

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

And

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Pacific Southwest Region

Notice of Funding Opportunity No. BOR-CGB-21-F005

Central Valley Project Improvement Act Habitat Restoration Program Grants for Fiscal Years 2021 and 2022



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Interior Region 10 - California-Great Basin
Sacramento, California

U.S. Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Pacific Southwest Region
Sacramento, California

August 2020

Mission Statements

The mission of the Department of the Interior is to protect and provide access to our Nation's natural and cultural heritage and honor our trust responsibilities to Indian Tribes and our commitment to island communities.

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others, to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

Synopsis

Federal Agency Names:	Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), Sacramento, California
Funding Opportunity Title:	Central Valley Project Improvement Act Habitat Restoration Program Grants for Fiscal Years 2021 and 2022
Announcement Type:	Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
Funding Opportunity Number:	BOR-CGB-21-F005
Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number:	15.512 (Central Valley Project Improvement Act)
Dates: (See NOFO Sec. D.4)	Applications due April 27, 2021, 3:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time (PST). This notice applies to more than one fiscal years' funding.
Eligible Applicants: (See NOFO Sec. C.1)	Any non-federal entity is eligible to apply.
Recipient Cost Share: (See NOFO Sec. C.4)	No cost sharing requirement, but the level of financial partnering is considered during application evaluation.
Federal Funding Amount: (See NOFO Sec. B.2)	From \$25,000 to \$1,000,000 per award.
Estimated Number of Agreements to be Awarded: (See NOFO Sec. B.2)	Approximately 7 to 10 per fiscal year, depending on requested funding amounts for selected projects and appropriations.
Estimated Amount of Funding Available: (See NOFO Sec. B.1)	Estimated \$1,000,000 for each of Fiscal Year 2021 and 2022 for an estimated total of \$2,000,000.
Intergovernmental Review: (See NOFO Sec. D.5)	This NOFO is subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs." A list of states that have elected to participate in the intergovernmental review process is at www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/SPOC-February-2019.pdf .

Application Checklist

The following table contains a summary of the information that you are required to submit with the application.

√	What to submit	Required content	Form or format	When to submit
	Mandatory Federal Forms: • Application for Federal Financial Assistance • Budget Information • Assurances	Section C.2.1.	Form SF 424, available at: https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/sf-424-family.html Page 7	*
	Technical Proposal: • Cover Page • Title of Proposed Project • Abstract • Technical Proposal Category • Project Description • Relationship of the Proposal to the Program Scoring Criteria	Section D.2.2.	Page 7	*
	Project Budget: • Budget Table • Budget Narrative	Section D.2.2.	Page 14	*
	Program Priority Actions	Section E.1.	Page 22	*
	Species Benefits	Section C.2.1.	Page 5	*
	Evidence of Landowner Support	Section C.2.1.	Page 4	*
	SAM Verification	Section D.3.	Page 19	**
	ASAP Verification	Section D.6.	Page 21	**
	Disclosure of Lobbying Activities	Section F.3.3.	Page 38	**

* Submit with the application by April 27, 2021, 3:00 pm PST.

** To be submitted after application selection and notice of possible award.

Acronyms and Abbreviations

ASAP	Automated Standard Application for Payments
CAP	Cost Allocation Plan
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CNDDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CVP	Central Valley Project
CVPIA	Central Valley Project Improvement Act
DOI	U.S. Department of the Interior
DUNS	Data Universal Number System
HRP	Habitat Restoration Program
NICRA	Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement
NOFO	Notice of Funding Opportunity
PST	Pacific Standard Time
Reclamation	Bureau of Reclamation
SAM	System for Award Management
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Contents

Section A. Notice of Funding Opportunity Description	1
A.1. Central Valley Project Improvement Act Habitat Restoration Program Grants	1
A.2. Objective of the Notice of Funding Opportunity	2
A.3. Program Authorities	2
Section B. Award Information	2
B.1. Total Project Funding	2
B.2. Project Funding Limitations	2
B.3. Assistance Instrument	3
Section C. Eligibility Information	3
C.1. Eligible Applicants	3
C.2. Eligible Projects	3
C.2.1. Eligible Projects	3
C.2.2. Ineligible Projects	5
C.3. Length of Projects	6
C.4. Cost Sharing Requirement	6
Section D. Application and Submission Information	6
D.1. Access to the Application Package	6
D.2. Content and Form of Application Submission	6
D.2.1. Application Format and Length	6
D.2.2. Application Content	7
Cover Page	7
Title of Proposed Project	8
Abstract	8
Technical Proposal Category	8
Project Objective(s)	8
Proposal Proponent	8
Location of Proposed Project	8
Amount of Funding Request	8
Total Proposed Project Cost	8
Proposed Activities	8
Proposed Project Timeline	9
Monitoring and Management	9
Measuring Results	9
Résumé or Curriculum Vitae	9
Relationship of the Proposal to the Program Scoring Criteria	9
Literature Cited	13
Technical Merit	14
Budget Table and Narrative	14
D.3. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management	19
D.4. Submission Date and Time	19
D.5. Intergovernmental Review	20
D.6. Automated Standard Application for Payments Registration	21
Section E. Application Review Information	23
E.1. Evaluation Criteria	23

E.1.1. Land Protection Priority Actions	23
E.1.2. Habitat Restoration Priority Actions.....	27
E.1.3. Research Priority Actions	29
E.1.4. Captive Propagation and/or Reintroduction Priority Actions	31
E.2. Review and Selection Process	32
E.3. Anticipated Announcement and Federal Award Date	35
Section F. Federal Award Administration Information	36
F.1. Federal Award Notices.....	36
F.2. Reporting Requirements and Distribution.....	36
F.2.1. Financial Reports	36
F.2.2. Interim Performance Reports.....	36
F.3. Conflicts of Interest	37
F.3.1. Applicability	37
F.3.2. Requirements.....	37
F.3.3. Notification	37
F.3.4. Enforcement.....	38
F.4. Data Availability	38
F.4.1. Applicability	38
F.4.2. Use of Data	38
F.2.1. Availability of Data	39
F.5. Environmental and Regulatory Compliance	39
Section G. Agency Contacts.....	41
G.1. Financial Assistance Contact	41
G.2. Program Coordination Contact.....	41
Section H. Literature Cited.....	42
Section I. Attachments.....	43

Section A. Notice of Funding Opportunity Description

A.1. Central Valley Project Improvement Act Habitat Restoration Program Grants

The Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA) Habitat Restoration Program (HRP) implements actions intended to protect, restore, and enhance special-status species (excluding fish) and their habitats affected by the CVP, with a special emphasis on federally listed species. The main objectives of the HRP are to: (1) protect and restore native habitats impacted by the CVP, (2) stabilize and improve populations of native species impacted by the CVP, and (3) assist with the recovery of federal and state listed species whose populations have been impacted by the CVP.

The HRP funds a variety of actions that improve conditions for species and habitats impacted by the CVP, recognizing that a balanced set of actions is needed to meet program objectives. Emphasis is placed on certain kinds of activities considered critical to species' protection and recovery. Applications for land protection, habitat restoration, research, and captive propagation and/or reintroduction projects will be considered for funding.

(1) Land Protection: Protection of species or existing habitats impacted by the CVP through the purchase of fee title acquisition, conservation easements, and potentially other forms of protection on lands where threats to these lands are significant. At least 50 percent of HRP funds will be targeted towards this category of activity. The HRP cannot fund any protection project which would result in mitigation credits for the award recipient or the landowner.

(2) Habitat Restoration: Restoration of CVP impacted habitats where restoration actions would markedly improve conditions for impacted species. The HRP cannot fund any restoration project which would result in mitigation credits for the award recipient or landowner.

(3) Research: Research addressing status and habitat needs to facilitate listed species recovery.

(4) Captive Propagation and/or Reintroduction: Captive propagation and/or reintroduction of listed species in order to increase numbers of individuals in a population.

A.2. Objective of the Notice of Funding Opportunity

The objective of this NOFO is to invite eligible applicants to submit applications for projects that benefit federally listed and other special-status species whose habitats and populations have been impacted by operation of the CVP and implementation of the CVPIA. An additional objective is to ensure the award selection process is in compliance with competition requirements related to federal financial agreements, and to ensure public participation in the HRP.

Note that prior Funding Opportunity Announcements were posted jointly for the HRP and the associated Central Valley Project Conservation Program. The NOFOs for the two programs are now separated, and that for the Central Valley Project Conservation Program will be posted on Grants.gov through a separate announcement. Persons having questions about the process should contact the HRP Managers named in Section G.2.

A.3. Program Authorities

This NOFO is issued in accordance with the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA), Public Law 102-575, Title 34, Section 3406(b)(1). This section provides that the Secretary shall make all reasonable efforts consistent with the requirements of the section to address other identified adverse environmental impacts of the Central Valley Project (CVP) not specifically addressed in the section.

Section B. Award Information

B.1. Total Project Funding

The number of financial assistance agreements awarded and amount of funding available is dependent on annual appropriations to the HRP and the number of successful applications. The total amount of funding available for projects through the HRP per fiscal year is estimated at \$1,000,000 each for fiscal years 2021 and 2022 for an estimated total of \$2,000,000 for awards. Successful applications may be funded over two years.

B.2. Project Funding Limitations

Reclamation and the Service financial assistance may range from \$25,000 to \$1,000,000 for individually approved projects. Approximately 7 to 10 awards per fiscal year are anticipated, depending on requested funding amounts for selected projects and appropriations.

B.3. Assistance Instrument

If substantial involvement between Reclamation/Service and the Recipient is anticipated during the performance of a project, the anticipated award instrument would be a cooperative agreement. In support of such an agreement, Reclamation/Service would provide the following:

Reclamation/Service shall collaborate and participate with the Recipient in the management of the project and closely oversee the Recipient's activities to ensure that the program objectives are being achieved as per the cooperative agreement. This oversight shall include review, input, and approval at key interim stages of the project as identified in the Recipient's application.

If substantial involvement is not anticipated on the part of Reclamation/Service, the financial assistance instrument will be a grant agreement. Reclamation/Service retains the rights to make awards using either grants or cooperative agreements.

The project must demonstrate allowable public benefit for financial assistance agreements.

Section C. Eligibility Information

C.1. Eligible Applicants

CVPIA 3407(e) states: "Funding to Non-Federal Entities -- If the Secretary determines that the State of California or an agency or subdivision thereof, an Indian tribe, or a non-profit entity concerned with restoration, protection, or enhancement of fish, wildlife, habitat, or environmental values is able to assist in implementing any action authorized by this title in an efficient, timely, and cost effective manner, the Secretary is authorized to provide funding to such entity on such terms and conditions as he deems necessary to assist in implementing the identified action." For an application to be eligible for consideration under this NOFO, the applicant must be one of the types of organizations named above.

C.2. Eligible Projects

C.2.1. Eligible Projects

The HRP has established a Priority Project Area map that delineates the specific area of California within which projects will be considered through this application. Applications for projects will not be considered that fall outside the boundaries of the program project area unless a clear "nexus" (relationship or connection) to the CVP is demonstrated in the application (see Section D.2.2, Page 11, CVP Nexus, for additional information). The Priority Project Area map can be viewed at: <https://www.usbr.gov/mp/cvpcp/map/index.html>.

The Reclamation Grants Officer, and Reclamation and Service HRP Managers, will determine whether a submitted application and its proposed project are eligible for a financial assistance award. Eligibility is determined by considering, at a minimum, the following:

(1) HRP Priority Species. Eligible applications will focus on species with a “High” or “Very High” rating. Applications that focus only on species with a “Low” or “Medium” rating will not be eligible for consideration unless otherwise specifically called for in a Priority Action. A spreadsheet containing CVP priority species designations is available by clicking on the “Priority Species” link on the HRP website at <https://www.usbr.gov/mp/cvpcp/species/index.html>.

(2) Geographic area. The project area must be located within the HRP Priority Project Area, or otherwise have a clear connection to HRP priorities. These factors are used in determining whether the proposed project has a CVP nexus which is necessary for the project to meet the intent and authorities of the Programs.

(3) Conformance with the NOFO.

- Proposals must conform to the goals and objectives of the HRP; successfully address a program Priority Action, and Scoring Criteria; and follow the required format.
- The HRP cannot fund any project that would be used to fulfill a mitigation requirement.

(4) Past performance of project applicant. Applications from parties who have received a federal assistance award in the past may be evaluated based on past performance. At a minimum, this would include how well the applicant, as a previous award recipient, complied with requirements for submitting reports and other requirements in a complete and timely manner; communicated and coordinated on past projects between themselves and the awarding agency; complied with the terms and conditions of the previous grant agreement; and whether the award recipient was responsive to requested information in a timely manner.

(5) Evidence of willing seller and/or landowner support.

- Applications submitted for Land Protection, Habitat Restoration, Captive Propagation and/or Reintroduction projects, and Research projects to be conducted in the field, should include evidence of willing sellers/landowner support.
- For Land Protection projects, the parcel(s) to be acquired and the willing seller(s) of the parcel(s) should be identified. The fact that a parcel to be acquired has a willing seller(s) should be supported through written confirmation submitted with the proposal. The confirmation does not have to be a formal letter, but it does need to be a type of statement that will convince those evaluating and selecting applications to award that the parcel has a willing seller(s). Funds to be awarded

through this NOFO are for the specific parcel(s) identified in the proposal. No replacement lands will be considered should the land identified in the proposal no longer be available for protection. For a conservation easement, successful applicants must submit a draft conservation easement to the HRP Program Managers for review and concurrence prior to conducting the property appraisal.

- For Habitat Restoration, Research, and Captive Propagation and/or Reintroduction, the parcels to be restored or selected for research or captive propagation and/or reintroduction should be identified in the application, and the willing landowner(s) of the parcel(s) identified. That the landowner(s) is willing to allow project activities to take place on his/her property should be supported through written confirmation submitted with the application.

(6) Budget Narrative. Financial assistance will not be provided to any applicant who fails to provide a budget narrative. The narrative should be separate from the budget table.

(7) Budget Table and Budget Narrative. A financial assistance award will not be made to any applicant who fails to fully disclose and specify all project costs. See Section D.2.2 for more information.

(8) SF-424 Forms. Inclusion of a completed and signed SF-424 (Application for Federal Assistance), 424B (Assurances), and Budget Information with the application is mandatory. Applications that do not include the required SF-424 documents may result in the elimination of your proposal from further consideration. The SF-424 documents must be signed by a person legally authorized to commit the applicant to performance of the proposed activity.

(9) Listed Species Benefits. For an application to be eligible, the proposed project must provide significant habitat benefits to at least one CVP-impacted federally listed endangered or threatened species, excluding fish. For more information see the discussion on describing federal and state listed species benefits of the proposed project in Section D.2.2.

(10) Public Benefit. The proposed project must demonstrate allowable public benefit to be eligible for financial assistance.

C.2.2. Ineligible Projects

Applications for following types of projects are not eligible for a financial assistance award through this NOFO:

- Projects targeted specifically toward benefiting fish.
- Projects which would result in mitigation credits for the award recipient or the landowner.
- The project area falls outside the HRP Priority Project Area.

- Projects for which the award recipient is not current on its award reporting and audit requirements for an existing federal award may not be eligible to enter into a new financial assistance agreement.

C.3. Length of Projects

The length of projects will vary by award, the length of time generally being as requested in the project schedule in the application and as outlined in the scope of the Service and Reclamation financial assistance agreements. The maximum length of award for financial assistance agreements is five years from the date of execution of the award.

C.4. Cost Sharing Requirement

The HRP has no cost sharing requirement. However, partnering (i.e., cost sharing provided by contributing entities, through cash or in-kind services, toward the cost of the proposed project) is highly encouraged and the level of partnering, including in-kind contributions, is considered during application evaluation.

In-kind contributions constitute the value of non-cash contributions that benefit a federally assisted project that would otherwise be paid for through the award. These contributions may be in the form of labor, real property, equipment, supplies and other expendable property, as well as the value of goods and services directly benefiting and specifically identifiable to the project or program. The cost or value of in-kind contributions that have been or will be relied upon to satisfy a cost-sharing or matching requirement for another federal financial assistance agreement, a federal procurement contract, or any other award of federal funds may not qualify as a cost-share contribution for HRP financial assistance. In other words, the contribution cannot be credited twice.

Section D. Application and Submission Information

D.1. Access to the Application Package

All application materials are available on-line through grants.gov. Refer to NOFO number BOR-CGB-21-F005 when searching grants.gov for required application materials.

D.2. Content and Form of Application Submission

All applications must conform to the requirements set below.

D.2.1. Application Format and Length

The core of the financial assistance award application is the technical proposal. Because each proposal is scored for technical merit, it is highly recommended that applicants strictly adhere to the following content guidelines when preparing a proposal:

- Technical proposals should have a page number on every page.
- The technical proposal is limited to a maximum of 18 pages in length. Information to provide as part of the 18 page total includes the cover page, project description, budget narrative, and budget table. Information to provide at the end of the proposal, which is not considered part of the 18 page limit, includes: maps, figures, photographs, literature cited, SF-424s, curriculum vitae, landowner letters or emails of support, and any other information such as appendices.
- Maps, site photos, aerial or satellite imagery, figures, etc., should be submitted in color in all copies of the technical proposal.
- Margins should be 1 inch on each side, top and bottom.
- Font type and size should be Times New Roman 12 pt.
- Line spacing should be single spacing.

D.2.2. Application Content

Applicants must submit a fully completed and signed SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance. Applications must also include an SF-424A, Budget Information – Non-construction Programs, and a completed and signed SF-424B – Assurances – Non-Construction Programs. The forms must be signed by a person legally authorized to commit the organization to performance of the activity and who will be the official administrative point of contact during the application process. Inclusion of a properly signed and dated SF-424 is a mandatory requirement. Failure to include the form with the application will result in the elimination of the application from further consideration. The SF-424 and its related forms may be downloaded from www.grants.gov.

Along with the SF-425 forms, applicants should submit a well-described and accurate technical proposal organized as follows. The following information should be included in the technical proposal's 18-page limit:

Cover Page

Include the name of the applicant, organization name, title of proposed project, and date.

Title of Proposed Project

State the title of the proposed project.

Abstract

Submit a brief abstract in standard abstract format (i.e. no more than one page).

Technical Proposal Category

List the category of the project activity, e.g., Land Protection, Habitat Restoration, Research, or Captive Propagation and/or Reintroduction. Only one category should be named in the proposal.

Project Objective(s)

Clearly state the objective(s) the proposed project would achieve. An objective is a specific action item you hope to accomplish with your project. It also spells out the specific results or outcomes you plan to achieve. I.e., “Acquire a conservation easement on 500 acres”, or “Conduct surveys at 25 sites.” **Do not include detailed species benefits information in this section.**

Proposal Proponent

Provide the name, address, phone number, and email address of the main/primary technical point of contact.

Location of Proposed Project

- For land protection and habitat restoration projects, include the location and size of the project area in acres, as well as longitude and latitude information.
- All project applications must include a clear, detailed, full-page color map indicating local reference points, a scale bar, and the location of the proposed project or project activities within the HRP project area (<https://www.usbr.gov/mp/cvpcp/map/index.html>).
- Include locations of documented species observations from surveys or other knowledge, if any.
- Include species sampling/survey locations, if proposed.
- For land acquisition and habitat restoration projects, and for research and captive propagation and/or reintroduction projects when applicable, include photographs of the project site(s).

Amount of Funding Request

Specify the amount of funds requested from the HRP.

Total Proposed Project Cost

Specify the total estimated cost of the project including in-kind and cost-share contributions.

Proposed Activities

For the action being proposed for funding, provide a detailed description of the project activities and of the tasks to be accomplished. If the project requires more

than 1 year of work, the applicant should state this; list tasks for each phase; and separate tasks to be completed each year.

Proposed Project Timeline

Include milestones (markers in a project that signify a change or stage in development) and the final completion date for each objective. Note: No project may be funded that extends beyond 5 years.

Monitoring and Management

This criterion applies to Land Protection and Habitat Restoration project proposals only, unless specifically required under another category of Priority Action. Proposals should state how the protected or restored habitats would be monitored and managed in the future to achieve the benefits to the CVP impacted species and habitats described in the proposal. Grant recipients must submit a plan for monitoring and managing the project area for all habitat restoration and conservation easement land protection projects prior to close of financial assistance award agreements, and prior to close of purchase for all fee title land acquisition projects.

Measuring Results

Describe how project performance would be measured when assessing the progress made towards achieving predetermined performance goals. **This criterion does not apply to Land Protection project proposals.**

Résumé or Curriculum Vitae

Provide a résumé or curriculum vitae for each person who would be significantly involved in the proposed project.

Relationship of the Proposal to the Program Scoring Criteria

Section E.2 lists the program scoring criteria and the range of points available for each scoring criterion. Described below are those criteria which the applicant must address (where applicable) according to the category of technical proposal being submitted, along with suggestions on how to address them. Each applicant is strongly encouraged to provide as much information as possible for each applicable criterion for each technical proposal, since awarding of funds is strongly tied to the scoring criteria.

- (1) **CVP Nexus**: Indicate the proposed project's relationship to the CVP. How has the habitat or species of interest been impacted by operation of the CVP and delivery of CVP water, such as through habitat alteration? Proposals should adequately define this relationship to be considered for evaluation.
- (2) **Department of the Interior Priorities**: The mission of the Department of the Interior (DOI) is to protect and provide access to our Nation's natural and cultural heritage and to honor our trust responsibilities to Indian Tribes and our commitment to island communities. DOI has established priorities to help

meet those missions. In evaluating applications submitted for consideration for funding, Reclamation and the Service through the HRP Technical Team will evaluate a proposed project's ability to meet the priority(ies) that is applicable to the project. Indicate in the proposal how the project would meet one or more of the priorities below. It is not necessary to address priorities that are not applicable to your project. Scoring points will be allocated based on whether the proposed project supports one or more of the priorities listed, and whether the connection to the priority(ies) is well supported in the proposal. The following are DOI Priorities:

1. *Creating a conservation stewardship legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt*

- a. Utilize science to identify best practices to manage land and water resources and adapt to changes in the environment;
- b. Examine land use planning processes and land use designations that govern public use and access;
- c. Revise and streamline the environmental and regulatory review process while maintaining environmental standards;
- d. Review the Department's water storage, transportation, and distribution systems to identify opportunities to resolve conflicts and expand capacity;
- e. Foster relationships with conservation organizations advocating for balanced stewardship and use of public lands;
- f. Identify and implement initiatives to expand access to Department lands for hunting and fishing;
- g. Shift the balance towards providing greater public access to public lands over restrictions to access.

2. *Utilizing our natural resources*

- a. Ensure American energy is available to meet our security and economic needs;
- b. Ensure access to mineral resources, especially the critical and rare earth minerals needed for scientific, technological, or military applications;
- c. Refocus timber programs to embrace the entire "healthy forests" lifecycle;
- d. Manage competition for grazing resources.

4. *Restoring trust with local communities*

- a. Be a better neighbor with those closest to our resources by improving dialogue and relationships with persons and entities bordering our lands;
- b. Expand the lines of communication with governors, state natural resource offices, Fish and Wildlife offices, water authorities, county commissioners, tribes, and local communities.

5. *Ensuring sovereignty means something*

- a. Support tribal self-determination, self-governance, and sovereignty;
- b. Solidify mutual interests between the U.S. and the freely associated states and territories.

6. *Striking a regulatory balance*
- a. Reduce the administrative and regulatory burden imposed on U.S. industry and the public;
 - b. Ensure that Endangered Species Act decisions are based on strong science and thorough analysis.
- (3) **Program Priority Action:** Per the Program Priority Actions specified in Section E.1., proposals must state the Priority Action and its corresponding number under the project category (Land Protection, Habitat Restoration, Research, or Captive Propagation and/or Reintroduction) under which the proposal is to be considered. Only one Priority Action should be named for each proposal. Do not include any other wording in this section other than to identify the specific Priority Action.
- (4) **Federally Listed Species Benefits (includes species proposed for listing):** The proposal should indicate in as much detail as possible how the project would benefit federally Endangered or Threatened species, including species Proposed for listing, and which species would benefit. Describe whether any of the species have been documented on, or in the vicinity of, the project site as indicated by California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) occurrences or other sources. Include species information in a Species Benefits Table (Attachment 1).
- (5) **State Listed Species Benefits:** The proposal should indicate how State Endangered, Threatened, and Fully Protected species may benefit from the proposed project. Describe whether any of the species have been documented on, or in the vicinity of, the project site as indicated by CNDDDB occurrences or other sources. Include species information in a Species Benefits Table (Attachment 1).
- (6) **Benefits to Special Status Designated Species that are not Federal or State Listed or Proposed for Listing:** The proposal should describe how other imperiled CVP impacted species that are not listed, or proposed for federal or state listing, may benefit from the proposed project. Describe whether any of the species have been documented on, or in the vicinity of, the project site as indicated by CNDDDB occurrences or other sources. Include species information in a Species Benefits Table (Attachment 1).
- (7) **Habitat/Biodiversity:** **This criterion applies to Land Protection and Habitat Restoration project proposals only.** Describe habitat types and species diversity within the project area, how the project would help maintain or benefit native habitat, and the importance of the habitat to the species. Describe the before and after habitat conditions that would be projected if the project is implemented, and the types of habitat(s) to be benefitted by the project.

- (8) **Cumulative Benefit:** Indicate how the project would contribute to conservation efforts being undertaken by other agencies or partners related to the same species or habitats in the region or within the range of the species, including through previous Service and Reclamation grants.
- (9) **Long-term Benefit:** Address how project benefits might persist or increase over time, i.e., describe future benefits to species and habitats that are expected to result from the proposed project.
- (10) **Project Site Connectivity:** **This criterion applies to Land Protection and Habitat Restoration project proposals only.** Describe where the project site is located in relation to other protected or restored habitat areas. A map showing the proposed project site location(s) relation to other protected or restored sites, either adjacent-to or in the vicinity, is encouraged. Scoring points under this criterion will be assigned based on whether the project area is adjacent-to, near, or well removed from other protected or restored habitat areas.
- (11) **Partners:** This criterion gives consideration to financial contributions of cash and/or the equivalent in-kind services obtained from one or more sources to facilitate completion of the proposed project. The contribution is expressed as a percentage of the total cost of the project that would offset costs otherwise paid by the HRP. Information on the amount and nature of each partner contribution should be provided in order for partnering levels to be ascertained and credited. When addressing this criterion, the proposal should include a complete description of partner contributions consistent with the content of the Budget Narrative, Budget Table, and SF-424 forms. For the purposes of this criterion, the HRP is not considered a “partner.” **This criterion does not apply to research project proposals.** To get credit for a partner contribution the applicant should adhere to the following guidelines and parameters:
- Provide the name of each partner contributing cash or in-kind contributions toward the total cost of the project. Describe the extent of the applicant’s discussions with, and financial commitment from, the partners named in the proposal. For example, to receive scoring points under this criterion it is not sufficient to merely name as a partner “a State grant program.” It is not expected that all partner contributions be committed at the time of the submission of the application, but HRP Program Managers need to be assured that the partner contribution is real.
 - Provide a description of how each partner contribution has a direct link to the current project being proposed.
 - Provide evidence that the partnership contribution is genuinely and wholly committed by substantiating the contribution through a letter or email message of confirmation from the partnering entity(ies) named in the proposal. I.e., this means that not only should the funding partners be

identified, but the financial commitment should be supported through documentation in the application in order for the application to receive credit under the "Partners" scoring criterion. If appropriate documentation is not included with the application, the "Partners" criterion will receive zero (0) points during scoring. The determination of "appropriate" documentation is at the discretion of the HRP Program Managers.

- Provide the amount to be contributed by each partner in cash or equivalent dollars, as well as a percentage of the total project cost.
- Equate in-kind services to dollars. If this is not done, those services will not be considered when partnering points are tallied.
- Use the format shown in Attachment 2, Sample Budget Table, to indicate partner contributions to the proposed project.

Additionally, please note the following limitations:

- Partners to the project who are not providing a financial contribution, either directly or in-kind, will not be considered in the proposal scoring or project selection.
- Partner cost sharing will only be considered for components of the proposed project.
- Funds expended on the proposed project prior to receiving the HRP financial assistance award will not be considered when awarding scoring points.
- Failure to secure partner funds from sources specified in the proposal may jeopardize the delivery of funds under a HRP financial assistance agreement.
- Per 2 CFR 200.306a, regarding federal research proposals, voluntary committed cost sharing is not expected. Therefore, partner cost sharing cannot be used as a selection factor during the review of applications or proposals under the Research category.

- (12) **Level of CVP Impacts:** The proposal should address to what extent a species or habitat that would benefit from the proposed project has been impacted by the CVP.
- (13) **Project Urgency:** The proposal should assign a level of urgency, i.e., major, moderate, or minimal, to the project based on the endangerment of a species, the level of threat to a habitat area, and/or the consequence to the species should the project not be carried out. A complete explanation on the rationale for the statement of urgency should be provided.

Literature Cited

When applicable, applications should include a Literature Cited section.

Technical Merit

Technical merit and completeness of the proposal will be evaluated considering the following elements. Failure to adhere to these elements would result in a low technical merit score.

- Adherence to the required guidelines and format as outlined in Section D.2.1.
- Use of correct Species Table and Budget Table templates (Attachments 1 and 2).
- Clear and complete descriptions of methodology for Research proposals.
- Strict adherence to the page limit.
- Use of correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling.
- Ease of reading, i.e., clear and concise wording.
- Success in addressing all Scoring Criteria.
- Accuracy and completeness of the Budget Table.
- Inclusion of a thorough Budget Narrative that corresponds with the costs and amounts shown in the Budget Table.
- Provision of clear and concise maps, figures, tables, and photographs.
- Correct and complete citations of supporting reports and other documents.
- Establishment of baseline conditions.
- Incorporation of Literature Cited, if applicable.
- Inclusion of résumé(s) and curriculum vitae(s).
- Correct assignment of species status designations (i.e., threatened or endangered; federal or state listed; special status).
- Consistency throughout the proposal regarding which species and habitats would benefit.
- Consistency throughout the proposal on all costs (SF-424, Budget Table; Budget Narrative; HRP Funding Request; Total Proposed Project Cost).
- Definitions of scientific terms and acronyms not familiar to a lay person.
- Clear and concise timeline/milestones for proposed objectives and tasks.

Furthermore, the scientific rigor of proposed research projects will be considered along with outside technical reviewers' evaluations of the proposals.

Budget Table and Narrative

Applicants must provide a budget table including all of the information requested in the Budget Table template (Attachment 2), and a budget narrative containing a complete description of each cost item in the budget table, organized by budget table "Budget Item Description". The narrative should: provide a detailed, clear, consistent, complete, and correct summary of project costs; indicate annual costs for each task; and include a description of contributions from any cost share partners. The budget narrative should include sufficient detailed information to enable the Technical Team to evaluate the reasonableness of the budgeted costs. The budget narrative should be separate from the budget table.

The proposed project budget shall clearly identify all project costs by objectives and the funding source, i.e., HRP, Applicant, or other funding sources. The budget narrative should provide a discussion of, or explanation for, items included in the budget table. Details in the budget narrative will be used by a Service or Reclamation Cost Analyst to determine whether costs are allowable, allocable and reasonable. If the narrative does not contain the appropriate amount of detail, this may delay the award.

Applicants that incur costs prior to the signing of the financial assistance agreement may request that pre-award costs be included when calculating the total project cost and the applicant's non-federal cost-share. Pre-award costs proposed for consideration must comply with all applicable requirements under this NOFO.

Listed below are additional instructions for addressing the budget table "Budget Item Descriptions". Proposed project budgets may not have costs in each category. The categories are provided simply as a means to provide direction on the type of information to submit with the budget. If the budget includes expenses in these categories, follow the instructions provided. If the budget includes expenses in the "Other" category, provide information that describes how the budgeted amount was estimated, the assumptions it is based upon, etc. Multi-year projects are suitable for funding. For multi-year projects, identify costs and tasks to be conducted each year. In all cases, sufficient information should be provided to allow a determination that the budget is fair and reasonable for the proposed activity. An award will not be made to any applicant who fails to fully disclose and specify all project costs. Additionally, if more than one project option is proposed (i.e., a basic project and a potentially larger project), the budget table and narrative should make clear the costs and tasks to be completed under the basic and larger project options.

The basis of all costs in the SF-424 and the proposed budget should be documented and defensible in order for the HRP Managers and Grants Officers to determine fair and reasonable costs, regardless of whether a cost is funded by the HRP or another funding entity. This also applies to matching or in-kind costs.

If your application is selected for funding, a cost analysis will be conducted on the proposed budget prior to obligation of the award. Budgeted labor costs (labor categories, direct labor rates, hours per labor category) and fringe benefits, material costs by type, sub-recipient costs, travel, and any other direct and indirect costs are subject to evaluation. Recipients may be contacted by a Cost Analyst requesting supporting documentation for the estimated costs in the SF-424 and budget. In preparation for the cost analysis, applicants should be prepared to provide evidence of prior experience or market research that was used to develop project cost estimates (i.e. copies of invoices and salary cost breakdowns from prior similar projects) for ANY costs displayed in the SF-424 and the proposal

project budget. That requirement may also apply to funds offered as cost-share by the applicant or other partner.

For land protection projects, the HRP cannot pay for land management endowments.

For additional information, see all applicable circulars related to federal financial assistance budget and audit requirements, including but not limited to:

2 CFR 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards

Salaries and Wages – Indicate the project manager and other key personnel by name and title. Other personnel may be indicated by title alone. For all positions, indicate salaries and wages, estimated hours or percent of time, and rate of compensation proposed. The labor rates should identify the direct labor rate separate from the fringe rate or fringe cost. All labor estimates, including any proposed subcontractors, should be allocated to specific objectives as outlined in the recipient’s technical proposal description.

Clearly identify any expected salary increases over the duration of the project, the effective date, and justification for any increase.

Generally, salaries of administrative and/or clerical personnel should be included as a portion of indirect costs. If these salaries can be adequately documented as direct costs, (directly attributable to a project cost item), they may be included in this section. In order to do so, an explanation must be included in the budget narrative.

Fringe Benefits – Indicate rates/amounts, the costs to be included (i.e., retirement, vacation, health insurance, overtime, etc.), and the basis of the rate computations. Indicate whether these rates are used for purposes of the proposed project only, or whether they are fixed or provisional rates for billing purposes. Federally-approved rate agreements are acceptable as rate computation support.

Travel – Include the purpose of the trip, destination, number of personnel traveling, length of stay and all travel costs including airfare (basis for rate used), per diem, lodging, and miscellaneous travel expenses. Unless otherwise justified, costs should be based on GSA mileage and per diem rates. If not, documentation should be provided showing the basis of the rates (i.e. market research, past performance, past costs, written travel policy procedures).

Equipment –Per 2CFR 200.33, “equipment” is considered to be necessary items purchased for the project that exceeds \$5,000.00 in cost. Items purchased for up to \$5,000.00 are considered to be supplies or materials. Itemize costs of all equipment and include information as to the need for this equipment. Specify

whether the equipment is being rented or purchased. Successful applicants may be asked to provide a written copy of their procurement policy procedures.

How was equipment priced if being purchased specifically for the grant? If equipment is to be rented, specify the number of hours and the hourly rate. Local rental rates are only accepted for equipment actually rented or leased for the project. If equipment owned by the applicant is proposed for use and the cost to use that equipment is included in the budget as in-kind cost share, provide the rates and hours for each piece of equipment owned and budgeted. These should be ownership rates developed by the grant Recipient for each piece of equipment.

If these rates are not available, the U. S. Army Corps of Engineer's recommended equipment rates for the region are acceptable. Blue book, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and other data bases should not be used. Indicate what type of market research was performed to come up with the estimated cost.

Supplies and Materials – Supplies or materials are necessary items purchased for the project that cost up-to and including \$5,000.00. Items that exceed \$5,000.00 are considered equipment. Itemize supplies and materials by major category, quantity, and purpose, such as whether the items are needed for office use, research, or field use.

Contractual – Identify all work that will be conducted by subrecipients, consultants, or contractors, including a detailed budget estimate of time, rates, supplies, and materials that will be required for the task. If a subrecipient, consultant, or contractor is proposed and approved at the time of award, no other approvals will be required. Any changes or additions will require a request for approval.

Environmental and Regulatory Compliance Costs - Reference all environmental and regulatory costs to be incurred by the award recipient (i.e. State and local permits) that will not be covered by the Service or Reclamation. The Service and Reclamation will be responsible for fulfilling all federal regulatory compliance requirements.

Other – Any other expenses, such as those for reporting or for the purchase of land not included in the above categories shall be listed in this category, along with a description of the item and what it will be used for.

No profit or fee is allowed.

Note: Contingency costs are not allowed unless it can be demonstrated that the costs will be incurred. They cannot be costs that a recipient believes might incur. In order for contingency costs to be allowed, the awardee must demonstrate the probability of incurring these costs, and show that the percentage or cost amount is derived from past performance of similar work. The preferred alternative for

covering unanticipated project costs that occur after the financial assistance agreement has been awarded is to seek approval for payment of those costs by the Grants Officer, then modify the grant or cooperative agreement to provide additional funds to cover those costs.

Indirect Cost – Show the proposed rate, cost base, and proposed amount for allowable indirect costs based on the applicable circular cost principles for the recipient’s organization. It is not acceptable to simply incorporate indirect rates within other direct cost line items.

Indirect costs that will be incurred during the development or implementation of a project, which will not otherwise be recovered, may be included as part of the applicant’s cost share. Indirect costs are those: (1) incurred for a common or joint purpose benefiting more than one cost objective, and (2) not readily assignable to any one cost objective. If the recipient has separate rates for recovery of labor overhead and general and administrative costs, each rate shall be shown. The applicant should propose rates for evaluation purposes, which will be used as fixed or ceiling rates in any resulting award.

If the Recipient of a financial assistance award proposes indirect costs in the budget, upon award they must either supply a copy of a current federally Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) from the Interior Business Center (IBC) or their Cognizant Government Agency, or obtain an agreement within 1 year of award. If the Recipient does not have a federally approved NICRA, they may use a Cost Allocation Plan (CAP) which is not the same as an indirect cost rate. The Code of Federal Regulations 2 CFR Part 200 allows the use of a CAP in lieu of a NICRA with IBC or a Cognizant Government Agency. A CAP takes the indirect cost pool and divides it amongst the amounts of contracts the Recipient has, allocating all indirect costs over the contracts. A CAP still has to be approved by IBC or their Cognizant Government Agency. If a CAP is used, the Recipient must provide a copy of the approval letter. If a project is selected for funding and a NICRA is either not in place or will not be obtained, the Recipient will need to charge a flat indirect rate of 10% of the modified total direct costs.

If unapproved rates are used, explain why, and include the computational basis for the indirect expense pool and corresponding allocation base for each rate. Information on “preparing and submitting indirect cost proposals” is available from the Department of Interior, the National Business Center, and indirect cost section, at <https://www.doi.gov/ibc/services/finance/indirect-cost-services>.

Total Cost – Indicate the total cost of the proposed project, including the amount requested from the HRP, and the federal and non-federal (partner cost-share and in-kind) amounts.

D.3. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management

All applicants (unless the applicant has an exception approved by Reclamation under 2 CFR §25.110[d]) are required to:

- (1) Be registered in the System for Award Management (SAM) before submitting its application;
- (2) Provide a valid unique entity identifier in its application; and
- (3) Continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active Federal award or an application or plan under consideration by a Federal awarding agency.

Meeting the requirements set forth above is mandatory. If the applicant is unable to complete registration by the application deadline, the unique entity identifier must be obtained, and SAM registration must be initiated within 30 days after the application deadline in order to be considered for selection and award.

Reclamation will not make a Federal award to an applicant until the applicant has complied with all applicable unique entity identifier and SAM requirements and, if an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements by the time Reclamation is ready to make an award, Reclamation may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive a Federal award and use that determination as a basis for making a Federal award to another applicant. See <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration/step-2-register-with-sam.html> for more information. Personalized support is available through the grants.gov Contact Center at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/support.html>.

D.4. Submission Date and Time

The application submission deadline is April 27, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time. Applications received after this date and time will not be considered unless it is determined that the delay was caused by Reclamation mishandling or technical issues with the Grants.gov application system.

Applications should be either (1) submitted electronically through www.grants.gov; (2) mailed to include three paper copies; or (3) hand-delivered to include three paper copies. In order to safeguard the security of electronic information, www.grants.gov utilizes E-Authentication, the federal program that ensures secure transactions. If you are filing electronically on www.grants.gov, you may submit your application any time after you receive your E-Authentication credentials.

Applicants are not limited to one application submission. Any number of applications may be submitted by each applicant.

Applicants choosing to submit an application through the mail should submit the full application package to the following person and address:

Bureau of Reclamation
Attn: Teresa Brown, CGB-3839
2800 Cottage Way, Room E-1815
Sacramento CA 95825-1898
(916) 978-5049

Applications selected for funding may be reviewed by an agency Cost Analyst. Applicants should be prepared to provide written documentation of market research conducted to support the basis of all project costs in accordance with 2 CFR 200. When preparing project budget estimates, applicants may include as part of their project budget as much as 10% for labor cost to collect and prepare the requested cost documentation.

Applications must be submitted as a complete package. Materials arriving separately will not be included in the application package for consideration and may result in the application being considered ineligible. Mailing materials, package, or packing envelopes containing the application should reference NOFO number BOR-CGB-21-F005. Faxed and emailed copies of applications will not be accepted.

Please note that any application submitted for funding under this NOFO may be subjected to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request (5 U.S.C. Section 552 as amended by P.L. No. 110-175), and as a result, may be made publicly available.

D.5. Intergovernmental Review

This NOFO is subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs." A list of states that have elected to participate in the intergovernmental review process is at www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/SPOC-February-2019.pdf. For applications in which a State cost-share will be provided, applicants must contact their state's Single Point of Contact (SPOC) to find out about and comply with the state's process under Executive Order 12372. The names and addresses of the SPOCs are listed in the Office of Management and Budget's website, www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/SPOC-February-2019.pdf.

D.6. Automated Standard Application for Payments Registration

All applicants must also be registered with and willing to process all payments through the Department of Treasury Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP) system. All recipients with active financial assistance agreements with Reclamation must be enrolled in ASAP under the appropriate Agency Location Code(s) and the Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Number System (DUNS) Number prior to the award of funds. If a recipient has multiple DUNS numbers, they must separately enroll within ASAP for each unique DUNS Number and/or Agency. The DUNS number must be included in the data entry field labeled “Organizational Duns” on the form SF-424. Instructions for obtaining a DUNS number can be found at the following website: <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform/displayHomePage.do>.

Note that if your entity is currently enrolled in the ASAP system with an agency other than Reclamation, you must enroll specifically with Reclamation in order to process payments.

Section E. Application Review Information

E.1. Evaluation Criteria

The HRP has established **Priority Actions** related to CVP impacted federally listed species, their habitats, and corresponding geographic areas. They reflect the most current evaluation of species needs and habitat trends, and are complementary to other on-going conservation actions within the Central Valley. They also take into account historical levels of investment by the HRP, as well as future threats to specific ecosystems. Priority Actions have been developed for land protection, habitat restoration, research, and captive propagation and/or reintroduction projects. Well-conceived and clearly written technical proposals must address these Priority Actions. The Priority Actions are listed in order of preference within each activity category. The number of points assigned to each Priority Action within each project category during the scoring process is indicated in parentheses with the Priority Action.

E.1.1. Land Protection Priority Actions

Applicants should strongly consider and/or incorporate the following guidelines and other information into their land protection proposals:

- Proposals must focus on “High” or “Very High” HRP Priority Species, unless otherwise specifically called for in a Priority Action.
- Parcels proposed for fee title acquisition or conservation easements having documented occurrences of CVP impacted federally listed species will likely rank higher than those that do not.
- The parcel(s) to be acquired should be specifically identified by location in the proposal; the willing seller should be identified; and evidence of landowner support for selling the property or conservation easement to be acquired should be provided in the application (i.e., landowner letter or email message expressing support).
- Restrictions and covenants.
 - Applicants should make a good faith effort to identify restrictive covenants and zoning conditions for properties before submitting proposals for fee title acquisition. This will help eliminate any possible threats to the legal and full ownership of the property on behalf of the new buyer.
 - For proposals that involve the purchase of an interest in real property, whether in fee title or conservation easement, the proposal should document that there is evidence of title sufficient to demonstrate that the interest to be purchased will be properly vested in the party purchasing the interest. Applicants should refer to the U.S. Department of Justice’s (USDOJ) “Title Standards 2001” (March 23, 2001 reprint) for a description of what would be adequate evidence of title to satisfy a grant award. The USDOJ Title Standards 2001 is available online at:

<https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/enrd/legacy/2011/03/28/2001-title-standards.pdf>

Applicants do not need to submit a copy of the title or title insurance with their application.

- If title restrictions are present, applicants should describe why the restrictions would not impair their ability to acquire, protect, and manage the property for the benefit of CVP impacted species.
- If species surveys were conducted on, or in the vicinity of, the property parcel(s) to be acquired, name any special status species observed, and provide a map/figure showing the locations of the species occurrences/observations.
- If a land protection proposal is selected, appraisals of parcels for fee title acquisition or conservation easement must be completed under the supervision of the Department of Interior's Appraisal and Valuation Services Office (AVSO) to ensure appraisals meet DOI requirements. Appraisals submitted without DOI/AVSO review before the appraisal is conducted will not be approved for use. AVSO guidelines require the appraisal be done using the U.S. Department of Justice's "Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions" ("Yellow Book Appraisal Standards").

Specific Land Protection Priority Actions

(1) *Permanently protect San Joaquin Valley floor and rangeland habitats.*

Protect through fee title or conservation easement, alkali sink, alkali scrub, remnant historical sand dunes, and valley native grassland habitat located on the floor of the San Joaquin Valley, including the Panoche Valley and Carrizo Plains, that contributes to the core and satellite population areas and habitat linkages and corridors for San Joaquin kit fox, blunt-nosed leopard lizard, Tipton kangaroo rat, giant kangaroo rat, Fresno kangaroo rat, and Buena Vista Lake ornate shrew, and federally listed plant species, specifically California jewelflower, palmate-bracted bird's beak, Kern mallow, San Joaquin woolly-threads, Hartweg's golden sunburst, and Bakersfield cactus. Protection of habitat for these species is a key conservation measure necessary to move towards recovery and future delisting. Proposals should emphasize how the proposed project will assist with implementation of high priority recovery tasks as described in the *Recovery Plan for Upland Species of the San Joaquin Valley, California* (USFWS 1998) and/or priority actions identified in corresponding 5-year status reviews. (9 points)

(2) *Permanently protect non-vernal pool wetlands and associated water supply, riparian habitat, and associated uplands supporting the giant garter snake within the historical range of this species in Merced, Fresno, and southern Sacramento counties.* Protection will be through fee title or conservation easement. Actions must emphasize large-scale habitat connectivity and address how perennial water will be secured, how water quality will be improved, and how clean water will be provided to existing populations of giant garter snakes. Protection of habitat for this species is a key conservation measure necessary to move towards recovery and future delisting. Proposals that focus on riparian

corridors must demonstrate that the riparian areas will support giant garter snake dispersal and how the corridors will provide linkage between existing giant garter snake populations. Proposals should emphasize implementation of appropriate priority one and two tasks from the *Revised Draft Recovery Plan for the Giant Garter Snake* (USFWS 2015). Proposals that simultaneously address the breeding habitat needs of the tricolored blackbird are particularly requested. (9 points)

(3) *Permanently protect habitat supporting the California red-legged frog in the Sierra Nevada foothills in El Dorado, Amador, and Calaveras counties.*

Protection through fee title or conservation easement of both aquatic and upland habitat supporting existing populations of California red-legged frog in Sierra Nevada foothill habitats. Protection of habitat for this species is a key conservation measure necessary to move towards recovery and future delisting. Proposed lands must be demonstrated as free of bullfrog occurrences. Proposals should also emphasize current and future management plans to maintain aquatic habitat. (6 points)

(4) *Permanently protect breeding habitat supporting the California tiger salamander in Yolo County.*

Protect through fee title or conservation easement, breeding habitat that supports existing populations of California tiger salamander within designated critical habitat, or is adjacent to other protected occurrences of California tiger salamander in Yolo County. Protection of habitat for this species is a key conservation measure necessary to move towards recovery and future delisting. Proposals should emphasize implementation of appropriate priority one and two tasks found in the implementation schedule of the *Recovery Plan for the Central California Distinct Population Segment of the California Tiger Salamander* (*Ambystoma californiense*) (USFWS 2017). (6 points)

(5) *Permanently protect vernal pool habitat in Butte, Stanislaus, Madera, San Joaquin, Merced, Sacramento, or Tehama counties.* Protect through fee title or conservation easement, existing natural vernal pool complexes supporting listed vernal pool species in Zone 1 and Zone 2 Core Areas in Butte, Stanislaus, Madera, San Joaquin, Merced, Sacramento, or Tehama counties as described in the *Recovery Plan for Vernal Pool Ecosystems of California and Southern Oregon* (USFWS 2005). Sites that are currently inhabited by federally listed species with very limited ranges are of particular interest. Protection of habitat for these species is a key conservation measure necessary to move towards recovery and future delisting. Proposals must protect lands that will complement existing protected lands and contribute to protection of contiguous blocks of habitat. Proposals should emphasize implementation of appropriate priority one and two tasks found in the implementation schedule of the *Recovery Plan for Vernal Pool Ecosystems of California and Southern Oregon* (USFWS 2005). (3 points)

(6) *Permanently protect grassland habitats supporting existing populations of large-flowered fiddleneck in Alameda, Contra Costa, and San Joaquin counties.* Previous projects funded through this program have resulted in

establishment of new populations of this rare species and have identified habitat types that are the best targets for future conservation and recovery efforts. Proposals will be considered that protect and preserve existing habitat and provide for the protection and management of occupied habitats. Protection of habitat for this species is a key conservation measure necessary to move towards recovery and future delisting. Proposals should also emphasize current and future vegetation management to reduce invasive plants and benefit the large-flowered fiddleneck as well as how the large-flowered fiddleneck population would be monitored into the future. Proposals should be consistent with priority conservation actions described in the Large-flowered Fiddleneck Recovery Plan and/or large-flowered fiddleneck 5-year status review. (3 points)

(7) *Permanently protect habitat supporting federally listed plants in the Sierra Nevada foothills in Sutter, Yuba, Placer, El Dorado, Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne, Mariposa, Madera, Fresno, Tulare, and Kern counties.* Protection through fee title or conservation easement of habitat supporting existing populations of federally listed plants in Sierra Nevada foothill grassland habitats. These lands must contribute to protection of the federally threatened Chinese Camp brodiaea, Ione buckwheat, Ione manzanita, Stebbins' morning glory, Pine Hill flannelbush, Pine Hill ceanothus, Layne's butterweed, El Dorado bedstraw, Red Hills vervain, Mariposa pussypaws, Springville clarkia, Hartweg's golden sunburst, San Joaquin adobe sunburst, and/or Keck's checkermallow. Protection of habitat for these species is a key conservation measure necessary to move towards recovery and future delisting. Proposals should include at least one species that is a HRP Priority of medium, high, or very high as indicated on the HRP, and also emphasize current and future vegetation management to reduce invasive plants and benefit target species. (3 points)

(8) *Permanently protect serpentine soil and associated habitats supporting endemic species, such as the bay checkerspot butterfly and serpentine plants, in Santa Clara County.* Previous projects funded through this program have showed great success in advancing conservation goals and have resulted in substantial habitat protection and restoration for serpentine species and have also resulted in re-establishing a population of bay checkerspot butterflies on San Bruno Mountain. Proposals will be considered that protect and preserve existing habitat and provide for the protection and management of occupied habitats as well as unoccupied serpentine grasslands that act as corridors or stepping stones between known populations of bay checkerspot butterfly and other listed serpentine species. Protection of habitat for these species is a key conservation measure necessary to move towards recovery and future delisting. Proposals should emphasize implementation of priority one and two tasks for serpentine species found in the Implementation Schedule in the *Recovery Plan for Serpentine Soil Species of the San Francisco Bay Area* (USFWS 1998). (3 points)

(9) *Other fee title or conservation easement acquisitions that address HRP goals of protecting, enhancing, and restoring CVP impacted federally listed species,*

their populations, and their habitats within the HRP Priority Project Area map boundary. See the HRP website for priority habitat types and species that are targeted for land acquisition actions:

<https://www.usbr.gov/mp/cvpcp/species/index.html>. (0 points)

E.1.2. Habitat Restoration Priority Actions

Applicants should strongly consider and/or incorporate the following guidelines and other information into their habitat restoration proposals:

- For a habitat restoration project to qualify under a Priority Action, projects proposed for funding must:
 - Pertain to the restoration or enhancement of native plant and animal communities.
 - Pertain to the ecosystem functions and values to which the species targeted in the Priority Actions are adapted.
 - Focus the restoration primarily on CVP impacted species.
- Proposals must focus on “High” or “Very High” HRP Priority Species, unless otherwise specifically called for in a Priority Action.
- The parcel(s) to be restored should be specifically identified by location in the proposal; the landowner should be identified; and evidence of landowner support for the project should be provided in the proposal (i.e., landowner letter or email message expressing support).
- If species surveys have been conducted in the area of the proposed project, indicate on the project map/figure the locations of any special status species observed.

Specific Habitat Restoration Priority Actions

(1) Restoration of sand dune habitat in San Joaquin Valley supporting federally listed plants. The condition of historical sand dune habitat in the San Joaquin Valley is threatened by encroachment of invasive plants that negatively affect rare and listed plant species. Actions will be considered that provide for restoration, removal of invasive plants, and management on remnant dune habitats in the San Joaquin Valley that support Bakersfield cactus and San Joaquin woolly-threads. Restoration of dune habitat will advance conservation and recovery efforts for these species and can also help in conserving species before there is a need for listing under the federal endangered species act. Projects that focus on dune systems of greater than 50 acres and additionally address the conservation needs of the San Joaquin Valley giant flower-loving fly are particularly requested. (9 points)

(2) Restoration or creation of non-vernal pool wetlands and associated water supply, riparian habitat, and associated uplands supporting the giant garter snake within the historical range of this species in Merced, Fresno, and southern Sacramento counties. Actions must emphasize large-scale habitat connectivity and address how perennial water will be consistently secured annually, how water

quality will be improved, and how clean water will be provided to existing populations of giant garter snakes. Proposals that focus on riparian corridors must demonstrate that the riparian areas will support giant garter snake dispersal and how the corridors will provide linkage for existing giant garter snake populations. Restoration of non-vernal pool wetland habitat will advance conservation and recovery efforts for the giant garter snake and can also help in conserving species before there is a need for listing under the federal endangered species act. Proposals should emphasize implementation of appropriate priority one and two tasks from the *Revised Draft Recovery Plan for the Giant Garter Snake* (USFWS 2015). Proposals that simultaneously address the breeding habitat needs of the tricolored blackbird are particularly requested. (9 points)

(3) *San Joaquin Valley ecosystem restoration that results in alkali sink, alkali scrub, and valley native grassland habitat.* Restoration of alkali sink, alkali scrub, and valley native grassland habitat located in the San Joaquin Valley that contributes to species recovery will be considered. The restoration effort should benefit core and satellite population areas (see *Recovery Plan for Upland Species of the San Joaquin Valley, California* [USFWS 1998]) and emphasize habitat connectivity for the following federally listed animal and plant species: San Joaquin kit fox, blunt-nosed leopard lizard, Tipton kangaroo rat, giant kangaroo rat, Buena Vista Lake ornate shrew, California jewelflower, palmate-bracted bird's beak, Kern mallow, San Joaquin woolly-threads, Hartweg's golden sunburst, or Bakersfield cactus. Areas selected for restoration should demonstrate presence of one or more of the species noted above. Restoration efforts should also benefit habitat linkages and corridors of the listed animal species. Restoration of San Joaquin Valley floor habitat will advance conservation and recovery efforts for these species. Proposals should emphasize priority one and two tasks for these species found in the *Recovery Plan for Upland Species of the San Joaquin Valley, California* (USFWS 1998) and/or priority actions identified in corresponding 5-year status reviews. (6 points)

(4) *Restoration of riparian habitat and natural river process that support existing occurrences of yellow-billed cuckoo in the Sacramento Valley.* Actions must emphasize restoration of suitable habitat for yellow-billed cuckoos and the hydrological process that maintain these habitats. Restoration of riparian breeding habitat for yellow-billed cuckoo is important for establishing persistent populations of the species in the Sacramento Valley and helping to achieve conservation and recovery goals. Proposals should also address connectivity among habitat patches in the Sacramento Valley and how the proposed restoration will support extant occurrences and promote connectivity among habitat patches. Proposals that simultaneously address the habitat needs of the valley elderberry longhorn beetle are particularly requested. (3 points)

(5) *Restoration of vernal pool habitat and associated native grasslands in Butte, Stanislaus, Madera, San Joaquin, Merced, Sacramento, or Tehama counties.* Proposals will be considered that restore existing natural vernal pool complexes

and associated native grasslands supporting listed vernal pool species in Zone 1 and Zone 2 Core Areas in Butte, Stanislaus, Madera, San Joaquin, Merced, Sacramento, or Tehama counties as described in the *Recovery Plan for Vernal Pool Ecosystems of California and Southern Oregon* (USFWS 2005). Proposals must restore lands that will complement existing protected lands and contribute to protection of contiguous blocks of habitat. Restoration of vernal pool habitats will advance conservation and recovery efforts for these species. Proposals should emphasize implementation of appropriate priority one and two tasks found in the Implementation Schedule of the *Recovery Plan for Vernal Pool Ecosystems of California and Southern Oregon* (USFWS 2005). Proposals that simultaneously address the breeding habitat needs of the tricolored blackbird are particularly requested. (3 points)

(6) *Restoration of serpentine soil and associated habitats supporting endemic species, such as the bay checkerspot butterfly and serpentine plants throughout out their historical range.* Proposals will be considered that restore suitable habitat and provide for the management of occupied habitats as well as unoccupied serpentine grasslands that act as corridors or stepping stones between known populations of bay checkerspot butterfly and other listed serpentine species. Restoration of serpentine soil habitats will advance conservation and recovery efforts for these species. Proposals should emphasize implementation of priority one and two tasks for serpentine species found in the Implementation Schedule in the *Recovery Plan for Serpentine Soil Species of the San Francisco Bay Area* (USFWS 1998) and/or priority actions identified in corresponding 5-year status reviews. (3 points)

(7) *Other habitat restoration or enhancement that addresses HRP goals of protecting, enhancing, and restoring CVP impacted federally listed species populations and their habitats within the HRP project area map boundary.* See the HRP website for priority habitat types and species that are targeted for restoration actions: <https://www.usbr.gov/mp/cvpcp/species/index.html>. (0 points)

E.1.3. Research Priority Actions

Applicants should strongly consider and/or incorporate the following guidelines and other information into their research proposals:

- Proposals must focus on “High” or “Very High” HRP Priority Species, unless otherwise specifically called for in a Priority Action.
- This NOFO seeks to fund research in which a methodical scientific study is performed on a hypothesis relating to a specific information need concerning one or more federally listed CVP impacted species, experimentation to demonstrate the truth or falseness of the hypothesis, and a conclusion that validates or modifies the hypothesis.

- At a minimum, all proposals submitted under a research Priority Action must adhere to the following:
 - Include a clear and detailed study methodology.
 - Include a clear hypothesis(es) as applicable (see above).
 - Describe how deliverables would increase current and future protection and/or restoration of species or habitats impacted by the CVP (see more details below).
 - Describe how the research findings would benefit federally listed species.
- Research should demonstrate an explicit tie to the HRP intent to fund research that effectively links results to improved or refined future management, restoration, and land protection decisions for the HRP. **Applicants submitting research proposals should describe how the proposed project would accomplish one or more of the following:**
 - Help determine *which* habitats should be protected and/or restored to most benefit HRP High or Very High priority species/habitats.
 - Help identify specific properties to be protected and/or restored to most benefit HRP High or Very High priority species/habitats (i.e. species surveys).
 - Help determine *how* habitats should be restored to most benefit HRP High or Very High priority species/habitats.
 - Help gauge the biological responses to restoration projects that most benefit HRP High or Very High priority species/habitats.
- Multi-phase projects should detail how adequate data collection would be achieved if successive years are not funded. For projects having multiple phases which depend on future funding for success, the budget should be itemized for each year of research. If selected, multi-phase projects will be considered based on prior performance and funding availability. If permits would be required to undertake the research, proposals should address how those permits are to be obtained.
- All research proposals will be independently evaluated by experts in the scientific community on the various research topics proposed
- If applicable, describe circumstances of known access vs. unknown access to lands on which the research would be conducted. For example:
 - Describe which lands have access granted and which lands do not.
 - Address how potentially not obtaining access to lands would affect the results of the research.
 - When species surveys are proposed, specify how much (percentage) of the surveys, etc., would be conducted on private lands vs. public lands.
 - The parcel(s) on which research activities would occur should be specifically identified by location in the proposal; the landowner should be identified; and evidence of landowner support for the project should be provided in the application (i.e., landowner letter or email message of support).
 - If any animals would be held live in captivity during the course of the research/study, the applicant should describe in the proposal what would happen

to the animals after the study is completed, i.e., be returned to the wild, be kept in captivity, etc. For research on animals, recipients should comply with laws and regulations as stated in Section F.5 of this NOFO.

- Applicants who are considering submitting a research proposal that doesn't meet one of the Priority Actions are encouraged to contact the HRP Program Managers before starting their proposal to learn whether the proposed research sufficiently meets program goals and priorities.

Specific Research Priority Actions

(1) *Investigations of disease dynamics, population level effects, and potential control strategies in San Joaquin kit fox populations in Bakersfield and surrounding areas.* Populations of the San Joaquin kit fox in the Bakersfield area (Kern County, California) have become infected, starting in 2013, with the *Sarcoptes scabiei* mite that has been fatal to the kit fox and difficult to treat. The origin and extent of the mite infestation is currently unknown; however, the range of the disease has expanded within the urban kit foxes around the City of Bakersfield within the last year as well as to the southeast in the town of Taft. Additionally, recent reports suggest that the species may also be affected by distemper. For mange, proposals should focus on: 1) how cases of mange can be managed or eliminated; 2) where cases are occurring elsewhere outside of Bakersfield and have not been detected (e.g., camera surveys and fecal assays would noninvasively detect mites); 3) the impact of mange on kit fox populations and reproduction (e.g., population viability analysis explicitly incorporating effects of mange and spatial spread); and 4) development and testing of treatments for control of mange. For distemper, proposal should focus on the extent of known occurrences in kit fox and whether the current reports represent a significant new disease outbreak. Understanding the effects of ongoing disease epidemics on San Joaquin kit fox populations and methods for limiting mortality are critical for all future recovery actions. These efforts will contribute to ongoing habitat protections by providing methodologies that assist in establishing long-term, sustainable populations of the San Joaquin kit fox. (9 points)

(2) *Other habitat research that addresses HRP goals of protecting, enhancing, and restoring CVP impacted federally listed species populations and their habitats within the HRP project area map boundary.* See the HRP website for priority habitat types and species that are targeted for research actions: <https://www.usbr.gov/mp/cvpcp/species/index.html>. (0 points)

E.1.4. Captive Propagation and/or Reintroduction Priority Actions

Applicants should strongly consider and/or incorporate the following guidelines and other information into their captive propagation and/or reintroduction proposals:

- Proposals must focus on “High” or “Very High” HRP Priority Species.

- The focus of this category is on projects for which a critical component to the recovery of a federally listed CVP impacted species is the capture, propagation, and reintroduction of the species into its native habitat.
- If any species would be held live in captivity during the course of the research/study, the applicant should describe in the proposal what would happen to the individuals after the study is completed, i.e., be returned to the wild, be kept in captivity, etc. For captive breeding of animals, recipients should comply with laws and regulations as stated in Section F.5 of this NOFO.
- If the proposal includes implementation of reintroductions in addition to a reintroduction plan, then specific reintroduction site(s) should be identified by location in the proposal; the landowner should be identified; and written approval for the reintroduction from the landowner of the proposed reintroduction site(s) as well as from the landowner of the species' donor site should be included with the application (i.e., landowner letter or email message of support).
- The requirements in the prior bullet for the reintroduction area should also be included from the area where the species are collected, if pertinent.
- As a general rule, only reintroductions taking place on permanently protected land will be considered for funding unless a compelling reason exists for reintroductions to occur on unprotected lands.

Specific Captive Propagation and/or Reintroduction Priority Actions

(1) ***Captive propagation efforts that address HRP goals of protecting, enhancing, and restoring CVP impacted federally listed species populations and their habitats within the HRP project area map boundary.*** See the HRP website for priority habitat types and species that are targeted for such actions: <https://www.usbr.gov/mp/cvpcp/species/index.html>. (0 points)

E.2. Review and Selection Process

The Federal government reserves the right to reject any and all applications that do not meet the requirements or objectives of this NOFO. Awards will be made for projects most advantageous to the Federal Government. Award selection may be made to maintain balance among the eligible projects listed in this NOFO. The evaluation process will be comprised of the steps described in the following subsections.

All applications are evaluated, scored, and ranked by the HRP Technical Team, comprised of state and federal agency biologists and Program Managers whose technical expertise spans the range of topics included in the NOFO. The Technical Team evaluates and provides qualitative and unambiguous ratings of each application by utilizing scoring criteria described in Section D.2.2, page 11, to evaluate applications, and makes recommendations on which applications should be selected for funding.

Technical proposals will be evaluated, scored, and ranked by the HRP Applicant Review Committee in accordance with the following Program Scoring Criteria:

(1) **CVP Nexus:** No points given, but the criterion is considered during the proposal evaluation process.

(2) **Department of the Interior Priorities:** Points are awarded based on whether, if at all, the proposed project meets DOI priorities.

0 = The proposed project does not meet at least one DOI priority

6 = The proposed project meets at least one DOI priority

(3) **Program Priority Action:** Points are awarded as specified for each Priority Action within each project activity category in Section E.1.

(4) **Federally Listed Species Benefits** (includes species Proposed for Listing):

0 = No benefits to federally listed/proposed species

1-2 = Minimal benefits to federally listed/proposed species

3-4 = Moderate benefits to federally listed/proposed species

5-6 = Major benefits to federally listed/proposed species

(5) **State Listed Species Benefits:**

0 = No benefits to State listed species

1 = Minimal benefits to State listed species

2 = Moderate benefits to State listed species

3 = Major benefits to State listed species

(6) **Benefits to Special Status Designated Species that are not Federal or State Listed and not Proposed for Listing:**

0 = No benefits to other designated species

1 = Minimal benefits to other designated species

2 = Moderate benefits to other designated species

3 = Major benefits to other designated species

(7) **Habitats/Biodiversity:** (applicable to Land Protection and Habitat Restoration proposals only)

0 = None

1-2 = Minimal

3-4 = Moderate

5-6 = Major

(8) Cumulative Benefit:

- 0 = None
- 1 = Minimal
- 2 = Moderate
- 3 = Major

(9) Long-term Benefit:

- 0 = None
- 1 = Minimal
- 2 = Moderate
- 3 = Major

(10) Project Site Connectivity: (Applicable to Land Protection and Habitat Restoration proposals only)

- 0 = Nearest protected habitat is greater than 5 miles away
- 1 = Nearest protected habitat is between 2 and 5 miles away
- 2 = Nearest protected habitat is within 2 miles
- 3 = Protected habitat is adjacent to the project site

(11) Partners:

- 0 = Other partners bear less than 1% of the total project cost
- 1 = Other partners bear 1-10% of the total project cost
- 2 = Other partners bear 11-20% of the total project cost
- 3 = Other partners bear 21-30% of the total project cost
- 4 = Other partners bear 31-40% of the total project cost
- 5 = Other partners bear 41-50% of the total project cost
- 6 = Other partners bear greater than 50% of the total project cost

(12) Level of CVP Impacts:

- 0 = None
- 2 = Minimal
- 4 = Moderate
- 6 = Major

(13) Project Urgency:

- 0 = None
- 3 = Minimal
- 6 = Moderate
- 9 = Major

(14) Technical Merit and Completeness of Proposal:

0 = None
1-2 = Minimal
3-4 = Moderate
5-6 = Major

(15) Scientific Merit: (Applicable to Research Project Proposals only) :

0 = None
1-3 = Minimal
4-6 = Moderate
7-9 = Major

E.3. Anticipated Announcement and Federal Award Date

Reclamation and the Service expect to notify potential Fiscal Year 2021 and 2022 award recipients during December 2020. Notification letters will be sent to unsuccessful applicants during the same time frame. Financial assistance agreements will be awarded to applicants that successfully pass all pre-award reviews and clearances. Decisions about which applicants will be offered an award, pending appropriations to the Program, will be made by HRP managers upon approval by Reclamation and Service management. In addition to application review, scoring, and ranking by the Applicant Review Committee, other considerations include, but are not limited to:

- (1) Actions funded by the HRP are opportunity-driven. Funding decisions are often dependent on the number and scope of applications received in a given year.
- (2) Past performance of an applicant is considered during project selection. Poor performance during implementation of past grants or cooperative agreements will weigh against an applicant's receipt of future funding, and can disqualify an applicant from eligibility for receiving HRP funds.
- (3) Project feasibility is considered during application selection. Program Managers determine whether a project would result in real benefits to species in a cost-effective manner before making funding decisions.
- (4) Applications which address targeted Priority Actions (Sections E.1.1 through E.1.4) may be more favorably considered than those that do not.

Section F. Federal Award Administration Information

F.1. Federal Award Notices

Successful applicants will receive a notice of award of a grant or cooperative agreement by electronic mail notifying the applicant that they are being considered for a project award. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified by mail. Notification is sent to the applicant official who signed the SF-424.

Successful applicants will be notified as soon as possible upon selection. However, note that financial assistance and environmental compliance requirements can take a substantial amount of time to be completed before project work can begin.

F.2. Reporting Requirements and Distribution

If a financial assistance agreement is executed as a result of this NOFO, the applicant will be required to submit the following reports on at least a semi-annual basis during the term of the financial assistance agreement.

F.2.1. Financial Reports

Federal financial reports shall be submitted by means of the SF-425 and shall be submitted according to the Report Frequency and Distribution schedule outlined in the financial assistance agreement.

F.2.2. Interim Performance Reports

Program Performance Reports shall be submitted according to the Report Frequency and Distribution schedule outlined in the Financial Assistance Agreement, and shall include the following:

- Comparison of actual accomplishments to the milestones established by the Agreement for the period. Where the accomplishments of the federal award can be quantified, a computation of the cost (for example, related to units of accomplishment) may be required if that information will be useful. Where performance trend data and analysis would be informative to the federal awarding agency program, the federal awarding agency should include this as a performance reporting requirement:
- Reasons why established milestones were not met, if applicable
- Status of milestones from the previous reporting period that were not met, if applicable

- Whether the project is on schedule and within the original cost estimate
- Additional pertinent information including, where appropriate, analysis and explanation of cost overruns / high unit costs, or issues related to the status of the project.

F.3. Conflicts of Interest

F.3.1. Applicability

(a) 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.

(b) In the procurement of supplies, equipment, construction, and services by recipients and by subrecipients, the conflict of interest provisions in 2 CFR 200.318 apply.

F.3.2. Requirements

(a) Non-federal entities must avoid prohibited conflicts of interest, including any significant financial interests that could cause a reasonable person to question the recipient's ability to provide impartial, technically sound, and objective performance under or with respect to a federal financial assistance agreement.

(b) In addition to any other prohibitions that may apply with respect to conflicts of interest, no key official of an actual or proposed recipient or subrecipient, who is substantially involved in the proposal or project, may have been a former federal employee who, within the last one (1) year, participated personally and substantially in the evaluation, award, or administration of an award with respect to that recipient or subrecipient or in development of the requirement leading to the notice of funding.

(c) No actual or prospective recipient or subrecipient may solicit, obtain, or use non-public information regarding the evaluation, award, or administration of an award to that recipient or subrecipient or the development of a federal financial assistance opportunity that may be of competitive interest to that recipient or subrecipient.

F.3.3. Notification

(a) Non-federal entities, including applicants for financial assistance, must disclose in writing any conflict of interest to the DOI awarding agency or pass-through entity in accordance with 2 CFR 200.112, Conflicts of Interest.

(b) 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 subrecipients.

(c) Restrictions on Lobbying. Non-federal entities are strictly prohibited from using funds under this grant or cooperative agreement for lobbying activities and must provide the required certifications and disclosures pursuant to 43 CFR Part 18 and 31 USC 1352. Upon notification of selection for an award, successful applicants will be asked to submit a Standard Form SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities, before the award is granted.

(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.

F.3.4. 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 200.338, Remedies for Noncompliance, including suspension or debarment (see also 2 CFR Part 180).

F.4. Data Availability

F.4.1. Applicability

The Department of the Interior is committed to basing its decisions on the best available science and providing the American people with enough information to thoughtfully and substantively evaluate the data, methodology, and analysis used by the Department to inform its decisions. Information produced as a result of any grant may be subject to the requirements of the Office of Management and Budget Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review (70 FR 2664-2677), and Reclamation Policy CMP P14.

F.4.2. Use of Data

The regulations at 2 CFR 200.315 apply to data produced under a federal award, including the provision that the Federal Government has the right to obtain, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use the data produced under a federal award as

well as authorize others to receive, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use such data for federal purposes.

F.2.1. Availability of Data

The recipient shall make the data produced under this award and any subaward(s) available to the Government for public release, consistent with applicable law, to allow meaningful third party evaluation and reproduction of the following:

- The scientific data relied upon;
- The analysis relied upon; and
- The methodology, including models, used to gather and analyze data.

F.5. Environmental and Regulatory Compliance

Grant recipients are required to comply with all applicable local, state, and federal environmental, cultural, and paleontological resource protection laws and regulations. These may include, but are not limited to the: (1) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), including the Council on Environmental Quality and Department of the Interior regulations implementing NEPA; (2) Endangered Species Act (ESA); (3) Clean Water Act (CWA); (4) National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), (5) Laboratory Animal Welfare Act; (6) Marine Mammal Protection Act; (7) and Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act.

Reclamation and the Service are the lead federal agencies for NEPA compliance. They are responsible for determining the appropriate level of NEPA compliance, i.e. categorical exclusion or environmental assessment. However, a project proponent (or their contractor) should provide as much of the necessary information and data analyses as possible in order for the agencies to complete NEPA and other regulatory compliance in a timely manner. This information may include specifics about site disturbance, presence of listed species, archeological sites, past or on-going surveys, previously completed NEPA documentation associated with the project, etc. No work on approved projects may begin until all compliance and substantiating documents are completed.

The Service is the lead agency for ESA compliance (ESA) (16 U.S.C. §§ 1531 et seq.). Under Section 7 of the ESA, the Service must utilize its authority to conserve listed species and make sure that project activities do not jeopardize the continued existence of listed species.

Section 106 of the NHPA of 1966 requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties, and afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation a reasonable opportunity to comment. The

NHPA requires consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer, and could require consultation with potentially affected Tribes.

For research on and captive breeding of animals, recipients must comply with the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-544), as amended, (7 U.S.C. §§ 2131 et seq.) (animal acquisition, transport, care, handling, and use in projects), and implementing regulations, CFR Parts 1, 2, and 3; Marine Mammal Protection Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 1361 et seq.) (taking possession, transport, purchase, sale, export or import of wildlife and plants); the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 4701 et seq.) (ensure preventive measures are taken or that probable harm of using species is minimal if there is an escape or release); and all other applicable statutes pertaining to the care, handling, and treatment of animals held for research, teaching, or other activities supported by federal financial assistance.

In addition, applicants must obtain all required approvals and permits, and shall coordinate and obtain any approvals required from site owners and operators. Applicants should state in their proposals whether any permits or approvals (e.g., land access) are required, and explain the applicant's plan for obtaining such permits or approvals.

Section G. Agency Contacts

G.1. Financial Assistance Contact

Interested organizations or individuals with questions pertaining to this NOFO, having difficulties accessing forms/electronic addresses, or having questions pertaining to the SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance, may contact Reclamation's Grants Management Specialist:

Teresa Brown
Grants Management Specialist
Bureau of Reclamation, CGB-3839
2800 Cottage Way, Room E-1815
Sacramento CA 95825-1898
(916) 978-5049
Email: tebrown@usbr.gov

G.2. Program Coordination Contact

Applicants with questions about grant program project selection, program priorities, post-award land management responsibilities, etc., are encouraged to contact the Reclamation or Service HRP Program Manager. The contact information is:

Daniel Strait
HRP Manager
Bureau of Reclamation, CGB-152
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento CA 95825
(916) 978-5052
[Email: dstrait@usbr.gov](mailto:dstrait@usbr.gov)

Madeline Drake
HRP Manager
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825
(916) 414-6685
Email: madeline_drake@fws.gov

Section H. Literature Cited

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 1998. Recovery Plan for Upland Species of the San Joaquin Valley, California. Portland, Oregon. 319 pp.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 1999. Draft Recovery Plan for the Giant Garter Snake. Portland, Oregon. ix + 192 pp.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2005. Recovery Plan for Vernal Pool Ecosystems of California and Southern Oregon. Portland, Oregon. xxvi + 606 pp.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2012. Giant Garter Snake (*Thamnophis gigas*) 5-Year Review: Summary and Evaluation. Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Field Office, Sacramento, California. June.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2017. Recovery Plan for the Central California Distinct Population Segment of the California Tiger Salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*). U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pacific Southwest Region, Sacramento, California. v + 69pp.

Section I. Attachments

See the following pages.

Attachment 1. Example Species Benefits Table

This table should be used as a template to indicate benefits from the proposed project to Federal, State, and other designated species.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status ^a	State Status ^b	Other Designated Species ^c	Species Verified Presence (Y/N) ^d
<u>Plants</u>					
Palmate-bracted bird's beak	<i>Cordylanthus palmatus</i>	E	E		
Hairy orcutt grass	<i>Orcuttia pilosa</i>	E	E		
Greene's tuctoria	<i>Tuctoria greenei</i>	E	R		
Hoover's spurge	<i>Chamaesyce hooveri</i>	T			
<u>Invertebrates</u>					
Vernal pool tadpole shrimp	<i>Lepidurus packardi</i>	E			
Conservancy fairy shrimp	<i>Branchinecta conservatio</i>	E			
Vernal pool fairy shrimp	<i>Branchinecta lynchi</i>	T			
<u>Reptiles</u>					
Giant garter snake	<i>Thamnophis gigas</i>	T	T		
Western pond turtle	<i>Clemmys marmorata</i>			CSC	
<u>Birds</u>					
Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Delisted	E		
Swainson's hawk	<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>		T		
White-tailed kite	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>			FP	
Burrowing owl	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>			CSC	
Loggerhead shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>			CSC	
Tricolored blackbird	<i>Agelaius tricolor</i>			CSC	

^a E = federally listed as endangered; T= federally listed as threatened; P=federally proposed for listing.

^b E = state listed as endangered; R = state listed as rare; T = state listed as threatened; C = state listed as candidate.

^c = federally listed as candidate; CSC = California species of special concern; FP = California fully protected species.

^d The species should be documented as occurring on the property/parcel being proposed for protection and/or restoration, not just in the general geographic area.

Attachment 2. Sample Budget Table

BUDGET ITEM DESCRIPTION	COMPUTATION		RECIPIENT FUNDING	OTHER PARTNER FUNDING	RECLAMATION FUNDING	TOTAL COST
	\$/Unit and Unit	Quantity				
1. SALARIES AND WAGES --Position title x hourly wage/salary x est. hours for assisted activity. Describe this information for each position.						
i.e. Manager	\$50/hr.	200	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000	\$10,000
2. FRINGE BENEFITS – Explain the type of fringe benefits and how are they applied to various categories of personnel.						
i.e. 20% applies to all personnel	20%		\$2,000	\$0	\$0	\$2,000
3. TRAVEL—dates; location of travel; method of travel x estimated cost; who will travel						
i.e. mileage	\$0.575/mi	1,000 mi	\$575	\$0	\$0	\$575
4. EQUIPMENT—Leased Equipment use rate + hourly wage/salary x est. hours for assisted activity—Describe equipment to be purchased, unit price, # of units for all equipment to be purchased or leased for assisted activity: Do not list contractor supplied equipment here.						
i.e. Excavator	\$165/hr	76	\$11,000	\$0	\$1,540	\$12,540
5. SUPPLIES/MATERIALS—Describe all major types of supplies/materials, unit price, # of units, etc., to be used on this assisted activity.						
i.e. Water control structures	\$350 ea	10	\$0	\$3,500	\$0	\$3,500
6. CONTRACTUAL/ CONSTRUCTION—Explain any contracts or sub-Agreements that will be awarded, why needed. Explain contractor qualifications and how the contractor will be selected.						
i.e. Engineering Consultant	\$48,000/L.S.	1	\$48,000	\$0	\$48,000	\$96,000
i.e. Furnish and Install 48B50 RCP pipe	\$90/L.F.	2,000	\$0	\$180,000	\$180,000	\$360,000
7. ENVIRONMENTAL and REGULATORY COMPLIANCE COSTS – Reference costs expected to be incurred by the applicant for State and local environmental compliance. Federal complince needs (i.e. NEPA and ESA) will be completed by Reclamation staff.						
None			\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
8. OTHER –List any other cost elements necessary for your project.						
Signs	\$475	1	\$0	\$475	\$0	\$475
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS--						\$485,090
9. INDIRECT COSTS - What is the percentage rate% . If you do not have a Federally-approved Indirect Cost Rate Agreement or if unapproved rates are used - Explain Why.						
Federal Negotiated Rate =27.2%			\$0	\$0	\$131,944	\$131,944
TOTAL PROJECT/ACTIVITY COSTS			\$66,575	\$183,975	\$366,484	\$617,034