

Bureau of Land Management

**Notice of Funding Opportunity**

FY26 Bureau of Land Management Cultural and Paleontological Resource Management -  
Bureau wide

Funding Opportunity Number

L26AS00058

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## BASIC INFORMATION

**Announcement Type:** Initial

**Funding Opportunity Number:** L26AS00058

**Assistance Listing Number(s):** 15.224

**Estimated Total Program Funding:** \$830,000

**Expected Number of Awards:** 40

**Award Ceiling:** \$75,000

**Award Floor:** \$30,000

**Cost Sharing Required?**

No

### Closing Date Explanation

Electronically submitted applications must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m., ET, on the listed application due dates. Applications must be submitted through grants.gov.

Applications will be reviewed, rated, ranked and selected via merit review committee.

Open from **June 12, 2026, through August 14, 2026.**

Extensions to NOFO close dates will be unallowed, except in extenuating circumstances.

U.S. states and local governments may be required under [Executive Order 12372](#), [Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs](#) to submit their application to their State Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for review. For more information, see the [Intergovernmental Review SPOC List](#).

### Have Questions?

Applicants are also encouraged to contact the Grants Management Officer, Stephanie Lund at [stephanie\\_lund@ios.doi.gov](mailto:stephanie_lund@ios.doi.gov) or HQ National Cultural and Paleontological Resource Lead, George Herbst at [g Herbst@blm.gov](mailto:g Herbst@blm.gov) with questions.

**Headquarters (for projects national in scope), Eastern States, Alaska, Arizona, Idaho, Nevada, Wyoming, National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC), and the National Operations Center (NOC) will not be accepting applications under this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).**

### Executive Summary

Broadly, the objective is to develop partnerships to improve access to, and use of, heritage resources, and promote their educational, scientific, cultural, and recreational values in a manner that meets U.S. Department of the Interior priorities and Cultural Heritage and Paleontology Program goals. Individual projects shall meet one or more of the following objectives.

- Conduct studies, including inventory, excavation, records research, and collections-based research to improve the understanding of America's natural and cultural history;

- Monitor at-risk heritage resources to track trends in condition and project effectiveness;
- Stabilize at-risk heritage resources;
- Train future cultural resource management practitioners and paleontologists through research projects, field schools and internships that highlight BLM resources;
- Assist with cultural heritage data and records management activities such as organizing, maintaining, and scanning site and survey records; creating, digitizing and maintaining geospatial data; and performing data entry;
- Preserve existing collections at recognized curation facilities through such activities as archival housing, stabilization or conservation;
- Broaden public access to museum collections;
- Promote engagement with Native American communities and foster partnerships with tribal governments and programs;
- Promote public engagement, learning opportunities, and conservation/preservation ethics through heritage resources education and outreach programs, events, and products;
- Develop and maintain historic sites with interpretive and educational potential.
- Partner to support BLM's Tribal consultation efforts

## **ELIGIBILITY**

### **Eligible Applicants**

State governments

County governments

City or township governments

Special district governments

Public and State controlled institutions of higher education

Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized)

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

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

Nonprofits without 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education

Private institutions of higher education

### **Additional Information on Eligibility**

Individuals and For-Profit Organizations are ineligible to apply for awards under this NOFO.

This program NOFO does not support entities hiring interns or crews under the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993. The Public Lands Corps Act of 1993, 16 USC, Chapter 37, Subchapter II- Public Lands Corps, is the only legislative authority that allows BLM to "hire" interns under this authority. Therefore, eligible Youth Conservation Corps may only apply for projects developed under NOFO 15.243 – BLM Youth Conservation Opportunities on Public Lands.

## Cost Sharing Requirement

### Cost Sharing Required?

No

## GET READY TO APPLY

### Required System Registrations

#### Unique Entity Identifier and SAM.gov Registration

Before applying, all **applicants** except individuals applying as a natural person **must be registered in SAM.gov**. During the SAM.gov registration the entity will obtain their Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).

**The SAM.gov registration process can take several months. If your organization is not already registered in SAM.gov, begin the registration process as soon as possible.**

**To register in SAM.gov**, go to the [SAM.gov website](#) and use the available resources to complete registration.

- **Financial assistance registrants** must review and certify compliance with the SAM.gov “Financial Assistance General Representations and Certifications”.
- **Already registered?** You already have a Unique Entity ID. Before applying, check that your “Financial Assistance General Representations and Certifications” on SAM.gov is complete. Remember to renew your registration every year to keep it active while you have an award or application in progress. You can update your registration whenever you need, including during renewal.
- **Need help?** For additional information and contact information on the [SAM.gov Help page](#).

### GRANTS.GOV

This program accepts applications through [Grants.gov](#) so once you receive your UEI return to [Grants.gov](#) to [register](#) with Grants.gov. Please allow 30 days to register and set up a [Workspace](#) in Grants.gov. See [Submission Instructions](#) section below for additional details.

**Refer to Attachment – Submission Instructions & Tips.**

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

### Program Goals

- Inventory cultural resources to provide historic contexts necessary for identification and evaluation of historic properties on public lands.
- Repatriate Native American human remains and cultural items to culturally affiliated Indian tribes and ensure that required inventories, summaries, and notices are completed.
- Manage archaeological and paleontological museum collections to provide public access for research and education.

## Program Description

*Certified Local Governments are encouraged to prioritize projects in support of the celebration of America's 250th birthday (Freedom 250). This may include, but is not limited to, preservation planning, interpretation, public engagement, and rehabilitation projects that recognize and honor the nation's founding, history, and cultural heritage.*

**Applicants MUST include the state names in their application Grants.gov title.**

BLM manages archaeological and historic sites, artifact collections, places of traditional cultural importance to Native Americans and other communities, and paleontological resources that occur on federal lands. Collectively, these "heritage resources" represent thousands of years of human occupation, and millions of years of the earth's natural history. BLM Cultural Heritage and Paleontology Programs coordinate management, preservation, education and outreach efforts, economic opportunities, and public uses of a fragile, nonrenewable scientific record that represents an important component of America's heritage.

The BLM Cultural Heritage and Paleontology Programs seek to establish partnerships that collaboratively encourage the public to learn about and engage with heritage resources, with the goals of building a meaningful conservation stewardship legacy through expanding recreation opportunities on public lands, working to ensure meaningful consultation and self-determination for Tribes, enhancing visitor experience on public lands by better meeting our infrastructure and maintenance needs, and eliminating unnecessary steps and duplicative reviews while maintaining rigorous environmental standards. The Cultural Heritage and Paleontology Programs achieve these goals by:

- Protecting and preserving cultural heritage and paleontological resources for the benefit of future generations;
- Improving professional and/or public understanding of the nation's cultural and natural history;
- Providing educational, recreational, and economic opportunities for local communities and the public;
- Increasing Native American access to locations and natural resources important to traditional cultural practices and beliefs; and
- Managing heritage resource collections and associated records to appropriate standards, and providing access to the public and Native Americans.
- Identify opportunities for repatriation of ancestors and objects in museum collections to descendant Native American tribes;

Broadly, the objective is to develop partnerships to improve access to, and use of, heritage resources, and promote their educational, scientific, cultural, and recreational values in a manner that meets U.S. Department of the Interior priorities and Cultural Heritage and Paleontology Program goals. Individual projects shall meet one or more of the following objectives.

- Conduct studies, including inventory, excavation, records research, and collections-based research to improve the understanding of America's natural and cultural history;
- Monitor at-risk heritage resources to track trends in condition and project effectiveness;
- Stabilize at-risk heritage resources;

- Train future cultural resource management practitioners and paleontologists through research projects, field schools and internships that highlight BLM resources;
- Assist with cultural heritage data and records management activities such as organizing, maintaining, and scanning site and survey records; creating, digitizing and maintaining geospatial data; and performing data entry;
- Preserve existing collections at recognized curation facilities through such activities as archival housing, stabilization or conservation;
- Broaden public access to museum collections;
- Promote engagement with Native American communities and foster partnerships with tribal governments and programs;
- Promote public engagement, learning opportunities, and conservation/preservation ethics through heritage resources education and outreach programs, events, and products;
- Develop and maintain historic sites with interpretive and educational potential.
- Partner to support BLM's Tribal consultation efforts

**State Priority Projects that will be accepting applications under this Notice of Funding Opportunity:**

**California:** Develop and implement the Potential Fossil Yield Classification (PFYC).

**Colorado:** 1) Cultural resource restoration, education and outreach, and Tribal engagement; 2) Paleontological inventory, museum collections management, and PFYC implementation.

**Montana/Dakotas:** 1) Restoration and stabilization of cultural resources; 2) Paleontological inventory, museum collections management, and PFYC implementation.

**New Mexico:** Paleontological inventory, museum collections management, and PFYC implementation.

**Oregon/Washington:** 1) Museum collections and NAGPRA management through agreements with curation facilities and Tribes to ensure timely repatriation and proper care of BLM collections; 2) Burns Trout Creek School restoration and public education to protect prior investments and enhance public understanding and enjoyment of the historic site; 3) Field school at Escure Ranch with Eastern Washington University to strengthen Tribal relationships and expand knowledge of heritage resources within the Rock Creek Grazing Allotment; 4) Heritage data management and enhancement to support efficient compliance with NHPA and related statutes while facilitating authorized public land uses; 5) Paleontological inventory, museum collections management, and PFYC implementation; 6) Cataloging, preparation, and rehousing of legacy BLM fossil collections, particularly at the Thomas Condon Paleontology Center, to support public education and scientific research; 7) Intern to assist with processing cultural resource permits and data and collections management

**Utah:** 1) Cultural site stewardship, education and outreach, archaeological research, and field schools; 2) Paleontological inventory, museum collections management, and PFYC implementation.

**Headquarters (for projects national in scope), Eastern States, Alaska, Arizona, Idaho, Nevada, Wyoming, National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC), and the National Operations**

**Center (NOC) will not be accepting applications under this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).**

The following program legislation authority, BLM Manuals, etc. are applicable to this program:

1. Archaeological Resource Protection Act of 1979 (16 U.S.C. 470aa-470mm; Public Law 96-95 and amendments to it)
2. National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665: 54 U.S.C. 300101) and 36 CFR 800
3. Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of 1990 – (25 USC 3001 Et. Seq.; Public Law 101-601; Statute 3048)
4. Paleontological Resources Preservation Act of 2009, Section 6312 (16 U.S.C. 470aaa-11)
5. BLM Manual 1780, “Tribal Relations”
6. BLM Manual 8110, “Identifying and Evaluating Cultural Resources”
7. BLM Manual 8140, “Protecting Cultural Resources”
8. BLM Manual 8150, “Permitting Uses of Cultural Resources
9. BLM Manual 8170, “Interpreting Cultural Resources for the Public”
10. BLM Manual 8270, “Paleontological Resource Management”
11. 2017 National Park Service, “The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties”
12. National Register Bulletin, “How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation
13. National Register Bulletin 21 & 22, “Defining Boundaries for National Register Properties”

The BLM Heritage Program supports the Department of the Interior’s priorities to strengthen American energy independence, streamline permitting, and ensure the responsible use of public lands to support economic growth and national security. The program advances these priorities by facilitating efficient compliance with cultural resource requirements, supporting timely project delivery, and providing clear, consistent processes that reduce delays for energy and infrastructure development.

Specific BLM Heritage Program focuses include, but are not limited to, actions that: preserve and manage Heritage resources in accordance with applicable law; support efficient and predictable National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 compliance for energy, infrastructure, and land use authorizations; reduce duplicative review and administrative burden through programmatic approaches and standardized procedures; improve coordination with Federal, State, Tribal, and local partners to facilitate timely decision-making; and ensure continued public access to and understanding of cultural heritage resources.

All proposed projects submitted under this funding opportunity must demonstrate a clear public benefit and, where applicable, support timely permitting and project delivery. Special consideration will be given to projects that directly support implementation of Secretary’s Orders, including SO-3417 (National Energy Emergency) and SO-3418 (Unleashing American Energy), particularly those that enhance permitting efficiency, improve interagency coordination, or remove barriers to responsible energy and infrastructure development.

### **Legislative Authority**

Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), 43 USC § 1737(b)

## Type of Award

Projects will be funded through CA (Cooperative Agreement).

Recipient should expect the Federal agency to have substantial involvement in the project.

Substantial involvement may include, but not be limited to, such things as:

Joint collaboration between the BLM and recipient in carrying out management, development, implementation, and evaluation of the proposed work.

Training of recipient personnel.

Review and approval by the BLM of one stage of work prior to the start of the next stage.

Review and approval by the BLM of modifications or sub-awards prior to their award.

Participation in selecting recipient project staff.

Directing or redirecting of recipient work by the BLM because of relationships to other projects.

Ability to immediately halt work because of failure to meet agreement objectives; and

Close monitoring and/or operational involvement in the proposed work.

## PREPARE YOUR APPLICATION

### Application Content and Format

#### Pre-Application Requirements

Prior to applying, applicants should review presidential actions found at:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/> and DOI Secretary's Orders found at:

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

By applying in response to this Notice of Funding Opportunity, the applicant certifies awareness and compliance with all currently effective and applicable executive orders and secretary's orders, including but not limited to the Executive Order titled Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing as well as the Executive Order and Secretary's order titled Restoring Truth and Sanity to American History. Applicants are responsible for ensuring their proposed activities are consistent with the intent and requirements of these directives.

### Application Documents

Applicants must submit the following forms with their application as specified below.

Instructions for accessing and submitting application forms are provided in the [Submission Instructions](#) section of this document below. For instructions on completing form fields, see the form instructions on the [Grants.gov Forms Repository](#).

Forms/Assurances/Certifications	Submission Requirement
SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance  Note: For applicants requesting more than \$100,000 in Federal funds, the Authorized Representative's signature (or electronic equivalent) on the Application for Federal Assistance form also	Required from all applicants

Forms/Assurances/Certifications	Submission Requirement
represents their certification of the statements in <a href="#">Appendix A to 43 CFR 18-Certification Regarding Lobbying</a>	
SF-424A, Budget Information – Non-Construction Programs	Required for non-construction projects
SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities	Required if requesting more than \$100,000 in Federal funds <u>and</u> the applicant has used or plans to use funds other than Federal appropriated funds for lobbying related to the proposed project.
Project Abstract Summary (OMB 4040-0019). Must include, in plain language: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Award purpose,</li> <li>• Activities to be performed,</li> <li>• Expected deliverables or outcomes,</li> <li>• Intended beneficiaries,</li> </ul> Subrecipient activities (if known or specified at time of award)	Required from all applicants
DOI Research and Development (R&D) – Current and Pending (Other) Support Note: This form is available on the <a href="#">DOI website</a> . Applicants must download the form and include the completed form as an application attachment.	Required for research projects.
DOI Research and Development (R&D) – Biographical Sketch Note: This form is available on the <a href="#">DOI website</a> . Applicants must download the form and include the completed form as an application attachment.	Required for research projects.

**Project Narrative**

**Project Title: Must name the State where project is located in the Grant.gov title.**

(Suggested format, Attachment A Project Proposal template, in the “related documents” tab on grants.gov, may be used when submitting your proposal.) The project proposal must be no longer than 15 pages, with a typeface no smaller than 11-point, and have at least one (1) inch margins on all sides. The 15-page limit includes all text, figures, references, and vitae, but does not include the Budget Detail (Attachment B) or DOI Research and Development related attachments.

Application narrative requirements may include:

- Project title
- Statement of need
- Goals and objectives

- Public benefit and program interest of the BLM
- Technical approach
- Timetable or milestones
- Information to support environmental compliance review requirements. (NOTE: Projects under aquatic and wildlife management, the native plant program, threatened and endangered species habitat conservation - the narrative should provide enough detail so that reviewers are able to determine project compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973)
- Description of stakeholder coordination or involvement
- Required project monitoring and evaluation plan, including how you will measure project performance and assessment tools to be used
- Information on key project personnel
- Anticipated future funding needs
- Details and supporting documentation on the project location
- Other program or project-specific narrative requirements

All proposals are confidential.

### **Budget Narrative**

Applicants must describe and justify items and costs listed in their budget. The budget narrative must identify the following cost items: total estimated costs, non-Federal cost share, third-party contributions, and any pre-award costs. Total project cost is the sum of all allowable costs, including required and voluntary cost share and third-party contributions.

Budget items must be:

- Reasonable, allowable, allocable, and necessary
- Compliant with [2 CFR §200 Subpart E](#) cost principles

Indirect Costs: Applicants must indicate in their budget narrative how they will charge indirect costs, including the rate to be applied:

- De Minimis Rate: If eligible, state if your organization is opting to use the de minimis rate of up to 15% of total modified direct costs. Entities that do not have a current Federal negotiated indirect cost rate (including provisional rate) may propose to use the de minimis rate. For more information, refer to [2 CFR 200.414\(f\)](#).
- Negotiated Rate: State if you will negotiate with your cognizant agency. If your organization has previously negotiated a rate, attach a copy of the most recently negotiated rate agreement (active or expired).

This program has a mandated cap on indirect costs or approved rate deviation.

CESUs are partnerships with a purpose to promote, conduct, and provide research, studies, assessments, monitoring, technical assistance, and educational services. If a cooperative agreement is awarded to a CESU partner under a formally negotiated CESU Cooperative and Joint Venture Agreement which is consistent with the CESU purpose, indirect costs are limited to a rate of no-more-than 17.5 percent of the indirect cost base recognized in the partner's Federal Agency-approved Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA). Applicants

should specify if their proposal furthers the purpose of the CESU program, and if so, which CESU Network should be considered as host.

Data and Evaluation Costs: Applicant budgets may include costs related to data and evaluation as relevant per 2 CFR §200.455.

Data and Evaluation Costs: Applicant budgets may include costs related to data and evaluation as relevant per 2 CFR §200.455.

Refer to Budget Detail and Narrative, Attachment B in the “related documents” tab on grants.gov as a suggested format.

### **Conflict of Interest and Unresolved Matters Disclosures:**

If any actual or potential conflict of interest exists related to this project at the time of application, the applicant must provide sufficient information to support a program determination of significance per [2 CFR 1402.112](#). Refer to [2 CFR 200.112](#) Conflict of Interest and [2 CFR 200.113](#).

### **Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement:**

Applicants must state in their application if the activities, costs, or time commitment of key personnel proposed in this application overlap with those in any other Federal proposal or award or not. If no overlap exists, include a statement to that effect. If any overlap exists, provide:

- Activities: Description any overlapping activities.
- Costs: Description of any overlapping costs.
- Time: Description of any overlapping key personnel time.
- A copy of any overlapping or duplicative proposal submitted to any other potential funding entity.
- Details on when any overlapping proposal was submitted, to whom, and the expected date of the funding decision.

### **Other Required Information**

Other documentation may include curriculum vitae or other biographical information for key personnel, project location maps, any documentation to support an eligibility determination (e.g., proof of certain tax status, authorizing tribal resolution), third-party references, letters of support, or letters of cost sharing or other commitments to the project, independent audit report, or negotiated indirect cost rate letter.

## **SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES**

### **Address to Request Application Package**

This NOFO includes all information, documents, and electronic addresses needed to submit an application through [www.Grants.gov](http://www.Grants.gov). Contact Stephanie Lund at [stephanie\\_lund@ios.doi.gov](mailto:stephanie_lund@ios.doi.gov) for any additional questions.

### **Submission Dates and Times**

**Closing Date for Applications:** 08/14/2026

### **Closing Date Explanation**

Electronically submitted applications must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m., ET, on the listed application due dates. Applications must be submitted through grants.gov.

Applications will be reviewed, rated, ranked and selected via merit review committee.

Open from **June 12, 2026, through August 14, 2026.**

Extensions to NOFO close dates will be unallowed, except in extenuating circumstances.

## **Submission Instructions**

### **Apply Through Grants.gov**

To apply through [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov), please follow the instructions in the [Quick Start Guide for Applicants](#). Before applying, ensure that at least one person at your organization is registered and has the Authorized Organization Representative (AOR). Only the AOR can submit the application. If you need more users, they must create their own Grants.gov account. Follow these steps below to apply:

- Create a Workspace: Creating a workspace allows you to complete it online and route it through your organization for review before submitting.
- Complete a Workspace: Invite participants to the workspace so you can collaborate on the application. Required applications forms are included in the Grants.gov Funding Opportunity Package and can be completed in the Workspace, unless noted otherwise in the Required Forms table above. Check for errors before submission.
- Submit a Workspace: An application may be submitted through workspace by clicking the Sign and Submit button on the Manage Workspace page, under the Forms tab
- Track a Workspace Submission: After successfully submitting a workspace application, a Grants.gov Tracking Number (GRANTXXXXXXXX) is automatically assigned to the application.

The system generates a date and time stamp and sends it to the applicant's AOR via email as proof of submission. Make sure your application passes the Grants.gov validation checks. Do not encrypt, zip, or password-protect any files. Only registered individuals in SAM as both a user and an AOR can submit applications. Please allow 30 days to register in Grants.gov.

**Application System Technical Support**: For Grants.gov technical registration and submission, downloading forms, and application packages, contact Grants.gov Customer Support at 1-800-518-4726 or by email at [Support@grants.gov](mailto:Support@grants.gov).

### **Apply Through GrantSolutions**

To apply through [GrantSolutions](https://www.grantsolutions.gov), follow these steps:

1. **Register your organization**. 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.
- 2. **Assign system user roles.** Follow the [GrantSolutions “Recipient user” registration instructions](#). Submit a separate Recipient User Account Request form for each official to be assigned a system role. At minimum, the Authorizing Official (ADO) and Principal Investigator/Program Director (PI/PD) must be assigned.
- 3. **Log in.** GrantSolutions requires users to log in through Login.gov. Each user must create a [Login.gov](#) account. For instructions, see the [GrantSolutions Training Resources web page](#).
- 4. **Find and apply to this Funding Opportunity.** After logging in, click on either the “Begin an application” link (first time applicants) or the “Funding Opportunity” link to go to the “Competing Announcements-Application Kits” list screen. Search the list for this Funding Opportunity’s title and number. Click on the associated “Apply” link. Follow the prompts from there. Required applications forms are provided with the [Funding Opportunity in GrantSolutions unless otherwise indicated on the Required Forms table above](#).
- 5. For detailed instructions, see the [GrantSolutions Training Resources web page](#).
- 6. **Need help?** Find help topics and contact information on the [GrantSolutions Contact Us page](#).

## APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

### Eligibility Review

During the eligibility review, the application is checked for timely submission, completed packages (see [Application Documents](#) above) and alignment with the requirements of this announcement. The Federal agency may remove an application if it does not pass the eligibility review.

Prior to conducting the comprehensive merit review, an initial review will be performed to determine whether:

- (1) the applicant is eligible for an award;
- (2) the information required by the NOFO has been submitted;
- (3) all mandatory requirements of the NOFO are satisfied;
- (4) the proposed project is responsive to the program objectives of the NOFO (program determination); and
- (5) the proposed project is in compliance with all applicable executive and secretary orders, including the President's executive order on Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing as well as the executive order and Secretary order on Restoring Truth and Sanity to American History.

If an applicant fails to meet the requirements or objectives of the NOFO, or does not provide sufficient information for review, the applicant will be considered nonresponsive and eliminated from further review.

If an applicant selected for funding hasn't finished their SAM.gov registration (see [2 CFR 25.200](#) and [2 CFR 25.110](#)) when the federal agency is ready to make an award, we may decide that the applicant is ineligible for the award and choose to grant it to someone else. Please refer [2 CFR 25.205](#) for more information.

Prior to making an award, the DOI checks the anticipated recipient and their key project personnel against the current list of prohibited or restricted persons or entities in the System for Award Management (SAM.gov) Exclusions database. We are prohibited from making an award if a recipient or any key personnel are found ineligible, prohibited, restricted, or otherwise excluded from receiving or participating in an award, as their ineligibility condition applies to this program.

If removed from consideration for ineligibility, the Federal agency will notify the applicant in writing.

## **Merit Review**

Eligible applications will be evaluated in an objective and unbiased manner using the following merit review criteria:

Proposals will be evaluated on strengths or weaknesses for each merit review criterion and rated “Exceeds” “Meets” or “Does not meet” expectations with the highest importance on **Technical Approach and Leveraging Resources**.

Each of these ratings is defined as follows:

Exceeds – The proposal exceeds the criteria factors without any deficiencies. Meets – The proposal meets criteria factors with few, or only minor, deficiencies.

Does not meet – The proposal does not meet the criteria factors, or there are significant deficiencies identified.

### **APPLICANT STATEMENT OF NEED**

- Mission and objectives, including achievable project goals and how they relate Cultural and Paleontological Resource Management
- Objectives of the project
- DOI priorities met

### **APPLICANT TECHNICAL APPROACH**

- Development and management plans;
- Techniques, processes, and methodologies;
- Stabilization and/or protection plans for at-risk heritage resources;
- Public engagement, learning opportunities, archaeological and/or paleontological education and outreach programs, events, and/or products;
- Resource data management plans;
- How studies will assist with determining impacts to cultural or paleontological resources caused by activities such as prescribed fire, vegetation treatments, ecological restoration, or any land disturbing activity;

- How studies will assist in future management and stewardship of cultural or paleontological resources;
- How projects will assist in making museum collections discoverable and accessible;
- Tasks to be performed by other partner organizations, subrecipients, contractors, and/or consultants;
- Environmental compliance plan;
- Project monitoring and evaluation plan including monitoring of subrecipients, contractors, consultants, volunteers, etc.; and Measurable expected outcomes

## **PUBLIC BENEFIT AND PROGRAM INTEREST OF THE BLM**

- Direct Public Benefit
- Projects that expand the knowledge of cultural, historical, and/or paleontological resources.

## **APPLICANT QUALIFICATIONS/PAST PERFORMANCE**

- Key project personnel experience and qualifications
- Previous studies performed, including inventory, excavation, intensive recordation or evaluation and collections-based studies;
- Previous engagements or partnerships with tribal communities, tribal governments and programs
- Previous experience in preservation of existing collections at federally-recognized curation facilities and in compliance with 36 CFR 79 requirements;
- BLM permits currently or previously held;
- Unique qualifications;
- Qualifications of any contractors, subrecipients, and/or consultants;
- A list of federally-funded assistance agreements (not contracts) that your organization performed within the last three years (no more than 5, and preferably BLM agreements), and describe how you documented and/or reported on whether you were making progress toward achieving the expected results (e.g., outputs and outcomes) under those agreements;
- Similar successfully completed projects; and
- Describe similar successful projects completed in the past and any unique qualifications your organization may possess (e.g. continuation of an existing project).

## **LEVERAGING OF RESOURCES (Voluntary Cost Share)**

A proposal should clearly demonstrate how partnerships contribute to the effective sharing of resources and expertise. Although cost sharing is not required by the program authority, it may be considered a significant factor during the application review process. If cost share is included, applicants must specify the amount, source, and type of contribution (cash or in-kind) and ensure that all contributions are allowable, allocable, and reasonable in accordance with 2 CFR 200.306.

## **Review and Selection Process**

This program reviews proposed budgets to ensure:

- figures are correct
- estimated costs are necessary and reasonable and clearly linked to project narratives
- avoid obviously unallowable costs
- identify costs requiring prior approval
- ensure indirect cost rates are applied correctly
- confirm cost sharing requirements are reflected in the budget.

This program reviews applications for potential overlap or duplication between the proposed project and any other funded or proposed project. Depending on the circumstances, DOI may choose to not make an award.

### **BUDGET REVIEW IS BASED ON THE FOLLOWING:**

- Budget line items must be allowable, allocable, reasonable in price, and appropriate for the level of effort needed to accomplish the project.
- Budget details and narrative must provide adequate explanation of, and justification for, each estimated cost.
- Requested equipment must be justified and necessary for completion of the project.
- Cost Sharing/Matching funds must not come from Federal sources.

### **COST SHARE COMMITMENT CLAUSE (PER 2 CFR § 200.306)**

The proposed cost share shall be evaluated as part of the application review process, in accordance with 2 CFR § 200.306 and any applicable program-specific requirements. Upon finalization of the budget and issuance of the Federal award, the cost share amount becomes a binding commitment by the recipient.

The recipient shall ensure that all cost share contributions:

- Are verifiable in the recipient's records;
- Are not used to meet cost sharing requirements of any other Federal award;
- Are necessary and reasonable for achieving the objectives of the Federal award;
- Are allowable under 2 CFR Part 200 Subpart E (Cost Principles);
- Are not funded by the Federal Government under another award unless specifically authorized;
- Are included in the approved budget when required by the awarding agency;
- Conform to all other applicable provisions of 2 CFR Part 200.

### **FINAL REVIEW OF SELECTED APPLICANTS:**

Final review will be made by management to determine if the selected proposed project(s) are in line with DOI and BLM current priorities. This process may take a few months to finalize.

## Risk Review

Prior to making an award, the applicant will be assessed for their level of risk per [2 CFR 200.206](#). This assessment includes the applicant's financial management capabilities, project delivery experience, staffing resources, past award performance, administration and reporting compliance records, and overall project complexity and potential for challenges. If an award will be made, special conditions may be applied to the award corresponding to the assessed risk. For awards over the simplified acquisition threshold (currently \$350,000), a review of the applicant's eligibility and financial integrity information in the applicant's SAM.gov records will also be performed per [2 CFR 200.206](#).

BLM programs document applicant risk evaluations using the DOI “Financial Assistance Recipient Risk Assessment” form. Prior to approving awards, the BLM is required to review and consider any information about or from the applicant found in the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System. The BLM will consider this information when completing the risk review. The BLM 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 200.207 should be applied the award.

If the results of all pre-award reviews and clearances are satisfactory, an award of funding will be made once the agreement is finalized. If the BLM determines that a Federal award will be made, special conditions that correspond to the degree of risk assessed may be applied to the Federal award.

## AWARD NOTICES

Notices of Federal Award are sent electronically via GrantSolutions or e-mail. These notices outline the terms, conditions, and payment instructions per [2 CFR 200.211](#). The Notice of Federal Award signed by an authorized Grants Officer is the legal instrument obligating financial assistance to a recipient. Any other prior notice is not an authorization to begin work. If the program allows pre-award costs per [2 CFR 200.458](#), beginning performance before receiving a Notice of Federal Award is at the applicant’s own risk.

**Anticipated Project Start Date:** 12/31/2026

**Anticipated Project End Date:** 12/30/2031

Proposals will have a start date in FY2026 and a maximum end date of 09/30/2031.

Prior to issuing an award, selected recipient organizations will be required to obtain an account with the Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP.gov) system for BLM awards. In addition, the Administrative Official/Authorized Representative and Project Director/Principal Investigator for recipient organizations will be required to establish GrantSolutions (grantsolutions.gov) accounts to access award documents and submit reporting.

## POST AWARD REQUIREMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

### Administration and National Policy Requirements

For award administration and national policy requirements, see the [DOI General Terms and Conditions](#). Infrastructure projects require the use of American iron, steel, manufacture products, and construction materials per [2 CFR 184](#).

## [BLM Standard Terms and Conditions](#)

See the Award Term - [Required Use of American Iron, Steel, Manufactured Products, and Construction Materials](#)

### **Geospatial Data**

If you receive financial assistance from the Department of the Interior (DOI), recipient must follow these rules for geospatial data:

**Follow Federal Standards:** All geospatial data you collect or create must meet the standards set by the Federal Geospatial Data Committee (FGDC) or the Department of the Interior. This is required by the Geospatial Data Act of 2018, which is part of Public Law 115-254, specifically in Subtitle F (Geospatial Data), sections 751-759C (codified at [43 U.S.C. §§ 2801–2811](#)).

**Include Metadata:** Your Geographic Information Systems (GIS) files must include complete metadata. Metadata is information that describes the data, such as where it came from, how accurate it is, and how it should be used. This is to ensure that anyone using the data understands its context and quality.

**Check for Existing Data:** Before you start collecting new geospatial data, you need to check GeoPlatform.gov. This is to see if there is already existing geospatial data from federal, state, local, or private sources that can meet your needs and is available for free. If such data is available, you should use it instead of gathering new data.

These rules help ensure that geospatial data is reliable, high-quality, and that resources are used efficiently.

### **Reporting**

The recipient's Notice of Award will detail all reporting requirements, including frequency, due dates, and instructions for requesting extensions. In general, but not limited to, recipients must:

- Submit Federal Financial reports and Program Performance reports.
- Use the [Federal Financial Report \(SF-425\) form](#) for financial reporting,
- Monitor award activities and report on program performance per [2 CFR 200.329](#),
- Promptly notify the awarding program in writing of any issues, delays, or conditions impairing award objectives per [2 CFR 200.329\(e\)](#),
- Disclose any conflicts of interest related to their award that arise during the award period per [2 CFR 1402.112](#),
- Report on the status of real property acquired under the award in which the Federal government retains an interest per [2 CFR 200.330](#), and
- Report all violations of Federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the Federal award per [2 CFR 200.113](#).
- Report any matters related to recipient integrity and performance to SAM.gov per [Appendix XII to 2 CFR 200](#).
- If the Federal share of the award is more than \$100,000 and the recipient makes or agrees to make any payment using non-appropriated funds for lobbying in connection to the award, disclose those activities using the Disclosure of Lobbying (SF-LLL) form per [43 CFR 18.100](#).

- Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (FFATA) and 2 CFR 170 requires certain recipients to report information on executive compensation, and information on all sub-awards, subcontracts and consortiums equal to or over \$30,000 to SAM.gov.

**Other Information**

# Synopsis

L26AS00058

FY26 Bureau of Land Management Cultural and Paleontological Resource Management -  
Bureau wide

## General Information

### Summary

**Bureau or Office**

Bureau of Land Management

**Announcement Type**

Initial

**Fiscal Year**

2026

**Opportunity Category**

D (Discretionary)

**Opportunity Category Explanation**

**Assistance Listing Number(s)**

15.224

**Funding Instrument Type**

CA (Cooperative Agreement)

**Funding Activity Category**

NR (Natural Resources)

**Funding Category Explanation**

## Award Information

**Cost Sharing Requirement**

No

**Expected Number of Awards**

40

**Estimated Total Program Funding**

\$830,000

**Award Ceiling**

\$75,000

**Award Floor**

\$30,000

**Award Floor/Ceiling Explanation**

## Key Dates

**Estimated Post Date**

06/12/2026

## **Closing Date for Applications**

08/14/2026

## **Closing Date Explanation**

Electronically submitted applications must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m., ET, on the listed application due dates. Applications must be submitted through grants.gov.

Applications will be reviewed, rated, ranked and selected via merit review committee.

Open from **June 12, 2026, through August 14, 2026.**

Extensions to NOFO close dates will be unallowed, except in extenuating circumstances.

## **Project Period | Expected Duration in Months**

60

## **Estimated Project Start Date**

December 31, 2026

## **Estimated Project End Date**

December 30, 2031

## **Archive Date**

09/30/2026

## **Eligibility Information**

### **Eligibility Category**

State governments

County governments

City or township governments

Special district governments

Public and State controlled institutions of higher education

Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized)

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

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

Nonprofits without 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education

Private institutions of higher education

### **Additional Information on Eligibility (Grants.gov 4,000/GMM 2,500 character limit)**

Individuals and For-Profit Organizations are ineligible to apply for awards under this NOFO.

This program NOFO does not support entities hiring interns or crews under the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993. The Public Lands Corps Act of 1993, 16 USC, Chapter 37, Subchapter II- Public Lands Corps, is the only legislative authority that allows BLM to "hire" interns under this authority. Therefore, eligible Youth Conservation Corps may only apply for projects developed under NOFO 15.243 – BLM Youth Conservation Opportunities on Public Lands.

## Additional Information

### Executive Summary

Broadly, the objective is to develop partnerships to improve access to, and use of, heritage resources, and promote their educational, scientific, cultural, and recreational values in a manner that meets U.S. Department of the Interior priorities and Cultural Heritage and Paleontology Program goals. Individual projects shall meet one or more of the following objectives.

- Conduct studies, including inventory, excavation, records research, and collections-based research to improve the understanding of America’s natural and cultural history;
- Monitor at-risk heritage resources to track trends in condition and project effectiveness;
- Stabilize at-risk heritage resources;
- Train future cultural resource management practitioners and paleontologists through research projects, field schools and internships that highlight BLM resources;
- Assist with cultural heritage data and records management activities such as organizing, maintaining, and scanning site and survey records; creating, digitizing and maintaining geospatial data; and performing data entry;
- Preserve existing collections at recognized curation facilities through such activities as archival housing, stabilization or conservation;
- Broaden public access to museum collections;
- Promote engagement with Native American communities and foster partnerships with tribal governments and programs;
- Promote public engagement, learning opportunities, and conservation/preservation ethics through heritage resources education and outreach programs, events, and products;
- Develop and maintain historic sites with interpretive and educational potential.
- Partner to support BLM’s Tribal consultation efforts

### Awarding Officer Contact Name

Stephanie Lund

### Awarding Officer Contact Phone

(303) 916-1202

### Awarding Officer Email Address

stephanie\_lund@ios.doi.gov

### Awarding Officer Email Description

stephanie\_lund@ios.doi.gov

### Link to Additional Information