THE GREAT NORTHERN LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION COOPERATIVE
Strategic Science Support Program

FY2015 Funding Guidance

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Overview

Federal Agency Name: US Fish and Wildlife Service in support of the Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative (GNLCC).

Funding Opportunity Title: US FWS Great Northern LCC FY15 Funding Guidance

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: US Fish and Wildlife Service, Fish and Wildlife Coordination and Assistance Programs No.15.664; Cooperative Landscape Conservation No. 15.669, or Adaptive Science 15.670.

Dates: The deadline for submissions is March 13, 2015 by COB at 5pm PST (6pm MST). If you do not have the capability to submit electronically through the on-line submission form (see Section IV-Submission), please contact GNLCC Coordinator, Yvette Converse (Yvette_Converse@fws.gov) for information on how you may apply under this announcement.

Funding Opportunity Description: A total estimated amount of up to $1,000,000 for 5-15 science, data, and information-oriented projects that support priorities (see below) of the Great Northern LCC may be awarded. The estimated amount may change pending US Fish and Wildlife Service budget allocations, which are not yet final.

GNLCC may opt to solicit proposals directly from a specific agency or organization with proprietary or jurisdictional rights or a Request for Proposals for a specific type of work may be released with this announcement. Unsolicited proposals may be submitted but will be reviewed through the criteria included in this guidance.

How to submit: See Section IV for information on how to apply.

I. Funding Opportunity Description

Under this FY15 Great Northern LCC Funding Guidance, the US Fish and Wildlife Service Mountain-Prairie Region (FWS R6) is requesting project proposals in support of the Great Northern LCC. Awards issued pursuant to this announcement will be expected to result in various products or outcomes. Details describing data and deliverable product expectations can be found in GNLCC Information Management, Delivery, and Sharing Standards (http://greatnorthernlcc.org/sites/default/files/documents/gnlcc_datamgt_sharing_policy.pdf).

FWS R6 reserves the right to make no awards under this announcement. Funding amounts among these needs are not explicit; final amount awarded is at discretion of the GNLCC Steering Committee and FWS R6 Regional Director.

Projects must fit into one or more of the following categories:

Category A: Tribal capacity

a. Proposal lead must be affiliated with a tribal organization and have ability to coordinate with tribal government; prefer tribal government endorsement if possible

b. Focus is Tribal participation in GNLCC process
c. Up to $10K per grant
(Note: Tribal strategic science and science application proposals should be submitted to categories 3-4 as appropriate)

Category B: Partner Forum (PF) planning and capacity

a. Must be used for capacity and planning as described in the GNLCC Science Plan and as outlined in FY14 guidance (i.e., the Cascadia PF model – http://cascadiapartnerforum.org/news-and-events)
b. Must have consensus of PF leadership team
c. Category objectives include development of annual (or multi-annual) strategic PF work plans that identify and justify highest priority Conservation Targets for out-year PF and GNLCC focus; initiate GNLCC Science Plan process for one or more Target
d. Requests should be commensurate with proposed deliverables but should not exceed $15K per grant
(Note: PF strategic science proposals and science application should be submitted to categories 3-4 as appropriate)

Category C: Applying GNLCC science to management outcomes

Option 1: Land management organization planning

a. Must have a lead or co-PI land management organization (federal, state, provincial, or Tribal)
b. Must show how this is an existing science need identified to complete an on-going or identified land management plans (e.g., FWS Comprehensive Conservation Plan, USFS Forest Plan, BLM Resource Management Plan, State Wildlife Action Plan)

Option 2: The extension services model

a. Project must make GNLCC/LCC science (or other high priority landscape science) more available to managers
b. Can include trainings, workshops, extension capacity, etc. aimed at applying existing science/data to inform decision making
c. Must make use of existing science/tools/information – not develop new science

Category D: Strategic Science Pre-proposals: evaluated and selected for development and targeting FY16 funding

- Pre-proposals should connect existing or emerging collaborative science opportunities to one (or more) GNLCC sub-goals and Conservation Targets identified in Strategic Conservation Framework.
- Pre-proposals will be evaluated with consideration for opportunities to combine or synthesize multiple projects
- Acceptance of pre-proposal is not a commitment of funding; funding will be pursuant full proposal development, further review/approval of final, and funding availability
  a. Examples include data integration, tools development, monitoring protocol development or implementation, ecologically connected landscape models and landscape conservation designs
  b. Must be identified and clearly supported as a need by 3 or more GNLCC participating partner organizations who are willing to co-develop products and continue to work together through implementation
  c. Project must be at Partner Forum extent or larger

Applicants are required to categorize each of their submissions to the above and address the vision, goals and conservation targets of the GNLCC Strategic Conservation Framework (Framework; http://greatnorthernlcc.org/sites/default/files/documents/gnlcc_framework_final_small.pdf). Submissions will be evaluated with other proposals under similar ecotypes/goals using the general criteria and relevance criteria. Section V of this guidance identifies general and relevance criteria applicable to all submissions within the context of the GNLCC Strategic Conservation Framework as it is summarized here:

GNLCC seeks specifically identified data and information needs and resource vulnerability assessments that contribute to collective understanding of the effects of priority landscape stressors (invasive species, land use change including energy development, and climate change) on priority conservation targets including ecosystems, ecosystem processes, and species (see below). Specifically, information obtained through this funding guidance should help GNLCC achieve our **four** stated conservation goals:

1. Maintain large, intact landscapes of naturally functioning terrestrial and aquatic community assemblages.
2. Conserve a permeable landscape with connectivity across aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, including species movement, migration, dispersal, life history, and biophysical processes.
3. Maintain hydrologic regimes that support native or desirable aquatic plant and animal communities in still and moving water systems.
4. Promote landscape-scale disturbance regimes that operate within a future range of variability and sustain ecological integrity.

Ecotypic Areas: The Framework identifies three ecotypic areas that cover large expanses within GNLCC, have similar ecological systems with relatively consistent species compositions and configurations, and are facing common conservation issues. The *Columbia Basin, Rocky Mountain, and Sagebrush Steppe* were identified and prioritized in the Framework to connect local landscape partnerships working on similar conservation issues and broaden their positive affects to larger landscape scales. A *Cascadia* ecotypic area has also been proposed as an inter-LCC Partner Forum and is included with the above ecotypic areas (http://greatnorthernlcc.org/partner-forums). Proposals must identify which of these areas their science will affect. See Framework page 10 for details on these areas.

Conservation Targets: The Framework identifies explicit conservation targets for each ecotypic area based on a synthesis of more than 60 conservation planning documents. Targets are classed into ecosystems (habitats), ecosystem processes, and species (details in Framework starting on page 10). In context, outcomes of funded projects should help answer: **'How do priority landscape stressors – invasive species, land use change, and/or climate change – affect these conservation targets and how can we manage to mitigate their effects?'** Proposals must specifically incorporate one or more of the following targets to pass the general criteria screen. Project outcomes are expected to demonstrate how they help achieve the four GNLCC landscape goals and advance the Framework.

GNLCC Conservation Targets		
Partner Forums: Cascadia - Columbia Basin - Rocky Mountain - Sage-Steppe		
Ecosystem (habitat)	**Ecosystem Process**	**Species**

Riverine	Aquatic connectivity	Salmon
Riparian areas	Hydrofunction	Steelhead trout
Wetlands	Connectivity	Bull trout
Watershed uplands	Natural fire regimes	Cutthroat trout
Alpine	Insects and forest pathogens	Grizzly bear
Sub-alpine		Wolverine
Woodland		Canada lynx
Dry, fire-adapted forests		Whitebark pine
Grasslands		Trumpeter Swan
Sage shrub/grassland		Greater sage-grouse
Alpine lakes		White-headed woodpecker
Pothole lakes		Lewis' woodpecker
		Pygmy rabbit
		Burrowing owl
		Pronghorn
		Mule deer

The GNLCC recognizes overlap of conservation targets among ecotypic areas and does not require specific targets to match ecotypes listed above as long as they are identified in the Framework. The Framework continues to be refined and the above information may be updated. Therefore these specific priorities should be considered to reflect FY15 needs and may change in the future.

II. Award Information

A total estimated amount of up to $1,000,000 for an estimated 5 to 15 projects which may be awarded under this announcement for delivering expressed science needs and supporting landscape conservation delivery within the GNLCC Since 2012, successful proposals have been awarded $25k - $150k per proposal.

Anticipated Start and End Dates and Project Duration. Most projects selected for funding will begin in summer or fall 2015. GNLCC will accept proposals for projects that span up to 3 years total, however, this allocation only awards funds for FY15. If a multi-year project is funded in FY15 (i.e., year 1), **out-year proposals must be submitted for review and approval each subsequent year**. GNLCC will make an effort to allocate 30% of funding for multi-year projects; however GNLCC does not guarantee out-year (years 2 and 3) funds.

Applicants should also consider the GNLCC project tracking, deliverables and timelines during proposal development. Details describing product expectations can be found in GNLCC Information Management, Delivery, and Sharing Standards (http://greatnorthernlcc.org/sites/default/files/documents/gnlcc_datamgt_sharing_policy.pdf).

GNLCC expects to be acknowledged as a funding partner in all products, tools and deliverables as well as websites, publications, and tools where the project/products is

described and/or made available. The GNLCC logo will be available if needed for acknowledgements.

Partial Funding. US FWS R6 reserves the right to offer partial funding to submissions by funding discrete activities, portions, or phases of the proposed project. If US FWS R6 decides to partially fund the proposed project, it will do so in a manner that does not prejudice any applicant or affect the basis upon which the proposed project, or portion thereof, was evaluated and selected, and that maintains the integrity of the competition and the selection/evaluation process.

Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Unit Projects. Any CESU non-federal partner should include the CESU negotiated indirect costs rate in their budget estimates if submitting a CESU proposal that meets the criteria for a CESU project.

III. Eligibility and Matching

Applicant Eligibility. Federal, State, Tribal, Canadian, and other public or nonprofit private agencies, institutions, and organizations are eligible; "for-profit" organizations are not, however, consultants may be subcontracted for specialized work. U.S. federal agencies are public agencies or institutions; they are eligible to submit.

Eligible Activities. Assistance is available for science and information projects informing or directly affecting landscape conservation delivery in the Great Northern area but funding may support data collection and analyses for areas outside the Great Northern geography provided it informs stated information needs expressed in the Framework.

To be eligible for funding consideration, projects must either have been awarded funding in FY10-FY14 or address one of the identified FY15 science needs (see Section I, for descriptions)

Note that each grant requested must be tied to products developed covering a period of one year or less during the project schedule and amount of funding obligated. Project submissions having a longer budget period may be rejected for consideration unless acceptable justification is provided showing how leveraged funds from other sources can support the project into succeeding years.

Ineligible Activities. Under this announcement, US FWS R6 will not fund: "construction grant" projects; land acquisition; or projects whose principal purpose is general operating support.

Match. A match is not required, but cost-leveraging is one of the weighted criteria in Section V and will be considered by reviewers during evaluations.

IV. Application and Submission

1. Read and follow instructions. **Proposals that are too long or do not follow the**

template may be disqualified for consideration.
2. Develop and edit your project submission in light of the criteria (general and relevance, Section V). Please indicate if your project was funded by GNLCC in FY10-FY14.
3. Read and understand the requirements described in Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative Information Management, Delivery, and Sharing Standards and be prepared to meet those requirements and timelines.
4. Complete and submit your proposal to contacts by deadline.

Examples from Previous Years. You may look at submissions of successful projects from previous years at: http://greatnorthernlcc.org/supported-science-projects.

Note, however, that this funding guidance is new for FY15 and substantially different compared to previous years; therefore all aspects of these requirements may not have been addressed in prior submissions.

Format. Please deliver your proposals in MS WORD or Portable Document Format (PDF). Please use the project template below (Section VIII,) and complete the template with the appropriate information requested. Your proposal should be about 5 pages long. Proposals that are too long may be disqualified for consideration.

Please write up a detailed budget as a separate file (also MS WORD or PDF, Use the template in Section IX).

Submission. Electronic submissions are preferable. To submit your proposal and budget go to the following link, follow instructions, and complete information requested: http://greatnorthernlcc.org/node/211.

If you do not have the capability to submit electronically, please contact Yvette Converse (406-600-5142 / Yvette_Converse@fws.gov).

Deadline. Submissions are due by March 13, 2015 at 5pm PST.
GNLCC Coordinator will determine timeliness by reviewing the date and time of electronic submission. Absent compelling circumstances which justify the acceptance of a late submission and that do not affect the integrity of the competition, late submissions will not be reviewed or considered.

Funding Restrictions. See Eligibility - Ineligible Activities (above).

Confidentiality. Applicants may claim all or a portion of their proposal submission as confidential business information. Applicants must clearly mark submissions or portions thereof which they claim as confidential. If no claim of confidentiality is made, USFWS R6 is not responsible to maintain confidentiality. Note that data produced under a Federal award is subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

Multiple Project Submissions. If your organization submits more than one project you must identify an overall contact (including phone, email, and address) and send a single, coordinated submittal. Prioritization information can be sent directly to

Yvette_Converse@fws.gov.

V. Application Review

Criteria. Proposals will initially be screened based on the General Criteria specified below. Those proposals which pass initial screening will be ranked based on the Relevance Criteria (below) as they apply to the focal science need(s) addressed by each proposal. Criteria are weighted as noted.

General Criteria: These criteria are used for screening purposes to evaluate whether proposals reflect a minimum standard as determined by the Advisory Team (see GNLCC Governance Structure: http://greatnorthernlcc.org/sites/default/files/documents/august_2012_gnlcc_charter_final.pdf) or a subset of the Advisory Team, the GNLCC Ad-Hoc Selection Committee.

General Criteria are:

A. Rationale/Relevance/Bias for Action: Potential, whether direct or indirect, to effect conservation delivery within the Great Northern area or to effect policymakers in a value-adding way or to result in practical activities which promise measurable outcomes to effect conservation delivery. Sponsorship from an existing landscape partnerships operating within the Great Northern area; particularly projects that have been identified as a high priority need by the partnership(s).

B. Value Added: Demonstration of techniques or approaches which build upon prior efforts in value-adding ways, rather than duplicating prior efforts. *Emphasis will be placed on funding projects already supported or underway through FY10-FY14 GNLCC funding*. However, having received a previous award does not result in automatic selection in FY15. These criteria must still be met and proposal ranked.

C. Scientific/Professional Merit: Soundness of technical approach, including design, objectives, and scientific viability of the project. Compliance with and adherence to the GNLCC Information Management, Delivery, and Sharing Standards (http://greatnorthernlcc.org/sites/default/files/documents/gnlcc_datamgt_sharing_policy.pdf).

D. Programmatic Capability: The technical capability of the applicant to successfully carry out a project taking into account such factors as the applicant's (1) past performance in successfully completing projects similar in size, scope, and relevance to the proposed project, (2) history of meeting reporting requirements on prior or current assistance agreements and submitting acceptable final technical reports and applicable closeout documentation, (3) organizational experience and plan for timely and successfully achieving the objectives of the project, and (4) staff expertise, qualifications, knowledge, and resources (or the ability to obtain them) to successfully achieve project goals.

When evaluating programmatic capability the review team may consider information from other sources in addition to information provided by the applicant in its submission. If an applicant does not have any past performance and/or reporting history (items "1" and "2" above) it will receive a neutral evaluation for those elements of programmatic capability.

E. Geographic Scope: Appropriateness of the project scope and its location with an emphasis area in the Great Northern geography. Preferred projects will encompass cross-jurisdictional and/or trans-boundary geographies, or be pilots that have potential to affect the former.

F. Amplification: Potential to impact the entire GNLCC, facilitate partner engagement, and/or benefit to neighboring LCCs.

G. Measuring Progress: Effectiveness and sufficiency of the applicant's plan for tracking and measuring its progress toward achieving conservation outputs and outcomes.

H. Appropriate Budget/Leveraging: (1) Reasonableness and appropriateness of the budget for the level of work proposed and the expected benefits achieved; (2) leverage of other federal and/or non-federal funds to carry out the proposed project(s) or complement activities relevant to the proposed project(s). Applicants may cite their own funds, in-kind or other resources for a voluntary match or cost share. Only eligible and allowable costs will be considered matches or cost shares.

I. GNLCC Mission: Extent to which project is aligned with GNLCC Mission. GOAL: Coordinate, facilitate, promote, and add value to large landscape conservation to build resource resilience in the face of climate change and other landscape-level stressors through the following (as defined below):

- Support Science Development (Actionable Science)
- Effect Coordination
- Inform conservation action
- Monitor and Evaluate
- Communicate and Educate

Actionable Science
Actionable science provides data, analyses, projections, tools, or approaches that can support decisions regarding assessment or management of the risks and impacts of stressors on landscape conservation. It is ideally co-produced by scientists and decision-makers, and creates rigorous, understandable, accessible, and usable products to meet the needs of stakeholders to inform water, land, fish, wildlife, and cultural heritage management decisions.

Effect Coordination
Support coordination and integration of conservation science and actions across ecosystems at the landscape scale, leveraging the capabilities of respective agencies/organizations/partnerships, and provide real-time situational awareness of on-going conservation efforts.

Inform Conservation Action
Promote conservation actions at the unit and ecosystem level by providing scientific information and decision support tools and by informing conservation action that support resource resilience**.**

Monitor and Evaluate
Monitor landscape scale indicators, test scientific assumptions, and evaluate effectiveness of conservation actions to inform adaptive management decision-making.

Communicate and Educate
Communicate relevant science information and GNLCC activities and opportunities to partners and users. Advocate for collaborative conservation and seek to leverage capabilities and support.

Relevance Criteria: The sub-set of proposals received that best meet the General Criteria will be passed to a second round when they will be scored against Relevance Criteria. Each proposal category (see Section I) has slightly different relevance criteria tailored to expected outcomes under each specific category. GNLCC Selection Committees, subsets of the GNLCC Advisory Team, with balanced representation (i.e., fed/state,

science/management) will review and score proposals in consultation with objective subject matter experts where appropriate.

Category A: Tribal capacity

1) Relevance to Tribal leadership (government) and membership engagement, and expressed Tribal capacity and information needs (40%)

Criteria: Articulate how the proposal will engage Tribal leadership (councils and/or committees) to participate in coordinated, partnership-based conservation and how Tribal members will benefit from outcomes.

Does the proposal:

a) include elected Tribal leaders or respected elders in the proposal's Project Coordinator, PIs and/or Partners or have the endorsement of a recognized tribal committee or council?
b) describe specific benefits to Tribal decision processes and conservation concerns?
c) include mechanisms to reach out to and engage a large portion of the Tribal membership?

2) Relevance to GNLCC priorities and practices as identified in the Strategic Plan, Science Plan, and Communication Strategy (60%)

Criteria: Articulate how the project will help or support Tribes to address priority GNLCC conservation targets, stressors and communicate that to Tribal members and partners.

Does the proposal:

a) focus on appropriate priorities (goals, conservation targets, stressors) of GNLCC?
b) integrate elements of Traditional Ecological Knowledge in proposed outcomes?
c) lead to development of information needs identified in the GNLCC Science Plan?

Category B: Partner Forum planning and capacity

1) Relevance to strengthening partnerships across the Partner Forum (40%)

Criteria: Articulate how the project will both build upon and strengthen existing partnerships in the Forum region and engage new partners and partnerships into a coordinated conservation community. Though Partner Forum proposals must include more than just facilitation, building and strengthening partnerships is an important component of the Forum.

Does the project proposal:

a) Articulate project benefits for all partners and other programs that share trust resources, jurisdiction and geographic boundaries?
b) Engage, leverage or catalyze a broad existing partnership that may include federal, state, Tribal, local, NGO, and private or corporate support (support = in-kind and/or monetary)
c) Engage "new" partners?
d) include interjurisdictional or transboundary landscapes/habitats identified regional conservation plans or by partner groups/agencies?

2) Relevance to priorities and needs identified in Strategic Conservation Framework, in the Science Plan, and by Partner Forums (60%)

Criteria: Articulate how project products and outcomes will address specific needs identified in the Strategic Framework, Science Plan (and other GNLCC-wide efforts), and/or by Partner Forums. Identify specific section of Framework, Plan, as appropriate.

Does the project proposal:

a) directly address two (or more) stated GNLCC conservation targets and stressors?
b) adequately frame the project actions relative to improving our understanding of how priority conservation targets (species, habitats, processes) may respond to key landscape stressors?

c) lead to development of quantifiable measures to assess the Forum's and GNLCC's progress in conserving ecosystem processes, habitats or species (i.e., population indicators) that relate to landscape scale issues?
d) articulate how project products will provide management and conservation guidance for actions that will move conservation targets closer to desired condition?

Category C: Applying science to management

1) Relevance to priorities and needs identified in Strategic Conservation Framework, in the Science Plan, and by Partner Forums (30%)

Criteria: Articulate how project products and outcomes will address specific needs identified in the Strategic Framework, Science Plan (and other GNLCC efforts), and/or by Partner Forums. Identify specific section of Framework, Plan, as appropriate.

Does the project proposal:

a) directly address two (or more) stated GNLCC conservation targets and stressors?
b) adequately frame the project actions relative to improving our understanding of how priority conservation targets (species, habitats, processes) may respond to key landscape stressors?
c) appropriately lead to development of quantifiable measures to assess the Forum's and GNLCC's progress in conserving ecosystem processes, habitats or species (i.e., population indicators) that relate to landscape scale issues?
d) articulate how project products will provide management and conservation guidance for actions that will move conservation targets closer to desired condition?

2) Relevance to on the ground conservation delivery – i.e., actionable science (30%)

Criteria: Articulate how project products and outcomes provide data, analyses, projections, or tools that are co-produced by scientists and decision-makers, and create rigorous, understandable, accessible, and usable products to meet the needs of stakeholders.

Does the project proposal:

a) address an existing need identified by an operational resource management plan (e.g., Comprehensive Conservation Plan, Forest Plan, Land Use Plan, State Wildlife Action Plan)?
b) allow for more effective conservation delivery? How?
c) inform or prioritize conservation delivery actions and/or locales in the near future?
d) ensure success in FY15-16 through a clearly articulated outcome and high confidence in completion and application to conservation goals?

3) Relevance to effective application of the science (20%)

Criteria: Articulate how project products and outcomes provide data, analyses, projections, or tools that will be made more available to managers. How will products and outcomes be integrated with existing data, tools, and programs to enhance and extend managers ability to act strategically and effectively?

Does the project proposal:

a) include training, workshops, or extension capacity aimed at applying science/data to inform decision making?
b) provide information immediately applicable to decision-making for a priority resource, resource condition, habitat, or species in a large portion of the LCC?
c) include or reference feedback loops to evaluate the effectiveness of training, workshops, or extension capacity?

4) Relevance to partner engagement and landscape context (20%)

Criteria: Articulate how project outcomes will engage and benefit multiple stakeholders and how the conservation benefit will be extended beyond the geographic, taxonomic, or jurisdictional focus.

Does the project proposal:

a) articulate project benefits for all partners and other programs that share trust resources, jurisdiction and geographic boundaries?
b) engage, leverage or catalyze a broad existing partnership that may include federal, state, Tribal, local, NGO, and private or corporate support (support = in-kind and/or monetary)?
c) engage "new" partners?

Category D: Strategic science (pre-proposals)

1) Relevance to GNLCC Strategic Conservation Framework, Science Plan, and Partner Forums and to connecting, integrating, or designing landscape-scale conservation priorities (40%)

Criteria: Articulate how project products and outcomes will address specific needs identified in the Strategic Framework, Science Plan (and other GNLCC efforts), and/or by Partner Forums and integrate and address specific science needs of 3 or more GNLCC partner organizations.

Does the project proposal:

a) directly address two (or more) stated GNLCC conservation targets and stressors?
b) adequately frame the project actions relative to improving landscape-scale understanding of how priority conservation targets (species, habitats, processes) may respond to key landscape stressors?
c) integrate existing data, information, and knowledge to deliver novel, useful scientific information that improves partner understand of how to manage to enhance landscape connectivity and integrity?
d) articulate how project products will provide management and conservation guidance for actions that will move conservation targets closer to desired condition?

2) Relevance to building partnerships across GNLCC (30%)

Criteria: Articulate how the project will both develop and align science-management partnerships Great Northern geography. Proposals in this category are expected to develop and/or improve coordination among resource manager organizations to better articulate needs and precision response by scientists such that multiple jurisdictions are collaboratively developing precise landscape-scale decision-support solutions with interdisciplinary research teams.

Does the project proposal:

a) articulate project benefits for all partners and other programs that share trust resources, jurisdiction and geographic boundaries?
b) engage, leverage or catalyze a broad existing partnership that may include federal, state, Tribal, local, NGO, and private or corporate support (support = in-kind and/or monetary)
c) engage "new" partners?

3) Relevance to emerging landscape sciences (20%)

Criteria: Articulate how the project approaches modeling and validation of key cross-jurisdictional (i.e., landscape-scale) vulnerabilities in our collective conservation portfolio and identifies and prioritizes appropriate conservation actions (i.e., design) to improve the assurance, security and connectivity of those resources.

Does the project proposal:

a) build on emerging landscape ecology and conservation design techniques? How?
b) integrate existing data and knowledge of resource vulnerabilities to GNLCC-identified stressors (climate, land use, invasive species) and devise and design natural or cultural resource management solutions to minimize vulnerabilities or mitigate or adapt for threats?
c) deliver clear, spatially-explicit priorities for large (Partner Forum-extent or larger) geographies within and adjacent to the GNLCC?
d) improve our knowledge of and the process for gaining knowledge of appropriate action to offset or mitigate landscape stressors? How?

4) Geographic scope of project (10%)

Criteria: Articulate the spatial extent, scale, and grain of the projects reach and describe how products and outcomes interact or integrate with neighboring efforts.

Does the project proposal:

a) include interjurisdictional or transboundary focal landscapes/habitats identified in continental or regional conservation plans or by partner groups/agencies?

b) integrate or edge-match with neighboring landscape-scale conservation designs or prioritization or optimization schema?

c) share geographic boundaries with other LCCs or other administrative conservation boundaries (e.g., Joint Ventures, States)? If so, have potential logistical and administrative constraints been addressed?

Review and Selection Process. Selection recommendations will be based on an evaluation of projects against the General Criteria and the Relevance Criteria. Applicants that submit more than one proposal must indicate which projects is highest priority (see Section IV, Multiple Project Submissions).

Category A-C project proposals will be evaluated through the following review process:

1. GNLCC Staff will screen submissions upon receipt for eligibility, conformance to the announcement provisions, and to ensure proposed projects are aligned with the appropriate FY15 science needs. As mentioned above, if the project is not aligned with the appropriate need and the applicant approves, the project may be evaluated under a different need or rejected.
2. Proposals passing step 1 will be evaluated against each element of the General Criteria by a staff team consisting of GNLCC Coordinators, Science Coordinator, GIS Administrator, Outreach Specialist, and the USFWS Region 6 Chief of Landscape Conservation. Proposal header information (Project Title, Coordinator, PI(s), Partners, and Summary), Deliverables, and Budget are the primary focus of General Criteria evaluation.
3. Proposal passing the General Criteria will be scored by Category-specific GNLCC Selection Committees, consisting of GNLCC Advisory Team, Steering Committee and staff. Each Selection Committee will consist of 3-7 reviewers. Committee members will independently score each proposal based on the weighted Relevance Criteria and submit scores to the GNLCC Coordinator.
3. Selection Committee evaluation results will be made available to the GNLCC Steering Committee.
4. The GNLCC Coordinator or delegate will prepare a spreadsheet compiling the results of the individual evaluations.
5. The Selection Committee will develop a recommended list of projects for funding to present to the GNLCC Advisory Team and Steering Committee. The list will be reviewed by the Advisory Team that will then prepare funding recommendations to the Steering Committee.
6. Before making the final recommendations, in addition to evaluating proposed projects against the general and relevance criteria, the Steering Committee may also consider the geographic distribution of projects and funds, selecting technically sound projects across the GNLCC area at both a geographic and

institutional level to achieve a reasonable balance of funding by GNLCC, applicant type, conservation target(s), location and impact.

7. After the GNLCC Steering Committee approves projects for funding consideration, and US FWS R6 agrees to fund, all applicants will be notified of the projects that have been selected.
8. Applicants for the projects that have been selected will be asked to submit final proposals (if any changes requested) along with the SF-424 and attendant documentation for Federal assistance (Application Packages).
9. Final decisions will be based upon the completed final proposals and application packages.
10. Applicants will be asked to submit a project Data Management Plan in accordance with the GNLCC Information Management, Delivery, and Sharing Standards (http://greatnorthernlcc.org/sites/default/files/documents/gnlcc_datamgt_sharing_policy_fy13_11-26-12.pdf) before funds are disbursed.

Category D proposals will be evaluated by GNLCC Staff and the Advisory Team. Approximately 2-4 proposals will be selected for additional development during CY2015. Development will be supported or facilitated by GNLCC staff, as needed, and may include efforts to synthesize 2 or more submissions and/or leverage other technical science support. Acceptance of a pre-proposal in this opportunity is not a commitment of FY16 funding. Project funding in FY16 will be pursuant full proposal development, further review/approval of final proposal, and funding availability.

Schedule.

Conference Call(s) for Public Questions*	February 11, 2015 (Weds) 2pm MT February 19, 2015 (Thurs) 10am MT
Deadline for Submissions	March 13, 2015 (Fri) 5pm PT/6pm MT
Reviews	March- April
Applicants Notified	May 15 (pending SC approval and Federal budget)
Application Packages due	June 1 (pending above date met)
Final Awards in place	June 30 to August 31

* GNLCC will host 2 public conference calls during which applicants can ask any questions about the Funding Guidance. Info as follows:

Dates: Feb 11, 2015 (Weds) 2pm MT
Feb 19, 2015 (Thurs) 10am MT

Call Leader:	**GNLCC Coordinators**
US/Canada Dial-In Number:	**866-795-8047**
Conference Code:	**6972717#**

VI. Proposal and Award Administration

Proposal Solicitation: Based on the GNLCC Governance Charter (http://greatnorthernlcc.org/sites/default/files/documents/august_2012_gnlcc_charter_final.pdf), science products and information needs can be developed and acquired by either of the following means:

1. Support for Existing Partnership Products and Information – If a partnership is supporting the identified project, this process can be used. This process will allow the GNLCC to support and network the work of existing landscape partnerships. This consists of querying existing partnerships for specific projects that meet criteria the GNLCC identified in the Strategic Conservation Framework (http://greatnorthernlcc.org/sites/default/files/documents/gnlcc_framework_final_small.pdf). This process may be more desirable in the early years of the GNLCC as a means to leverage existing efforts.

2. Request for Proposal (RFP) – If the identified project is not currently supported by existing partnerships, the RFP process can be used to procure competitive and effective proposals for a specific science product or information need. The GNLCC may choose to put more emphasis on an RFP process. The RFP process must include:

a. Development of an RFP with a clearly stated science product or information need from the Annual Workplan *(or draft Strategic Conservation Framework as Science needs identified herein)*
b. Widespread circulation of the RFP within and outside the GNLCC
c. Peer-review of all proposals that are received (using review template and process)
d. Selection Committee will be established at time of RFP development.

Deliverables
The following process ensures that funded projects are completed, deliverables produced, and findings are timely, responsive and applicable to the original needs identified. Results will also be used to revise and update the Strategic Conservation Framework. This ensures an accountable, iterative mechanism for funding and will ensure use and application of science products and information gained towards the collective GNLCC understanding of landscape conservation as we work together to achieve resource resilience through GNLCC partners respective of joint adaptation strategies.

Project Coordinators and Principal Investigators will be expected to comply with the requirements outlined GNLCC Information Management, Delivery, and Sharing Standards (http://greatnorthernlcc.org/sites/default/files/documents/gnlcc_datamgt_sharing_policy.pdf) including completion of a Data Management Plan which must be approved by the Coordinator and Science Coordinator before any funds are provided to the Principal Investigator. The GNLCC Science Coordinator is available to assist with Data Management Plan development.

The completed Data Management Plan includes simple, concise guidance on product documentation and delivery and should be referred to regularly at each key stage of a project's lifecycle.

In addition, all GNLCC-endorsed projects are expected to include interim reports on a schedule determined during contracting and a final report submitted within 6 months of project completion (unless otherwise arranged). This report should include:

- Executive Summary
- Project explanation or Study Design

• Methods or Application
• Recommendations for use, application or next steps

Notification: We will confirm proposal receipt within: (i) one week for electronic submissions or (ii) two weeks for regular mail.

Contact Yvette_Converse@fws.gov if you do not receive a confirmation or if your project is not posted. GNLCC Coordinator will contact all Applicants to tell them whether or not they will be asked to submit Application Packages.

VII. Agency Contacts

General Contact:
Yvette Converse, GNLCC Coordinator
Yvette_Converse@fws.gov
406-994-7486

Tom Olliff, GNLCC Coordinator
Tom_Olliff@nps.gov
406-994-7920

VIII. Project Template

GREAT NORTHERN LCC PROJECT TEMPLATE (Please limit to 5 pages)

Project Title:
Project Coordinator (contact information):
Project PI(s) (who is doing the work; contact information):
Partners (name, affiliation, location):

Project Summary (3 sentence target):

Category(s) for Proposal (see pg 2-3):

- Tribal capacity
- Partner Forum (PF) planning and capacity
- Applying GNLCC science to management outcomes
- Strategic Science Pre-proposals

Need:
While it may be useful to include a brief amount of background information in this section, be sure to clearly address the following:

- What is the need within the Great Northern landscape?
- What landscape-level issue is this work related to and how (e.g. climate, habitat fragmentation)
- Why is it important?
- What science products will be provided, problem addressed, or what information or other needs will your project provide?
- What is the science product or direct management application?

- What is the geographic scope?
- Is the need identified in other conservation, management, or other plans?

Objective: What will you accomplish? Define how this project will contribute to provision of one or more of the following elements to support LCC objectives and functions:

- Decision support tools/systems or science applications for focused resource conservation
- Tracking or evaluation of resource management efforts
- Testing assumptions of model projections
- Inventory of resource conditions or trends

Methods: How will the objectives be attained? What work activities or tasks will be done? Include specific procedures, methodologies, or protocols. Will there be any key cooperators, and what will their role be (identify any in-kind support provided)?

Deliverables: List the final product(s), including the final report, which will result from this project and delivery date(s).

Statement of compliance: A statement indicating the Project coordinator and Principal Investigator have read Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative Information Management, Delivery, and Sharing Standards and agree to comply with those standards if the proposal is selected.

Schedule: Provide a time line with dates and tasks. Include key project work items and dates for events such as start-up, interim milestones, presentations, deliverables, submittal of final report, and project completion. Identify if project is multiple year and projected outyear schedule.

Budget (please include in a separate file from the body of the proposal): Provide a detailed breakdown of costs (Salaries, contracts, travel, publication costs, equipment, services, etc). Describe in-kind or matching funds for the project if applicable. Describe out-year estimated budget if multi-year project.

IX. Budget Template

Project Title:

Project Coordinator & PI:

Budget Narrative: Explain any necessary detail of the fund request, matching or in-kind.

	Request from GNLCC	Matching	In-Kind	Comments
Personnel				

Salary 1 (rate)				
Salary 2 (rate)				
Salary 3 (rate)				
Total for Salaries	$	$	$	
Supplies/Equipment				
Equipment A				
Equipment B				
Total Supplies/Equipment	$	$	$	
Travel				
Meeting				
Training				
Total Travel	$	$	$	
Agreements/Contracts				
Agreement 1				
Contract 1				
Agreements/Contracts Total	$	$	$	
Data Collection				
Vehicle Costs				
Technician Travel (i.e., lodging, per diem)				
Data Collection Total	$	$	$	

Data Analysis, Management and Reporting				
Technical Support				
Metadata, Data Management, Tech Transfer				
Printing, publications				
Data Analysis, Management and Reporting Total	$	$	$	
Subtotal before Overhead:	$	$	$	
Administrative				
Overhead				
Total Cost	$	$	$	