

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**Notice of Funding Opportunity**

F26AS00084 Aquatic Invasive Species Grants to Great Lakes Tribes - Fiscal Year 2026 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

Funding Opportunity Number

F26AS00084

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### BASIC INFORMATION

**Announcement Type:** Initial

**Funding Opportunity Number:** F26AS00084

**Assistance Listing Number(s):** 15.662

**Estimated Total Program Funding:** \$300,000

**Expected Number of Awards:** 3

**Award Ceiling:** \$100,000

**Award Floor:** \$20,000

Proposals should not exceed the estimated award ceiling. Proposals for larger amounts are difficult to review/rank alongside those within the award ceiling.

**Cost Sharing Required?**

No

**Closing Date Explanation**

- **All pre-proposals (including Project Narrative, Budget Narrative) must be received no later than 11:59 pm Eastern Standard Time 60 days after this NOFO is posted to grants.gov.**
- **All pre-proposals will be submitted via email to:** [fws3\\_fisheries\\_grants@fws.gov](mailto:fws3_fisheries_grants@fws.gov).
- Pre-proposals will be ranked to determine funding levels for each at which time applicants will be notified via email of approved funding amounts.
- Full proposals are due within 60 days of email notification of funding level (by 11:59 pm Eastern Standard Time). If grant request will be combined with Interjurisdictional AIS Grant (solicited under separate NOFO), then full proposal will be due 60 days after notice of both Interjurisdictional AIS Grant opportunity funding level and this NOFO funding level. Applicants must submit full proposal applications, for the approved funding amounts, via GrantSolutions.

**OMB Control Number:** [1018-0100](#)

**Have Questions?**

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**Executive Summary**

Using appropriations to the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) anticipates providing grants to support development and/or implementation of Great Lakes Tribal Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plans (Tribal AIS Plans). Therefore, a Tribal AIS Plan must be in place that supports the proposed work, or development of such a plan must be a part of the proposed work. All tribal grants will be awarded based on a competitive process for which only Great Lakes tribes or their designee are eligible.

## ELIGIBILITY

**Eligible Applicants**

Others (see text field entitled "Additional Information on Eligibility" for clarification)

Unrestricted (i.e., open to any type of entity above), subject to any clarification in text field entitled "Additional Information on Eligibility"

**Additional Information on Eligibility**

We are seeking applications from tribal natural resource agencies/organizations in the Great Lakes Basin. However, a tribal agency may designate an entity (of any type) to apply for the award on their behalf.

## Cost Sharing Requirement

### Cost Sharing Required?

No

Cost sharing or matching funds are not required to be eligible for this grant opportunity. However, cost sharing is considered in one of the grant review criteria listed under the Application Review Information section later in this document. With respect to that criterion, all non-federal types of cost share are eligible (e.g., in-kind contributions).

## GET READY TO APPLY

### Required System Registrations

#### Unique Entity Identifier and SAM.gov Registration

Before applying, all **applicants** except individuals applying as a natural person **must be registered in SAM.gov**. During the SAM.gov registration the entity will obtain their Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).

**The SAM.gov registration process can take several months. If your organization is not already registered in SAM.gov, begin the registration process as soon as possible.**

**To register in SAM.gov**, go to the [SAM.gov website](#) and use the available resources to complete registration.

- **Financial assistance registrants** must review and certify compliance with the SAM.gov “Financial Assistance General Representations and Certifications”.
- **Already registered?** You already have a Unique Entity ID. Before applying, check that your “Financial Assistance General Representations and Certifications” on SAM.gov is complete. Remember to renew your registration every year to keep it active while you have an award or application in progress. You can update your registration whenever you need, including during renewal.
- **Need help?** For additional information and contact information on the [SAM.gov Help page](#).

### GRANTSOLUTIONS

This program accepts applications through GrantSolutions.gov. You must register with GrantSolutions. See [Submission Instructions](#).

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

### Program Goals

- Funding provided to support implementation of Tribal AIS Management Plans within the Great Lakes Basin.

## **Program Description**

Using appropriations to the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) anticipates providing grants to support development and/or implementation of Great Lakes Tribal Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plans (Tribal AIS Plans). Therefore, a Tribal AIS Plan must be in place that supports the proposed work, or development of such a plan must be a part of the proposed work. All tribal grants will be awarded based on a competitive process for which only Great Lakes tribes or their designee are eligible.

Proposed work must either be within the Great Lakes Basin or near enough to the basin that it contributes substantially to the prevention and/or control of AIS in the Great Lakes basin. Activities such as outreach, boat ramp inspections, and/or law enforcement are often done outside the basin but make substantial contributions when work is done in areas where people are likely to transit (and thereby potentially transfer AIS) into the Great Lakes basin. Early detection, rapid response, and/or control efforts outside the basin must address:

- Species with a substantial potential for interbasin transfer (e.g., hydrilla in a waterbody near the Great Lakes basin that receives heavy boat use).
- Species of significant concern to the Great Lakes community within a Great Lakes state.
- Activities where the primary motivation is to prevent transfer of AIS into the Great Lakes basin.

In the end, we are pursuing and funding whatever actions have the greatest benefit to the Great Lakes Basin.

INVASIVE CARP WORK IS ONLY ELIGIBLE FOR CONSIDERATION IF IT HAS BEEN INITIALLY SUBMITTED AND VETTED THROUGH THE ANNUAL DEVELOPMENT AND APPROVAL PROCESS FOR THE INVASIVE CARP REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE'S (ICRCC) INVASIVE CARP ACTION PLAN. Invasive carp work funded and implemented through the Action Plan is coordinated through the ICRCC. The ICRCC develops an annual work plan that is largely supported through a separate source of GLRI funding and which undergoes a separate review process that includes Office of Management and Budget (OMB) review and approval.

Certified Local Governments are encouraged to prioritize projects in support of the celebration of America's 250th birthday (American250). This may include, but is not limited to, preservation planning, interpretation, public engagement, and rehabilitation projects that recognize and honor the nation's founding, history, and cultural heritage.

## **Legislative Authority**

Federal Water Pollution Control Act—Great Lakes (33 U.S.C. §1268)

## **Type of Award**

Projects will be funded through CA (Cooperative Agreement), G (Grant).

Recipient should expect the Federal agency to have substantial involvement in the project.

For cooperative agreements, the substantial involvement by the Service will be unique to the project proposed, given the potential breadth of possible AIS projects that could be proposed. Anyone applying for a cooperative agreement must have worked directly with the Service office/entity that will be cooperating on the project to ensure substantial involvement by the Service has been clearly identified and is acceptable to the providing office/entity.

## PREPARE YOUR APPLICATION

### Application Content and Format

#### Pre-Application Requirements

- ***All pre-proposals (including Project Narrative, Budget Narrative) must be received no later than 11:59 pm Eastern Standard Time 60 days after this NOFO is posted to grants.gov.***
- ***All pre-proposals will be submitted via email to: [fws3\\_fisheries\\_grants@fws.gov](mailto:fws3_fisheries_grants@fws.gov)***
- ***Pre-proposals should include:***
  - Project title
  - Description of entity undertaking project
  - Project justification that addresses: the specific concern, problem, or issue to be addressed or opportunity to be leveraged; the consequences of not addressing the need; and how the proposed project aligns with the Service program's goals;
  - Goals and objectives that are specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and time-bound, and any milestones that must be reached to achieve objectives;
  - Activities, including estimated cost for each major project activity and details for each who is carrying out the activity, what is involved, how will it be carried out (method), and when and where the activity will be carried out;
  - Timetable that breaks out each work activity on a quarterly (or monthly) basis so that it is clear when activities/sub-activities will be completed throughout the life of the grant. This timetable breakdown will also aid in identifying any potential overlap with existing grants of a similar nature;
  - Information to support environmental compliance review requirements. This includes sufficient project detail to assess potential effects on species listed under the Endangered Species Act, potential environmental effects under NEPA, and to determine project compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Additional documentation to complete these requirements is very helpful and varies some across USFWS regions, so reach out to the grant contact who will receive your final application package to determine the most useful documentation to provide [these additional documents do not count toward the 25 page limit for Project Narrative];
  - Required project monitoring and evaluation plan, or other means to assess project success;
  - Qualifications of key agencies and/or project personnel; and
  - Details on the project location.

## Application Documents

Applicants must submit the following forms with their application as specified below. Instructions for accessing and submitting application forms are provided in the [Submission Instructions](#) section of this document below. For instructions on completing form fields, see the form instructions on the [Grants.gov Forms Repository](#).

Forms/Assurances/Certifications	Submission Requirement
SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance  Note: For applicants requesting more than \$100,000 in Federal funds, the Authorized Representative's signature (or electronic equivalent) on the Application for Federal Assistance form also represents their certification of the statements in <a href="#">Appendix A to 43 CFR 18-Certification Regarding Lobbying</a>	Required from all applicants
SF-424A, Budget Information – Non-Construction Programs	Required for non-construction projects
SF-424C: Budget Information – Construction Programs	Required for construction projects
SF-429 (Cover Page & Attachment B), Request to Acquire, Improve, or Furnish Real Property  Note: The SF-429 forms are only available in the <a href="#">Grants.gov Forms Repository</a> . Applicants must download the form and include the completed form as an application attachment.	Required if requesting to acquire, improve, or furnish real property.
SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities	Required if requesting more than \$100,000 in Federal funds <u>and</u> the applicant has used or plans to use funds other than Federal appropriated funds for lobbying related to the proposed project.
Project Abstract Summary (OMB 4040-0019). Must include, in plain language: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Award purpose,</li> <li>• Activities to be performed,</li> <li>• Expected deliverables or outcomes,</li> <li>• Intended beneficiaries,</li> </ul> Subrecipient activities (if known or specified at time of award)	Required from all applicants
DOI Research and Development (R&D) – Current and Pending (Other) Support  Note: This form is available on the <a href="#">DOI website</a> . Applicants must download the form and include the completed form as an application attachment.	Required for research projects.

Forms/Assurances/Certifications	Submission Requirement
DOI Research and Development (R&D) – Biographical Sketch Note: This form is available on the <a href="#">DOI website</a> . Applicants must download the form and include the completed form as an application attachment.	Required for research projects.

### Project Narrative

Project Applications are rated using the criteria in the Application Review Information section later in this document. Be sure Project Narrative or other application materials include information that allows for an accurate assessment using all of those criteria (Applicants are encouraged to include, but not required to include, a self-rating as part of Project Narrative). Project Narratives may be NO MORE THAN 25 pages and based on past submissions are often far less. They include:

- Project title;
- Description of entity undertaking project
- Project justification that addresses: the specific concern, problem, or issue to be addressed or opportunity to be leveraged; the consequences of not addressing the need; and how the proposed project aligns with the Service program’s goals;
- Goals and objectives that are specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and time-bound, and any milestones that must be reached to achieve objectives;
- Activities, including estimated cost for each major project activity and details for each who is carrying out the activity, what is involved, how will it be carried out (method), and when and where the activity will be carried out;
- Timetable that breaks out each work activity on a quarterly (or monthly) basis so that it is clear when activities/sub-activities will be completed throughout the life of the grant. This timetable breakdown will also aid in identifying any potential overlap with existing grants of a similar nature;
- Information to support environmental compliance review requirements. This includes sufficient project detail to assess potential effects on species listed under the Endangered Species Act, potential environmental effects under NEPA, and to determine project compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Additional documentation to complete these requirements is very helpful and varies some across USFWS regions, so reach out to the grant contact who will receive your final application package to determine the most useful documentation to provide [these additional documents do not count toward the 25 page limit for Project Narrative];
- Required project monitoring and evaluation plan, or other means to assess project success;
- Qualifications of key agencies and/or project personnel; and
- Details on the project location.

### Budget Narrative

Applicants must describe and justify items and costs listed in their budget. The budget narrative must identify the following cost items: total estimated costs, non-Federal cost share, third-party



contributions, and any pre-award costs. Total project cost is the sum of all allowable costs, including required and voluntary cost share and third-party contributions.

Budget items must be:

- Reasonable, allowable, allocable, and necessary
- Compliant with [2 CFR §200 Subpart E](#) cost principles

Indirect Costs: Applicants must indicate in their budget narrative how they will charge indirect costs, including the rate to be applied:

- De Minimis Rate: If eligible, state if your organization is opting to use the de minimis rate of up to 15% of total modified direct costs. Entities that do not have a current Federal negotiated indirect cost rate (including provisional rate) may propose to use the de minimis rate. For more information, refer to [2 CFR 200.414\(f\)](#).
- Negotiated Rate: State if you will negotiate with your cognizant agency. If your organization has previously negotiated a rate, attach a copy of the most recently negotiated rate agreement (active or expired).

#### **Conflict of Interest and Unresolved Matters Disclosures:**

If any actual or potential conflict of interest exists related to this project at the time of application, the applicant must provide sufficient information to support a program determination of significance per [2 CFR 1402.112](#). Refer to [2 CFR 200.112](#) Conflict of Interest and [2 CFR 200.113](#).

#### **Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement:**

Applicants must state in their application if the activities, costs, or time commitment of key personnel proposed in this application overlap with those in any other Federal proposal or award or not. If no overlap exists, include a statement to that effect. If any overlap exists, provide:

- Activities: Description any overlapping activities.
- Costs: Description of any overlapping costs.
- Time: Description of any overlapping key personnel time.
- A copy of any overlapping or duplicative proposal submitted to any other potential funding entity.
- Details on when any overlapping proposal was submitted, to whom, and the expected date of the funding decision.

#### **Other Required Information**

## **SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES**

### **Address to Request Application Package**

*All pre-proposals will be submitted via email to: [fws3\\_fisheries\\_grants@fws.gov](mailto:fws3_fisheries_grants@fws.gov)*

*Following notification of funding amount: Full proposals will be submitted via GrantSolutions*

## Submission Dates and Times

**Closing Date for Applications:** 12/31/2026

### Closing Date Explanation

- **All pre-proposals (including Project Narrative, Budget Narrative) must be received no later than 11:59 pm Eastern Standard Time 60 days after this NOFO is posted to grants.gov.**
- **All pre-proposals will be submitted via email to:** fws3\_fisheries\_grants@fws.gov.
- Pre-proposals will be ranked to determine funding levels for each at which time applicants will be notified via email of approved funding amounts.
- Full proposals are due within 60 days of email notification of funding level (by 11:59 pm Eastern Standard Time). If grant request will be combined with Interjurisdictional AIS Grant (solicited under separate NOFO), then full proposal will be due 60 days after notice of both Interjurisdictional AIS Grant opportunity funding level and this NOFO funding level. Applicants must submit full proposal applications, for the approved funding amounts, via GrantSolutions.

## Submission Instructions

### Simplified Application Procedures for Certain Applicants and Applications

Certain applicants may be eligible to apply following the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) simplified application procedures. These procedures remove the requirement to register in and apply through the Department of the Interior's grants management system. You may be eligible to follow our simplified application procedures if all the following apply:

Your proposal requests \$200,000 or less from the FWS and, in the event an award is made, would not be expected to exceed that amount over the life of the award from the FWS, AND

You are not requesting funds to purchase land or for construction-related activities except culvert replacements and dam removals, AND

Your proposed project can be completed within three years or less, AND

You are NOT a State, an Institution of Higher Education (except projects supporting Service-specific initiatives), or a large Nonprofit Organization (i.e., received more than \$10M from Department of the Interior bureaus and offices combined in the past three years)

If you and your project meet the above criteria and you do not want to register in and apply through the Department of the Interior's grants management system, do not follow the application instructions below. Instead, please contact us (see contact information below) to confirm your eligibility and request alternate application instructions. If you and your project do not meet the above criteria, follow our standard application instructions below.

### Apply Through Grants.gov

To apply through [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov), please follow the instructions in the [Quick Start Guide for Applicants](#). Before applying, ensure that at least one person at your organization is registered and has the Authorized Organization Representative (AOR). Only the AOR can submit the

application. If you need more users, they must create their own Grants.gov account. Follow these steps below to apply:

- *Create a Workspace:* Creating a workspace allows you to complete it online and route it through your organization for review before submitting.
- *Complete a Workspace:* Invite participants to the workspace so you can collaborate on the application. Required applications forms are included in the Grants.gov Funding Opportunity Package and can be completed in the Workspace, unless noted otherwise in the Required Forms table above. Check for errors before submission.
- *Submit a Workspace:* An application may be submitted through workspace by clicking the Sign and Submit button on the Manage Workspace page, under the Forms tab
- *Track a Workspace Submission:* After successfully submitting a workspace application, a Grants.gov Tracking Number (GRANTXXXXXXXX) is automatically assigned to the application.

The system generates a date and time stamp and sends it to the applicant's AOR via email as proof of submission. Make sure your application passes the Grants.gov validation checks. Do not encrypt, zip, or password-protect any files. Only registered individuals in SAM as both a user and an AOR can submit applications. Please allow 30 days to register in Grants.gov.

**Application System Technical Support:** For Grants.gov technical registration and submission, downloading forms, and application packages, contact Grants.gov Customer Support at 1-800-518-4726 or by email at [Support@grants.gov](mailto:Support@grants.gov).

### Apply Through GrantSolutions

To apply through [GrantSolutions](#), follow these steps:

1. **Register your organization.** Send an e-mail to [help@grantsolutions.gov](mailto:help@grantsolutions.gov) with:
  - Subject: New Organization Request
  - Entity name (organization or individual applying as a natural person)
  - Entity type
  - SAM.gov Unique Entity Identifier (not required for individuals)
  - Employer Identification Number (individuals, do not include your SSN)
  - Address
  - Contact details (First and last name, e-mail, phone)This information should be the same as entered on the entity's SAM.gov profile.
2. **Assign system user roles.** Follow the [GrantSolutions "Recipient user" registration instructions](#). Submit a separate Recipient User Account Request form for each official to be assigned a system role. At minimum, the Authorizing Official (ADO) and Principal Investigator/Program Director (PI/PD) must be assigned.
3. **Log in.** GrantSolutions requires users to log in through Login.gov. Each user must create a [Login.gov](#) account. For instructions, see the [GrantSolutions Training Resources web page](#).
4. **Find and apply to this Funding Opportunity.** After logging in, click on either the "Begin an application" link (first time applicants) or the "Funding Opportunity" link to go to the "Competing Announcements-Application Kits" list screen. Search the list for this Funding Opportunity's title and number. Click on the associated "Apply" link.

Follow the prompts from there. Required applications forms are provided with the Funding Opportunity in GrantSolutions unless otherwise indicated on the Required Forms table above.

5. For detailed instructions, see the [GrantSolutions Training Resources web page](#).
6. **Need help?** Find help topics and contact information on the [GrantSolutions Contact Us page](#).

## APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

### Eligibility Review

During the eligibility review, the application is checked for timely submission, completed packages (see [Application Documents](#) above) and alignment with the requirements of this announcement. The Federal agency may remove an application if it does not pass the eligibility review.

For funding eligibility, pre-proposals must be received no later than 11:59 EST 60 days after this NOFO is posted to grants.gov by email. Late pre-proposals will not be accepted. Following review and ranking of the pre-proposal, by a merit review panel consisting of USFWS AIS biologists, applicants will be notified via email of funding eligibility and provided a deadline for submission of full applications within GrantSolutions. Late applications will not be accepted. Timing of applicant notification is dependent on GLRI funding.

If an applicant selected for funding hasn't finished their SAM.gov registration (see [2 CFR 25.200](#) and [2 CFR 25.110](#)) when the federal agency is ready to make an award, we may decide that the applicant is ineligible for the award and choose to grant it to someone else. Please refer [2 CFR 25.205](#) for more information.

Prior to making an award, the DOI checks the anticipated recipient and their key project personnel against the current list of prohibited or restricted persons or entities in the System for Award Management (SAM.gov) Exclusions database. We are prohibited from making an award if a recipient or any key personnel are found ineligible, prohibited, restricted, or otherwise excluded from receiving or participating in an award, as their ineligibility condition applies to this program.

If removed from consideration for ineligibility, the Federal agency will notify the applicant in writing.

### Merit Review

- a. To what degree does the project demonstrate interagency/inter-organizational coordination and collaboration?
  - i. Low: project identifies little if any interagency/inter-organizational coordination and collaboration, beyond transferring funds to a sub-recipient.
  - ii. Medium: project demonstrates meaningful interagency/inter-organizational coordination and collaboration with multiple small or moderate size entities/organizations, beyond transferring funds to a sub-recipient.
  - iii. High: project has major component(s) that substantially involve other state(s) or large entities/organizations, beyond transferring funds to a sub-recipient.

- iv. What is the potential for the proposed activity to substantially (in scope or scale) address vectors for AIS infiltration (i.e., prevention) into the Great Lakes?
      - i. NA
      - ii. Low: small level of progress or vector of minor importance.
      - iii. Medium: moderate-high level of progress on a vector of moderate importance.
      - iv. High: moderate-high level of progress on a vector of major importance.
- b. What is the potential for the proposed activity to substantially (in scope or scale) implement/improve early detection efforts in key areas in the Great Lakes (key areas in Great Lakes proper in Appendix A; key areas in Great Lakes watershed based on a scientifically defensible state/tribal prioritization scheme as described in your proposal)?
  - i. NA
  - ii. Low: small level of progress.
  - iii. Medium: moderate-high level of progress on a small to medium-sized scope or scale.
  - iv. High: moderate-high level of progress on a large scope or scale.
- c. What is the potential for the proposed activity to substantially (in scope or scale) implement/improve rapid response efforts (i.e., in the water actions to eliminate an AIS that **IS NOT** widely established in the Great Lakes, from a new location) in the Great Lakes?
  - i. NA
  - ii. Low: small level of progress.
  - iii. Medium: moderate-high level of progress on a small to medium scope or scale.
  - iv. High: moderate-high level of progress on a large scope or scale.
- d. What is the potential for the proposed activity to substantially (in scope or scale) implement/improve containment efforts (e.g., blocking movement with barrier or commercial harvest; DOES NOT INCLUDE other activities that are more appropriately captured under prevention, rapid response, or control criteria) in the Great Lakes?
  - i. NA
  - ii. Low: small level of progress.
  - iii. Medium: moderate-high level of progress on a small to medium-sized scope or scale.
  - iv. High: moderate-high level of progress on a large scope or scale.
- e. What is the potential for the proposed activity to substantially (in scope or scale) reduce the abundance of established AIS (i.e., in the water actions to eliminate an AIS that **IS** widely established in the Great Lakes, from a new location) in the Great Lakes?
  - i. NA
  - ii. Low: small level of progress.
  - iii. Medium: moderate-high level of progress on a small to medium-sized scope or scale.
  - iv. High: moderate-high level of progress on a large scope or scale.

- f. To what degree does the proposal promote long-term societal, economic, and environmental sustainability goals?
  - i. Low: project benefits are likely to be short lived and are not necessary steps that will lead to long-term implementation of the project outside of GLRI funding.
  - ii. Medium: project benefits are likely to last for 5-10 years or may lead to long-term implementation of the project outside of GLRI funding.
  - iii. High: project benefits are likely to persist for decades or are necessary steps that will lead to long-term implementation of the project outside of GLRI funding.
- g. To what degree is the plan for carrying out the proposed activities well-reasoned, well-organized, based on a sound rationale, and based on sound science?
  - i. Low: steps in the proposed activities are disjointed or don't appear entirely likely to achieve the desired results.
  - ii. Medium: generally sound approach but with some reservation.
  - iii. High: steps in the proposed activities are very well reasoned, sequenced well, and are based on solid principles of science.
- h. To what degree does the project incorporate a mechanism to assess success?
  - i. Low: none identified other than possibly quantifying numbers of actions completed.
  - ii. Medium: moderate level of assessment with perhaps some elements done reasonably well and others with low level of assessment.
  - iii. High: thorough, well-designed assessment procedures identified that measure the beneficial "outcome" of the activities and not just reporting the "output" of the activities.
- j. How well qualified is the individual, team, or organization to conduct the proposed activities?
  - i. Low: difficult to ascertain or little indication of relevant qualifications.
  - ii. Medium: generally appears to have basic qualifications (e.g., work to be completed by state/tribal natural resource agency), but no specific qualifications provided.
  - iii. High: qualifications of key staff included in proposal and generally indicates skilled individuals with substantial relevant expertise either thru education, experience, or both.
- k. What is the applicant's rate of expenditure for similar FY2024 grant awards? [Review Team Lead will provide expenditure rate and rating based on FBMS review around time when NOFO is posted.]
  - i. NA
  - ii. Low: <30%.
  - iii. Medium: 30-50%.
  - iv. High: >50%.
- l. How quickly will major elements of the project be substantially underway (does not include hiring staff, purchasing equipment, writing contracts/agreements)?
  - i. Low: after next fiscal year.

- ii. Medium: within second half of next fiscal year.
- iii. High: in first half of next fiscal year.

Appendix A

<b>State</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Fish</b>	<b>Plant</b>	<b>Invert</b>
IL	Chicago/Chicago River Mouth	1	1	4
IL	Chicago-Calumet Port			9
IL	Evanston/North Shore Channel Mouth	11	15	23
IN	Buffington and Indiana Harbor Ports			24
IN	Calumet River Mouth/Lake Michigan	8	11	16
IN	East Chicago/Indiana Harbor Canal	10	14	22
IN	Portage/Portage-Burns Waterway	4	6	7
MI	Alpena/Thunder Bay River Mouth			13
MI	Benton Harbor/St. Joseph River Mouth	9	9	
MI	Detroit River/Rouge River Mouth		18	
MI	Detroit/Detroit River			6
MI	Detroit/Detroit River	20		
MI	Grand Haven/Grand River Mouth	14	19	
MI	Grosse Pointe Shores/Lake St. Claire	21	10	20
MI	Lake St. Clair/Clinton River Mouth	23	12	
MI	Lakeside/Lake St. Clair	18	16	
MI	Marquette/Dead River Mouth	25		5
MI	Rogers City/Calcite			17

MI	Saginaw Bay/Saginaw River Mouth	6	5	14
MN	Duluth/St. Louis River Mouth	15		1
MN	Two Harbors			18
NY	Buffalo/Niagara River	5	8	11
NY	Oswego/Oswego River Mouth	3	4	10
NY	Rochester/Genesee River Mouth	12	17	25
OH	Ashtabula/Ashtabula River Mouth			19
OH	Cleveland/Cuyahoga River Mouth	7	13	3
OH	Fairport Harbor/Grand River Mouth	22	21	
OH	Lorain/Black River Mouth	24	25	
OH	Sandusky/Sandusky Bay	17	7	8
OH	Toledo/Maumee River Mouth	2	2	2
OH	Toussaint River Mouth		24	
OH	West Harbor/Marblehead/Lake Erie	16	3	15
PA	Erie/Presque Isle Bay		23	
WI	Green Bay/Fox River Mouth	13	20	21
WI	Milwaukee/Kinnickinnic River Mouth	9	22	12

### **Review and Selection Process**

This program reviews proposed budgets to ensure:

- figures are correct
- estimated costs are necessary and reasonable and clearly linked to project narratives
- avoid obviously unallowable costs
- identify costs requiring prior approval
- ensure indirect cost rates are applied correctly
- confirm cost sharing requirements are reflected in the budget.



This program reviews applications for potential overlap or duplication between the proposed project and any other funded or proposed project. Depending on the circumstances, DOI may choose to not make an award.

Given projects have the potential to be inter-related, we will look at the entire body of projects after the merit review to determine if there is substantial duplication/overlap that could be avoided or possible synergy among projects to be gained that would cause us to modify our rankings and/or suggest collaboration among applicants.

If requests for funds are less than the available funding, then all projects will be funded as requested after each proposal is reviewed by the review team lead to identify/address any technical concerns. In this case, the review team lead will keep the merit review criteria in mind while reviewing, but proposals will not be formally rated. If requests exceed the available funding, then awards will be made using the remaining process below.

Funding allocations will be made based on how well a project rates following the review process. If during the merit review, duplicate or otherwise unnecessary work is identified, proposals will be scaled back accordingly to identify a new “requested level.” Natural breaks in ratings will be used to identify the highest ranking projects, which will be funded at the requested level or estimated award ceiling, whichever is lower. The next tier of projects will be funded at 80% of the requested level or estimated award ceiling, whichever is lower. The final tier of remaining projects (if any fall out into a third tier based on natural breaks) will be funded at 60% of requested level or estimated award ceiling, whichever is lower. The tiered scenario is designed to provide funding for all proposals. **After funding is initially applied at the above percentages, any surplus or overage will be proportionally added to or subtracted from proposals in the second and third tiers.** This often results in changes to the amount of the award from what is requested, therefore we will accept pre-proposals as described earlier in the NOFO by the submission deadline so that only the final submission (after ranking is completed and funding amounts are determined) will require an SF-424 and other application materials in addition to the project and budget narratives that are required for the pre-proposal.

## Risk Review

Prior to making an award, the applicant will be assessed for their level of risk per [2 CFR 200.206](#). This assessment includes the applicant's financial management capabilities, project delivery experience, staffing resources, past award performance, administration and reporting compliance records, and overall project complexity and potential for challenges. If an award will be made, special conditions may be applied to the award corresponding to the assessed risk. For awards over the simplified acquisition threshold (currently \$350,000), a review of the applicant's eligibility and financial integrity information in the applicant's SAM.gov records will also be performed per [2 CFR 200.206](#).

## AWARD NOTICES

Notices of Federal Award are sent electronically via GrantSolutions or e-mail. These notices outline the terms, conditions, and payment instructions per [2 CFR 200.211](#). The Notice of Federal Award signed by an authorized Grants Officer is the legal instrument obligating financial assistance to a recipient. Any other prior notice is not an authorization to begin work. If the

program allows pre-award costs per [2 CFR 200.458](#), beginning performance before receiving a Notice of Federal Award is at the applicant's own risk.

**Anticipated Project Start Date:** 10/01/2026

**Anticipated Project End Date:** 12/31/2028

We anticipate making all awards under this opportunity by the end of the Current Calendar Year. Notice of awards will be made electronically.

## POST AWARD REQUIREMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

### Administration and National Policy Requirements

For award administration and national policy requirements, see the [DOI General Terms and Conditions](#). Infrastructure projects require the use of American iron, steel, manufacture products, and construction materials per [2 CFR 184](#).

See the [FWS General Award Terms and Conditions](#) for national policy requirements for FWS awards. Special terms and conditions will be detailed in award notices.

### Reporting

The recipient's Notice of Award will detail all reporting requirements, including frequency, due dates, and instructions for requesting extensions. In general, but not limited to, recipients must:

- Submit Federal Financial reports and Program Performance reports.
- Use the [Federal Financial Report \(SF-425\) form](#) for financial reporting,
- Monitor award activities and report on program performance per [2 CFR 200.329](#),
- Promptly notify the awarding program in writing of any issues, delays, or conditions impairing award objectives per [2 CFR 200.329\(e\)](#),
- Disclose any conflicts of interest related to their award that arise during the award period per [2 CFR 1402.112](#),
- Report on the status of real property acquired under the award in which the Federal government retains an interest per [2 CFR 200.330](#), and
- Report all violations of Federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the Federal award per [2 CFR 200.113](#).
- Report any matters related to recipient integrity and performance to SAM.gov per [Appendix XII to 2 CFR 200](#).
- If the Federal share of the award is more than \$100,000 and the recipient makes or agrees to make any payment using non-appropriated funds for lobbying in connection to the award, disclose those activities using the Disclosure of Lobbying (SF-LLL) form per [43 CFR 18.100](#).
- Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (FFATA) and 2 CFR 170 requires certain recipients to report information on executive compensation, and information on all sub-awards, subcontracts and consortiums equal to or over \$30,000 to SAM.gov.

Semi-Annual and Final PPRs and FFRs will be completed in GrantSolutions

“EAGL2” reporting is required no more than semi-annually, generally at the end of April and October, upon 30 days written notice. This is a brief reporting of accomplishments toward the most recent GLRI Performance Measures. A suggested format to capture results will be provided to help with consistency, interpretation of the measures, and ease in reporting. Measures reporting must follow the detailed reporting guidance contained in the “Measures Reporting Plan” under the GLRI Guidance and Implementation section at <https://www.glri.us/documents>. Specifically see “Focus Area 2 – Invasive Species” measures.

**Other Information**