

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Region 6 Migratory Birds**

Migratory Bird Conservation

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 15.647

Notice of Funding Availability and Application Instructions

I. Single Source Information

This is a Notice of Intent to award a Single Source Cooperative agreement to Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory (RMBO) for the purpose of implementing the breeding season portion of a full life cycle demographic monitoring project for grassland birds that nest in the Northern Great Plains.

The tasks to be performed under this agreement are as follows: work with USFWS to identify potential sites for conducting this work, monitor demographic parameters (adult and juvenile survival, nest success) of Baird's Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, and Chestnut-collared Longspur on the breeding grounds, relate demographic parameters and annual variation in these parameters to vegetation structure and climate, develop full life cycle population models for each species and identify factors driving population change, and recommend practical solutions to population declines.

This Single Source Award is being awarded in accordance with Department of the Interior Policy 505 DM 2.14 B [4: Unique Qualifications], which allows for award without competition to an applicant. This recipient and project meet this criteria because the Northern Great Plains (NGP) is a critically important region for grassland birds, a suite of birds that are experiencing long-term & widespread population declines. The NGP provides large expanses of grassland habitat for breeding & pre-migration annual life cycles for a wide diversity of grassland birds, many of which are Birds of Conservation Concern nationally & regionally. Many of these species migrate to, & overwinter in, the Chihuahuan Desert grasslands in northern Mexico. Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory (RMBO) has a tremendous amount of experience conducting research & monitoring programs for grassland birds in both the NGP and the Chihuahuan Desert regions. RMBO has worked throughout Region 6 on numerous bird projects in various habitats, but their emphasis & expertise really lies within the prairie ecosystems. RMBO has an excellent track record working with private landowners, corporate ranching operations, other conservation groups, and state & federal agencies. Additionally, RMBO initiated a project in the Chihuahuan Desert to monitor overwinter survival on the 3 species we developed this project around: Baird's Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, and Chestnut-collared Longspur. The ability to monitor vital rates (e.g., seasonal & age-specific survival, nest success, productivity, etc.) year-round will help USFWS and its partners to identify the critical limiting factors for these Birds of Conservation Concern so that we can better target our collective conservation efforts.

II. Award Information

This project should be considered a Cooperative Agreement with substantial involvement by the FWS Project Officer and other Migratory Bird Program staff. The FWS Project Officer will work closely with personnel from RMBO to develop work plans for each aspect & year of the project; develop strategic direction on where to focus research and monitoring efforts; develop conservation recommendations that will help target conservation actions; and to conduct field work and publish results. Consequently, the FWS Project Officer will serve as an integral partner with RMBO.

Estimated Total Program Funding: \$200,000

Expected Number of Awards: 5

Award Ceiling: \$68,300

Award Floor: \$20,000

III. Basic Eligibility Requirements

Cost Sharing or Matching: Cost sharing or matching is not required.

IV. Agency Contacts

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