U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

FWS - Ecological Services

https://www.fws.gov/endangered/grants/index.html

Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund:
Recovery Land Acquisition Grants
Fiscal Year: 2021
F21AS00172

Due Date for Applications: **04/09/2021**

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT:
OMB Control Number: 1018-0100, Expiration Date: 7/31/2021
We are collecting this information in accordance with the authorizing legislation identified above. Your response is required to obtain or retain a benefit. We will use the information you provide to conduct a competitive review and select projects for funding and, if awarded, to evaluate performance. We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. We estimate that it will take you on average about 40 hours to complete an initial application, about 3 hours to revise the terms of an award, and about 8 hours per report to prepare and submit financial and performance reports, including time to maintain records and gather information. Actual time for these activities will vary depending on program-specific requirements. You may send comments on the burden estimate or any other aspect of this information collection to the Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS BPHC, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.

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A. Program Description

A1. Authority

16 U.S.C. §1535
15.615

A2. Background, Purpose and Program Requirements

As many species listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) spend at least part of their life cycle on non-Federal lands, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) recognizes success in conserving and recovering these species depends largely on working cooperatively with States and Territories (hereafter, "States").

Section 6 of the ESA authorizes the Service to provide Federal financial assistance to eligible State agencies to support the development and implementation of conservation programs for the benefit of resident listed species. This financial assistance, provided in the form of competitive grants, is made available through the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (CESCF) Grant Programs. This Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) applies specifically to CESCF Recovery Land Acquisition (RLA) Grants.

This NOFO fully describes application eligibility, evaluation, and selection. It should be read in its entirety as much of the information has changed from previous years. Given the significant investment of time and money associated with projects funded through this program, we also recommend you coordinate with the appropriate Service contact (Section G) before starting work on a project or application.

Loss of habitat is the primary threat to most listed species. Land acquisition is often the most effective and immediate means of protecting habitat, particularly in areas where development or land uses inconsistent with species recovery threaten to destroy, modify, or curtail key habitat attributes. Land acquisition is costly and often neither the Service nor the States individually have sufficient resources to acquire habitat necessary for listed species conservation.

First awarded in fiscal year (FY) 2001, RLA grants promote State and Federal cooperation in listed species conservation by leveraging funds to acquire specific parcels of land, through fee simple or conservation easement, in support of Service-approved recovery plans and outlines. The ESA conveys the importance of recovery plans as a central organizing tool for guiding the recovery process by requiring their development for every listed species.

Only a species' most recently approved recovery planning document will be considered under this opportunity. This includes a Service-approved final recovery plan or draft recovery plan if the species has been listed for at least 2 ½ years. A recovery outline may be referenced if the species has been listed less than 2 ½ years. Service-approved recovery plans and outlines can be accessed through the Service's website at https://www.fws.gov/endangered/species/recovery-plans.html.

To be considered for funding through this opportunity, the land proposed for acquisition must benefit at least one listed species for which (1) habitat loss is identified as a threat; and (2) habitat protection is identified as a priority recovery action in the species' most recently approved recovery planning document. Further, all applications must state a commitment to funding for, and implementation of, management of the land in perpetuity, consistent with the conservation needs of the species.

While all projects must be consistent with the conservation objectives outlined in a species' most recently approved recovery planning document, those designed to have a direct and timely impact on species recovery, ideally moving the species toward down or delisting, will be prioritized. Projects that assist in stabilizing endangered and threatened species on the brink of extinction by implementing priority 1 and 2 recovery actions will also be given greater consideration.

The CESCF and RLA grants support the following Department of the Interior priorities for Federal financial assistance.

Restoring trust with local communities

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

  Striking a regulatory balance
- Ensure that Endangered Species Act decisions are based on strong science and thorough analysis.

The Service recognizes that, in the exercise of their general governmental powers, States possess broad trustee and police powers over fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats within their borders. Unless preempted by Federal authority, States possess primary authority and responsibility for protection and management of fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats. The Section 6 cooperative agreements entered into by the States and Service reflect a common commitment to actively advance the purpose and policies of the ESA, including providing a means to foster relationships with partners, reduce conflicts between listed species and economic development, and promote the long-term conservation of listed species and the ecosystems on which they depend. These grants encourage the cooperative implementation of the ESA by leveraging Federal investment in species recovery and demonstrate the Service's commitment to cooperative conservation at the local level. Through these grants, the Service works collaboratively with State governments to manage and conserve listed species and their habitats in a manner that respects State management authority over wildlife resources.

B. Federal Award Information

B1. Total Funding

Estimated Total Funding
$ 22,324,000

B2. Expected Award Amount

Maximum Award
$ 22,324,000

Minimum Award
$10,000

B3. Expected Award Funding and Anticipated Dates

Expected Award Funding
Expected Award Date
July 31, 2021

The Service may award up to $22.3 million in funding through this opportunity. There is no minimum or maximum award amount and applications will compete at the national level. In FY 2019, the Service awarded approximately $23.2 million through 14 grants ranging from $201,000 to $4.9 million.

Applications may address new or ongoing work. If a project supports the continuation of previous or ongoing work, a brief discussion of accomplishments to date and a justification for the continuation of work must be provided. While applications for ongoing work may be approved, funding will be awarded as a new grant with discrete objectives and deliverables. If a project is selected for funding, the Service is under no obligation to provide additional funding in connection with the project in a future competitive award cycle.

The Service intends to make award recommendations within 90 days of the closing date of this opportunity. Following review and approval, the Service's Regional Offices will make pre-award notifications and outline the process for finalizing awards. The Service intends to make pre-award notifications by July 31, 2021, and obligate funds within 120 days. The maximum period of performance (PoP) for a grant awarded through this opportunity is three years, beginning on the effective date established at the time of grant approval or the date of award obligation, whichever is earlier.

Awarded grant funds must be expended in a timely manner or returned to the Service for reallocation through the next competitive award cycle. If an approved project cannot be completed within the award's PoP, the State Director/Commissioner may request an extension of up to 12 months from the Assistant Director of Ecological Services. However, the Service will not consider requests to extend the PoP for projects that received additional consideration under the project readiness evaluation criterion (see Section E1) during merit review. Requests to amend awards that will impact project scope or scoring may only be considered with appropriate justification and will require elevated review through the Director's Office, if first approved by the Assistant Director. Any project awarded funding that will not be completed, and from which funds are deobligated, may be eligible for funding in a future competitive award cycle.

B4. Number of Awards

Expected Number of Awards
14

In FY 2019, the average RLA grant award was $1.6 million. The Service expects to award 14 grants through this opportunity should the average grant amount remain consistent with the previous fiscal year.

B5. Type of Award

Funding Instrument Type

G - Grant

C. Eligibility Information

C1. Eligible Applicants

Eligible Applicants

00 – State governments

Additional Information on Eligibility

Only State agencies that have entered into a Cooperative Agreement pursuant to Section 6(c) of the ESA and have provided the information necessary for the annual renewal (reconfirmation) of their Cooperative Agreement are eligible to apply for funding. Applicants that have not fulfilled both criteria will not be considered. While funding may only be awarded to States, individuals or groups such as counties or conservation organizations may work with a State agency that has a cooperative agreement on conservation efforts that are mutually beneficial, as a subgrantee.

C2. Cost Sharing or Matching

Cost Sharing / Matching Requirement

Yes

Percentage of Cost Sharing / Matching Requirement

25

In accordance with section 6(d) of the ESA, the minimum non-Federal cost share is 25 percent of the total project cost, i.e., the amount requested from the program plus the amount of non-Federal cost share. Other funds related to the project, but not designated as cost share, should not be included in the total project costs when calculating minimum non-Federal cost share.

If a proposal involves the collaboration of two or more States, the minimum non-Federal cost share decreases to 10 percent of the total project cost. The project proposal and budget must reflect the work and responsibilities to be carried out by each of the cooperating States. The source(s) of the non-Federal cost share is up to the applicants and may come from more than one source. Each cooperating State is responsible for submitting performance and financial reports related to the joint project. Incomplete work by any one of the cooperating States may result in recovery of Federal funds from all States, if it is determined that the joint cooperative objective will not be accomplished.

In accordance with 48 United States Code (U.S.C.) 1469(a), Amendment of Subsection (d), the Regional Director shall waive up to $200,000 of the required match for each grant awarded to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Non-Federal cost share requirements are detailed in 50 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 81.8(b) and allow the cost share to be in the form of cash or in-kind contributions, including real property, in accordance with the regulations at 2 CFR 200.306. The amount of non-Federal cost share will be considered in the evaluation and ranking of applications (see Section E1).

C3. Other

Projects must support at least one listed species' most recent Service-approved recovery planning document (Section A) in which habitat loss is identified as a threat and habitat protection is identified as a priority recovery action.

The specific parcel(s) of land proposed for acquisition with grant funds, or as non-Federal cost share, must be identified and sufficiently described to facilitate merit review based on the evaluation criteria listed in Section E. Parcels must be individually identified but can be grouped and described for evaluation purposes at the property or transaction level.

Applications must include a commitment to funding for, and implementation of, management of the land in perpetuity consistent with the conservation needs of the species.

A property may not be submitted for funding consideration under both the Recovery Land Acquisition Grant Program and the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Land Acquisition Grant Program in the same fiscal year.

Projects must involve voluntary conservation efforts within the United States.

Applications cannot include Service Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) costs.

Neither funding awarded through this opportunity, nor the associated non-Federal cost share, may be used to satisfy regulatory requirements of the ESA, including complying with a biological opinion under Section 7, fulfilling Federal mitigation, minimization, and/or monitoring requirements of an HCP permitted under Section 10, or any other Federal regulatory mitigation requirement (e.g., mitigation for Clean Water Act permits).

State administrative costs must either be assumed by the State or included in the application in accordance with Federal requirements. Applications may not be submitted to cover administrative costs alone.

Federal land acquisition grant programs fund the purchase of land at market value, from willing sellers. Market value must be determined by appraisals performed in accordance with the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions, and all other applicable laws and regulations. Appraisals are not required to be submitted as part of the application. Appraisals to Federal standards are required prior to expenditure of funds if the project is selected for funding. Please be aware that if an appraisal to Federal standards is not provided as part of the application, the amount specified in the pre-award notification will be based on the estimate of the land value as provided in the grant proposal. However, the actual purchase price will not be greater than the current market value as determined by an appraisal and appraisal review completed to Federal standards. States or other non-Federal partners will be responsible for ensuring that appraisal and title work are completed. The cost of conducting an appraisal(s) and completing title work, in accordance with Federal requirements, must either be assumed by the State or subrecipient (as cost share), or included as part of the Federal request in the project proposal.

Foreign Entities or Projects:

This program does not provide funding to foreign entities or for projects conducted outside the United States.

Excluded Parties: FWS conducts a review of the SAM.gov Exclusions database for all applicant entities and their key project personnel prior to award. The Bureau cannot award funds to entities or their key project personnel identified in the SAM.gov Exclusions database as ineligible, prohibited/restricted or otherwise excluded from receiving Federal contracts, certain subcontracts, and certain Federal assistance and benefits, as their ineligibility condition applies to this Federal program.

D. Application and Submission Information

D1. Address to Request Application Package

Applicants can request paper application packages through the appropriate contact listed below in Section G. Federal Awarding Agency Contacts.

Program Website Link
https://www.fws.gov/endangered/grants/index.html

D2. Content and Form of Application Submission

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. The required application forms are available with this announcement 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).

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

Project Narrative
Project narratives should be complete but concise, including only the information necessary to address all stated eligibility and evaluation criteria. Information must be provided for each property proposed for acquisition, whether with grant funds or non-Federal cost share. Because lands used for cost share purposes are part of the total project, reviewers must consider both when evaluating and scoring applications.

The project narrative must contain each of the elements described below to prompt applicants to address relevant eligibility and evaluation criteria. Although not required, applicants may consider including response tables to summarize information as it relates to a specific criterion. Descriptions of eligibility and evaluation criteria, as well as example response tables, are provided below and in Section E. Applicants may also consider alternate methods of identifying responses to evaluation criteria within the project narrative such as inserting "(Criterion 2)" or "(C2)" at the end of the sentence or paragraph containing the information necessary to evaluate the project under criterion 2. Narratives that clearly address all criteria in an organized manner will facilitate application review and scoring.

- ***Project Title***

- ***Description of entity(ies) undertaking the project***
  Identify any entity that will act as a subrecipient and describe their role in meeting project objectives.

- ***Statement of Need***
  The statement of need identifies the conservation issue or opportunity addressed by the project in relation to the purposes of the RLA program. The statement of need should identify listed species that will benefit from each proposed acquisition, addressing all stated eligibility criteria. Describe the need for the project as a strategy for implementing the species' most recently approved recovery planning document (criterion 1). Briefly describe how the project aligns with the Department of the Interior priorities for Federal financial assistance (criterion 8). Identify the negative results of taking no action (criterion 5).

Example Optional Response Table to Address Species Eligibility

Species	**Recovery Planning Document**	**Identified Threat, citation**	**Recovery Action, citation**
Yreka phlox	Recovery Plan for *Phlox hirsuta* (Yreka Phlox). 2006.	The present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range. Pg. 23	1.2 "Protect and Secure the Soap Creek Ridge, Cracker Gulch, and Jackson Street Occurrences." Pg. 53.
Bog turtle	Bog Turtle (*Clemmys muhlenbergii*), Northern Population Recovery Plan. 2001.	The threats to the survival of this species includes continued loss, alteration, and fragmentation of its highly specialized wetland habitat. Pg. 19.	2.3. Protect bog turtle sites through purchase and conservation measures (Priority 1)

- ***Purpose***
  The purpose describes the desired future state to addresses the need. For example, providing permanent habitat protection to promote listed species recovery.

- ***Objectives***
  Objectives reference specific outcomes to be accomplished during the project period pursuant to the stated need. For example, acquiring real property interest (fee title) in 200 acres by December 20, 2021. Objectives should be specific, measurable, attainable within the period of performance, realistic, and time-bound. The requested PoP will be considered under evaluation criterion 6.

- ***Methods/Approach***
  Describe the specific conservation actions necessary to accomplish project objective(s). Include the following information for each property proposed for acquisition.
  - Property name/identifier and APNS
  - Acreage
  - The type of ownership interest (e.g., fee-simple, easement, combination)
  - Entity to hold title
  - Entity to manage, if different
  - Occupancy status/ amount of restoration required to benefit listed species (criterion 2)

- ***Anticipated Outcomes/ Expected Benefits***
  Describe how the proposed acquisition will maintain or improve the population viability of listed species in terms of population resiliency, species redundancy, and species representation (criterion 3).

- ***Project Timetable***
  The project timetable describes significant milestones in successfully completing the project. Timetables will be used to assess project readiness (criterion 6) and should clearly demonstrate how the project is likely to be accomplished within the period of performance. Include a brief description of any due diligence completed to date. In the absence of a willing seller letter, describe current negotiations regarding the potential sale of the property to assess the likelihood of project success.

- ***Project Location/ Maps***
  Describe where the acquisition will occur in relation to existing conservation areas (criterion 4). Attach maps to assist reviewers in evaluating habitat connectivity. Photographs that characterize the existing state of the project area are recommended, although not required.

- ***Information to support environmental compliance review requirements***
  The Service has the responsibility for making the final determination regarding compliance with Federal laws.
  - National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) – provide any information that may be relevant to compliance with NEPA.
  - Endangered Species Act (ESA) – provide any information that may be relevant to compliance with the ESA.
  - National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) – provide any information that may be relevant to compliance with NHPA, such as locations of historic or cultural properties.
  - Other Permits – list and provide the current status of any other required Federal permits.

- ***Willing Seller Letters (if applicable)***
  Applications that include willing seller letter(s) for all properties proposed for acquisition will receive additional consideration under evaluation criterion 6.

SF-424C, Budget Information
Applicants must submit the appropriate SF-424 Budget Information form and Budget Narrative. For construction programs or projects, applicants must complete and submit the SF-424C,

"Budget Information for Construction Programs". All of the required application forms are available with this announcement on Grants.gov. Federal award recipients and subrecipients are subject to Federal award cost principles in 2 CFR 200. Applicants must show funds requested from this Federal program separately from any other Federal sources of funding. In the "Budget Summary" section of the appropriate SF-424 budget form, use the first row for funding requested from this Federal program. Use subsequent row(s) 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 program appears on the first page of this announcement.

SF-429 & SF-429-B, Request to Acquire, Improve, or Furnish Real Property & Cover Page
Applicants seeking approval to acquire real property under an award must complete and submit the SF-429, "Real Property Status Report (Cover Page)" and the SF-429-B, "Real Property Status Report Attachment B (Request to Acquire, Improve, or Furnish)". These forms are required if the real property is acquired with Federal funds, with recipient cost share or matching funds, or as an in-kind contribution under the award. These forms may be found on https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/post-award-reporting-forms.html.

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. Identify any cash or in-kind contributions that a partner or other entity will contribute to the project and describe how the contributions directly and substantively benefit completion of the project. For in-kind contributions, include the source, the amount, and the valuation methodology used to determine the total value. See 2 CFR 200.306 "Cost sharing or matching" for more information.

Budget narratives must be sufficiently detailed to show that the project is cost effective and that costs are both necessary and reasonable for accomplishing the purposes of the proposed project. Indicate whether partial funding of the project is practicable and, if so, what specific portion(s) of the project could be implemented with what level of funding. The budget narrative should provide sufficient detail for reviewers to understand how costs were estimated. Reviewers must be able to clearly see that costs are realistic and are commensurate with the project needs and timeframe. Applications will be disqualified if reviewers cannot determine that applications meet this threshold.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure
Per the Financial Assistance Interior Regulation (FAIR), 2 CFR §1402.112, applicants must state in their application if any actual or potential conflict of interest exists at the time of submission.
(a) *Applicability*.

(1) This section intends to ensure that non-Federal entities and their employees take appropriate steps to avoid conflicts of interest in their responsibilities under or with respect to Federal financial assistance agreements.

(2) In the procurement of supplies, equipment, construction, and services by recipients and by sub recipients, the conflict of interest provisions in 2 CFR 200.318 apply.

(b) *Notification*.

(1) Non-Federal entities, including applicants for financial assistance awards, must disclose in writing any conflict of interest to the DOI awarding agency or pass-through entity in accordance with 2 CFR 200.112.

(2) Recipients must establish internal controls that include, at a minimum, procedures to identify, disclose, and mitigate or eliminate identified conflicts of interest. The recipient is responsible for notifying the Financial Assistance Officer in writing of any conflicts of interest that may arise during the life of the award, including those that have been reported by sub recipients.

(c) *Restrictions on lobbying*. Non-Federal entities are strictly prohibited from using funds under a grant or cooperative agreement for lobbying activities and must provide the required certifications and disclosures pursuant to 43 CFR part 18 and 31 U.S.C. 1352.

(d) *Review procedures*. The Financial Assistance Officer will examine each conflict of interest disclosure on the basis of its particular facts and the nature of the proposed grant or cooperative agreement, and will determine whether a significant potential conflict exists and, if it does, develop an appropriate means for resolving it.

(e) Enforcement. Failure to resolve conflicts of interest in a manner that satisfies the government may be cause for termination of the award. Failure to make required disclosures may result in any of the remedies described in 2 CFR 200.338, Remedies for noncompliance, including suspension or debarment (see also 2 CFR part 180).

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.

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.

Applicants and recipients must not use any federally appropriated funds (annually appropriated or continuing appropriations) or matching funds under a Federal award to pay any person for lobbying in connection with the award. Lobbying is influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any U.S. agency, a Member of the U.S. Congress, an officer or employee of the U.S. Congress, or an employee of a Member of the U.S. Congress connection with the award. Applicants and recipients must complete and submit the SF-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities" form if the Federal share of the proposal or award is more than $100,000 and the applicant or recipient has made or has agreed to make any payment using non-appropriated funds for lobbying in connection with the application or award. The SF-LLL form is available with this Funding Opportunity on Grants.gov. See 43 CFR, Subpart 18.100 for more information on when additional submission of this form is required.

Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement

Applicants must provide a statement indicating if there is any overlap between this Federal application and any other Federal application, or funded project, in 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."

D3. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM)

Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM.gov) Registration: This requirement does not apply to individuals applying for funds as individual (i.e., unrelated to any business or nonprofit organization you may own or operate) or any entity with an exception approved by the funding bureau or office in accordance with bureau or office policy. 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. We 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 program 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. **There is no cost to register with Dun & Bradstreet or SAM.gov**. There are third-party vendors who will charge a fee in exchange for registering entities with Dun & Bradstreet and SAM.gov; **please be aware you can register and request help for free**.

Obtain a DUNS Number
Request a DUNS Number through the Dun & Bradstreet website. 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.

Register with the System for Award Management (SAM)
Register on the SAM.gov website. "Help" tab on the website contains User Guides and other information to assist you with registration. The Grants.gov Register with SAM page also provides detailed instructions. 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.

D4. Submission Dates and Times

Due Date for Applications
04/09/2021

Application Due Date Explanation
Applications must be submitted through GrantSolutions.gov. GrantSolutions automatically generates an electronic date and time stamp in the system upon application receipt. The Service will not review or consider applications received through GrantSolutions after 11:59 PM EST on April 9, 2021. Applicants are encouraged to verify the completeness of their application package before submission using the checklist provided below.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance
- SF-424D, Assurances
- Project Narrative
- Maps
- Willing seller letters (when applicable)
- SF-424C, Budget Information
- SF-429 and SF-429-B, Request to Acquire, Improve, or Furnish Real Property
- Budget Narrative
- Indirect Cost Statement and related documentation
- Conflict of Interest Disclosure (when applicable)
- Single Audit Reporting Statement
- Certification Regarding Lobbying & SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (when applicable)
- Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement

D5. 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.

D6. Funding Restrictions

A property may not be submitted for funding consideration under both the Recovery Land Acquisition Grant Program and the Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition Grant Program in the same fiscal year.

Neither the Federal funds awarded through this opportunity, nor the associated non-Federal cost share, may be used to satisfy regulatory requirements of the Endangered Species Act, including complying with a biological opinion under Section 7, fulfilling Federal mitigation, minimization, and/or monitoring requirements of an HCP permitted under Section 10, or any other Federal regulatory mitigation requirement (e.g., mitigation for Clean Water Act permits). Regulations at 2 CFR 200 specify that a Federal financial assistance award include both the Federal and non-Federal contributions. This clarity regarding the inseparability of the Federal and non-Federal components means that any prohibitions on usage of either component for mitigation purposes applies to both components.

Applications cannot include Service Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) costs.

State administrative costs must either be assumed by the State or included in the application in accordance with Federal requirements. Applications may not be submitted to cover administrative costs alone.

Generally, only expenses incurred and budgeted during the period of performance are reimbursable; the period of performance begins with the effective date established at the time the grant is approved. However, a State may request reimbursement of pre-award costs for certain necessary expenses detailed in the grant application. Pre-award costs are those incurred prior to the approval of the grant where such costs are necessary to comply with the proposed period of performance. Such costs are allowable only if the grant is awarded, only to the extent that they would have been allowable if incurred after the date of the award, and only with the written approval of the awarding agency (2 CFR 200.458).

Indirect Costs: Individuals

Individuals applying for and receiving funds separate from a business or non-profit organization he/she may operate are not eligible to charge indirect costs to their award. If you are an individual applying for funding, you must not include any indirect costs in your proposed budget. Individuals are not required to submit any of the following statements regarding indirect costs.

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 to be submitted with Application
All organizations must include the applicable statement from the following list in their application, 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, do not use this statement] 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 per 2 CFR §1402.414. 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.

D7. Other Submission Requirements

Applications must be submitted through GrantSolutions.gov.

Follow these steps to submit an application through GrantSolutions.gov:

1. Register with GrantSolutions.gov
Applicants must first register an account with GrantSolutions.gov and complete all steps of the registration process before they can apply through GrantSolutions.gov. Please follow this link to obtain the GrantSolutions self-registration instructions.

2. Login
• Navigate to GrantSolutions by going to www.grantsolutions.gov
• Select the LOGIN button
• Log in with your applicant/recipient account and search this announcement through the "funding opportunity" tab on the website.

3. GrantSolutions help and user-guide.
For recipient GrantSolutions user reference & training please use the following links:
• GrantSolutions website - recipient training video series
• FWS recipient GrantSolutions user accounts & training website

4. Help Desk Information
If you need additional help, the GrantSolutions help desk is available for assistance on all GrantSolutions products and services. Hours of Operation: Monday through Friday 7 a.m. – 8 p.m. ET (closed on Federal holidays).
Phone: 1.866.577.0771 or 202.401.5282
Email: help@grantsolutions.gov

5. Proof of Timely Submission
GrantSolutions automatically generates an electronic date and time stamp in the system upon application receipt.

E. Application Review Information

E1. Criteria

1. Magnitude of Species Benefit: Contribution to Recovery **Maximum Points: 20**
Under this criterion, consideration will be given to the degree to which the proposed acquisition implements priority recovery actions and/or contributes towards down or delisting criteria as identified in the species' most recently approved recovery planning document.

Score: Extent to which the proposed acquisition contributes to listed species' recovery goals. Additive, up to 20 points.

- Acquisition will achieve a downlist or delist criteria (8 pts for each criterion)
- Acquisition will implement a priority 1 recovery action (8 pts for each action)
- Acquisition will implement a priority 2 recovery action (4 pts for each action)
- Acquisition will implement a priority action identified in the interim recovery strategy of a recovery outline (4 pts for each action)
- Acquisition will implement a priority 3 recovery action (2 pts for each action)

Example Response Table to Evaluation Criterion 1

Species	**Recovery/ Priority Action & Priority Designation**	**Recovery Planning Document**	**Citation**
Yreka phlox	1.2 Protect and Secure the Soap Creek Ridge, Cracker Gulch, and Jackson Street Occurrences. (Priority 1)	Recovery Plan for *Phlox hirsuta* (Yreka Phlox)	Pg. 53
Bog turtle	2.3. Protect bog turtle sites through purchase and conservation measures (Priority 1)	Bog Turtle (*Clemmys muhlenbergii*), Northern Population Recovery Plan. 2001.	Pg. 53

2. Ecosystem Functionality **Maximum Points: 20**

Under this criterion, reviewers will consider each species' occupancy status on the lands proposed for acquisition. Greater consideration will be given to lands containing fully functioning ecosystems requiring little or no restoration in order to benefit species.

Score: Occupancy status and restoration requirements of lands proposed for acquisition. Additive, up to 20 points.

- Occupied habitat: no restoration required, currently supports viable population (15 pts for each species)
- Occupied habitat: some restoration required to contribute to the viability of an existing population (10 pts for each species)
- Suitable unoccupied habitat: active reintroduction plan in place (5 pts for each species)
- Suitable unoccupied habitat: no restoration required (4 pts for each species)
- Suitable unoccupied habitat : restoration required (3 pts for each species)
- Land proposed for acquisition contains no suitable habitat (0 pts)

Example Response Table to Evaluation Criterion 2

Species	**Occupancy & Restoration Requirements Property A**	**Occupancy & Restoration Requirements Property B**
Yreka Phlox	Occupied habitat w/ no restoration required.	Occupied habitat that requires some restoration.
Bog turtle	Occupied habitat w/ no restoration required.	Occupied habitat that requires some restoration.

3. Magnitude of Species Benefit: Contribution to Population Viability Maximum Points: 20
Reviewers will consider how the proposed acquisition will maintain or improve the population viability of each species in terms of population resiliency, species redundancy, and species representation (3R framework). Applicants are not required to address all 3 R's per species, but should address as many R's per species that will benefit from the land acquisition, in order to score the maximum number of points under this criterion.

Resiliency – Acquisition will improve the ability of populations to withstand stochastic events. Measured by the size and growth rate of each population, resiliency gauges the probability that the populations comprising a species are able to withstand or bounce back from environment or demographic stochastic events (e.g., improving abundance, survival, reproduction, and/or fecundity of a population).

Redundancy – Acquisition will improve the ability of a species to withstand catastrophic events. Measured by the number of populations, their resiliency and their distribution (and connectivity), redundancy gauges the probability that the species has a margin of safety to withstand or to bounce back from catastrophic events (e.g., improving the number and distribution of populations of a species).

Representation – Acquisition will improve the ability of a species to adapt to changing environmental conditions. Measured by the breadth of genetic or environmental diversity within and among populations of a species, representation gauges the probability that a species is capable of adapting to environmental changes (e.g., improving the adaptive capacity of a species through increasing or maintaining: habitat/ecotypes, genetic diversity, behavioral diversity, and/or morphological diversity).

Score: Applications will be prioritized based on the degree to which the land acquisition will improve species viability in relationship to the 3Rs.

- Application provides sound rationale demonstrating connection between the land acquisition and **improvement** of species viability in terms of the 3Rs (one or more Rs can be used to demonstrate improvement). (20 pts)
- Application provides sound rationale demonstrating connection between the land acquisition and **potential improvement** of species viability in terms of the 3Rs (one or more Rs can be used to demonstrate improvement). (15 pts)
- Application provides sound rationale demonstrating connection between the land acquisition and **maintenance** of current species viability in terms of the 3Rs (one or more Rs can be used to demonstrate maintenance). (10 pts).
- Application **fails to establish a connection** between the land acquisition and species viability and/or does not address any R for each species. (0 pts)

Example Response Table to Evaluation Criterion 3

Species	**Resiliency**	**Redundancy**	**Representation**
Yreka phlox	The project would protect a population of mature, adult plants. Protecting	The recovery strategy does not indicate the need to establish new	N/A - the Recovery Plan does not provide information about species

	adult plants would increase the reproductive potential of the population, and therefore the population would experience greater recruitment overall. The Recovery Plan states that not many seedlings have been found, which may mean that recruitment is limiting, therefore preserving adults would contribute to reproduction and recruitment of new plants would provide a significant benefit to the population's resiliency (Recovery Plan, pg. 35).	populations (Recovery Plan, pg. 38). However, protecting an extant population through land acquisition would maintain current species redundancy.	viability relative to representation.
Bog turtle	Land acquisition will prevent access to a site where bog turtles occur. This will prevent illegal collection, an identified threat in the Recovery Plan (pg. 22). By reducing collection, the population numbers will remain at current levels or increase (due to higher recruitment from the protected individuals), therefore increasing population resiliency.	Protecting occupied bog turtle habitat within a drainage basin will prevent the development or conversion of wetlands throughout the basin, and therefore will enhance the ability of bog turtles to disperse between wetlands, which will increase the redundancy of the species (Bog Turtle Recovery Plan pg. 20).	Land acquisition will preserve a population of bog turtles in a recovery unit where there currently are no existing acquisitions/ easements, therefore this project would preserve additional geographical diversity and increase species representation.

4. Habitat Connectivity **Maximum Points: 10**

Reviewers will reference maps submitted as part of the application package along with location information provided in the Project Narrative to consider how the proposed acquisition will improve habitat connectivity among existing conservation lands. The acquisition of land that links two existing conservation areas together or is adjacent to an existing conservation area to reduce habitat fragmentation is preferred over isolated acquisitions.

Score: Extent to which the proposed acquisition improves habitat connectivity.

- Proposed acquisition offers a unique and timely opportunity to consolidate State-managed conservation lands, enhancing the State's ability to access species habitat and consistently manage for species conservation in perpetuity. (10 pts)
- Proposed acquisition provides link between existing conservation areas. (8 pts)
- Proposed acquisition lies adjacent to existing conservation areas to reduce habitat fragmentation. (5 pts)
- Proposed acquisition is isolated from existing conservation lands, but is necessary for species recovery. (0 pts)

5. Timeliness: Threat of Conversion **Maximum Points: 10**

For each property proposed for acquisition, reviewers will consider the nature, extent, and level of severity of the threat of conversion to uses inconsistent with species recovery. Project Narratives should include sufficient information to allow reviewers to assess the consequences of not acquiring the property for conservation.

Score: Greater consideration will be given to the acquisition of lands under imminent threat of conversion to uses inconsistent with species recovery.

- Demonstrated threat of conversion is imminent. (10 pts)
- Demonstrated threat is probable. (6 pts)
- Demonstrated threat is possible within the foreseeable future. (2 pts)
- No demonstrated threat of conversion (0 pts)

Example Response Table to Evaluation Criterion 5

Property	**Threat Designation**	**Justification**
Property A	Imminent.	Competing buyer, development plan in place
Property B	Probable.	Property zoned for development.

6. Timeliness: Readiness of State to Proceed **Maximum Points: 10**

Reviewers will evaluate the project timetable and supporting documentation submitted at time of application to assess project readiness. Timetables should clearly demonstrate how the scope of work is highly likely to be accomplished within the requested period of performance as well as any due diligence completed to date. Reviewers will also consider the past performance of applicants and subrecipients, if applicable.

Score: Projects ready for implementation will be prioritized. Additive, up to 10 points.

- Applicant commits to completing work within the requested PoP (three-year max) with the understanding that no extensions will be considered. (5 pts)
- Willing seller(s) letters provided for each property proposed for acquisition. (5 pts)

Example Response Table to Evaluation Criterion 6

Property	Timetable: Commitment to PoP	Willing Seller Letter(s)
Property A	Yes.	No.
Property B	Yes.	Yes.

7. Voluntary Non-Federal Cost Share Commitment **Maximum Points: 5**
Score: Applications including greater than minimum non-Federal cost share will be prioritized.

- Greater than minimum non-Federal cost share commitment (5 pts)
- Required minimum non-Federal cost share commitment (0 pts)

8. Secretarial Priorities for Federal Financial Assistance **Maximum Points: 5**
Score: Projects will be evaluated in relation to the Department of the Interior's Priorities for Federal Financial Assistance.

- Application demonstrates alignment with one or more Secretarial Priorities. (5 pts)
- Application does not demonstrate alignment with Secretarial Priorities. (0 pts)

9. Regional Director's Discretion **Maximum Points: 25**
Each Service Regional Director will have 25 points to distribute among all applications submitted by the States in their respective Legacy Region based on considerations outlined in Section E2 to reflect Service and State priorities.

E2. Review and Selection Process

Prior to award, the program will review any applicant statement regarding potential overlap or duplication between the project to be funded and any other funded or proposed project in terms of activities, funding, or time commitment of key personnel. Depending on the circumstances, the program may request modification to the application, other pending applications, or an active award, as needed to eliminate any duplication of effort, or the Bureau may choose not to fund the selected project.

The program may not make a Federal award to an applicant that has not completed the SAM.gov registration. If an applicant selected for funding has not completed their SAM.gov registration by the time the Bureau is ready to make an award, the program may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive an award. The program can use that determination as a basis for making an award to another applicant.

Prior to award, the program will evaluate the risk posed by applicants as required in 2 CFR 200.205. Programs document applicant risk evaluations using the Bureau's "Financial Assistance Recipient Risk Assessment" form. Prior to approving awards for Federal funding in excess of the simplified acquisition threshold (currently $250,000), the Bureau is required to review and consider any information about or from the applicant found in the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System. The Bureau will consider this information when completing the risk review. The Bureau uses the results of the risk evaluation to establish monitoring plans, recipient reporting frequency requirements, and to determine if one or more of the specific award conditions in 2 CFR 200.207 should be applied to the award.

Applications submitted for consideration will be reviewed by representatives from Service staff with appropriate subject-matter expertise (e.g., species recovery, ESA policy and programs, Federal financial assistance) and compete at the national level.

Initial Screening for Completeness and Eligibility
Application packages will be screened to ensure all required forms and application elements have been provided and both applicants and projects meet all basic eligibility criteria described above. The Service will review the SAM.gov Exclusion database, status of applicants' administration of other grants, including Single Audit submissions, past performance, financial strength and management capabilities, and procedures and methods for monitoring subrecipients or vendors. Applicants in poor standing may not be considered for funding. If there are any questions about the ability of the project to be completed in compliance with Federal laws and regulations, additional information may be requested from the applicant. A project may be disqualified if Service staff determine the project cannot meet Federal requirements. Incomplete applications will be returned for corrections. Corrections must be submitted within two weeks of the returned application. Applicants that do not respond within two weeks with corrected materials will be disqualified. The Service, in its sole discretion, may continue the review process for applications with non-substantive issues that may be easily rectified or cured.

Merit Review
After initial screening, applications meeting the basic eligibility requirements will undergo merit review by the National Merit Review Team based on the criteria outlined in Section E1. Applicants must provide the information necessary for reviewers to score the proposed project against all evaluation criteria as no outside information will be considered. Missing or unclear information will result in lower scores.

Prior to participating in any review or evaluation process, all merit review members must sign and return to the program office point of contact the "Department of the Interior" Conflict of Interest Certification" form. Each application will be reviewed, evaluated, and scored independently by merit review team members with appropriate subject-matter expertise (e.g., species recovery, ESA policy and programs, Federal financial assistance). Reviewers may discuss individual applications, but all scoring will be non-consensus. Following ranking, due to limited funding or for other reasons, the Service may ask applicants to revise the project scope, timeline, and/or budget. In this event, applicants will have to submit revised SF-424 forms and project narratives prior to award.

Application Selection
The review panel will develop and recommend a ranked project list to the Assistant Director of Ecological Services, who will recommend a final list of projects to the Service Director. Projects will be recommended for funding by rank order unless an application is justified by the Assistant Director to be selected out of rank order based upon the following considerations:

- Regional/ National priority
- Applicant's ability to use partial funding
- Availability of funding
- Balance/distribution of funds geographically within a Service Region
- Balance/distribution of funds geographically across Service Regions
- Whether this project duplicates other projects funded by Service or other Department of the Interior agencies
- The applicant's prior award performance
- Partnerships with and/or participation of targeted groups

The Service Director will make the final award selections.

E3. CFR – Regulatory Information

See the Service's General Award Terms and Conditions for the general administrative and national policy requirements applicable to Service awards. The Service will communicate any other program- or project-specific special terms and conditions to recipients in their notices of award.

E4. Anticipated Announcement and Federal Award Dates

The Service intends to make pre-award notifications by July 31, 2021, and obligate funds within 120 days. Applicants will assist the Service in meeting the 120-day target by providing the documents necessary for grant issuance as soon as possible following pre-award notification. Awarded funds must be expended in a timely manner or returned to the Service for reallocation through the next competitive grant cycle.

F. Federal Award Administration Information

F1. Federal Award Notices

If an application is selected for an award, the appropriate Service Regional Office will notify the applicant of the selection and outline the process for finalizing the award, including any additional information that may be required from the applicant for the satisfactory completion of compliance review. Applicants may be required to revise the project scope and/or budget before a final Notice of Award can be issued. The Notice of Award is the authorizing document for a grant and will be received through GrantSolutions upon completion of all review requirements. Acceptance of an award is defined as starting work, drawing down funds, or accepting the award via electronic means. The Notice of Award will include specific instructions on how to request payment. If applicable, the instructions will detail any additional information/forms required and where to submit payment requests.

The Service may publish one or more media releases and post information about projects selected for funding on Service websites. These releases may be made in coordination with the Department of the Interior and may be made nationally and/or regionally.

F2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

See the "DOI Standard Terms and Conditions" for the administrative and national policy requirements applicable to DOI awards.

Data Availability

Per the Financial Assistance Interior Regulation (FAIR), 2 CFR §1402.315:
(a) All data, methodology, factual inputs, models, analyses, technical information, reports, conclusions, valuation products or other scientific assessments in any medium or form, including textual, numerical, graphic, cartographic, narrative, or audiovisual, resulting from a financial assistance agreement is available for use by the Department of the Interior, including being available in a manner that is sufficient for independent verification.
(b) The Federal Government has the right to:
(1) Obtain, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use the data, methodology, factual inputs, models, analyses, technical information, reports, conclusions, or other scientific assessments, produced under a Federal award; and
(2) Authorize others to receive, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use such data, methodology, factual inputs, models, analyses, technical information, reports, conclusions, or other scientific assessments, for Federal purposes, including to allow for meaningful third-party evaluation.

See the Service's General Award Terms and Conditions for the general administrative and national policy requirements applicable to Service awards. The Service will communicate any other program- or project-specific special terms and conditions to recipients in their notices of award.

F3. Reporting

Financial Reports

All recipients must use the SF-425, Federal Financial Report form for financial reporting. At a minimum, all recipients must submit a **final** financial report. Final reports are due no later than 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. The only exception to the interim financial reporting requirement is if the recipient is required to use the SF 270/271 to request payment and requests payment at least once annually through the entire award period of performance. We will describe all financial reporting requirements in the Notice of Award.

Performance Reports

Performance reports must contain a comparison of actual accomplishments with the established goals and objectives of the award; a description of reasons why established goals were not met, if appropriate; and any other pertinent information relevant to the project results. 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** performance reports on the frequency established in the Notice of Award.

Effective November 12, 2020, the 2 CFR 200 regulations now allow recipients 120 calendar days after the end date of the period of performance to liquidate all financial obligations incurred under the Federal award and submit all financial, performance, and other reports as required by the award terms and conditions (see 2 CFR 200.344 Closeout).

Significant Development Reports

Events may occur between the scheduled performance reporting dates, which have significant impact upon the supported activity. In such cases, recipients are required to notify the Bureau in writing as soon as the recipient becomes aware of any problems, delays, or adverse conditions that will materially impair the ability to meet the objective of the Federal award. This disclosure must include a statement of any corrective action(s) taken or contemplated, and any assistance needed to resolve the situation. The recipient should also notify the Service in writing of any favorable developments that enable meeting time schedules and objectives sooner or at less cost than anticipated or producing more or different beneficial results than originally planned.

Real Property Reports

Recipients and subrecipients are required to submit status reports on the status of real property acquired under the award in which the Federal government retains an interest. The required frequency of these reports will depend on the anticipated length of the Federal interest period. The Bureau will include recipient-specific real property reporting requirements, including the required data elements, reporting frequency, and report due dates, in the Notice of Award when applicable.

Conflict of Interest Disclosures

Recipients must notify the program immediately in writing of any conflict of interest that arise during the life of their Federal award, including those reported to them by any subrecipient under the award. Recipients must notify the program in writing if any employees, including subrecipient and contractor personnel, are related to, married to, or have a close personal relationship with any Federal employee in the Federal funding program or who otherwise may have been involved in the review and selection of the award. The term employee means any individual engaged in the performance of work pursuant to the Federal award. Recipients may not have a former Federal employee as a key project official, or in any other substantial role related to their award, whose participation put them out of compliance with the legal authorities addressing post-Government employment restrictions. See the U.S. Office of Government Ethics website for more information on these restrictions. The Service will examine each conflict of interest disclosure based on its particular facts and the nature of the project and will determine if a significant potential conflict exists. If it does, the Service will work with the recipient to determine an appropriate resolution. Failure to disclose and resolve conflicts of interest in a manner that satisfies the Service may result in any of the remedies described in 2 CFR 200.338 Remedies for Noncompliance, including termination of the award.

Other Mandatory Disclosures

The Non-Federal entity or applicant for a Federal award must disclose, in a timely manner, in writing to the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity all violations of Federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the Federal award. Non-Federal entities that receive a Federal award including the terms and conditions outlined in 2 CFR 200, Appendix XII—Award Term and Condition for Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters are required to report certain civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings to SAM. Failure to make required disclosures can result in any of the remedies described in 2 CFR 200.338 Remedies for Noncompliance, including suspension or debarment.

Reporting Matters Related to Recipient Integrity and Performance

If the total value of your currently active grants, cooperative agreements, and procurement contracts from all Federal awarding agencies exceeds $10,000,000 for any period of time during the period of performance of this Federal award, then you as the recipient during that period of time must maintain the currency of information reported to the System for Award Management (SAM) that is made available in the designated integrity and performance system (currently the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS)) about civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings in accordance with Appendix XII to 2 CFR 200.

G. Federal Awarding Agency Contact(s)

G1. Program Technical Contact

For **programmatic technical assistance**, contact:
First Name: Kelly
Last Name: Niland
Address: 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041
Telephone: 703-358-2492
Email: Kelly_Niland@fws.gov

For **programmatic technical assistance**, contact:

Legacy Region 1/ DOI Regions 9,12	Hawaii, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands	USFWS Eastside Federal Complex 911 N.E. 11th Avenue Portland, Oregon 97232-4181	Naomi Bentivoglio (503) 231-2228 Naomi_bentivoglio@fws.gov
Legacy Region 2/ DOI Regions 6,7,8	Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas	USFWS 500 Gold Avenue SW, Room 6018 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102	Vanessa Burge (505) 248-6420 Vanessa_Burge@fws.gov
Legacy Region 3/ DOI Regions 3.4	Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Wisconsin	USFWS Ecological Services 5600 American Blvd. West Suite 990 Bloomington, Minnesota 55437-1458	Erik Olson (612) 713-5488 & Laura Ragan (612) 713-5194 R3FedAid@fws.gov
Legacy Region 4/ DOI Regions 2,4	Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina,	USFWS 1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 200 Atlanta, Georgia 30345	Victoria Davis (404) 679-4176 Victoria_Davis@fws.gov

	Tennessee, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands		
Legacy Region 5/ DOI Region 1	Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia	USFWS 300 Westgate Center Drive Hadley, Massachusetts 01035-9589	Sadie Stevens (413) 253-8677 Sadie_Stevens@fws.gov
Legacy Region 6/ DOI Regions 5,7	Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming	USFWS Ecological Services 134 Union Blvd., Suite 645 Lakewood, Colorado 80228	Angela Burgess (303) 236-4263 Angela_Burgess@fws.gov
Legacy Region 7/ DOI Region 11	Alaska	USFWS 1011 East Tudor Road Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199	Drew Crane (907) 786-3323 Drew_Crane@fws.gov
Legacy Region 8/ DOI Region 10	California and Nevada	USFWS 2800 Cottage Way Room W-2606 Sacramento, California 95825-1846	Karen Jensen (916) 414-6557 Karen_Jensen@fws.gov

G2. Program Administration

For **program administration assistance**, contact:
First Name: Kelly
Last Name: Niland
Address: 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041
Telephone: 703-358-2492

Email: Kelly_Niland@fws.gov

For **program administration assistance**, contact:

Legacy Region 1/ DOI Regions 9,12	Hawaii, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands	USFWS Eastside Federal Complex 911 N.E. 11th Avenue Portland, Oregon 97232-4181	Naomi Bentivoglio (503) 231-2228 Naomi_bentivoglio@fws.gov
Legacy Region 2/ DOI Regions 6,7,8	Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas	USFWS 500 Gold Avenue SW, Room 6018 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102	Vanessa Burge (505) 248-6420 Vanessa_Burge@fws.gov
Legacy Region 3/ DOI Regions 3.4	Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Wisconsin	USFWS Ecological Services 5600 American Blvd. West Suite 990 Bloomington, Minnesota 55437-1458	Erik Olson (612) 713-5488 & Laura Ragan (612) 713-5194 R3FedAid@fws.gov
Legacy Region 4/ DOI Regions 2,4	Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands	USFWS 1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 200 Atlanta, Georgia 30345	Victoria Davis (404) 679-4176 Victoria_Davis@fws.gov
Legacy Region 5/ DOI Region 1	Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire,	USFWS 300 Westgate Center Drive Hadley, Massachusetts 01035-9589	Sadie Stevens (413) 253-8677 Sadie_Stevens@fws.gov

	New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia		
Legacy Region 6/ DOI Regions 5,7	Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming	USFWS Ecological Services 134 Union Blvd., Suite 645 Lakewood, Colorado 80228	Angela Burgess (303) 236-4263 Angela_Burgess@fws.gov
Legacy Region 7/ DOI Region 11	Alaska	USFWS 1011 East Tudor Road Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199	Drew Crane (907) 786-3323 Drew_Crane@fws.gov
Legacy Region 8/ DOI Region 10	California and Nevada	USFWS 2800 Cottage Way Room W-2606 Sacramento, California 95825-1846	Karen Jensen (916) 414-6557 Karen_Jensen@fws.gov

G3. Application System Technical Support

For **Grants.gov technical registration and submission, downloading forms and application packages**, contact:
Name: Grants.gov Customer Support
Telephone: 1-800-518-4726
Email: Support@grants.gov

For **GrantSolutions technical registration and submissions, downloading forms and application packages**, contact:
Name: GrantSolutions Customer Support
Telephone: 1-866-577-0771
Email: Help@grantsolutions.gov

H. Other Information

Payments

Domestic recipients are required to register in and receive payment through the U.S. Treasury's Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP), unless approved for a waiver by the Service program. Foreign recipients receiving funds to a final destination bank outside the U.S.

are required to receive payment through the U.S. Treasury's International Treasury Services (ITS) System. Foreign recipients receiving funds to a final destination bank in the U.S. are required to enter and maintain current banking details in their SAM.gov entity profile and receive payment through the Automated Clearing House network by electronic funds transfer (EFT). The Bureau will include recipient-specific instructions on how to request payment, including identification of any additional information required and where to submit payment requests, as applicable, in all Notices of Award.

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT:
OMB Control Number: 1018-0100, Expiration Date: 7/31/2021
We are collecting this information in accordance with the authorizing legislation identified above. Your response is required to obtain or retain a benefit. We will use the information you provide to conduct a competitive review and select projects for funding and, if awarded, to evaluate performance. We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. We estimate that it will take you on average about 40 hours to complete an initial application, about 3 hours to revise the terms of an award, and about 8 hours per report to prepare and submit financial and performance reports, including time to maintain records and gather information. Actual time for these activities will vary depending on program-specific requirements. You may send comments on the burden estimate or any other aspect of this information collection to the Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS BPHC, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.