

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Region 4 Science Applications**

Notice of Funding Opportunity Number: F19AS00187

Federal Program: Department of the Interior, United States (U.S.) Fish and Wildlife Service, Cooperative Landscape Conservation and Adaptive Science

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 15.669, 15.670, or 15.678

Authorizing Legislation: This financial assistance opportunity is being issued through a cooperative agreement. This award is made under the authority of: Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531-1544, 87 Stat. 884); The National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (P.L. 105-57); Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, as amended (16 U.S.C 703-712).; Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 2901-2911; 94 Stat. 1322); The Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742a-742j, not including 742 d-1; Stat. 1119), as amended.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: 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.

OMB Control Number: 1018-0100 (Expiration Date: 7/31/2021)

I. Program Description

This funding opportunity will address advancement of specific Department of the Interior conservation priorities through projects that support targeted science. Project proposals will identify the specific approaches and outcomes that will advance those Departmental priorities and objectives as described below.

The overarching objective of this funding opportunity is to support projects that advance the Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy (SECAS, <http://secassoutheast.org/>). SECAS is providing a more comprehensive and collective vision for conservation in the southeast United States by identifying the most important lands and waters that will meet the needs of fish and wildlife for future generations. The unique role of SECAS is to identify and support the steps necessary to regionally plan, implement, and evaluate actions that sustain habitat, mitigate threats, and adapt to future conditions. Guided by a conservation blueprint that represents the landscape conservation priorities of the conservation community, SECAS provides the comprehensive vision for a desired future

conservation landscape that will guide decision making to generate more robust conservation outcomes between now and 2060 in the Southeast United States.

In the past, Science Applications has received over \$2 million dollars annually to support landscape conservation throughout the southeast U.S., including the U.S. Caribbean. Depending on the level of funding available this year, we will support up to 15 projects addressing the themes listed below. Typical project funding levels range from \$50,000 to \$650,000. The SECAS framework supports the following Department of Interior's Priorities and all proposed projects are expected to explicitly explain how the projects will advance these objectives:

Creating a conservation stewardship legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt

- a. Utilize science to identify best practices to manage land and water resources and adapt to changes in the environment;
- b. Examine land use planning processes and land use designations that govern public use and access;
- c. Revise and streamline the environmental and regulatory review process while maintaining environmental standards.
- e. Foster relationships with conservation organizations advocating for balanced stewardship and use of public lands;

Restoring trust with local communities

- b. 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

- a. Reduce the administrative and regulatory burden imposed on U.S. industry and the public;
- b. Ensure that Endangered Species Act decisions are based on strong science and thorough analysis.

We are seeking science projects that address the following five theme areas (and explicitly advance the DOI objectives above):

I. Stream-lining regulations through the development of conservation Blueprints

At present the entire SECAS effort is being developed by integrating landscape conservation designs (LCDs), or conservation blueprints, across the southeast. LCDs, or more commonly, Blueprints are strategic planning and prioritization tools to more efficiently and effectively guide conservation implementation. Existing blueprints highlight the most important conservation areas, while conversely also depict less important areas where stringent regulations may not be needed. We seek projects that will (1) continue to develop conservation blueprints across the southeast, and (2) help develop the capacity of blueprints to reduce regulatory burden. On this latter topic, we need projects that will help produce and assess the effectiveness of blueprints as actionable science. Actionable science provides data, analyses, and tools that readily support decisions. Along these lines, we need projects wherein scientists and decision-makers co-produce research that creates both rigorous and accessible products that can inform permitting and maintaining environmental integrity. We are especially interested in supporting the on-going effort in Florida as well as understanding the regulatory permeability across the southeast.

II. Support at-risk species conservation and State Wildlife Action Plan implementation

Species conservation, especially through habitat protection and restoration is the foundation of SECAS with an emphasis on working with partner state agencies to reduce the need to list species. State Wildlife Action Plans (SWAPs) and the At-Risk species report ([web link](#)) identify species and critical habitats that have been petitioned but not yet listed or are likely to be petitioned in the near future. The intent of identifying these species and critical habitats are to focus work to enhance our knowledge of these species and/or provide early interventions and management to prevent the need for listing. Many of these species are in need of basic distribution and population sustainability data, while others are facing local and regional threats. We encourage projects that address suites of species. In particular, we are looking for projects that will identify priority information gaps for species on the USFWS at-risk species work plan; model the distribution and population sustainability of at-risk species to support State Wildlife Action Plans in the Southeast; refine Conservation Opportunity Areas for State Wildlife Action Plans; utilize advanced survey techniques (e.g. acoustic surveys) to support landscape scale modeling efforts of species to determine occupancy and areas where regulations can be relaxed; projects that evaluate future scenarios on the sustainability of at-risk species; and databases and portals that pool together information to support decision-making under ESA, as well as infrastructure NEPA permitting. We also seek projects that account for the social and economic aspects of at-risk species conservation, including evaluations of the economic impacts of voluntary and preventative conservation action, and projects that evaluate management actions on working lands and private property to enhance work with private landowners on at-risk species conservation.

III. Support Gulf coast restoration

The Gulf coast is a critical region of the SECAS initiative and more importantly a critical ecosystem of the southeast. We are interested in projects that support the Gulf of Mexico Alliance's Gulf Star program and/or provide technical support to the Service's Gulf restoration efforts. Gulf Star is a public-private partnership advancing strategic conservation to achieve measurable results around priority issues that are common to all five states of the Gulf of Mexico region, including sustainable seafood, loss of critical habitats, coastal resilience, water quality and quantity, living coastal and marine resources, and data and monitoring. Support to the Service includes, but is not limited to: modeling to identify priority areas for resource conservation and to support justification of restoration projects that may be pursued.

IV. Strategic investments

SECAS is widely known for its spatial prioritization of conservation objectives and needs, but SECAS is also a developing business model. The business model needs to expand to explicitly show return on investment to demonstrate the wise use of tax-payer dollars. We seek projects that 1) refine the conservation objectives of SECAS by developing and /or synthesizing biological objectives for sustainability of species listed under the Endangered Species Act or within the State Wildlife Action Plans, 2) promote partnerships between state and federal agencies with private landowners and privately owned companies to advance the conservation objectives of SECAS, 3) develop user-friendly tools that allow users to select among strategies to determine those that will maximize the return investment, and 4) identify existing collaborative conservation efforts across the southeast

that could become more efficient or effective in their work through incorporation of SECAS conservation objectives and/or blueprint data.

V. Balancing human and ecological water needs

An important underpinning of SECAS is the recognition that the entire southeast, including the US Caribbean, is a social-ecological system where the human influence profoundly influences all ecosystem components and processes and equally important is that human societies depend on the services provided by fully functioning and sustainable ecosystems. Clean and widely available water for all human uses is a prime example, and one that is in peril due to overuse and pollution. We seek projects that will examine the broad suite of ecosystem services (including social and economic) provided by water, but in particular to support working forests, at-risk species conservation, and support aquatic objectives in state wildlife action plans (e.g. aquatic connectivity), as well as science to support environmental flows policy to protect aquatic species and the habitats that support them, i.e. rivers, wetlands, estuaries.

VI. Integrating social science into regional conservation work

Ultimately achieving the SECAS vision will require a better understanding of the social, economic, and political drivers of conservation challenges in the Southeast, and development of strategies to address them. There is a growing demand for social science information and staffing across state and federal agencies, NGOs and private companies, and universities. Unfortunately, current demand far exceeds existing capacity. As such, conservation organizations need better networks and support systems for social scientists in order to identify shared conservation needs, leverage resources and capacity, and generate actionable science. Along these lines, we encourage projects that help identify opportunities to connect, support and sustain communities of social science research and practice. We also encourage projects that will help identify the issues in most need of social science attention across the SECAS geography, and identify how to best integrate social science theory, methods, and tools into those areas.

II. Federal Award Information

In the past, Science Applications has received over \$2 million dollars annually to support landscape conservation throughout the southeast U.S., including the U.S. Caribbean. Depending on the level of funding available this year, we will support up to 15 projects addressing the listed themes. Typical project funding levels range from \$50,000 to \$650,000. Matching funds and/or leveraging of other funds and/or past work are highly encouraged but not required. Demonstrations of how the current project builds off of past federal investments and fills voids in existing LCDs, Blueprints, or other management plans toward DOI and SECAS goals is critical. We will utilize the most appropriate funding mechanism for each situation, e.g. grants, contracts, or cooperative agreement. For cooperative agreements the Service will be substantially involved in projects under this funding opportunity. Substantial involvement by the Service will be established on a case by case basis. We anticipate using this call notice of funding opportunity to support projects during fiscal years 2019 and 2020. Contracts and/or agreements need to be finalized by September 30, of each funding year respectively and project start dates should begin shortly thereafter, but in accordance with the individual project needs and goals. Awards are intended to be complete within a single fiscal year, but exceptions can be made for projects whose scope addresses the above DOI and SECAS goals, but require a longer project period to assure success. Renewals and/or extensions are not guaranteed and are dependent on subsequent

year's appropriations from Congress. The program will utilize this notice of funding opportunity for both competitive and single source awards as needed to achieve the programs objectives as outlined above. All single source NOFOs must include all of the elements required in Section 6.9 of Service policy [516 FW 6, Issuing Discretionary Grant and Cooperative Agreement Awards without Competition](#)].

III. Eligibility Information

A. Eligible Applicants

There are no restrictions on eligibility all potential applicants are eligible.

Federal law mandates that all entities applying for Federal financial assistance must have a valid Dun & Bradstreet Data Universal Number System (DUNS) number and have a current registration in the System for Award Management (SAM). See Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 25 for more information. Exemptions: The SAM registration requirement does not apply to individuals submitting an application on their own behalf and not on behalf of a company or other for-profit entity, state, local or Tribal government, academia or other type of organization.

B. Cost Sharing or Matching

Matching funds and/or leveraging of other funds and/or past work are highly encouraged but not required. Demonstrations of how the current project builds off of past federal investments and fills voids in existing LCDs, Blueprints, or other management plans toward DOI and SECAS goals is critical. Applicants may attribute some or all of their allowable indirect costs as voluntary committed cost-share/match. When including matching funds or in-kind support from partners, please include supporting letters of supporting indicating the level of commitment.

C. Other Eligibility Criteria

Applicants that are part of the CESU agreement will be required to use the indirect rates established under that agreement.

Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM.gov) Registration: This requirement does not apply to individuals applying for funds as a private citizen (i.e., unrelated to any business or nonprofit organization you may own or operate in your name) or any entity with an exception approved by the Service under [2 CFR 25.110\(d\)](#). 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. The Service 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 Service 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.

Prohibition on Issuing Awards to Entities that Require Certain Internal Confidentiality Agreements: Domestic (U.S.) non-Federal entities requiring their employees or contractors to sign internal confidentiality agreements or statements that prohibit, or otherwise restrict, such employees or contractors from lawfully reporting waste, fraud, or abuse to a designated investigative or law enforcement representative of a Federal department or agency authorized to

receive such information are not eligible to compete for or receive a Federal award. See [Pub. L. 113-235, Title VII, Division E, Section 743](#) for more information.

Excluded Parties: The Service conducts a review of the SAM.gov Exclusions database for all applicant entities and their key project personnel prior to award. The Service 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.

IV. Application Requirements

A. Requesting Paper Application Package

[Insert information for potential applicants on how to get application forms, kits or other materials needed to apply. You may provide an Internet address where materials are available. However, high-speed Internet access is not yet universally available and applicants may have additional accessibility requirements; you should consider providing a way for potential applicants to request paper copies of materials, such as a U.S. Postal Service mailing address, telephone number, Telephone Device for the Deaf (TDD), Text Telephone (TTY) number, and/or Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) number.]

B. Application Form and Content Requirements

Applicants must submit the following:

1. 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](#). All of the required application forms are available on the “Packages” tab of this Funding Opportunity 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).

2. SF 424, Assurances

Applicants must submit the appropriate signed and dated Assurances form. Complete either the [SF-424B, Assurances for Non-Construction Programs](#) or the [SF-424D, Assurances for Construction Programs](#), as applicable to your project. All of the required application forms are available on the “Packages” tab of this Funding Opportunity on Grants.gov. The SF-424 Assurances forms include a statement that some of the assurances may not be applicable to your organization and/or your project or program. Signing the required SF-424 Assurances form does not make you or your organization subject to laws that are otherwise not applicable to you or your organization. Changing, crossing out, or making notations on the form before signing has no impact on the applicability of law.

3. Project Narrative

Project Summary: Briefly summarize the project, in one page or less. Include the title of the project, geographic location, and a brief overview of the need for the project. Goal(s), objectives, specific project activities, anticipated outputs and outcomes should also be included in this section.

C. Project Narrative. Sections 1-6 below should comprise no more than 10 pages combined, please no additional appendices. Section 7 should provide an overview of the organizations and key personnel conducting the project and contain 1-2 pages per person/entity. Section 8 (literature cited) can be as long as necessary, but please only provide necessary citations. Section 9 should contain a simple map indicating the project area and spatial context as necessary to understand the project, please do not include additional information (e.g. methods or justification that belong in the earlier sections). Clear and succinct writing is much appreciated.

- 1. Statement of Need:** Describe why this project is necessary (significance/value) and include supporting information. Summarize previous or on-going efforts (of you/your organization, and other organizations or individuals) that are relevant to the proposed work. Explain the successes or failures of past efforts and how your proposed project builds on them. If you have received funding previously (from the Service or any other entity) for this specific project work or site, provide a summary of the funding, associated activities and products/outcomes.
- 2. Project Goals and Objectives:** State the long-term, overarching goal(s) of the program/project. State the objectives of the project. Objectives are the specific outcomes to be accomplished in order to reach the stated goal(s). The project objectives must be specific, measurable, and realistic (attainable within the project's proposed project period). It is important to clearly describe how the proposed project will advance SECAS and the linkages to the DOI objectives listed above.
- 3. Project Activities, Methods and Timetable:** List the proposed project activities and describe how they relate to the stated objectives. Activities are the specific actions to be undertaken to fulfill the project objectives and reach the project goal(s). The proposed project activities narrative must be detailed enough for reviewers to make a clear connection between the activities and the proposed project costs. For projects being conducted within the United States or colonies, the narrative must provide enough detail so that reviewers are able to determine project compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. For projects being conducted on the high seas, the narrative should provide enough detail so that reviewers are able to determine project compliance with Section 7 of Endangered Species Act. Provide a detailed description of the method(s) to be used to carry out each activity. Provide a timetable indicating roughly when activities or project milestones are to be accomplished. Include any resulting tables, spreadsheets or flow charts within the body of the project narrative (do not include as separate attachments). The timetable should not propose specific dates but instead group activities by month for each month over the entire proposed project period.
- 4. Stakeholder Coordination/Involvement:** As applicable, describe how you/your organization has coordinated with and involved other relevant organizations or individuals in planning the project, and detail if/how they will be involved in conducting project activities, disseminating project results and/or incorporating your results/products into their activities.

5. **Project Monitoring and Evaluation:** Detail the monitoring and evaluation plan for the project. Building on the stated project objectives, which must be specific and measurable, identify what you will measure (i.e., quantitative/quantifiable indicators) and how you will measure (e.g., methods, sample size, survey tools). Reference the stated project timetable (i.e., process indicators) and budget information (i.e., input indicators). Identify the products/services to be delivered and how/to whom they will be delivered (i.e., output indicators). Detail the expected direct effect(s) of the project on beneficiaries (i.e., outcome indicators). Describe the resources and organizational structure available for gathering, analyzing and reporting monitoring and evaluation data. If applicable, describe how project participants and beneficiaries will participate in monitoring and evaluation activities. Describe how findings will be fed back into decision making and project activities throughout the project period.
6. **Description of Entities Undertaking the Project:** Provide a brief description of the applicant organization and all participating entities and/or individuals. Identify which of the proposed activities each agency, organization, group, or individual is responsible for conducting or managing. Provide complete contact information for the individual within the organization that will oversee/manage the project activities on a day-to-day basis. If eligibility for funding is based in whole or in part on the qualifications of key personnel, provide for each key person a brief (**1-2 pages**) but descriptive overview of their education, experience and other skills that make them qualified to carry out the proposed project. To prevent unnecessary transmission of Personally Identifiable Information, ***do not include Social Security numbers, the names of family members, or any other personal or sensitive information including marital status, religion or physical characteristics on the description of key personnel qualifications.***
7. **Sustainability:** As applicable, describe which project activities will continue beyond the proposed project period, who will continue the work or act on the results achieved, and how and at what level you expect these future activities will be funded.
8. **Literature Cited**
9. **Map of Project Area:** Map should clearly delineate the project area and be large enough to be legible. Label any sites referenced in the project narrative.

3. SF-424, Budget Information

Applicants must submit the appropriate SF-424 Budget Information form. Complete either the [SF-424A, Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs](#) or the [SF-424C, Budget Information for Construction Programs](#), as applicable to your project. All of the required application forms are available on the “Packages” tab of this Funding Opportunity on Grants.gov. Federal award recipients and subrecipients are subject to Federal award cost principles as detailed in the Service’s [“Financial Assistance Award Terms and Conditions”](#). Please note: Show funds requested from this Federal program separately from any other Federal sources of funding. In the “Budget Summary” section, use the first row 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 Federal program appears on the first page of this Funding Opportunity.

4. 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. [Insert any other program-specific information for applicants to detail in their budget justifications].

5. 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, do not include any indirect costs in your proposed budget and skip the next section.

6. 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

All organizations must include the applicable statement from the following list in their application to the Service, 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, please use one of the statements above or below] 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. 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.

7. Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Applicants must state in their application if any actual or potential conflict of interest exists at the time of submission. Conflicts of interest include any relationship or matter that might place the recipient, including their employees and subrecipients, in a position of conflict, real or apparent, between their responsibilities under the award and any other outside interests. Conflicts of interest include direct or indirect financial interests; close personal relationships; positions of trust in outside organizations; consideration of future employment arrangements with a different organization; and decision-making authority related to the proposed project. Conflicts of interest are those circumstances real or perceived that would cause a reasonable person with knowledge of the relevant facts to question the impartiality of the applicant, or the applicant's employees or subrecipients, in matters pertaining to the proposed project. Applicants must notify the Service in writing in their application 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 program receiving this application or who otherwise may be involved in the review and selection of their proposal. The term employee means any individual to be engaged in the performance of work pursuant to the Federal award application. Failure to disclose and resolve conflicts of interest in a manner that satisfies the Service may result in the rejection or disqualification of the application.

(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 subrecipients, the conflict of interest provisions in 2 CFR 200.318 apply.

(b) Requirements

- 1) Non-Federal entities must avoid prohibited conflicts of interest, including any significant financial interests that could cause a reasonable person to question the recipient's ability to provide impartial, technically sound, and objective performance under or with respect to a Federal financial assistance agreement.
- 2) In addition to any other prohibitions that may apply with respect to conflicts of interest, no key official of an actual or proposed recipient or subrecipient, who is substantially involved in the proposal or project, may have been a former Federal employee who, within the last one (1) year, participated personally and substantially in the evaluation, award, or administration of an award with respect to that recipient or subrecipient or in development of the requirement leading to the funding announcement.

- 3) No actual or prospective recipient or subrecipient may solicit, obtain, or use non-public information regarding the evaluation, award, or administration of an award to that recipient or subrecipient or the development of a Federal financial assistance opportunity that may be of competitive interest to the recipient or subrecipient.

(c) Notification

- 1) Non-Federal entities, including applications for financial assistance awards, must disclose in writing any conflict of interest to the DOI awarding agency or pass-through entity in accordance with 2 CFR 200.112, Conflicts of Interest.
 - 2) Recipients must establish internal controls that include, at a minimum, procedures to identify, disclose, and mitigate or eliminate identified conflicts of interest. The recipient is responsible for notifying the 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 subrecipients.
- (d) Restrictions on Lobbying. Non-Federal entities are strictly prohibited from using funds under this grant or cooperative agreement for lobbying activities and must provide the required certifications and disclosures pursuant to 43 CFR Part 18 and 31 USC 1352.
- (e) 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.
- (f) 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).

8. Data Availability

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

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. Disclosure of Lobbying Activities

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](#) 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 on the "Packages" tab of this Funding Opportunity on Grants.gov. [See 43 CFR, Subpart 18.100](#) for more information on when additional submission of this form is required.

12. 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."*

13. APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- ☐ **SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance or Application for Federal Assistance-Individual**
- ☐ **SF-424B or D, Assurances**
- ☐ **Project Narrative**
- ☐ **SF-424A or C, Budget Information**
- ☐ **Budget Narrative**
- ☐ **Indirect Cost Statement and related documentation (when applicable)**
- ☐ **Conflict of Interest Disclosure (when applicable)**
- ☐ **Single Audit Reporting Statement (when applicable)**
- ☐ **SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (when applicable)**
- ☐ **Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement**

Failure to provide complete information may cause delays, postponement, or rejection of the application.

V. Submission Requirements

A. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM.gov) Registration

These requirements do not apply to any individual applying for funds as a private citizen or any entity with an exception approved by the Federal awarding agency under [2 CFR 25.110\(d\)](#). All other applicants are required to obtain a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number from Dun & Bradstreet and provide that number in the application; complete SAM.gov registration before submitting an application; and continue to maintain an active SAM.gov registration with current information at all times when the entity has an active Federal award or application under consideration. **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.**

1. Obtain a DUNS Number

Request a DUNS Number through the [Dun & Bradstreet website](#). The official website address is <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>. 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.

2. Register with SAM

Register on the [SAM.gov website](#). The official website address is <http://www.sam.gov>. The "Help" tab on the website contains User Guides and other information to assist you with registration. The [Grants.gov Register with SAM" webpage](#) 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. Foreign entities who want

to receive payment directly to a U.S. bank account must enter and maintain valid, current banking information in SAM.

B. Submission Dates and Times

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: June 21, 2019

C. 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.

D. Funding Restrictions

[Provide information on any program funding restrictions in order to allow an applicant to develop an application and budget consistent with program requirements. Examples include whether construction is an allowable activity, if there are any limitations on direct costs such as foreign travel or equipment purchases, and if there are any legislatively authorized limits on indirect costs (or facilities and administrative costs). We also must advise applicants if we will not allow reimbursement of pre-Federal award costs.]

E. Submission Instructions

Download the Application Package linked to this Funding Opportunity on Grants.gov to begin the application process. Downloading and saving the Application Package to your computer makes the required government-wide standard forms fillable and printable. Completed applications may be submitted by mail, by email, electronically through Grants.gov, or as otherwise described in the Grants.gov funding opportunity. Please select **ONE** of the submission options:

To submit an application by mail:

Number all pages of your printed application. Mail one, single-sided, unbound copy (do not staple or otherwise permanently bind pages) of your complete application to the Service program point of contact identified in the Grants.gov funding opportunity.

The required SF 424 Application for Federal Assistance and Assurances forms and any other required standard forms MUST be signed by your organization’s authorized official. The Signature and Date fields on the standard forms downloaded from Grants.gov are pre-populated with the text “Completed by Grants.gov upon submission” or “Completed on submission to Grants.gov”. Remove this text (manually or digitally) before signing the forms.

To submit an application by e-mail:

Format all of your documents to print on Letter size (8 ½” x 11”) paper. Format all pages to display and print page numbers. Scanned documents should be scanned in Letter format, as black and white images only. Where possible, save scanned documents in .pdf format. E-mail your application to the Service program point of contact identified in the Grants.gov funding opportunity.

The required SF 424 Application for Federal Assistance and Assurances forms and any other required standard forms MUST be signed by your organization's authorized official. The Signature and Date fields on the standard forms downloaded from Grants.gov are pre-populated with the text "Completed by Grants.gov upon submission" or "Completed on submission to Grants.gov". Remove this text (manually or digitally) before signing the forms.

To submit an application through Grants.gov:

Go to the Grants.gov Apply for Grants page (<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/apply-for-grants.html>) for an overview of the process to apply through Grants.gov. You/your organization must complete the Grants.gov registration process before submitting an application through Grants.gov. Registration can take between three to five business days, or as long as two weeks if all steps are not completed in a timely manner.

Important note on Grants.gov application attachment file names: Please do not assign application attachments file names longer than 20 characters, including spaces. Assigning file names longer than 20 characters will create issues in the automatic interface between Grants.gov and the Service's financial assistance management system.

1. Register with Grants.gov

Applicants must first [register an account with Grants.gov](#) and complete all steps of the registration process before they can apply through Grants.gov. Grants.gov registration requires the entity to create an account, create an account profile, and establish authorized profile roles, including the applicant's authorized representative. Registration can take three to five business days or longer, if you do not complete the required steps in a timely manner.

2. Grants.gov Workspace Application

Grants.gov applicants apply online using Workspace. Workspace is a shared, online environment where members of a grant team may simultaneously access and edit different webforms within an application. For each funding opportunity announcement, you can create individual instances of a workspace. To apply, the applicant will [create, complete, and submit a Workspace application package for this Funding Opportunity directly on Grants.gov](#). Grants.gov recommends submitting your application package at least 24-48 hours prior to the close date to allow time to correct any potential technical issues that may disrupt the application submission. When attaching files to the Grants.gov application, please do not assign file names longer than 20 characters, including spaces. File names longer than 20 characters will prevent your application received by Grants.gov from automatically downloading into the Service's financial assistance management system. Applicants using slow internet, such as dial-up connections, should be aware that the transmission of the application to Grants.gov takes time. Grants.gov sends either an error message or a "successfully received" message by email to the applicant's authorized representative once the transmission is complete. Please do not end the transmission process before receiving that message.

3. Proof of Timely Submission

Grants.gov automatically generates an electronic date and time stamp in the system upon application receipt. Grants.gov sends an acknowledgement of receipt with the date and time stamp and a unique Grants.gov application tracking number to the authorized representative by email. This email from Grants.gov serves as your proof of timely submission.

VI. Application Review Information

A. Criteria

Project proposals will be evaluated using the criteria listed below:

CATEGORY 1: MANDATORY CRITERIA	
<i>Note: projects that do not meet all of the five criteria listed below will not be considered for funding</i>	YES/NO
1. Project products must address a DOI priority and specifically 1) creating a conservation stewardship legacy, 2) restoring trust with local communities, and 3) striking a regulatory balance (see pages 1-2 above for details)	
2. Proposals will advance the SECAS initiative by addressing one or more of the following five themes:	Yes/No CHECK ALL THAT APPLY
a. Stream-lining regulations through the development of conservation Blueprints	
b. Support at-risk species conservation and State Wildlife Action Plan implementation	
c. Support Gulf coast restoration	
d. Strategic investments through better defining of biological objectives, promoting private partnerships, and development of decision tools that maximize return on investment	
e. Balancing human and ecological water needs	
	YES/NO
3. Provides clear guidance to a specifically identified management problem	
4. There is a clear connection with FWS regional vision <i>“Together, we will connect lands and waters to sustain fish, wildlife and plants by being visionary leaders, bold innovators and trusted partners, working with and for people.”</i>	
	YES/NO
5. The project does not duplicate ongoing or previous work	
CATEGORY 2: TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT	
1. The project products will have direct management application, i.e. address an important conservation and management decision.	MAX SCORE
a. There is clear demonstration of the management issue being addressed and how well the information from the project informs that management issue.	25
b. The form or manner in which the project products will be made available for use by decision-makers or other intended users is clearly defined (e.g., technical reports, decision support tool, new or improved management technique(s))	25

2. Technical Merit	MAX SCORE
a. Objectives are clearly stated, procedures are well designed, methods are a technically sound and feasible way to meet those objectives.	10
b. There is a clear statement of project objectives and explanation as to how the proposed approach and results are attainable,	10
c. Quantifiable estimates will be statistically reliable and comparable to other studies.	10
4. Project's scope has broad regional or national conservation relevance	SUGGESTED SCORES
a. Higher scores will be given to projects that include an application of the information to a broader context (e.g., a tool or technique that can be used regionally or nationally).	10
b. Lower scores will be given to projects that include an application of the information to a local context (e.g., a tool or technique that can be used locally).	5
CATEGORY 3: COST AND VALUE	MAX SCORE
1. Manpower and budget are reasonable for the work proposed	10
2. There is partner technical and/or financial support for the project.	10
CATEGORY 4: POTENTIAL SUCCESS AND TIMELY AND USEFUL RESULTS	MAX SCORE
1. The research team has a demonstrated record of producing timely and useful results that may be easily adopted by the management community	5
2. Combination of education and experience uniquely qualify these investigators for this research	5
3. PI and co-investigators are recognized as leaders in the field for this type of research	5
TOTAL	130 MAX

B. Review and Selection Process

A selection committee of three to eight Region 4 Science Applications staff will be formed to review proposals. Upon receipt proposals will be screened by the committee chair (a science coordinator) for eligibility and conformance to all provisions in this NOFO. The committee will independently evaluate invited full proposals against the evaluation criteria. Reviewers will abstain from participating in any review where a conflict of interest exists or could be perceived. The compiled list of individual review evaluations and recommendations will be provided to the Region 4 Assistant Regional Director for Science Applications for approval and final decision.

Prior to participating in any review or evaluation process, all staff and peer reviewers, evaluators, panel members, and advisors must sign and return to the program office point of contact the "Department of the Interior Conflict of Interest Certification" form. For a copy of this form, contact the Service point of contact identified in the Agency Contacts section below.

Prior to award, the Service 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 Service may request modification to the application, other pending applications, or an active award, as needed to eliminate any duplication of effort, or the Service may choose not to fund the selected project.

The Service 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 Service 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 Service will evaluate the risk posed by applicants as required in [2 CFR 200.205](#). Service programs document applicant risk evaluations using the Service'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 Service is required to review and consider any information about or from the applicant found in the [Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System](#). The Service will consider this information when completing the risk review. The Service 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 the award.

VII. Federal Award Administration

A. Federal Award Notices

Following review, applicants may be requested to revise the project scope and/or budget before an award is made. Successful applicants will receive written notice in the form of a notice of award document. Notices of award are typically sent to recipients by e-mail. If e-mail notification is unsuccessful, the documents will be sent by courier mail (e.g., FedEx, DHL or UPS). Award recipients are not required to sign/return the Notice of Award document. Acceptance of an award is defined as starting work, drawing down funds, or accepting the award via electronic means. Awards are based on the application submitted to and approved by the Service and are subject to the terms and conditions incorporated into the Notice of Award either by direct citation or by reference to the following: Federal regulations; program legislation or regulation; and special award terms and conditions. Recipient acceptance of a Federal award from the Service carries with it the responsibility to be aware of and comply with all terms and conditions applicable to the award. Recipients indicate their acceptance of the Federal award by starting work, drawing down funds, or accepting the award via electronic means.

B. Award Terms and Conditions

See the Service's "[Financial Assistance Award Terms and Conditions](#)" for the administrative and national policy requirements applicable to Service awards.

Draft data management plans need to be submitted as part of the proposal package and will be revised and finalized through consultation with the USFWS project lead. The project PI will deliver project data and data products in a useful format determined for each specific project in conjunction with the USFWS project lead. All appropriate components of project data and products will be preserved and made publically available for perpetuity in ScienceBase, or other reasonable and similar option.

C. 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 Service 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.

D. Reporting Requirements

The Service will include recipient-specific reporting requirements, including the required reports, reporting frequency, and report due dates in all Notices of Award, as applicable.

1. 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. See Service policy [516 FW 1, Monitoring Financial and Performance Reporting for Financial Assistance](#) for more information.

2. 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. At a minimum, all recipients must submit a **final** performance 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. See Service policy [516 FW 1, Monitoring Financial and Performance Reporting for Financial Assistance](#) for more information.

3. Significant Developments Reports

Events may occur between the scheduled performance reporting dates that have significant impact upon the supported activity. In such cases, recipients are required to notify the Service 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.

4. Real Property Reports

Recipients and subrecipients are required to submit status reports on the status of real property 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 Service will include recipient-specific real property reporting requirements, including the required data elements, reporting frequency, and report due dates, as applicable.

5. Conflict of Interest Disclosures

Recipients must notify the Service immediately in writing of any actual or potential conflicts of interest that arise during the life of their Federal award. Conflicts of interest include any relationship or matter that might place the recipient, including their employees and subrecipients, in a position of conflict, real or apparent, between their responsibilities under the award and any other outside interests. Conflicts of interest include direct or indirect financial interests; close personal relationships; positions of trust in outside organizations; consideration of future employment arrangements with a different organization; and decision-making authority related to the award. Conflicts of interest are those circumstances real or perceived that would cause a reasonable person with knowledge of the relevant facts to question the impartiality of the recipient or the recipients's employees or subrecipients in matters pertaining to the award. Recipients must notify the Service 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. 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.

6. 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 term and condition 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.

VIII. Federal Awarding Agency Contact(s)

Technical questions: Brent Murry, Science Coordinator, Science Applications brent_murry@fws.gov

Administrative questions: Roy Freeman, Administrative Assistant, Science Applications/National Wildlife Refuge System roy_freeman@fws.gov