U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

FWS - Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration

https://www.fws.gov/coastal/CoastalGrants/

Fiscal Year 2023 National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program
Fiscal Year: 2023
F23AS00003

Due Date for Applications: **06/24/2022**

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT:

OMB Control Number: 1018-0100, Expiration Date: 7/31/2021

We are collecting this information in accordance with the authorizing legislation identified above. Your response is required to obtain or retain a benefit. We will use the information you provide to conduct a competitive review and select projects for funding and, if awarded, to evaluate performance. We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. 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 time for these activities will vary depending on program-specific requirements. You may send comments on the burden estimate or any other aspect of this information collection to the Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS BPHC, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.

Table of Contents

A. Program Description 2
B. Federal Award Information 11
B1. Total Funding 11
B2. Expected Award Amount 11
B3. Expected Award Funding and Anticipated Dates 11
B4. Number of Awards 11
B5. Type of Award 12
C. Eligibility Information 12
C1. Eligible Applicants 12
C2. Cost Sharing or Matching 12
C3. Other 13
D. Application and Submission Information 15
D1. Address to Request Application Package 15
D2. Content and Form of Application Submission 15
D3. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM) 23
D4. Submission Dates and Times 24
D5. Intergovernmental Review 25
D6. Funding Restrictions 25
D7. Other Submission Requirements 27
E. Application Review Information 29
E1. Criteria 29
E2. Review and Selection Process 31
E3. CFR – Regulatory Information 32
E4. Anticipated Announcement and Federal Award Dates 32
F. Federal Award Administration Information 32
F1. Federal Award Notices 32
F2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements 33
F3. Reporting 33
G. Federal Awarding Agency Contact(s) 36
G1. Program Technical Contact 36
G2. Program Administration 36
G3. Application System Technical Support 37
H. Other Information 37

A. Program Description

Authority:

The Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act (Title III, Section 301, Public Law 101-646, 16 U.S.C. 3951-3956) established the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant (NCWCG) Program. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (Public Law 117-58) authorizes funding for the NCWCG Program through Fiscal Year 2026.

Assistance Listing Number:

15.614

Background, Purpose and Program Requirements:

The Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act (Title III, Section 301, Public Law 101-646, 16 U.S.C. 3951-3956) (Act) established the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant (NCWCG) Program to acquire, restore, and enhance wetlands in coastal areas through competitive matching grants to eligible State, Commonwealth, and Territory (State) agencies. The NCWCG Program is funded by revenues collected from excise taxes on sport fishing equipment, electric motors and sonar, import duties on fishing tackle, yachts and pleasure craft, and a portion of the gasoline tax attributable to motorboats and small engines. Revenues are deposited into and appropriated from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund. The primary goal of the NCWCG Program is the long-term conservation of coastal wetland ecosystems. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (Public Law 117-58) authorizes funding for the NCWCG Program through Fiscal Year 2026.

Coastal wetlands are valued because they protect against flooding, help maintain water quality, and provide habitat for fish and wildlife. Coastal environments are also important economically, generating billions of dollars annually through recreational and commercial fishing, boating, and tourism. The NCWCG Program is co-administered by the Service's Coastal Program and by the Division of Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration (WSFR). The mission of the Coastal Program is to achieve voluntary habitat conservation by providing technical and financial assistance, in collaboration with partners, for the benefit of Federal trust species. WSFR's mission is to work through partnerships to conserve and manage fish and wildlife and their habitats for the use and enjoyment of current and future generations. WSFR's vision is of healthy, diverse, and accessible fish and wildlife populations that offer recreation, economic activity, and other societal benefits, in addition to sustainable ecological functions. WSFR's guiding principle is that society benefits from conservation-based management of fish and wildlife and their habitats and opportunities to use and enjoy them. The NCWCG Program aligns with the Coastal Program's mission and with WSFR's mission, vision, and guiding principle.

The NCWCG Program also supports two of the Administration's priorities including improving climate change adaptation and increasing resilience (through habitat restoration, land acquisition, and other actions) and strengthening the economy (by supporting outdoor recreation activities). Many of the projects conducted under the NCWCG Program directly or indirectly support Executive Order 14008: Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad. Program activities

support land conservation and biodiversity efforts, contributing to the Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful (30 x 30) initiative.

The Final Rule establishing the requirements for participation in the NCWCG Program was published in the Federal Register on July 30, 2002 (67 Federal Register (FR) 49264). The Program regulations are in Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 84. Additional information about the NCWCG Program is available here.

The NCWCG Program provides eligible State agencies with grants for projects that protect and restore valuable coastal wetland resources. Projects can include:

1. Acquisition of a real property interest (e.g., conservation easement or fee title) in coastal lands or waters (coastal wetlands ecosystems) from willing sellers or partners for long-term conservation;
2. Restoration, enhancement, or management of coastal wetlands ecosystems; or
3. A combination of acquisition, restoration, enhancement, and management.

All projects must ensure long-term conservation (at least 20 years) of coastal wetland resources. We score and rank applications based on criteria published in 50 CFR 84.32. See Section E. Application Review Information of this announcement for a summary of the ranking criteria.

Projects to create wetlands where wetlands did not previously exist are ineligible for NCWCG Program funding (50 CFR 84.20(b)(3)). For each project site, we require evidence verifying the current or historic presence of a wetland. This may include information from the Service's National Wetlands Inventory, earlier Geographic Information System data, or historic information.

Projects to acquire and/or restore upper portions of watersheds where benefits to the coastal wetlands ecosystem are not significant and direct are also ineligible for NCWCG Program funding (50 CFR 84.20(b)(8)). A proposal must include sufficient information demonstrating that targeted lands or waters meet the definition of a coastal wetland ecosystem (50 CFR 84.11).

Wildlife TRACS (Tracking and Reporting Actions for the Conservation of Species) is the tracking and reporting system used by WSFR to capture information about conservation and related actions funded by its grant programs. TRACS serves as the electronic repository system for all performance, accomplishment, and real property reporting related to those Federal awards. TRACS highlights program accountability by documenting program accomplishments and results. As outlined in this announcement, grant and project statement information and performance reporting data must be entered into TRACS as authorized under 2 CFR 200.102(c), 200.202, 200.301, and 200.329.

Changes from the FY 2022 Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) were made in sections:

- A2. Updated Administration priorities;
- D2. Added detailed language on requirements for a recipient's financial management system;

- D2. Added information on a new requirement to submit the Project Abstract Summary form, OMB Number 4040-0019, which replaces the previous requirement for a Project Summary;
- D2. Added a request that the (maximum seven page) Project Narrative be formatted as consecutive, numbered pages;
- D3. Updated information in the "Obtain a DUNS Number" section;
- D4. Added a recommendation and information on requesting a pre-deadline review of a draft application;
- D7. Updated to provide instructions for a New Organization Request in GrantSolutions;
- E1. Clarification of requirements for receiving points on Criterion 13(e);
- E2. Clarification on disposition of funds that are not awarded in a fiscal year.

Attachment A: FAQs and Clarification of Select Ranking Criteria

The purpose of this attachment is to provide clarification of certain criteria in 50 CFR 84 and to answer frequently asked questions. General questions and answers are listed first, followed by questions and answers specific to the ranking criteria.

Are lands proposed for match purposes used in calculating points for ranking criteria?
Yes. Because lands that are used for match purposes are part of the project area, reviewers consider both lands being proposed for acquisition/restoration with grant funds and lands proposed for contribution as match when assigning points for ranking criteria. Therefore, information on both parcels proposed for acquisition/restoration and match parcels should be described in adequate detail for each ranking criterion so reviewers can make informed scoring decisions. Please note: you must submit the SF 429B form for all real property proposed for use as match as well as any real property proposed for acquisition using NCWCG Program funds.

Does land used for all of or part of the non-Federal cost share need to be necessary and reasonable?
Yes. All non-Federal cost share must be necessary and reasonable to achieving project objectives, land acquisition included. Please explain how the match parcel(s) relate to the overall project and provide detailed information about the match parcel for all ranking criteria.

If a project includes a conservation easement, what information about the conservation easement is helpful for reviewers?
You should describe the general terms of the conservation easement, including the length of the conservation easement, who will hold it, allowable and prohibited uses, and plans for long-term monitoring and stewardship of the easement. This information helps reviewers understand the conservation benefit(s) of the conservation easement.

Who holds title to land acquired under this program or contributed as match?

Title to real property acquired or contributed as match will vest upon acquisition in the grantee or subrecipient, respectively, as directed by 2 CFR 200.306 and 2 CFR 200.311. A Notice of Federal Participation must be recorded for all acquired lands and lands contributed as match.

Should we include letters of support that are not financial commitment letters or those detailing scientific information specific to a project?
Given the volume of material reviewers must read, letters of general support for a project should not be included in the application package unless they also include essential information about the project. However, letters of financial commitment from third-party sources are required.

Does "maximum Federal share" under 50 CFR 84, including 84.32 (a)(11) and 84.46 (h), refer to the maximum percentage of Federal dollars of the project costs, i.e., 75% or 50%, or the maximum grant amount from the NCWCG Program, i.e., $1 million?
"Maximum Federal share" refers to the percentage, i.e., 75% or 50%, of Federal dollars of the project costs, not the maximum grant amount from the NCWCG Program, i.e., $1 million. For example, if total project costs are $1,333,334, the maximum Federal share would be either $1,000,000 (75%) or $666,667 (50%), depending on whether or not you have a designated fund. If you only provide the minimum non-Federal share (25% or 50% of total project costs), no points will be awarded for reducing the Federal share (50 CFR 84.32 (a)(11), Criterion 11).

What changes are allowed to an application after its submission?
Applications submitted to us for consideration in the national competition must be in final format by the due date specified in the announcement. The only application changes that will be accepted after the due date are those that will not impact the project scoring or project scope, such as small corrective or clarifying statements, unless we request additional information. WSFR Regional Office and/or Headquarters representatives may also request that you make modifications to an application after the due date to correct inconsistencies within your application or change any other error that would cause the review panel difficulty in accurately assessing your application during review.

Who determines if an application is eligible?
WSFR Regional Office personnel determine whether an application meets eligibility criteria for the Program and whether it should be considered for scoring by the review panel. If Regional personnel have questions regarding the eligibility of a project, we consult with the Headquarters WSFR Office to ensure consistent application of Service policy. The Headquarters WSFR Office will reexamine an application's eligibility if questions arise. If deemed ineligible, we will not consider the application for funding.

What is the policy for retroactively reimbursing an applicant for expenses incurred prior to the official start date of a project?
If you incur costs before the effective date of the grant, they can only be reimbursed if included in your application and approved for funding by your WSFR Regional Office. Preliminary costs may include costs necessary for preparing the grant proposal, such as feasibility surveys, engineering design, biological reconnaissance, appraisals, or preparation of

grant documents such as environmental assessments for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act or other Federal laws or regulations (See 50 CFR 84.47(c)). See also 2 CFR 200.458. Pre-award costs are allowable only to the extent that they would have been allowable if incurred after the date of the Federal award. If you are unsure whether specific pre-award costs may be reimbursable, please contact your WSFR Regional Office (see Section VIII, Agency Contacts).

50 CFR 84.32 (a)(1) (Criterion 1):

Must a score of seven points be given for all applications that result in over 50 percent of the project area conserving, restoring, or protecting decreasing coastal wetlands types?
Yes. If you document that over 50 percent of the project area will, upon project completion, conserve decreasing coastal wetlands types you will receive the full seven points. You may find specific guidance on how reviewers score this criterion at 50 CFR 84.32 (a)(1). Information on coastal wetland types is available here. You may contact us for additional information about wetland types in your area (see Section VIII, Agency Contacts).

Should a graduated scale be used to further delineate applications?
The program regulations in 50 CFR 84.32 (a)(1) provide guidance on the use of intermediate scores (i.e., less than seven points) for applicants who document that, upon project completion, a minimum of 50 percent of the project area will be a combination of decreasing and stable types of wetlands, and for those that are less than 50 percent wetlands.

For land acquisition projects, will ranking be based on just the wetland portion of a parcel or the entire parcel?
Project ranking will be based on the entire acquisition parcel(s) and any parcel(s) used as match, unless the parcel will be officially subdivided.

50 CFR 84.32 (a)(2) (Criterion 2):

What qualifies as a maritime forest?
A thorough description of what is considered to be a maritime forest for the purpose of the NCWCG Program is found in the program regulations in the Definitions section, 50 CFR 84.11.

How will this criterion be scored?
In order to receive the maximum seven points for this criterion, your project must significantly benefit maritime forests which meet the following descriptions: 1) are located on coastal barriers (see definition of "coastal barrier" in 50 CFR 84.11) along the mainland coast from Delaware to Texas, and 2) are broad-leaved forests. Examples of maritime forests are primarily characterized by a closed canopy of various combinations of live oak, upland laurel oak, pignut hickory, southern magnolia, sugarberry, and cabbage palm.

Intermediate scores of less than seven points are acceptable: (1) for applications in which the significance of the benefit to maritime forests is unclear, or (2) for applications in which it is unclear if the forests meet the strict definition of a maritime forest.

50 CFR 84.32 (a) (Criteria 5, 6, and 7):

What information should I include about threatened and endangered species such as fish and coastal dependent or migratory birds in responses to ranking criteria 5, 6, and 7?
You should include the information requested in the ranking criteria. It is important to note if species have been observed within the project boundary or only in the general vicinity. We recommend that you supply this information in table format. The column headings can include: common name, scientific name, status (Federal listing, delisted within the last five years, State listing, etc.), observed within project boundary, habitat type provided, restored, or enhanced (nesting, breeding, feeding, nursery areas), etc. See ranking criteria language for additional information.

50 CFR 84.32 (a)(10) (Criterion 10):

Do non-Federal partners' financial contributions need to be included on the SF-424 as match to receive points for this criterion?
Yes, your application must identify financial support, including in-kind match, from any third-party that is listed as providing non-Federal match on the SF-424. You must document all third-party matching funds, i.e., those supplied by organizations or individuals other than your agency, with a signed letter of financial commitment from an authorized representative of the match provider. The letter of financial commitment must detail the amount of matching funds or value of donated land and/or services. You are responsible for ensuring the full amount of the non-Federal match as listed on the SF-424. All of these items must be submitted with the application by the due date identified in this announcement.

Please note that if a third-party provides match, and the letter of financial commitment is missing and/or late, the match will not be considered, which may negatively impact scoring of the application**.**

Can we receive points for more than one State agency's participation in a proposed project?
In general, applications will only receive credit for one State agency. The exception to this rule is when an application includes multiple States. In these instances, the application may receive points for each additional State that is participating in the proposed project. Partnering entities that receive partial funding from a State may be considered non-State partners if they also receive non-State funding; such entities and the nature of their funding should be described in detail in the Project Narrative and/or letter(s) of commitment. Entities that are not generally considered a State agency due to receipt of non-State operational funding (such as University Extension) may receive credit as a non-State partner.

What documentation is required to receive points for this criterion for non-Federal partners?
A signed letter of financial commitment of matching funds or in-kind match from an

authorized representative of any third-party match provider or partner(s) must accompany the application to receive points. You are ultimately accountable for third-party commitments of financial support.

What documentation is required to receive points for this criterion for Federal partners?
A signed letter committing project resources that are necessary and reasonable to completing the project objectives from an authorized representative of the Federal partner(s) must accompany your application to receive points. Federal partners providing technical assistance or other non-monetary contributions prior to the performance period may be considered partners; however, the substantive nature of such contributions must be explained in detail in your Project Statement and/or a letter of commitment. Entities whose involvement is not necessary or reasonable to complete the project objectives will not be counted as partners for this criterion.

50 CFR 84.32 (a)(11) (Criterion 11):

Can in-kind services or contributions be used as the required State match?

Yes. In-kind services can be used for part or all of your State's required minimum cost share (i.e., 25 or 50 percent of total project costs). However, you will not receive points for this ranking criterion unless you have an additional cash match.

Can in-kind services or contributions, including bargain land sale, be used to score points for this criterion?
No. We only consider cash contributions that exceed the required minimum match when scoring points for Criterion 11. Cash is a liquid asset and can be tracked easily through audit procedures and also serves as a proxy for your commitment toward a project. Federal regulations and guidance clearly identify a landowner's acceptance of a reduced price for his or her property as an in-kind service or contribution, not cash. As such, so-called "bargain sales" cannot be used to receive points for decreasing the Federal share.

Is the value of my agency's staff time given in the project budget considered cash match?
Yes. We consider funds you may allocate to staff salaries and benefits for activities in support of project objectives to be cash match. Staff services contributed by another State agency or other third party are typically considered in-kind match, although another State agency may contribute cash to your agency for the project. See 2 CFR 200.306 for more guidance on cost sharing or matching or 2 CFR 200.96 for guidance on third-party in-kind contributions. We recommend you contact your WSFR Regional office staff prior to the deadline for additional guidance as needed.

How are points calculated when scoring on Criterion 11?
A maximum of five points are available for Criterion 11. Each five percent provided in cash match over the required match equals one point up to a total of 25 percent over the required match for a total of five points.The following examples assume that you are eligible to receive the maximum 75 percent Federal share.

Example 1:

Total project cost:	$1,333,334
NCWCG Program Request:	$1,000,000
Non-Federal cost share:	$333,334

Non-Federal cost share may consist of in-kind, cash, or a combination of in-kind and cash, although only cash over the minimum required match counts for scoring purposes. Total required non-Federal match is determined by dividing the NCWCG Program Request by three ($1,000,000/3 = $333,334). The amount of non-Federal cost share in this example does not exceed the minimum required match; therefore, zero points would be awarded.

Example 2:

Total project cost:	$1,500,000
NCWCG Program Request:	$1,000,000
Non-Federal cost share (in-kind):	$333,334
Non-Federal cost share (cash):	$166,666

Total required non-Federal match is determined by dividing the NCWCG Program Request by three ($1,000,000/3 = $333,334). The minimum required non-Federal cost share is met with in-kind contributions in total. Cash match over the minimum required non-Federal cost share is divided by the minimum required non-Federal cost share ($166,666/$333,334), giving 50 percent; therefore, five points would be awarded (one point for each 5 percent, with a maximum of 5 points for 25 percent or more cash over minimum required non-Federal cost share).

Example 3:

Total project cost:	$1,360,000
NCWCG Program Request:	$1,000,000
Non-Federal cost share (in-kind):	$300,000
Non-Federal cost share (cash):	$60,000

The minimum required non-Federal cost share is partially met with in-kind and partially met with cash. Total required non-Federal match is determined by dividing the NCWCG Program Request by three ($1,000,000/3 = $333,334). Then, in-kind cost share is subtracted from this amount ($333,334 - $300,000) or $33,334 to determine the amount of cash match that would be used to fulfill the minimum required non-Federal match. To determine cash match over the minimum required match, subtract the cash match used to meet the minimum required match from the total amount of cash match ($60,000 - $33,334 = $26,666). Cash match over the minimum required non-Federal cost share is then divided by the minimum required non-Federal match ($26,666/$333,334), giving eight percent. One point would be awarded for this

criterion (one point for each 5 percent over minimum required non-Federal cost share).

Can applications from Commonwealths and territories subject to the match waiver described in 48 U.S.C. 1469(a) receive points on Criterion 11 (Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the territories of American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands) receive points on Criterion 11?
Yes. Jurisdictions subject to the waiver that provide any amount of cash match will receive five points when scoring on Criterion 11.

Can the in-kind contribution of a landowner accepting an offer below market value for his property be used for the required State match?
Yes. The in-kind contribution of a landowner accepting a reduced price for his property is called a bargain sale and the difference between the established market value and the actual sale price can be used as part of or all of the State's required cost share.

Can Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program (REPI) funds be used as cash match?
Yes. In keeping with the intent of the Congressional language codified in 10 U.S.C. 2684a(h), REPI funds are considered non-Federal cash match.

50 CFR 84.32 (a)(12) (Criterion 12):

Are costs associated with Education and Outreach eligible?
Yes, provided that total costs unrelated to protection and restoration of the site are limited to 10 percent of the total project costs including NCWCG Program Federal share and the required match.

50 CFR 84.32 (b)(13) (Criterion 13):

Are there other factors that are used in scoring applications?
Yes, the following Other Factors describe important benefits that are not described in the previous criteria. You must provide evidence supporting the expected benefits.

a. Projects providing significant benefits to rare or threatened habitat types, biodiverse habitats, rare and declining species, and/or the local community;
b. Projects that are particularly cost-effective;
c. Projects that assist in the prevention or control of invasive species;
d. Projects that provide important cultural or historical resource benefits;
e. Projects designed to significantly advance climate change adaptation, especially those that reference Sea Level Rise modeling and/or analyses that indicate the targeted parcel(s) will be conserved, and function as intended, in perpetuity;
f. Projects that help build the capacity of underserved insular jurisdictions to conserve coastal wetlands ecosystems, including Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

50 CFR 84.32(13)(b) (Criterion 13 Additional considerations):

What factors are used in the event of a tie?
We will factor the following considerations into the ranking process if two or more proposals have the same point totals. The tie-breaking factors are as follows:
(1) The project would prevent the destruction or degradation of habitat from pending sale of property, from adverse effects of current activities such as draining of wetlands, or from natural processes such as erosion at excessive rates;
(2) The project would protect unique and significant biological diversity;
(3) The project has lower costs per acre conserved; and
(4) The State or third party provides lands as opposed to using lands already owned by the State or third party as part of the State matching share.

Please clarify the phrase, "provides lands…as part of the State matching share."

The purpose of this tie-breaking factor is to encourage applications that include the donation of lands owned by a third party as part of the overall project. Such donations increase the overall acreage of land managed by the State agency, increasing the likelihood that the land will be managed to conserve the natural resources and increase the management options for the grant property.

B. Federal Award Information

B1. Total Funding

Estimated Total Funding
$18,000,000

B2. Expected Award Amount

Maximum Award
$1,000,000

Minimum Award
$50,000

B3. Expected Award Funding and Anticipated Dates

Expected Award Funding

Expected Award Date
January 27, 2023

B4. Number of Awards

Expected Number of Awards
35

B5. Type of Award

Funding Instrument Type
G - Grant

C. Eligibility Information

C1. Eligible Applicants

Eligible Applicants
00 – State governments

Additional Information on Eligibility
Participation is limited to State agencies or entities designated as eligible by the Governor of a coastal State. The eligible agency is usually a State natural resource or fish and wildlife agency. If you are uncertain of your eligibility, please contact your WSFR Regional Office. Eligible coastal States are States bordering the Great Lakes (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin); States bordering the Atlantic, Gulf (except Louisiana), and Pacific coasts. Louisiana is not an eligible coastal State for this Program as provided in the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 3955 (b)(1)). Here is the complete list of eligible States: Alabama, Alaska, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, Washington, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

C2. Cost Sharing or Matching

Cost Sharing / Matching Requirement
Yes

Percentage of Cost Sharing / Matching Requirement
25
If you have established a fund that is used for acquiring coastal wetlands, other natural areas, or open space, you may receive up to 75 percent of total project costs through the NCWCG Program up to the maximum award of $1,000,000. To be reimbursed up to 75 percent of total project costs, you must provide either a description of the State trust fund (in sufficient detail for us to make an eligibility determination), or a statement that eligibility has been previously approved and there has been no change in the fund. If you have not established such a fund or do not include information on the State trust fund in your application, you may receive up to 50 percent of total project costs through the NCWCG Program.

In accordance with 48 U.S.C. 1469(a), Amendment of Subsection (d), the Regional Director shall waive the first $200,000 of match required as per this announcement in any grant to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Territories of American Samoa, Guam, or the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The maximum Federal participation rates of 50 and 75 percent are based on total project costs, i.e., the amount requested from the NCWCG Program plus the amount of eligible non-Federal

cost share that you identify in your project budget. Other funds that are related to the project or are part of a larger project but are not designated as cost share in your project budget are not included in total project costs when calculating the maximum Federal participation rate. Cost share requirements are detailed in 50 CFR 84.46.

C3. Other

The primary purpose of the NCWCG Program is to help eligible State agencies acquire, restore, enhance, and/or manage coastal wetlands ecosystems. Recreation and outreach or education activities necessary for meeting these purposes are eligible for NCWCG Program funding up to a combined maximum of 10 percent of the total project costs, including the Federal share and matching funds. Such activities must be "site-specific" and "substantive" to receive points under Ranking Criterion 12 (50 CFR 84.32(a)(12)(i)). Any proposed recreation or outreach/education activities must be described in detail and justified in the application.

Planning and related activities are ineligible as a primary project focus (50 CFR 84.20(b)(6)), but may be allowable as a minimal component of a project. Monitoring necessary for meeting Program purposes is eligible, such as evaluating results of project activities and measuring impacts on targeted resources (50 CFR 84.12(b)). Research is not eligible for funding. Planning, engineering, design, permitting, and monitoring costs necessary for completion of site-specific project objectives are eligible for funding up to a combined maximum of 30 percent of the total project costs, including the NCWCG Program share and required match. Any proposed activities involving planning, engineering, design, permitting, or monitoring must be described and justified in your application.

Contact your WSFR Regional Office for more detailed guidance on specific proposed costs involving recreation, outreach/education activities, planning, design, permitting, or monitoring.

Review 50 CFR 84.20 for more information on eligible and ineligible activities, or contact your WSFR Regional Office.

You may meet your minimum required cost share or match through contributions from one or more third party entities. A third party is any individual or organization other than the State applicant, such as a partner or subrecipient. In order for match to be allowable, it must meet all the criteria listed in 2 CFR 200.306(b). As the primary State grant recipient, you are responsible for the full amount of the non-Federal match proposed, including any amount provided by one or more third parties, as listed on the Standard Form 424, Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424).

You may attribute some or all of your allowable indirect costs as voluntary committed cost share/match; however, you may only charge to the Federal award the indirect costs calculated against the allowable direct costs charged to the Federal award.

To receive points under ranking Criterion 11 (50 CFR 84.32 (a)(11)), at least some of the non-Federal match must be provided in cash. Direct costs identified in the SF-424 are only considered to meet the definition of cash match if they are provided in the form of U.S. currency.

Some examples include a cash contribution for the purchase of real property, a direct payment to a contractor, or funds that the State grant recipient allocates for employee salaries and benefits to complete project objectives.

Note: If you propose to use the value of donated land as all or a portion of the non-Federal cost share, you must explain in the Project Narrative why the land is necessary to accomplish the project objectives. You should include information on all the parcels proposed for acquisition or restoration with NCWCG Program funds and all the match parcels in adequate detail for each ranking criterion so reviewers can make accurate and informed scoring decisions on both the subject and match parcel(s).

You must document all third-party matching funds with a signed letter of financial commitment from an authorized representative of the match provider. The letter must detail the amount of matching funds or value of donated land and/or services. When assigning a value to volunteer services, you must explain in your Project Narrative or Budget Narrative why the volunteer activity is necessary and reasonable, and reference the compensation rate(s) for an equivalent State position or justify typical costs in the labor marketplace for similar work in your area. Please note that any contributions from Federal sources are not eligible for use as non-Federal match unless authorized by Federal statute (such as the Department of Defense Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program or REPI funds).You are responsible for ensuring availability of the full amount of the non-Federal match that you indicate on the SF-424.

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

You may access the application package in GrantSolutions or Grants.gov. If you have access to GrantSolutions, we recommend you apply there. Applying in GrantSolutions will expedite the grant award process if your application is selected for funding. To access the application package in GrantSolutions, *Log in* and search using Funding Opportunity Number F23AS00003, then follow the instructions to complete and submit your application. To access the application package in *Grants.gov*, use the "Search Grants" tab, and enter Funding Opportunity Number F23AS00003 or CFDA number 15.614. Downloading and saving the Application Package to your computer makes the required government-wide standard forms fillable and printable. Submit required documents downloaded via Grants.gov in Grants.gov.

If you need a copy in another format, contact:
Paul Van Ryzin
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program
5275 Leesburg Pike, MS: WSFR
Fall Church, VA 22041
703-358-1849
paul_vanryzin@fws.gov

Program Website Link
https://www.fws.gov/coastal/CoastalGrants/

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 private citizens, 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.

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” and in Box8c. For organizational DUNS substitute number “123456789”. For UEI substitute the number "000123456789".

SF 424B, Assurances for Non-Construction Programs
Individuals applying for and receiving funds separate from a business or non-profit organization he/she may own or operate, and entities waived from the SAM.gov registration requirements by the funding bureau or office must submit the signed and dated SF-424B, Assurances for Non-Construction Programs form. All required application forms are available with this announcement on Grants.gov and in GrantSolutions.

Submit the SF-424B only if your project does not include any construction or real property acquisition activities (for example, if your project includes only non-construction habitat restoration activities and does not include real property acquisition). If a signed Assurances form is on file with your WSFR Regional Office, or if you have submitted the SF-424B via SAM.gov, you do not need to attach a copy to your application.

SF-424D, Assurances for Construction Programs
Any applicant requesting support for a construction projects must submit as signed and dated SF-424D, Assurances for Construction Programs form. All required application forms are available with this announcement on Grants.gov and in GrantSolutions

Submit the SF-424D form only if your project involves construction or real property acquitision. If real property will be acquired with either requested NCWCG Program funds or matching non-Federal funds, the SF-424D is applicable. If a signed Assurances form is on file with your WSFR Regional Office, or if you have submitted the SF-424D via SAM.gov, you do not need to attach a copy to your application.

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 Service has implemented an electronic performance reporting system called TRACS (https://tracs.fws.gov) in order to document recipient performance and for reporting on national program accomplishments that deliver meaningful results consistent with the NCWCG Program's authorizing legislation. You are required to enter grant and Project Narrative information in TRACS. TRACS data entry facilitates development of a complete Project Narrative that you may use as part of your application in GrantSolutions, if you choose to use TRACS prior to submission of your application. If you do not enter grant and Project Narrative information in TRACS prior to applying in GrantSolutions or Grants.gov, you are required to enter this information within 60 calendar days of the latter: (a) the period of performance start date; or (b) the date the award was approved. To ensure the accuracy of information entered in TRACS and minimize your workload, please contact your WSFR Regional Office or review WSFR's TRACS Training Options.

Submit a Project Narrative of no more than seven pages addressing the elements listed below (see also 50 CFR 84.22(c)). Be sure to include page numbers on all pages of your Project Narrative, and make sure the pages are consecutive so reviewers can verify it is no longer than seven pages. You may combine your responses as necessary; separate headings or sections for responses to each element are not required. Only your responses to the following requirements in this Project Narrative subsection are included within the page limit, unless otherwise indicated. Your Project Narrative must be formatted to fit on an 8.5" x 11" document, with 1" margins at the top, bottom, and sides and page numbers at the bottom of the page (starting with the Project Narrative). Font size should be no less than 12 point.

Need: The need for the proposed project(s) within the purpose of the NCWCG Program.

Objectives: The Service created Standard Objectives to standardize performance reporting and document national accomplishments that deliver results consistent with the NCWCG Program's authorizing legislation, applicable regulations, and guidance. To avoid delay, your project narrative must only use one or more of the Standard Objectives listed in the TRACS Performance Matrix. We encourage you to work with your WSFR Regional Office if you have questions about the use of TRACS Standard Objectives in your Project Narrative. Please refer to the Service's WSFR Training Portal site for example project statements that utilize TRACS Standard Objectives.

Expected Results: Expected results or benefits from accomplishing the objectives.

Approach: Clearly describe the approach or activities to be used in meeting the objectives,

including specific procedures, methods, schedules, key personnel, and cooperators. Please include (if applicable):

a. Any organization that will act as a subrecipient and their role(s) in meeting the project objectives; for any key personnel, briefly describe the education, experience and skills that make them qualified to carry out the proposed project (do not include resumes or curriculum vitae);
b. What organization will hold title to the real property being acquired or restored?
c. What type of ownership interest is involved (e.g., fee-simple, easement, combination, etc., and the related acres)?
d. What organization (or individual) will manage the real property interest?
e. How will long-term management (20 years or longer) of acquired or restored areas be accomplished (e.g., through long-term support provided by an endowment)?
f. What will be involved in the restoration? Why did you choose that approach? How likely is the proposed restoration technique to succeed? How much maintenance is involved, who will conduct it, and who will support it? Please provide examples of your success in implementing the proposed restoration approach in similar nearby ecosystems, if available.
g. Is the project ready to implement? For example, in the case of acquisitions, have the landowners supplied willing seller letters? For restoration projects, are the landowners willing to allow and maintain the proposed restoration, and have required permits been obtained or initiated? Are restoration designs completed or underway? Attach any relevant documents that address these elements. Copies of seller letters, permits and designs may be provided separately from the Project Narrative and are not included in the page limit.
h. If your objectives include management of lands for recreational as well as conservation purposes, you must demonstrate that any anticipated recreational activities will not degrade habitat values of targeted lands.

Project Location: Maps or other geographic aids may be attached. Please include GPS Coordinates in decimal degrees. Provide support for the eligibility of your project by demonstrating that targeted lands or waters meet the definition of a coastal wetland ecosystem (50 CFR 84.11). Reference to a coastal Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) alone does not establish eligibility. As applicable, provide: maps and diagrams of your project site(s) in relation to National Wetland Inventory or other wetland delineations, land cover, coastal landscape features such as tidal influence, and/or locations of other restored or managed areas in the vicinity of your project. Maps and other diagrams may be provided separately from the Project Narrative and are not included in the page limit.

Timeline: Describe significant milestones within the performance period of your project in detail, including dates you expect to begin and complete all compliance-related activities. Describe any accomplishments to date.

Compliance: For projects conducted in the United States, provide a summary of anticipated Federal compliance requirements. Be sure to address all applicable compliance requirements including those involving the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and all other

requirements in applicable Federal laws, regulations, and policies. Describe any compliance activities for your proposed project that have already been completed or are currently underway.

State Trust Fund: Include either a description of the State trust fund that supports or justifies your request for a 75 percent Federal share in sufficient detail for us to make an eligibility determination, or a statement that eligibility has been previously approved by us and no change has occurred in the fund. If you do not support or justify your request in your Project Narrative, we may determine that you are ineligible for a 75 percent Federal share.

Relationship to Other Projects and/or Other Federal Grants: If applicable, list other current, interrelated coastal acquisition, restoration, enhancement and conservation actions, the agencies involved, the relationship to the proposed project, and how the application fits into comprehensive natural resource plans for the area. If applicable, identify any relationship between this project and other work funded by State or Federal grants that is planned, anticipated, or underway. Please note that you must also provide an Overlap or Duplication of Effort Narrative whether or not you describe other current, interrelated conservation actions in your Project Narrative. The Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement is not included within the seven-page limit for your Project Narrative and should be included in your application separately. For more information, see below in this Section under the heading "Required Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement."

Public Involvement and Interagency Coordination: Provide a description of public involvement or interagency coordination on coastal wetlands conservation projects that has occurred or is planned that relates to the application. Please specify the organizations or agencies involved and dates of involvement.

Responses to Ranking Criteria (20-Page Limit)
Provide a description with appropriate documentation of how the proposed project addresses each of the 13 numeric ranking criteria in 50 CFR 84.32. We recommend that you address each ranking criterion individually with a brief statement or table.

If a real property interest is proposed as match, include information on both the parcel(s) proposed for acquisition or restoration with NCWCG Program funds and the match parcel(s) in adequate detail for each ranking criterion so reviewers can make informed scoring decisions. Activities provided as cost share including land acquisition are part of the project and must be eligible activities.

Drawings/Maps/Photographs (No Page Limit)
We recommend that you include and identify drawings or photographs of the proposed project that characterize the following:
a. Existing state of the project area;
b. Proposed project area (in one or more maps, photographs, or images);
i. Detail which areas will be part of the grant funded activities, delineating the project boundaries;
ii. Detail which areas are part of the cost share, if applicable;
iii. Detail what restoration activities will take place and where, if applicable;

iv. Detail which areas, if any, are part of a larger effort that will be funded outside of this grant and cost share application;

v. Detail wetland types (please include National Wetlands Inventory, State Wetlands Map, or other wetland delineation, if available); and

vi. Any other information that will assist reviewers to identify project components or factors involved with ranking.

c. Two maps of the project location: a map of the State showing the general location of the project and a map of the project site.

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).

You may omit the Budget Information form if you provide the same or more detailed budget information in another format. At a minimum, your alternative budget table must include all the object class categories in the Budget Information Form.

SF-424C, Budget Information for Construction Program

Applicants must submit the appropriate SF-424C Budget Information form for Construction Programs or Projects. All required application forms are available with this announcement on Grants.gov and in GrantSolutions. Federal award recipients and subrecipients are subject to Federal award cost principles in 2 CFR 200. Applicants must show funds requested from this Federal program separately from any other Federal sources of funding. Identify any other Federal funding sources and amounts in the required Budget Narrative (see below).

You may omit the Budget Information form if you provide the same or more detailed budget information in another format. At a minimum, your alternative budget table must include all the object class categories in the Budget Information Form.

SF-429 Request to Acquire, Improve, or Furnish Real Property

Applicants seeking approval to acquire real property under an award must complete and submit the SF-429, "Real Property Status Report (Cover Page)" and the SF-429-B, "Real Property Status Report Attachment B (Request to Acquire, Improve, or Furnish)". These forms are required if the real property is acquired with Federal funds, with recipient cost share or matching funds, or as an in-kind contribution under the award. The SF-429 forms are not available with this announcement on Grants.gov; they are available on the Grants.gov Post-Award Reporting Forms page. Please submit these completed forms as attachments to your application.

Budget Narrative

Describe and justify requested budget items and costs. Detail how the SF-424 Budget Information, Object Class Category totals were determined. For personnel salary costs, include the baseline salary figures and the estimates of time. Describe any proposed item of cost that requires prior approval under the Federal cost principles, including any anticipated subawarding,

transferring or contracting out of any work under the award. See 2 CFR §200.407 for more information. If equipment purchased previously with Federal funds is available for the project, provide a list of that equipment and identify the Federal funding source. Identify any 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.

If applicable, include information on:

1. Program Income, if any – Include the source, estimated amount, and the requested method of crediting the program income (e.g. deductive, additive, cost share).
2. Allocation of Costs – Identify the method used for allocating costs in multipurpose projects and facilities.
3. Equipment, including any tangible personal property (includes information technology systems) having a useful life of more than one year and a per-unit acquisition cost which equals or exceeds the lesser of the capitalization level established by you or your subrecipient(s) for financial statement purposes, or $5,000. You and your subrecipients must follow the requirements at 2 CFR 200 when acquiring equipment under an award, with emphasis on 200.313, 200.317 through 200.326, and 200.439.
4. Useful Life – Propose a useful life for each capital improvement that costs at least $25,000 to build, acquire, or install, and reference the method used to determine the useful life of a capital improvement with a value greater than $100,000.
5. Contingency Costs: Contingency costs estimated using broadly-accepted cost estimating methodologies are permissible but must be separately identified in your budget; they must comply with Federal Cost Principles, they must be necessary and reasonable for proper and efficient accomplishment of project or program objectives, and they must be verifiable from your financial records (2 CFR 200.433). Explain how any contingency costs were calculated and why they are necessary to improve the precision of your budget estimates.

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 in SAM.gov prior to submitting a Federal award application and obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) which will replace Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number from Dun & Bradstreet in April 2022. 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. Applicants registering in SAM.gov prior to April 2022 may still be required to obtain a DUNS number prior to completing the registration process within SAM.gov. Federal award recipients must also continue to maintain an active SAM.gov registration with current information through the life of their Federal award(s). See the "Submission Requirements" section of this document below for more information on SAM.gov registration. **There is no cost to register with Dun & Bradstreet or SAM.gov**. There are third-party vendors who will charge a fee in exchange for registering entities with Dun & Bradstreet and SAM.gov; **please be aware you can register and request help for free**.

Obtain a DUNS Number
In April 2022, the Federal Government will stop requiring DUNS numbers. At that point, entities doing business with the government will use the Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) created in

SAM.gov in place of a DUNS number. A UEI will be assigned to entities upon registering with SAM.

If an entity is applying for federal financial assistance prior to April 2022, a DUNS number may still be required as part of the SAM registration process. A DUNS Number can be requested through the Dun & Bradstreet website. The official website address is http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform. For technical difficulties, go to www.dnb.com/govtduns. Please ensure that you are able to receive emails from SAMHelp@dnb.com. The Grants.gov "Obtain a DUNS Number" webpage also provides detailed instructions. Once assigned a DUNS number, your organization must maintain up-to-date information with Dun & Bradstreet. Applicants must enter their DUNS number in the "Organizational DUNS" field on the SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance form (version 3).

Register with the System for Award Management (SAM)
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
06/24/2022
Electronically submitted applications must be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m., ET, on the listed application due date.

Application Due Date Explanation
Grant application packages must be submitted in GrantSolutions.gov or Grants.gov no later than Friday, June 24, 2022, at 11:59 p.m. EDT. We recommend that you submit your application early enough to address any unforeseen technical complications. All letters of financial commitment are due with the application by the deadline. To ensure submission of your application by the deadline, we recommend you submit a copy of your entire application in PDF format to your WSFR Regional Office. We will not consider applications or letters received after the deadline.

Early and frequent communication between your WSFR Regional Office, your Coastal Program staff, and your project partners can help you avoid potentially disqualifying errors in your application. We strongly encourage you to email a draft of your application to your WSFR Regional Office and Coastal Program staff at least four weeks prior to the due date (i.e., by May 27, 2022). WSFR WSFR Regional Office and Coastal Program staff may review and provide input on applications at their discretion and as time permits. Feedback may include

recommendations to improve the application, including identification of errors or omissions that could result in disqualification of your application. If you do not email your draft application at least four weeks prior to the due date, you should have no expectation that regional staff will be able to provide input or recommendations.

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) rate we must charge the program's capped indirect cost rate to the same base identified in our approved indirect cost rate agreement, per 2 CFR §1402.414. 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.

- We are an organization that will charge all costs directly.

Eligible Activities

1. Acquisition of a real property interest in coastal lands or waters (coastal wetlands ecosystems) from willing sellers or partners, provided that the terms and conditions will ensure the real property will be managed for long-term conservation; and
2. The restoration, enhancement, or management of coastal wetlands ecosystems, provided that restoration, enhancement, or management will be administered for long-term conservation.

Ineligible Activities

1. Projects that primarily benefit navigation, irrigation, flood control, or mariculture;
2. Acquisition, restoration, enhancement or management of lands to mitigate habitat losses;
3. Creation of wetlands where wetlands did not previously exist;
4. Enforcement of fish and wildlife laws and regulations, except when necessary for the accomplishment of approved project purposes;
5. Research;
6. Planning as a primary project focus;
7. Operations and maintenance, including long-term invasive species management;
8. Acquisition and/or restoration of upper portions of watersheds where benefits to the coastal wetlands ecosystem are not significant and direct; and
9. Projects providing less than 20 years of conservation benefits.

Note: these lists not comprehensive. If you have questions about the eligibility of specific activities, contact your WSFR Regional Office.

D7. Other Submission Requirements

The Service requests applicants to apply electronically using GrantSolutions. To apply electronically the Applicant Organization and Organization Officials must be established in GrantSolutions. If your Organization and/or Organization Officials do not currently exist in GrantSolutions follow the instructions below.

New Organization Request

Send an email requesting a new organization to be with the following information to help@grantsolutions.gov:

- Organization/Individual Name

- POC first and last name
- POC email
- POC phone number
- Organization Type
- DUNS # (unless exempt)
- EIN (Applicants that are INDIVIDUALS SHOULD NOT include their social security number)
- Address

If your Organization is new or you do not have the appropriate officials in GrantSolutions you must also establish an individual account for each of the Organization Officials and assign the appropriate role. At a minimum the Authorizing Official and Principal Investigator/Program Director roles must be assigned. Individual Organization Official accounts may be requested by completing the Recipient User Account Request Form and emailing the completed form to at help@grantsolutions.gov.

If your organization already exists in GrantSolutions please verify that the correct Organization Officials have an individual GrantSolutions account.

If your Organization and Organization Officials already exists in GrantSolutions, please login using your existing username and password. If you do not remember your account information, please contact the GrantSolutions Help Desk at (866) 577-0771 or by email at help@grantsolutions.gov

For more information on how to apply please see GrantSolutions Help for instructions and videos.

Please contact GrantSolutions Help Desk if you have any questions regarding your account or GrantSolution issues at (866) 577-0771 or by email at help@grantsolutions.gov

In accepting Federal funds, you must comply with all applicable Federal laws, regulations, and policies. If we select your application for award, you must provide evidence of compliance with NEPA, ESA, NHPA and other Federal laws or regulations as part of the post-selection approval process.

Please review this announcement carefully before you apply for a NCWCG Program grant. WSFR is required to annually update information in this announcement, including program requirements and/or application instructions so application requirements may have changed. Use the following list of required elements to make sure your application is complete and your project is eligible for funding.

- SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance
- Assurances: SF-424B or SF-424D form (only if a current copy is not on file in your Regional WSFR Office and you have not submitted the SF-424B via SAM.gov)
- Project Abstract Summary Form (OMB Form Number: 4040-0019)
- Project Narrative (7 page limit)
- Responses to Ranking Criteria (20 page limit)
- Drawings/Maps/Photographs (no page limit)

- A complete SF-424A, SF-424C, or equivalent budget information in another format
- If applicable, a completed Request to Acquire, Improve, or Furnish form (SF-429B) for all real properties, including those you propose for acquisition with NCWCG Program funds and those you propose as cost share
- Budget Narrative
- If applicable, a Conflict of Interest Disclosure
- Any required letter(s) of match commitment identifying specific financial or other commitments that are signed by an authorized entity with budgetary authority
- Uniform Audit Reporting Statement
- Certification Regarding Lobbying
- If applicable, a completed SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities form
- Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement
- Statement on applicability of Intergovernmental Review
- Indirect Cost Statement and if applicable, a copy of your current NICRA (only if a current copy is not on file in your WSFR Regional Office)
- If applicable, any attachments or appendices

E. Application Review Information

E1. Criteria

Criterion 1: Wetlands conservation **Maximum Points:** 7

How will the project reverse coastal wetland loss or habitat degradation in decreasing or stable coastal wetland types? Reference project location information provided in your Project Narrative. Include a citation for your wetland type determinations and reference any maps, diagrams, or other information demonstrating that targeted lands or waters meet the definition of a coastal wetland ecosystem (50 CFR 84.11).

Criterion 2: Maritime forests on coastal barriers **Maximum Points:** 7

How will the project significantly benefit maritime forests on coastal barriers?

Criterion 3: Long-term conservation **Maximum Points:** 7

How will the project ensure long-term conservation of coastal wetland functions? The project must provide at least 20 years of conservation benefits to be eligible. Reference any published data, modelling, design features, and/or similar information supporting the expected longevity of natural resource benefits resulting from project activities.

Criterion 4: Coastal watershed management **Maximum Points:** 3

How will the completed project help accomplish the natural resources goals and objectives of one or more formal, ongoing coastal watershed management plan or effort?

Criterion 5: Conservation of threatened and endangered species **Maximum Points:** 5

How will the project benefit any federally-listed endangered or threatened species, species proposed for Federal listing, recently delisted species or designated or proposed critical habitat in coastal wetlands? Describe any expected benefits to your State-listed species.

Criterion 6: Benefits to fish **Maximum Points:** 5

How will the project provide, restore, or enhance important fisheries habitat?

Criterion 7: Benefits to coastal-dependent or migratory birds **Maximum Points:** 5

How will the project provide, restore, or enhance important habitat for coastal-dependent or migratory birds?

Criterion 8: Prevent or reduce contamination **Maximum Points:** 5

How will the project prevent or reduce input of contaminants, or remove existing contaminants from the coastal wetlands and associated coastal waters?

Criterion 9: Catalyst for future conservation **Maximum Points:** 4

How will the project leverage other ongoing coastal wetlands conservation efforts in an area or provide additional impetus for conservation?

Criterion 10: Partners in conservation **Maximum Points:** 4

Will the project receive financial support, including in-kind match, from private, local or other Federal partners?

Criterion 11: Federal share reduced **Maximum Points:** 5

Does the application add to the non-Federal share of the project by contributing additional cash? See 50 CFR 84.32 (a)(11).

Criterion 12: Education/outreach program or wildlife-oriented recreation **Maximum Points:** 3

Does the proposed project include a site-specific, substantive outreach/education program? Does it provide recreational opportunities that are consistent with the conservation goals of the site?

Criterion 13: Other factors **Maximum Points:** 4

Please summarize how any other factors not covered in the previous criteria make your proposed project or site particularly unique and valuable. Other factors may include but are not limited to the following examples (see 50 CFR 84.32(a)(13)). You must provide evidence supporting the expected benefits.

a. Projects providing significant benefits to rare or threatened habitat types, biodiverse habitats, rare and declining species, and/or the local community;
b. Projects that are particularly cost-effective;
c. Projects that assist in the prevention or control of invasive species;
d. Projects that provide important cultural or historical resource benefits;
e. Projects designed to significantly advance climate change adaptation, especially those that reference Sea Level Rise modeling and/or analyses that indicate the targeted parcel(s) will be conserved, and function as intended, in perpetuity;
f. Projects that help build the capacity of underserved insular jurisdictions to conserve coastal wetlands ecosystems, including Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

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.

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. Programs document applicant risk evaluations using the Bureau's "Financial Assistance Recipient Risk Assessment" form. 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.

We will accept applications via GrantSolutions or Grants.gov up to the published deadline. You may revise and resubmit applications until the application deadline. We encourage you to communicate with your WSFR Regional Office at least four weeks in advance of the deadline if you are requesting a pre-deadline review (by May 27, 2022); however, we cannot guarantee pre-

deadline application review due to limited staff availability. We will conduct an initial review of applications to verify project eligibility. If we identify any minor errors or omissions we may contact you to clarify information. We will not accept revised Project Narratives, significant budget revisions, or letters of commitment after the deadline.

After review for eligibility, a panel of Service program specialists scores eligible applications using criteria published in this announcement. We may reject applications that do not meet application requirements or are not substantial in character and design, as determined by the review panel, even if NCWCG Program funds are available. Any funds not awarded in a fiscal year carry over to the next fiscal year, are combined with new funds, and are distributed nationally through competitive grants approved by the Service Director.

After ranking of eligible projects based on scoring on these criteria, WSFR staff recommend a project list to the Assistant Director for WSFR, who then recommends a final list of projects to the Service Director. The Service Director makes the final project selections.

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 your WSFR Regional Office. The Service Director makes the final selections for funding.

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

We estimate we will announce awards by January 2023.

F. Federal Award Administration Information

F1. Federal Award Notices

If your project is selected for funding, the WSFR Regional Office will notify you of the award and the process needed to receive a grant, including satisfactory completion of compliance requirements. We encourage you to submit all required compliance documentation to the WSFR Regional Office within six months of receipt of the pre-award notification. When compliance requirements are met, your WSFR Regional Office will send you a notice of award detailing the terms and conditions of the award. Notices of award are typically sent to you by e-mail. If e-mail notification is unsuccessful, the document(s) will be sent by courier mail (e.g., FedEx, DHL or

UPS). You are not required to sign/return the notice of award. Acceptance of an award is defined as starting work, drawing down funds, or accepting the award via electronic means. Awards are based on the application submitted to and approved by us. The notice of award will include specific instructions on how to request payment. If applicable, the instructions will detail any additional information/forms required and where to submit payment requests. We may also publish one or more media releases and post information about projects selected for funding on our websites. These releases may be made in coordination with the DOI and may be made nationally and/or regionally.

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.

Data Availability
Per the Financial Assistance Interior Regulation (FAIR), 2 CFR §1402.315:

a. All data, methodology, factual inputs, models, analyses, technical information, reports, conclusions, valuation products or other scientific assessments in any medium or form, including textual, numerical, graphic, cartographic, narrative, or audiovisual, resulting from a financial assistance agreement is available for use by the Department of the Interior, including being available in a manner that is sufficient for independent verification.
b. The Federal Government has the right to:
    1. Obtain, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use the data, methodology, factual inputs, models, analyses, technical information, reports, conclusions, or other scientific assessments, produced under a Federal award; and
    2. Authorize others to receive, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use such data, methodology, factual inputs, models, analyses, technical information, reports, conclusions, or other scientific assessments, for Federal purposes, including to allow for meaningful third-party evaluation.

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.

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 than120 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.

You must submit all performance reports in TRACS and GrantSolutions as described in the terms and conditions specified in the Notice of Award. You should complete your performance reports in TRACS first. Once completed, TRACS will generate a performance report that you can upload in GrantSolutions.

Your performance report information must provide quantitative outputs for the approved Standard Objectives, and narrative responses to the following questions:

1. What progress has been made towards completing the objectives(s) of the project?
2. Please describe and justify any changes in the implementation of your objective(s) or approach(es).
3. If applicable, please share if your project resulted in any unexpected benefits, promising practices, new understandings, cost efficiencies, management recommendations, or lessons learned.
4. For survey projects only: If applicable, does this project continue work from a previous award? If so, how do the current results compare to prior results? (Recipients may elect to add attachments such as tables, figures, or graphs to provide further detail when answering this question).
5. If applicable, identify and attach selected publications, photographs, screenshots of websites, or other documentation (including articles in popular literature, scientific literature, or other public information products) that have resulted from this project that highlight the accomplishments of the project.
6. Is this a project you wish to highlight for communication purposes?
7. For CMS States only: If the grant is a CMS, has the agency submitted an updated report every three years detailing the CMS components: (a) inventory and scanning; (b) strategic plan; (c) operational plan; and (d) evaluation and control have been reviewed and summaries included which provide detailed review results and recommendations?

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.

Real property interests may include, but are not limited to, fee simple, fee with exceptions to title, easements, water rights, and mineral rights. Leaseholds acquired by a recipient or subrecipient must also be reported regardless of their status as real or personal property under State law. The real property and leaseholds to be reported are those that required a Notice of Federal Participation to be recorded in the public recorder's office of the local jurisdiction. They include real property and leaseholds that were:
(a) Purchased for a financially assisted project with Federal funds or non-Federal cost-sharing or matching funds;
(b) Acquired previously by the recipient or subrecipient for another purpose, but committed to the financially assisted project as an in-kind contribution; or
(c) Accepted by the recipient or subrecipient as an in-kind contribution from a non-Federal third party for the financially assisted project.

If your award includes real property/facility acquisition or construction, you are responsible for entering information in the TRACS inventory modules to create real property/facility record(s). We will use these real property/facility records to ensure your periodic compliance requirement to submit reports on the status of real property acquired or constructed under a Federal award as outlined in the Notice of Award is met. The Director, Office of Grants Management, has approved the Service's use of TRACS as an alternate equivalent format for the collection of data needed for the OMB approved form, *Real Property Status Report SF 429-A* (2 CFR 1402.329(d)(4)). If the real property will be held for less than 15 years, reports must be submitted annually. If the real property will be held for 15 years or more, the first report will be due within a year of the end of the period of performance, and subsequent reporting on a schedule determined by us. Reports for real property held for 15 years or more will be due at least once every five years, but could be required more often.

Conflict of Interest Disclosures
Recipients must notify the program immediately in writing of any conflict of interest that arise during the life of their Federal award, including those reported to them by any subrecipient under the award. Recipients must notify the program in writing if any employees, including subrecipient and contractor personnel, are related to, married to, or have a close personal relationship with any Federal employee in the Federal funding program or who otherwise may have been involved in the review and selection of the award. The term employee means any individual engaged in the performance of work pursuant to the Federal award.

Recipients may not have a former Federal employee as a key project official, or in any other substantial role related to their award, whose participation put them out of compliance with the legal authorities addressing post-Government employment restrictions. See the U.S. Office of Government Ethics website for more information on these restrictions. The Service will examine each conflict of interest disclosure based on its particular facts and the nature of the project and

will determine if a significant potential conflict exists. If it does, the Service will work with the recipient to determine an appropriate resolution. Failure to disclose and resolve conflicts of interest in a manner that satisfies the Service may result in any of the remedies for noncompliance described in 2 CFR §200.339, including 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:
Chris Darnell
Telephone:
703-358-2236
Email:

chris_darnell@fws.gov

G2. Program Administration

For **program administration assistance**, contact:

First and Last Name:
Paul Van Ryzin
Telephone:
703-358-1849
Email:
paul_vanryzin@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, Expiration Date: 7/31/2021

We are collecting this information in accordance with the authorizing legislation identified above. Your response is required to obtain or retain a benefit. We will use the information you provide to conduct a competitive review and select projects for funding and, if awarded, to evaluate performance. We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. 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 time for these activities will vary depending on program-specific requirements. You may send comments on the burden estimate or any other aspect of this information collection to the Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS BPHC, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.