Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act

Notice of Funding Opportunity Number: F20AS00027

Federal Program: Department of the Interior, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Midwest Region Fisheries

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 15.608 and 15.662

Authorizing Legislation: Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act, 16 U.S.C. §941.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: 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 8 to 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.

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

I. Program Description

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) requests interested entities to submit research, restoration, and Regional Project proposals for the restoration of the Great Lakes Basin fish and wildlife resources, as authorized under the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act (16 USC 941c).

The purpose of the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act (GLFWRA) is to provide assistance to States, Indian Tribes, and other interested entities to encourage cooperative conservation, restoration, research, and management of the fish and wildlife resources and their habitats in the Great Lakes Basin.

All proposals should focus on research and restoration of fish and/or wildlife resources and their habitats in the Great Lakes Basin and should be consistent with the goals of the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act of 2016, and the recommendations of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration's "Strategy to Restore and Protect the Great Lakes." Proposals should also be consistent with one or more of the following:

a. The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Action Plan III;
b. The goals of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement;
c. The Non-indigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act as reauthorized by the National Invasive Species Act;
d. The recommendations from the Great Lakes Fishery Resources Restoration Study of 1995;
e. The fish community objectives identified by the lake committees and the Council of Lake Committees;
f. The Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries;

g. The Joint Strategic Plan for Management of Great Lakes Fisheries;
h. The North American Waterfowl Management Plan;
i. Addresses research and/or monitoring priorities of the Upper Mississippi River and Great Lakes Region Joint Venture 2007 Implementation Plan;
j. Applicable State Wildlife Action Plans; and
k. Additional step down plans that further specify the implementation of the goals and objectives of the above plans at the state, tribal, watershed or local level.

Proposals submitted are reviewed and recommended for funding to the Service by the GLFWRA Proposal Review Committee (PRC). Since 1998, the Act has provided $29.2 million dollars in federal funding to 182 research, restoration, and Regional Projects, combined with required matching funds equates to $42.8 million worth of benefits to Great Lakes Basin fish, and wildlife resources. More than 130 organizations have contributed nearly $13.6 million in matching non-federal partner support.

Department of Interior's Secretarial Priorities

The Secretary of the Department of Interior (DOI) developed a list of ten priorities to support both the public purpose and Service and DOI missions. The six goals of GLFWRA are:

1. Restoring and maintaining self-sustaining fish and wildlife resources.
2. Minimizing the impacts of contaminants on fishery and wildlife resources.
3. Protecting, maintaining, and, where degraded and destroyed, restoring fish and wildlife habitat, including the enhancement and creation of wetlands that result in a net gain in the amount of those habitats.
4. Stopping illegal activities adversely impacting fishery and wildlife resources.
5. Restoring threatened and endangered species to viable, self-sustaining levels.
6. Protecting, managing, and conserving migratory birds.

Four of the ten Secretarial Priorities are addressed by the GLFWRA goals:

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

a. Utilize science to identify best practices to manage land and water resources and adapt to changes in the environment.

e. Foster relationships with conservation organizations advocating for balanced stewardship and use of public lands.

All the GLFWRA goals align with this Priority. The GLFWRA funds projects within the Great Lakes Basin, including Canadian waters and land to benefit fish and wildlife resources. Lines of communications are expanded with Tribal, State governments, local governments and communities, non-profit organizations, State and Tribal natural resource offices, and Fish and Wildlife offices in the Great Lakes Basin through the development of pre-proposals, full proposals and Regional Projects to address the six goals of the GLFWRA.

3. Restoring trust with local communities

a. Be a better neighbor with those closest to our resources by improving dialogue and relationships with persons and entities bordering our lands.

b. Expand the lines of communication with Governors, state natural resource offices, Fish and Wildlife offices, water authorities, county commissioners, Tribes, and local communities.

All the GLFWRA goals align with this Priority. The GLFWRA funds projects within the Great Lakes Basin, including Canadian waters and land to benefit fish and wildlife resources. Lines of communications are

expanded with Tribal, State governments, local governments and communities, non-profit organizations, State and Tribal natural resource offices, and Fish and Wildlife offices in the Great Lakes Basin through the development of pre-proposals, full proposals and Regional Projects to address the six goals of the GLFWRA.

The Proposal Review Committee (PRC) is comprised of two representatives of each of the State Directors (New York, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Pennsylvania) and Indian Tribes (Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, Seneca Nation, Oneida Nation, and Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa) in the Great Lakes Basin. The two representatives (one fishery expert and one wildlife expert) are appointed by the State Director or Indian Tribe to serve on the PRC. The PRC is responsible for review, scoring and ranking of research, restoration and Regional Project proposals and provides recommendations to the Midwest Region Director on which proposals should be funded and implemented. The PRC operates under the guidance of the Service.

7. Striking a regulatory balance

b. Ensure that Endangered Species Act decisions are based on strong science and thorough analysis.

GLFWRA Goals 1, 3, 5, and 6 align with this Priority. Funded habitat restoration and research projects use scientifically sound methods, best management practices, and analysis for natural resource managers to make the best Endangered Species Act (ESA) decisions to benefit the ESA species in the Great Lakes Basin.

8. Modernizing our infrastructure

a. Support the White House Public/Private Partnership Initiative to modernize U.S. infrastructure.
b. Remove impediments to infrastructure development and facilitate private sector efforts to construct infrastructure projects serving American needs.

GLFWRA Goals 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6 align with this Priority. Funded proposals address aging transportation infrastructure (road stream crossing, dams) that are barriers to fish passage, and other aquatic organisms by working with private funding sources, private contractors and local road commissions to modernize structures to benefit fish and wildlife resources in the Great Lakes Basin.

II. Federal Award Information

Supported in part by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, we expect approximately $1,000,000 to support projects this fiscal year. Available funding and project awards are subject to final Congressional appropriations for Fiscal Year 2020.

Up to 33 and one-third percent of the total Congressional appropriation to the GLFWRA is eligible to fund Regional Projects.

Successful restoration and research projects have ranged from $2,300 to $2,000,000 with the average project at $128,056. Number of grants awarded this fiscal year is expected to range between 5 and 9. Start dates are flexible, but between October 1, 2020 and March 1, 2021 are suggested. Project period typically ranges from 1 to 4 years.

Selected restoration and research proposals, and Regional Projects will be awarded funding for the duration of the project via a grant or cooperative agreement between the recipient and the Service.

Funding will be made available once the official award letter has been received and the performance period has started. Continuation of projects funded in previous fiscal years is eligible but will be considered and reviewed as a new project.

Grants and cooperative agreements may be issued under this announcement. For cooperative agreements, the Service anticipates to be substantially involved by performing one or more of the following activities:

- Participating and working closely with the recipient in carrying out the scope of work, including training recipient personnel or detailing Federal personnel to work on the project effort.
- Reviewing and approving one stage of work before the next stage can begin.
- Prior to award, reviewing and approving proposed modifications or sub-awards.
- Helping select project staff or trainees.
- Directing or redirecting the work because of interrelationships with other projects.
- Reserving the right to immediately halt an activity if detailed performance specifications are not met.
- Limiting recipient discretion with respect to scope of work, organizational structure, staffing, mode of operations and other management processes, coupled with close monitoring or operational involvement during performance under the award.

III. Eligibility Information

A. Eligible Applicants

Eligible Applicants: States, Federally Recognized Indian Tribal Governments, and Native American Treaty Organizations, federal agencies, local governments, non-governmental organizations, universities, and conservation organizations (either within or outside of the basin) are eligible, and must be sponsored by a member of the GLFWRA PRC listed above to receive funding.

Sponsorship: During the development of the pre-proposal make sure you discuss your project with the natural resource agency (e.g., local staff) in the Great Lakes Basin that has management authority (State and/or Tribal natural resource agencies) where your project will take place on the ground or will potentially benefit. This is the first step in obtaining sponsorship for your project. Proof of sponsorship is not required at the pre-proposal stage. If you get invited to submit a full proposal, contact information for a PRC member will be provided to you, so you can discuss your project, and obtain required sponsorship to be eligible to receive funding.

Regional Projects: Regional Project proposals must be submitted by a State Director and/or Tribal Chair (or a joint submission from the supervisors of the agency's fish and wildlife programs on behalf of the Director or Tribal Chair). Regional Project proposals should impact multiple Great Lakes, States and/or Tribes and consequently must include the signature or other written documentation of all State Directors and Tribal Chairs who support the project (or joint signatures or letter of support from the supervisors of the agency's fish and wildlife programs on behalf of the State Director or Tribal Chair).

U.S. non-profit, non-governmental organizations must provide a copy of their Section 501(c)(3) or (4) status determination letter received from the Internal Revenue Service.

B. Cost Sharing or Matching

Restoration and Research Proposals: All proposals **require a 25% non-federal match**. Not less than 25% of the **total cost** of implementing a proposal shall be paid in cash or in-kind contributions by non-Federal

sources. Applicants may attribute some or all of their allowable unrecovered indirect costs as cost-share/match, however recipients may only charge to the Federal award the indirect costs calculated against the allowable direct costs charged to the Federal award. Recipients may not charge to the Federal award indirect costs calculated against: 1) any portion of the recipient's direct costs; or 2) any portion of the direct costs charged to any other Federal or non-Federal partner.

The required match is **25% of the total project costs** (funding request + non-federal match). For example, if the request for federal funding is for $50,000, the minimum required non-federal match is $16,666.66, and the total project costs would be $66,666.66.

($50,000 / 0.75 = $66,666.66 - $50,000.00 = $16,666.66).

Restoration and research pre-proposals **without a 25% non-federal match will not be considered**.

Non-Federal Match Changes: The 2016 Reauthorization of the GLFWRA made some significant additions to allowable non-federal match as it relates to time period, and land and conservation easements.

Time Period for Providing Non-Federal Match: The non-federal share of the cost of implementing a proposal may be provided at any time during the 2 year period preceding January 1 of the year in which the Service receives the restoration and/or research pre-proposal or Regional Project proposal.

Sources of Non-Federal Match: To be accepted as match it must be in compliance with §200.306 Cost sharing or matching.

- The appraised value of land or a conservation easement connected with the project.
- The costs associated with securing a conservation easement; and restoration or enhancement of the conservation easement.
- Appraisal of conservation easement. The value of a conservation easement may be used to meet the non-federal share of the cost of implementing a proposal, as long as it meets the following:

1. Within the 2 year time period for allowable match;
2. Is acquired before the end of the proposal grant period;
3. Is held in perpetuity for conservation purposes of Service programs, related to the Great Lakes Basin, and a) by an accredited land trust or conservancy or a Federal, State, or tribal agency; b) is connected either physically or through a conservation planning process to the proposal; and c) the appraisal valuation date shall not be later than 1 year after the price of the conservation easement was set under a contract.
4. The appraisal shall conform to the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP) and completed by a Federal or State certified appraiser.
5. All costs associated with securing a conservation easement and restoration or enhancement of that conservation easement may be used to meet the non-federal match of implementing a proposal. The costs may include cash, in-kind contributions, and indirect costs. The costs may not be associated with mitigation or litigation (other than costs associated with the Natural Resource Damage Assessment program).

Regional Projects: Regional Project proposals selected for funding shall be exempt from cost sharing or partner match, if the Service's Midwest Region Director determines that the authorization for the project does not require a non-federal cost-share.

C. Other Eligibility Criteria

The proposal activities (e.g., habitat restoration and barrier removal) must be within the Great Lakes Basin or impact a fish or wildlife species (e.g., research) present in the Great Lakes Basin to be eligible for funding.

There is no limit on the number of research or restoration proposals or Regional Projects an applicant may submit.

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.

Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM.gov) Registration: This requirement does not apply to individuals applying for funds as a private citizen (i.e., unrelated to any business or nonprofit organization you may own or operate in your name) or any entity with an exception approved by the Service under 2 CFR 25.110(d). All other applicants are required to obtain a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number from Dun & Bradstreet and then register in SAM.gov prior to submitting a Federal award application. Federal award recipients must 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. The Service 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 Service 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.

Prohibition on Issuing Awards to Entities that Require Certain Internal Confidentiality Agreements: Domestic (U.S.) non-Federal entities requiring their employees or contractors to sign internal confidentiality agreements or statements that prohibit, or otherwise restrict, such employees or contractors from lawfully reporting waste, fraud, or abuse to a designated investigative or law enforcement representative of a Federal department or agency authorized to receive such information are not eligible to compete for or receive a Federal award. See Pub. L. 113-235, Title VII, Division E, Section 743 for more information.

Excluded Parties: The Service conducts a review of the SAM.gov Exclusions database for all applicant entities and their key project personnel prior to award. The Service 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.

IV. Application Requirements

A. Requesting Paper Application Package

To be considered for funding under this funding opportunity, an application must contain:

The request for **restoration and research project pre-proposal**, and **Regional Project proposal templates can be downloaded** at the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act internet site or from

Grants.gov under this opportunity. If you require assistance obtaining the application templates contact Rick Westerhof at 231-584-3553 or rick_westerhof@fws.gov.

B. Application Form and Content Requirements

Restoration and Research Pre-proposals: Restoration and research pre-proposals are limited to two pages and must include the following information: management implication or application, project title; project applicant(s); GPS coordinates, costs; project dates; rationale; relevancy, objectives; methods; deliverables/products and a one page only curriculum vitae or resume for each person involved in the project.

Restoration and Research Full Proposals: Those applicants invited to submit full proposals (notified in February 2020) will be required to submit the same information as included in the pre-proposals, but with more detail that may include providing a response to comments/suggestions from the PRC that will be sent via email. The following information must be included in detail: management implication or application, rationale; GPS coordinates; objectives; methods; deliverables; schedule for completion; past and current funding support; references; information on how each of the eight review criteria are addressed; one page resume or curriculum vitae for each person involved in the project; source of the non-federal match and budget sheet(s); and funding requested budget sheet(s) including direct and indirect costs. Letters of support are encouraged.

For **restoration and research, and Regional Project proposals** approved for funding, applicants will be required to provide further information as required by the Service to achieve compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (42 USC 4321-4347), Endangered Species Act (16 USC 1531-1544), or other requirements as referenced in sections below.

Regional Projects: Final Service work plans for Regional Projects recommended for funding by the PRC will be developed among the applicants submitting the project and the identified Service project manager.

Funding Guidelines and Restrictions: The Proposal Review Committee has established the following guidelines and restrictions for funding provided through the Act.

- Not less than 25% of the total cost of implementing a proposal shall be paid in cash or in-kind contributions by non-Federal sources.
- Construction and engineering costs are allowed for restoration projects that directly benefit fish and wildlife resources in the Great Lakes Basin.
- Equipment purchases are allowable for those items necessary to meet the stated project objectives and shall follow the requirements within 2 CFR 200, including but not limited to 2 CFR 200.12, 2 CFR 200.313, and 200.407.
- Indirect Cost – You will need to do the one of the following related to indirect costs. Either Provide: 1). A copy of your current Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA), and 2). A written statement signed by the official having the authority to negotiate indirect cost rates for the recipient organization notifying us that they will assess a reduced indirect cost rate. This statement must also specify to which project(s) the reduced rate will apply, or 3). A statement in the Budget Narrative indicating recipient organization does not have a NICRA.
- Funding is not available for salaries of permanent or tenured staff; however, tenured staff on less than 12 month appointments are eligible for funding (e.g., 9 month tenured staff would be eligible for up to 3 months funding). Staff on soft money or with annual contracts are eligible for funding.

- The development of management plans is not eligible for funding; however, gathering important information for the development of management plans and implementing actions listed in management plans are eligible for funding.
- Travel funds to attend and present results at conferences is limited to $1,000 per person, up to a maximum of $2,000 per award.
- All funded projects are required to document compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Pursuant to this, successful applicants must complete a series of environmental checks and/or documents to ensure compliance. Depending on the scope and scale of the project this may be as simple as a NEPA checklist or as complex as the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement. Service funds cannot be used to complete on the ground work until NEPA compliance has been documented.
- **Grant funds may be used** for project activities that **occur after the receipt of the full proposal (March 30, 2020)**, however, **costs must be authorized and approved by the Service per 2 CFR 200 and costs will NOT be reimbursed if the proposal is not approved for funding.** Project activities that occur before the receipt of the full proposal **(March 30, 2020)** are ineligible as a grant activity and will not be reimbursed with grant funds.

NOTE: The following information starting below with "1. SF424, Application for Federal Assistance Form" through "Application Checklist" is required if you are submitting a Regional Project proposal. If you are submitting a restoration or research Pre-Proposal this information is not required at this time, but will be required if you get invited in February 2020 to submit a full proposal.

1. **Regional Project Proposal Application**
   In Word format submit the Regional Project proposal. Submit budget sheets separately in Excel format.

2. **SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance**
   Applicants must submit the appropriate Standard Form (SF)-424, Application for Federal Assistance. Individuals applying as a private citizen (i.e., unrelated to any business or nonprofit organization you may own or operate in your name), must complete the SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance-Individual form. All other applicants must complete the standard SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance. All of the required application forms are available on the "Packages" tab of this Funding Opportunity on Grants.gov. The SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance must be complete, and signed and dated. Please note: Enter only the amount requested from this Federal program in the "Federal" funding box on the SF-424 Application form. Include any other Federal sources of funding in the "Other" box, and provide details on those Federal source(s) and funding amount(s) in the required Budget Narrative (see the "Budget Narrative" section below).

3. **SF 424, Assurances**
   Applicants must submit the appropriate signed and dated Assurances form. Complete either the SF-424B, Assurances for Non-Construction Programs or the SF-424D, Assurances for Construction Programs, as applicable to your project. All of the required application forms are available on the "Packages" tab of this Funding Opportunity on Grants.gov. The SF-424 Assurances forms include a statement that some of the assurances may not be applicable to your organization and/or your project or program. Signing the required SF-424 Assurances form does not make you or your organization subject to laws that are otherwise not applicable to you

or your organization. Changing, crossing out, or making notations on the form before signing has no impact on the applicability of law.

4. **Project Narrative for Pre-Proposal and Full Proposal Application**
   - Title;
   - Project Applicants;
   - Brief Project Description;
   - Management Implication or Application;
   - Total Project Cost;
   - GLFWRA Funds Requested;
   - Non-Federal Partner Match;
   - Project Dates;
   - GPS Coordinates;
   - Rationale and Objectives;
   - Methods;
   - Deliverables/Products;
   - Relevance;
   - Resume/Curriculum Vitae;
   - Funding Requested Budget Sheet for Full Proposal only; and
   - Non-Federal Match Budget Sheet for Full Proposal only.
   - See application template for more details.

5. **Project Narrative for Regional Project Proposal Application**
   - Title;
   - Project Dates;
   - Project Applicant(s) and USFWS Project Manager(s);
   - Management Implication or Application;
   - GPS Coordinates;
   - Rationale and Objectives;
   - Methods;
   - Deliverables/Products;
   - Relevance;
   - Schedule for Completion;
   - Budget Justification;
   - Optional Non-Federal Match;
   - Funds Requested;
   - Non-Federal Partner Match;
   - Total Project Cost;
   - Non-Federal Partner Match;
   - Past GLFWRA Funded Projects;
   - Identify Other Funding Sources;
   - References;
   - Project Dates;
   - Resume/Curriculum Vitae;
   - Funding Requested Budget Sheet;

- Non-Federal Match Budget Sheet; and
- See application template for more details

6. **SF-424, Budget Information**
   Applicants must submit the appropriate SF-424 Budget Information form. Complete either the SF-424A, Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs or the SF-424C, Budget Information for Construction Programs, as applicable to your project. All of the required application forms are available on the "Packages" tab of this Funding Opportunity on Grants.gov. Federal award recipients and subrecipients are subject to Federal award cost principles as detailed in the Service's "Financial Assistance Award Terms and Conditions". Please note: Show funds requested from this Federal program separately from any other Federal sources of funding. In the "Budget Summary" section, use the first row for funding requested from this Federal program. Use subsequent row(s) for other Federal funding. Enter each Federal program's CFDA number(s) in the corresponding fields on the form. The CFDA number(s) for this Federal program appears on the first page of this Funding Opportunity.

7. **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 item of cost that requires prior approval under the Federal cost principles. See 2 CFR 200.407 "Prior written approval (prior approval)" 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.

8. **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 is your organization's cognizant agency, the Interior Business Center will negotiate your indirect cost rate. Contact the Interior Business Center 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 must have prior written approval from the Service to use amounts budgeted for direct costs to satisfy cost-share or match requirements or to cover unallowable indirect costs. Recipients shall not shift unallowable indirect costs to another Federal award unless specifically authorized to do so by legislation.

   Required Indirect Cost Statement
   All organizations must include the applicable statement from the following list in their application to the Service, and attach to their application any documentation identified in the applicable statement:

   We are:

   ☐ A U.S. state or local government entity receiving more than $35 million in direct Federal funding each year with an indirect cost rate of [insert rate]. We submit our indirect cost

rate proposals to our cognizant agency. Attached is a copy of our most recently approved rate agreement/certification.

☐ A U.S. state or local government entity receiving less than $35 million in direct Federal funding with an indirect cost rate of [insert rate]. We have prepared and will retain for audit an indirect cost rate proposal and related documentation.

☐ A [insert your organization type; U.S. states and local governments, please use one of the statements above or below] that has previously negotiated or currently has an approved indirect cost rate with our cognizant agency. Our indirect cost rate is [insert rate]. [Insert either: "Attached is a copy of our most recently approved but expired rate agreement. In the event an award is made, we will submit an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency within 90 calendar days after the award is made." *or* "Attached is a copy of our current negotiated indirect cost rate agreement."]

☐ A [insert your organization type] that has never submitted an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency. Our indirect cost rate is [insert rate]. 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.

☐ A [insert your organization type] that has never submitted an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency and has an indirect cost rate that is lower than 10%. Our indirect cost rate is [insert rate; must be lower than 10%]. However, if we receive an award we will not be able to meet the requirement to submit an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency within 90 calendar days after award. We request as a condition of award to charge a flat indirect cost rate of [insert rate; must be lower than 10%] against [insert a clear description of the direct cost base against which your rate is charged (e.g., salaries; salaries and fringe benefits; or modified total direct costs). However, please note that your organization cannot charge indirect costs in excess of the indirect costs that would be recovered if applied against modified total direct costs as defined in 2 CFR 200.68]. We understand that we must notify the Service in writing if we establish an approved rate with our cognizant agency at any point during the award period.

☐ A [insert your organization type] that has never submitted an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency and has an indirect cost rate that is 10% or higher. Our indirect cost rate is [insert your organization's indirect rate; must be 10% or higher]. However, if we receive an award we will not be able to meet the requirement to submit an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency within 90 calendar days after award. We request as a condition of award to charge a flat *de minimis* indirect cost rate of 10% to be charged against modified total direct project costs as defined in 2 CFR 200.68. We understand that we must notify the Service in writing if we establish a negotiated rate with our cognizant agency at any point 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.

☐ A [insert your organization type] that is submitting this proposal for consideration under the [insert either "Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit Program" or "Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit Network"], which has a Department of the Interior-approved

indirect cost rate cap of [insert program rate]. If we have an approved indirect cost rate with our cognizant agency, we understand that we must apply this reduced rate against the same direct cost base as identified in our approved indirect cost rate agreement. If we do not have an approved indirect cost rate with our cognizant agency, we understand that we must charge indirect costs against the modified total direct cost base defined in 2 CFR 200.68 "Modified Total Direct Cost (MTDC)". We understand that we must request prior approval from the Service to use the 2 CFR 200 MTDC base instead of the base identified in our approved indirect cost rate agreement. We understand that Service approval of such a request will be based on: 1) a determination that our approved base is only a subset of the MTDC (such as salaries and wages); and 2) that use of the MTDC base will still result in a reduction of the total indirect costs to be charged to the award. In accordance with 2 CFR 200.405, we understand that indirect costs not recovered due to a voluntary reduction to our federally negotiated rate are not allowable for recovery via any other means.

☐ A [insert your organization type] that will charge all costs directly.

9. Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Applicants must state in their application if any actual or potential conflict of interest exists at the time of submission. Conflicts of interest include any relationship or matter that might place the recipient, including their employees and subrecipients, in a position of conflict, real or apparent, between their responsibilities under the award and any other outside interests. Conflicts of interest include direct or indirect financial interests; close personal relationships; positions of trust in outside organizations; consideration of future employment arrangements with a different organization; and decision-making authority related to the proposed project. Conflicts of interest are those circumstances real or perceived that would cause a reasonable person with knowledge of the relevant facts to question the impartiality of the applicant, or the applicant's employees or subrecipients, in matters pertaining to the proposed project. Applicants must notify the Service in writing in their application 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 program receiving this application or who otherwise may be involved in the review and selection of their proposal. The term employee means any individual to be engaged in the performance of work pursuant to the Federal award application. Failure to disclose and resolve conflicts of interest in a manner that satisfies the Service may result in the rejection or disqualification of the application.

10. Single Audit Reporting Statement

All U.S. states, local governments, federally recognized Indian tribal governments, 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. U.S. state, local government, federally recognized Indian tribal government, 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.

11. Certification Regarding Lobbying

Applicants requesting more than $100,000 in Federal funding must certify to the statements in 43 CFR 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.

12. **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 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 on the "Packages" tab of this Funding Opportunity on Grants.gov. See 43 CFR, Subpart 18.100 for more information on when additional submission of this form is required.

13. **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 regards 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 regards 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 regards 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.*"

14. **Evidence of Non-Profit Status**
    If a non-profit organization, a copy of their Section 501(c)(3) or (4) status determination letter received from the Internal Revenue Service.

15. **Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement**
    When applicable, a copy of the organization's current Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement.

16. **Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement Waiver Letter**
    When applicable, a letter stating that you will accept a reduced indirect cost rate on this proposal only. Must be signed by the official having the authority to negotiate indirect cost rates for your organization.
17. **APPLICATION CHECKLIST**

- ☐ **Regional Project Proposal Application in Word format. Budget sheets in Excel format.**
- ☐ **SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance**
- ☐ **SF-424B or D, Assurances**
- ☐ **SF-424A or C, Budget Information**
- ☐ **Budget Narrative**
- ☐ **Indirect Cost Statement and related documentation (when applicable)**
- ☐ **Conflict of Interest Disclosure (when applicable)**
- ☐ **Single Audit Reporting Statement (when applicable)**
- ☐ **Certification Regarding Lobbying**
- ☐ **SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (when applicable)**
- ☐ **Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement**
- ☐ **Evidence of non-profit status:** If a non-profit organization, a copy of their Section 501(c)(3) or (4) status determination letter received from the Internal Revenue Service.
- ☐ **NICRA:** When applicable, a copy of the organization's current Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement.
- ☐ **NICRA Waiver Letter:** When applicable, a letter stating that you will accept a reduced indirect cost rate on this proposal only. Must be signed by the person who negotiated your NICRA. Must be signed by the official having the authority to negotiate indirect cost rates for your organization.

Failure to provide complete information may cause delays, postponement, or rejection of the proposal application.

V. Submission Requirements

A. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM.gov) Registration

These requirements do not apply to any individual applying for funds as a private citizen or any entity with an exception approved by the Federal awarding agency under 2 CFR 25.110(d). All other applicants are required to obtain a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number from Dun & Bradstreet and provide that number in the application; complete SAM.gov registration before submitting an application; and continue to maintain an active SAM.gov registration with current information at all times when the entity has an active Federal award or application under consideration. **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**.

1. **Obtain a DUNS Number**
   Request a DUNS Number through the Dun & Bradstreet website. The official website address is http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform. For technical difficulties, send an email to the D&B SAM Help Desk. 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.

2. **Register with SAM**
   Register on the SAM.gov website. The official website address is http://www.sam.gov. The "Help" tab on the website contains User Guides and other information to assist you with registration. The Grants.gov Register with SAM" webpage also provides detailed instructions. You can also 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 to the entity's DUNS or IRS information. Foreign entities who want to receive payment directly to a U.S. bank account must enter and maintain valid, current banking information in SAM.

B. Submission Dates and Times

Submission Deadline: Tuesday, January 7, 2020 by 5:00 PM EST.

Restoration and research pre-proposals and Regional Project proposals are due on Tuesday, January 7, 2020 by 5:00 PM EST. An email will be sent to confirm receipt of the proposal. Proposals received after this deadline will not be considered.

An electronic copy of the restoration and research pre-proposal and Regional Project proposal (in Microsoft Word format) must be submitted to the Service via email to Rick_Westerhof@fws.gov.

C. Intergovernmental Review

Prior to application submission, U.S. state and local government applicants should visit the OMB Office of Federal Financial Management website and view the "State Point of Contact (SPOC) List" to determine whether their application is subject to the state intergovernmental review process under Executive Order (E.O.) 12372 "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs." States not on the list do not participate in the intergovernmental review process, and therefore do not have a SPOC. If you are located within a State that does not have a SPOC, you may send application materials directly to a Federal awarding agency. If your state is on the list, contact the designated entity for more information on the state's prior review requirements for Federal assistance applications.

VI. Application Review Information

A. Criteria

Criteria: Restoration and research pre-proposals and Regional Project proposals will be reviewed and evaluated based on the following eight criteria as described in **Table 1** (see the end of this document for more information):

Management Significance and Relevancy to the Act:
Importance of Problem or Opportunity
Project Impact and Scale
Target Species/Habitats
Impacts both Fish and Wildlife

Project Characteristics:
Objective and Methods
Cost or Value

Likelihood of Success
Potential for Negative Impacts

All proposals should focus on the restoration and or research of fish and/or wildlife resources in the Great Lakes Basin and should be consistent with the goals of the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act of 2006 and the recommendations of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration's "Strategy to Restore and Protect the Great Lakes." When appropriate, all proposals should be consistent with:

a. The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Action Plan III;
b. The goals of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement;
c. The Non-indigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act as reauthorized by the National Invasive Species Act;
d. The recommendations from the Great Lakes Fishery Resources Restoration Study of 1995;
e. The fish community objectives identified by the lake committees and the Council of Lake Committees;
f. The Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries;
g. The Joint Strategic Plan for Management of Great Lakes Fisheries;
h. The North American Waterfowl Management Plan;
i. Addresses research and/or monitoring priorities of the Upper Mississippi River and Great Lakes Region Joint Venture 2007 Implementation Plan; and
l. Applicable State Wildlife Action Plans; and
j. Additional step down plans that further specify the implementation of the goals and objectives of the above plans at the state, tribal, watershed or local level.

B. Review and Selection Process

Proposal Review Committee: The Proposal Review Committee (PRC) is comprised of two representatives of each of the State Directors (New York, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Pennsylvania) and Indian Tribes (Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, Seneca Nation, Oneida Nation, and Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa) in the Great Lakes Basin. The two representatives (one fishery expert and one wildlife expert) are appointed by the State Director or Indian Tribe to serve on the PRC. The PRC is responsible for review of research, restoration and Regional Project proposals and provides recommendations to the Midwest Region Director on which proposals should be funded and implemented. The PRC operates under the guidance of the Service.

Pre-Proposals and Full Proposals Restoration and Research: Restoration and research pre-proposals are reviewed, scored and ranked by the PRC using the criteria in Table 1. Successful applicants are invited to submit full proposals based on the merit of the pre-proposal. Full proposals have a minimum of two peer reviewers and each peer reviewer completes an evaluation form and signs a conflict of interest form. Peer reviewers are selected by the GLFWRA Coordinator based on their technical expertise. Applicants are not required to provide a list of peer reviewers for their proposal. The PRC receives a peer reviewer summary for each proposal for use during their scoring and ranking process. The PRC recommends full proposals to be funded to the Midwest Region Director.

Regional Project Proposals: The PRC reviews the Regional Project proposals using the criteria in Table 1. Each proposal is scored and ranked by the PRC. In February 2020, applicants are invited to give a presentation on their proposal to the PRC. The PRC makes recommendations to the Midwest Region Director on how much of the annual appropriations should be allocated to Regional Projects and which projects should be developed into final Service work plans for funding.

All Proposals: Prior to participating in any review or evaluation process, all staff and peer reviewers, evaluators, panel members, and advisors must sign and return to the program office point of contact the "Department of the Interior Conflict of Interest Certification" form. For a copy of this form, contact the Service point of contact identified in the Agency Contacts section below.

Prior to award, the Service 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 Service may request modification to the application, other pending applications, or an active award, as needed to eliminate any duplication of effort, or the Service may choose not to fund the selected project.

The Service 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 Service 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 Service will evaluate the risk posed by applicants as required in 2 CFR 200.205. Service programs document applicant risk evaluations using the Service'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 Service is required to review and consider any information about or from the applicant found in the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System. The Service will consider this information when completing the risk review. The Service 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 200.207 should be applied the award.

VII. Federal Award Administration

A. Federal Award Notices

The tentative Fiscal Year 2020 GLFWRA schedule showing important dates is presented below:

1. Pre-Proposals and Regional Project Proposals Due	Jan 7, 2020
2. Applicants Regional Project Presentation to the PRC	Feb 12, 2020
3. Restoration and Research Pre-Proposals Selected for Full Proposal Development	Feb 20, 2020
4. Applicants Notified to Submit Full Proposals	Feb 28, 2020
5. Restoration and Research Full Proposal Due	Mar 30, 2020
6. Full Proposal Peer Reviewer Evaluations Due	May 4, 2020
7. Full Proposals Submitted for Department of Interior Review and Approval	Jun 1, 2020
8. Full Proposals Selected for Funding by the PRC	Jun 17, 2020
9. FWS Approves Funds for Regional Project and Research and Restoration Proposals	Jun 29, 2020
10. Successful and Unsuccessful Full Proposal Applicants Notified	Jul 17, 2020
11. Successful Applicants Receive Grant Agreement Award Letter	Aug/Sept 2020

Depending on approval by the Midwest Region Director and available funding, successful restoration and research and Regional Project applicants can anticipate receiving an official grant or cooperative agreement by August or September 2020. The agreement serves as the official notice of award to the

applicant and provides important information on the details of the agreement and expectations of both the Service and recipient for the life of the agreement.

Awards are based on the application submitted to and approved by the Service and are subject to the terms and conditions incorporated into the Notice of Award either by direct citation or by reference to the following: Federal regulations; program legislation or regulation; and special award terms and conditions. Recipient acceptance of a Federal award from the Service carries with it the responsibility to be aware of and comply with all terms and conditions applicable to the award. Recipients indicate their acceptance of the Federal award by starting work, drawing down funds, or accepting the award via electronic means.

B. Award Terms and Conditions

See the Service's "Financial Assistance Award Terms and Conditions" for the administrative and national policy requirements applicable to Service awards.

C. 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 Service 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.

D. Reporting Requirements

The Service will include recipient-specific reporting requirements, including the required reports, reporting frequency, and report due dates in all Notices of Award, as applicable.

1. **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 90 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. See Service policy 516 FW 1, Monitoring Financial and Performance Reporting for Financial Assistance for more information.

2. **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 were not met, if appropriate; and any other pertinent information relevant to the project results. At a minimum, all recipients must submit a **final** performance report. Final reports are due no later than 90 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. See Service policy

516 FW 1, Monitoring Financial and Performance Reporting for Financial Assistance for more information.

3. **Significant Developments Reports**
   Events may occur between the scheduled performance reporting dates that have significant impact upon the supported activity. In such cases, recipients are required to notify the Service 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.

4. **Real Property Reports**
   Recipients and subrecipients are required to submit status reports on the status of real property 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 Service will include recipient-specific real property reporting requirements, including the required data elements, reporting frequency, and report due dates, as applicable.

5. **Conflict of Interest Disclosures**
   Recipients must notify the Service immediately in writing of any actual or potential conflicts of interest that arise during the life of their Federal award. Conflicts of interest include any relationship or matter that might place the recipient, including their employees and subrecipients, in a position of conflict, real or apparent, between their responsibilities under the award and any other outside interests. Conflicts of interest include direct or indirect financial interests; close personal relationships; positions of trust in outside organizations; consideration of future employment arrangements with a different organization; and decision-making authority related to the award. Conflicts of interest are those circumstances real or perceived that would cause a reasonable person with knowledge of the relevant facts to question the impartiality of the recipient or the recipients's employees or subrecipients in matters pertaining to the award. Recipients must notify the Service 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. Failure to disclose and resolve conflicts of interest in a manner that satisfies the Service may result in any of the remedies described in 2 CFR 200.338 Remedies for Noncompliance, including termination of the award.

6. **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 term and condition 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 described in 2 CFR 200.338 Remedies for Noncompliance, including suspension or debarment.

VIII. Federal Awarding Agency Contact(s)

Rick Westerhof
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Midwest Region Office
6644 Turner Road
Elmira, Michigan 49730
Email: Rick_Westerhof@fws.gov
Phone: 231-584-3553
Fax: 231-584-2462

Table 1. Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act Review Criteria

Management Significance and Relevancy to the Act

Importance of Problem or Opportunity	Project Impact and Scale	Target Species/Habitats	Affects both Fish and Wildlife
Project directly addresses a specific management objective or task identified in a State, Tribal, or Federal management plan OR addresses a critically important emerging need as recognized by State, Tribal, or Federal Agencies.	Project will result in large ecological benefits with broad regional/multistate or basin-wide implications.	Project focuses on a Federal or State threatened or endangered species OR project focuses on rare occuring habitat or habitat critical to the life cycle/function of a species.	Project provides clear benefits to both fish AND wildlife communities.
Project addresses a goal or general action(s) (i.e. a stated goal is to implement a type of action, without specific plans for specific projects) identified in a State, Tribal, or Federal management plan.	Project will result in large ecological benefits with local (not larger than a single lake or state) scale implications only.	Project focuses on a native species targeted for rehabilitation or a species of economic importance OR project focuses on habitat supporting the life cycle/function of a species.	Project provides clear benefits to either fish OR wildlife communities.
Project addresses the vision or a broad, far reaching action(s) (i.e. a stated goal is to restore a species or to restore watershed health) identified in a State, Tribal, or Federal management plan.	Project will result in small-medium ecological benefits with broad regional/multistate or basin-wide implications.	Project focuses on a native species not targeted by a specific rehabilitation plan or of economic importance OR project focuses on important (but not critical) habitat.	Project provides clear benefits to specific fish AND wildlife populations
Project does not address an action(s) identified in a State, Tribal, or Federal management plan but has some value to resource managers.	Project will result in small-medium ecological benefits with local (not larger than a single lake or state) scale implications only.	Project focuses on a non-native species or of economic importance OR project focuses on abundant, less important habitat.	Project provides clear benefits to specific fish OR wildlife populations
Project does not link to management plans or to any needs of resource managers.	Project will result in minimal ecological benefits at any spatial level.	Project has no linkages to particular species or habitats of importance to resource managers.	Project has dubious value to any fish or wildlife species.

Project Characteristics

Objectives and Methods	Cost/Value*	Likelihood of Success	Potential for Negative Impacts
Proposed objectives are appropriate to address the problem; methods are unique, innovative, and advance the state of knowledge in this area.	Project costs provide exceptional value for proposed work. (For habitat projects, unit costs are below target level.)	Proposed timeline is easily attainable and appropriate, applicants are very well qualified for proposed project and there are no anticipated impediments (e.g. permits, etc.) to implementation.	There are no foreseeable negative impacts (e.g. invasive species issues, disease, contaminants, etc.) from this project.
Proposed objectives are appropriate to address the problem; methods are consistent with known standards and techniques.	Project costs provide very good value for proposed work. (For habitat projects, unit costs are below target level.)	Proposed timeline is acceptable, applicants are qualified for proposed project, and there are no apparent impediments (e.g. permits, etc.) to implementation.	The project clearly and adequately addresses all potential negative impacts (e.g. invasive species issues, contaminants, disease, etc.).
Proposed objectives are appropriate to address the problem; however, the methods need minor improvement to be consistent with known standards and techniques.	Project costs provide appropriate value for proposed work. (For habitat projects, unit costs are at target level.)	Proposed timeline is reasonable, but there is a serious impediment (e.g. qualification of applicants, permits, etc.) to implementation.	The project vaguely or not adequately addresses potential negative impacts (e.g. invasive species issues, contaminants, disease, etc.).
Proposed objectives are appropriate to address the problem; however, the methods are inconsistent with known standards and techniques.	Project costs are more costly than average for proposed work. (For habitat projects, unit costs are above target level.)	There are at least two barriers (e.g., time, qualification of applicants, permits, etc.) to implementation.	The project does not address potential negative impacts (e.g. invasive species issues, contaminants, disease, etc.).
Proposed objectives and methods are inappropriate to address the problem and are inconsistent with known standards and techniques.	Project costs are excessive and not appropriate for proposed work. (For habitat projects, unit costs are well above target level.)	Proposed timeline is not reasonable and there are one or more probable barriers (e.g. qualification of applicants, permits, etc.) to implementation.	Potential negative impacts (e.g. invasive species issues, contaminants, disease, etc.) clearly outweigh any positive benefits from this project.