

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge**

**Lake Mason National Wildlife Refuge Greater Sage Grouse and Habitat
Assessments
Inventory and Monitoring Program
CFDA: 15.655**

Notice of Funding Availability and Application Instructions

I. Single Source Information

This is a Notice of Intent to award a Single Source cooperative agreement to Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks for the purpose of implementing the Service's Inventory and Monitoring Program to begin collection of information about sage grouse habitat needs and habitat composition determinations at Lake Mason National Wildlife Refuge.

The tasks to be performed under this agreement are as follows: Implement a study design and data collection will follow procedures established by the Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks and leverage data already collected in Montana to permit (1) refuge-wide density and/or occupancy estimates for Greater sage grouse, (2) habitat composition that sage grouse require at Lake Mason, (3) establish long-trend monitoring at local and regional scales for Greater Sage Grouse, and (4) provide robust estimates despite variability in sampling intensity from year to year, 5) evaluate and process historic grazing systems data for private and federal lands surrounding the Lake Mason National Wildlife Refuge.

This Single Source Award is being awarded in accordance with Department of the Interior Policy 505 DM 2.14 B (1) Unsolicited Proposal and (4) Unique Qualifications which allows for award without competition to an applicant. This recipient and project meet this criteria due to their expertise and availability to implement this project. The recipient has been collecting data on lands adjacent to the Lake Mason National Wildlife Refuge to determine Sage grouse long term survival and population trends in addition to habitat requirements and how it relates to cattle grazing. The recipient has the proprietary survey methods, data collection permits, and necessary technological processing for GIS information that will enable the recipient to efficiently and cost effectively obtain the data and provide cutting edge information for the management of Service lands.

II. Award Information

Estimated Total Program Funding: \$98,478

Expected Number of Awards: 3: \$36,950 for the first year and \$30,644 for the second year, and \$31,000 contingent on the Service receiving grant funds from its Inventory and Monitoring Program

Award Ceiling: \$150,000

Award Floor: \$50,000

Substantial involvement of FWS staff will be required to participate and collaborate jointly with the recipient partner in carrying out the scope of work, review and approve proposed modifications and to help select project staff and provide logistical support for field work under remote and challenging field conditions.

The Service Will:

1. Obtain access on private roads leading to refuge lands and accompany field crews during initial surveys.
2. Provide at least 1 biotechnician for each field survey crew conducting surveys on refuge lands.
3. Provide a vehicle when available either a side by side UTV or Service owned truck for surveys on Refuge lands.
4. Provide biological and technical assistance in developing and setting up survey sites.
5. Provide 1 biotechnician for a minimum of 3 days to inventory sage grouse leks and trap young of the year for tagging at Lake Mason NWR.

III. Basic Eligibility Requirements

Cost Sharing or Matching:

None.

IV. Agency Contacts

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