U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

FWS - Ecological Services

https://fws.gov/service/john-h-prescott-marine-mammal-rescue-assistance-grant-program

F24AS00186 Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue and Response Grant Program
Fiscal Year: 2024
F24AS00186

Due Date for Applications: **03/15/2024**

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A. Program Description

A1. Authority

Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Act—John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue and Response Grant Program (16 U.S.C. 1421f-1)

A2. Assistance Listing Number

15.683

A3. Background, Purpose and Program Requirements

The John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue and Response Grant Program (Prescott Grant Program) provides financial assistance to eligible marine mammal stranding participants and stranding network collaborators to provide (A) the recovery, care, or treatment of sick, injured, or entangled marine mammals; (B) responses to marine mammal stranding events that require emergency assistance; (C) the collection of data and samples from living or dead stranded marine mammals for scientific research or assessments regarding marine mammal health; (D) facility operating costs that are directly related to activities described in (A), (B), or (C); and (E) development of stranding network capacity, including training for emergency response, where facilities do not exist or are sparse. Successful applications will be those aimed at helping support these actions. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) Prescott Grant Program will provide support for response to the stranding of wild populations of species under the Department of the Interior's management authority per section 3(12) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). Under this Funding Opportunity, the Service will select projects for funding based on how well and to what extent they support the species-specific priority activities, which are listed below under Species-Specific Funding Priorities. For the purposes of this program, priority is to be given to applications focusing on marine mammal strandings.

For the purpose of this funding program, the term "stranding" means an event in the wild in which—

A. a marine mammal is dead and is—
(i) on a beach, shore, or land of the United States; or
(ii) in waters under the jurisdiction of the United States (including any navigable waters); or.

B. a marine mammal is alive and is—
(i) on a beach, shore, or land of the United States and unable to return to the water;
(ii) on a beach, shore, or land of the United States and, although able to return to the water, is in need of apparent medical attention; or
(iii) in the waters under the jurisdiction of the United States (including any navigable waters), but is injured, entangled, or needs assistance; or
(iv) in the case of polar bears and Pacific walruses stranded on land due to insufficient ice, in

need of assistance for the (A) the protection or welfare of the mammal, or (B) the protection of the public health and welfare.

Species-Specific Funding Priorities:

Proposals must address at least one of the species-specific priorities identified for the current grant cycle as it pertains to species under the authority of the Department of the Interior (i.e., West Indian manatees, sea otters, Pacific walruses, and polar bears) within waters of the United States. An applicant may submit more than one proposal (but no more than one proposal per category) or a single proposal may address more than one species, but the proposal(s) still must address at least one species-specific priority per species identified in the proposal(s). If more than one priority is identified, list first the priority that most accurately reflects the main objectives of the proposal.

The purpose of the priority list, as informed by Service staff responsible for marine mammal conservation and management efforts, is to guide applicants in proposal development by identifying those proposals that will best compete during the grant cycle for these limited funds, and to provide reviewers with guidance for their evaluations. The identified species-specific priorities will best ensure successful implementation of the Prescott Grant Program by providing funding for (A) the recovery, care, or treatment of sick, injured, or entangled marine mammals; (B) responses to marine mammal stranding events that require emergency assistance; (C) the collection of data and samples from living or dead stranded marine mammals for scientific research or assessments regarding marine mammal health; (D) facility operating costs that are directly related to activities described in (A), (B), or (C); and (E) development of stranding network capacity, including training for emergency response, where facilities do not exist or are sparse.

New construction projects will not be considered; however, projects that involve construction for build-outs, alterations, upgrades, and renovations may be considered.

Applicants are encouraged to describe (in detail) all cooperative efforts among their existing partnerships. These efforts include, but are not limited to, in-kind contributions, shared resources/equipment, and/or monetary donations in relationship to the marine mammals identified within the Prescott Grant application. All cooperative efforts described within the application will be considered during the competitive selection process.

Proposals will be pooled by species and/or stranding region according to the priority addressed by the applicant. If a proposal does not clearly identify a priority or addresses a different priority than the one indicated by the applicant, it will not receive further consideration. Proposals will compete for funds within the appropriate species priority category, as identified in the proposal.

The following are the species-specific funding priorities for this grant cycle; they are not listed in any particular order, and each is of equal importance. We support these activities for the purpose of enhancing the marine mammal response community's ability to assist stranded, entangled, and injured marine mammals and provide medical treatment and rehabilitation for potential release. These activities will also improve the community's knowledge of the treatment and care of distressed marine mammals and the potential cause of stranding events.

For West Indian Manatee (Antillean sub-species) in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, funding will be prioritized for projects addressing one or more of the following areas:

1. Enhance capability of stranding and entanglement response, including training, planning, outreach, and improvement of equipment and resource availability;
2. Transport for live strandings of manatees, including equipment costs, rescue transport trucks and contracts for transport (air or land transports);
3. Increase response efforts for manatees in distress in areas of low rescue capacity, including training, equipment and resource availability;
4. Improve and expand existing facilities for medical treatment, rehabilitation, and/or necropsies, including build-outs, alterations, upgrades, and renovations;
5. Enhance access for veterinary care, including on-site (lab or field) equipment or instruments for more rapid assessment of medical condition or monitoring of treatment response;
6. Improve collection and archiving of specimens to support studies of life history parameters, threats and overall population health;
7. Enhance post-release monitoring of survival for individuals released from rehabilitation or on-site from strandings (e.g., satellite tags and ARGOS support).

For West Indian Manatees (Florida sub-species), funding will be prioritized for projects addressing one or more of the following areas:

1. Enhance capability of stranding and entanglement response including training and improvement of equipment and resource availability to assist with captures, rehabilitation, and carcass recoveries;
2. Upgrade new or existing facilities for medical treatment, rehabilitation and/or necropsies including build-outs, alterations, and renovations;
3. Improve or upgrade transport for live manatees, including rescue trucks, boats, and associated equipment;
4. Provide contingency support for manatee care, rescue/transport response, and training opportunities in conjunction with other federally authorized partners;
5. Enhance post-release monitoring of survival for individuals released from rehabilitation or on-site from strandings (e.g., satellite tags and ARGOS support);
6. Improve understanding of current and past mortality events along the Atlantic Coast, such as changes in habitat use due to reduced food availability and associated impacts at the management unit level.

For Southern Sea Otters in the Southwest, funding will be prioritized for projects addressing one or more of the following areas:

1. Collect carcasses;
2. Conduct necropsies;
3. Enhance readiness for oil spill response (includes planning, training, and purchasing equipment);

4. Enhance stranding and entanglement response capabilities;
5. Upgrade operations to handle, stabilize, diagnose, treat, surrogate-rear (in the case of stranded pups), release, and conduct post-release monitoring;
6. Upgrade existing facilities (including build-outs, alterations, and renovations) and equipment to handle, stabilize, diagnose, treat, surrogate-rear (in the case of stranded pups), release, and conduct post-release monitoring;
7. Reduce sources of anthropogenic mortality (such as boat strikes, fishing gear entrapment/entanglement, intentional shootings) and disturbance;
8. Improve understanding of other sources of mortality (such as shark bites, harmful algal blooms, disease) and how to reduce impacts to the wild population.

For Northern Sea Otters in the Pacific Northwest, funding will be prioritized for projects addressing one or more of the following areas:

1. Collect and process carcasses or euthanize, as needed;
2. Conduct necropsies; compile and prepare results;
3. Lead and enhance stranding and entanglement response capabilities; compile and prepare results;
4. Enhance readiness for oil spill response (includes training and purchasing equipment);
5. Improve understanding of disease-caused mortalities, including sources and pathways of pathogens, such as microcystins and the protozoal parasite *Sarcocystis neurona*; or Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI);
6. Improve understanding of health factors involving stranded sea otters;
7. Increase rehabilitation facility capacity for sea otters in the Pacific Northwest;
8. Conduct outreach and education to the public regarding what to do if one finds a stranded sea otter.

For Northern Sea Otters in Alaska, funding will be prioritized for projects addressing one or more of the following areas:

1. Collect data related to health parameters to allow comparisons among sea otter populations that vary in their population status relative to local carrying capacity; projects focused on Southeast Alaska and Southwest Alaska stocks will be priorities;
2. Improve understanding of stranding events, stranding frequency, and their impact on the relevant stock and put these in the context of population status and local carrying capacity; of particular interest are events affecting Southwest Alaska and Southeast Alaska stocks;
3. Improve understanding of incidences of anthropogenic mortality (such as boat strikes, fishing gear entrapment/entanglement, intentional shootings, small spills or contaminants) and disturbance and ways to reduce their occurrence;
4. Improve understanding of the impacts of natural sources of mortality (such as predation, harmful algal blooms or pathogen exposure) on relevant sea otter stock;
5. Enhance readiness for oil spill response (includes planning, training, and purchasing equipment);

6. Enhance readiness for entanglement response (includes planning, training, and purchasing equipment);
7. Investigate large or unusual strandings, particularly those associated with strandings or mortalities of other species.

For Pacific Walruses, funding will be prioritized for projects addressing one or more of the following areas:

1. Collect data related to health parameters (such as impacts of traveling greater distances to obtain food);
2. Enhance readiness for oil spill response (included planning, training, and purchasing equipment);
3. Enhance readiness for entanglement response (included planning, training, and purchasing equipment);
4. Enhance response capability for the protection or welfare of the walruses, or the protection and welfare of public health, particularly to reduce disturbances at large on-shore aggregations and monitor such events.

For Polar Bears, funding will be prioritized for projects addressing one or more of the following areas:

1. Collect data related to health parameters;
2. Conduct tissue sampling for genetic analyses;
3. Enhance readiness for oil spill response (includes planning, training, and purchasing equipment);
4. Enhance readiness for entanglement response (includes planning, training, and purchasing equipment);
5. Enhance response capability for the protection or welfare of the polar bear, or the protection of public health and welfare particularly to reduce the potential for human-polar bear interactions, such as improving management of attractants to reduce the overlap of polar bears and human activity.

Section 408(b)(4)(A) of the MMPA requires that, to the greatest extent practicable, funds provided as grants under this section be distributed equitably among the stranding regions. For the purpose of this funding program, the term "stranding region" refers to one of the four geographic regions that covers those areas where West Indian manatees, sea otters, Pacific walruses, and polar bears occur:

South Atlantic-Gulf stranding region for manatees throughout the southeast and parts of the Caribbean (including Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands);
California stranding region for southern sea otters in California;
Pacific Northwest stranding region for northern sea otters along the northern coast of the Pacific Ocean; and
Alaska stranding region for polar bears, walruses, and northern sea otters in Alaska.

In addition, per section 408(b)(4)(B) the MMPA allows that, in determining priorities among

these regions, the Service may consider: (i) equitable distribution within the stranding regions, including the subregions (including, but not limited to, the Gulf of Mexico); (ii) any episodic stranding, entanglement, or mortality events, except for unusual mortality events, that occurred in any stranding region in the preceding year; (iii) any data with respect to average annual stranding, entanglements, and mortality events per stranding region; (iv) the size of the marine mammal populations inhabiting a stranding region; (v) the importance of the region's marine mammal populations to the well-being of indigenous communities; and (vi) the conservation of protected, depleted, threatened, or endangered marine mammal species.

Final selections will take into account the program focus and priorities, conservation benefit of proposed activities, stranding needs of the species, and past examples of working with partners exchanging information and/or resources.

A4. Funding Opportunity Goals

The intended outcomes of this funding activity are to (A) support the recovery, care, or treatment of sick, injured, or entangled marine mammals; (B) respond to marine mammal stranding events that require emergency assistance; (C) collect data and samples from living or dead stranded marine mammals for scientific research or assessments regarding marine mammal health; (D) support facility operating costs that are directly related to (A), (B), or (C); and (E) development of stranding network capacity, including training for emergency response, where facilities do not exist or are sparse.

Implementation of the Prescott Grant Program will also help to foster the Services relationship with partners who are closest to the resources (e.g., state agencies, Tribes, established/authorized rescue/rehabilitation networks, local communities, aquaria, researchers) by providing needed support for their response efforts. These efforts, in turn, may provide information important to the Services management of these trust resources as well as enhance the scientific database and our knowledge of their needs in order to improve efforts to rescue, treat, rehabilitate, and release these species back to the wild.

B. Federal Award Information

B1. Total Funding

Estimated Total Funding
$1,120,000

B2. Expected Award Amount

Maximum Award
$150,000

Minimum Award
$1,000

B3. Expected Award Funding and Anticipated Dates

Expected Award Funding
$83,000

Expected Award Date
July 01, 2024
Award amounts in the previous (2023) funding cycle ranged from $11,250 to $150,000.

B4. Number of Awards

Expected Number of Awards
12
The Service expects to award $1,120,000 through this funding opportunity.

Section 408(b)(7) of the MMPA states that "No grant made under the grant program for a single award may exceed $150,000 in any 12-month period". These funds will be awarded on a competitive basis.

Recipients under this program may request funding for a subsequent grant cycle of a previously funded project. However, these requests are subject to the same submission, review, and approval requirements as all new applications. Receiving an award under this Funding Opportunity does not guarantee the recipient access to Service funding to continue the project in subsequent years or to support any other project in the future. In addition, activities in a new proposal cannot overlap with the activities and projects identified in a currently open Service Prescott Grant unless the award balance is at least 75 percent spent by the time of new award.

The funding amount and number of awards may change based on FY 2024 appropriations.

B5. Type of Award

Funding Instrument Type
G - Grant
CA - Cooperative Agreement
Grants or cooperative agreements may be established to cover a period of up to 3 years; however, the total Federal share of the award is fixed at the maximum of $150,000 regardless of the performance period. In addition, activities covered under funding for a 3-year performance period may not be funded in any subsequent grant cycle prior to the end of the 3-year period of performance.

The Service may be substantially involved in some projects under this funding opportunity. The following list provides examples of some of the ways in which the Service may be substantially involved:

- Provide available data and expertise related to the species and proposed project;
- Coordinate site visits with the recipient;
- Participate in rescue and transport operations;

- Participate and collaborate jointly with the recipient in carrying out the scope of work;
- Help select project staff or trainees;
- Limit recipient discretion with respect to scope of work, staffing, mode of operations, and other management processes;
- Provide close monitoring or operational involvement during performance;
- Serve as a liaison between the recipient and other potential partners;
- Reserve the right to immediately halt an activity if detailed performance specifications are not met.

C. Eligibility Information

C1. Eligible Applicants

Eligible Applicants

99 – Unrestricted (i.e. open to any type of entity above), subject to any clarification in the text field entitled "Additional Information on Eligibility"

Additional Information on Eligibility

Subject to the requirements in Section C3 in the NOFO.

C2. Cost Sharing or Matching

Cost Sharing / Matching Requirement

Yes

Percentage of Cost Sharing / Matching Requirement

25

The matching requirement provided in section 408(f)(1) of the MMPA states that the "non-Federal share of a project conducted with funds awarded under the grant program under this section shall be not less than 25 percent of such project". Section 408(f)(2) further states that the Service "may apply to the non-Federal share of a project conducted with a grant under this section the amount of funds, and the fair market value of property and services, provided by non-Federal sources and used for the project." Third-party in-kind contributions means the value of non-cash contributions (i.e., property or services) that: (a) benefit a federally assisted project or program; and (b) are contributed by non-Federal third parties, without charge, to a non-Federal entity under a Federal award. (see 2 CFR 200.96)

The Prescott Grant Program requires cost sharing in order to leverage the limited funds available for this program and to encourage partnerships among government, private organizations, non-profit organizations, stranding participants, and academia to address the needs of marine mammal health and stranding response. You must provide a minimum cost share of 25 percent of total project costs (Federal share of project costs cannot exceed $150,000 and 75 percent of the total). For example, if the total project costs were $125,000, then the Federal cost share would be 75 percent of $125,000 or $93,750 and your cost share would be $31,250 (25 percent of $125,000); similarly, if the proposed total budget for your project is $80,000, the government portion would be $60,000 and your 25 percent contribution would be $20,000. Applications that do not comply with these cost share requirements will not be considered for this funding cycle. Cost share above 25 percent of the total costs may be considered; however, this obligation will

be binding.

The Service will determine the appropriateness of all cost sharing proposals, including the valuation of in-kind contributions, according to the regulations codified at 2 CFR 200.306. An in-kind contribution is a non-cash contribution, donated or loaned, by a third party to the applicant. In general, the value of in-kind services or property to fulfill the cost share requirement will be assessed at fair market value for the services or property provided. Thus, the value is equivalent to the cost for the applicant to obtain such services or property if it had not been donated, or to obtain such services or property for the period of the loan. In-kind services or property used to fulfill the cost-share requirement must be documented. If we decide to fund your application, we will require you to account for the total amount of cost share included in the Notice of Award document.

C3. Other

Eligible Prescott Grant Program applicants must be a U.S. "eligible marine mammal stranding participant" that is not an employee of the Department of the Interior or Department of Commerce. The term "eligible marine mammal stranding participant" means a person who is authorized under MMPA section 104(c) for response to injured or distressed marine mammals or for scientific research regarding marine mammal health, or under MMPA section 112(c) to take marine mammals as described in MMPA section 109(h) in response to a stranding. To be eligible for Prescott Grants under this NOFO, such authorizations must have been issued by the Service. Eligible entities also include Federal, state, or local government employees operating in the course of their official duties as indicated under MMPA section 109(h). Applicants may reach out to the Service for technical assistance to clarify and/or document applicability of the exemption under MMPA section 109(h). For marine mammals that are listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), eligibility includes authorization under ESA section 10(a)(1)(A) (except for polar bears as long as authorization has been provided under the MMPA), or exemptions to take prohibitions under 50 CFR 17.21 or 50 CFR 17.31.

Specifically, applicants must satisfy either #1 or #2 below:

1. A participant in a marine mammal stranding network (which is not an entity of a state, local, or eligible federal government employee) and in good standing. To be in good standing means:

   a. The applicant has authorization issued by the Service under MMPA section 104(c) for response to injured or distressed marine mammals or for scientific research regarding marine mammal health, or under MMPA section 112(c) to take marine mammals as described in MMPA section 109(h) in response to stranded marine mammals (live or dead animal response). For marine mammals, other than polar bears, that are listed under the ESA, the applicant also has authorization under ESA section 10(a)(1)(A) or is otherwise exempt through 50 CFR 17.21 or 50 CFR 17.31.
   b. All the Principal Investigators associated with the Prescott Grant Program application who hold or have held authorizations under the MMPA and, if listed, the ESA have fulfilled all requirements, including but not limited to, reports and publications and have fulfilled the terms of any enforcement actions. Noncompliance with MMPA/ESA permit

or MMPA cooperative agreement actions will be considered on a case-by-case basis in terms of meeting this requirement.

c. All stranding participants have complied with the terms and conditions of any permit or cooperative agreement issued under the MMPA and, if listed, ESA.
d. The responsible stranding participant cooperates with the Service regarding the timely submission of data and materials collected, when requested.
e. The stranding participant is not under current enforcement investigation for activities involving the take of marine mammals contrary to MMPA and ESA regulations and do not have a notice of violation pending resolution.
f. If no take occurs from the actions (e.g., strictly training, education, outreach) and therefore authorization is not required under the MMPA and/or ESA (if listed) applicant must clearly state why take will not occur.

Or,

2. The entity is a state, local, or eligible federal government employee (but not an employee of the Department of the Interior or Department of Commerce) participating pursuant to MMPA section 109(h) (16 U.S.C. 1379(h)) and, if listed, exempt by 50 CFR 17.21 or 17.31.

Unsatisfactory performance under prior or current Federal awards may result in your application not being considered for funding for this fiscal year in this program. The Service evaluates the risk posed by applicants as required in 2 CFR 200.205 to make this determination.

Other Eligibility Criteria

The following additional criteria apply to the Service's Prescott Grant Program funding opportunities and must be satisfied, and the appropriate documentation must be included in the package for a proposal to be considered for funding:

Permits and Approvals – It is the applicant's responsibility to obtain all necessary Federal, state, and local government permits and approvals. The applicant must include in the application package:

1. A copy of the current authorization or pending request for renewal of an existing authorization under the MMPA and ESA (if applicable). Receipt of required MMPA (and ESA, if applicable) authorization is required prior to awarding of funds. In addition, authorizations must be valid for the entire duration of the performance period of the award.

2. If the proposed activity or data collection involves intrusive research or if animals must be held after rehabilitation has been completed (prevented from release), the applicant must obtain MMPA (and ESA, if applicable) authorization that would be valid for the entire period of performance under the award before funds may be awarded. Intrusive research is considered to be a procedure conducted for bona fide scientific research involving: a break in or cutting of the skin or equivalent; insertion of an instrument or material into an orifice; introduction of a substance or object into the animal's immediate environment that is likely either to be ingested or to contact and directly affect animal tissues (i.e., chemical substances); or a stimulus directed at animals that may involve a risk to health or welfare or that may have an impact on normal function or behavior.

3. If the proposed activities fall under the jurisdiction of a facility's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), the applicant must provide a copy of their request for IACUC approval or a copy of the approved IACUC. Verification of IACUC approval will be required prior to awarding of funds (as required by the Animal Welfare Act and its relevant implementing regulations at 9 CFR 2.30-2.31).

4. If proposed activities will take place within a National Wildlife Refuge, National Park, Marine Sanctuary, National Seashore, State Park, or other Federal or state-designated protected areas, it is the applicant's responsibility to request and obtain from the appropriate Federal, state, and local government agencies any necessary permits or letters of agreement for conducting the proposed activities at such sites.

5. Applications will be reviewed to determine if sufficient environmental documentation has been provided to determine the appropriate level of environmental analysis needed to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Proposal activities may be categorically excluded, or an Environmental Assessment (EA) may be necessary. For those applications needing an EA, affected applicants will be informed and will be requested to assist in the preparation of an EA by providing all necessary information to complete the assessment (prior to the award).

6. In addition, activities in a new proposal cannot overlap with the activities and projects identified in a currently open Service Prescott Grant unless the award balance is at least 75 percent spent by the time of new award.

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

Contact the Service Program Technical Contact identified in this Funding Opportunity to request a paper application package if you do not have access to the internet to download the application package forms.

Program Website Link

https://fws.gov/service/john-h-prescott-marine-mammal-rescue-assistance-grant-program

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
Applicants must submit a proposal that includes all of the information listed below (indicated page limits are to be used as a guide):

The application package must describe the project activities completely and accurately. The project description should be a clear statement of all work to be undertaken and must include detailed information in the following sections:

Goals and Objectives (one half-page limit): Identify the Prescott Grant Program Category and the species-specific priority (see **Program Description - Species-Specific Funding Priorities** of this document) relevant to the project. State expected project accomplishments and their significance to marine mammals, health, stranding and entanglement response, medical treatment, and rehabilitation. Objectives should be attainable within the specified time period and with the available monetary and human resources. Objectives should be simple, understandable, and as specific and quantitative as possible. Stranding data should be used, when appropriate, to justify the proposed actions and link them to the purposes of the Prescott Grant Program.

Project Management (one-page limit): Describe how the proposed project will be organized and managed, including financial management of the project. Provide a description of the entity(ies) undertaking the project, indicating the Principal Investigator as well as any other partners and their respective roles. An application may only have one designated Principal Investigator. Other project participants or organizations that will have a significant role in conducting the project should be listed as Co-Investigators. Organizations or individuals that support the project should be referred to as Cooperators. If any portion of the project will be conducted through subcontracts, follow the procurement guidance found in 2 CFR Part 200. Describe how provisions for competitive subcontracting will be met, if applicable. If the

contractor has been identified, please provide a statement of their qualifications or background. Also describe how governmental and non-governmental entities will participate in the project and the nature of their participation.

Project Participant Qualifications (one-page limit): Provide a list of all personnel that will be involved in the project, identifying the Principal Investigator, Co-Investigators, collaborators, and other personnel and their project duties and responsibilities, and a brief description or Curriculum Vitae (CV) that demonstrates their expertise and experience to perform their designated duties, including knowledge of the marine mammal species that is/are the subject of the project. Resumes, CVs, and other supporting documents may be used to describe qualifications and demonstrate experience with the marine mammal species (or another similar marine mammal species) that is/are the subject of this application.

Project Facility History (one half-page limit): Outline the facility's involvement with the target species, including current protocols of the husbandry and veterinary care programs of the facility.

Project Description (three-page limit): Describe the scientific or technical plan of activities that will be accomplished to meet the proposed project goals and objectives. Include detailed descriptions of activities, collaborators, milestones, and expected products resulting from the completed project. The description should include:

i. Project activities and relation to goals and objectives. List the proposed project activities and describe how they relate to the stated goals and objectives. Activities are the specific actions to be undertaken to fulfill the project objectives and reach the project goal(s). The proposed project activities narrative must be detailed enough for reviewers to make a clear connection between the activities and the proposed project costs.

ii. Methods and procedures. Provide a detailed description of the method(s) and procedures to be used to carry out each activity.

iii. List of activities and participants. Provide a list of the activities that will be conducted by Co-Investigators, Cooperators, subcontractors, volunteers, etc. Describe the oversight of volunteers and how their staff time will be used to complete project activities. The Principal Investigator is responsible for all technical oversight and implementation of the approved work plan.

iv. Milestones and timelines. List project milestones and a description of the specific activities and associated timelines necessary to meet them. Describe the timelines in increments (e.g., month one, month two, etc.), rather than by specific dates. Please provide an explanation if dates are necessary (e.g., pupping or calving season). Make sure the timelines are reasonable and reflect your overall project period. Specify the quantitative and/or qualitative evaluation criteria to determine the relative success or failure of the project in achieving the stated project goals, objectives, and milestones. Include any resulting tables, spreadsheets, or flow charts within the body of the project narrative (do not include as separate attachments).

v. Outcomes, Results, and Products. Identify the outcomes, results, or products, and how they relate to the Prescott Grant Program (those actions under chosen Category A or B and species-specific funding priorities) and how they will be applied and/or made available to any appropriate user groups through outreach and education efforts. The

narrative must provide sufficient detail for reviewers to make a clear connection to the purposes of the Prescott Grant Program and the applicability/effectiveness of the outreach and education efforts.

Environmental Impacts (one-page limit): Discuss whether any negative environmental, biological, social, political, or economic impacts are expected as a result of the proposed activities. If any negative impacts are anticipated, describe what steps will be taken to minimize or mitigate these impacts. This narrative must provide enough detail so that reviewers are able to determine the level of analysis required under NEPA.

Statement of Need for Federal Assistance (one half-page limit): Demonstrate the need for government financial assistance. Describe why this project is necessary (significance/value) and include supporting information. Summarize previous or ongoing efforts that are relevant to the proposed work. Explain the successes or failures of past efforts and how your proposal builds on them. If you have received funding previously (from the Service or any other entity) for this specific project work, provide a summary of the funding, associated activities, and products/outcomes. List all other sources of funding that are or have been sought for the project.

Federal, State, and Local Government Programs and Activities: List any Federal, state, or local government programs or activities that this project would affect and reference any corresponding documentation (i.e., permits, approvals, and environmental assessments).

Stakeholder Coordination or Involvement (one half-page limit). Describe how you/your organization has coordinated with and involved other relevant organizations or individuals in planning the project, and detail if/how they will be involved in conducting project activities, disseminating project results and/or incorporating your results/products into their activities. Provide a data sharing plan that includes a description of the types of data and information expected to be created during the course of the project, the tentative date by which data will be shared, and methods for providing data access.

Project Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (one-page limit). Detail the monitoring and evaluation plan for the project. Building on the stated project objectives, identify what you will measure (i.e., quantitative/quantifiable indicators) and how you will measure (e.g., methods, sample size, survey tools). Reference the stated project timetable and budget information. Identify the products/services to be delivered and how/to whom they will be delivered. Detail the expected direct effect(s) of the project on the species. Describe the resources and organizational structure available for gathering, analyzing, and reporting monitoring and evaluation data.

Partnerships (one half-page limit). Describe in detail the existing partnerships your organization currently plans to work with to accomplish the goals and objectives described in your proposal. This section should clearly identify what resources will be shared across the existing partnerships and identify any potential new partnerships that may be formed if selected for funding.

Sustainability (one half-page limit). As applicable, describe which project activities will continue beyond the proposed project period, who will continue the work, and how and at what level you expect these future activities will be funded.

Literature Cited (no page limit). List any literature cited in support of the proposal request. Note: All of the proposed work described in the funding request does not need to be completed in a single year; 2–3 year projects are allowable. However, the proposal and implementation schedule should include all project activities that would be supported by the funding request amount listed in the proposal, without an assumption for additional funding for multi-year projects.

2. Appendices (fifteen-page limit)

Additional material may be provided including: tables, charts, graphs, maps, photographs, slide shows, and other pictorial presentations.

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). In the SF-424A "Contractual" category total, do not combine estimated subawards and contractual costs. Use the "Contractual" category to reflect estimated contractual costs only. Enter estimated subaward costs in the SF-424A "Other" category. Provide a separate description and total estimated costs for both contractual and subaward costs 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. Provide a separate description and total estimated costs for both contractual and subaward costs. 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. Please note the prohibitions on certain telecommunications and video surveillance services or equipment in 2 CFR 200.216. The Department of the Interior's Unmanned Aircraft web page provides a list of approved unmanned aircraft and related equipment and software.

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). 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

03/15/2024

Application Due Date Explanation

Electronically submitted applications must be submitted no later than 11:59 PM., ET, on the listed application due date.

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) indirect cost rate agreement we must charge the capped indirect cost rate to the same base identified in our approved indirect cost rate agreement. We understand we must request prior approval from the awarding program to use the 2 CFR 200.1 Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC) base instead of our approved base and that we must submit such requests with our application, including a calculation showing how use of the MTDC base results in an overall reduction in the total indirect costs recovered. 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. If we have never negotiated a rate, we understand we must use the de minimis rate of 10% of MTDC.
- We are an organization that will charge all costs directly.

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.

If the application is sent via mail, the postmark date should not be after the due date of this announcement.

1. APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- **SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance**
- **SF-424B or 424D, Assurances**
- **Project Narrative**
- **Project Summary**
- **SF-424A or 424C, Budget Information**
- **Budget Narrative**
- **Indirect Costs: Individuals (when applicable)**
- **Indirect Costs: Organizations (when applicable)**
- **Appendices (as applicable)**
- **Supporting Documentation (as applicable)**
- **Conflict of Interest Disclosure (when applicable)**
- **Single Audit Reporting Statement (when applicable)**
- **Certification Regarding Lobbying (when applicable)**
- **SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities**
- **Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement**

E. Application Review Information

E1. Criteria

Importance and applicability of proposed project to the purposes of the Prescott Grant Program
Maximum Points: 40
This criterion will assess whether there is intrinsic value in the proposed work and/or relevance to Federal, regional, state, or local activities and assesses the broader impacts of the project, i.e., benefits to the species as it relates to overall health of the population.

Technical soundness
Maximum Points: 20
This criterion will assess if the goals and objectives are clearly identified, the methods are feasible and appropriate, the approach is technically sound and the overall proposed work is justified for the purposes of the Prescott Grant Program.

Overall qualifications of applicants
Maximum Points: 20
This criterion will assess whether the applicant possesses the necessary education, experience, training, facilities, and administrative resources to accomplish the proposed project.

Project costs
Maximum Points: 10
This criterion will assess the budget to determine if it is realistic and commensurate with the project goals, objectives, and timeline, as defined in the project proposal.

Outreach and education
Maximum Points: 5
This criterion will assess whether the project provides a focused and effective education/outreach component that addresses protection of marine mammals and their ecosystem.

Partnerships and Shared Resources
Maximum Points: 5
This criterion will assess the extent of existing partnerships your organization coordinates with, and to what extent available resources are shared.

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.

Prior to award, the program will conduct and document a review of the proposed budget to ensure figures are calculated correctly, proposed costs are clearly linked to the project narrative and seem necessary and reasonable, no obviously unallowable costs are included, costs requiring

prior approval are identified and described, indirect cost are applied correctly, and any program match or cost share requirements are addressed.

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.

A. Evaluation Criteria to be considered for funding, applications must seek funding specifically for retrieval (of live and dead animals), care, treatment, rehabilitation, and, as appropriate, release of West Indian manatees, sea otters, Pacific walruses, and polar bears; the collection of data for scientific research directly associated with the health of these species; post-release monitoring; facility operation costs for these species; and development of stranding network capacity, including training for emergency response, where facilities do not exist or are sparse, as appropriate.

All applications must fall into one of the two categories described below. The applicant must select only one category per project under which to apply; however, an applicant may submit one project request per category. Since some projects may meet priorities in more than one category, the applicant should determine which one category best fits the goals of that proposed project and apply it under that category. These categories pertain only to marine mammal species under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior (DOI) (i.e., manatees, sea otters, walruses, and polar bears).

Category A – Support scientific objectives associated with marine mammal health, stranding response, entanglement response, and rehabilitation. The collection, transportation, analysis and storage of data or samples from living or dead stranded individuals of these species for scientific research regarding marine mammal health. This includes the facility operation and staff costs and equipment that are directly related to marine mammal health, research, and data collection efforts. Category A also includes the development, testing, and evaluation of new tools and response practices. Data or samples may be collected from stranded, injured, distressed, or entangled animals as well as by-caught, subsistence-hunted, or “healthy” wild animals, which serve as controls or for comparisons in specific study designs. If proposals under Category A are using wild animals, including subsistence-hunted or by-caught animals, the proposal must link the use of samples from these animals to known or suspected health issues of stranded marine mammals and ultimately to the health of the population, or to the development and validation of new tools and techniques to assess such health conditions.

Category B – Supports marine mammal stranding efforts. Support of basic and enhanced needs for the response, retrieval, rescue, medical treatment, rehabilitation, release, and follow-up monitoring of stranded and entangled marine mammals, including associated data collection and facility operation costs that are directly related to these efforts. Qualifying activities/expenses include modifications and/or upgrades to rehabilitation facilities to meet these needs.

Application proposals will be subject to an initial screening by Service staff prior to review in the designated stranding regions and final selection for awarding by the Service's Selecting Official. These steps are described under **Review and Selection Process**.

Review and selection of applications will take place in four steps: proposal screening, merit review, selection by the Service's Selecting Official, and approval by the Financial Assistance Support and Oversight Program. Proposals submitted for consideration for Prescott Grant Program funds will be reviewed by Service staff with appropriate subject matter expertise (e.g., knowledge of marine mammal species, associated health and stranding issues, MMPA & ESA requirements, grants processing, etc.). Each of the designated stranding regions will identify at least one representative to participate in the application review and evaluation process.

Proposal Submission Screening: Service staff will screen the proposals and compile all complete applications submitted by eligible participants for review. The submission screening will assess the completeness and adequacy of an application based on the requirements listed below:

The **proposal screening** will consider whether or not the application:

1. was received by the identified due date;
2. includes all required information and forms as described in the NOFO;
3. Form 424 is signed and dated by the applicant's authorized representative;
4. was submitted by an eligible standing network participant (e.g., has authorization under the MMPA and ESA (if applicable) for the entire duration of the period of performance);
5. provides for at least a 25-percent non-Federal cost share;
6. involves an eligible activity (e.g., response, retrieval, rescue, treatment, rehabilitation, release, follow-up monitoring; collection of scientific data; associated facility operation costs);
7. addresses at least one of the species-specific funding priorities identified for the current grant cycle as described in the NOFO;
8. provides a complete project proposal as outlined in the NOFO (e.g., title page, goals and objectives, project management, project participant qualifications, project facility history, project description);
9. includes a budget and statement of work with milestones; and
10. identifies the Principal Investigator.

If an application is incomplete or does not meet the above requirements and the due date for submission has passed, it will not receive further consideration. Only those proposals satisfying all of these basic requirements will enter the evaluation phase of the review process.

Proposal Review and Selection: A formal proposal review will commence after completion of the eligibility screening. Service staff will independently review the proposals and, based on their individual evaluations, prepare recommendations for funding to the Selecting Official.

The designated Selecting Official will review the funding recommendations and make the final decisions regarding which applications will receive funding. In the selection process, the Selecting Official may further consider the costs associated with a proposal, the geographical distribution of the species, the financial needs associated with the proposal, any duplication with other federally funded projects, and the equitable distribution of funds among the designated stranding regions and species/stocks. As a result, awards are not necessarily made to the highest ranked applications.

The final selections will be provided to the Financial Assistance Support and Oversight Program for processing. The Notice of Award Letter to the recipient will include the total amount of award funding, the scope of work, and all terms and conditions for grants administered by the Service. If the proposed work entails substantial involvement from the Service, a cooperative agreement will be the funding mechanism used for the project; those projects not involving substantial involvement from the Service will use a grant agreement. Applicants should not initiate a project with the expectation of Federal funding. The Prescott Grant Program does not reimburse any costs incurred prior to receiving a signed Notice of Award Letter from the Service.

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

The Service anticipates announcing the awards approximately 120 days after the NOFO closing date.

F. Federal Award Administration Information

F1. Federal Award Notices

The recipient may receive a request from the Service Grant Specialist overseeing the agreement to revise the project scope and/or budget prior to issuance of the award. Successful applicants will receive written notice in the form of a Notice of Award document, which typically are sent to recipients by email; however, if email notification is unsuccessful, the Notice of Award will be sent by courier mail (e.g., FedEx, DHL, or UPS). Award recipients are not required to sign and return the Notice of Award document. The Notice of Award document will include

instructions specific to each recipient on how to submit payment requests, and any additional required information/forms (as applicable). Unsuccessful applications will receive written notice, most often by email, within 120 days of final funding decisions made by the Selecting Official. Awards are based on the 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. Recipients indicate their acceptance of the Federal award by starting work, drawing down funds, or accepting the award via electronic means.

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.

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 Conditionsfor the general administrative and national policy requirements applicable to Service awards.
As required by Section 70914 of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (also known as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act), P.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 of the iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in the project are produced in the United States, unless subject to an approved waiver. The requirements of this section must be included in all subawards, including all contracts and purchase orders for work or products under this program.

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:
Patrick McKenney
Telephone:
703-358-2341
Email:

fws_es_grants@fws.gov

G2. Program Administration

For **program administration assistance**, contact:

First and Last Name:
Patrick McKenney
Telephone:
703-358-2341
Email:
fws_es_grants@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.

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.