

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**Notice of Funding Opportunity**

F26AS00040\_Fiscal Year 2026\_Tribal Wildlife Grants (TWG)\_NOFO

Funding Opportunity Number

F26AS00040

## Table of Contents

BASIC INFORMATION.....	1
ELIGIBILITY .....	4
Cost Sharing Requirement .....	5
GET READY TO APPLY .....	5
Required System Registrations .....	5
PROGRAM OVERVIEW .....	5
Program Goals.....	6
Program Description .....	6
Legislative Authority .....	8
Type of Award .....	8
PREPARE YOUR APPLICATION .....	8
Application Content and Format.....	8
Application Documents.....	8
SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES .....	13
Address to Request Application Package .....	13
Submission Dates and Times .....	13
Submission Instructions .....	13
APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION.....	15
Eligibility Review .....	15
Merit Review.....	17
Review and Selection Process.....	18
Risk Review .....	19
AWARD NOTICES .....	19
POST AWARD REQUIREMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION .....	20
Administration and National Policy Requirements .....	20
Reporting.....	20

### BASIC INFORMATION

**Announcement Type:** Initial

**Funding Opportunity Number:** F26AS00040

**Assistance Listing Number(s):** 15.639

**Estimated Total Program Funding:** \$6,200,000

**Expected Number of Awards:** 80

**Award Ceiling:** \$200,000

**Award Floor:** \$25,000

**Cost Sharing Required?**

No

**Closing Date Explanation**

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

Applications submitted via U.S. Mail or parcel service must be postmarked by the due date.

**OMB Control Number:** [1018-0100](#)

**Have Questions?**

**Regional Contacts**

**Portland Regional Office (Region 1)** Serving Tribes in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington

Native American Liaison: Nathan Dexter (503) 736-4774 [Nathan\\_Dexter@fws.gov](mailto:Nathan_Dexter@fws.gov)

TWG Program Lead: Lia McLaughlin (503) 724-8017 [Lia\\_McLaughlin@fws.gov](mailto:Lia_McLaughlin@fws.gov)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Eastside Federal Complex 911 NE 11th Avenue Portland, OR 97232-4181

Regional Office email address for submission of applications: [Rlfa\\_grants@fws.gov](mailto:Rlfa_grants@fws.gov)

**Albuquerque Regional Office (Region 2)** Serving Tribes in Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas

Native American Liaison (acting): John Nystedt (602) 478-3797 [John\\_Nystedt@FWS.gov](mailto:John_Nystedt@FWS.gov)

TWG Program Lead: Casey Bruner (505) 525-0031 [Casey\\_Bruner@fws.gov](mailto:Casey_Bruner@fws.gov)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service P.O. Box 1306, SW Albuquerque, NM 87103

Regional Office email address for submission of applications: [fw2fa@fws.gov](mailto:fw2fa@fws.gov)

**Bloomington Regional Office (Region 3)** Serving Tribes in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin

Native American Liaison: Allison Smart (651) 440-5697 [Allison\\_Smart@fws.gov](mailto:Allison_Smart@fws.gov)

TWG Program Lead: Jennifer (Jennie) Mcnicoll (612) 202-0820 [Jennifer\\_Mcnicoll@fws.gov](mailto:Jennifer_Mcnicoll@fws.gov)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 5600 American Blvd. West, Suite 990 Bloomington, MN 55437-1458

Regional Office email address for submission of applications: [r3fedaid@fws.gov](mailto:r3fedaid@fws.gov)

**Atlanta Regional Office (Region 4)** Serving Tribes in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee

Native American Liaison: Tim Binzen (413) 253-8731 [Timothy\\_Binzen@fws.gov](mailto:Timothy_Binzen@fws.gov)

TWG Program Lead: Matt Roberts (470) 813-2848 [Matthew\\_Roberts@fws.gov](mailto:Matthew_Roberts@fws.gov)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 240 Atlanta, GA 30345

Regional Office email address for submission of applications: [r4federalassistance@fws.gov](mailto:r4federalassistance@fws.gov)

**Hadley Regional Office (Region 5)** Serving Tribes in Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia

Native American Liaison: Tim Binzen (413) 253-8731 [Timothy\\_Binzen@fws.gov](mailto:Timothy_Binzen@fws.gov)

TWG Program Lead: Richard Zane (413) 253-8506 [Richard\\_Zane@fws.gov](mailto:Richard_Zane@fws.gov)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 300 Westgate Center Drive Hadley, MA 01035

Regional Office email address for submission of applications: [fw5fareports@fws.gov](mailto:fw5fareports@fws.gov)

**Denver Regional Office (Region 6)** Serving Tribes in Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming

Native American Liaison (acting): Stephanie Hebert (801) 317-7163 [stephanie\\_hebert@fws.gov](mailto:stephanie_hebert@fws.gov)

TWG Program Lead: Aranza Melendez (720) 926-8616 [aranza\\_melendez@fws.gov](mailto:aranza_melendez@fws.gov)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service P.O. Box 25486 Denver, Colorado 80225

Regional Office email address for submission of applications: [fw6fagrants@fws.gov](mailto:fw6fagrants@fws.gov)

**Anchorage Regional Office (Region 7)** Serving Tribes in Alaska

Alaska Native Relations Specialist: Tahzay Jones (907)416-0034 [tahzay\\_jones@fws.gov](mailto:tahzay_jones@fws.gov)

TWG Program Lead: John Warzybok (907) 227-6943 [John\\_Warzybok@fws.gov](mailto:John_Warzybok@fws.gov)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1011 East Tudor Road MS-261 Anchorage, AK 99503

Regional Office email address for submission of applications: [ak\\_twg@fws.gov](mailto:ak_twg@fws.gov)

**Sacramento Regional Office (Region 8)** Serving Tribes in California, Nevada, and the Klamath Basin

Native American Liaison: Eldon Brown (279) 234-3999 [Michael\\_Eldon\\_Brown@fws.gov](mailto:Michael_Eldon_Brown@fws.gov)

TWG Program Lead: Eldon Brown (279) 234-3999 [Michael\\_Eldon\\_Brown@fws.gov](mailto:Michael_Eldon_Brown@fws.gov)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2800 Cottage Way, W-1729 Sacramento, CA 95825

Regional Office email address for submission of applications: [r8fa\\_grants@fws.gov](mailto:r8fa_grants@fws.gov)

### **Executive Summary**

Tribal Wildlife Grants provide technical and financial assistance to federally recognized Tribes for the development and implementation of programs that benefit fish and wildlife and their habitats. Funding may be used for conserving any plant or animal species of interest to a Tribe, including those of Native American cultural or traditional importance. The grants are an adaptable resource supporting tribal conservation priorities. Species targeted in a project are not

restricted to those that are hunted, fished, or gathered, listed as threatened or endangered, or identified in a conservation plan.

Activities may include but are not limited to:

- planning for wildlife and habitat conservation
- fish and wildlife conservation and management actions
- fish- and wildlife-related laboratory and field research
- natural history studies
- habitat mapping
- field surveys and species population monitoring
- habitat protection and enhancement
- conservation education

Funding may be used for salaries, equipment, consultant services, subawards, materials, and travel costs.

For more information, visit the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's [Tribal Wildlife Grants Home Page](https://www.fws.gov/service/tribal-wildlife-grants) (<https://www.fws.gov/service/tribal-wildlife-grants>).

## ELIGIBILITY

### Eligible Applicants

Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized)

### Additional Information on Eligibility

Participation is limited to federally recognized Tribal governments listed in the current Federal Register Notice of Indian Entities Recognized and Eligible to Receive Services from the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs (Notice). This is the official listing of all federally recognized Tribes in the United States pursuant to Section 104 of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994 (Pub. L. 103-454; 108 Stat. 4791-4792). The current Notice was published in the Federal Register, [89 FR 238](#) (December 11, 2024). Tribal contact information is available in the [BIA Tribal Leaders Directory](#).

Recipient Tribes must meet all reporting requirements for previously awarded, active TWG Program awards before they are eligible to receive new funds. After a Tribe submits a new application, it will be notified of any outstanding reporting requirements. The Tribe will then have 30 days to submit the required reports. Tribes that have not brought past due reports up to date in this 30-day period will be found ineligible and excluded from further consideration in the FY 2026 TWG Program cycle.

There is no limit to the number of applications a Tribe may submit within a single fiscal year. However, no single Tribe may be funded for multiple projects within a fiscal year if the total combined Federal request exceeds \$200,000. If multiple applications exceed this amount, only the highest-scoring application(s) will be accepted, and any other(s) will be determined to be ineligible.

Tribal organizations and other entities may participate as subrecipients or contractors to federally recognized Tribal government recipients. Any entity receiving TWG Program funds as a subrecipient must comply with the applicable requirements described in this announcement.

TWG Program funds may not be used to acquire real property interests. Real property interests include, but are not limited to, fee simple, fee with exceptions to title, easements, water rights, mineral rights, and leaseholds.

## Cost Sharing Requirement

**Cost Sharing Required?**

No

## GET READY TO APPLY

### Required System Registrations

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

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

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

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

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

This program may allow an applicant to apply while their SAM.gov registration is in progress, with prior approval. For more information, refer to the point of contact identified in the Basic Information section above.

### GRANTS.GOV

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

### GRANTSOLUTIONS

This program accepts applications through GrantSolutions.gov. You must register with GrantSolutions. See [Submission Instructions](#).

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

## Program Goals

- The intended outcomes of the Tribal Wildlife Grants (TWG) Program are increased and enhanced fish, wildlife, and plant conservation on lands of interest to a Tribe. Tribes use Program funding to protect and restore habitats and populations of species of Native American cultural and traditional importance. The program helps Tribes enhance hunting, fishing, and other subsistence and ceremonial opportunities, supporting Tribal member well-being, economic development, and sovereignty.

Tribes may voluntarily work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), State fish and wildlife agencies, and other conservation partners to focus TWG Program funding on rare, threatened, or endangered species, or state-identified species of greatest conservation need. Proactive approaches to species conservation may help Tribes and their conservation partners avoid more prescriptive Federal regulatory requirements under the Endangered Species Act.

## Program Description

The Tribal Wildlife Grants (TWG) Program was created to support the development and implementation of programs that benefit fish, wildlife, and their habitats. The TWG Program is part of the Congressionally authorized State and Tribal Wildlife Grants (STWG) Program which provides wildlife conservation grants under provisions of the [Fish and Wildlife Act](#) and the [Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act](#).

Funding originates from the Department of the Interior (Department) and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2002 (Pub. L. 107-63), when Congress first allocated a portion of the funds appropriated under the STWG Program to a competitive grant program for federally recognized Tribes. This Act and subsequent appropriations authorize the Secretary of the Department, through the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), to establish a separate competitive grant program for Tribes which is not subject to the provisions or other requirements of the STWG Program.

The TWG Program supports Tribally led fish and wildlife conservation on lands of interest to Tribes. These lands are often adjacent to Department-managed lands. Project activities commonly target species of cultural or traditional importance to a Tribe, enhancing hunting and fishing opportunities on and off Tribal lands. The TWG Program may also support project activities that assist the Service and other conservation partners in the recovery of species listed under the Endangered Species Act. The TWG Program provides flexibility for Tribes to address their conservation priorities regardless of whether a species is hunted or fished, listed as threatened or endangered, or identified in a formal conservation plan.

Eligible projects include those that initiate, develop, or implement activities or programs benefiting wildlife or their habitats, including plants. Projects may involve but are not restricted to one or more of these activities:

- Conservation planning for fish, wildlife, and their habitats
- Conservation management actions such as:
  - o Field surveys and population monitoring
  - o Fish passage construction

- o Habitat restoration, or
- o Invasive species management
- Field and laboratory research related to fish and wildlife resources
- Habitat mapping and characterization, or
- Public education relevant to the proposed project.

Since its inception, the Service has awarded more than \$131.1 million to Native American Tribes through the TWG Program, providing support for 732 conservation projects. In FY 2024, the Service received 64 applications and issued 35 awards. In FY 2025, the Service received 119 applications and issued 35 awards. In FY 2026, the Service expects to receive an estimated 60 to 80 applications and issue 30 to 40 awards.

Tribes are invited to work with Service staff in developing applications that address the merit review criteria in this announcement (see Merit Review below). More information about the TWG Program is available at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's [Tribal Wildlife Grants Home Page](#).

To support Tribal sovereignty and self-governance, the Service has implemented a Third-Tier funding process. This process targets Tribes that have not previously received a TWG Program award. The purpose of this process is to increase Tribal fish and wildlife management capacity to address the needs of their identified species.

Recipients are encouraged to prioritize projects in support of the celebration of America's 250th birthday (America250). This may include, but is not limited to, projects that recognize and honor the nation's founding, history, and cultural heritage.

### **Buy America Preferences for Infrastructure Projects**

This program has Federal funding for infrastructure projects. Buy America preferences apply to Federal awards for infrastructure projects in the United States. Reference [2 CFR Part 184 - Buy America Preferences for Infrastructure Project](#) for further guidance.

### **Small Grants Waiver (effective February 21, 2023, to February 20, 2028):**

On February 21, 2023, the Department of the Interior established a general applicability waiver of the requirements of section 70914 of the Build America, Buy America Act included in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Pub. L. No. 117-58) for small grants, having determined such a waiver to be in the public interest. This waiver is critical to ensure that agency small infrastructure projects conducted through small grants sustain progress and reduce the burden on recipients, many of whom are small organizations operating in rural or disadvantaged communities. The waiver will remain in effect for all eligible Departmental Federal grants not later than February 20, 2028, and will be reviewed as often as necessary. This waiver action permits the use of non-domestic iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials in such projects that may otherwise be prohibited under section 70914(a) during the specified period of time for small grants that meet the following standard:

- The total award amount does not exceed the Simplified Acquisition Threshold (SAT) of currently \$350,000.00;

- The award amount is not anticipated to exceed the Simplified Acquisition Threshold for the life of the grant.

### Legislative Authority

Commerce, Justice, Science; Energy and Water Development; and Interior and Environment Appropriations Act, 2026-State and Tribal Wildlife Grants (Pub. L. 119-74 [H.R. 6938-93]).

### Type of Award

Projects will be funded through G (Grant).

## PREPARE YOUR APPLICATION

### Application Content and Format

#### Pre-Application Requirements

Prior to applying, applicants should review presidential actions found at: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/> and DOI Secretary’s Orders found at: <https://www.doi.gov/document-library/secretary-order>. By applying in response to this Notice of Funding Opportunity, the applicant certifies awareness and compliance with all currently effective and applicable executive orders and secretary’s orders, including but not limited to the Executive Order titled Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing as well as the Executive Order and Secretary’s order titled Restoring Truth and Sanity to American History. Applicants are responsible for ensuring their proposed activities are consistent with the intent and requirements of these directives.

### Application Documents

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

Forms/Assurances/Certifications	Submission Requirement
SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance  Note: For applicants requesting more than \$100,000 in Federal funds, the Authorized Representative’s signature (or electronic equivalent) on the Application for Federal Assistance form also represents their certification of the statements in <a href="#">Appendix A to 43 CFR 18-Certification Regarding Lobbying</a>	Required from all applicants
SF-424A, Budget Information – Non-Construction Programs	Required for non-construction projects. Applicants may also provide a customized Budget table.
SF-424C: Budget Information – Construction Programs	Required for construction projects. Applicants may also

Forms/Assurances/Certifications	Submission Requirement
	provide a customized Budget table.
SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities	Required if requesting more than \$100,000 in Federal funds <u>and</u> the applicant has used or plans to use funds other than Federal appropriated funds for lobbying related to the proposed project.
<p>Project Abstract Summary (OMB 4040-0019). Must include, in plain language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Award purpose,</li> <li>• Activities to be performed,</li> <li>• Expected deliverables or outcomes,</li> <li>• Intended beneficiaries,</li> <li>• Subrecipient activities (if known or specified at time of award)</li> </ul>	Required from all applicants

**Project Narrative**

The Project Narrative identifies the activities that will benefit fish, wildlife, and their habitats, and Tribal members who use and enjoy them. Submit a narrative of **no more than 10 pages** addressing the elements below. Responses may be combined as necessary - separate headings or sections are not required. The Project Narrative must be formatted to fit on an 8.5” x 11” document, with 1” margins at the top, bottom, and sides and page numbers at the bottom of the page (starting with the first page of the Project Narrative). Font size should be no less than 12-point.

1. Need: The need for the proposed project within the purpose of the Tribal Wildlife Grants Program.
2. Objectives: Consider using SMART Objectives in your Project Narrative. SMART Objectives are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-Bound. Applicants may contact the Tribal Liaison and/or Regional Office of Conservation Investment program staff for assistance in articulating objectives in the Project Narrative (see Regional Contacts in Basic Information above). Applicants may also review the [Standard Objectives](#) used in other Service programs. However, Tribes are not required to use Standard Objectives.
3. Results: Expected results or benefits from accomplishing the objectives.
4. Methodology: The methodology, approach, or activities to be used in meeting the objectives, including specific procedures, methods, schedules, key personnel, and partners.
5. Monitoring Plan: A description of monitoring activities and an explanation of how the project results will be collected and assessed.

6. Project Area: If applicable, indicate the number of impacted acres and/or miles of stream or shoreline.

7. Environmental Compliance: A description of the activity in sufficient detail for Service staff to evaluate compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and any other required permits or approvals.

8. Project Location: Maps or other geographic aids may be attached. Please include GPS coordinates in decimal degrees, if available. Maps are not included in the 10-page limit.

9. Partnerships: Describe partnerships with other Tribes, organizations, or agencies.

### **Budget Narrative**

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

Budget items must be:

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

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

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

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

TWG Program funding may be used for biological research and/or for monitoring or other data collection activities necessary for evaluating the effects of project activities on targeted plant or animal species. Costs related to data and evaluation are allowable. Data costs include but are not limited to the expenditures needed to gather, store, track, manage, analyze, disaggregate, secure, share, publish, or otherwise use data to administer or improve the program, such as data systems, personnel, data dashboards, cybersecurity, and related items. Data costs may also include direct or indirect costs associated with building integrated data systems—data systems that link individual-level data from multiple government agencies for purposes of management, research, and evaluation. Evaluation costs include (but are not limited to) evidence reviews, evaluation planning and feasibility assessment, conducting evaluations, sharing evaluation results, and other personnel or materials costs related to the effective building and use of evidence and evaluation for program design, administration, or improvement.

## **Additional Budget Guidance**

If costs are incurred prior to the project start date, these “pre-award” costs can only be reimbursed if included in the application and approved in writing by the Regional Office of Conservation Investment. Pre-award costs may include costs necessary for preparing the application, such as feasibility surveys, engineering design, biological reconnaissance, or preparation of documents such as environmental assessments for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act or other Federal laws or regulations (see [2 CFR 200.458](#)). Pre-award costs are allowable only to the extent that they would have been allowable if incurred on or after the project start date. Applicants may contact the Regional Office of Conservation Investment for additional guidance (see Regional Contacts in Basic Information above).

For personnel costs, describe how estimates were determined by identifying what type of staff will support the project and how much time they will contribute (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 any contracts or subawards.

Please note the prohibitions on certain telecommunications and video surveillance services or equipment in [2 CFR 200.216](#). The Department of the Interior’s [Uncrewed Aircraft](#) web page provides a list of approved unmanned aircraft and related equipment and software.

If applicable to your project, also include information on:

1. Program Income – Estimate the amount of program income that the project is likely to generate and indicate the method of applying and disposing of it (see [2 CFR 200.1](#)).
2. Equipment – Identify any tangible personal property (including information technology systems) having a useful life of more than one year and a per-unit acquisition cost which equals or exceeds the lesser of the capitalization level established by you or your subrecipient(s) for financial statement purposes, or \$10,000 (see [2 CFR 200.1](#)). If equipment previously purchased with Federal funds is available for the project, provide a list of that equipment and identify the Federal funding source. Applicants and any subrecipients must follow the requirements at 2 CFR 200 when acquiring equipment under an award, with emphasis on [200.313](#), [200.317](#) through [200.327](#), and [200.439](#).
3. Construction or Building-Related Capital Expenditures – Review the definition of a capital expenditure in [2 CFR 200.1](#). Any applicable costs must comply with the requirements in [2 CFR 200.439](#). See also [2 CFR 200.452](#). Note that real property acquisition is not an eligible expense in the TWG Program.

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

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

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

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

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

## **Other Required Information**

### **Cover Page**

Include the following information on the cover page: Name of Tribe, Project Title, TWG Program Funds Requested, Project Start Date, Project End Date, Project Contact's Name, Job Title, Phone Number, Email Address, and Date. The Tribal logo, seal, and/or photo(s) may be included.

### **Tribal Resolution**

Attach a signed Tribal resolution of support and/or official signed letter from an individual with delegated Tribal authority stating their support for the application. The resolution may be provided after application review and selection for an award.

### **Application Checklist**

Review this announcement carefully to ensure the application is complete. Contact the Native American Liaison and/or Office of Conservation Investment TWG Program lead for assistance with the requirements in this checklist (see Regional Contacts in Basic Information above).

- Cover Page
- Tribal Resolution, if available (may be submitted later if selected for an award)
- SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance
- A completed Budget Information form: SF-424A (Non-Construction projects) or SF-424C (Construction projects)
- Additional Budget details may be provided in a customized Budget table
- If applicable, a completed SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities form
- Project Abstract Summary form (OMB Form Number: 4040-0019)
- Project Narrative (10-page limit)
- Budget Narrative:
  - o Description and justification of all items of cost in Budget
  - o Additional Budget information, as applicable
  - o Indirect Cost Statement (may use *De Minimus* rate or Federal Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate)

o If using a negotiated rate, include a copy of the Tribe's most recent Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement

- If applicable, a Conflict of Interest Disclosure
- Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement

## SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES

### Address to Request Application Package

If you need a copy of this announcement in another format, contact:

DJ Monette

Associate Native American Liaison Advisor

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 300 Westgate Center Drive

Hadley, MA 01035

413-244-4495

[dj\\_monette@fws.gov](mailto:dj_monette@fws.gov)

If you need immediate assistance, please call the customer service center at 1-800-344-9453. If you have a hearing impairment or a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services.

### Submission Dates and Times

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

#### Closing Date Explanation

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

Applications submitted via U.S. Mail or parcel service must be postmarked by the due date.

### Submission Instructions

#### Apply Through Grants.gov

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

- *Create a Workspace:* Creating a workspace allows you to complete it online and route it through your organization for review before submitting.
- *Complete a Workspace:* Invite participants to the workspace so you can collaborate on the application. Required applications forms are included in the Grants.gov Funding Opportunity Package and can be completed in the Workspace, unless noted otherwise in the Required Forms table above. Check for errors before submission.

- *Submit a Workspace:* An application may be submitted through workspace by clicking the Sign and Submit button on the Manage Workspace page, under the Forms tab
- *Track a Workspace Submission:* After successfully submitting a workspace application, a Grants.gov Tracking Number (GRANTXXXXXXXX) is automatically assigned to the application.

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

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

### Apply Through GrantSolutions

To apply through [GrantSolutions](#), follow these steps:

1. **Register your organization.** Send an e-mail to help@grantsolutions.gov with:
  - Subject: New Organization Request
  - Entity name (organization or individual applying as a natural person)
  - Entity type
  - SAM.gov Unique Entity Identifier (not required for individuals)
  - Employer Identification Number (individuals, do not include your SSN)
  - Address
  - Contact details (First and last name, e-mail, phone)

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

Applicants can submit a hard copy application by U.S. Mail or express delivery to the addresses below.

For the Regional Office of Conservation Investment mailing addresses for submitting an application, see the appropriate Regional Contact under Basic Information, above.

Applications can be submitted electronically to the email address below by the submission date and time.

For the Regional Office of Conservation Investment email addresses for submitting an application, see the appropriate Regional Contact under Basic Information, above.

## APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

### Eligibility Review

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

**Rejecting an Application** - Applications that do not meet all eligibility requirements may be rejected. If an application is rejected, the applicant will be notified why it was rejected by the regional Native American Liaison or TWG Program Lead. The regional Native American Liaison or TWG Program lead will retain copies of all submitted proposals in their respective Regional Office.

**Regional Review Team** - Service staff will compile applications received via GrantSolutions, Grants.gov, and email or mail and post them for internal use by the Regional Review Team (Team). The regional Native American Liaison or TWG Program Lead will coordinate activities of the Team but will not score applications at the Regional level. Applications will be scored independently by Team members based on the merit review criteria published in this announcement.

**Regional Ranking** - After all applications have been evaluated, program staff will ensure that applications and scores are accurately entered into a database. All Scoring Sheets will be collected by the regional program staff and saved as part of the administrative record. The regional program staff will average the scores for each application to develop regionally ranked project lists, with the highest average score being number one, the second-highest number two, etc. The regional ranking lists must be approved by the Team. In order to complete all scoring committee activities, the regional program staff are encouraged to convene their scoring committees (in person or by conference call) to review and discuss the final regional ranking before the list is submitted to their respective Regional Director for approval.

**Tiebreakers** - If two applications have the same score, the regional program staff will determine priority based on the average scores of individual criteria. The Resource Benefit criterion is used first to break ties. If the Resource Benefit scores are the same, the tiebreaker process moves to the Capacity Building criterion and then to the Performance Measures criterion.

**First Tier Applications** - First Tier applications bypass the national scoring process and are automatically placed on the list of recommended applications submitted to the Service Director. The two highest-scoring TWG Program applications are considered to be First Tier at the Regional level. However, Regional Directors have the option of elevating any eligible

application to First Tier status at their discretion. If this occurs, Regional Director First Tier selections will be moved to the highest rank and all other applications will be adjusted down.

### **National Review and Ranking**

**First Tier Applications at the National Level** - First Tier selections are designated by the Regional Directors, bypass the national review and ranking process, and are accepted into the pool of recommended applications.

**Second Tier Applications at the National Level** - All Regional rankings are converted to a Regional percentile. This serves to eliminate any systematic application of the scoring criteria unique to a Region. For example: if a Region received seven applications scoring 92, 90, 87, 85, 80, 77, and 70, they would be ranked one through seven respectively. The highest scoring proposal, 92, is the best of seven, or  $(7/7) = 100$  percent. The next highest, 90, is ranked sixth out of seven, or  $(6/7) = 86$  percent; and so on – with the remaining five applications being assigned 71 percent, 57 percent, 43 percent, 29 percent, and 14 percent. The regionally ranked lists are then merged into a single national pool of eligible applications based on these percentiles. Using this process and the Regional percentiles, an equitable percentage based on the best applications in each Region will move forward for funding recommendation at the National level as funding levels allow.

**Third Tier Applications at the National Level** - Federally recognized Tribes that have not received prior funding through the TWG Program are eligible for funding through a Third Tier process. This process does not modify current project selection procedures or the criteria in this announcement. Regardless of whether a Tribe has received a previous TWG Program award, the Service will review all applications using the same procedures and criteria. Awards for selected Third Tier applications will be distributed to first-time TWG Program recipients that are not selected through the First or Second Tiers. Up to one application per Service Region may be selected through this Third Tier process, based on its rank within the respective Service Region.

**Selection of Applications to be Funded** - Once the national review process is completed, the final award recommendations are presented to the Service Director with a request for concurrence and approval at the Director's discretion.

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

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

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

## **Merit Review**

### **Resource Benefit - Maximum Points: 30**

What are the expected benefits to Tribal fish and wildlife and their habitats if the project is successfully completed? Highlight benefits to species of cultural or traditional importance or species that are not hunted or fished.

1. Extent to which the project will reduce or restore losses to fish, wildlife, and/or plant species or their habitats.
2. Extent to which the project will carry out research or monitoring necessary to restore or manage fish, wildlife, and/or plant species or their habitats.
3. Extent to which the project will address a fish, wildlife, and/or plant resource priority identified by a Tribe or other entity in one or more management or recovery plans.
4. Duration during which the project will protect or manage a fish, wildlife, and/or plant conservation priority.

### **Performance Measures - Maximum Points: 18**

To what extent does the proposal identify obtainable and quantifiable performance measures and the means and plan to monitor, evaluate, and report on these measures compared to an initial baseline? The measures should be specific, clear, and provide demonstrable benefits to the target species.

1. Extent to which the project produces measurable results for habitats and/or species.
2. Extent to which the project identifies a baseline and identifies anticipated measurable post-project accomplishments.
3. Extent to which the project implements high priority actions and is part of a comprehensive management approach.

### **Work Plan - Maximum Points: 10**

Are the project activities and objectives well-designed and achievable?

1. Extent to which the project tasks and work products are clearly established and support Tribal goals/objectives.
2. Extent to which the project schedule is achievable.
3. Extent to which the project clearly defines and establishes accountability of the applicant.

### **Budget - Maximum Points: 10**

Are all major budget items justified in relation to the program objectives and clearly explained in the Budget Narrative?

1. Extent to which all parts of the Budget Narrative and associated Budget Table(s) are clear, concise, and complete.
2. Extent to which the Budget Narrative and associated Budget Table(s) accurately reflect all costs.

### **Capacity Building - Maximum Points: 20**

To what extent will the project increase the recipient's capacity to engage in actions for the benefit of wildlife and their habitats?

1. Extent to which the project will contribute to Tribal self-sufficiency in fish and wildlife resource management.
2. Extent to which the project will result in the creation or improvement of Tribal wildlife ordinances and/or enforcement.
3. Extent to which the project will improve Tribal fish and wildlife management capabilities through infrastructure development and/or training.

### **Outreach, Partnership, and Data Sharing - Maximum Points: 12**

To what extent does the applicant display commitment to the project through outreach, partnerships, and data sharing?

1. Extent to which the project clearly demonstrates outreach actions.
2. Extent to which the project involves partnerships with other Tribes, organizations, and/or agencies.
3. Extent to which the project builds data or information in a format that is shareable with other data systems, Tribes, organizations, and/or agencies.

### **Total Maximum Points: 100**

## **Review and Selection Process**

This program reviews proposed budgets to ensure:

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

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

Prior to conducting the comprehensive merit review, an initial review will be performed to determine whether: (1) the applicant is eligible for an award; (2) the information required by the NOFO has been submitted; (3) all mandatory requirements of the NOFO are satisfied; (4) the proposed project is responsive to the program objectives of the NOFO (program determination); and (5) the proposed project is in compliance with all applicable executive and secretary orders, including the President's executive order on Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing as well as the executive order and Secretary order on Restoring Truth and Sanity to American History. If an applicant fails to meet the requirements or objectives of

the NOFO, or does not provide sufficient information for review, the applicant will be considered nonresponsive. and eliminated from further review.

Receiving Applications - Submit TWG Program grant application(s) either by mail or email to the appropriate regional email address, or electronically through GrantSolutions or Grants.gov. Upon receipt, they will be date-stamped and delivered to the appropriate regional program staff. Applications must be submitted in GrantSolutions or Grants.gov, emailed, or postmarked on or before the due date identified in this announcement. No fax copies of the proposal application will be processed or accepted.

Screening and Accepting Applications - Regional program staff ensure the application proposes eligible activities and includes the information in the Application Checklist above, as applicable. If an application is incomplete, the Service may inform an applicant of required information, and the applicant may provide it by the due date. Early submittal can help a Tribe avoid disqualifying errors or omissions prior to the deadline. A Tribe may also resubmit the application for the next funding cycle. Regional program staff determine whether the applicant Tribe is in compliance in previous TWG Program awards. Tribes not in compliance with current TWG Program award requirements have 30 days to comply, or they may be determined to be ineligible to apply for a new award.

Selection of Applications to be Funded - Once the national review process is completed, the final award recommendations are presented to the Service Director with a request for concurrence and approval at the Director's discretion.

Post-Award Compliance Information - We encourage submittal of any required compliance information to the Regional Office of Conservation Investment within three months of Director approval of the award.

## **Risk Review**

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

## **AWARD NOTICES**

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

**Anticipated Project Start Date:** 11/21/2026

**Anticipated Project End Date:** 11/20/2029

A project's period of performance may begin on but not prior to the date of the Service Director's approval of any FY 2026 awards. A typical period of performance is two to three years; however, authorizing legislation does not require a three-year limit. Regional TWG Program Leads and/or Tribal Liaisons can provide technical assistance with selecting an appropriate period of performance.

Awards may be issued by late 2026 at the discretion of the Service Director and as funding levels permit. Additional review of awards by the Department is required and is conducted after review by the Service Director. Factors beyond the Service's control may delay awards or result in lower available funding levels or no funding.

If a project is selected for funding, the Regional Office of Conservation Investment will notify the applicant of the pending award and the process needed to receive funds, including satisfactory completion of compliance requirements. Submit all required compliance documentation within three months of notification of the award, if possible. When compliance and other requirements are met, the Tribe will receive a notification detailing the terms and conditions of the award. The notification will include specific instructions on how to request payment. If applicable, the instructions will detail any additional information or forms required and where to submit payment requests. This notification may be issued by GrantSolutions, mailed, or emailed.

## **POST AWARD REQUIREMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION**

### **Administration and National Policy Requirements**

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

See the [FWS General Award Terms and Conditions](#) for national policy requirements for FWS awards. Special terms and conditions will be detailed in award notices.

### **Reporting**

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

- Submit Federal Financial reports and Program Performance reports.
- Use the [Federal Financial Report \(SF-425\) form](#) for financial reporting,
- Monitor award activities and report on program performance per [2 CFR 200.329](#),
- Promptly notify the awarding program in writing of any issues, delays, or conditions impairing award objectives per [2 CFR 200.329\(e\)](#),
- Disclose any conflicts of interest related to their award that arise during the award period per [2 CFR 1402.112](#),
- Report on the status of real property acquired under the award in which the Federal government retains an interest per [2 CFR 200.330](#), and
- Report all violations of Federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the Federal award per [2 CFR 200.113](#).
- Report any matters related to recipient integrity and performance to SAM.gov per [Appendix XII to 2 CFR 200](#).

- If the Federal share of the award is more than \$100,000 and the recipient makes or agrees to make any payment using non-appropriated funds for lobbying in connection to the award, disclose those activities using the Disclosure of Lobbying (SF-LLL) form per [43 CFR 18.100](#).
- Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (FFATA) and 2 CFR 170 requires certain recipients to report information on executive compensation, and information on all sub-awards, subcontracts and consortiums equal to or over \$30,000 to SAM.gov.

TWG Program performance reports must be submitted to the Regional Office of Conservation Investment as specified in the grant agreement. Performance reports must contain: a comparison of actual accomplishments with the established goals and objectives of the award; a description of the reasons that any goals or objectives were not met (if applicable); and any other information relevant to the project results.

The performance report must provide quantitative outputs based on approved project objectives, and narrative responses to the following questions, as applicable. Recipients may add attachments such as tables, figures, images, or graphs to provide further detail.

1. What progress has been made toward completing the objective(s) of the project?
2. Were there any changes in the implementation of the objective(s) or approach(es)? If yes, please describe and justify the changes.
3. Did your project result in any unexpected benefits, promising practices, new understandings, cost efficiencies, management recommendations, or lessons learned?
4. For survey projects only: does the project continue work from a previous award? If so, how do the current results compare to prior results?
5. Are there any publications, photographs, screenshots of websites, or other documentation (including articles in popular literature, scientific literature, or other public information products) resulting from the project that highlight the accomplishments of the project?
6. Is this a project you wish to highlight for Service communication purposes?

**Final reports** are due no later than 120 calendar days after the award period of performance end date or award 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 grant agreement.

### **Other Information**

For more information about Tribal Wildlife Grants, visit the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's [Tribal Wildlife Grants Home Page](#). Service personnel can answer questions about the TWG Program and provide support and technical assistance with preparation and submittal of applications. See Regional Contacts in the Basic Information section of this announcement for contact information.