

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT
for
Federal Financial Assistance

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY TITLE:

**BLM-MT, Zortman/Landusky Water Treatment and
Reclamation, State Office**

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY NUMBER:

L17AS00003

ANNOUNCEMENT TYPE:

**Request for Applications
Issued: November 18, 2016**

CFDA NUMBER & TITLE:

**15.236 - Environmental Quality and Protection
Resource Management (Climate Change)**

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY:

**FEDERAL LAND POLICY AND MANAGEMENT
ACT OF 1976 (FLPMA), 43 USC §1737 (b), Public
Law 94-579**

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS:

January 17, 2016, 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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BLM

Bureau of Land Management—Financial Assistance



A. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

1. Authority

This Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Federal Financial Assistance Funding Opportunity is being announced under the following legislative authority: **FEDERAL LAND POLICY AND MANAGEMENT ACT OF 1976 (FLPMA), 43 USC §1737 (b), Public Law 94-579**

2. Description of Program and/or Project

a. **Background:** The purpose of this program is to protect water quality in streams and aquifers adjacent to the abandoned Zortman and Landusky mines.

Currently, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) jointly oversees reclamation of the Zortman and Landusky mines in co-operation with the BLM. The mines were permitted by the agencies in the early 1980s, and the reclamation of the sites and operation of water treatment facilities became the agencies' responsibility when the mining company, Pegasus Gold Corporation, entered bankruptcy in 1999. These actions have been conducted using a combination of reclamation and water treatment bonds posted by the company, and public funds. The reclamation bonds have been depleted and the water treatment bond covers less than half of the annual site operating costs and will expire in 2017. Significant unpredicted water quality problems developed at some mine facilities after the bankruptcy, resulting in long-term site management expenses that were not anticipated or funded by the posted bonds. Recent extreme precipitation events have exacerbated the funding shortfall by damaging seepage interception facilities and filling contaminated water storage facilities to capacity.

b. **Objectives:** The objective of this project is to continue treating contaminated water at the Zortman/Landusky abandoned mine sites. Removal of the heavy metals and other contaminants by water treatment protects the public and Native American tribes water resources and consequently the public health and environment.

Specific Objectives for this project include: 1) the interception and retention of all contaminated seepage and runoff from the mine sites which would otherwise cause the pollution of local streams and associated aquifers; 2) Treatment and discharge of all intercepted waters with the goal of compliance with all Montana water quality standards and other requirements listed in Appendix 4 of BLM's September 2006 Engineering Evaluation /Cost Analysis (EE/CA) for Water Management at the Zortman and Landusky Mines; 3) Reduction of contaminated water 4) Reduction in the volume of water requiring treatment annually.

c. **Public Benefit:** Members of the public and adjacent Native American Tribes who live near the Zortman/Landusky mine use the land and water resources for supplies, agriculture and recreation. The projected water treatment will improve water quality and will result in the protection of public health and the environment.

3. Program/Project Performance Goals

- a. An increase in the percent of sites (acres) reclaimed or mitigated from the effects of degradation from past mining and an increase in the number of mined acres reclaimed to appropriate land condition and water quality standards.

Treatment of contaminated water from the mine sites will continue indefinitely until water quality standards can be met without treatment.

B. FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION

1. Award Instrument

In accordance with the Legislative Authority, a cooperative agreement will be used and substantive Bureau of Land Management (BLM) involvement will consist of the following: The BLM Program Officer (PO) will collaborate with the recipient's Project Manager/Principal Investigator (RPM/PI) to manage all stages of project development, implementation, and evaluation. Responsibility for project management, control, and direction will be shared by the recipient and the BLM, however the BLM will have the right to intervene by modifying the project management plan if the project is not staying on schedule and/or technical issues arise.

In addition: BLM will provide technical expertise in water treatment, mine reclamation, and CERCLA Removal Actions under the National Contingency Plan. The BLM serves as the "On Scene Coordinator" for the CERCLA actions. BLM participates in the Zortman/Land usky Technical Working Group, along with the MT DEQ and Fort Belknap Tribes, who manage reclamation activities at the mines.

2. Expected Number of Awards

One (1) Cooperative Agreement

3. Expected Individual Award Amounts

\$400,000.00

4. Total Funding Expected to be Awarded through this Announcement

\$400,000.00

5. Anticipated Start Date

January 23, 2017

6. Anticipated Period of Performance (five (5) years maximum)

From: January 23, 2017

To: January 22, 2022

7. No Obligation to Award

The BLM is under no obligation to award funds for this project. Only BLM Grants Management Officers (GMO) may obligate funds for financial assistance.

C. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

1. Eligible Applicants

The following types of entities are eligible to apply for award under this announcement. Failure to meet eligibility requirements will result in precluding the BLM from making an award. Eligible applicant types are:

- Unrestricted, anyone may apply

2. Cost Sharing or Matching

This program has no cost sharing or matching requirements.

D. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

1. Application Package

This announcement includes all information, documents, and electronic addresses needed to submit an application through www.Grants.gov. Paper copies may be requested by contacting the individual(s) listed on the application coversheet.

2. DUNS Number and SAM Registration

Each applicant (unless the applicant is an individual or Federal awarding agency that is excepted from those requirements under 2 CFR § 25.110(b) or (c), or has an exception approved by the Federal awarding agency under 2 CFR § 25.110(d)) is required to:

- Provide a valid DUNS number (Dun & Bradstreet Universal Numbering System) on its application. DUNS numbers are nine-digit numbers established and assigned by Dun and Bradstreet, Inc. (D&B) to uniquely identify business entities. DUNS numbers may be obtained free of charge from Dun & Bradstreet, Inc., at: <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform> or by calling them at (877) 930-5228.
- Be registered in SAM (System for Award Management, www.SAM.gov) before submitting its application. SAM is the Official U.S. Government system that consolidated the capabilities of CCR/FedReg, ORCA, and EPLS. There is no

fee to register at this site. Register in the System for Award Management (SAM) at: <http://www.sam.gov>.

- c. Continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which the applicant has an active Federal award or an application or plan under consideration by a Federal awarding agency.

3. The Application Package

Applications must include all required Standard Forms (SF) shown below, a Proposal (Attachment A), a Budget Detail (Attachment B), and a copy the applicant's approved federal agency Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA), if applicable. Non-governmental organizations that have not previously received award funds or have not had an active award within 3 (three) years must complete a Financial Assistance Evaluation Questionnaire. A copy of the questionnaire may be requested by contacting the individual(s) listed on the application coversheet.

WHAT TO SUBMIT:

Form Name and Number	✓
SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance	
SF-424A Budget Information - Non-Construction Programs	
SF-424B Assurances - Non-Construction Programs	
Grants.gov Lobbying Form	
Project Proposal (Attachment A to this document)	
Budget Detail (Attachment B to this document)	
Federal Agency-approved Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA), if applicable	

- a. Project Proposal (Attachment A)
 - 1) Attachment A is a suggested project proposal template and may be used when submitting your proposal. The proposal must be no longer than 15 pages, with a type-face no smaller than 11-point, and have at least one (1) inch margins on all sides. The 15 page limit includes all text, figures, references, and vitae, but does not include the Budget Detail (Attachment B).
 - 2) All proposals are confidential.
- b. Budget Detail (Attachment B)
 - 1) Use the Budget Detail form (Attachment B) to present the breakdown of your estimated costs by category needed to accomplish project activities.

Estimated costs should be described in sufficient detail so that they may be checked for reasonableness. Include a description of any cost share (cash, in-kind, etc.) listed. Lump sum costs are not acceptable in any category, without a detail breakdown of how the cost were arrived out. No profit or fees are allowable.

- 2) Budget details should be broken down into the following categories:
 - (a) Personnel Costs. Salaries or wages of employees working directly on this agreement project, indicate program manager and other key personnel by name and title. Other personnel may be indicated by title alone. For all positions, indicate salaries or wages and estimated hours or percent of time to be spent on the agreement.
 - (b) Fringe Benefit Costs. The costs of fringe benefits of employees working directly on this agreement project. Indicate rates/amounts, what costs are included in this category, and the basis of the rate computations. Federally approved rate agreements are acceptable for compliance with this item.
 - (c) Travel Costs. The estimated costs for travel related to agreement activities. Include the purpose of trip, destination, number of persons traveling, length of stay, and all travel costs including airfare, per diem, lodging, and miscellaneous travel-related expenses. For local travel, include mileage and rate of compensation. If applicable, indicate that the costs are per your organization's written travel policy. Current Federal per diem rates (the maximum allowances that federal employees are reimbursed for expenses incurred while on official travel) may be found at <http://www.gsa.gov/portal/content/104877>.
 - (d) Equipment Costs. Equipment is defined as expendable tangible personal property having a useful life of more than one (1) year and an acquisition cost of more than \$5,000.00, or a value which reaches the capitalization threshold level established by the organization for financial statement purposes.
 - (e) Supply Costs. The costs of consumable supplies and materials to be used for agreement activities. List each item and quantity individually.
 - (f) Contractual Costs. Include estimated costs of proposed professional and technical consultants and contractors participating on the project. Identify all work that will be accomplished, including a breakdown of all tasks to be completed, and a detailed budget estimate of time, rates, supplies, and materials that will be required for each task. Any changes or additions will require a request for approval.

Procurement procedures must comply with 2 CFR Parts 200.317 through 200.326.

- (g) **Construction Costs.** The cost of any construction directly related to the project activities.
- (h) **Other Costs.** The cost of items not listed above and which do not fit in any other category, such as the cost of duplicating and printing, equipment rental, postage, etc. No profit or fee will be allowed.
- (i) **Total Direct Costs.** The sum of categories (a) through (h).
- (j) **Indirect Costs.**
 - (1) If indirect costs will be charged to the project, complete this section and show the proposed rate, cost base, and proposed amount for allowable indirect costs. It is not acceptable to simply incorporate indirect rates within other direct cost line items.
 - (2) Include a copy of any federally approved negotiated indirect cost rate agreement (NICRA).
 - (3) If your organization has never had a NICRA, the BLM Grants Management Officer (GMO) may allow an indirect cost rate of up to 10% of your base modified total direct costs (MTDC). MTDC includes all salaries and wages, fringe benefits, materials and supplies, services, travel, and subgrants and subcontracts up to the first \$25,000 of each. Include the computational basis for the indirect expense pool and corresponding allocation base for your rate.
 - (4) Information on obtaining a NICRA, "Preparing and Submitting Indirect Cost Proposals," is available from the Department of the Interior, National Business Center, Indirect Cost Section, at <http://www.aqd.nbc.gov/services/ICS.aspx>.
- (k) **Total Costs.** The total of both direct and indirect costs estimated to be expended on this agreement's activities.

4. Submission Dates and Times

See announcement cover sheet for the deadline (date and time) for submission of applications. Applications must be received by the BLM prior to the posted deadline. Any application received after the deadline for submission may not be considered for award unless it can be determined the delay was caused by Federal government mishandling.

5. Application Submission via www.grants.gov

The Bureau of Land Management participates in the Grants.gov initiative which provides the Grant Community with a single website, www.grants.gov, to search for and apply for all federal grant opportunities.

- a. All applicants should register at www.Grants.Gov and all applications should be submitted electronically through www.Grants.gov unless other arrangements are made and approved of in advance of the submission deadline. If you have any questions or problems with the registration or application submission process, contact the Grants.gov Help Desk at 1-800-518-4726, or go to <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/support/technical-support/troubleshooting.html> for online help.
- b. Applications submitted through www.Grants.gov are considered to be electronically signed applications.

E. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

A total of 100 points will be used to score each proposal received. The scores assigned to each criteria in the second level evaluation correspond to their relative importance. Proposals will be evaluated, scored, and ranked by appropriate BLM Staff expert in the program's field of study.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals which do not meet the requirements of this funding opportunity announcement and which are determined to be outside the scope of the authority under which this announcement is posted.

Award will be made to responsive, responsible applicants submitting proposals which conform to the funding opportunity announcement and are most advantageous to the Government considering the evaluation factors listed below.

The evaluation process will be comprised of the following three screening levels:

1. First Level Screening --Basic Eligibility

- a. Applications will be screened by the Grants Management Officer to ensure that applications meet basic eligibility requirements. Depending on the specifics of the opportunity, screening may include, but is not limited to, the following:
 - 1) Program and/or legislative authority requirements are met;
 - 2) Submission is timely;
 - 3) Complete and properly executed SF-424 application package documents (see D. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION) are included;
- b. Applications must satisfy basic eligibility screening requirements to be considered for further review.

2. Second Level Evaluation -- Merit Review Evaluation

- a. Merit Review Evaluation. Eligible applications will be evaluated in an objective and unbiased manner using the following merit review criteria using numerical scoring based on a 100 point maximum score.
 - 1) Objective (Maximum score 25/100 Points):
 - 2) Technical Approach (Maximum score 25/100 Points):
 - 3) Public Benefit (Maximum score 25/100 Points):
 - 4) Qualifications and Past Performance (Maximum score 25/100 Points):

3. Third Level Review Pre-award Clearance and Approvals

Following the described review process, BLM will also complete a business evaluation and determination of responsibility. During these evaluations the Grants Management Officer will evaluate variables such as:

- a. Risk Management. The BLM uses a risk-based approach to evaluate the risk posed by the supporting applicants' projects before it awards Federal funds.
 - 1) BLM is required to review information available through OMB-designated eligibility and/or financial integrity databases, such as the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS). The BLM considers factors such as:
 - (a) Financial stability;
 - (b) Quality of management systems;
 - (c) History of performance managing Federal awards, timeliness of compliance with reporting requirements, conformance to the terms and conditions of previous Federal awards, etc.;
 - (d) Reports and findings from audits performed; and
 - (e) The applicant's ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements imposed on non-Federal entities.
 - 2) Budget review is based on the following:
 - (a) Budget line items must be allowable, allocable, reasonable in price, and appropriate for the level of effort needed to accomplish the project
 - (b) Budget details and narrative must provide adequate explanation of, and justification for, each estimated cost

- (c) Requested equipment must be justified and necessary for completion of the project
- (d) Cost Sharing/Matching funds must not come from Federal funds

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

If the results of pre-award reviews and clearances are unsatisfactory, consideration of funding for the project may be withdrawn.

4. Application Selection Process

- a. Applications eligible for merit review will be evaluated by an ad hoc evaluation team assembled to review, rate, rank, and recommend applications for award using the above evaluation criteria. Evaluation teams are made up of two or more qualified personnel familiar with the program and who have been certified to have no conflict of interest with any persons or organizations applying for award.
- b. Reviews are treated as confidential documents. Once award decisions are made, applicants may request in writing a written summary of the evaluation of their application/proposal.

F. FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

1. Federal Award Notices

- a. Any award made from this announcement will be based on the application submitted to, and as approved by, the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, and will be regulated by OMB's Uniform Guidance, [2 CFR Part 200 Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards](#).
- b. Acceptance. Acceptance is defined as the start of work, drawing down of funds, or accepting the award via electronic means. Costs may not be incurred before the effective date listed on the award. Acceptance of a Federal Financial Assistance award from the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, carries with it the responsibility to be aware of, and comply with, the administrative and national policy requirements and terms and conditions of award.

2. Reporting

Periodic submission of Federal Financial reports (SF-425), Performance/Progress reports, and Youth Employment reports (if applicable) will be required under this financial assistance agreement. Submission of financial and performance/progress reports may be required either quarterly, semi-annually, or annually. Submission of youth employment reports (if applicable) is required quarterly.

3. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

- a. Office of Management and Budget Guidance for Grants and Agreements. By accepting additional Federal funding under the current Federal assistance, your organization agrees to abide by the applicable OMB Guidance for Grants and Agreement in the expenditure of Federal funds and performance under this program. OMB guidance is available at the following web site:
<http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=954b81d94bf127c6de3c76a3c99d8d9f&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title02/2subttitleA.tpl>
 - b. Administrative Requirements.
 - 1) [2 CFR Part 200](#) Subparts A through D - Uniform Administrative Requirements and Cost Principles.
 - 2) [2 CFR Part 200 Subpart F - Audit Requirements](#). Non-Federal entities that expend \$750,000.00, or more, in federal awards in a single year shall have a single or program-specific audit conducted for that year in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 (31 U.S.C. 7501-7507) and revised OMB Circular A-133, available at:
http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars_default.
 - 3) Indirect Facilities and Administration (F&A) Costs.
 - (a) [2 CFR Part 200.414](#) - Indirect (F&A) Costs
 - (b) 2 CFR, [Appendix III to Part 200 - Indirect \(F&A\) Costs Identification and Assignment, and Rate Determination for Institutions of Higher Education \(IHEs\)](#)
 - (c) [Appendix IV to Part 200 - Indirect \(F&A\) Costs Identification and Assignment, and Rate Determination for Nonprofit Organizations](#)
 - (d) [Appendix V to Part 200 - State/Local Government-wide Central Service Cost Allocation Plans](#)
- (1) The provisions of 2 CFR 200.414(c) require Federal agencies to accept federally negotiated indirect cost rates. The BLM has

applied the following policies, procedures and general decision-making criteria for deviations from negotiated Indirect Cost Rates for financial assistance programs and agreements.

- (2) Distribution Basis. For all deviations to the Federal negotiated indirect cost rate, including statutory, regulatory, programmatic, and voluntary, the basis of direct costs against which the indirect cost rate is applied must be:
 - (i) The same base identified in the recipient's negotiated indirect cost rate agreement, if the recipient has a federally negotiated indirect cost rate agreement; or
 - (ii) The Modified Total Direct Cost (MTDC) base in cases where the recipient does not have a federally negotiated indirect cost rate agreement or, with prior approval of the Awarding Agency, when the recipient's federally negotiated indirect cost rate agreement base is only a subset of the MTDC (such as salaries and wages) and the use of the MTDC still results in an overall reduction in the total indirect cost recovered. MTDC is the base defined by 2 CFR 200.68, "Modified Total Direct Cost (MTDC)."
 - (iii) In cases where the recipient does not have a federally negotiated indirect cost rate agreement, under no circumstances will the Department use a modified rate based upon Total Direct Cost or other base not identified in the federally negotiated indirect cost rate agreement or defined within 2 CFR 200.68. The purpose of this restriction is to ensure that the reduced rate is applied against a base that does not include any potentially distorting items (such as pass-through funds, subcontracts in excess of \$25,000, and participant support costs) and is based on the requirements outlined in 2 CFR 200.68; 2 CFR 200.414(f); 2 CFR 200 Appendix III, Section C.2.; 2 CFR 200 Appendix IV, Section B.3.f.; and Appendix VII, Section C.2.c.
- (3) Indirect Cost Rate Reductions Used as Cost-Share. Instances where the recipient elects to use a rate lower than the federally negotiated indirect cost rate, and uses the balance of the unrecovered indirect costs to meet a cost-share or matching requirement required by the program and/or statute, are not considered a deviation from 2 CFR 200.414(c) as the federally negotiated indirect cost rate is being applied under the

agreement in order to meet the terms and conditions of the award.

- c. Program Legislation and/or Regulations.

4. Standard Award Terms and Conditions

- a. Code of Federal Regulations/Regulatory Requirements, as applicable (contact your program officer with any questions regarding the applicability of the following):
 - 1) [2 CFR Part 25](#), *Universal Identifier and System of Award Management*
 - 2) [2 CFR Part 170](#), *Reporting Subawards and Executive Compensation*
 - 3) [2 CFR Part 175](#), *Award Term for Trafficking in Persons*
 - 4) [2 CFR Part 180](#) & [2 CFR Part 1400](#), *Government-wide Debarment and Suspension (Non-procurement)*
 - 4) [2 CFR Part 182](#) & [2 CFR Part 1401](#), *Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace (Financial Assistance)*
 - 5) [43 CFR 18](#), *New Restrictions on Lobbying*: Submission of an application also represents the applicant's certification of the statements in [43 CFR Part 18, Appendix A](#), *Certification Regarding Lobbying*.
 - 6) [41 USC §4712](#), *Pilot Program for Enhancement of Recipient and Sub-recipient Employee Whistleblower Protection*: This requirement applies to all awards issued after July 1, 2013 and shall be in effect until January 1, 2017.
 - 7) [41 USC §6306](#), *Prohibition on Members of Congress Making Contracts with Federal Government*: No member of or delegate to the United States Congress or Resident Commissioner shall be admitted to any share or part of this award, or to any benefit that may arise therefrom; this provision shall not be construed to extend to an award made to a corporation for the public's general benefit.
 - 8) [Executive Order 13513](#), *Federal Leadership on Reducing Text Messaging while Driving*: Recipients are encouraged to adopt and enforce policies that ban text messaging while driving, including conducting initiatives of the type described in section 3(a) of the order.
 - 9) [Executive Order 13043](#), *Increase Seat Belt Use in the United States*: Recipients of grants/cooperative agreements and/or sub-awards are encouraged to adopt and enforce on-the-job seat belt use policies and programs for their employees when operating company-owned, rented, or personally owned vehicles. These measures include, but are not limited to, conducting education, awareness, and other appropriate programs for their employees about the importance of wearing seat belts and the consequences of not wearing them.

- 10) [Executive Order 13658](#), *Minimum Wage for Contractors*, seeks to increase the efficiency and cost savings in the work performed by parties who contract with the Federal Government by increasing the hourly minimum wage paid by those contractors and any subcontractors. (see 79 CFR 9851).
- 11) Scientific integrity is vital to Department of the Interior (DOI) activities under which scientific research, data, summaries, syntheses, interpretations, presentations, and/or publications are developed and used. Failure to uphold the highest degree of scientific integrity will result not only in potentially flawed scientific results, interpretations, and applications but will damage DOI's reputation and ability to uphold the public's trust. All work performed must comply with the DOI Scientific Integrity Policy posted to <http://www.doi.gov>, or its equivalent as provided by their organization or State law. For more information go to URL: <https://www.doi.gov/scientificintegrity>.

12) **Prohibition on Issuing Financial Assistance Awards to Entities that Require Certain Internal Confidentiality Agreements**

Section 743 of Division E, Title VII of the Consolidated and Further Continuing Resolution Appropriations Act of 2015 (Pub. L. 113-235) prohibits the use of funds appropriated or otherwise made available under that or any other Act for grants or cooperative agreements to an entity that requires employees or contractors of such entity seeking to report fraud, waste, or abuse to sign internal confidentiality agreements or statements prohibiting or otherwise restricting such employees or contractors from lawfully reporting such waste, fraud, or abuse to a designated investigative or law enforcement representative of a federal department or agency authorized to receive such information.

Recipients must not require their employees or contractors seeking to report fraud, waste, or abuse to sign internal confidentiality agreements or statements prohibiting or otherwise restricting such employees or contractors from lawfully reporting such waste, fraud, or abuse to a designated investigative or law enforcement representative of a federal department or agency authorized to receive such information.

Recipients must notify their employees or contractors that existing internal confidentiality agreements covered by this condition are no longer in effect

b. Funding.

- 1) Awards shall be funded subject to availability of BLM funding. Initial funding does not guarantee additional funding in subsequent years.
- 2) Once the grant or cooperative agreement is signed by a BLM Grants Management Officer (GMO), funding is obligated and the recipient may incur approved costs beginning on the effective date of the award and as specified in their submitted and approved budget.

- c. **Payment Mechanism.** Payment will be made by draw-down reimbursement through the Department of the Treasury, Automated Standard Application for Payment (ASAP) System. See following website: <http://www.fms.treas.gov/asap> Treasury Circular 1075 (31 CFR 205) requires that draw-downs to a recipient organization shall be limited to the minimum amounts needed and shall be timed to be in accordance with the actual, immediate cash requirements of the recipient organization in carrying out the purposes of the approved program or project. The timing and amount of cash advances shall be as close as is administratively feasible to the actual disbursements by the recipient organization for direct program or project costs and the proportionate share of any allowable indirect costs
- d. **Conflicts of Interest.** The Recipient must establish safeguards to prohibit its employees and sub-recipients from using their positions for purposes that constitute or present the appearance of a personal or organizational conflict of interest. The Recipient is responsible for notifying the Grants Management Officer (GMO) in writing of any actual or potential conflicts of interest which may include, but are not limited to, direct or indirect financial interests, close personal relationships, positions of trust in outside organizations, consideration of future employment arrangements with a different organization, or decision-making affecting the award that would cause a reasonable person with knowledge of the relevant facts to question the impartiality of the recipient and/or recipient's employees and sub-recipients in the matter.

5. Special Award Terms and Conditions:

- a. **Liability, Insurance, and Indemnification.** Recipients of awards arising from this announcement will be required to agree to the following:
 - 1) **Liability.** The BLM assumes no liability for any actions or activities conducted under this agreement except to the extent that recourse or remedies are provided by Congress under the Federal Tort Claims Act, 28 USC 2671.
 - 2) **Insurance.** The recipient will be required to (1) obtain liability insurance or (2) demonstrate present financial resources in an amount determined sufficient by the Government to cover claims brought by third parties for death, bodily injury, property damage, or other loss resulting from one or more identified activities carried out in connection with this financial assistance agreement.
 - 3) **Insured.** The federal government shall be named as an additional insured under the recipient's insurance policy.
 - 4) **Indemnification.** The recipient hereby agrees:

- (a) To indemnify the federal government, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), from any act or omission of the recipient, its officers, employees, or (members, participants, agents, representatives, as appropriate) (1) against third party claims for damages arising from one or more activities carried out in connection with this financial assistance agreement and (2) for damage or loss to government property resulting from such an activity, to the extent the laws of the State where the recipient is located permit. This obligation shall survive the termination of this agreement.
- (c) To pay the United States the full value for all damage to the lands or other property of the United States caused by the recipient, its officers, employees, or (members, participants, agents, representatives, agents as appropriate).
- (d) To provide workers' compensation protection to the recipient's officers, employees, and representatives.
- (e) To cooperate with the BLM in the investigation and defense of any claims that may be filed with the BLM arising out of the activities of the recipient, its agents, and employees.
- (f) In the event of damage to or destruction of the buildings and facilities assigned for the use of the recipient in whole or in part by any cause whatsoever, nothing herein contained shall be deemed to require the BLM to replace or repair the buildings or facilities. If the BLM determines in writing, after consultation with the recipient that damage to the buildings or portions thereof renders such buildings unsuitable for continued use by the recipient, the BLM shall assume sole control over such buildings or portions thereof. If the buildings or facilities rendered unsuitable for use are essential for conducting operations authorized under this agreement, then failure to substitute and assign other facilities acceptable to the recipient will constitute termination of this agreement by the BLM.
- (e) Flow-down. For the purposes of this clause, "recipient" includes such sub-recipients, contractors, or subcontractors as, in the judgment of the recipient and subject to the Government's determination of sufficiency, have sufficient resources and/or maintain adequate and appropriate insurance to achieve the purposes of this clause.
- (f) Identified Activities. All activities carried out in connection with financial assistance arising from this funding opportunity announcement.

- b. Recipients must successfully complete an appropriate Defensive Driving Course before operating a Government-owned vehicle (GOV).
- c. Recipients must successfully complete appropriate safety and training requirements before operating Government-owned equipment, 4-wheel all-terrain vehicles (ATV) or other Government-furnished property (GFP).
- d. Recipient/Sub-recipient Personnel Security and Suitability Requirements.
 - 1) If performance of this grant/cooperative agreement requires recipient/sub-recipient personnel to have a Federal government-issued personal identification card before being allowed unsupervised access to a DOI facility and/or information system, the Program Officer will be the sponsoring official, and will make the arrangements for personal identity verification and card issuance.
 - 2) At least two weeks before start of grant/cooperative agreement performance, the recipient will identify all recipient and sub-recipient personnel who will require physical and/or logical access for performance of work under this grant/cooperative agreement. The recipient and sub-recipient must make their personnel available at the place and time specified by the Program Officer in order to initiate screening and background investigations. The following forms, or their equivalent, may be used to initiate the credentialing process:
 - (a) OPM Standard Form 85 or 85P
 - (b) OF 306
 - (c) Fingerprint card (local procedures may require the fingerprinting to be done at a police station; in this case, any charges are to be borne by the recipient or sub-recipient, as applicable)
 - (d) Release to Obtain Credit Information
 - (e) PIV card application (web-based)
 - 3) Recipient and sub-recipient employees are required to give, and to authorize others to give, full, frank, and truthful answers to relevant and material questions needed to reach a suitability determination. Refusal or failure to furnish or authorize provision of information may constitute grounds for denial or revocation of credentials. Government personnel may contact the recipient or sub-recipient personnel being screened or investigated in person, by telephone or in writing, and the recipient agrees to make them available for such contact.
 - 4) Alternatively, if an individual has already been credentialed by another agency through OPM, and that credential has not yet expired, further clearance may not be necessary. Provide the sponsoring office with documentation that supports the individual's status.

- 5) During performance of the grant/cooperative agreement, the recipient will keep the Program Officer apprised of changes in personnel to ensure that performance is not delayed by compliance with credentialing processes. Cards that have been lost, damaged, or stolen must be reported to the Program Officer, Grants Management Officer, and Issuing Office within 24 hours. Replacement will be at the recipient's expense. If reissuance of expired credentials is needed, it will be coordinated through the Program Officer.
- 6) At the end of grant/cooperative agreement's performance, or when a recipient/sub-recipient employee is no longer working under this grant/cooperative agreement, the recipient will ensure that all identification cards are returned to the Program Officer. Before starting work under this agreement, a National Agency Check (NAC) will be conducted to verify the identity of the individual applying for clearance. Upon successful completion of the NAC process, an identification card will be issued and access granted.
- 7) Simultaneously, a NAC with Inquiries (NACI) will be initiated to determine the individual's suitability for the position. If the NACI adjudication is favorable, nothing more needs to be done. If the adjudication is unfavorable, the credentials will be revoked. In the event of a disagreement between the recipient and the Government concerning the suitability of an individual to perform work under this grant/cooperative agreement, DOI shall have the right of final determination.
- 8) This requirement must be incorporated into any sub-grants/cooperative agreements that require sub-recipient personnel to have unsupervised access to a Federally controlled facility for more than 180 calendar days or unsupervised access to a Federally controlled Level 3 or 4 information system.
- 9) Federal Information Systems Security Awareness Training. Before the recipient, or any of its employees or sub-recipients, are granted access to the BLM Federal computer system they must first successfully complete the U.S. Department of the Interior's (DOI) Federal Information Systems Security Awareness Online Course. This course was designed specifically for users of Federal computer systems. The course is a Web-based training product that explains the importance of Information Systems Security and takes approximately one hour to complete. This course is mandatory for all Department of the Interior employees, contractors, recipients, and all other users of DOI computer resources. Topics covered in the course include: threats and vulnerabilities, malicious code, user responsibilities, and new developments affecting Information Systems Security.

G. FEDERAL AWARDING AGENCY CONTACTS

For questions, contact one of the individuals listed on the front cover of this announcement.

END
FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Financial Assistance (Cooperative Agreements)



PROJECT PROPOSAL

(Suggested Format)

Instructions: A Project Proposal must be submitted with the Standard Form (SF) 424 Application for Federal Assistance for all BLM Assistance Agreements. Complete each section below. Use additional sheets as needed.

Person Submitting Proposal: _____ Date: _____

Organization Name: _____

Agreement or Announcement No.: _____

Agreement or Announcement Title: _____

Estimated Period of Performance: _____

Proposed Project Location: _____

This work will occur on: ☐ Public Lands ☐ Private Lands ☐ Both Public & Private Lands

YOUR MISSION:

(Describe your mission. Describe why this support is being requested.)

OBJECTIVE:

(Describe your objectives and how these objectives support your mission.)

TECHNICAL APPROACH:

(Describe the details of the project, the procedures to be used, how data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted, etc. Discuss expected goals and outcomes and how project effectiveness will be measured and evaluated. Include a detailed project work plan narrative and a table such as below to summarize the project schedule.)

Milestone / Task / Activity	Start Date	Completion Date

PUBLIC BENEFIT:

(Describe how this project benefits the general public.)

QUALIFICATIONS & PAST PERFORMANCE:

(List key personnel and their responsibilities. Describe similar successful projects completed in the past and any unique qualifications your organization may possess.)

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Financial Assistance (Cooperative Agreements)



BUDGET DETAIL
(Suggested Format)

Instructions: Using the estimated amounts listed on your SF-424A Budget Information form, use this worksheet to provide details of those estimated costs. In the Narrative Boxes, explain the purpose of each cost and provide sufficient detail so costs may be analyzed for reasonableness.

Agreement or Funding Opportunity No.: _____ Date: _____

Organization Name: _____

Project Title: _____

A) PERSONNEL COSTS (SF-424A Object Class Category 6a.)

Estimated costs of salaries/wages, not including fringe benefits, paid to Recipient employees working directly on this agreement. Indicate Key Personnel with an asterisk (*), provide more detail in the Narrative Box if needed.

Name & Title or Position Title	Salary or Wage	Months or Hours	Matching Funds (if applicable)	BLM Funds
<i>Example: James Smith, Executive Director</i>	<i>\$20,000.00/Mo.</i>	<i>3 Mos.</i>	<i>\$15,000.00</i>	<i>\$45,000.00</i>
A) TOTAL PERSONNEL COSTS: (SF-424A Object Class Category 6a. Personnel)			\$	\$

Narrative:

B) FRINGE BENEFIT COSTS (SF-424A Object Class Category 6b.)

Estimated costs of fringe benefits (e.g. health insurance, vacation, FICA, etc.) paid to Recipient employees working on this agreement. List employees/positions below, and their fringe benefit rates as a percentage (%) of their salaries. List what are considered fringe benefits in the Narrative Box.

Name & Title/Position	Salary/Wage Base (BLM Amounts budgeted in Section A above)	Fringe Benefit Rate (%)	Matching Funds (if applicable)	BLM Funds
<i>Example: James Smith, Executive Director</i>	\$20,000.00	30%	\$0.00	\$6,000.00
B) TOTAL FRINGE BENEFIT COSTS: (SF-424A Object Class Category 6b. Fringe Benefits)			\$	\$
<u>Narrative:</u>				

C) TRAVEL COSTS (SF-424A Object Class Category 6c.)

SUB-TOTAL, LODGING & PER DIEM - The cost of lodging & meals while traveling for agreement activities. Give details and purpose of the travel in the Narrative Box. Current Federal rates may be found online at: <http://www.gsa.gov/portal/category/21287>.

Proposed Travel (Lodging & Per Diem)		No. of People	No. of Days	Cost Per Person Per Day	Matching Funds (if applicable)	BLM Funds
To:						
From:						
To:						
From:						
To:						
From:						
To:	<i>Example: Portland, OR</i>	1	2	\$150.00/ Day	\$100.00	\$200.00
From:	<i>Eugene, OR</i>					

SUB-TOTAL, MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT - The cost of reimbursement for estimated mileage traveled in recipient vehicles for agreement activities. Give details and the purpose of the travel in the Narrative Box. Current Federal mileage reimbursement rates may be found online at: www.GSA.gov. **NOTE:** Mileage reimbursement rates include all vehicle costs, i.e. fuel, insurance, maintenance, etc.

Proposed Travel (Mileage Reimbursement)		No. of Miles	No. of Trips	Cost Per Mile	Matching Funds (if applicable)	BLM Funds
To:						
From:						
To:						
From:						
To:						
From:						
To:	<i>Example: Portland, OR</i>	110 Miles	2	\$0.10/ Mile	\$0.00	\$22.00
From:	<i>Eugene, OR</i>					

SUB-TOTAL, OTHER TRAVEL COSTS - The costs of airfare, bus fare, car rental, etc., required for agreement activities. Explain the details and the purpose of the costs in the Narrative Box.

Proposed Other (Travel Reimbursement)		Type	Cost	No.	Matching Funds (if applicable)	BLM Funds
To:						
From:						
To:						
From:						
To:						
From:						

C) TOTAL TRAVEL COSTS:

(SF-424A Object Class Category 6c. Travel)

\$

\$

Narrative:

D) EQUIPMENT COSTS (SF-424A Object Class Category 6d. Equipment)

The cost of equipment purchased for use on this agreement. Equipment is defined as items with a useful life of more than one (1) year and a cost of \$5,000+ per unit. If your organization has a written policy for purchasing equipment, please submit a copy with your application. Explain the need and purpose of the equipment in the Narrative Box below.

Equipment	Quantity	Cost per Unit	Matching Funds (if applicable)	BLM Funds
<i>Example: John Deere Compact Tractor</i>	1	\$17,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$10,000.00
D) TOTAL EQUIPMENT COSTS: (SF-424A Object Class Category 6d. Equipment)			\$	\$
<u>Narrative:</u>				

E) SUPPLY COSTS (SF-424A Object Class Category 6e. Supplies)

Estimated costs of materials and supplies used directly on this agreement, e.g. safety glasses, work gloves, office supplies, etc. If your organization has a written policy for purchasing supplies, please submit a copy with your application. Explain the purpose of the costs in the Narrative Box below.

Item	Quantity	Cost per Unit	Matching Funds (if applicable)	BLM Funds
<i>Example: Work Gloves, Leather</i>	6	\$10.00/Pair	\$50.00	\$10.00
E) SUPPLY COST TOTAL: (SF-424A Object Class Category 6e. Supplies)			\$	\$
<u>Narrative:</u>				

F) CONTRACTUAL COSTS (SF-424A Object Class Category 6f. Contractual)

Estimated costs of contracted/sub-contracted services and sub-grant/recipient awards. If your organization has a written contracting policy, please submit a copy with your application. Provide contractor names, if available, and explain the details and purposes of the costs in the Narrative Box below. **NOTE:** Calculation of your Indirect Costs may be affected by contracted and/or pass-through expenses. See Section J) INDIRECT COSTS, for more information.

Contractor Name, Type, etc.	Cost	Matching Funds (if applicable)	BLM Funds
<i>Example: Ace Delivery Service (Yearly Contract)</i>	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00
F) CONTRACTUAL COST TOTAL: (SF-424A Object Class Category 6f. Contractual)		\$	\$

Narrative:

G) CONSTRUCTION COSTS (SF-424A Object Class Category 6g. Construction)

The estimated costs of construction. "Construction" is the intent to construct, alter, or repair (including dredging, excavating, and painting) buildings, structures, or other real property - FAR Part 2 Definitions. Explain the details and purpose of the costs in the Narrative Box below.

Contractor: Name/Type/Organization/Etc.	Cost	Matching Funds (if applicable)	BLM Funds
G) CONSTRUCTION COST TOTAL: (SF-424A Object Class Category 6g. Construction)		\$	\$

Narrative:

H) OTHER COSTS (SF-424A Object Class Category 6h. Other)

Estimated costs which don't fit any other Object Class Category, e.g. duplicating and printing costs, postage and freight, rental of equipment, etc. Explain the details and purpose of the costs in the Narrative Box below.

Item	Cost	Matching Funds (if applicable)	BLM Funds
<i>Example: Ace Equipment Rental (Post-Hole Digger, 4 Days)</i>	\$25/Day	\$0.00	\$100.00
H) OTHER COSTS TOTAL: (SF-424A Object Class Category 6h. Other)		\$	\$
<u>Narrative:</u>			

I) TOTAL DIRECT COSTS (SF-424A Object Class Category 6i. Sum of 6a.-6h.)

The total of all direct costs applicable to this project.

Total Direct Costs	Matching Funds (if applicable)	BLM Funds
I) TOTAL DIRECT COSTS: (SF-424A Object Class Category 6i. Total, Sum of 6a.-6h.)	\$	\$

J) INDIRECT COSTS (SF-424A Object Class Category 6j. Indirect Charges)

Indirect costs are expenses which cannot be readily identified and charged to a particular project or agreement, e.g. building rent, utilities, office supplies, etc. Such costs are charged to the project as a percentage of the Direct Costs (items A through H above) and this percentage is called the Indirect Cost Rate. If your organization has a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) please submit a copy of the agreement with your application. If your organization has no NICRA, the BLM may allow a "de minimis" indirect cost rate of up to 10% of your Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC), which are your Direct Costs excluding sub-grant and sub-contract costs in excess of \$25,000. See **2 CFR 200.68 Modified Total Direct Cost (MTDC)** and **2 CFR 200.414(f) Indirect (F&A) Costs** for more information.

If your organization is a Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Unit (CESU) partner, your indirect cost rate will be 17.5% of your NICRA-determined indirect cost base.

Use the Narrative Box below to explain how you calculated your indirect cost base and resulting indirect costs.

Indirect Cost Rate to be used on this Grant (%):		
Indirect Cost Base for this Grant:	\$	
Total Indirect Costs	Matching Funds (if applicable)	BLM Funds
J) TOTAL INDIRECT COSTS: (SF-424A Object Class Category 6j. Indirect Charges)	\$	\$
<u>Narrative:</u>		

K) TOTALS (SF-424A Object Class Category 6k. TOTALS)

The sum total of all Direct and Indirect Costs (Sum of 6i. & 6j.) applicable to this agreement.

Total Project Costs	Matching Funds (if applicable)	BLM Funds
K) TOTAL COSTS: (SF-424A Object Class Category 6k. TOTALS)	\$	\$

I certify that to the best of my knowledge the costs detailed above are correct and complete and for the purposes set forth in the associated application for Federal Assistance.

Name & Title of Person Completing Budget