U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

FWS - Fisheries

https://www.fws.gov/program/aquatic-nuisance-species-task-force

F24AS00175- Rapid Response Fund for Aquatic Invasive Species
Fiscal Year: 2024
F24AS00175

Due Date for Applications: **07/15/2024**

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A. Program Description

A1. Authority

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act—Cooperation of agencies (16 U.S.C. §661)

A2. Assistance Listing Number

Assistance Listing Number
15.608

A3. Background, Purpose and Program Requirements

Key Highlights: This Notice of Funding Opportunity requests proposals for projects that support efforts to plan a response or deploy response measures to a new detection of a potentially invasive species. Response efforts must target an aquatic invasive species, defined as non-native plants or animals that reside in fresh, wetland, estuarine, or marine waters. A list of “Eligible Activities” is below. Activities not listed, including species identification, risk evaluations, or public outreach are not eligible for funding from this award. Projects to plan a response to a species that has not yet been detected in the area of concern are also not eligible. Funds also cannot be used for long-term management, monitoring, or remediation.

This award is open to Federal or state agencies, U.S. territory agencies, interstate organizations or Federally recognized Indian Tribal Governments or Native American Organizations. Non-federal applicants are strongly encouraged to apply through GrantSolutions. However, applications will also be accepted through Grants.gov. Federal applicants should submit their complete applications and any supplemental material to the Rapid Response Coordinator at “anstaskforce@fws.gov" by the closing date for applications. (See section D7 for further instruction).

This Notice of Funding Opportunity will remain open until July 15, 2024, or until the Rapid Response Fund is depleted. Proposals will be accepted on a rolling basis. Submitted proposals will be evaluated on a quarterly basis. See section B3 for the evaluation periods and anticipated award dates.

Background: The Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF) was established by the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act (NANPCA) of 1990, 16 U.S.C. 4721-28, as amended. The ANSTF serves to develop and implement a program for waters of the United States to prevent introduction and dispersal of ANS (also known as aquatic invasive species or AIS), monitor, control, and study such species, and disseminate related information. Co-chaired by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the ANSTF consists of Federal agency representatives and ex-officio representatives that work in conjunction with six regional panels and issue-specific subcommittees to coordinate efforts related to AIS across the Nation.

Although prevention is the most cost-effective approach to eliminating or reducing the threat of invasive species, Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) serves as a failsafe when prevention measures are ineffective or unavailable. The Department of the Interior (DOI or the Department) in coordination with federal agencies, states, tribes, territories, and other partners published "Safeguarding America's Lands and Waters from Invasive Species – A National Framework for Early Detection and Rapid Response" in 2016. This report called for a focus on coordination and partnerships, science and technology, and strategic on-the-ground actions to detect invasive species that pose the greatest risk and swiftly respond to eradicate them before they establish, spread, and cause adverse impacts. As part of strategically implementing funding made available through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, DOI identified advancing a National EDRR Framework as a priority and took steps to invest in supporting some of the institutional components of such a framework. To that end, DOI is working with partners to identify, enhance, and collaborate on EDRR activities, build new tools, and support coordinated processes to proactively find and eradicate new invasive species before they establish, spread, and cause harm. Specifics include identifying high risk invasive species and invasion hotspots across the nation to inform early detection efforts, developing molecular tools to aid detection capabilities, expanding capacity for on-the-ground rapid response actions, including the establishment of a pilot Rapid Response Fund for aquatic invasive species, and creating an online clearinghouse where managers can share current information to guide implementation.

The Rapid Response Fund addresses the need for readily available financial resources to assess and support response actions for quick containment or eradication of newly detected species. The Fund is a critical component of a National EDRR Framework and a priority need identified within the ANSTF's Strategic Plan for 2020-2025 (Objective 3.3, https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ANSTF-Strategic-Plan-2020-2025.pdf).

Accordingly, the ANSTF's Rapid Response Fund Working Group developed "The Model Process: Rapid Response Fund for Aquatic Invasive Species" (https://www.fws.gov/media/model-process-rapid-response-fund-aquatic-invasive-species) in 2023 to outline a structure and process for a Rapid Response Fund for AIS. On July 19, 2023, the Model Process was unanimously approved by the 13 Federal agencies and 13 non-federal ex-officio members that serve on the ANSTF. This Notice of Funding Opportunity follows this process as detailed in the sections below. General information about the Fund and a list of

Frequently Asked Questions can be found at: https://www.fws.gov/story/2023-07/rapid-response-fund-aquatic-invasive-species.

In Fiscal Year 2023, BIL funds were directed to establish a pilot Rapid Response Fund for AIS within the existing authorities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Fish and Aquatic Conservation program, to be coordinated through the ANSTF. Accordingly, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, on behalf of the ANSTF, invites proposals to support the rapid response to a new species introduction within freshwater, estuarine, or marine waters of the United States, including the U.S. territories.

For the purposes of this Federal Rapid Response Fund, "Rapid Response" is defined as a process employed to eradicate the founding population of non-native, potentially invasive, species in a specific location before that species begins to reproduce or spreads so widely that eradication is no longer feasible. Eradication is defined as the removal or destruction of an entire population of an invasive species within a specified area. Eligibility requirements for this Rapid Response Fund are described below, additional information on these requirements, as well as definitions, can be found in the ANSTF document "The Model Process: Rapid Response Fund for Aquatic Invasive Species" (https://www.fws.gov/media/model-process-rapid-response-fund-aquatic-invasive-species).

Eligible Taxa. Funds may be used to respond to aquatic invasive species (AIS), including animals or plants that reside within fresh, estuarine, wetland, or marine waters. Response efforts directed towards pathogens (e.g., bacteria, virus, fungi, and parasites) or harmful algal blooms (HAB) are not eligible for funding. It is expected that prior to applying to the Rapid Response Fund, the identification of the targeted species has been confirmed and there is evidence that the species is likely to significantly adversely impact the environment, economy, cultural resources, and/or human, plant, or animal health. Responses to species for which the origin or native range are unknown are eligible for funding if there is evidence that they have not been previously detected in the area and their presence may result in adverse impacts. To direct funding towards efforts that address species with a high probability to cause harm, species that are identified on a state or Federal watch list, or similar prioritization tool, may receive higher consideration in the evaluation process, but inclusion on such lists is not required.

Eligible Locations. Rapid Response funding may be used to respond to a new species introduction within freshwater, estuarine, wetland, or marine waters of the United States or U.S. territories. Funding may also be used to respond to AIS already present in the United States or U.S. territories in areas where the species has not been previously detected. For response efforts directed towards species with existing populations in the United States or U.S. territory, priority will be given to incipient populations that are either a secondary invasion, were introduced a significant distance away from an existing population (e.g., introduction into a new watershed), or pose a new threat to vulnerable, high priority, or protected areas.

Eligible Applicants. Federal and state agencies, U.S. territory agencies, interstate organizations (as defined by 16 USC § 4702(10)), and Federally recognized Indian Tribal Governments and Native American Organizations authorized by Indian tribal governments (as identified within the Federal Register Notice "Indian Entities Recognized by and Eligible To Receive Services From the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs"(

https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/01/12/2023-00504/indian-entities-recognized-by-and-eligible-to-receive-services-from-the-united-states-bureau-of) may apply for funding.

These entities may collaborate with and provide subawards to other entities to assist with the response, such entities may include local governments, institutions of higher learning, and non-governmental organizations.

Applications from Federal agencies will be evaluated and scored using the same process and merit criteria as non-federal applicants, described in section E1. Interagency agreements may be used as an alternate execution vehicle for Federal agencies that are selected for award through the merit-review process.

Eligible Activities. Response efforts submitted for consideration should be in pursuit of eradication of the targeted species from the defined location. As such, eligible activities for the Rapid Response Fund are those that support or lead up to achieving this goal, including:

- Planning and site delineation:
  - Delineation to determine the spatial extent and abundance of an isolated AIS population.
  - Analysis and assessment of potential response measures.
  - Planning, environmental documentation and/or permit acquisition.
  - Measures to contain the population during the species assessment or while a long-term response plan is formulated.
- Deployment of response action:
  - Implement actions on site that support or lead up to eradication of the targeted species.
  - Survey surrounding areas.
  - Monitor the population and effectiveness of applied response measures. Applicants should also take note of the following:
- Funds cannot be used for long-term management or remediation.
- Funding requests may include the personnel salary costs as well as procurement of supplies, equipment, construction, and services by recipients and by subrecipients, yet provisions in 2 CFR §200.318 will apply.
- Under some circumstances, proposals selected for funding may be eligible for reimbursement for pre-award activities. More detail is provided in Section C3.
- Assessment funding for preliminary response actions is allowable in circumstances where a full response plan has not yet been developed and/or a precise delineation of the geographic scope of the targeted species is unknown. Assessment funding may be awarded through this fund to assess potential response measures to determine the most effective response plan. Once, the full response plan has been determined, applicants that received assessment funding may seek additional funding for deployment of the response by submitting an updated narrative and budget before the end of their award period.
- All awards through the Rapid Response Fund will have a maximum period of performance of three years. Awardees that did not achieve the management goal within the three-year time frame may apply for additional fudning yet will be expected to describe results achieved with the previous funding and expected accomplishments by extending the length of the project.

Eligibility Requirements. To be eligible for Rapid Response funding:

- Prior to submitting a proposal, the identity of the targeted species must be confirmed and reported to the U.S. Geological Survey Nonindigenous Aquatic Species Database (https://nas.er.usgs.gov).
- The applicant must have a thorough understanding of the infestation, however, a full delineation is not required and may be requested as a component of the proposal.
- The applicant must either have an existing Rapid Response Plan that is suitable to the situation or agree that a Rapid Response Plan will be completed within 60 days from the date of award. A Rapid Response Plan template is currently under development by the ANSTF and is expected to be completed early 2024. Should an applicant need to develop a plan before this document is finalized, the Review Team will identify alternative guidance to assist plan development.

A4. Funding Opportunity Goals

This funding opportunity requests proposals that support the rapid response to a new species introduction within freshwater, estuarine, or marine waters of the United States, including the U.S. territories. The ability to respond rapidly to new detections of potential invasive species is critical to prevent further spread and avoid harmful impacts to the environment, economy, human health, and cultural resources. Once a new non-native species is detected, there is a short window of opportunity to respond in attempt to eradicate or contain the species. Such activities are often undertaken by state agencies with funds either taken out of budgets that were developed without allocations for such activities or provided on an emergency basis. However, too often funding is absent, resulting in delayed or lack of action. A rapid response fund is needed to ensure timely and more effective responses to aquatic invasive species (AIS) and avoid the need for costly long-term and wide-spread control efforts.

B. Federal Award Information

B1. Total Funding

Estimated Total Funding

$960,000

The Rapid Response Fund is intended to fund multiple projects each year and potentially serve as a catalyst for additional funds outside the Rapid Response Fund. It is recognized that rapid response costs may vary significantly depending on the species, size of the infestation, location, and the phase of the response, yet applicants are encouraged to ensure that budgets are cost-effective and focused on essential tasks to achieve desired management goals.

B2. Expected Award Amount

Maximum Award

$960,000

Minimum Award

$50,000

B3. Expected Award Funding and Anticipated Dates

Expected Award Funding

Expected Award Date

March 01, 2024
Quarterly, see below

This Notice of Funding Opportunity will remain open until July 15, 2024, or until the Rapid Response Fund is depleted. Proposals will be accepted on a rolling basis; submitted proposals will be evaluated on a quarterly basis:

- Proposals submitted from November 15 - January 15 will be evaluated with an anticipated award date of March 1.
- Proposals submitted from January 16 – April 15 will be evaluated with an anticipated award date of June 1.
- Proposals submitted from April 16 – July 15 will be evaluated with an anticipated award date of September 1.

All proposals submitted for the Rapid Respond fund will be evaluated using the merit criteria described in section E1. Each cycle will end on 11:59 pm ET on the end dates listed above. For applicants selected for funding, every effort will be made to ensure the award is made expeditiously. Applicants not selected for funding will be notified via email, and allowed to resubmit the proposal for consideration in future quarters.

B4. Number of Awards

Expected Number of Awards

12
Proposals will be accepted until the Rapid Response Fund is depleted. As the requested funding amounts will vary, the number of projects to be supported by the Fund cannot be determined.

B5. Type of Award

Funding Instrument Type

G - Grant

C. Eligibility Information

C1. Eligible Applicants

Eligible Applicants

00 – State governments
07 – Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized)
25 – Others (see text field entitled “Additional Information on Eligibility” for clarification)

Additional Information on Eligibility

Federal and state agencies, U.S. territory agencies, interstate organizations (as defined by 16 USC § 4702(10)), and Federally recognized Indian Tribal Governments and Native American Organizations authorized by Indian tribal governments (as identified within the Federal Register Notice “Indian Entities Recognized by and Eligible To Receive Services From the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs”) may apply for funding.

Additional Eligibility information is identified in section C3 below.

C2. Cost Sharing or Matching

Cost Sharing / Matching Requirement

No

Percentage of Cost Sharing / Matching Requirement

The Rapid Response Fund will not have a cost share or match requirement, although additional contribution of funds or in-kind contributions will be considered in the evaluation of proposals.

C3. Other

Other Application Requirements. To apply for the Rapid Response Fund, applicants must provide a complete project abstract summary, project narrative, and budget narrative as well as all applicable forms listed under Section D below. While drafting these components, please note:
• Within the project narrative the applicant must clearly articulate the management goal. In most circumstances, the goal should be eradication of the targeted species from the defined location.
• The project narrative must also include a statement that describes, and provides evidence for, the level of confidence in accomplishing the management goal. In doing so the applicant should consider:
o the size and spatial extent of the target population and the certainty of those factors,
o the connectivity of the waterbody containing the target population to other waters,
o the long-term survival, fecundity, and dispersive capabilities of the target species,
o the difficulty of finding all individuals in the target population or effectively exposing them to the control method, and
o the effectiveness of the response measures applied.
• The applicant must indicate its ability to ensure all environmental compliance reviews and permitting requirements are completed prior to implementing response measures.
• The applicant should also demonstrate a commitment to conduct post-rapid response activities. Such activities are not eligible for funding from the Rapid Response Fund but will be considered in the evaluation process. Such activities may include:
o restoration and mitigation measures for any adverse impacts from the response measures,
o long term, follow-up surveys or monitoring, and
o biosecurity protocols or measures to prevent any re-invasion of the site.
• In order to focus on the highest priority rapid response needs and expedite award selection, applicants are encouraged to limit their number of applications to one per quarter.

Pre-Award Costs. Applicants selected for funding may be eligible for Pre-Award Costs. To qualify for pre-award cost reimbursement, an applicant must provide a list of actions and associated cost of all existing proposed pre-award activities. The applicant must also demonstrate in the application that the pre-award activities were necessary and reasonable for accomplishing the overall program objectives and would have been approved had they occurred within the project period. If the proposal is selected for funding, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will review the activities and communicate which activities are eligible for reimbursement in the Notice of Award. Pre-award costs will not be approved for any work that would require environmental compliance to be completed first. All costs that incur before the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service makes the award are at the recipient's risk. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is not required to reimburse pre-award activities if, for any reason, the applicant is not selected for funding or if the Federal award is less than anticipated or inadequate to cover such costs. Until pre-award costs are authorized under an approved award, the applicant has no assurance that costs will be reimbursed.

Foreign Entities or Projects:

State Sponsors of Terrorism: This program will not fund projects in countries determined by the U.S. Department of State to have repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism and therefore are subject to sanctions restricting receipt of U.S. foreign assistance and other financial transactions.

Office of Foreign Assets Control Sanctions: This program will not fund projects in countries subject to comprehensive sanction programs administered by the U.S. Department of Treasury, Office of Foreign Asset Control without proper licenses.

In-Country Licenses, Permits, or Approvals: Entities conducting activities outside the U.S. are responsible for coordinating with appropriate U.S. and foreign government authorities as necessary to obtain all required licenses, permits, or approvals before undertaking project activities. The Service does not assume responsibility for recipient compliance with the laws, regulations, policies, or procedures of the foreign country in which they are conducting work.

Excluded Parties:

The DOI conducts a review of the SAM.gov Exclusions database for all applicant entities and their key project personnel prior to award. The DOI cannot award funds to entities or their key project personnel identified in the SAM.gov Exclusions database as ineligible, prohibited/restricted or otherwise excluded from receiving Federal contracts, certain subcontracts, and certain Federal assistance and benefits, as their ineligibility condition applies to this Federal program.

D. Application and Submission Information

D1. Address to Request Application Package

This funding opportunity announcement provides all information required to apply. Supplemental information about the fund can be found at https://www.fws.gov/story/2023-07/rapid-response-fund-aquatic-invasive-species

Program Website Link
https://www.fws.gov/program/aquatic-nuisance-species-task-force

D2. Content and Form of Application Submission

SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance

All applicants must submit the Standard Form (SF)-424, Application for Federal Assistance. This form is available with the announcement on Grants.gov and in GrantSolutions. The form must be complete and signed by an Authorized Representative. For all applicants except individuals and commercial entities, the Authorized Representative's signature on a standard application form submitted to the Service represents their certification that the entity's financial management system meets 2 CFR §200.302 financial management requirements. The non-Federal entity's financial management system must be sufficient to:

1. Permit the preparation of required reports;
2. Trace funds to a level of expenditures adequate to establish that the entity has used such funds per Federal statutes, regulations, and terms and conditions of the Federal award;
3. Provide for the requirements in 2 CFR §200.302(b); and
4. Comply with §200.334 Retention requirements for records, §200.335 Requests for transfer of records, §200.336 Methods for collection, transmission, and storage of information, and §200.337 Access to records.

If this application requests more than $100,000 in Federal funds, the Authorized Representative's signature on or submission of the SF-424 form in GrantSolutions also represents their certification of the statements in 43 CFR Part 18, Appendix A-Certification Regarding Lobbying.

When completing the SF-424 Application form, enter only the amount requested from this Federal program in Box 18a, Estimated Federal Funding. Include any other Federal sources of funding in Box 18e. Estimated Other Funding and identify any such sources and amounts in the required Budget Narrative (see below). For individuals applying as a private citizen (i.e., unrelated to any business or nonprofit organization you may own or operate in your name), do NOT include your Social Security Number on this or any other document to be submitted with your application! When completing the SF-424 Application form, individuals must enter in Box 8b. Employee/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN) the substitute number "444-44-4444." Individuals may register in SAM.gov but are not required to have a SAM.gov registration. For individuals without a SAM.gov registration enter in Box 8c. the substitute Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) "KA5HQCLKUVW1". For instructions on completing the SF-424, please reference: Instructional Video: Completing the SF424.

Application Checklist. Complete applications should contain the following components. Details and instructions to complete these items can be found in the sections that follow:
• Project Abstract Summary
• Project Narrative, including:
o Agency or Organization applying for funds.
o Species Description
o Location Description
o Rapid Response Plan

o Management Goal and Objectives
o Description of entity(ies) undertaking the project
o Approach or Treatment Options
o Preliminary response action, if applicable
o Timeline
o Commitment for post-rapid response activities
• Budget Narrative
• Required Statements:
o Indirect Cost Rate Statement,
o Single Audit Reporting Statements
o Overlap or Duplication Statement
o Pre-award Costs
• Conflict of Interest Disclosure, if applicable
• Disclosure of Lobbying Activities, if applicable
• SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance (non-federal applicants only)
• SF-424A, Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (non-federal applicants only)

Project Abstract Summary (OMB Number 4040-0019)
Applicants must complete and submit the Project Abstract Summary form. The Project Abstract Summary form must provide a brief award description. The description must be in plain language that the public can understand without viewing the full application proposal. It should include a brief, simple description of the project purpose, activities to be performed, deliverables and expected outcomes, intended beneficiaries, and subrecipient activities, if known at the time of submission.

Do not include personally identifiable, sensitive, or proprietary information in the award description as this is available to the public. Use only English characters, numbers, punctuation, and standard symbols. Use of non-English, non-standard characters (also referred to as special or extended ASCII characters) will result in the award description failing to be reported correctly to USASpending.gov. Award descriptions are limited to 4,000 characters or less. Applicants should check the length of the award description and proofread for proper grammar and spelling.

For applicants applying through Grants.gov: Applicants must download and complete the Grants.gov “Project Abstract Summary” form from the full text announcement. To submit the Grants.gov “Project Abstract Summary” form with the application, applicants must add the form as an attachment to the Grants.gov “Attachments” form that is included in the application package.

For applicants applying through GrantSolutions-Grants Management Module (GS-GMM): Applicants must enter the information in the Project Abstract Summary screen. Do not upload a document in place of entering the information directly into GS-GMM Project Abstract Screen.

Project Narrative
Project Narrative must include:
1. Project title
2. Project Narrative: Each proposal should follow the format below to explain the need, scope, and proposed action of the response. The project narrative should not exceed 12 pages (excluding resumes, references, applicant’s Rapid Response Plan, species risk assessment, watch list documentation, information to support environmental compliance review requirements, or

additional supplemental information).
a. Agency or Organization applying for funds.

b. Point of Contact: Provide the contact information (name, affiliation, address, phone, and email) for at least one individual who can answer questions regarding the application.

c. Species Description:
i. State the AIS that will be the focus of the response, including how the species confirmation was made.
ii. Describe the potential and known impacts of the targeted species, including environmental, economic, cultural, and health impacts. Include citations, as appropriate. If a formal species risk assessment has been performed, attach it to this proposal. Novel species where potential impact is less certain should include a statement reinforcing the degree of concern and, if applicable, reference similar species with an invasion history.
iii. Identify any watch lists, or similar prioritization tools, that identify the targeted species.
iv. Describe the invasion history of the species.

d. Location Description:
i. State the precise location where the species was found and the date and manner by which the species was detected.
ii. If known, state the method of introduction.
iii. If known, state the size and percentage of the area infested.
iv. Describe the location where the targeted species was detected, including characteristics of the location that may facilitate survival and potential range expansion of the targeted species.

e. Rapid Response Plan:
i. If a Rapid Response Plan exists, describe how it will be used for this project. Attach the Rapid Response Plan to this proposal.
ii. If a Rapid Response Plan does not exist, state the intent and timeline to complete a Rapid Response Plan.

f. Management Goal and Objectives:
i. Clearly articulate the management goal of the proposed project in terms that are specific and quantified.
ii. List project objectives. Objectives are meant to be realistic targets or benchmarks that, if achieved, will accomplish the management goal.
iii. Provide a statement that describes, and provides evidence for, the level of confidence in accomplishing the management goal, noting any challenges or barriers that may hinder success.

g. Description of entity(ies) undertaking the project:
i. Describe the organization proposing to conduct the project, expressing the specific skills, experience, and capacity related to tasks to be performed.
ii. As applicable, describe how the applicant has coordinated with other relevant organizations or individuals in planning the project, and detail if/how they will be involved in the response.

h. Approach or Treatment Options:
i. Describe the specific conservation actions or efforts necessary to accomplish the management goal and objectives.
i. Provide detail of “how” the objectives will be accomplished by describing the actual work to be done.

ii. Demonstrate that the applicant will use sound design, appropriate procedures, and accepted fish and wildlife conservation or management principles.
iii. Include contingency plans to address any unexpected event or situation that occurs.
iv. Describe any connection of this project to broader management or funding efforts.
v. Any actions to be taken to protect non-target species should be noted in this section.
vi. If applicable, include any information to support environmental compliance review requirements such as :
o National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) – provide any information that may be relevant to compliance with NEPA.
o Endangered Species Act (ESA) – provide any information that may be relevant to compliance with the ESA.
o National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) – provide any information that may be relevant to compliance with NHPA, such as locations of historic or cultural properties.
o Other Permits – list and provide the status of any other required Federal permits.

Preliminary response actions. If requesting assessment funding for preliminary response actions (e.g., formulate a Rapid Response Plan, site delineation):
• Provide an analysis and assessment of the treatment options being considered, including any environmental documentation and/or permit acquisition that will be required.
• Describe any measures taken to contain the population while assessment activities are being conducted.

Past award recipients. If the project previously received funding from this Rapid Response Fund and the applicant is re-applying for additional funds:
• Describe what actions were taken with the previous funding and what was achieved.
• State why additional funds are needed and what will be accomplished by extending the length of the project.
• Include supporting evidence that eradication of the targeted species from the defined location, or alternate management goal, is still feasible.

Timeline:
i. State the estimated start and end dates of activities for which funds are being requested. Project duration must not exceed three years.
ii. Describe significant milestones in completing the project and any accomplishments to date.

Commitment for post-rapid response activities:
i. Describe actions that will be taken after the response measures have been completed. This may include restoration and mitigation measures for any off-target adverse impacts from the treatments, follow-up surveys or monitoring, and/or biosecurity protocols or measures to prevent any re-invasion of the site.
ii. Identify the entity or person responsible or conducting these activities and any funding commitments.

Supplemental information (optional):
i. May include letters of support, declarations of emergency, graphics, maps, citations, etc.

SF-424A, Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs
Applicants must complete and submit the SF-424A Budget Information form for Non-Construction Programs or Projects. All required application forms are available with this

announcement on Grants.gov or in GrantSolutions. Federal award recipients and subrecipients are subject to Federal award cost principles in Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part 200. Applicants must show funds requested from this Federal program separately from any other Federal sources of funding. In "Section A – Budget Summary" on the SF-424A form enter the funding requested from this Federal program in the first row. Identify any other Federal funding sources and amounts in the required Budget Narrative (see below). In "Section B – Budget Categories" on the SF-424A form enter the funding requested for each Object Class Category. For the SF-424A "Contractual" category enter estimated contractual costs only. Do not include subaward costs in the "Contractual" category. Enter estimated subaward costs in the SF-424A "Other" category. Provide a separate description and total estimated costs for both contractual and subaward costs in the required Budget Narrative (see below). For more information about subrecipient and contractor determinations, see 2 CFR §200.331. For instructions on completing the SF-424A, please reference: Instructional Video: Completing the SF424A.

Budget Narrative

Applicants must include a budget narrative that describes and justifies requested budget items and costs. In your budget narrative, describe how the SF-424 Budget Information, "Object Class Category" totals were determined. Include a complete description of each cost category. For personnel salary costs, generally describe how estimates were determined by identifying what type of staff will support the project and how much time they will contribute to the project (in hours or workdays). Describe 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. If known at the time of application, include an estimated number of subawards and the dollar amount anticipated for each subaward. If equipment previously purchased with Federal funds is available for the project, provide a list of that equipment and identify the Federal funding source. Identify any third-party cash or in-kind contributions that a partner or other entity will contribute to the project and describe how the contributions directly and substantively benefit completion of the project. For in-kind contributions, identify the source, the amount, and the valuation methodology used to determine the total value. See 2 CFR §200.306 for more information. Please note the prohibitions on certain telecommunications and video surveillance services or equipment in 2 CFR 200.216. Recipients may not earn, make, or keep any profit resulting from any financial assistance awards. These costs are not allowable and should not be included in any proposed costs.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Per the Financial Assistance Interior Regulation (FAIR), 2 CFR §1402.112, applicants must state in their application if any actual or potential conflict of interest exists at the time of submission.

a. *Applicability*.
    1. This section intends to ensure that non-Federal entities and their employees take appropriate steps to avoid conflicts of interest in their responsibilities under or with respect to Federal financial assistance agreements.
    2. In the procurement of supplies, equipment, construction, and services by recipients and by sub recipients, the conflict of interest provisions in 2 CFR§200.318 apply.

b. *Notification*.
    1. Non-Federal entities, including applicants for financial assistance awards, must disclose in writing any conflict of interest to the DOI awarding agency or pass- through entity in accordance with 2 CFR §200.112.
    2. Recipients must establish internal controls that include, at a minimum, procedures to identify, disclose, and mitigate or eliminate identified conflicts of interest. The recipient is responsible for notifying the Financial Assistance Officer in writing of any conflicts of interest that may arise during the life of the award, including those that have been reported by sub recipients.

c. *Restrictions on lobbying*. Non-Federal entities are strictly prohibited from using funds under a grant or cooperative agreement for lobbying activities and must provide the required certifications and disclosures pursuant to 43 CFR §18 and 31 USC §1352.
d. *Review procedures*. The Financial Assistance Officer will examine each conflict of interest disclosure on the basis of its particular facts and the nature of the proposed grant or cooperative agreement, and will determine whether a significant potential conflict exists and, if it does, develop an appropriate means for resolving it.

Enforcement. Failure to resolve conflicts of interest in a manner that satisfies the government may be cause for termination of the award. Failure to make required disclosures may result in any of the remedies described in 2 CFR §200.339, Remedies for noncompliance, including suspension or debarment (see also 2 CFR §180).

Uniform Audit Reporting Statement

All U.S. states, local governments, Indian tribes, institutions of higher education, and non- profit organizations expending $750,000 USD or more in Federal award funds in the applicant's fiscal year must submit a Single Audit report for that year through the Federal Audit Clearinghouse's Internet Data Entry System, in accordance with 2 CFR 200 subpart F. U.S. state, local government, Indian tribes, institutions of higher education, and non- profit applicants must state if your organization was or was not required to submit a Single Audit report for the most recently closed fiscal year. If your organization was required to submit a Single Audit report for the most recently closed fiscal year, provide the EIN associated with that report and state if it is available through the Federal Audit Clearinghouse website.

Certification Regarding Lobbying

Applicants requesting more than $100,000 in Federal funding must certify to the statements in 43CFR Part 18, Appendix A-Certification Regarding Lobbying. If this application requests more than $100,000 in Federal funds, the Authorized Official's signature on the appropriate SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance form also represents the entity's certification of the statements in 43 CFR Part 18, Appendix A.

Disclosure of Lobbying Activities

Applicants and recipients must not use any federally appropriated funds (annually appropriated or continuing appropriations) or matching funds under a Federal award to pay any person for lobbying in connection with the award. Lobbying is influencing or attempting to influence an

officer or employee of any U.S. agency, a Member of the U.S. Congress, an officer or employee of the U.S. Congress, or an employee of a Member of the U.S. Congress connection with the award. Applicants and recipients must complete and submit the SF-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities" form if the Federal share of the proposal or award is more than $100,000 and the applicant or recipient has made or has agreed to make any payment using non-appropriated funds for lobbying in connection with the application or award. The SF-LLL form is available with this Funding Opportunity on Grants.gov. See 43 CFR, Subpart 18.100 for more information on when additional submission of this form is required.

Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement

Applicants must provide a statement indicating if there is any overlap between this Federal application and any other Federal application, or funded project, in regard to activities, costs, or time commitment of key personnel. If no such overlap or duplication exists, state, "There are no overlaps or duplication between this application and any of our other Federal applications or funded projects, including in regard to activities, costs, or time commitment of key personnel". If any such overlap exists, provide a complete description of overlaps or duplications between this proposal and any other federally funded project or application in regard to activities, costs, and time commitment of key personnel, as applicable. Provide a copy of any overlapping or duplicative proposal submitted to any other potential funding entity and identify when that proposal was submitted, to whom (entity name and program), and when you anticipate being notified of their funding decision. When overlap exists, your statement must end with "We understand that if at any time we receive funding from another source that is duplicative of the funding we are requesting from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in this application, we will immediately notify the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service point of contact identified in this Funding Opportunity in writing."

D3. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM)

Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM.gov) Registration:

This requirement does not apply to individuals applying for funds as an individual (i.e., unrelated to any business or nonprofit organization you may own, operate, or work within), or any entity with an exception to bypass SAM.gov registration with prior approval from the funding bureau or office in accordance with bureau or office policy. All other applicants are required to register as a financial assistance recipient in SAM.gov prior to submitting a Federal award application and obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI). A Federal award may not be made to an applicant that has not completed the SAM.gov registration. If an applicant selected for funding has not completed their SAM.gov registration by the time the program is ready to make an award, the program may determine the applicant is not qualified to receive an award. Federal award recipients must also continue to maintain an active SAM.gov registration with current information through the life of their Federal award(s). Entities already registered in SAM.gov should review their registration to confirm that they are registered as a financial assistance recipient, which requires completion of the SAM.gov "Financial Assistance General Certifications and Representations". See the "Submission Requirements" section of this document below for more information on SAM.gov registration.

Applicants can register on the SAM.gov website. The “Help” tab on the website contains User Guides and other information to assist you with registration. Applicants can contact the supporting Federal Service Desk for help registering in SAM. Once registered in SAM, entities must renew and revalidate their SAM registration at least once every 12 months from the date previously registered. Entities are strongly encouraged to revalidate their registration as often as needed to ensure their information is up to date and reflects changes that may have been made to the entity’s IRS information. If applicable, foreign entities who want to receive payment directly to a U.S. bank account must enter and maintain valid, current banking information in SAM.

D4. Submission Dates and Times

Due Date for Applications

07/15/2024

Application Due Date Explanation

Quarterly, see below

This Notice of Funding Opportunity will remain open until July 15, 2024, or until the Rapid Response Fund is depleted. Proposals will be accepted on a rolling basis; submitted proposals will be evaluated on a quarterly basis:

• Proposals submitted from November 15 - January 15 will be evaluated with an anticipated award date of March 1.

• Proposals submitted from January 16 – April 15 will be evaluated with an anticipated award date of June 1.

• Proposals submitted from April 16 – July 15 will be evaluated with an anticipated award date of September 1.

All proposals submitted for the Rapid Respond fund will be evaluated using the merit criteria described in section E1. Each cycle will end on 11:59 pm ET on the end dates listed above. For applicants selected for funding, every effort will be made to ensure the award is made expeditiously. Applicants not selected for funding will be notified via email, and allowed to resubmit the proposal for consideration in future quarters.

D5. Intergovernmental Review

An intergovernmental review may be required for applications submissions from a U.S. state or local government prior to submission. Applicants must contact their State’s Single Point of Contact (SPOC) to comply with the state’s process under Executive Order 12372. The State Single Point of Contact list is available on the OMB Office of Federal Financial Management website.

D6. Funding Restrictions

Indirect Costs: Individuals

Individuals applying for and receiving funds separate from a business or non-profit organization they may operate are not eligible to charge indirect costs to their award. If you are an individual applying for funding, you must not include any indirect costs in your proposed budget.

Indirect Costs: Organizations

The Federal awarding agency that provides the largest amount of direct funding to your organization is your cognizant agency for indirect costs, unless otherwise assigned by the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB). If the Department of the Interior (DOI) is your organization's cognizant agency, the Interior Business Center (IBC) will negotiate your indirect cost rate. Contact the IBC by phone 916-930-3803 or using the IBC Email Submission Form. See the IBC Website for more information.

Organizations must have an active Federal award before they can submit an indirect cost rate proposal to their cognizant agency. Failure to establish an approved rate during the award period renders all costs otherwise allocable as indirect costs unallowable under the award. Recipients may not shift unallowable indirect costs to another Federal award unless specifically authorized to do so by legislation.

Required Indirect Cost Statement to be submitted by Organization:

U.S. state or local government entities receiving more than $35 million in direct Federal funding must include the following statement in their application and attach a copy of their most recently negotiated rate agreement:

- We are a U.S. state or local government entity receiving more than $35 million in direct Federal funding. We submit our indirect cost rate proposals to our cognizant agency. Our current indirect cost rate is [insert rate]. Attached is a copy of our most recently negotiated rate agreement/certification.

U.S. state or local government entities receiving $35 million or less in direct Federal funding must include the applicable statement from this list:

- We are a U.S. state or local government entity receiving $35 million or less in direct Federal funding. We prepare and retain for audit an indirect cost rate proposal and documentation per 2 CFR 200, Appendix VII. Our current indirect cost rate is [insert rate], which is charged against [insert a complete description of the direct cost base used to distribute indirect costs to the award].
- We are a U.S. state or local government entity receiving $35 million or less in direct Federal funding. We have not prepared an indirect cost rate proposal and documentation per 2 CFR §200, Appendix VII and elect to charge the de minimis rate of 10% of Modified Total Direct Costs as defined in 2 CFR §200.1. We understand we must use this methodology consistently for all Federal awards until we choose to establish a rate per 2 CFR §200. We understand we must notify the Service in writing if we establish a rate that changes the methodology used to charge indirect costs during the award period. We understand that additional Federal funds may not be available to support an unexpected increase in indirect costs during the project period and that such changes are subject to review, negotiation, and prior approval by the Service.

All other organizations must include the applicable statement from this list and any related documentation in their application. Please note, an organization with a current negotiated

(including provisional) rate may not elect to charge the 10% de minimis rate of Modified Total Direct Costs during the period covered by their current negotiated rate.

- We are an organization with a current negotiated indirect cost rate. In the event we receive an award, we will charge indirect costs per our current negotiated rate agreement. Attached is a copy of our current rate agreement.
- We are an organization with a negotiated indirect cost rate that has expired. Attached is copy of our most recently negotiated rate agreement. If we receive an award, we will submit an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency within 90 calendar days after the award date. We understand we must provide the Service a copy of our approved rate agreement before charging indirect costs to the Federal award.
- We are an organization that has never negotiated an indirect cost rate with our cognizant agency. Our indirect cost rate is [insert rate], which is charged against [insert a complete description of the direct cost base used to distribute indirect costs to the award]. If we receive an award, we will submit an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency within 90 calendar days after the award date. We understand we must provide the Service a copy of our approved rate agreement before charging indirect costs to the Federal award.
- We are an organization that does not have a current negotiated (including provisional) rate. In the event an award is made, we elect to charge the de minimis rate of 10% of Modified Total Direct Costs as defined in 2 CFR §200.1. We understand we must use this methodology consistently for all Federal awards until such time as we negotiate a different rate with our cognizant agency. We understand that we must notify the Service in writing if during the award period we establish a rate that changes the methodology used to charge indirect costs to the award. We understand that additional Federal funds may not be available to support an unexpected increase in indirect costs and that such changes are subject to review, negotiation, and prior approval by the Service.
- We are an organization submitting a [insert either "Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit Program" or "Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit Network"] project proposal, which has an indirect cost rate cap of [insert rate; CRU is currently 15%; CESU is currently 17.5%]. In the event we receive an award, we understand that if we have a current negotiated (including provisional) indirect cost rate agreement we must charge the capped indirect cost rate to the same base identified in our approved indirect cost rate agreement. We understand we must request prior approval from the awarding program to use the 2 CFR 200.1 Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC) base instead of our approved base and that we must submit such requests with our application, including a calculation showing how use of the MTDC base results in an overall reduction in the total indirect costs recovered. If we do not have current negotiated (including provisional) rate, we understand we must charge the capped indirect cost rate against Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC) as defined in 2 CFR §200.1. If we have never negotiated a rate, we understand we must use the de minimis rate of 10% of MTDC.
- We are an organization that will charge all costs directly.

D7. Other Submission Requirements

GrantSolutions Application Procedures

The Service uses the GrantSolutions system to manage financial assistance applications and awards. Applicants must register in and conduct any subsequent award business with the Service in GrantSolutions. To apply, your organization and organization officials must be established in GrantSolutions. To register your organization in GrantSolutions, send an email to help@grantsolutions.gov. The following information must be included in your email and must match your organization's SAM.gov entity record:

Subject: New Organization Request

- Organization/Individual Name
- Point of Contact first and last name, email, and phone number
- Organization Type
- SAM.gov Unique Entity Identifier (not required for individuals or Service-waived entities)
- Organization Employer Identification Number (Applicants that are INDIVIDUALS DO NOT include your social security number)
- Address

To establish organization official accounts and user role(s), complete a Recipient User Account Request Form for each official and email it to help@grantsolutions.gov. The GrantSolutions entity user roles are: Authorizing Official (ADO); Principal Investigator/Program Director (PI/PD); Support Specialist (GSS); Financial Officer (FO); and Financial Support Staff (FSS). All roles can do the following: enter applications, amendments, and reports, view awards, and view and create notes. The ADO and the PI/PD roles can also submit applications, amendments, and reports. The FO role can also submit reports. At a minimum, registered organizations must assign someone to the ADO and PI/PD roles. For GrantSolutions registration, submission, and other assistance contact their Customer Support by telephone at 1-866-577-0771 or by email at help@grantsolutions.gov. To access GrantSolutions, users must establish a Login.gov account at https://login.gov/. For assistance, contact their customer support by telephone at (844) 875-6446 or submit a request for assistance online at https://login.gov/contact/.

To apply through GrantSolutions, log in to GrantSolutions. If this is your first application submission, click on the "Begin an application" link that appears on screen. If you have previously applied, click on the "Funding Opportunity" link in the blue header bar at the top of the screen. Either action should take you to the "Competing Announcements-Application Kits" list screen. To find this Funding Opportunity, search the list for the Funding Opportunity Number and Title provided on the first page of this document (also provided on the corresponding Grants.gov Grant Opportunity Synopsis screen). To start an application, click on the "Apply" link associated with the correct Funding Opportunity on the list. For more information on how to complete and submit an application, see the GrantSolutions Training Resources web page.

Non-federal applicants are strongly encouraged to apply through GrantSolutions. However, applications will also be accepted through Grants.gov. Instructions to apply through Grants.gov can be found at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/apply-for-grants.html. However,

any non-federal applicant selected for funding must register in GrantSolutions to conduct award business with FWS.
Federal applicants should submit their complete applications and any supplemental material to the Rapid Response Coordinator at “anstaskforce@fws.gov" by the closing date for applications. An email response will be sent as verification of receipt.

E. Application Review Information

E1. Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated and scored using the merit criteria and assigned weights described below. This evaluation is used to determine which new species detections demonstrate the need to warrant a Rapid Response. The evaluation requires a determination of whether the invasion will have significant impacts to the environment, economy, cultural resources, and/or human, animal, or plant health. The evaluation will also consider the management goal and its probability of successful achievement.

Potential Impact of the Invasion: 30%

- Known or potential environmental, economic, cultural, and/or human, animal, or plant health impacts of the targeted species.
- Probability of spread from the colonized area.
- Proximity to vulnerable, high priority, or protected areas (e.g., headwaters, critical habitat).
- Occurrence on a species watch list or similar prioritization tool (not required, but given higher consideration).

Proposed Approach: 30%

- Validity of the response or assessment measures to be used.
- Understanding and ability to complete environmental compliance and permitting requirements.
- Confidence in accomplishing the stated management goal.

Preparedness:10%

- Ability to secure staff, equipment, permits, and other compliance documents.

Experience and Qualifications: 10%

- Prior involvement in Rapid Response efforts.
- Capacity and ability to conduct proposed actions in a rapid manner.

Budget: 10%

- Cost-effectiveness and detail of project cost.

- Inclusion of financial match or in-kind contributions (not required, but given higher consideration).
- Connection of this project to broader management or funding efforts.

Post Response Commitment: 10%

- Commitment and outside financial support to conduct post-rapid response activities to monitor for adverse impacts and prevent re-invasion of the targeted species.

E2. Review and Selection Process

Prior to award, the program will review any applicant statement regarding potential overlap or duplication between the project to be funded and any other funded or proposed project in terms of activities, funding, or time commitment of key personnel. Depending on the circumstances, the program may request modification to the application, other pending applications, or an active award, as needed to eliminate any duplication of effort, or the FWS may choose not to fund the selected project.

Prior to award, the program will conduct and document a review of the proposed budget to ensure figures are calculated correctly, proposed costs are clearly linked to the project narrative and seem necessary and reasonable, no obviously unallowable costs are included, costs requiring prior approval are identified and described, indirect cost are applied correctly, and any program match or cost share requirements are addressed.

The program may not make a Federal award to an applicant that has not completed the SAM.gov registration. If an applicant selected for funding has not completed their SAM.gov registration by the time the Bureau is ready to make an award, the program may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive an award. The program can use that determination as a basis for making an award to another applicant.

Prior to award, the program will evaluate the risk posed by applicants as required in 2 CFR §200.206. Prior to approving awards for Federal funding in excess of the simplified acquisition threshold (currently $250,000), the Bureau is required to review and consider any information about or from the applicant found in the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System. The Bureau will consider this information when completing the risk review. The Bureau uses the results of the risk evaluation to establish monitoring plans, recipient reporting frequency requirements, and to determine if one or more of the specific award conditions in 2 CFR §200.208 should be applied to the award.

Each proposal will be evaluated by a minimum of four individuals including, the Rapid Response Fund Coordinator (or equivalent if this position is not in place by the evaluation phase), at least one ANSTF member, at least one ANSTF regional panel member to provide locational expertise, and at least one subject-matter expert to provide expertise on the targeted species or response measures used.

The Review Team will evaluate each proposal using the criteria outlined below. In addition, the Review Team may, but is not required to:
• Conduct reference checks relevant to the proposal with any references cited in a proposal to

verify information regarding an applicant and rely on and consider any relevant information from these references in the evaluation of a proposal.
• Conduct any background research needed in the course of the evaluation process and consider any relevant information resulting in the evaluation of proposals.
• Seek clarification from an applicant with respect to their proposal. Such clarification will not offer the applicant the opportunity to change or provide new information.

E3. CFR – Regulatory Information

See the Service's General Award Terms and Conditions for the general administrative and national policy requirements applicable to Service awards. The Service will communicate any other program- or project-specific special terms and conditions to recipients in their notices of award.

E4. Anticipated Announcement and Federal Award Dates

Quarterly cycles are anticipated to begin on or near February 1, May 1, August 1, and November 1, check announcement for specific dates. Deadlines for submission will occur 60 days after the quarterly start date (anticipated on or near April 1, June 30, September 30, December 31). At each deadline, all proposals submitted during that quarter will be evaluated by the Review Team (See section E2). To ensure the process is conducted expeditiously, it is anticipated that funding decisions will be finalized within six weeks after each quarterly deadline. Proposals not selected during a specific quarter will need to be resubmitted to be reconsidered in future quarterly evaluations.

F. Federal Award Administration Information

F1. Federal Award Notices

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, acting as administrator of the awards and upon direction of the Review Team, may negotiate selected project scopes of work and budgets prior to award. If the applicant agrees to a new scope of work or budget, the applicant will be required to submit revised SF-424 forms and narratives prior to award.

Following evaluation of the proposals against the merit criteria, the Review Team will make a funding recommendation to either fund, not fund, or defer to later in the year as funds allow. The funding recommendations will be submitted to the ANSTF co-chairs for final consideration. The ANSTF co-chairs will work alongside the Review Team to make the final funding decisions. The Review Team and ANSTF co-chairs will strive to have all funding decisions finalized within six weeks after each quarterly deadline.

F2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

See the DOI Standard Terms and Conditions for the administrative and national policy requirements applicable to DOI awards.

See the Service's General Award Terms and Conditions for the general administrative and national policy requirements applicable to Service awards.

Buy America Provision for Infrastructure: Required Use of American Iron, Steel, Manufactured Products, and Construction Materials. Per 2 CFR 184, none of the funds provided under a Federal award may be used for a project for infrastructure unless:

1. All iron and steel used in the project are produced in the United States. This means all manufacturing processes, from the initial melting stage through the application of coatings, occurred in the United States,

2. All manufactured products used in the project are produced in the United States. This means the manufactured product was manufactured in the United States, and the cost of the components of the manufactured product that are mined, produced, or manufactured in the United States is greater than 55 percent of the total cost of all components of the manufactured product, unless another standard for determining the minimum amount of domestic content of the manufactured product has been established under applicable law or regulation, and

3. All construction materials are manufactured in the United States. This means that all manufacturing processes for the construction material occurred in the United States. For construction material standards see 2 CFR §184.6.

The Buy America preference only applies to articles, materials, and supplies consumed in, incorporated into, or affixed to an infrastructure project. As such, it does not apply to tools, equipment, and supplies, such as temporary scaffolding, brought to the construction site and removed at or before the completion of the infrastructure project. Nor does a Buy America preference apply to equipment and furnishings, such as movable chairs, desks, and portable computer equipment, used at or within the finished infrastructure project but are not an integral part of the structure or permanently affixed to the infrastructure project.

Department of the Interior General Applicability Waivers:

There may be instances where a project qualifies, in whole or in part, for an existing Department of the Interior (Department) general applicability waiver. If a project is selected for funding, recipients are responsible for determining if an approved waiver applies to their project. A list of active waivers is available on the Department's General Applicability Waivers web page. For more information on the waiver process and how to request a waiver, see the Service's General Award Terms and Conditions.

Following project completion, successful applicants will agree to complete an annual survey to track the success of projects funded by the Rapid Response Fund overtime. The survey will inquire about any post-rapid response activities taken and the sustainability of the management goals achieved by the project.

F3. Reporting

Financial Reports

All recipients must use the SF-425, Federal Financial Report form for financial reporting. At a minimum, all recipients must submit a **final** financial report. Final reports are due no later than 120 calendar days after the award period of performance end date or termination date. For awards with periods of performance longer than 12 months, recipients are required to submit **interim** financial reports on the frequency established in the Notice of Award. The only exception to the interim financial reporting requirement is if the recipient is required to use the SF 270/271 to request payment and requests payment at least once annually through the entire award period of performance. We will describe all financial reporting requirements in the Notice of Award. For instructions on completing the SF-425, please reference: Instructional Video: Completing the Federal Financial Report.

Non-Construction Performance Reports

Performance reports must contain a comparison of actual accomplishments with the established goals and objectives of the award; a description of reasons why established goals was not met, if appropriate; and any other pertinent information relevant to the project results. **Final** reports are due no later than 120 calendar days after the award period of performance end date or termination date. For awards with periods of performance longer than 12 months, recipients are required to submit **interim performance** reports on the frequency established in the Notice of Award.

At a minimum, the final performance report should include;
• Overview of project.
• Description, location, and timeline of actions taken.
• Any natural, cultural, or economic resources (e.g., Threatened or Endangered species, sensitive habitats, commercial operations) that may have influenced the choice of response measure.
• Roles of all entities involved in response.
• Barriers or challenges experienced, and contingency actions taken.
• Summary of key issues and lessons learned.
• Outcome of Rapid Response.
• Description of any post-response actions conducted or planned.
• Completed template from the USFWS used to record project details and outcomes of the response efforts supported by the Rapid Response Fund.

In addition to the final report, awardees will be required to submit responses to questions from the Service that will be used to assess performance of the response efforts supported by the Rapid Response Fund. The Service will provide this list of questions at least 6 weeks before the final report is due.

Following project completion, successful applicants will agree to complete an annual survey to track the success of projects funded by the Rapid Response Fund over time. The survey will inquire about any post-rapid response activities taken and the sustainability of the management goals achieved by the project.

Construction Performance Reports

For construction awards, onsite technical inspections and certified percentage of completion data may be relied on to monitor progress for construction. Additional performance reports for construction activities may be required only when considered necessary. However, awards that include both construction and non-construction activities require performance reporting for the non-construction activities. See 2 CFR§200.329 for more information. The USFWS will describe all performance reporting requirements in the Notice of Award.

Significant Development Reports

Events may occur between the scheduled performance reporting dates which have significant impact upon the supported activity. In such cases, recipients are required to notify the Bureau in writing as soon as the recipient becomes aware of any problems, delays, or adverse conditions that will materially impair the ability to meet the objective of the Federal award. This disclosure must include a statement of any corrective action(s) taken or contemplated, and any assistance needed to resolve the situation. The recipient should also notify the Service in writing of any favorable developments that enable meeting time schedules and objectives sooner or at less cost than anticipated or producing more or different beneficial results than originally planned.

Real Property Reports

Recipients and subrecipients are required to submit status reports on the status of real property acquired under the award in which the Federal government retains an interest. The required frequency of these reports will depend on the anticipated length of the Federal interest period. The Bureau will include recipient-specific real property reporting requirements, including the required standard form or data elements, reporting frequency, and report due dates, in the Notice of Award when applicable.

Conflict of Interest Disclosures

Per 2 CFR §1402.112, non-Federal entities and their employees must take appropriate steps to avoid conflicts of interest in their responsibilities under or with respect to Federal financial assistance agreements. In the procurement of supplies, equipment, construction, and services by recipients and by subrecipients, the provisions in 2 CFR §200.318 apply. Non-Federal entities, including applicants for financial assistance awards, must disclose in writing any conflict of interest to the DOI awarding agency or pass-through entity in accordance with 2 CFR §200.112. Recipients must establish internal controls that include, at a minimum, procedures to identify, disclose, and mitigate or eliminate identified conflicts of interest. The recipient is responsible for notifying the Service Project Officer identified in their notice of award in writing of any conflicts of interest that may arise during the life of the award, including those that reported by subrecipients. The Service will examine each disclosure to determine whether a significant potential conflict exists and, if it does, work with the applicant or recipient to develop an appropriate resolution. Failure to resolve conflicts of interest in a manner that satisfies the government may be cause for termination of the award.

Other Mandatory Disclosures

The Non-Federal entity or applicant for a Federal award must disclose, in a timely manner, in writing to the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity all violations of Federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the Federal award. Non-Federal entities that receive a Federal award including the terms and conditions outlined in 2 CFR 200, Appendix XII—Award Term and Condition for Recipient Integrity and Performance

Matters are required to report certain civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings to SAM. Failure to make required disclosures can result in any of the remedies for noncompliance described in 2 CFR §200.339, including suspension or debarment.

Reporting Matters Related to Recipient Integrity and Performance

If the total value of your currently active grants, cooperative agreements, and procurement contracts from all Federal awarding agencies exceeds $10,000,000 for any period of time during the period of performance of this Federal award, then you as the recipient during that period of time must maintain the currency of information reported to the System for Award Management that is made available in the designated integrity and performance system about civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings in accordance with Appendix XII to 2 CFR 200.

G. Federal Awarding Agency Contact(s)

G1. Program Technical Contact

For **programmatic technical assistance**, contact:

First and Last Name:
Susan Pasko

Telephone:
703-358-2466

Email:

susan_pasko@fws.gov

G2. Program Administration

For **program administration assistance**, contact:

First and Last Name:
Susan Pasko

Telephone:
703-358-2466

Email:
susan_pasko@fws.gov

G3. Application System Technical Support

For Grants.gov technical registration and submission, downloading forms and application packages, contact:
Grants.gov Customer Support
Numeric Input Field: 1-800-518-4726
Support@grants.gov

For GrantSolutions technical registration, submission, and other assistance contact:
GrantSolutions Customer Support
1-866-577-0771
Help@grantsolutions.gov

H. Other Information

Payments
Domestic recipients are required to register in and receive payment through the U.S. Treasury's Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP), unless approved for a waiver by the Service program. Foreign recipients receiving funds to a final destination bank outside the U.S. are required to receive payment through the U.S. Treasury's International Treasury Services (ITS) System. Foreign recipients receiving funds to a final destination bank in the U.S. are required to enter and maintain current banking details in their SAM.gov entity profile and receive payment through the Automated Clearing House network by electronic funds transfer (EFT). The Bureau will include recipient-specific instructions on how to request payment, including identification of any additional information required and where to submit payment requests, as applicable, in all Notices of Award.

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT:

OMB Control Number: 1018-0100
Per the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA; 44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) collects information in accordance with program authorizing legislation to conduct a review and select projects for funding and, if awarded, to evaluate performance. Your response is required to obtain or retain a benefit. We may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Privacy Act Statement: This information collection is authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5701 et seq. The information provided will be used to administer all Service financial assistance programs and activities including to: (1) determine eligibility under the authorizing legislation and applicable program regulations; (2) determine allowability of major cost items under the Cost Principles at 2 CFR 200; (3) select those projects that will provide the highest return on the Federal investment; and (4) assist in compliance with laws, as applicable, such as the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970. This information may be shared in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 and the routine uses listed in INTERIOR/DOI-89, Grants and Cooperative Agreements: FBMS - 73 FR 43775 (July 28, 2008). Furnishing this information is voluntary; however, failure to provide all requested information may prevent the Service from awarding funds.

Estimated Burden Statement: We estimate that it will take you on average about 40 hours to complete an initial application, about 3 hours to revise the terms of an award, and about 8 hours per report to prepare and submit financial and performance reports, including time to maintain records and gather information. Actual times for these activities will vary depending on program-

specific requirements. Direct comments regarding the burden estimates or any other aspect of the specific forms to the Service Information Clearance Officer, USFWS, U.S. Department of the Interior, 5275 Leesburg Pike, MS: PRB (JAO/3W), Falls Church, VA 22041-3803, or by email to Info_Coll@fws.gov.