U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

FWS - Ecological Services

www.WhiteNoseSyndrome.org

F24AS00367 FWS - White-nose Syndrome Research for Conservation Grants - 2024
Fiscal Year: 2024
F24AS00367

Due Date for Applications: **12/15/2024**

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A. Program Description

A1. Authority

Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. §1531 et. seq.; Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 661-666; Fish and Wildlife Act, 16 U.S.C. § 742 et seq.

A2. Assistance Listing Number

Assistance Listing Number
15.684

A3. Background, Purpose and Program Requirements

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) makes funding available for research and conservation action to support the management of white-nose syndrome (WNS) and susceptible bat species. The Service leads the coordinated National Response to WNS and provides financial and technical assistance to nongovernmental, university, and private researchers, as well as state and local governments, Native American tribes, and federal agencies to support management of WNS and conservation of bats. Projects receiving WNS Research for Conservation Grants will investigate priority questions to improve our collective ability to manage the disease and conduct actions that conserve affected bat species.

White-nose syndrome is a disease impacting multiple species of hibernating bats in North America. It is caused by the non-native fungus *Pseudogymnoascus destructans* (*Pd*), which was first observed in North America in 2006. As of April 2024, WNS is confirmed in bats in 40 states and eight Canadian provinces, and evidence of *Pd* has been detected in at least three additional states and two provinces without observed signs of the disease. Numerous North American and Eurasian species of bats have been confirmed with WNS or detected carrying *Pd*. For information on WNS and previously funded projects, please see: http://www.whitenosesyndrome.org

Funding through White-nose Syndrome Research for Conservation Grants provides critical resources to inform and enact conservation efforts for hibernating species of bats. Funded projects will focus on minimizing the impacts of WNS and other stressors on species most susceptible to the disease. Research is needed to evaluate how species or populations respond or are likely to respond when exposed to the pathogen so that management action can be focused where it is most needed and effective. Priorities for this funding opportunity are designed to support management decisions that maximize persistence of WNS-affected bat populations, minimize impacts from *Pd*, and support recovery of impacted species. Competitive projects will also involve collaborative actions to conduct research and enact conservation for bats. Scientific research conducted by, or in collaboration with, management authorities is encouraged. Due to

the urgency of this threat to bats and the rapid progress of related science, we seek to fund projects that are likely to produce impactful results within a two-year project period.

Growth in our scientific understanding of WNS, *Pd*, and susceptible bats has been rapid since the disease was first studied in 2007. Evidence from multiple lines of investigation, along with recent advances in biotechnology, have laid the groundwork for developing biotechnological tools that may put an end to the threat this invasive species poses to bats in North America. Relevant scientific advancements related to developing biotechnological tools for managing WNS include the following examples:

- The genome of *Pd* has been published (Drees et al. 2016).
- A highly-specific partitivirus infects *Pd* in North America and may affect its pathogenicity (Thapa et al. 2016).
- *Pd*'s ability to cause infection is mediated by protease production (O'Donoghue et al. 2015, Pannkuk et al. 2015).
- *Pd* lacks ability to repair damage from some wavelengths of ultraviolet light (UV-C; Palmer et al. 2018).
- *Pd* infection initiates transcription of immunological defense mechanisms (Davy et al. 2017, Field et al. 2015).
- *Pd* is vulnerable to matric stress (Raudabaugh and Miller 2013).
- Bats' skin chemistry influences infection susceptibility (Frank et al. 2018, Pannkuk et al. 2013).
- Severity of impacts from WNS may be affected by Immune Reconstitution Inflammatory Syndrome (IRIS; Meteyer et al. 2012).
- The upper critical temperature for *Pd* to grow is between 19.0 and 19.8C (Verant et al. 2012).

White-nose Syndrome Research for Conservation Grants complement three additional funding opportunities from the Service in support of the WNS National Response in 2024: 1) WNS Grants to States and Tribes (www.Grants.gov, F24AS00295); 2) Bats for the Future Fund, managed by National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (www.nfwf.org/bats); and 3) White-nose Syndrome Small Grants, managed by Wildlife Management Institute. Contact the Service's WNS national assistant coordinator for more information about these funding opportunities.

The use of grant funds requires adherence to established protocols and methodologies developed or espoused by the national WNS working groups for surveillance, diagnostics, population monitoring, conservation and recovery, and disease management (for more information contact t (TBD)he appropriate Service WNS coordinator), as well as the Endangered Species Act, National Historic Preservation Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act. All proposed actions must be in-line with the most current guidance, policies, and information related to the COVID-19 pandemic and SARS-CoV-2. The Service's WNS program is supported through the branches of Ecological Services and Science Applications, and grants will be administered through the Office of Conservation Investment (OCI). Grants will be competitively awarded based on merit review of proposed projects for their applicability and feasibility to address priorities identified in this notice and for their overall contribution to meeting the objectives of the WNS national plan (White-Nose Syndrome Response Plans).

References

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Raudabaugh D.B. and A.N. Miller. 2013. Nutritional capability of and substrate suitability for *Pseudogymnoascus destructans*, the causal agent of bat white-nose syndrome. PLOS ONE 8:e78300. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0078300

Thapa, V., G.G. Turner, S. Hafenstein, B.E. Overton, K.J. Vanderwolf, et al. 2016. Using a novel partitivirus in *Pseudogymnoascus destructans* to understand the epidemiology of white-nose syndrome. PLOS Pathogens 12: e1006076. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.ppat.1006076

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A4. Funding Opportunity Goals

- Priority 1: Understand Pd invasion, WNS progression, and WNS impacts in western and southern regions of North America, with particular focus on Myotis spp., Perimyotis subflavus, Parastrellus Hesperus.

  - WNS management decisions depend on a clear understanding of the distribution and abundance of Pd, interactions between Pd and susceptible species, severity of disease impacts to those species, and variation in susceptibility among individuals of a species. The USFWS seeks proposals in this category that substantially add to knowledge that can inform decisions about WNS management and treatment actions.

- Priority 2: Characterize critical features of winter or summer roosts and habitat associated with important persisting, recovering, or at-risk populations of WNS-susceptible species in order to conserve, preserve, or enhance resources for these populations.

  - WNS-impacted species continue to be present across their ranges, although with notable differences associated with habitat types, locations, behavior, and other factors. The USFWS seeks proposals in this category that lead to information specifically needed to support bat conservation and management decisions.

- Priority 3: Develop novel, biotechnological tools that remove or suppress Pds pathogenic properties, making it unable to cause severe disease. Of particular interest are projects that use a Pd-specific mycovirus, or other tools, to effect changes in genes or gene expression in Pd.

  - There are several tools available intended to reduce the abundance of Pd in hibernacula or the severity of WNS in bats. These involve repeated application or long-term commitments that may limit the scalability and long-term viability of such management actions. The USFWS seeks proposals in this category to produce original tools (i.e., novel mechanisms) or innovative applications for transformative management of Pd and WNS.

B. Federal Award Information

B1. Total Funding

Estimated Total Funding

$1,800,000

The Service has targeted up to $1.2 million for this funding opportunity in 2024. The total of funds awarded may be less than $1.2 million depending on number and merit of proposals received.

B2. Expected Award Amount

Maximum Award

$250,000

Minimum Award
$20,000

B3. Expected Award Funding and Anticipated Dates

Expected Award Funding
$150,000

Expected Award Date
March 03, 2025

B4. Number of Awards

Expected Number of Awards
5
Average award amounts are expected to be ~$150,000. In 2023, six grants averaging about $150,000 each were administered for this funding opportunity. The Service may award zero grants through this funding opportunity if no proposed projects are determined to be of high priority and impact.

B5. Type of Award

Funding Instrument Type
G - Grant
CA - Cooperative Agreement
In the case of cooperative agreements, the Service participates and collaborates jointly with the recipient partner, volunteer, scientist, technician and/or other personnel, in carrying out the scope of work. Applicants should identify the Service's involvement and clearly describe this collaboration in the application. Coordination with Service personnel during the development of proposals for cooperative agreements is encouraged. Actions conducted by the Service may include, but are not limited to the following roles:

- Training recipient personnel or detailing Federal personnel to work on project activities.
- Conducting field or laboratory work, analyzing data and interpreting results- Review and approval of accomplishments in projects with stepwise study design.
- Collaboration and assistance with selecting project locations, staff, trainees, or partners. · Directing or redirecting work because of interrelationships with other projects.

C. Eligibility Information

C1. Eligible Applicants

Eligible Applicants

00 – State governments
01 – County governments
02 – City or township governments
04 – Special district governments
05 – Independent school districts
06 – Public and State controlled institutions of higher education
07 – Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized)
11 – Native American tribal organizations (other than Federally recognized tribal governments)
12 – Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education
13 – Nonprofits without 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education
20 – Private institutions of higher education
21 – Individuals
23 – Small businesses

Additional Information on Eligibility

Additional eligible applicants include nonprofits having a 501(c)4 and 501(c)5 status with the IRS.

This funding opportunity is open to domestic and foreign applicants. Additional information for foreign entities is included below.

To be eligible, the following conditions must be met:

1. Proposed projects must clearly address one or more priorities identified by the WNS program in this funding announcement, as identified above.
2. Applicants must be in good standing on previously awarded Federal grant agreements, with no outstanding reports or obligations, and a record of successful use of funds from previous WNS grants, including NFWF BFF (if applicable).

When an applicant is carrying two or more active WNS awards (including grants from directly from the Service and from NFWF BFF) while applying for another, the Service has an administrative obligation to verify that there are no correctable problems in implementing the existing awards. The Service will review the reasons why those grants are still open before proceeding with further consideration. Previous recipients that have demonstrated their effective use of WNS project funds will not be affected. Previous recipients that have taken no significant action on any one of their two or more preexisting awards will not be considered eligible to compete for new funds from the WNS program until the issue is resolved.

C2. Cost Sharing or Matching

Cost Sharing / Matching Requirement

Yes

Percentage of Cost Sharing / Matching Requirement

30

A match equal to 30% of the requested federal funds is required. Funds previously awarded by the U.S. Federal Government are not allowable as match, unless specifically allowed by the other funding source. See match eligibility in 2 CFR 200.306.

C3. Other

Foreign Entities or Projects:

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

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

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

Excluded Parties:

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

D. Application and Submission Information

D1. Address to Request Application Package

The Application Package can be found at the following locations: GrantSolutions https://home.grantsolutions.gov/home/

- Search for the funding opportunity using the CFDA Number 15.684. Or, search for the funding opportunity name: “White-nose Syndrome Research”

Forms required for the application can also be found here: https://www.grants.gov/forms/forms-repository/sf-424-family or may be requested from Kate Moran, USFWS Office of Conservation Investment, 413-472-5766 or Kate_Moran@fws.gov.

Program Website Link

www.WhiteNoseSyndrome.org

D2. Content and Form of Application Submission

SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance

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

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

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

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

Project Abstract Summary (OMB Number 4040-0019)

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

Do not include personally identifiable, sensitive, or proprietary information in the award description as this is available to the public. Use only English characters, numbers, punctuation, and standard symbols. Use of non-English, non-standard characters (also referred to as special or extended ASCII characters) will result in the award description failing to be reported correctly to

USASpending.gov. Award descriptions are limited to 4,000 characters or less. Applicants should check the length of the award description and proofread for proper grammar and spelling.

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

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

Project Narrative

The components of the Project Narrative listed below must be included in this section, which is limited to 8 pages of 11 pt or greater font and 1" margins. Figures and tables should be included within this page limit. The Project Abstract Summary, letters of support, and Literature Cited are not counted in the page limit.

- Project title;
- Statement of project focus: Identify specifically which one of the funding priorities (Section A.4.) is the primary focus of the proposed project. Merit criteria differ according to the funding goal addressed (Section E.). each proposal will be evaluated using the criteria identified for the funding priority that is the primary focus of the work.
- Description of Entities Undertaking the Project: Provide a brief description of the applicant's organization and all cooperating entities and/or individuals. Identify which of the proposed activities each agency, organization, group, or individual is responsible for conducting or managing. If eligibility for funding is based in whole or in part on the qualifications of key personnel, provide brief (1 page) curricula vitae for key personnel, identifying their qualifications to meet the project objectives. Do not include Social Security numbers, the names of family members, or any other personal or sensitive information on the curricula vitae. (CVs are not counted toward the page limit of the proposal.)
- Statement of Need: Describe the significance and value of the project. Summarize background that is relevant to the proposed work and explain how the proposed project builds on existing knowledge. If you have received funding previously for this specific or a related project or study site (from the Service or elsewhere), provide a summary of the outcomes of that work.
- Project Goals and Objectives: State the short and long-term goal(s) of the project. State the specific objectives addressed to reach the stated goals. State the objectives addressed to meet the goals of the project, which must be specific, measurable, and realistic (attainable within the project's proposed period of performance).
- Expected Results and Outcomes: State the anticipated outcomes, benefits and/or management implications of the project. Describe how these products will support management decision making. For projects that implement management strategies, identify the species and number of bats anticipated to benefit from the activities. For projects to develop discrete management tools or products (including experimental

treatments), describe future requirements for scaling and registering that will need to be addressed in addition to the proposed work.

- Project Activities and Methods: State the project activities and describe how they relate to the project objectives. The proposed methodology must be described with sufficient detail for reviewers to make a clear connection between the proposed methods, how they achieve study objectives, and their cost efficiency. Include proposed project locations. For adaptive management projects, describe metrics that will be used to monitor effects of the actions and how those metrics will be interpreted
- Contribution to the National Response to WNS: Describe how your work responds to the information needs of partners in the WNS National Response. Describe how the project will help to inform management decisions or improve management opportunities for bats. Describe roles and contributions from partnering management agencies. Describe how these partners will contribute to completing the project and applying the information gained. Projects that entail acoustic monitoring for bats or population estimates from winter or summer colony counts will be more competitive if they are clearly compatible with and will be contributed for use by the North American Bat Monitoring Program (NABat) in a timely manner.
- Permitting and Animal Care: All participants of funded projects must procure all necessary Federal, State, and local permits, and landowner permissions prior to project initiation. (Existing permits and approvals may be submitted as addenda that do not count toward page limits.) Principal Investigators (PIs) will be expected to maintain compliance with the Animal Welfare Act with satisfactory review of animal use protocols by an established Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (as appropriate). All awarded projects must comply with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and National Historic Preservation Act. NOTE: Some proposed WNS research, mitigation and treatment actions will require input from the grantee to comply with regulatory requirements of the Endangered Species Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and National Historic Preservation Act prior to receiving funds. Satisfactory completion of these requirements is required prior to funds becoming available for the proposed project actions. Completing these requirements may entail providing information about specific study locations, personnel, and other details before funding can be administered.
- Literature Cited (DOES NOT COUNT TOWARD PAGE LIMIT): Components of the project narrative must be properly cited using parenthetical documentation in name-year or another standard citing format. A complete bibliography of cited literature must be included and does not count toward the 8-page maximum. Copies of unpublished or prepublished literature that is cited in the proposal must be provided along with the proposal. (These copies do not count toward the proposal page limit.)
- *Proposals must be accompanied by letters of support or collaboration from all partners (e.g., State and Federal biologists, private landowners, etc.) whose contributions or cooperation are necessary for successful completion of the proposed project (e.g., commitment to collect swab samples on behalf of the Principal Investigator, etc.). (These letters do not count toward the narrative page limit.)

SF-424A, Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs

Applicants must complete and submit the SF-424A Budget Information form for Non-

Construction Programs or Projects. All required application forms are available with this announcement on Grants.gov or in GrantSolutions. Federal award recipients and subrecipients are subject to Federal award cost principles in Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part 200. Applicants must show funds requested from this Federal program separately from any other Federal sources of funding. In "Section A – Budget Summary" on the SF-424A form enter the funding requested from this Federal program in the first row. Identify any other Federal funding sources and amounts in the required Budget Narrative (see below). In "Section B – Budget Categories" on the SF-424A form enter the funding requested for each Object Class Category. For the SF-424A "Contractual" category enter estimated contractual costs only. Do not include subaward costs in the "Contractual" category. Enter estimated subaward costs in the SF-424A "Other" category. Provide a separate description and total estimated costs for both contractual and subaward costs in the required Budget Narrative (see below). For more information about subrecipient and contractor determinations, see 2 CFR §200.331. For instructions on completing the SF-424A, please reference: Instructional Video: Completing the SF424.

Budget Narrative

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

The budget narrative should be used to clarify how requested funds will be used. This information, which may be presented in table format, should include the following budget categories at a minimum:

a. Salaries and benefits (include names, responsibilities, and time commitments)

b. Project related expenses (such as: travel, communications, supplies, consultants etc.)

c. Equipment (purchases of tangible, personal property over $5,000.00 that will be used for a year or more)

d. Indirect costs (if any). Applicants are welcome to waive some or all of their negotiated indirect cost rates. Waived indirect costs may be included a match for this opportunity.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure

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

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

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

c. *Restrictions on lobbying*. Non-Federal entities are strictly prohibited from using funds under a grant or cooperative agreement for lobbying activities and must provide the required certifications and disclosures pursuant to 43 CFR §18 and 31 USC §1352.

d. *Review procedures*. The Financial Assistance Officer will examine each conflict of interest disclosure on the basis of its particular facts and the nature of the proposed grant or cooperative agreement, and will determine whether a significant potential conflict exists and, if it does, develop an appropriate means for resolving it.

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

Uniform Audit Reporting Statement

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

recently closed fiscal year, provide the EIN associated with that report and state if it is available through the Federal Audit Clearinghouse website.

Certification Regarding Lobbying

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

Disclosure of Lobbying Activities

Applicants and recipients must not use any federally appropriated funds (annually appropriated or continuing appropriations) or matching funds under a Federal award to pay any person for lobbying in connection with the award. Lobbying is influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any U.S. agency, a Member of the U.S. Congress, an officer or employee of the U.S. Congress, or an employee of a Member of the U.S. Congress connection with the award. Applicants and recipients must complete and submit the SF-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities" form if the Federal share of the proposal or award is more than $100,000 and the applicant or recipient has made or has agreed to make any payment using non-appropriated funds for lobbying in connection with the application or award. The SF-LLL form is available with this Funding Opportunity on Grants.gov. See 43 CFR, Subpart 18.100 for more information on when additional submission of this form is required.

Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement

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

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

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

This requirement does not apply to individuals applying for funds as an individual (i.e., unrelated to any business or nonprofit organization you may own, operate, or work within), or any entity with an exception to bypass SAM.gov registration with prior approval from the funding bureau or office in accordance with bureau or office policy. All other applicants are required to register

as a financial assistance recipient in SAM.gov prior to submitting a Federal award application and obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI). A Federal award may not be made to an applicant that has not completed the SAM.gov registration. If an applicant selected for funding has not completed their SAM.gov registration by the time the program is ready to make an award, the program may determine the applicant is not qualified to receive an award. Federal award recipients must also continue to maintain an active SAM.gov registration with current information through the life of their Federal award(s). Entities already registered in SAM.gov should review their registration to confirm that they are registered as a financial assistance recipient, which requires completion of the SAM.gov "Financial Assistance General Certifications and Representations". See the "Submission Requirements" section of this document below for more information on SAM.gov registration.

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

D4. Submission Dates and Times

Due Date for Applications

12/15/2024

Application Due Date Explanation

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

This funding opportunity will remain open until 12/15/2024. See the anticipated schedule below.

Projects received by the initial deadline may be awarded, declined, or held to be evaluated again after the final deadline. Projects that are not awarded may be resubmitted while this funding opportunity remains open. No more than 75% of total available funds for this opportunity will be awarded prior to evaluation of all proposals received by the final deadline.

Initial deadline: 07/31/2024

Notification of decisions for proposals received by the initial deadline: 09/16/2024

Final deadline: 12/15/2024

Notification of decisions for proposals received by the final deadline: 02/15/2025

D5. Intergovernmental Review

An intergovernmental review may be required for applications submissions from a U.S. state or local government prior to submission. Applicants must contact their State's Single Point of

Contact (SPOC) to comply with the state's process under Executive Order 12372. The State Single Point of Contact list is available on the OMB Office of Federal Financial Management website.

D6. Funding Restrictions

Indirect Costs: Individuals

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

Indirect Costs: Organizations

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

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

Required Indirect Cost Statement to be submitted by Organization:

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

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

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

- We are a U.S. state or local government entity receiving $35 million or less in direct Federal funding. We prepare and retain for audit an indirect cost rate proposal and documentation per 2 CFR 200, Appendix VII. Our current indirect cost rate is [insert rate], which is charged against [insert a complete description of the direct cost base used to distribute indirect costs to the award].
- We are a U.S. state or local government entity receiving $35 million or less in direct Federal funding. We have not prepared an indirect cost rate proposal and documentation per 2 CFR §200, Appendix VII and elect to charge the de minimis rate of 10% of Modified Total Direct Costs as defined in 2 CFR §200.1. We understand we must use this methodology consistently for all Federal awards until we choose to establish a rate per 2

CFR §200. We understand we must notify the Service in writing if we establish a rate that changes the methodology used to charge indirect costs during the award period. We understand that additional Federal funds may not be available to support an unexpected increase in indirect costs during the project period and that such changes are subject to review, negotiation, and prior approval by the Service.

All other organizations must include the applicable statement from this list and any related documentation in their application. Please note, an organization with a current negotiated (including provisional) rate may not elect to charge the 10% de minimis rate of Modified Total Direct Costs during the period covered by their current negotiated rate.

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

Costs (MTDC) as defined in 2 CFR §200.1. If we have never negotiated a rate, we understand we must use the de minimis rate of 10% of MTDC.
- We are an organization that will charge all costs directly.

The white-nose syndrome research for conservation grant program funds scientific and management activities that address the stated priorities of the funding opportunity. Travel costs for conferences or meetings that are not directly related to achieving the objectives of the proposed project are not permitted.

Tuition remission and other forms of compensation paid as, in addition to, or in lieu of wages to students performing necessary work are allowable, provided that such compensation meets the five criteria described at 2 CFR 200.466. Requests for student compensation should be clearly justified by including cost analysis comparing alternative hiring arrangements such as hiring seasonal staff. The justification must also demonstrate that the requested tuition results in the greatest benefit to the project. Your project analysis should provide justification for all related tuition costs, including stipends that students may be receiving in addition to tuition remission.

D7. Other Submission Requirements

GrantSolutions Application Procedures

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

Subject: New Organization Request

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

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

help@grantsolutions.gov. To access GrantSolutions, users must establish a Login.gov account at https://login.gov/. For assistance, contact their customer support by telephone at (844) 875-6446 or submit a request for assistance online at https://login.gov/contact/.

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

E. Application Review Information

E1. Criteria

Ranking criteria for proposals that meet minimum requirements Maximum Points: 100 Project

Criteria for Priorities 1 and 2

Responsiveness (15%)

· How well will the proposed study address one or more priorities identified for this funding opportunity?

Need and Relevance (20%)

· Does the project build upon and advance our current understanding of WNS and bat conservation?

Project Impact (35%)

· How likely is the outcome of the project to meaningfully inform management decisions or actions?

· How broadly can the outcomes of the project be applied, scaled, or transferred to additional situations?

Study Design and Feasibility (20%)

· Will the proposed objectives and methods produce robust and reliable outcomes?

· Is the proposed timeline adequate for producing applicable outcomes within the project period?

Budget (10%)

· Is the project budget justifiable and cost-effective for the proposed actions and outcomes?

Criteria for Priority 3

Project Responsiveness (20%)

· To what extent does the proposed project develop a novel biotechnological tool for managing WNS? A novel tool is one that adds a new and different option for managing WNS than tools that are already under development.

Project Impact (30%)

· To what extent will the proposed management tool, when complete, be able to improve survival of bats by eliminating or reducing the impacts of WNS?

Scalability (20%)

· How widely can the finished tool be used to manage WNS? This criterion will consider limitations of where the tool is used, how frequently it needs to be used, cost of future implementation, and how effectively it would improve survival of bats or reduce impacts of the pathogen.

Study Design and Feasibility (20%)

· How likely is the project to produce a transformative biotechnological tool for managing WNS? This criterion will also consider the timeline for full development of the tool, including additional research and development that may be required upon completion of the proposed scope of work.

· Does the proposal have clear, specific, measurable objectives, robust study design and methods, and usable expected outcomes?

Budget (10%)

· Is the project budget justifiable and cost effective for the proposed actions and outcomes?

The review committee also may employ additional review criteria to specifically evaluate groups of proposals with similar objectives. These criteria may include prioritization of projects that increase the number of locations, species, or topics addressed by the grant program as a whole.

Selected proposals will receive budget review in accordance with DOI-APP-0062 prior to final selection.

E2. Review and Selection Process

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

Prior to award, the program will conduct and document a review of the proposed budget to ensure figures are calculated correctly, proposed costs are clearly linked to the project narrative

and seem necessary and reasonable, no obviously unallowable costs are included, costs requiring prior approval are identified and described, indirect cost are applied correctly, and any program match or cost share requirements are addressed.

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

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

The review committee also may employ additional review criteria to specifically evaluate groups of proposals with similar objectives. These criteria may include prioritization of projects that increase the number of locations, species or topics addressed by the grant program as a whole. Selected proposals will receive budget review in accordance with DOI-APP-0062 prior to final selection.

E3. CFR – Regulatory Information

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

E4. Anticipated Announcement and Federal Award Dates

Initial deadline: 07/31/2024

Notification of decisions for proposals received by the initial deadline: 09/16/2024

Final deadline: 12/15/2024

Notification of decisions for proposals received by the final deadline: 02/15/2025

F. Federal Award Administration Information

F1. Federal Award Notices

F2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Department of the Interior General Applicability Waivers:

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

Following review, applicants may be requested to revise the project scope and/or budget before an award is made. Successful applicants will receive written notice in the form of a notice of award document. Notices of award will be generated and sent to the applicant through GrantSolutions. Award recipients are not required to sign/return the Notice of Award document.

Acceptance of an award is defined as starting work, drawing down funds, or accepting the award via electronic means.

Awards are based on the final application submitted to and approved by the Service and are subject to the terms and conditions incorporated into the Notice of Award either by direct citation or by reference to the following: Federal regulations; program legislation or regulation; and special award terms and conditions. Recipient acceptance of a Federal award from the Service carries with it the responsibility to be aware of and comply with all terms and conditions applicable to the award.

F3. Reporting

Financial Reports

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

Non-Construction Performance Reports

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

Construction Performance Reports

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

Significant Development Reports

Events may occur between the scheduled performance reporting dates which have significant impact upon the supported activity. In such cases, recipients are required to notify the Bureau in writing as soon as the recipient becomes aware of any problems, delays, or adverse conditions that will materially impair the ability to meet the objective of the Federal award. This disclosure must include a statement of any corrective action(s) taken or contemplated, and any assistance

needed to resolve the situation. The recipient should also notify the Service in writing of any favorable developments that enable meeting time schedules and objectives sooner or at less cost than anticipated or producing more or different beneficial results than originally planned.

Real Property Reports

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

Conflict of Interest Disclosures

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

Other Mandatory Disclosures

The Non-Federal entity or applicant for a Federal award must disclose, in a timely manner, in writing to the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity all violations of Federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the Federal award. Non-Federal entities that receive a Federal award including the terms and conditions outlined in 2 CFR 200, Appendix XII—Award Term and Condition for Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters are required to report certain civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings to SAM. Failure to make required disclosures can result in any of the remedies for noncompliance described in 2 CFR §200.339, including suspension or debarment.

Reporting Matters Related to Recipient Integrity and Performance

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

G. Federal Awarding Agency Contact(s)

G1. Program Technical Contact

For **programmatic technical assistance**, contact:

First and Last Name:
Jonathan Reichard

Telephone:
413-335-2886

Email:

Jonathan_Reichard@fws.gov

G2. Program Administration

For **program administration assistance**, contact:

First and Last Name:
Kate Moran

Telephone:
413-471-5766

Email:
Kate_Moran@fws.gov

G3. Application System Technical Support

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

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

H. Other Information

Payments
Domestic recipients are required to register in and receive payment through the U.S. Treasury's Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP), unless approved for a waiver by the Service program. Foreign recipients receiving funds to a final destination bank outside the U.S. are required to receive payment through the U.S. Treasury's International Treasury Services (ITS) System. Foreign recipients receiving funds to a final destination bank in the U.S. are required to enter and maintain current banking details in their SAM.gov entity profile and receive payment through the Automated Clearing House network by electronic funds transfer

(EFT). The Bureau will include recipient-specific instructions on how to request payment, including identification of any additional information required and where to submit payment requests, as applicable, in all Notices of Award.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service contacts for WNS are available at www.whitenosesyndrome.org/contacts

● Jeremy Coleman, National WNS Coordinator; Phone: 413-253-8223, Jeremy_Coleman@fws.gov

● Jonathan Reichard, WNS National Assistant Coordinator; Phone: 413-253-8258, Jonathan_Reichard@fws.gov

● Christina Kocer, Northeast WNS Coordinator (CT, DE, MA, MD, ME, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VA, VT, WV and DC); Phone: 413-253-8215, Christina_Kocer@fws.gov

● Richard Geboy, Midwest WNS Coordinator (IA, IL, IN, MI, MN, MO, OH, WI); Phone: 812-334-4261 x210, Richard_Geboy@fws.gov

● Pete Pattavina, Southeast WNS Coordinator (AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, PR, SC, TN, VI); Phone: 706-208-7511, Pete_Pattavina@fws.gov

● Mike McGrath, Mountain-Prairie WNS Coordinator (CO, KS, MT, NE, ND, SD, UT, WY); Phone: 406-475-2965, Mike_McGrath@fws.gov

● Jennifer Smith-Castro, Southwest WNS Coordinator (AZ, NM, OK, TX); Phone: 281-212-1509, Jennifer_Smith-Castro@fws.gov

● Erin Adams, Pacific Northwest WNS Coordinator (ID, OR, WA); Phone: 360-753-4370, Erin_Adams@fws.gov

● Bronwyn Hogan, Pacific Southwest WNS Coordinator (CA, NV); Phone: 916-287-1446, Bronwyn_Hogan@fws.gov

● Nichole Bjornlie, Alaska WNS Coordinator (AK); Nichole_Bjornlie@fws.gov

● Samantha Gibbs, National Wildlife Refuge System Coordinator for WNS; Phone: 571-216-5776, Samantha_Gibbs@fws.gov

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT:

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

Privacy Act Statement: This information collection is authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5701 et seq. The information provided will be used to administer all Service financial assistance programs and activities including to: (1) determine eligibility under the authorizing legislation and applicable program regulations; (2) determine allowability of major cost items under the Cost Principles at

2 CFR 200; (3) select those projects that will provide the highest return on the Federal investment; and (4) assist in compliance with laws, as applicable, such as the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970. This information may be shared in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 and the routine uses listed in INTERIOR/DOI-89, Grants and Cooperative Agreements: FBMS - 73 FR 43775 (July 28, 2008). Furnishing this information is voluntary; however, failure to provide all requested information may prevent the Service from awarding funds.

Estimated Burden Statement: We estimate that it will take you on average about 40 hours to complete an initial application, about 3 hours to revise the terms of an award, and about 8 hours per report to prepare and submit financial and performance reports, including time to maintain records and gather information. Actual times for these activities will vary depending on program-specific requirements. Direct comments regarding the burden estimates or any other aspect of the specific forms to the Service Information Clearance Officer, USFWS, U.S. Department of the Interior, 5275 Leesburg Pike, MS: PRB (JAO/3W), Falls Church, VA 22041-3803, or by email to Info_Coll@fws.gov.