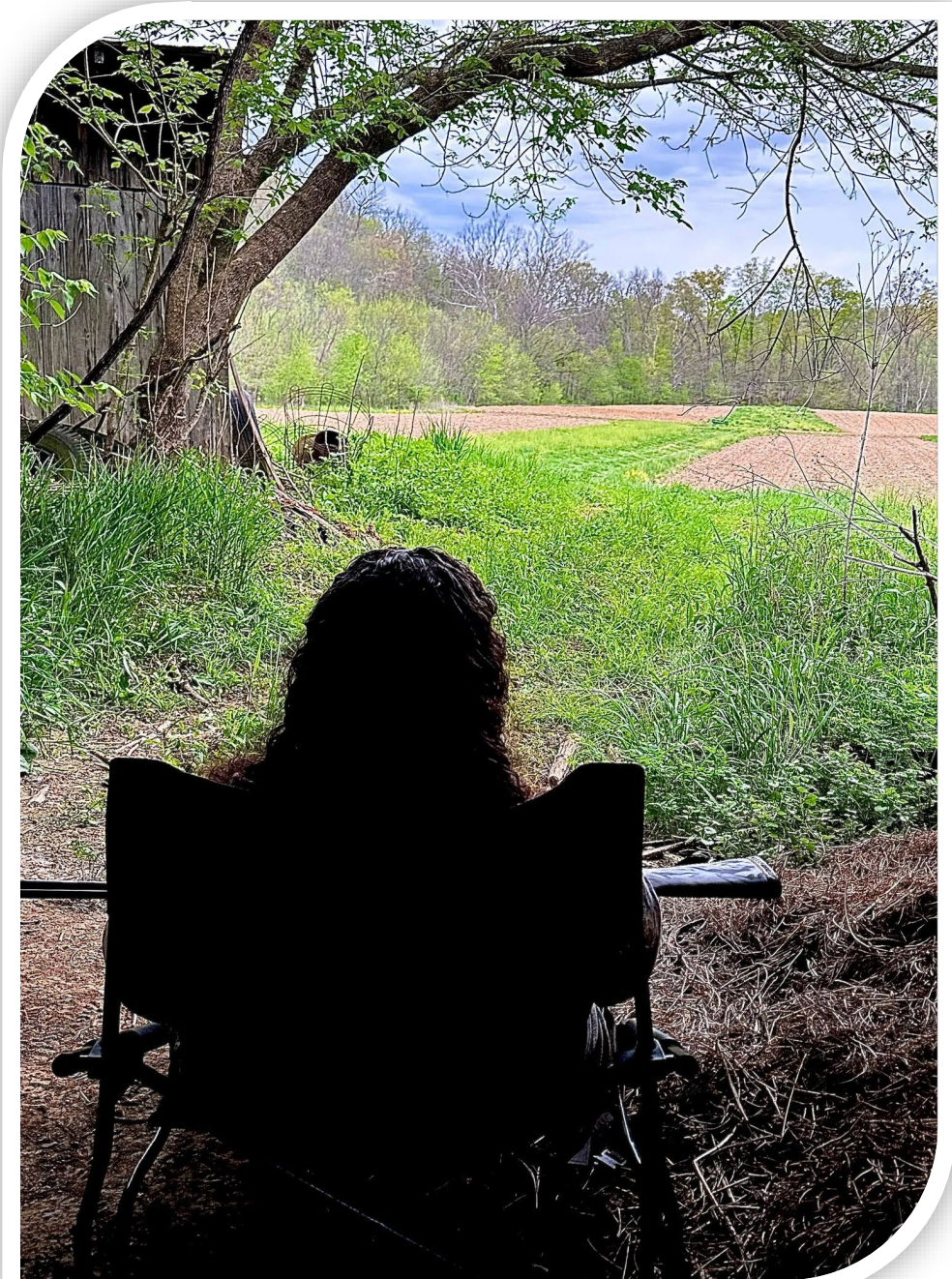
## Project Must Benefit:

- At least 26 States; or
- A majority (over 50%) of the States in a USFWS Region; or
- A majority of the States in an AFWA Regional Association.

**Project must address one of MSCGP Strategic Priorities**

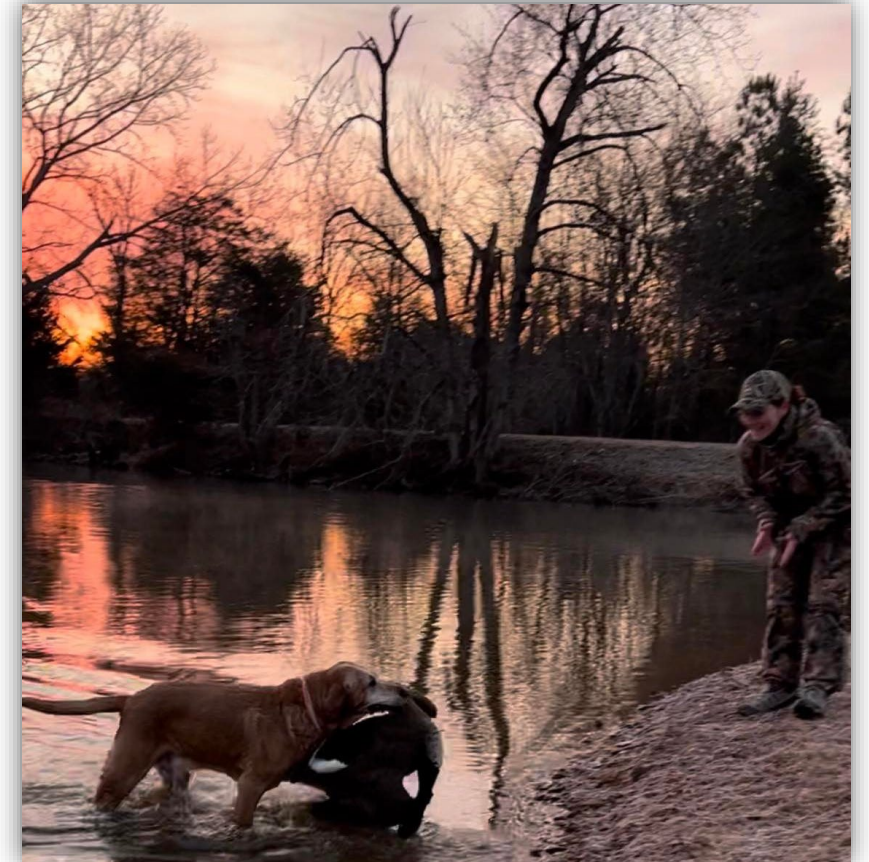
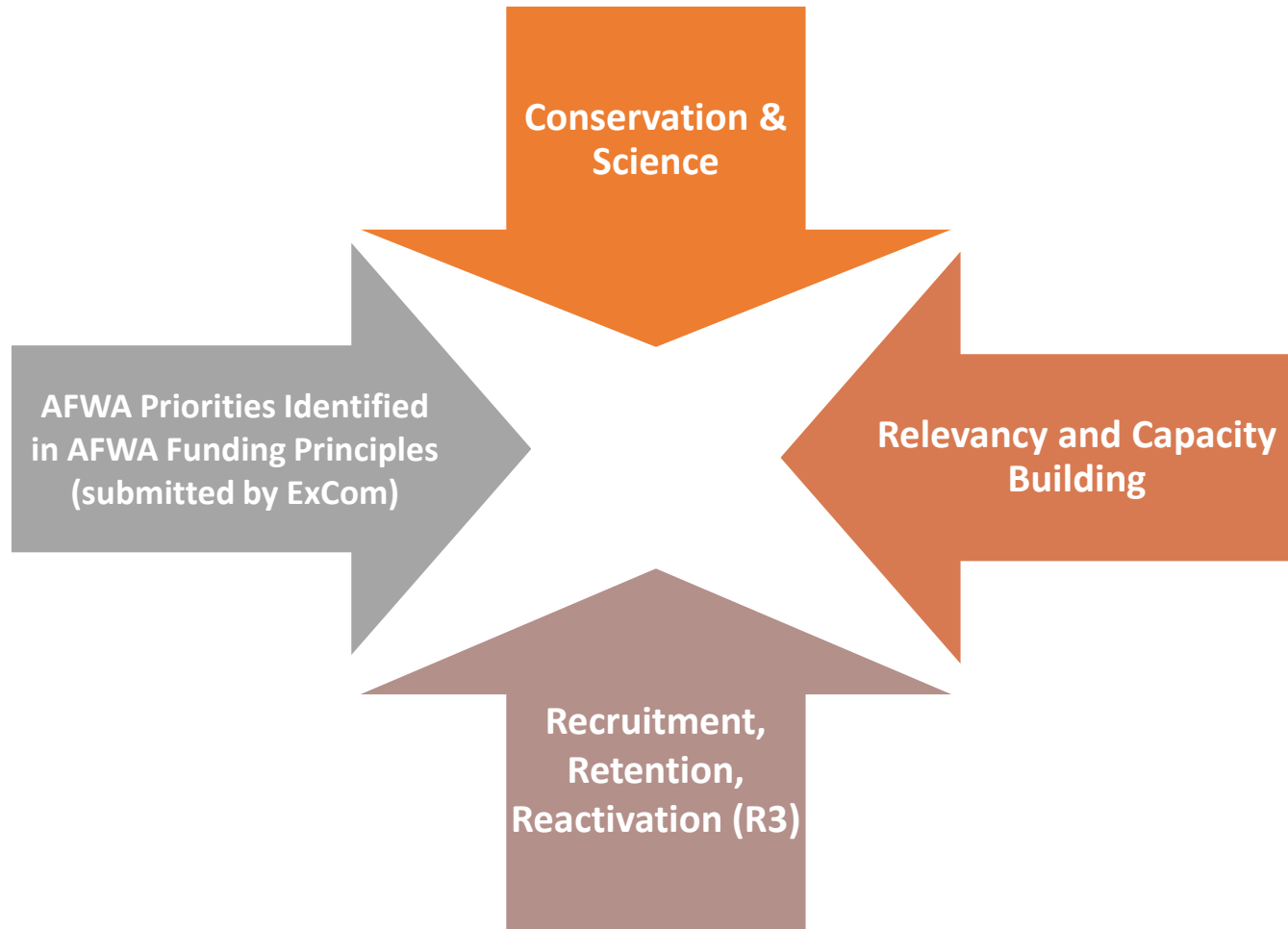
**Species and Activity Eligibility**

**Project must be on the Priority List of Projects that AFWA submits to USFWS for review and approval.**





# Multistate Strategic Priorities



# 2026 Strategic Priorities: AFWA Multistate Conservation Grant Program Website

## FULL GRANT PROPOSALS

- 2026 MSCGP Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
- MSCGP Multiyear Proposals Criteria
- Scoring Criteria
- 2026 MSCGP Strategic Priorities
- 2026 Full Grant Proposal Guidelines
- 2026 Full Grant Proposals Template - Project Statement
- 2026 Full Grant Proposal Template - Budget Narrative and Table
- Required Statements



### 1. Conservation & Science

- A. Landscape Conservation and Habitat Connectivity
- B. Fish and Wildlife Health
- C. Human Dimensions & Conservation Social Science
- D. Invasive Species
- E. Emerging Technologies for fish and wildlife management

### 2. Relevancy and Capacity Building

- A. Expanding Relevancy and Engagement
- B. Professional Development
- C. Conservation Education

### 3. Recruitment, Retention, Reactivation (R3)

- A. Marketing
- B. Engaging Participants
- C. Monitoring and Evaluation
- D. Hunting and Shooting Sports Access and Infrastructure

### 4. AFWA Priorities Identified in AFWA Funding Principles (submitted by ExCom)

- A. Management Assistance Team
- B. Management of the MSCGP Program
- C. CITES and International Conservation Programs and Their Impact on State Agencies
- D. Coordination of Conservation on a National Scale
- E. National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation

*“To fund 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.”*



# Species Eligibility

## The purpose of the proposed projects must benefit the following:

- **T-MSCGP Wildlife Restoration funds:** Indigenous or naturalized species of wild birds or mammals.
- **T-MSCGP Sport Fish Restoration funds:** Aquatic gill-breathing vertebrates with paired fins having marine or freshwater recreational value.
- **Context matters:** Other species MAY be eligible if the project's stated Need, Purpose, and Results & Benefits focus on how the otherwise-ineligible species directly impacts conservation of wild birds or mammals or sport fish.
  - **For example:** Invasive species, food resources, habitats and disease projects are eligible if the proposal demonstrates the primary purpose of the project is to improve conservation for wild birds or mammals or sport fish.



# Activity Eligibility

## Activities that carry out the purposes of the Wildlife Restoration Act or Sport Fish Restoration Act:

Activities that involve conservation, restoration, management, and enhancement of wild birds and mammals and sport fish and provide for public use and benefit from these resources.

- ✓ **T-MSCGP Activity Examples:** Research on populations, contaminants, diseases, invasive species and human dimensions surveys; development of models, databases and technology; training; best practices for conservation, etc.
- ✓ **R3 MSCGP Activity Examples:** Research on barriers, attitudes, participation, effectiveness, marketing; marketing projects involving social media, mentoring, templates, photo and video collections, toolkits; training and course development; participation through program development and events, etc.





# Activity Eligibility *(continued)*

## What about Education and Outreach?

### WR Act:

#### ▪ Eligible:

- ✓ Educating hunters and archers in skills, knowledge, and developing responsible attitudes.
- ✓ R3 outreach, communication, events, marketing, etc.
- ✓ Projects that inform, translate or otherwise offer technical assistance directly in support of findings or accomplishments of projects funded by the Wildlife Restoration Act.

#### ▪ Ineligible:

- ⊗ General education about wildlife or wildlife conservation
- ⊗ Wildlife viewing activities

### SFR Act:

- ✓ Enhancing the public's understanding of water resources, aquatic life forms, and sport fishing, and developing responsible attitudes toward the aquatic environment.
- ✓ R3 fishing activities including outreach, communication, events and marketing, etc.





# Ineligible Activities

## Ineligible activities include, but are not limited to:

- ⊗ **Public relations** to promote a state fish and wildlife agency or organization.
- ⊗ **General conservation education or wildlife education** that is not specifically related to sharing accomplishments or findings funded by WR Act or SFR Act.
- ⊗ **Revenue generation as the primary purpose**, including all processes and procedures directly related to printing, distribution, issuance or sale of licenses, permits or registrations.
  - ☑ May use the number of licenses, permits and registrations issued as a measure of or to track trends in participation in fishing.
- ⊗ **Establishment of laws and regulations**
  - ☑ May publish and disseminate regulations issued by a State such as laws, orders, seasonal regulations, bag limits, creel limits, license fees ONLY when done to directly support R3 and remove barriers to participation (e.g., increase knowledge, familiarity and comfort with rules, reduced confusion and fear).
- ⊗ **Law enforcement activities**, i.e., enforcement of fish and wildlife laws and regulations.
- ⊗ **Promoting opposition to regulated taking** of fish or hunting or trapping wildlife.
- ⊗ **General wildlife damage control** where the purpose is not eligible under the WR Act or SFR Act.
- ⊗ **Land acquisition and construction or renovation of infrastructure** are not funded through MSCGP because a benefit to 26 or more states or half the states in a FWS region or regional association of fish and wildlife agencies cannot be demonstrated.



# Presidential Actions and DOI Secretary's Orders

- **Applicants must review prior to applying.**
- **Applicants are responsible** for ensuring their proposed activities are consistent with the intent and requirements of these directives.

## Presidential Actions

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/>

## Department of the Interior Secretary's Orders

<https://www.doi.gov/document-library/secretary-order>

# 2026 Process Timeline

**September 22, 2025, 11:59 PM ET:** Full Grant Proposals Due to AFWA Portal (no Federal Forms)

**No proposals shall be submitted to GrantSolutions at this point.**

**September:** AFWA and CI review proposals for eligibility.

## **October-November:**

Technical Review Teams, National Grants Committee, and Office of Conservation Investment (CI) review the proposals and provide feedback.

The National Grants Committee votes to advance the Priority List of Projects

## **Late November:**

The Priority List of Projects is approved by the majority of State Directors

Direct Announcement posted in [GrantSolutions](#)

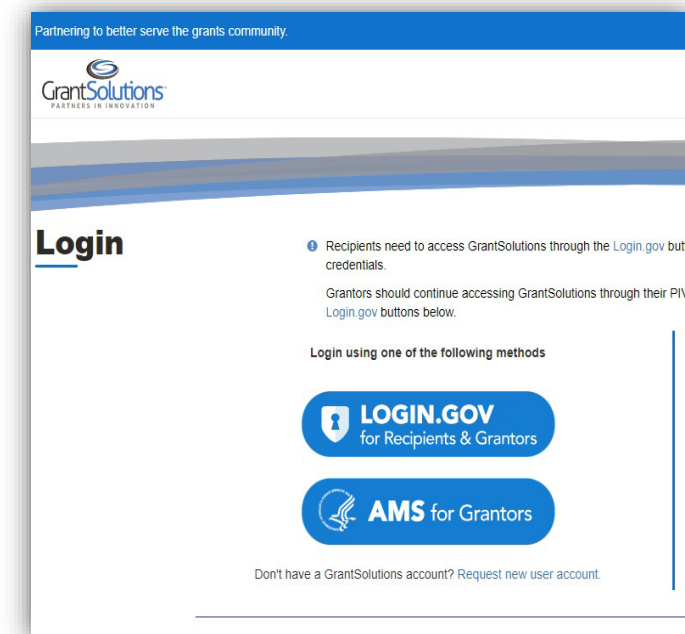
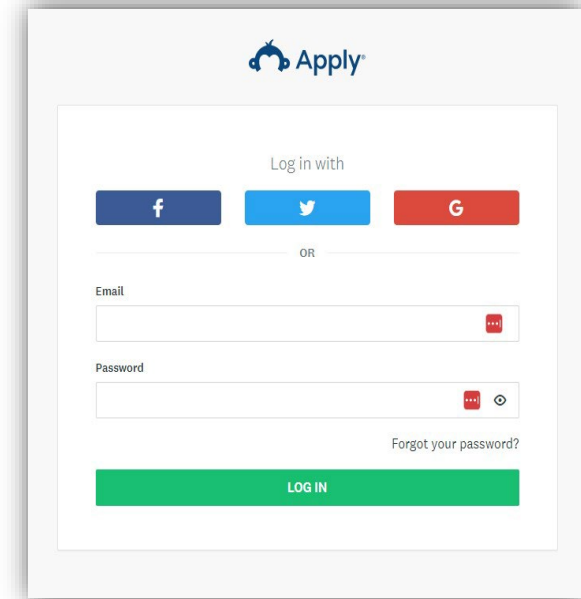
## **Early December**

Final Applications – with requested edits addressing feedback – are due in the AFWA Portal.

Final applications (proposals with required Federal forms) are due in GrantSolutions.

The Priority List of Projects is submitted to USFWS Director for review and approval

**December 2025-January 2026:** USFWS CI conducts detailed reviews and awards grants. *May have additional questions that applicants MUST be timely about addressing!*





# MSCGP Application Process

## Part I: Grant Proposal – Via AFWA Portal by September 22, 2025

- Project Narrative
- Budget Narrative and Budget Table
- Letters of Engagement, if applicable

## Part II: Required Federal Forms – Via AFWA Portal and GrantSolutions in November 2025

- Project Abstract
- Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)
- Budget Information for Non-Construction Program (SF-424A)
- SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities, if applicable
- Project Statement
- Budget Narrative and Budget Table
- Letters of Engagement, if applicable

# Grant Proposal





# Applicant and Project Information

## GRANT PROPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS

### PROPOSAL DETAILS

<b>Descriptive Title:</b>	<i>Provide a <u>BRIEF</u> proposal title.</i>		
<b>Recipient Organization:</b>	<i>Identify the Official Eligible Applicant</i>		
<b>Recipient Location:</b>	<i>Identify the State/Territory where headquarters/office resides.</i>		
<b>Grant Start Date:</b>	January 1, 2026	<b>Grant End Date:</b>	<i>Enter the proposed grant end date. Almost all projects should have December 31, 2026 as the end date.</i>

**Project Abstract Summary/Public Description:** If your project is selected for funding, this description will appear on USASpending.gov. A complete Project Abstract Summary is limited to 4,000 characters and must include the following: 1) Project purpose, 2) Activities to be performed, 3) Expected outcomes, 4) Deliverables, 5) Intended beneficiaries, and 6) whether there are subrecipient activities associated with the proposed project. Please spell out all words or names of organizations; do not use any abbreviations or acronyms. This abstract is also the first opportunity to outline your proposal and impress upon reviewers your project's importance. *Be sure your abstract is brief and compelling!*

**Grant Recipient Contact(s):** List full name, title, phone number, email address, and organization name for the following:

- a. Primary Principal Investigator of the applicant Organization
- b. Primary Authorizing Official of the applicant Organization

## ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

1. **Organization Type.** Select one of the following:

- A. State or group of States
- B. Nonprofits with or without 501(c)(3) status with the IRS
- C. Public and State Controlled Institutions of Higher Education
- D. 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

2. **Beneficiary Information.** The project must benefit at least one of the following. Please choose one of the following categories that best describes the geographic scope of the project:

- A. Project benefits at least 26 states. Using states' abbreviations, please list all states that will benefit.
- B. Project benefits a majority (over 50%) of the States in a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Region that will benefit.
- C. Project benefits a majority (over 50%) of the States belonging to a regional association of State fish and wildlife agencies (click each association link for the state members, WAFWA, MAFWA, NEAFWA, SEAFWA). Please indicate the regional fish and wildlife association that will benefit.

If the proposal does not benefit all states, please list the states (abbreviations) it does benefit.

**You must describe how the project will benefit the states or region selected.**



**IMPORTANT**  
!



3. **The Strategic Priority Addressed.** Please refer to the [2026 AFWA Strategic Priorities](#) and list the Strategic Priority addressed by your proposal.

4. **Eligibility Standards.** Is your project eligible according to the Eligibility Standards for activities/species eligibility described in the 2025 Full Grant Proposal Guidelines?


**FUNDING PROGRAM(s).** Identify grant program(s) relevant to your proposal:

Traditional Multistate Conservation Grant Program – Wildlife Restoration (T-MSCGP WR)

Modern Multistate Conservation Grant Program – Wildlife Restoration (R3-MSCGP WR)

Traditional Multistate Conservation Grant Program – Sport Fish Restoration (T-MSCGP SFR)

# Project Statement

- I. Need**
  - II. Purpose**
  - III. Objectives**
  - IV. Approach**
  - V. Results or Benefits Expected**
  - VI. Deliverables**
  - VII. Timeline**
  - VIII. Monitoring**
  - IX. Evaluation**
  - X. Qualifications of Key Personnel**
- 



# Grant Proposal Guidelines:

## Project Statement

### ■ Detailed instructions and tips

### ■ Available on AFWA's MSCGP Website

#### PROJECT STATEMENT

The Project Statement serves as your proposal for funding as part of your application for MSCG funding. 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. Although there is no standard format that all applicants must use for their project statements, certain elements are required and must be included in a complete project statement. These elements are described as follows:

- I. **Need:** This section should be a clear and concise description of the conservation issue or problem that is being addressed by your proposal and should answer the question, "Why is this project necessary?" Provide data or cite evidence to support the issue or problem identified to help strengthen your proposal's case. Be sure to describe the geographic scope of the issue or problem as it relates to project eligibility (i.e., is the problem national or regional in scope), explain how the proposal will address the Strategic Priority, and explain how the issue or problem is related to the purposes of the [Wildlife Restoration Act](#) and/or [Sport Fish Restoration Act](#). Explain your organization's role in addressing the issue, describe what is currently being done by your organization or others to address it, and how this proposal will fulfill a new need or complement existing work on the issue. Explain why MSCG funding is critical to addressing the issue or problem, and describe what will happen if funds are not allocated for the project and the need is not addressed. Do not describe your objectives or your methods in the Need section.
- II. **Purpose:** This section should be brief and ONLY state the project's expected outcome after addressing the conservation issue or problem. Good purpose statements:
  - ✓ Are concise, clear, and stated in no more than a sentence or two.
  - ✓ Set the stage by clearly starting with, "The purpose of this project is to ..."
  - ✓ Do not describe or provide a "preview" of the proposal's objectives or methods in this section.
- III. **Objectives:** Objectives should be specific, measurable, achievable within the grant period, relevant to the project's need, purpose, and eligibility, and time-bound within the grant period. Objectives are meant to be realistic targets or benchmarks that, if achieved, will contribute to resolving the need described. Your objectives will be used to measure progress, so don't embellish the numbers! Be realistic, and make sure your objectives can be attained within the grant period. Objective statements should be one sentence, should not restate the Need or Purpose, and should not describe your methods. You can have multiple objectives in your proposal, but be sure to follow each stated objective with a detailed description of your methods in an Approach section. Do not include any objectives that will not or cannot be completed within the grant period.
- IV. **Approach:** This section describes how you will accomplish the stated objective(s). Include an Approach section for each Objective. Provide a detailed description of techniques and methods that will be used to accomplish the objective. Your Approach description must address:
  - What will you do?
  - When will you do it?
  - How many or how frequently will it be done?
  - Where will you conduct the work? For work conducted in the field, specific locations must be identified, and detailed methods must be provided describing how you will access study sites, exactly what will be performed at each site, and when. Describe if wildlife will be captured and handled, and address collecting permits, if applicable.
  - Who will be involved in carrying out the methods? Describe the role of those responsible for conducting the work, including those coordinating the work and those carrying out day-to-day tasks. If contractors/sub-recipients will be used to complete project-related work, indicate which

tasks the contractor/sub-recipient will complete. You will identify specific costs for any contractor/sub-recipient in the budget, not in the Approach.

- Do not re-describe the Need or Purpose in the Approach.
- Do not describe your benefits, monitoring, or evaluation steps in this section; they will be described in the following sections.

- V. **Results or Benefits Expected:** This section specifies intended results, expected benefits, and outcomes that impact the need 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. Benefits should be expressed in measurable outcomes (e.g., the number of participants likely to continue the learned outdoor activity). Please also address for reviewers 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.
- VI. **Deliverables:** Identify and describe deliverables that will be produced by your 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. All deliverables must be submitted to AFWA and USFWS upon project completion, including all photos and video footage obtained using grant funds, even if not selected for use in the project's final products. 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 award number and program logos, which the USFWS will provide if you receive an award. This section in your proposal must acknowledge and commit to these deliverable requirements.
- VII. **Timeline:** Identify time frames within which key project tasks and activities will be carried out. 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.
- VIII. **Monitoring:** Describe how you will track the project's progress in alignment with the proposed timeline and milestones. Significant developments must be disclosed and communicated to AFWA and the Service as soon as they are recognized. Significant developments are 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.
- IX. **Evaluation:** Describe how you will assess the effectiveness of your project outputs and deliverables in achieving the intended project outcomes (e.g., increased recruitment). Describe how your project outputs and deliverables benefit the geographic scope you selected under "Beneficiary Information".
- X. **Qualifications of Key Personnel:** In one to two paragraphs describe personnel working on the project. Include details about their role in the project, relevant expertise, and significance to the project.

# Project Statement – Tips



## **Use the Template.**

[Download](#) and use the template created by AFWA to ensure all required information is provided.

--Use the AFWA Multistate Grant Guidelines (pages 10-11) to ensure all required content is addressed for each section.



**Clarity is key!** Make it easy for reviewers to find information that is required.

--Keep information in each section relevant to that section's heading.



**Level of Detail.** Concise, but sufficient detail for reviewers to:

- Determine eligibility
- Assess whether activities are appropriate and realistic
- Assign appropriate scoring
- If funded, supports compliance under NEPA, ESA and NHPA\*



**Scoring Details.** Use as a guide while creating your project narrative.

- Double-check your proposal content to maximize points awarded by reviewers.
- Found on [AFWA's Multistate website](#)



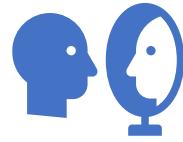


# Project Statement – Required Content



**1. Needs Statement.** Describe specific need, challenge, or opportunity being addressed. “Why is this project necessary?”

- ✓ Be concise!
- ✓ Describe how your project fulfills one or more of the **Strategic Priorities**.
- ✓ **Provide evidence and facts**, not hyperbole and emotion.
- ✓ **Do not** describe Objectives or Approach/Methods in this section.



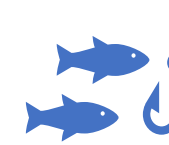
**2. Purpose Statement.** Briefly state **ONLY** the project’s expected impact or outcome.

- ✓ No more than a sentence or two.
- ✓ Set the stage with, “The purpose of this project is to...”
- ✓ **EXAMPLE:** The purpose of this project is to increase participation in archery among adults aged 18-35 in the southeastern U.S. through interactive social marketing campaigns.
- ✓ **NOTE:** More detail about outcomes should be included under “Results and Benefits”.



**3. Objectives.** Use SMART Objectives = Specific. Measurable. Attainable. Relevant. Time-bound.

- ✓ May have one or more objectives.
- ✓ Each objective should be stated as a sentence.
- ✓ **Be realistic!** Do not embellish numbers for competitive edge. Reviewers may judge your project as **unrealistic**.
- ✓ **EXAMPLE:** Conduct archery social marketing campaigns in at least 8 states within the SEAFWA region by December 31, 2026.



**4. Approach.** Describe methods that will be used to achieve your stated objectives.

- ✓ **What** activities that will be carried out, **how**, **where** (include maps or GIS data, as applicable), **when** (specify dates or date ranges), and **by whom** (including roles for contractors or subrecipients, if involved).
- ✓ Include sufficient details for compliance determination.\*

\* Compliance determinations include: NEPA = National Environmental Policy Act; ESA = Endangered Species Act; NHPA = National Historic Preservation Act

# Project Statement – Required Content *(continued)*



**5. Results and Benefits.** Describe intended results and expected benefits and outcomes when project is complete and the stated Need improved or resolved.

- ✓ In terms of fish and wildlife resources, users, economy or society.
- ✓ How will these benefits be sustained after your project ends?
- ✓ What is the anticipated useful life of the results, deliverables or services produced?



**6. Deliverables.** Identify and describe products that your project will create. List each and describe **in a sentence or two**.

- ✓ All deliverables must be submitted to USFWS and AFWA.
- ✓ All deliverables and products created or obtained using grant funds must be submitted to USFWS upon project completion, even if not selected for use in the project's final Deliverables (e.g., photos, B-roll video).
- ✓ Include how deliverables will be shared with intended users.
- ✓ Multistate grant funding must be acknowledged on distributed products, with some exceptions. Details provided to awarded projects.
- ✓ **EXAMPLES:** Designed reports of survey results or marketing campaigns, marketing templates, photo or video collections, social media posts, webinars, presentations, toolkits, etc.



**7. Timeline.** Provide a project schedule identifying major task and activity milestones and deliverables.

- ✓ Demonstrate your project is feasible within the grant period.
- ✓ May be presented as a chart or bulleted list.

# Project Statement – Required Content (continued)



**8. Monitoring.** Describe how you will track the project's progress within the timeline.

- ✓ Significant developments must be communicated with the FWS, including delays, problems, or other adverse conditions, or favorable conditions including completing project sooner, under budget, or with different beneficial results.
- ✓ Don't wait for required reporting to share issues with FWS.



**9. Evaluation.** Describe how you will assess the effectiveness of project outputs and deliverables in achieving project outcomes.

- ✓ Include how you will determine if the geographic scope you selected for your proposal benefited.
- ✓ **EXAMPLE:** How will you assess whether your project resulted in increase participation in archery among adults aged 18-35 in the southeastern U.S. through interactive social marketing campaigns?



**10. Key Personnel Qualifications.** Describe the key personnel working on the project in 1-2 paragraphs total.

- ✓ Demonstrates readiness and ability to complete the proposed project.
- ✓ What is each person's assigned role?
- ✓ What is their relevant experience?
- ✓ How significant is their role in the project?



# Budget Information

- ❑ **Use the Template.** Includes Budget Narrative and Table in one document. Provided on [AFWA's Multistate website](#).
- ❑ **Consult AFWA's Grant Proposal Guidelines** for detailed Budget instructions.
- ❑ **Consult the NOFO** for Budget information.
- ❑ **Refer to [2 CFR 200.400 Cost Principles](#)** – applies to all Federal financial assistance.
- ❑ Demonstrate that your project is **cost-effective** and proposed costs are **necessary and reasonable** to accomplish objectives.
- ❑ Provide sufficient detail to demonstrate **costs are allowable and allocable**.



Helpful  
Tips



# Allowable Costs

2 CFR 200.400  
Cost Principles

- **Necessary and reasonable**
- **No double dipping:** cannot include costs covered by another Federal program
- **Adequately documented**
- **Incurred during the approved grant period**
- **“Cost allocation”** methods must be described if a cost you propose will benefit other programs, projects or activities that are not part of your proposal.
- Other details about what is allowable and unallowable in [2 CFR 200.400 Cost Principles](#)



## Unallowable Costs:

- ✓ General Advertising and Public Relations
- ✓ Fundraising
- ✓ Lobbying
- ✓ Entertainment and alcoholic beverages
- ✓ Costs incurred outside the award period



Office of  
**CONSERVATION  
INVESTMENT**

## Grant Proposal Guidelines: Budget Narrative Instructions

### BUDGET NARRATIVE and BUDGET TABLE<sup>1</sup>

Applicants must include a budget narrative describing and justifying requested items and costs. All Budget Categories must be addressed in the narrative; for those Budget Categories that are not relevant to your project, simply indicate “N/A.” Be sure to include any cost item that requires prior approval under the Federal cost principles, including any anticipated travel, sub-awarding or contracting out of any work under the award, Participant Support Costs, or transferring costs between Budget Categories. See [2 CFR 200.407](#) “Prior written approval (prior approval)” for more information and the complete list of costs requiring prior approval.

**Personnel Salary:** For each position involved in the project, indicate the percentage of time (in hours or workdays) anticipated and estimated salary anticipated. Include a brief description of their role in the project.

**Fringe Benefits:** Identify your organization’s current fringe rate(s) and what is included in the rate (e.g., social security, employee life, health, unemployment, and worker’s compensation insurance, pension, unemployment).

**Travel:** Describe how travel supports the project objectives, including the purpose of travel and 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. 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.

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.

**Supplies:** Supplies mean all tangible personal property other than those described in the definition of *equipment*. A computing device is a supply if the acquisition cost is less than the lesser of the capitalization level established by the non-Federal entity for financial statement purposes or \$5,000, regardless of the length of its useful life.

**Contractual:** Provide a separate description of services and total estimated cost for each **contract** anticipated during the project. (NOTE! 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.)

## Budget Narrative and Table – Recommended Template

### 2025 Multistate Conservation Grant Program BUDGET NARRATIVE and BUDGET TABLE

**Project Title:**

**Organization:**

**Personnel Salary:**

**Fringe Benefits:**

**Travel:**

**Equipment:**

**Supplies**

**Contractual:**

**Other:**

**Subawards:**

**Participant Support Costs:**

**Program Income:**

**Indirect:**

**\*\*Available on [AFWA’s MSCGP website](#).\*\***



# Budget Narrative (continued)

## Personnel

- List positions involved and describe role, include salary/wages and % time on project for each position.

## Fringe

- Identify organization's approved rate, describe what is included (e.g., social security, employee life, health, unemployment, workers' compensation insurance, pension, and unemployment).

## Travel

- Include organization's employees ONLY! Who is traveling, why (role and how supports objectives) and where. Include costs comprising travel estimates (e.g., lodging, per diem, airfare, rental car)

## Equipment

- Useful life >1 year and per-unit cost equal to or exceeding the lesser of your organization's established capitalization level or \$10,000.

## Supplies

- Items that do not meet the definition of Equipment. Computing devices may fall into this category.

## Contractual

- List and describe each contractual service including estimated value. Do not list subawards; subawards should be included under "Other".

## Other

- List each Subaward, Participant Support Costs (stipends, participant travel only, registration fees, printing and conference, rental and training costs. Describe details for each.

## Indirect Charges

- Describe your organization's Indirect Cost rate (i.e., NICRA, [de minimis](#)), including the actual % rate used and describe base costs upon which indirect is applied.

## Program Income

- Describe how income will be earned and how it will be applied to the award (e.g., additive or deductive).

# Contractor vs. Subrecipient Determination

- [2 CFR 200.331](#) **Subrecipient and contractor determinations:** Provides information to guide determination. Describes characteristics of contractors vs. subrecipients.
- **Substance and purpose of the relationship is more important than the form of agreement.** Consider the participatory effort of the entity you are engaging in the project.
- **Contractor Characteristics:**
  - Provides the goods and services within normal business operations;
  - Provides **similar goods or services to many different purchasers;**
  - Normally operates in a competitive environment;
  - Provides **goods or services that are ancillary to the Federal award;** and
  - Is not subject to compliance requirements of the Federal program as a result of the agreement.
- **Subrecipient Characteristics:**
  - Has its performance measured in relation to whether **objectives of the project** were met;
  - Has **responsibility for programmatic decision-making;**
  - Responsible for adhering to requirements specified in the Federal award; and
  - Uses the Federal funds to **carry out the purpose of the project**, as opposed to providing goods or services for the benefit of the Federal award recipient.

**Remember!**  
Document your determination and maintain this information in your grant files.



# Subaward Process Management

- **Step 1:** Subrecipient vs. Contractor Determination  
[§ 200.331 Subrecipient and contractor determinations](#) (a), (b), & (c)
- **Step 2:** Subrecipient Risk Assessment  
[§ 200.332 Requirements for pass-through entities](#) (b)
- **Step 3:** Monitoring Plan Development  
[§ 200.332 Requirements for pass-through entities](#) (d) & (e)
- **Step 4:** Subaward Agreement Development  
[§ 200.332 Requirements for pass-through entities](#) (a) & (c)
- **Step 5:** Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act  
[FFATA Reporting Website](#)



# Indirect Costs

- Expenses of doing business that are not readily identified with a particular grant, project, or activity, but are necessary for the general operation of the organization.
- Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA):** Applicants must either have an approved NICRA to charge indirect costs to award; OR
- If no NICRA, Applicant may use a **de minimis rate** (2 CFR 200.414), which is currently up to 15% and is applied to the **Modified Total Direct Cost (MTDC)**. MTDC is defined in [2 CFR 200.1](#).

Two NICRA Examples:  
Base Costs

- MTDC includes:**
- Direct salaries, wages and fringe benefits
  - Travel
  - Supplies
  - Contractual Services
  - Up to the first \$50,000 of each subaward

- MTDC excludes:**
- Equipment
  - Capital expenditures
  - Rental costs
  - Tuition remission, scholarships and fellowships
  - Participant support costs
  - Portion of each subaward in excess of \$50,000.
  - Other items may only be excluded to avoid a serious inequity in the distribution of indirect costs.

Type	From	To	Rate*	Locations	To
Fixed Carryforward	07/01/15	06/30/16	29.21%	All	All Programs

\*Base: Total direct costs, less capital expenditures and passthrough funds. Passthrough funds are normally defined as payments to participants, stipends to eligible recipients, subcontracts and subgrants, all of which normally require minimal administrative effort.

Treatment of fringe benefits: Fringe benefits applicable to direct salaries and wages are treated as direct costs; fringe benefits applicable to indirect salaries and wages are treated as indirect costs.

Section II: General Page 1 of 3

Clarifying language regarding subgrants and subcontracts

The indirect cost rate contained herein is for use on grants, contracts, and other agreements with the Federal Government to which 2 CFR Part 200 applies for fiscal years beginning on or after December 26, 2014 subject to the limitations in Section II.A. of this agreement. Applicable OMB Circulars and the regulations at 2 CFR 225 will continue to apply to federal funds awarded prior to December 26, 2014. The rate was negotiated by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Interior Business Center, and the subject organization in accordance with the authority contained in applicable regulations.

Section I: Rate		Effective Dates		Rate	Applicable To	
Type	Rate Type	From	To	Rate*	Locations	To
Fixed Carryforward		07/01/15	06/30/16	29.52%	All	All Programs

\*Base: Total direct salaries and wages, including fringe benefits. The rate applies to all programs administered by the non-federal entity. To determine the amount of indirect costs to be billed under this agreement, direct salaries and wages and related fringe benefits should be summed and multiplied by the rate. All other program costs should be eliminated from the calculation.

Description of Base

## Using Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) as basis for Indirect Costs

BUDGET TABLE	2026 MSCGP Costs	Base Costs Included in Indirect Cost Calculation: <i>NICRA-specified Base or MTDC Base</i>
PERSONNEL	\$ 24,500.00	\$ 24,500.00
FRINGE (31.00%)	\$ 7,595.00	\$ 7,595.00
TRAVEL	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00
SUPPLIES	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 5,500.00
EQUIPMENT	\$ 12,000.00	\$ -
<b>CONTRACT (Total)</b>	<b>\$ 25,000.00</b>	
1. Contract Name or TBD - <b>\$10,000</b>		
2. Contract Name or TBD - <b>\$15,000</b>		
3. Contract Name or TBD - \$ _____		
<b>OTHER (Specify)</b>		
<b>Participants Support Costs (Total)</b>	<b>\$ 18,000.00</b>	\$ -
<b>Subawards (Total)</b>	<b>\$ 200,000.00</b>	\$ -
1. Subaward Name or TBD - <b>\$75,000</b>		
2. Subaward Name or TBD - <b>\$125,000</b>		
3. Subaward Name or TBD - \$ _____		
<i>Additional lines can be inserted for "Other" costs in this Budget Category</i>		
<b>TOTAL DIRECT COSTS</b>	<b>\$ 300,095.00</b>	\$ 45,095.00
<b>Indirect Costs 29.21%</b>	<b>\$ 13,172.25</b>	0.2921
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 313,267.25</b>	\$ 13,172.25

T-MSCGP SFR: **\$156,633.62** T-MSCGP WR: **\$156,633.62** R3-MSCGP WR: **\$0**

Section I: Rate

Type	Effective Period		Rate*	Locations	Applicable To
	From	To			
Fixed Carryforward	07/01/15	06/30/16	29.21%	All	All Programs

\*Base: Total direct costs, less capital expenditures and passthrough funds. Passthrough funds are normally defined as payments to participants, stipends to eligible recipients, subcontracts and subgrants, all of which normally require minimal administrative effort.

Treatment of fringe benefits: Fringe benefits applicable to direct salaries and wages are treated as direct costs; fringe benefits applicable to indirect salaries and wages are treated as indirect costs.

Clarifying language regarding subgrants and subcontracts

Section II: General

Page 1 of 3



Remember to identify which funds you are requesting. This example is a research project evaluating aquatic habitats for waterfowl and sport fish.

## Using de minimis rate and Modified Total Direct Cost (MTDC) as basis for Indirect Costs

- MTDC includes:**
- ✓ Direct salaries, wages and fringe benefits
  - ✓ Travel
  - ✓ Supplies
  - ✓ Contractual Services
  - ✓ Up to the first \$50,000 of each subaward

- MTDC excludes:**
- ✓ Equipment
  - ✓ Capital expenditures
  - ✓ Rental costs
  - ✓ Tuition remission, scholarships and fellowships
  - ✓ Participant Support Costs
  - ✓ **Portion of each subaward in excess of \$50,000.**
  - ✓ Other items may be excluded.



BUDGET TABLE	2025 MSCGP Costs	Base Costs Included in Indirect Cost Calculation:	
		NICRA-specified Base or MTDC Base	
PERSONNEL	\$ 24,500.00	\$	24,500.00
FRINGE (31.00%)	\$ 7,595.00	\$	7,595.00
TRAVEL	\$ 7,500.00	\$	7,500.00
SUPPLIES	\$ 5,500.00	\$	5,500.00
EQUIPMENT	\$ 12,000.00	\$	-
<b>CONTRACT (Total)</b>	<b>\$ 47,000.00</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>47,000.00</b>
1. Contract Name or TBD - <b>\$32,000</b>			
2. Contract Name or TBD - <b>\$15,000</b>			
3. Contract Name or TBD - <b>\$</b>			
<b>OTHER (Specify)</b>			
Participants Support Costs (Total)	\$ 28,000.00	\$	-
Subawards (Total)	\$ 139,000.00	\$	79,000.00
1. Subaward Name or TBD - <b>\$110,000</b> <i>MTDC amount allowable for indirect: \$50,000</i>			
2. Subaward Name or TBD - <b>\$29,000</b> <i>MTDC amount allowable for indirect: \$29,000</i>			
3. Subaward Name or TBD - <b>\$</b>			
<i>Additional lines can be inserted for "Other" costs in this Budget Category.</i>			
<b>TOTAL DIRECT COSTS</b>	<b>\$ 271,095.00</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>171,095.00</b>
Indirect Costs 15%	\$ 25,664.25		0.1500
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 296,759.25</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>25,664.25</b>

**T-MSCGP SFR: \$ 157,152.25 T-MSCGP WR: \$0 R3-MSCGP WR: \$ 157,152.25**

**Remember identify which funds you are requesting. This example is a project proposing human dimensions and marketing training for R3 practitioners – those who engage anglers, hunters and recreational target shooters.**



# Letters of Engagement

- ❖ **If your project relies on engagement of states for activities needed to achieve your objectives (e.g., data sharing, database development, interviews):**
  - ❑ Not required, but STRONGLY encouraged, in this case.
  - ❑ Letters (either official letters or emails) should demonstrate that these states are willing and able to participate in these activities.
  
- ❖ **If specific states are identified by name in Objectives or Approach (activities), Letters of Engagement are required.**
  
- ❖ **Letters of engagement may include the following details:**
  - ✓ Engagement Type (e.g., training, data sharing, toolkit development)
  - ✓ Description (Brief overview of the engagement)
  - ✓ Quantifiable Target (e.g., number of trainings, participants, or dataset shared)
  - ✓ Engaged Division/Department Program (e.g., Outreach and Education, Human Dimension, Licensing, etc.)
  
- ❖ **Do not submit letters of support from uninvolved organizations.**

# Proposal Review Process

- **After September 22<sup>nd</sup>, AFWA staff and CI staff conduct a Preliminary Screening Review for:**
  - Eligibility and any obvious red flags
- AFWA assigns proposals to **Review Teams** for review and scoring using the technical [scoring criteria](#).
- There are **4 Review Teams** based on Strategic Priority areas:
  - Conservation and Science
  - Relevancy and Capacity Building
  - R3
  - AFWA priorities
- Each Review Team meets to discuss scoring and rank the applications.
- A draft list of proposals ranked by the Review Teams is sent to:
  - Office of Conservation Investment reviews for compliance
  - AFWA's National Grants Committee (NGC) reviews and finalizes the Draft Priority List of Projects.

# 2026 MSCGP Technical Scoring Criteria

## Maximum 100 points

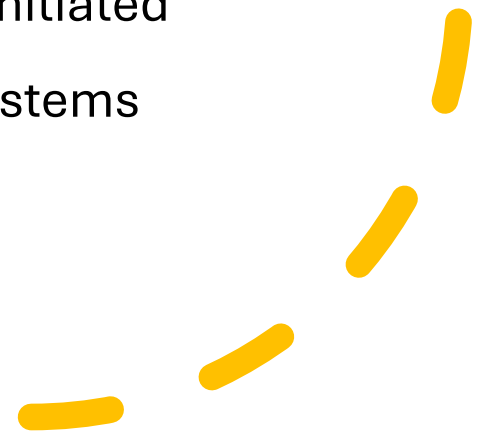
- Need**: How well does the proposal meet regional or national priority needs? (Max 10 points).
- Benefits and Applicability**: Evaluates the benefits and applicability to multiple states. (Max 15 points)
- Feasibility and Technical Merit**: Evaluates whether the proposal presents clear, measurable objectives, a well-supported and detailed approach, and a high likelihood of success within the proposed timeline. (Max 25 points)
- Innovation**: Evaluates if the proposal demonstrates innovation in addressing known challenges facing state fish and wildlife agencies and their partners (Max 15 points).
- Impact on Conservation/R3 Efforts and Longevity**: Assesses whether the proposal outlines clear, achievable deliverables that are practical for agency use and supported by a reasonable plan for long-term impact (Max 20 points).
- Budget**: Evaluates whether the budgeted costs are reasonable and appropriate in relation to the activities planned (Max 15 points).
- Open-Ended Questions**: Either the proposal requires changes or improvements.



# Required System Registrations:

*If invited to submit a complete grant application in GrantSolutions.*

- ❑ **SAM.gov Registration:** System for Award Management and Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).
- ❑ **GrantSolutions.gov Registration and User Accounts:** Organization, Authorized Representative and Principal Investigator user accounts.
- ❑ **ASAP Registration:** Automated Standard Application for Payment)
  - If your proposal is recommended for funding, be prepared to register in all these systems!
  - Registration may not happen quickly once initiated
  - Delays in obtaining registrations in these systems may delay an award if your application is recommended for funding.



# SAM.gov

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Registration is  
free at  
[www.SAM.gov](http://www.SAM.gov)

- ✓ **SAM registration is required** for organizations, businesses and individuals doing business with the federal government, including grants – required to apply for grants in GrantSolutions.gov.
- ✓ SAM.gov issues a free **Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)** upon registration.
- ✓ A **UEI** is a 12-character alphanumeric code.
- ✓ **Register now** if your organization is not already registered – can take days to several weeks to complete ("10-15 business days").
- ✓ Make sure your organization's existing registration is **not expired – must show as Active Registration.**

# GrantSolutions Registration

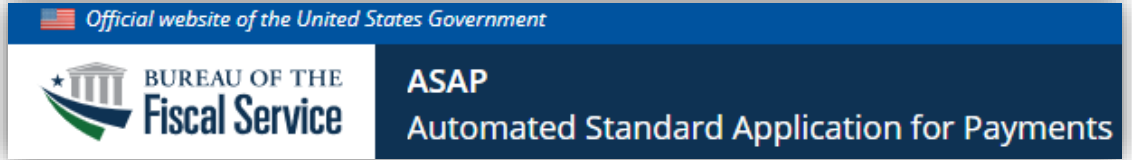


- Financial assistance software platform that allows Federal agencies to manage grants throughout the entire grant award life cycle.
- **STEP ONE: Register your organization, if new to GrantSolutions.** Send an e-mail to [help@grantsolutions.gov](mailto:help@grantsolutions.gov) with:
  - Subject: New Organization Request
  - Entity name (organization or individual applying as a natural person)
  - Entity type
  - SAM.gov Unique Entity Identifier (not required for individuals)
  - Employer Identification Number (individuals, do not include your SSN)
  - Address
  - Contact details (First and last name, e-mail, phone) This information should be the same as entered on the entity's SAM.gov profile.
- **STEP TWO: Visit the GrantSolutions Registration webpage** for new Recipient User instructions for those who are submitting the application, serving as Authorizing Representative, and Principal Investigator. Fill out the *Recipient User Account Request Form* provided.



# ASAP: Requesting Payments Under Federal Grants

- U.S. Treasury’s Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP).
- Fully electronic system.
- Unless waived, recipients must be registered and have a payment method established before Federal funds can be obligated to a grant.
- **Reminder!** If your “Head of Organization” or “Financial Official” or “Payment Requestor” will be changing, update ASAP to avoid delays in payment requests!



# Submission Reminders

- ✓ Grant proposals **must** be submitted by **11:59 PM ET on Monday, September 22, 2025.**
- ✓ Submit applications in AFWA's grant portal (requires a user account):  
<https://afwamscgp.smapply.io/>  
***Do not submit applications in GrantSolutions.gov at this time!!***
- ✓ Applicants are encouraged not to wait to the last minute to submit applications.
- ✓ **NO TRACS**

# Resources

## AFWA Website: [Multistate Conservation Grant Program](#)



ASSOCIATION of FISH & WILDLIFE AGENCIES

AFWA Is AFWA Acts AFWA Informs AFWA Inspires

### MULTISTATE CONSERVATION GRANT PROGRAM

## Program Overview and Application Process

## 2026 Multistate Conservation Grant Program

### 2026 MSCGP FULL GRANT PROPOSAL APPLICATION/BUDGET TRAINING - SIGN-UP FORM

August 7, 2025  
1:00 PM - 3 PM ET

#### 2026 MSCGP TIMELINE

July	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) <b>Posts Notice Of Funding Opportunities (NOFO)</b>
September 22, 2025	<b>Proposals due</b> via <a href="#">AFWA Portal</a>
Late September - Early October	AFWA and the Office of Conservation Investments (CI) review proposals for <b>eligibility and compliance</b>
October 2025	<b>Technical Review Teams (TRT)</b> evaluate, score, and discuss eligible proposals. Preliminary recommendations are forwarded to the <b>National Grants Committee (NGC)</b>
November	NGC <b>reviews preliminary recommendations</b> and assesses the alignment with the program goals. CI reviews alignment with the <b>requirements of this announcement</b>
By November 21, 2025	The National Grants Committee votes to advance the Priority List of Projects. The <b>Priority List of Projects</b> is reviewed and approved by a <b>majority of State Directors</b> . <b>Applicants are notified</b> of their Application Status (selected, not selected, revision required)
November 26 2025	AFWA submits the final <b>Priority List of Projects</b> to the <b>USFWS</b>
December 6 2025	Applicants <b>revise and resubmit proposals</b> in response to NGC/OCI feedback via the AFWA Portal) Applicants submit their <b>Proposals</b> and the <b>required Federal Forms</b> via <b>GrantSolutions</b>
December 31	USFWS completes the <b>final review and awards the 2026 MSCGP grants</b>

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

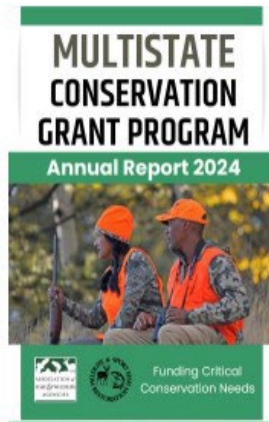
- Multistate Conservation Grant Program Policies and Procedures
- MultiState Conservation Grant Program FAQ
- 2025 MSCGP Final Priority List of Projects
- 2025 MSCGP Awards Abstracts
- Performance Progress Report AFWA Template

#### FULL GRANT PROPOSALS

- 2026 MSCGP Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
- MSCGP Multiyear Proposals Criteria
- Scoring Criteria
- 2026 MSCGP Strategic Priorities
- 2026 Full Grant Proposal Guidelines
- 2026 Full Grant Proposals Template - Project Statement
- 2026 Full Grant Proposal Template - Budget Narrative and Table
- Required Statements

#### AFWA Contact

Silvana Yaroschuk, MultiState Conservation Grant Program Manager  
syaroschuk@fishwildlife.org



### MULTISTATE CONSERVATION GRANT PROGRAM

#### Annual Report 2024

Funding Critical Conservation Needs

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 program as the Traditional Multistate Conservation Grant Program (T MSCGP).

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 program as the R3 Multistate Conservation Grant Program (R3 MSCGP). Up to \$5,000,000 will be available specifically for the R3 MSCGP grants.

The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) and the Service work cooperatively to manage T MSCGP and R3 MSCGP. Administratively, both programs function similarly. 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.

### 2001 - Present MSCGP Grants Database



MULTISTATE CONSERVATION GRANT PROGRAM

### Stay Informed

Want to receive updates about MSCGP announcements, deadlines, and opportunities?

[\[SIGN UP FOR OUR EMAIL LIST HERE.\]](#)



# How to Find Projects Supported by Multistate Grants

## AFWA Multistate Database

ASOCIATION of FISH & WILDLIFE AGENCIES

Home About Priority Lists of Projects Grant Search Funding Sources Contact

### Grant Search

Home / Grant Search

Organization: Any Year: Any Category: Any Subcategory: Any (Select a Category)

**Search** **Export Results to Excel**

**2023 - 2023**  
Organizational Decision Making for R3: A Process for Leadership  
Wildlife Management Institute, Inc

**2023 - 2023**  
Archery is for Everyone National Awareness Marketing Campaign with Marvel Entertainment, LLC Partnership  
National Archery Association of the US

**2023 - 2023**  
Recruiting Females and Ethnically Diverse Youth Participants into Shooting Sports  
Midwest Association of Fish And Wildlife Agencies

**2023 - 2023**  
When to Leave the Nest - Retention Without Support After Mentoring  
International Hunter Education Association

**2023 - 2023**  
Hunting Mentor Communication Strategy - 8 Pilot State Implementation  
International Hunter Education Association

**2023 - 2023**  
Expanding and Improving the Real-time License Data Dashboard  
Council To Advance Hunting And The Shooting Sports

Category: Any Subcategory: Any (Select a Category)

Any

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

Capacity Building, Conservation Education, and Coordination of Conservation Policies

Conservation & Science

Expanding Relevancy and Engagement

Recruitment, Retention, Reactivation (R3)

Category: Recruitment, Retention, Reactiv Subcategory: Any

Any

Engaging Participants

Enhancing Conservation Through Broader Engagement

Hunting and Shooting Sports Access and Infrastructure

Marketing

Mentoring

Monitoring and Evaluation

1. Features Multistate Conservation Grants 2001 through Current Year
2. Search options include:
  - Organization
  - Year
  - Priority
  - Key word
3. View abstracts and reports



## Multistate Conservation Grants

The Multistate Conservation Grant Program annually provides \$11 million dollars from the Wildlife Restoration Account and the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund. This program is jointly administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA). These high priority projects address problems affecting states on a regional or national basis. Projects include species population surveys, outreach, data collection regarding hunter or angler participation, hunter or aquatic education, economic value of fishing and hunting, and regional or multistate habitat needs assessments.

Below are listed the abstracts for the most recent grant abstracts awarded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. These grants are currently active. Interested parties can visit the [AFWA Multistate Grant website](#) for final reports for all grants that have been completed in the past.

[VIEW FINAL REPORTS >](#)

### SORT, FILTER & SEARCH FOR GRANTS

[RESET FILTERS](#)

Select A Fiscal Year... ▾

Sort Grants by ▾

Select a category... ▾

Search for grants... 🔍

## Grant Abstracts

# Resources

## Partner with a Payer Website

- Visit [Partner with a Payer](#) website provide abstracts up to 2025 grants.
- Once final grant reports are accepted by the USFWS, AFWA will upload grant reports on the AFWA Multistate Dashboard.



# Need Assistance?



Office of  
**CONSERVATION  
INVESTMENT**



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## Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA)

- Silvana Yaroschuk, MSCGP Coordinator,  
[syaroschuk@fishwildlife.org](mailto:syaroschuk@fishwildlife.org)

## Office of Conservation Investment, USFWS:

- Karen Bennett, Multistate Conservation Grant Coordinator, [karen\\_bennett@fws.gov](mailto:karen_bennett@fws.gov)
- Tom Decker, Branch Manager, Communications, Analysis and Partnerships, [thomas\\_decker@fws.gov](mailto:thomas_decker@fws.gov)



**Questions?**

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*Thank you!*

