

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

FWS - Ecological Services

www.WhiteNoseSyndrome.org

Research and Development of Biotechnological Tools for White-nose Syndrome

Fiscal Year: 2023

F23AS00037

Due Date for Applications: 03/31/2023

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A. Program Description

Authority:

Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. §1531 et. seq.; Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 661-666; Fish and Wildlife Act, 16 U.S.C. § 742 et seq.; Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, H.R. 133, 116th Cong. Div. G, Title I.

Assistance Listing Number:

15.684

Background, Purpose and Program Requirements:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is making funding available in 2022 and 2023 for research and development of enduring solutions to manage white-nose syndrome (WNS) in bats. The Service provides financial and technical assistance to nongovernmental, university, and private researchers, as well as state and local governments, Native American tribes, and federal agencies, for the management of WNS and conservation of bats. Projects supported under this funding opportunity will investigate, develop, evaluate, and implement innovative biotechnologies to eliminate the threat of WNS to bats in North America.

Since 2007, white-nose syndrome has caused the deaths of millions of bats in North America. The disease is caused by an invasive fungus, *Pseudogymnoascus destructans* (Pd), in the Phylum Ascomycota, that grows best in cold, damp, dark environments like those preferred by hibernating bats. Twelve species of bats in temperate North America are known to be susceptible to infections by Pd, but the severity of WNS varies considerably among them. Several species suffer high rates of mortality from WNS while others suffer only minor infections. An additional six North American bat species are known to have been exposed to Pd but have not been shown to suffer infection. In Europe and Asia, where Pd likely originated, multiple bat species are known to be susceptible to WNS, but with only minor infections and no evidence of mass mortality from the disease. As of August 2022, WNS is confirmed or suspected in bats in 39 states and eight Canadian provinces, and evidence of the causative fungus, Pd, has been detected in at least four additional states without signs of the disease. For information on WNS and previously funded projects, please see: <http://www.whitenosesyndrome.org/>

Growth in our scientific understanding of WNS, Pd, and susceptible bats has been rapid since the disease was first identified in 2007. Evidence from multiple lines of investigation, along with recent advances in biotechnology, have laid the groundwork for developing biotechnological tools that may put an end to the threat this invasive species poses to bats in North America. Some of the relevant scientific advancements related to WNS include the following examples:

- The genome of Pd has been published (Drees et al. 2016).
- Pd spreads primarily through clonal reproduction and may be highly similar wherever it exists in North America (Ren et al. 2012).
- A highly-specific partitivirus infects Pd in North America and may affect its pathogenicity (Thapa et al. 2016).

- Pd lacks ability to repair damage from some wavelengths ultraviolet light (UV-C; Palmer et al. 2018).
- Pd is vulnerable to matric stress (Raudabaugh and Miller 2013).
- Pd's ability to cause infection is mediated by protease production (O'Donoghue et al. 2015, Pannkuk et al. 2015).
- Pd infection initiates transcription of immunological defense mechanisms (Davy et al. 2017, Field et al. 2015).
- Bats' skin chemistry influences infection susceptibility (Frank et al. 2018, Pannkuk et al. 2013).
- Severity of impacts from WNS may be affected by Immune Reconstitution Inflammatory Syndrome (IRIS; Meteyer et al. 2012).
- The upper critical temperature for Pd to grow is between 19.0 and 19.8C (Verant et al. 2012).

Funding through the Research and Development of Biotechnological Tools for WNS grant opportunity will advance projects that leverage knowledge about WNS, fungi and fungal pathogens, invasive species, wildlife disease, and other relevant topics to produce enduring solutions to WNS in North America. We seek management solutions that are pathogen-specific, effective, scalable, and safe for native biota and environments. For this opportunity, we consider biotechnological tools to be those that involve the modification of an organism or genome for the purposes of acting on the function of an organism (in this case, Pd). Projects submitted to this opportunity should clearly achieve progress toward an implementable management tool. Collaborations are encouraged and applicants are invited to contact a member of the Service's WNS coordination team (below) while developing their projects.

Goal: Eliminate the threat of Pd to hibernating bats in North America.

Objective 1: Develop biotechnological tools that remove or suppress Pd's pathogenic properties, making it unable to cause severe disease.

Objective 2: Develop biotechnological tools that reduce or eliminate the environmental reservoir of Pd in treated sites.

Objectives may be achieved by advancing the following priorities:

1. Advance innovative, practical pathogen management tools for Pd, building on information of biochemical, genetic, and other biological or physical characteristics that affect its pathogenicity.
2. Conduct research to demonstrate the safety and efficacy of biotechnological tools for use against Pd that will satisfy requirements of registering tools for application in the wild.

The Service seeks to fund projects that produce effective and lasting methods for controlling Pd safely where it interacts with susceptible bat populations. These populations may aggregate in

summer and/or winter, but they also may be widely distributed in small numbers across the landscape, depending on location and species. Pd forms an environmental reservoir in bat roosts where bats overwinter, many of which are not known or not accessible. For this reason, the Service is especially interested in proposals that have a reasonable likelihood of reaching a large number of susceptible bats either directly or through the environment with which they interact. The most competitive proposals will address development of critical delivery mechanisms required for practical application of the tool, however, development of a specific delivery system(s) is not a required element of a project or project narrative. At minimum, applicants are encouraged to include a detailed description of a proposed delivery mechanism(s) as part of the Methods section. Development of delivery systems can be addressed with subsequent awards once proof of concept has been demonstrated. Collaborative projects that bring together scientists with relevant expertise in biotechnology, bat biology, fungal biology, and wildlife disease are encouraged. We also encourage applicants to contact a member of the Service's WNS coordination team to discuss relevant considerations for applying the intended product(s) and potential collaborations.

The Research and Development of Biotechnological Tools for WNS funding opportunity is a component of the WNS Research for Conservation Grants. It accompanies three funding opportunities from the Service's WNS Program, completed for 2022 but anticipated to be offered again in 2023: 1) WNS Grants to States and Tribes 2022 (closed May 2, 2022: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=337964>); 2) Bats for the Future Fund (with National Fish and Wildlife Foundation closed April 28, 2022: www.nfwf.org/bats); and 3) WNS Research for Conservation Grants (Closed June 5, 2022): <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=339237>). It is our intent with this funding opportunity to provide support for research that may fall outside of the stated priorities and/or criteria of the other four programs. Contact the Service's WNS national assistant coordinator for more information about these funding opportunities.

The WNS Program's funding opportunities are supported by the Ecological Services and Science Applications programs, and will be administered through the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration program (WSFR). Grants will be competitively awarded based on merit review of applications for their ability to address priorities identified in this notice.

References

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B. Federal Award Information

B1. Total Funding

Estimated Total Funding

\$1,500,000

The Service has targeted up to \$1.5 million for this funding opportunity in 2022/2023. The total of funds awarded may be less than \$1.5 million depending on number and merit of proposals received to this funding opportunity.

B2. Expected Award Amount

Maximum Award

\$300,000

Minimum Award

\$50,000

Applicants are encouraged to submit proposals that represent stages of work for projects that may take more than 2 years or require funds in excess of the award ceiling. Awardees may be eligible to receive additional funding in subsequent iterations of this funding opportunity as progress toward the project's final goal is demonstrated.

B3. Expected Award Funding and Anticipated Dates

Expected Award Funding

\$200,000

Expected Award Date

May 31, 2023

Proposals will be reviewed on a rolling basis. The Service will aim to notify applicants of decisions within 45 days of the last day of the month the proposal is submitted.

B4. Number of Awards

Expected Number of Awards

6

This is the first year that the Research and Development of Biotechnological Tools for WNS funding opportunity is being offered. Therefore, the average award amount is not known, but is expected to be around \$200,000. Applicants who seek more than \$300,000 to complete a project for this funding program should contact the National Coordinator or National Assistant Coordinator for WNS (below) to discuss options.

Funding is available for new projects and to continue or expand previously funded projects that have achieved relevant milestones. Projects that require additional funds or more than two years to complete should be proposed in 1- or 2-year stages of work that cover appropriate and feasible aspects of the proposed project within the time and budget limits.

We anticipate that projects will be proposed in sequential stages to complete the work. Projects that propose a staged course of research should provide information about the currently proposed stage as well as brief descriptions of the anticipated future stages that will be needed to complete necessary research and development of the management tool. Recipients of funding for preliminary stages of the research will be eligible to request additional funding to complete

subsequent stages of the work as successful progress is demonstrated. (See merit criteria, below.)

B5. Type of Award

Funding Instrument Type

G - Grant

CA - Cooperative Agreement

In the case of cooperative agreements, the Service participates and collaborates jointly with the recipient partner, volunteer, scientist, technician and/or other personnel, in carrying out the scope of work. Applicants should identify the Service's involvement and clearly describe this collaboration in the application. Coordination with Service personnel during the development of proposals for cooperative agreements is encouraged. Actions may include, for example:

- Training recipient personnel, detailing Federal personnel to work on the project effort, or conducting work to complete the project.
- Review and approval of accomplishments in projects with stepwise study design.
- Review and approval, prior to recipient action, of proposed modifications or sub-awards.
- Collaboration and assistance with selecting project locations, staff, trainees, or partners.
- Directing or redirecting work because of interrelationships with other projects.
- Altering or halting project activities if performance specifications are not met.
- Limiting recipient discretion with respect to scope of work, organizational structure, staffing, mode of operations, and other management processes, coupled with close monitoring or operational involvement during performance under the award.

C. Eligibility Information

C1. Eligible Applicants

Eligible Applicants

00 – State governments

05 – Independent school districts

06 – Public and State controlled institutions of higher education

07 – Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized)

11 – Native American tribal organizations (other than Federally recognized tribal governments)

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

20 – Private institutions of higher education

22 – For profit organization other than small businesses

23 – Small businesses

25 – Others (see text field entitled “Additional Information on Eligibility” for clarification)

Additional Information on Eligibility

Additional eligible applicants include nonprofits having a 501(c)4 and 501(c)5 status with the IRS.

This funding opportunity is open to domestic and foreign applicants. Additional information for foreign entities is included below.

To be eligible, the following conditions must be met:

1. Applications must clearly address the stated objective of this funding program, as identified above.
2. Applicants must be in good standing on previously awarded Federal grant agreements, with no outstanding reports or obligations, and a record of successful use of funds from previous WNS grants (if applicable).

When an applicant is carrying two or more active WNS awards while applying for another, the Service has an administrative obligation to verify that there are no correctable problems in implementing the existing awards. The Service will review the reasons why those grants are still open before proceeding with further consideration. Previous recipients that demonstrate their effective use of WNS funds will not be affected. Previous recipients that have taken no significant action on any one of their two or more preexisting awards will not be considered eligible to apply for new funds from the WNS program until the issue is resolved.

C2. Cost Sharing or Matching

Cost Sharing / Matching Requirement

No

Percentage of Cost Sharing / Matching Requirement

30

Matching contribution is not required. Although matching contribution is not required, a match equal to 30% of the requested Federal funds is encouraged to improve the cost efficiency of the project. Funds previously awarded by the U.S. Federal Government are not allowable as match, unless specifically allowed by the other funding program. See match eligibility in 2 CFR 200.306.

C3. Other

Minimum criteria for Research and Development of Biotechnological Tools for WNS proposals:

Proposals that do not meet these minimum requirements will not be reviewed further.

- Proposed project must clearly address the stated objective of the funding opportunity.
- Applicant must be in good standing on previously awarded Federal grant agreements with no outstanding reports or obligations, and a record of successful use of funds from previous WNS grants, if applicable.

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

The Application Package can be found at the following locations:

GrantSolutions <https://home.grantsolutions.gov/home/> - Search for the funding opportunity using the Program name and/or CFDA Number 15.684. Or, search for the funding opportunity name: Research and Development of Biotechnological Tools for White-nose Syndrome.

Forms required for the application can also be found here:

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/sf-424-family.html> or requested from Shelley DiBona, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration, 413-253-8509 or Shelley_DiBona@fws.gov

Program Website Link

www.WhiteNoseSyndrome.org

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 "

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

The components of the Project Narrative listed below must be included in this section, which is limited to 8 pages of 11 pt or greater font and 1” margins. Figures and tables should be included within this page limit. The Project Summary, letters of support, and Literature Cited are not counted in the page limit.

- Project title, Investigators, Collaborators and Affiliations
- Statement of Need: Describe the significance and value of the project. Summarize background and previous accomplishments that are relevant to the proposed work and explain how the proposed project builds on existing knowledge to make progress toward that anticipated outcome. If you have received funding previously for this specific project or study site (from the Service or elsewhere), provide a summary of the outcomes of that work.
- Project Goals and Objectives: State the short and long-term goal(s) of the project. State the specific objectives addressed to reach the stated goals. If additional research and development will be needed to continue developing the intended product, briefly describe the work that will be needed upon completion of the currently proposed work.
- Expected Results and Outcomes: State the anticipated outcomes, benefits and/or management implications of the project. Describe how the intended product(s) will be used to minimize the impacts of WNS in wild bat populations or will lead to future work that will do so. Describe future requirements for scaling and registering the product to deliver benefits to bat populations in the wild.
- Project Activities and Methods: State the project activities and describe how they relate to the project objectives. The proposed methodology must be described with sufficient detail for reviewers to make a clear connection between the proposed methods, how they act on the pathogen to achieve study objectives, and their cost efficiency. Identify locations where the work will be completed.
- Contribution to Management of WNS: Describe how your work will lead to a long-term solution to WNS. Describe how the anticipated product may be developed and delivered to reach a large portion of populations that are being impacted by WNS. Applicants who are less familiar with bat ecology and are unsure about how their product may be deployed effectively are encouraged to contact the national coordinator and assistant coordinator for WNS (see below) to discuss this subject or identify potential collaborations. Knowledge of bat biology and specifics of deploying the final product for management purposes are not required to apply for this funding opportunity.
- Permitting and Animal Care: Participants of funded projects must procure all necessary Federal, State, and local permits, and landowner permissions prior to project initiation. (Existing permits, approvals and registrations should be submitted as addenda that do not count toward page limits.)

Principal Investigators (PIs) will be expected to maintain compliance with the Animal Welfare Act with satisfactory review of animal use protocols by an established Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (as appropriate). All awarded projects must comply with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and National Historic Preservation Act.

The following items do not count toward the 8-page maximum.

- Literature Cited: Components of the project narrative must be properly cited using parenthetical documentation in name-year format. A complete bibliography of cited literature must be included and does not count toward the project narrative 8-page maximum.
- Description of Entities Undertaking the Project: Provide a brief description of the applicant organization and all cooperating entities and/or individuals. Identify which of the proposed activities each agency, organization, group, or individual is responsible for conducting or managing. If eligibility for funding is based in whole or in part on the qualifications of key personnel, provide brief (1 page) curricula vitae for key personnel, identifying their qualifications to meet the project objectives. Do not include Social Security numbers, the names of family members, or any other personal or sensitive information on the curricula vitae.
- *Proposals must be accompanied by letters of support, collaboration or coordination from relevant partners (e.g., State and Federal biologists, private landowners, etc.) whose contributions or cooperation are necessary for successful completion of the proposed project (e.g., commitment to collect swab samples on behalf of the Principal Investigator, etc.).
- Unpublished works that are cited in support of the proposed work. Proposals that include references to unpublished information, patent documentation, product labels and other essential information should submit copies to any documents that are not readily available through libraries or other online resources.

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).

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. 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 any 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 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.

At minimum, budget narratives should crosswalk to the SF424A categories. Also, distinguish equipment from supplies. A table in the budget narrative should be used to clarify use of requested funds, if this information is not clear elsewhere. This table should include at least these budget categories:

1. Salaries and benefits (include names, responsibilities, and time commitments)
2. Project related expenses (such as: travel, communications, supplies, consultants etc.)
3. Equipment (purchases of tangible, personal property over \$5,000.00 that will be used for a year or more);
4. Indirect costs (if any).

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 \(UEI\)](#) which replaced the Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number from Dun & Bradstreet in April 2022. 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. The Grants.gov “[Register with SAM](#)” page also provides detailed instructions. 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

03/31/2023

Application Due Date Explanation

Electronically submitted applications must be submitted no later than 11:59 PM., ET, on the listed application due date. Applications will be reviewed on a monthly basis on the final day of each month throughout the open period of this funding opportunity through 3/31/2023. Processing of awards for selected applications will begin as soon as they are

selected, and work may start once the grant is awarded. Activities and expenditures of proposed projects should be planned to begin at least 60 days from the time of submission.

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) rate we must charge the program’s capped

indirect cost rate to the same base identified in our approved indirect cost rate agreement, per 2 CFR §1402.414. 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.

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

This funding program will support scientific research and development activities that address the stated priorities of the funding opportunity. Travel costs for conferences or meetings that are not directly related to achieving the objectives of the proposed project are not permitted.

D7. Other Submission Requirements

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 with the following information:

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

Organizational details should match those in the organization's SAM.gov registration. 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 more information, see the GrantSolutions Recipient Training and FAQs web page. 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.

E. Application Review Information

E1. Criteria

Projects will be evaluated and ranked by Service staff and relevant subject matter experts. Reviewers identify strengths and weaknesses of the projects and assign an overall score indicating how likely the proposed work is to have a meaningful impact in managing WNS.

An initial screening of project relevance (see below) will be conducted by at least three Service biologists prior to full review. Proposals that do not clearly advance research exploring a biotechnological tool to safely inhibit or eliminate Pd will not be considered and may be referred to another appropriate funding opportunity.

Projects receiving full review will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

Maximum Points: 100

Project Relevance (20 points)

- Does the proposed work advance research and development of a biotechnological tool to safely inhibit or eliminate Pd in natural settings?

Scientific Merit (25 points)

- Are goals and objectives clear and testable using the proposed methods?
- Is the proposed work supported by theory, preliminary studies, and/or other relevant work?

Project Feasibility (25 points)

- Does the proposal satisfactorily address relevant questions related to safety (including specificity and reversibility), regulation, and timeline for registration of the intended product, if relevant?
- Do the applicants have a record of expertise, awareness and accomplishments to demonstrate their ability to successfully complete the proposed work?
- Is the applicant's institution, organization, or company well suited to host the proposed work?

Transferability and Scalability (20 points)

- Does the intended product have the potential to be used in natural (non-laboratory) settings? (It is not essential that the proposed work includes broad implementation of the product, but there must be a clear description of how implementation would be achieved.)
- Is the cost of implementing the intended product (tool) at scale reasonable and sustainable?

Budget (10 points)

- Is the project budget justifiable for the proposed actions and outcomes?
- Is the proposed work cost effective (including contribution of non-Federal matching funds)?

For continuing projects:

Projects that represent a continuation of work previously funded by the Service for progress toward the same final goal will be evaluated for an additional 10 available points. These points will be assigned based on the demonstrated progress achieved with the previous award.

Selected proposals will receive budget review in accordance with DOI-APP-0062 prior to final selection.

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.

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.

Review of applications is coordinated by the Service's National Coordinator and National Assistant Coordinator for White-nose Syndrome. Applications will be reviewed and assigned to additional panelists for evaluation. A diverse panel will include three to five reviewers with appropriate expertise in white-nose syndrome, wildlife diseases, biotechnology, wildlife management and other topics relevant to the received proposals. The panel will include Service biologists, leaders of the national working groups of the WNS national response, and other subject matter experts. Technical experts (non-agency) will augment the review team's evaluations, as needed. To the extent possible, the review panel will include representatives from Department of the Interior agencies and offices (USFWS, USGS, NPS, BLM, BIA), other federal agencies (USFS, APHIS, EPA, DOD), state wildlife agencies, and non-government entities (if appropriate).

Each proposal will be reviewed by at least three independent reviewers using the criteria identified above. Additionally, reviewers will assign each proposal an overall score indicating whether the project will have a significant outcome and impact on WNS: 5 = Excellent, 1 = poor, and 0 = fatally flawed proposal. Reviewers will also identify strengths and weaknesses of each proposal. Reviewers will also identify strengths and weaknesses of each proposal, as well as significant shortcomings (i.e. red flags) that may put the proposal in poor standing for funding. The Service will aim to complete evaluations within four weeks of being distributed to the review panel. All elements of review will be submitted and maintained electronically by the National Assistant Coordinator for the Service's white-nose syndrome program. Evaluations are then used to inform a panel discussion with Service staff through which final ranks and funding recommendations are agreed upon. The Service will evaluate contributions from the reviewers and is responsible for all final decisions. The National WNS Steering Committee will be notified of the award selections by the WNS Program.

Prior to participating in any review or evaluation process, all staff and peer reviewers, evaluators, panel members, and advisors must sign and return to the program office point of contact the "Department of the Interior Conflict of Interest Certification" form. For a copy of this form, contact the Service point of contact identified in the Agency Contacts section below. A reviewer recuses himself or herself from commenting or scoring individual applications if they have a conflict of interest with one or few individual proposals. A reviewer declines the invitation to participate in the evaluation process as a whole for larger conflicts of interest.

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

We anticipate notifying applicants of award decisions by April 30, 2023. Also, proposals will be reviewed on a rolling basis throughout the open period of this funding opportunity. Each month, proposals received in the previous month will be evaluated. Throughout the open period of this funding opportunity, proposals may be selected for funding, declined, or returned to applicants for revision and resubmission. Proposals that are accepted for funding will be notified as soon as possible and recipients will be able to begin work once awards are finalized.

F. Federal Award Administration Information

F1. Federal Award Notices

Following review, applicants may be requested to revise the project scope and/or budget before an award is made. Successful applicants will receive written notice in the form of a notice of award document. Notices of award will be generated and sent to the applicant through

GrantSolutions. Award recipients are not required to sign/return the Notice of Award document. Acceptance of an award is defined as starting work, drawing down funds, or accepting the award via electronic means.

Awards are based on the final application submitted to and approved by the Service and are subject to the terms and conditions incorporated into the Notice of Award either by direct citation or by reference to the following: Federal regulations; program legislation or regulation; and special award terms and conditions. Recipient acceptance of a Federal award from the Service carries with it the responsibility to be aware of and comply with all terms and conditions applicable to the award.

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.

As required by Section 70914 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Pub. L. 117-58), on or after May 14, 2022, none of the funds under a federal award that are part of a Federal financial assistance program for infrastructure may be obligated for a project unless all the iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in the project are produced in the United States, unless subject to an approved waiver. Recipients conducting infrastructure projects under the award must include related requirements all subawards, including all contracts and purchase orders for infrastructure work or products under this program. For the full text term applicable to infrastructure and related waiver request standards and procedures, see the Service's General Award Terms and Conditions.

Data Availability

Per the Financial Assistance Interior Regulation (FAIR), [2 CFR §1402.315](#):

- a. All data, methodology, factual inputs, models, analyses, technical information, reports, conclusions, valuation products or other scientific assessments in any medium or form, including textual, numerical, graphic, cartographic, narrative, or audiovisual, resulting from a financial assistance agreement is available for use by the Department of the Interior, including being available in a manner that is sufficient for independent verification.
- b. The Federal Government has the right to:
 1. Obtain, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use the data, methodology, factual inputs, models, analyses, technical information, reports, conclusions, or other scientific assessments, produced under a Federal award; and
 2. Authorize others to receive, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use such data, methodology, factual inputs, models, analyses, technical information, reports, conclusions, or other scientific assessments, for Federal purposes, including to allow for meaningful third-party evaluation.

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.

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 (currently the [Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information 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:

Jonathan Reichard

Telephone:

413-335-2886

Email:

Jonathan_Reichard@fws.gov

G2. Program Administration

For **program administration assistance**, contact:

First and Last Name:

Shelley DiBona

Telephone:

413-253-8509

Email:

Shelley_DiBona@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.

Fish and Wildlife Service contacts for WNS are available at www.whitenosesyndrome.org/contacts

- Jeremy Coleman, National WNS Coordinator; Phone: 413-253-8223, Jeremy_Coleman@fws.gov
- Jonathan Reichard, National WNS Assistant Coordinator; Phone: 413-253-8258, Jonathan_Reichard@fws.gov

- Christina Kocer, Northeast WNS Coordinator (CT, DE, MA, MD, ME, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VA, VT, WV and DC); Phone: 413-253-8215, Christina_Kocer@fws.gov
- Richard Geboy, Midwest WNS Coordinator (IA, IL, IN, MI, MN, MO, OH, WI); Phone: 812-334-4261 x210, Richard_Geboy@fws.gov
- Pete Pattavina, Southeast WNS Coordinator (AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, PR, SC, TN, VI); Phone: 706-208-7511, Pete_Pattavina@fws.gov
- Laurel Hill, Mountain-Prairie WNS Coordinator [acting] (CO, KS, MT, NE, ND, SD, UT, WY); Phone: 303-236-4211, Laurel_Hill@fws.gov
- Jennifer Smith-Castro, Southwest WNS Coordinator (AZ, NM, OK, TX); Phone: 281-212-1509, Jennifer_Smith-Castro@fws.gov
- Erin Adams, Pacific Northwest WNS Coordinator (ID, OR, WA); Phone: 360-753-4370, Erin_Adams@fws.gov
- Bronwyn Hogan, Pacific Southwest WNS Coordinator (CA, NV); Phone: 916-215-9502, Bronwyn_Hogan@fws.gov
- Melissa Burns, Alaska WNS Coordinator (AK); Phone: 907-786-3451, Melissa_Burns@fws.gov
- Samantha Gibbs, National Wildlife Refuge System Coordinator for WNS; Phone: 571-216-5776, Samantha_Gibbs@fws.gov

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](mailto:Coll@fws.gov).