U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

FWS - Science Applications

https://secassoutheast.org/

F23AS00356- Conservation Science and Innovation in the Southeast
Fiscal Year: 2023
F23AS00356

Due Date for Applications: **06/30/2023**

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A. Program Description

Authority:
Science Applications Program (CFDA 15.670) authority: Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act—Cooperation of agencies (16 U.S.C. §661).

Migratory Bird Joint Ventures (CFDA 15.637) authority: Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act—Cooperation of agencies (16 U.S.C. §661) and Endangered Species Act—International cooperation (16 U.S.C. §1537)

Migratory Bird Monitoring, Assessment and Conservation (CFDA 15.655) authority: Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act—Cooperation of agencies (16 U.S.C. §661)

Assistance Listing Number:
15.670

Background, Purpose and Program Requirements:
The Service is the primary fish and wildlife conservation agency within the Executive Branch of the U.S. government, tasked with a diverse array of responsibilities related to conservation and societal valuation of public trust resources. The Conservation Science and Innovation program leverages the responsibilities of the Migratory Bird and Science Applications programs of the Southeast Fish & Wildlife Service seeking to maximize the conservation of FWS species to include migratory birds and other trust species by collaborating to sustain populations at prescribed levels, provide leadership in conservation and management of trust species and their habitats, manage data and information for use in decision making, and ensure the meaningful inclusion of multiple partners and stakeholders in landscape-scale planning and implementation of conservation actions.

This funding opportunity will address advancement of specific Department of the Interior, national and regional conservation priorities through projects that support the development and use of targeted science to support delivery of conservation actions. Project proposals will identify the specific approaches and outcomes that will advance those priorities and objectives as described below.

The Department of the Interior seeks to address the four intersecting challenges of COVID-19, economic recovery, racial equity and climate change by

Identifying steps to accelerate responsible development of renewable energy on public lands and waters. We are investing in climate research and environmental innovation to incentivize the rapid deployment of clean energy solutions, while reviewing existing programs to restore balance on America's public lands and waters to benefit current and future generations.

Strengthening the government-to-government relationship with sovereign Tribal Nations. We understand that Tribal sovereignty and self-governance, as well as honoring the federal trust responsibility to Tribal Nations, must be the cornerstones of federal Indian policy.

Making investments to support the Administration's goal of creating millions of family-supporting and union jobs. This includes establishing a new Climate Conservation Corps

Initiative to put a new generation of Americans to work conserving and restoring public lands and waters, increasing reforestation, increasing carbon sequestration in the agricultural sector, protecting biodiversity, improving access to recreation, and addressing the changing climate.

Working to conserve at least 30% each of our lands and waters by the year 2030. We will work to protect biodiversity, slow extinction rates and help leverage natural climate solutions by conserving 30% of America's lands and waters by 2030. This relies on support for local, state, private, and Tribally led nature conservation and restoration efforts that are underway across America.

Centering equity and environmental justice. The impacts of the multiple crises in the United States are not evenly distributed in our society. Communities of color, low-income families, and rural and Indigenous communities have long suffered disproportionate and cumulative harm from air pollution, water pollution, and toxic sites. At every step of the way, Interior will engage diverse stakeholders across the country, as well as conduct formal consultation with Tribes in recognition of the U.S. government's trust responsibilities.

National-level priorities of the Science Applications and Migratory Bird Programs include:

Supporting the 3 Billion Bird Movement (3BBM). Based on the percent loss of birds and the Service's unique roles and capacities, Headquarters has established six teams to prioritize and amplify ongoing efforts to have an immediate and positive impact for bird conservation: Shorebirds, Seabirds, Grassland Birds, Forest Birds, Aerial Insectivores and Collisions.

Advancing the conservation of At-Risk Species and Birds of Conservation Concern. We build-on proactive and voluntary conservation approaches to support species that are in decline, especially those considered federal trust species for the Southeast Region of Fish & Wildlife Service. or listed as federally threatened or endangered. Specific activities include: Identifying knowledge gaps related to species sustainability, then prioritizing when and how to fill knowledge gaps; Providing technical assistance, tools, and coordination to inform conservation strategies, conservation delivery, and management actions; and, Developing partnerships that integrate actions to reduce threats affecting at-risk and declining species.

Catalyzing Collaborative Landscape Conservation. We work with others to create an ecologically connected network of lands and waters to support fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats. Specific activities include Helping lead, coordinate, and support integration of on-the-ground landscape conservation efforts across FWS programs and partners for species sustainability; Developing and supporting implementation of spatial data tools to inform conservation solutions for changing landscapes; and Developing conservation strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Providing High Quality Science and Decision Support. We provide processes, guidance, information, and tools that inform decision-making for regional and national conservation priorities. Specific activities include: Assessing, identifying, and securing reliable science and decision support tools for programs and partners; Advancing the Service's science excellence through items such as the science integrity policy, peer review, national science awards/recognition, and FWS facilitated scientific journals; and, Coordinating and helping lead the Service's data management program, including policy and guidance, improving data management practices and implementing open data principles.

The overarching objective of this funding opportunity is to support projects that advance the regional visions of the Southeast FWS and the Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy (SECAS, http://secassoutheast.org/). Together, these visions provide the comprehensive framework for aligning and targeting collaborative efforts in pursuit of a socially-viable future conservation landscape that supports thriving fish and wildlife populations and improved quality of life for people.

The Southeast Region's Conservation Science And Innovation program seeks to advance the DOI, National & Regional objectives by increasing the relevancy and utility of information used to inform conservation decisions. In the past, the Program has received over $2 million dollars annually to support landscape conservation throughout the southeast U.S., including the U.S. Caribbean. Depending on the level of funding available this year, we expect to support up to 10 projects addressing the themes listed below. Typical project funding levels range from $50,000 to $500,000. We are seeking science projects that address the following four theme areas:

Theme 1: Decision Support

We are seeking research projects that identify, develop, assess, improve, and secure reliable science and decision support tools for programs and partners. Of particular interest are tools or data that enable estimation of species responses to plausible future scenarios, assess biotic integrity of major ecosystems, &/or enable integration of ecosystem service values into the Southeast Blueprint and other conservation decision support tools. Further, we are interested in social science projects that improve the human dimensions aspects of existing decision support tools based on current paradigms & knowledge.

Theme 2: Knowledge Gaps

We are seeking research projects that identifying & fill knowledge gaps related to the sustainability of birds and other trust species. Of particular interest are studies that fill information gaps that currently prevent the conservation community from setting Biological Objectives for trust species, especially federally listed species and birds of conservation concern.

Theme 3: Assumption-driven Research

We are seeking research projects that test the ecological &/or social assumptions underlying conservation and management actions, as well as our collective understanding of ecosystem processes. Of particular interest are projects that lay the groundwork for developing or improving decision support tools that guide management decisions at landscape scales.

Theme 4: Outcome-based Monitoring

We are seeking research projects that test the efficacy of conservation decisions by assessing species response. Of particular interest are investigations that test the predictions of decision support tools & data.

Pre-proposal Narrative

Instructions:

Pre-proposals must be submitted in GrantSolutions by May 31, 2023.

Pre-proposal length is 2 pages. This is a pre-proposal, be concise. No appendices or attached documents other than curriculum vitae are allowed (see below for CV guidance).

Use 12-point Times New Roman font for all text. Do not change fonts, heading or subheadings. Allowable margins for all submitted documents are 0.5 inches on all sides.

Do not submit endorsement or support letters or budget sheets with your pre-proposal.

If you have questions, please contact: Todd Jones-Farrand at david_jones-farrand@fws.gov or 573-355-0753 and he will put you in touch with the appropriate members of the program.

Selected preproposals will be invited to submit full proposals.

Pre-proposal Elements

Title: A short, descriptive title that captures the project's purpose or goal.

Project applicant(s): For Principal applicant (bold name) provide agency, address, phone number, and email. List only the name, email, and agency/organization of other applicants.

Brief project description: In 50 words or fewer, briefly summarize the proposed project.

Management implication or application: In 350 words or less, describe the management implications and applications of the project. Describe what your project will accomplish including the issue, question, or opportunity that will be addressed by the project.

Total Funds Requested: Funding, including indirect. See NOFO for more information on CESU member requirement.

Project dates: Provide start and completion dates. Start dates must be after September 1, 2023

Geographic extent: Please provide a brief description of the extent of the project. Also provide the latitude/longitude(s) in degree decimal format for your project. If it is a large project area, pick a central/focal point.

Rationale and objectives:

Explain why this project should be conducted and why the proposed work is necessary and significant.

Briefly describe how the proposal addresses either the National-level priorities of the Science Applications and Migratory Programs or the four theme areas for the Science Applications and Migratory Bird programs for the Southeast.

Describe the specific management objective or task addresses a critically important need in the Southeast.

State the hypothesis or research/management question(s) to be addressed.

List objectives numerically in the sequence they will be completed. Objectives are statements that are related to scientific understanding based on interpretation of data analysis; objectives are not methodological steps (e.g., collect data, conduct experiments, analyze data, write report). Objectives identify a pattern, process, or relationship among variables to be described, and can be used to evaluate progress of a project. Objectives should be worded to reflect the research questions to be answered, the hypotheses to be tested, and the processes to be described. A set of objectives are ideally related to each other. When little information exists to formulate questions and hypotheses then research objectives focused on description are appropriate.

Provide a description of stakeholder coordination, collaboration, or involvement.

Methods: Provide a brief description of proposed methods as they relate to each objective: include study design, data collection procedures, analytical methods, reporting, and time frame.

Deliverables/Products: Provide a concise description of the report types, investigation data/information, and products (journal pubs, databases, workshop reports, electronic files, code/scripts developed for analysis) that will be provided upon project completion.

Resume/Curriculum Vitae: Include 1 page resume or curriculum vitae (CV) for each applicant(s) listed above. The resume or CV should illustrate the applicant(s) capabilities to complete the project. Resumes do not count towards the 2-page pre-proposal limit.

Non-duplication Assessment: Include search terms & search results from USGS ScienceBase demonstrating that the proposal does not duplicate existing research. This Assessment does not count towards the 2-page pre-proposal limit.

Full Proposal Narrative

All applications **MUST** include:

Full Proposal

Include and expand upon all elements of the pre-proposal

Provide greater detail on Rationale & Objectives, Methods, Deliverables/Products, and any other items when the Full Proposal is invited.

Data Management Plan for the Project (DRAFT)

Demonstrate how data, information & code will be collected/acquired, assessed for data quality, analyzed, maintained, preserved & accessed beyond the Period of Performance to meet Federal data sharing and code requirements (*see data.gov & code.gov, Data Management Plan guidance*).

Address how all data will adhere to FWS Data Standards as required by FWS including which data standards will be used. (*see Section F1 below for more details*).

Please reach out to the Program Technical Contact with questions (*see Section G.1. below*).

Required GrantSolutions Application Package Forms

Ensure the application includes **ALL required** forms (e.g., SF-424, Budget Narrative, Conflict of Interest Disclosure) listed below &/or identified in GrantSolution.

B. Federal Award Information

B1. Total Funding

Estimated Total Funding
$500,000

B2. Expected Award Amount

Maximum Award
$500,000
Minimum Award
$25,000

B3. Expected Award Funding and Anticipated Dates

Expected Award Funding
Expected Award Date
September 30, 2023

B4. Number of Awards

Expected Number of Awards
10

B5. Type of Award

Funding Instrument Type
CA - Cooperative Agreement

C. Eligibility Information

C1. Eligible Applicants

Eligible Applicants
00 – State governments
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
20 – Private institutions of higher education
21 – Individuals
23 – Small businesses
25 – Others (see text field entitled “Additional Information on Eligibility” for clarification)

Additional Information on Eligibility
Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and other minority serving institutions are encouraged to apply.

Proposal activities must be based within the SEAFWA geography (AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MO, MS, NC, OK, PR, SC, TN, TX, USVI, VA, WV). Projects that extend into other parts of the US or the Caribbean will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

All applicants that are part of a CESU agreement are required to use the indirect rates established under that agreement.

There is no limit on the number of pre-proposals an applicant may submit.

Matching funds and/or leveraging of other funds and/or past work are highly encouraged but not required. When including matching funds or in-kind support from partners, please include supporting letters indicating the level and extent of the commitment.

C2. Cost Sharing or Matching

Cost Sharing / Matching Requirement
No

Percentage of Cost Sharing / Matching Requirement
Matching funds and/or leveraging of other funds and/or past work are highly encouraged but not required. When including matching funds or in-kind support from partners, please include supporting letters indicating the level and extent of the commitment.

C3. Other

Typical project funding levels range from $25,000 to $500,000. Matching funds and/or leveraging of other funds and/or past work are highly encouraged but not required. Demonstrations of how the current project is relevant to conservation decision-making, builds off past federal investments, and/or fills voids in existing decision support tools and data is critical. Contracts and/or agreements need to be finalized by September 30 of each funding year, and project start dates should begin shortly thereafter, but in accordance with the individual project needs and goals. Awards are intended to be complete within a single fiscal year, but exceptions can be made for projects whose scope addresses the above DOI, National and Regional goals, but require a longer project period to assure success. Renewals and/or extensions are not guaranteed and are dependent on subsequent year's appropriations from Congress. The program will utilize this notice of funding opportunity for both competitive and single source awards as needed to achieve the programs objectives as outlined above.

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

Program Website Link
https://secassoutheast.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".

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

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

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

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

Project Narrative
Project narrative must include:

- Project title
- Description of entity(ies) undertaking the project
- Statement of need that addresses: the specific concern, problem, or issue to be addressed or opportunity to be leveraged; the consequences of not addressing the need; and how the proposed project aligns with the Service program's goals
- Project objectives that are specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and time-bound, and any milestones that must be reached to achieve objectives
- Activities, including detailing for each who is carrying out the activity, what is involved, how will it be carried out (method), and when and where the activity will be carried out
- Timeline of when significant project events or milestones are anticipated

- Sufficient information to support environmental compliance review requirements. Note: while the environmental compliance laws are primarily applicable to projects carried out in the U.S., projects carried out on the high seas are subject to compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and projects outside the U.S. on any property on the UNESCO World Heritage List or the in-country equivalent of the U.S. National Register of Historic Places are subject to compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act
- Information on key project personnel, including details on their expertise, skill, or significance to the project
- Project location details and supporting documentation such as maps, GIS data, or geopolitical data, as applicable.
- When including matching funds or in-kind support from partners, please include supporting letters indicating the level and extent of the commitment.

Pre-proposal Narrative
Instructions:

1. Pre-proposals must be submitted in GrantSolutions by May 31, 2023.
2. Pre-proposal length is 2 pages. This is a pre-proposal, be concise. No appendices or attached documents other than curriculum vitae are allowed (see below for CV guidance).
3. Use 12-point Times New Roman font for all text. Do not change fonts, heading or subheadings. Allowable margins for all submitted documents are 0.5 inches on all sides.
4. Do not submit endorsement or support letters or budget sheets with your pre-proposal.
5. If you have questions, please contact: Jerome Barksdale at jerome_barksdale@fws.gov or 904-731-3251 and he will put you in touch with the appropriate members of the program.
6. Selected preproposals will be invited to submit full proposals.

Pre-proposal Elements
Title: A short, descriptive title that captures the project's purpose or goal.
Project applicant(s): For Principal applicant (bold name) provide agency, address, phone number, and email. List only the name, email, and agency/organization of other applicants.
Brief project description: In 50 words or fewer, briefly summarize the proposed project.
Management implication or application: In 350 words or less, describe the management implications and applications of the project. Describe what your project will accomplish including the issue, question, or opportunity that will be addressed by the project.
Total Funds Requested: Funding, including indirect. See Sections C3 and D6 of this Notice for more information on CESU member requirement.
Project dates: Provide start and completion dates. Start dates must be after September 1, 2023
Geographic extent: Please provide a brief description of the extent of the project. Also provide the latitude/longitude(s) in degree decimal format for your project. If it is a large project area, pick a central/focal point.

Rationale and objectives:
1. Explain why this project should be conducted and why the proposed work is necessary and significant.
2. Briefly describe how the proposal addresses either the National-level priorities of the Science Applications and Migratory Programs or the four theme areas for the Science Applications and

Migratory Bird programs for the Southeast.
3. Describe the specific management objective or task addresses a critically important need in the Southeast.
4. State the hypothesis or research/management question(s) to be addressed.
5. List objectives numerically in the sequence they will be completed. Objectives are statements that are related to scientific understanding based on interpretation of data analysis; objectives are not methodological steps (e.g., collect data, conduct experiments, analyze data, write report). Objectives identify a pattern, process, or relationship among variables to be described, and can be used to evaluate progress of a project. Objectives should be worded to reflect the research questions to be answered, the hypotheses to be tested, and the processes to be described. A set of objectives are ideally related to each other. When little information exists to formulate questions and hypotheses then research objectives focused on description are appropriate.
6. Provide a description of stakeholder coordination, collaboration, or involvement.

Methods: Provide a brief description of proposed methods as they relate to each objective: include study design, data collection procedures, analytical methods, reporting, and time frame.
Deliverables/Products: Provide a concise description of the report types, investigation data/information, and products (journal pubs, databases, workshop reports, electronic files) that will be provided upon project completion.
Resume/Curriculum Vitae: Include 1 page resume or curriculum vitae (CV) for each applicant(s) listed above. The resume or CV should illustrate the applicant(s) capabilities to complete the project. Resumes do not count towards the 2-page pre-proposal limit.
Non-duplication Assessment: Include search terms & search results from USGS ScienceBase demonstrating that the proposal does not duplicate existing research. This Assessment does not count towards the 2-page pre-proposal limit.

Full Proposal Narrative
Instructions:
1. The Full Proposal needs to include all the elements of the pre-proposal but with greater detail on Rationale & Objectives, Methods, Deliverables/Products, and any other items requested by the programs when the Full proposal is invited.
2. All applications must include a Data Management Plan for the project that demonstrates how the data & information will be preserved, maintained & accessible beyond the Period of Performance.
3. A completed application package includes the Full Proposal, Data Management Plan & all other forms required by the Grant Solutions Application Package (e.g., SF-424, Budget Narrative, Conflict of Interest Disclosure).

NOTE: The information, starting with the SF424 Application for Federal Assistance Form through “Application Checklist” is required if you are submitting a full proposal. If you are submitting a pre-proposal this information is not required at this time, but will be required if you get invited to submit a full proposal.

NOTE: All documents not filled out online in Grant Solutions that require a signature must be hand signed, digitally, or electronically signed. Typing your name in is not acceptable.

NOTE: Full Proposals should be submitted in Word or pdf format. Submit budget sheets separately in Excel or pdf format.

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 the SF-424A "Contractual" category total, do not combine estimated subawards and contractual costs. Use the "Contractual" category to reflect estimated contractual costs only. 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).

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. 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 any proposed items of cost that require prior approval under the Federal award cost principles, including any anticipated subawarding, transferring, or contracting out of any work under the award. Provide a separate description and total estimated costs for both contractual and subaward costs. 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. The Department of the Interior's Unmanned Aircraft web page provides a list of approved unmanned aircraft and related equipment and software.

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. The Grants.gov "Register with

SAM" page also provides detailed instructions. 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
06/30/2023

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

The Migratory Bird and Science Applications programs will use a 2-stage process to select and award projects. In Stage 1, interested parties are asked to submit a pre-proposal via GrantSolutions following the guidance in Section D2 within 4 weeks of the release of this NOFO (May 31, 2023). In Stage 2, the selection committee will evaluate pre-proposals as they arrive and request full proposals from selected projects no later than June 14, 2023. Full proposals and complete application packages are required to be submitted via by the NOFO end date (6/30/2023). We will not consider full proposals from interested parties that have not completed Stage 1.

D5. Intergovernmental Review

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

D6. Funding Restrictions

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

Indirect Costs: Organizations
The Federal awarding agency that provides the largest amount of direct funding to your organization is your cognizant agency for indirect costs, unless otherwise assigned by the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB). If the Department of the Interior (DOI) is

your organization's cognizant agency, the Interior Business Center (IBC) will negotiate your indirect cost rate. Contact the IBC by phone 916-930-3803 or using the IBC Email Submission Form. See the IBC Website for more information.
Organizations must have an active Federal award before they can submit an indirect cost rate proposal to their cognizant agency. Failure to establish an approved rate during the award period renders all costs otherwise allocable as indirect costs unallowable under the award. Recipients may not shift unallowable indirect costs to another Federal award unless specifically authorized to do so by legislation.

Required Indirect Cost Statement to be submitted by Organization:

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

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

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

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

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

- We are an organization with a current negotiated indirect cost rate. In the event we receive an award, we will charge indirect costs per our current negotiated rate agreement. Attached is a copy of our current rate agreement.
- We are an organization with a negotiated indirect cost rate that has expired. Attached is copy of our most recently negotiated rate agreement. If we receive an award, we will

submit an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency within 90 calendar days after the award date. We understand we must provide the Service a copy of our approved rate agreement before charging indirect costs to the Federal award.

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

D7. Other Submission Requirements

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 with the following information:

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

Organizational details should match those in the organization's SAM.gov registration. 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 more information, see the GrantSolutions Recipient Training and FAQs web page. 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.

E. Application Review Information

E1. Criteria

To be considered for funding, application objectives must address information needs described in this NOFO (see Section A). Project activities that emphasize data collection and status assessment should describe a direct link to management action and explain how lack of information has been a key limiting factor for management action in the past. Pre-proposals that do not identify how actions will reduce threats or that do not demonstrate a strong link between data collection and management action will be rejected. Additional pre-proposal screening questions include:

1. Address Programmatic and National priorities identified in Section A.
2. Advance the FWS and SECAS visions of connecting lands & waters to sustain species.
3. Address a key limiting factor for conservation &/or management decisions.
4. Address a Program Theme identified in Section A.
5. Clearly meets the non-duplication policy via review of the USGS ScienceBase database and providing documentation (search criteria & search results) that there is no project funded by USGS or FWS that duplicates this effort.

Projects that are scored as Yes on all screening criteria may be invited to submit a Full Proposal. Full Proposals will be scored using criteria related to decision urgency, utility & transferability to multiple FWS Programs, utility & transferability to external partners (e.g. state wildlife agencies, the Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy), relevance to management &/or policy decisions (i.e., co-production model), technical merit & rigor, and a cost-benefit analysis.

Projects that rank well on these criteria will then be assessed as a group (i.e., a second cost-benefit analysis) to determine the best portfolio of investments for Conservation Science and Innovation. Projects in the selected portfolio will be invited to submit a full proposal package, including an updated proposal & budget, draft data management plan and required federal forms.

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.

A selection committee of three to eight administrative and technical staff of the Science Application and Migratory Bird programs will be formed to review proposals. Upon receipt proposals will be screened by the committee chair for eligibility and conformance to all provisions in this NOFO. The committee will independently evaluate invited full proposals against the evaluation criteria. Reviewers will abstain from participating in any review where a conflict of interest exists or could be perceived. The compiled list of individual review evaluations and recommendations will be provided to the Region 4 Assistant Regional Director for approval and final decision.

Prior to participating in any review or evaluation process, all staff and peer reviewers, evaluators, panel members, and advisors must sign and return to the program office point of contact the

Department of the Interior Conflict of Interest Certification" form. For a copy of this form, contact the Service point of contact identified in the Agency Contacts section below.

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

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.
As required by Section 70914 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Pub. L. 117-58), on or after May 14, 2022, none of the funds under a federal award that are part of a Federal financial assistance program for infrastructure may be obligated for a project unless all the iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in the project are produced in the United States, unless subject to an approved waiver. Recipients conducting infrastructure projects under the award must include related requirements all subawards, including all contracts and purchase orders for infrastructure work or products under this program. For the full text term applicable to infrastructure and related waiver request standards and procedures, see the Service's General Award Terms and Conditions.

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.

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 (currently the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information 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:
David Todd Jones-Farrand

Telephone:
573-355-0753

Email:

david_jones-farrand@fws.gov

G2. Program Administration

For **program administration assistance**, contact:

First and Last Name:
Jerome Barksdale

Telephone:
904-731-3251

Email:
jerome_barksdale@fws.gov

G3. Application System Technical Support

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

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

H. Other Information

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

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT:

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

a currently valid OMB control number.

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

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