

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY**

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| **Upper Mississippi River Restoration Long Term Resource Monitoring Element (UMRR LTRM) Cooperative Agreement Program**  The Long Term Resource Monitoring Element (LTRM) was authorized under the [Water Resources Development Act of 1986](https://umrba.org/sites/default/files/documents/umrr-leg_0.pdf) (Public Law 99-662) as an element of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Upper Mississippi River Restoration Program (UMRR). Original authorization provided for a 10-year Program starting in 1987; Section 405 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-640) extended the Program an additional 5 years; Section 509 of the Water Resources Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-53) extended the Program indefinitely. |

**PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT No.** G25AS00173

**For Fiscal Year 2025**

**ISSUE DATE: December 18, 2024**

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| **CLOSING DATE:**  **May 31, 2025 (new or changes in scope of work or total estimated cost)**  **May 31, 2025 (other changes not involving change to scope of work or total estimated cost)** |

**APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY VIA THE GRANTS.GOV WEB SITE. COMPLETE DETAILS ARE PROVIDED UNDER PART III.**

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# **PART I. Public Law and Program Priorities**

## **The Long Term Resource Monitoring (LTRM) Element Cooperative Agreement Program.**

LTRM is the monitoring and research element of the UMRR Program. Overall guidance, funding, and UMRR program responsibility is provided by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) provides the scientific leadership for LTRM and the long term monitoring and research within LTRM is implemented in collaboration with the five Upper Mississippi River System states (Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin). A directive outlining the mode of operation and the respective roles of each agency is embodied in a 1988 Memorandum of Agreement.   
  
The authority to enter into a cooperative agreement is stipulated in the Water Resources Development Act of 1986. Congress recognized the [Upper Mississippi River System](http://www.umesc.usgs.gov/umesc_about/about_umrs.html) (UMRS) as both a nationally significant ecosystem and a nationally significant commercial navigation system. The [Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center](http://www.umesc.usgs.gov) (UMESC) is the USGS facility which administers the LTRM element of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Upper Mississippi River Restoration program (UMRR). Five Upper Mississippi River System states which house six state-operated [field stations](http://www.umesc.usgs.gov/field_stations/fieldstations.html) provide data collection for water quality, sediment, fish, vegetation, and invertebrates, and land cover/use, and participate in numerous research projects based on these data. This work directly addresses the Secretarial Priority of “working to restore and conserve at least 30% of our lands and waters by 2030”.

This program announcement, with its support of UMRR, contributes to science that will enhance and inform the implementation of the Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Project element (HREP) of the UMRR. The UMRR HREP element provides substantial economic benefit to local and regional economies bordering the Mississippi River by increasing consumptive and nonconsumptive recreational opportunities. Research and information developed through this agreement will inform HREP planning, thereby indirectly supporting the Secretarial Priority of ‘Advancing President Biden’s Investing in America agenda’ by providing the sound science on which local and regional managers depend.

## **B. LTRM goals**

The goals of the LTRM Element is to provide decision makers with the information needed to maintain the Upper Mississippi River System as a viable multiple-use large river ecosystem. The long-term monitoring goals of the Program are to understand the system, determine resource trends and impacts, develop management alternatives, manage information, and develop useful products.

## **C. Cooperative Agreement coordination**

All proposals must be coordinated with the Recipient’s Financial Department prior to submission, and will be required to be submitted electronically through grants.gov. Complete details are provided under Part III.

# **PART II. Timetables, Eligibility and Proposal Format Instructions**

## **A. Timetables**

The announcement shall open each year for new cooperative agreements and modifications to be submitted through the due date stipulated by the USGS. For FY 2025, due dates are as follows:

31 May 2025 (new or changes in scope of work or total estimated cost)

31 May 2025 (other changes not involving change to scope of work or total estimated cost)

## **B. Eligibility – Who May Submit a Proposal**

Only five state agencies (six field stations) listed below are eligible to apply as stipulated in the [Water Resources Development Act of 1986](http://www.umrba.org/emp/empleg.pdf) (Public Law 99-662)

1. Iowa – Department of Natural Resources – LTRM Iowa DNR Mississippi River Monitoring Station
2. Illinois – Illinois Natural History Survey through the University of Illinois,
   1. LTRM Great Rivers Field Station
   2. LTRM Illinois River Biological Field Station
3. Minnesota – Department of Natural Resources – LTRM Lake City Field Station
4. Missouri – Department of Conservation – LTRM Big Rivers and Wetlands Field Station
5. Wisconsin – Department of Natural Resources – LTRM La Crosse Field Station

## **C. Proposal and Budget Content**

Applicants must submit their application on [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov/) as specified in the Opportunity Announcement instructions attachment. For instructions on completing form fields, see the form instructions on the [Grants.gov Forms Repository](https://www.grants.gov/forms/forms-repository.html).

All proposal text shall include the following:

1. Introduction and Statement of Problem. Give a brief introduction to the problem. Provide a brief summary of findings or outcomes of any prior work that has been completed or is ongoing in this area.
2. Objectives. Clearly define goals of project. State how the proposal addresses USGS goals and its relevance and impact. Explain why the work is important.
3. Methods. This section should include a fairly detailed discussion of the work plan and technical approach to both field and laboratory techniques**.**
4. Dissemination of Results. List any anticipated reports, analyses, digital data, etc. that will be disseminated during the performance period. The USGS considers dissemination of research data and results to potential users to be an integral and crucial aspect of projects funded by this program. Beyond the requirements for a final report, describe your plan for dissemination of project data and results that will result in the greatest possible benefit to customers as defined by your proposal. Applicants are strongly encouraged to disseminate research results to the scientific community and appropriate professional organizations; local, State, regional and Federal agencies; and the general public. The USGS encourages the Recipient to publish project reports in scientific and technical journals.
5. Data Management Plan Requirements. Proposals submitted to USGS must include a supplementary document of no more than four pages labeled "Data Management Plan" (DMP). This supplementary document should describe how the proposal will conform to USGS policy on the dissemination and sharing of research results and associated data.  A valid DMP may include only the statement that no detailed plan is needed (e.g. “No data are expected to be produced from this project”), as long as the statement is accompanied by a clear justification.  This supplementary document may include:
   * + the types of data, samples, physical collections, software, curriculum materials, and other materials to be produced in the course of the project;
     + the standards to be used for data and metadata format and content (where existing standards are absent or deemed inadequate, this should be documented along with any proposed solutions or remedies);
     + policies for access and sharing including provisions for appropriate protection of privacy, confidentiality, security, intellectual property, or other rights or requirements;
     + provisions for re-use, re-distribution, and the production of derivatives; and
     + plans for archiving data, samples, and other research products, and for preservation of free public access to them.

Additional guidance on data management plans is available from the USGS Data Management web site here: <https://www.usgs.gov/products/data-and-tools/data-management/data-management-plans>. Simultaneously submitted collaborative proposals and proposals that include subawards are a single unified project and should include only one supplemental combined DMP by the lead PI that also addresses all subaward data management needs, regardless of the number of non-lead collaborative proposals or subawards included.

1. References Cited. List all references to which you refer in text and references from your past work in the field that the research problem addresses. Be sure to identify references as journal articles, chapters in books, abstracts, maps, digital data, etc.

Detailed Budget Breakdown - Please include the following:

* 1. PERSONNEL – Salaries and Wages. List names, positions, and rate of compensation. If contract employees are hired, include their total time, rate of compensation, job titles, and roles.
  2. FRINGE - Fringe benefits/labor overhead. Indicate the rates/amounts in conformance with normal accounting procedures. Explain what costs are covered in this category and the basis of the rate computations.
  3. SUPPLIES: A supply means all tangible personal property other than those described in Equipment. A computing device is a supply if the acquisition cost is less than the lesser of the capitalization level established by the non-Federal entity for financial statement purposes or $5,000, regardless of the length of its useful life. Enter the number of items and cost per item. Break out the cost of all supplies (ex. office, laboratory, computing, and field supplies) separately. Provide additional detail on any specific item that represents a significant portion of the proposed amount. If parts for the fabrication of equipment are proposed, list parts and materials required for each alongside their respective costs and identify this cost separately from other supply items. The supply cost breakdown should show how supply costs sum to yearly totals.

**NOTE:** Equipment and supply thresholds will change with the implementation of the revised Uniform Guidance effective October 1, 2024.

Updates to [2 CFR 200](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200?toc=1) effective October 1, 2024:

Please be aware that projects anticipated for funding under this NOFO will be subject to the revised Uniform Guidance, effective 10/1/2024. For reference, resources are included below to help determine how this may affect your proposal and budgeted costs. OMB’s [revised Uniform Guidance launch](https://www.cfo.gov/resources/uniform-guidance/) was on April 4, 2024. To view the announcement OMB made on April 4, 2024 introducing the finalized Uniform Guidance, visit [here](https://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/briefing-room/2024/04/04/the-biden-harris-administration-finalizes-guidance-to-make-grants-more-accessible-and-transparent-for-families-communities-and-small-businesses/). The [final rule, Guidance for Federal Assistance](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/04/22/2024-07496/guidance-for-federal-financial-assistance), was published to the Federal Register on April 22, 2024 (89 FR 30046). OMB also released [a redline document showing the 2024 revisions](https://www.cfo.gov/assets/files/2%20CFR%20Revisions%202024%20Redline.pdf), and issued accompanying [implementation memorandum](https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/M-24-11-Revisions-to-2-CFR.pdf) M-24-11, as well as [reference guides.](https://www.cfo.gov/assets/files/Uniform%20Guidance%20_Reference%20Guides%20FINAL%204-2024.pdf)

* 1. EQUIPMENT. Equipment means “tangible personal property (including 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 the non-Federal entity for financial statement purposes, or $5,000.” Show the cost of all equipment necessary for achieving the objectives of the project. Each item should be itemized and include a full justification and a dealer or manufacturer quote, if available. Title to equipment will be vested per the provisions set forth in 2 CFR 200.313 Equipment in accordance with the Terms and Conditions of the award.

**NOTE:** Equipment and supply thresholds will change with the implementation of the revised Uniform Guidance effective October 1, 2024. Updates to [2 CFR 200](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200?toc=1) effective October 1, 2024: Please be aware that projects anticipated for funding under this NOFO will be subject to the revised Uniform Guidance, effective 10/1/2024. For reference, resources are included below to help determine how this may affect your proposal and budgeted costs. OMB’s [revised Uniform Guidance launch](https://www.cfo.gov/resources/uniform-guidance/) was on April 4, 2024. To view the announcement OMB made on April 4, 2024 introducing the finalized Uniform Guidance, visit [here](https://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/briefing-room/2024/04/04/the-biden-harris-administration-finalizes-guidance-to-make-grants-more-accessible-and-transparent-for-families-communities-and-small-businesses/). The [final rule, Guidance for Federal Assistance](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/04/22/2024-07496/guidance-for-federal-financial-assistance), was published to the Federal Register on April 22, 2024 (89 FR 30046). OMB also released [a redline document showing the 2024 revisions](https://www.cfo.gov/assets/files/2%20CFR%20Revisions%202024%20Redline.pdf), and issued accompanying [implementation memorandum](https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/M-24-11-Revisions-to-2-CFR.pdf) M-24-11, as well as [reference guides](https://www.cfo.gov/assets/files/Uniform%20Guidance%20_Reference%20Guides%20FINAL%204-2024.pdf).

* 1. CONTRACTUAL - Services or consultants: Identify the project tasks or project area for which the services would be used. List the contemplated consultants by name, the estimated amount of time required, and the quoted rate per day or hour. If known, state whether the consultant's rate is the same as she/he has received for similar services or under other Government contracts or assistance awards. SUBAWARDS may be placed under the Contractual OR Other Direct Cost object class category as dictated by non-Federal entity proposal preparation procedures. For sub-awards, break down costs by object class category and provide the same level of detail for each category as described in this section. All subaward costs (Personnel, Fringe, Indirect Costs, etc.) should be included underneath of the Contractual or Other Direct Cost category of the prime recipient’s budget and should not be merged with Object Class Categories of the prime recipient (Personnel, Fringe, Travel, etc.). As noted above, separate budget tables or SF-424A forms should be provided for each subaward.
  2. TRAVEL. Show the number of trips requested by year and indicate yearly totals. Break out each trip to include how the trip relates to project objectives. For each trip, itemize the estimated travel costs (lodging, airfare, per diem, and so forth). Include trip origin, trip destination, the number of people traveling and who is traveling (if known), per diem rates, the cost of transportation, and any miscellaneous expenses for each trip. A cost basis or explanation of how budgeted costs were determined/selected should be provided for all travel costs (ex. GSA rates, quotes, non-Federal entity travel policy, etc.). For travel requested to meetings or conferences, include a description of the benefit to the proposed project. Failure to provide this information may result in a determination of the cost as unallowable. Calculations of other transportation costs (such as charges for use of applicant owned vehicles or vehicle rental costs) should also be provided, including how the cost was determined.
  3. PUBLICATION COSTS. Show the estimated cost of publishing the results of the research, including the final report. Include costs of drafting or graphics, reproduction, page or illustration charges, and a minimum number of reprints.
  4. OTHER DIRECT COSTS. Itemize the different types of costs not included elsewhere.
  5. TOTAL DIRECT CHARGES. Totals for items a – i.
  6. INDIRECT COSTS - Facilities & administrative (F&A) cost: State the proposed rate, modified total direct cost (MTDC) base, and total proposed amount for allowable indirect costs based on the cost principles applicable to the non-Federal entity. Also state which costs, if any, were excluded from the MTDC base.
  7. Amount proposed. Total items j and k.

# **PART III. Proposal Submission Deliverables**

## **A. Submitting an application via Grants.gov**

See registration and application instructions on Opportunity Announcement.

**Note:** All proposals will be reviewed in advance by UMESC Long Term Resource Monitoring Element (LTRM) project manager prior to submission.

## **B. Award Administration Information**

Award recipients are responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of the agreement and supported activities to assure compliance with applicable Federal requirements, and that performance goals are being achieved. Recipient monitoring must cover each program, function or activity.

**Note:**

Pre-agreement costs are any costs that are incurred by a recipient prior to the effective date of the assistance award. The effective date of an award is the date it is signed by the Contracting Officer (CO). Requests for approval of anticipated pre-agreement costs will be sent to the designated Grant Specialist. The request must be received and approved by the USGS before the recipient incurs any costs. The request should include the following information:

* Recipient name,
* Project title or other identifying information (including previous Agreement/Award Number, if applicable),
* Period of time to be covered by funds,
* Justification of need to begin incurring costs before the award is signed,
* Amount Requested, including a breakdown by category, and
* A statement that the recipient understands that they proceed at their own risk and that the Government will have no obligation or liability to reimburse these costs unless and until the contemplated award is made. Please note that pre-agreement costs, even when approved by the Contracting Officer, are incurred at the recipient’s risk. Awards are subject to the availability of funds and until obligation of the award, cannot be guaranteed.

## **C. Reports**

The following reports will be required from all award recipients:

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| Report | Due Dates |
| Progress Report (i.e., Milestone Chart) | 30 calendar days after the end of the current budget period. |
| Final Technical Report (i.e., Milestone Chart provided in year 5) | 90 calendar days after the agreement completion date. |
| Annual SF425 Federal Financial Report | On or before 90 working days after the annual anniversary of the award effective date. |
| Final SF-425 Federal Financial Report | 120 calendar days after the agreement completion date. |

**1. Progress Report**

1. The recipient must submit annual progress reports electronically through GrantSolutions (<https://home.grantsolutions.gov/home>) within 90 calendar days after the agreement year (i.e., 12 months after the approved effective date of the agreement and every 12 months thereafter until the expiration date of the agreement.). For agreements with a total anticipated performance period of twelve months (12) months or less, only a final technical report will be required. A progress report is not required in the final budget year, unless the recipient requests an extension to the project period.
2. The progress reports shall include the following information:
   1. A comparison of actual accomplishments to the objectives of the agreement established for the budget period and overall progress in response to the performance metrics.
   2. The reasons why established goals were not met, if appropriate.
   3. Additional pertinent information including, when appropriate, analysis and explanation of cost overruns or high unit costs.
   4. An outline of anticipated activities and adjustments to the program during the next budget period.
3. The recipient must submit annual progress reports electronically through GrantSolutions (https://home.grantsolutions.gov/home/) and via e-mail to the USGS Program Officer.
4. The progress reports (i.e. updated milestone charts) shall include the following information:
5. A comparison of actual accomplishments to the objectives of the Agreement established for the budget period and overall progress in response to the performance metrics.
6. The reasons why established goals were not met, if appropriate.
7. Additional pertinent information including, when appropriate, analysis and explanation of cost overruns or high unit costs.
8. An outline of anticipated activities and adjustments to the program during the next budget period.

c) Between the required reporting dates, events may occur which have significant impact upon the project or program. In such cases, the Recipient shall inform the USGS as soon as the following types of conditions become known:

* 1. Problems, delays, or adverse conditions which will materially impair the ability to meet the objective of the Agreement. This disclosure must include a statement of the action taken, or contemplated, and any assistance needed to resolve the situation.
  2. Favorable developments which enable meeting time schedules and objectives sooner or at less cost than anticipated or producing more or different beneficial results than originally planned.

**2. Final Technical Report**

1. The Recipient must submit the final technical report electronically through GrantSolutions (<https://home.grantsolutions.gov/home/>). The final performance report will be due 120 calendar days after the period of performance end date.

b) The final technical report shall document and summarize the results of Recipient’s work. The report shall include a quantitative description of activities and overall progress in response to the performance metrics which documents and summarizes the results of the entire agreement. The final report shall include tables, graphs, diagrams, sketches, etc., as required to explain the results achieved under the agreement. The report shall also include recommendations and conclusions based upon both the experience and the results obtained.

**3. Annual Financial Reports**

a) The Recipient must submit an annual SF 425, Federal Financial Report, for each individual USGS award. The SF 425 is available at [*grants.gov/forms/forms-repository/post-award-reporting-forms*](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.grants.gov%2Fforms%2Fforms-repository%2Fpost-award-reporting-forms&data=05%7C02%7Cnlushenko%40usgs.gov%7C4ec21f5d4a484ac24b9508dc60a069ac%7C0693b5ba4b184d7b9341f32f400a5494%7C0%7C0%7C638491489302752510%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=rvwrgJduuDjqtX6PdA2yLcRzv0BZ8ikN5catSBilPy4%3D&reserved=0). The SF 425 will be due within 90 days following the end of the annual period or within 90 days following the end of each annual period coinciding with the award start date.

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| Award Performance Start Date | Annual Interim Report  End Date  (year following start date) | Annual Interim Report  Due Date  (90 days after report  end date) |
| January 1- March 31 | March 31 | June 30 |
| April 1- June 30 | June 30 | September 30 |
| July 1- September 30 | September 30 | December 31 |
| October 1 – December 31 | December 31 | March 31 |

b) The SF 425 must be submitted electronically through GrantSolutions (<https://home.grantsolutions.gov/home/>) or by e-mail to SF425@usgs.gov with a cc to the USGS Grants Management Official. Recipient must include the USGS award number (see page 1, block 4 titled: Grant No.) in the subject line of all e-mail correspondence. If, after 90 days, recipient has not submitted a report, the recipient’s account in Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP) will be placed in a manual review status until the report is submitted.

**4. Final Financial Report**

a) The Recipient will liquidate all obligations incurred under the award and submit a final SF 425, Federal Financial Report no later than 120 calendar days after the Agreement completion date.

b) Recipient will promptly return any unexpended federal cash advances or will complete a final draw from ASAP to obtain any remaining amounts due.  Once 120 days has passed since the Agreement completion date, USGS shall unilaterally deobligate federal funds as reflected in the Final SF 425.

c) Subsequent revision to the final SF 425 will be considered only as follows:

i. When the revision results in a balance due to the Government, the Recipient must submit a revised final SF 425, Federal Financial Report, and refund the excess payment whenever the overcharge is discovered, no matter how long the lapse of time since the original due date of the report.

ii. When the revision represents additional reimbursable costs claimed by the Recipient, a revised final SF 425 may be submitted to the USGS Contracting Officer with an explanation.   If approved, the USGS will either request and pay a final invoice or reestablish the ASAP subaccount to permit the Recipient to make a revised final draw.  Any revised final report representing additional reimbursable amounts must be submitted no later than 1 year from the due date of the original report, i.e., 15 months following the Agreement completion date. USGS will not accept any revised SF 425 covering additional expenditures after that date and will return any late request for additional payment to the Recipient.

# **Part IV. General Provisions**

## **A. Terms and Conditions applicable to the Award:**

## The Award will contain the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Terms and Conditions, which incorporates the DOI General Terms and Conditions, available on the internet at: <https://www.doi.gov/grants/doi-standard-terms-and-conditions>. Full text is available upon request.

## **B. Cost Principles, Audit, and Administrative Requirements**

The Recipient shall be subject to the following regulations, which are incorporated herein by reference. Copies of these Circulars can be obtained from the Internet at: [*http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title02/2cfr200\_main\_02.tpl*](http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title02/2cfr200_main_02.tpl)

2 CFR Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards*, as implemented by the Department of the Interior in 2 CFR Part 1402 and 43 CFR Part 12.

## **C. Method of Payment**

Payments under financial assistance awards must be made using the Department of the Treasury Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP) system ([asap.gov](https://caia.treasury.gov/as/authorization.oauth2?scope=openid&response_type=code&redirect_uri=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.asap.gov%2FASAPGov%2Foidc-callback&state=B-k6JitpGFVSkHOad_9hcvcM1EeTd8lWa_uv0LdqJMo&code_challenge_method=S256&client_id=cd4a049e-a956-4c7b-a73a-dc84bf559a95&code_challenge=btoHrmN3qRWgSbyqh5Wi0TLD7vwyVPOxB0E2lT1zbWk)).

1. The Recipient will establish an account with ASAP. USGS will initiate enrollment in ASAP. If the Recipient does not currently have an ASAP account, they must designate an individual (name, title, address, phone and e-mail) who will serve as the Point of Contact (POC).
2. With the award of each cooperative agreement, a sub-account will be set up from which the Recipient may draw down funds. After recipients complete enrollment in ASAP and link their banking information to the USGS ALC (14080001), it may take 7-10 days for sub-accounts to be activated and for funds to be authorized for drawdown in ASAP.
3. Inquiries regarding payment should be directed to the Department of the Treasury’s Financial Management Service (FMS) Payment Management Call Center at 855-868-0151.
4. Payments may be drawn in advance only as needed to meet immediate cash disbursement needs at: [*https://www.doi.gov/grants/doi-standard-terms-and-conditions*](https://www.doi.gov/grants/doi-standard-terms-and-conditions)

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## **D. Additional General Terms and Conditions**

1. Research Integrity

1) USGS requires that all grant or cooperative agreement Recipient organizations adhere to the Federal Policy on Research Misconduct, Office of Science and Technology Policy, December 6, 2000, 65 Federal Register (FR) 76260. The Federal Policy on Research Misconduct outlines requirements for addressing allegations of research misconduct, including the investigation, adjudication, and appeal of allegations of research misconduct and the implementation of appropriate administrative actions.

2) The Recipient must promptly notify the USGS Project Office when research misconduct that warrants an investigation pursuant to the Federal Policy on Research Misconduct is alleged.

b) Access To Research Data

1. Applicability. The Department of the Interior is committed to basing its decisions on the best available science and providing the American people with enough information to thoughtfully and substantively evaluate the data, methodology, and analysis used by the Department to inform its decisions.
2. Use of Data. The regulations at 2 CFR 200.315 apply to data produced under a Federal award, including the provision that the Federal Government has the right to obtain, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use the data produced under a Federal award as well as authorize others to receive, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use such data for Federal purposes.
3. Availability of Data. The recipient shall make the data produced under this award and any subaward(s) available to the Government for public release, consistent with applicable law, to allow meaningful third party evaluation and reproduction of the following:
   1. The scientific data relied upon;
   2. The analysis replied upon; and
   3. The methodology, including models, use to gather and analyze the data.

c) Conflict of Interest

1. 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 subrecipients, the conflict of interest provisions in 2 CFR 200.318 apply.
2. Requirements.
   1. Non-Federal entities must avoid prohibited conflicts of interest, including any significant financial interests that could cause a reasonable person to question the recipient’s ability to provide impartial, technically sound, and objective performance under or with respect to a Federal financial assistance agreement.
   2. In addition to any other probations that may apply with respect to conflicts of interest, no key official of an actual or proposed recipient or subrecipient, who is substantially involved in the proposal or project, may have been a former Federal employee who, within the last one (1) year, participated personally and substantially in the evaluation, award, or administration of an award with respect to that recipient or subrecipient or in development of the requirement leading to the funding announcement.
   3. No actual or prospective recipient or subrecipient may solicit, obtain, or use non-public information regarding the evaluation, award, or administration of an award to that recipient or subrecipient or the development of a Federal financial assistance opportunity that may be of competitive interest to that recipient or subrecipient.
3. 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, Conflicts of Interest.
   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 USGS Contracting Officer in writing of any conflicts of interest that may arise during the life of the award, including those that have been reported by subrecipients.
4. Restrictions on Lobbying. Non-Federal entities are strictly prohibited from using funds under this grant or cooperative agreement for lobbying activities and must provide the required certifications and disclosures pursuant to 43 CFR Part 18 and 31 USC 1352.
5. Review Procedures. The USGS Contracting 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 and appropriate means for resolving it.
6. Enforcement. Failure to resolve conflicts of interest in a matter that satisfies the Government may be cause for termination of the award. Failure to make required disclosures may result in any of remedies described in 2 CFR 200.338, Remedies for Noncompliance, including suspension or debarment (see also 2 CFR Part 180).

d) Program Income

a) If the Recipient is an educational institution or nonprofit research organization, any other program income will be added to funds committed to the project by the Federal awarding agency and Recipient and be used to further eligible project or program objectives, as described in 2 CFR 200.307(e)(2).

b) For all other types of Recipients, any other program income will be deducted from total allowable costs to determine the net allowable costs before calculating the Government's share of reimbursable costs, as provided in 2 CFR 200.307(e)(1).

e) Government Furnished Equipment or Equipment Authorized for Purchase

Title to equipment acquired wholly or in part with Federal funds shall be vested in the Recipient unless otherwise specified in the award document. The Recipient shall retain control and maintain an inventory of such equipment as long as there is a need for such equipment to accomplish the purpose of the project, whether or not the project continues to be supported by Federal funds. When there is no longer a need for such equipment to accomplish the purpose of the project, the Recipient shall use the equipment in connection with other Federal awards the Recipient has received. Disposal of equipment shall be in accordance with 2 CFR 200.313.

# **Important Contacts:**

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-- END OF PROGRAM ANNOUNCMENT--