

Bureau of Land Management

Notice of Funding Opportunity

FY25 Bureau of Land Management National Conservation Lands- Management Studies Support Program

Funding Opportunity Number

L25AS00311

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BASIC INFORMATION

Announcement Type: Initial

Funding Opportunity Number: L25AS00311

Assistance Listing Number(s): 15.248

Estimated Total Program Funding: \$228,000

Expected Number of Awards: 5

Award Ceiling: \$45,000

Award Floor: \$5,000

Cost Sharing Required?

No

Closing Date Explanation

Electronically submitted applications must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m., ET, on the listed application due dates.

Applications will be reviewed, rated, ranked and selected by the following rounds:

Open from June 10, 2025 through July 11, 2025

Extensions to NOFO close dates will be unallowed, except in extenuating circumstances.

U.S. states and local governments may be required under [Executive Order 12372](#), [Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs](#) to submit their application to their State Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for review. For more information, see the [Intergovernmental Review SPOC List](#).

Have Questions?

Applicants are encouraged to contact the Grants Management Officer or Fredrick (Fritz) Klasner fklasner@blm.gov with any questions.

Executive Summary

The National Conservation Lands programs financially support studies aimed at increasing our understanding of the resources present on BLM lands, the values these areas protect, and the effectiveness of BLM's resource management decisions. The program seeks to develop and maintain strong partnerships with State, local, university, tribal, and non-profit stakeholders in shared conservation stewardship by engaging partners in conducting management-focused studies on the National Conservation Lands. Results from these studies on National Conservation Lands will inform management strategies throughout BLM as well as other land management entities.

The Management Studies Support Program for National Conservation Lands will use partnerships with University, State, local, tribal, and non-profit entities to gather the best

available data and synthesize information to support BLM's land management decision processes, citizen science, and tribal co-stewardship initiatives.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible Applicants

State governments

County governments

City or township governments

Public and State controlled institutions of higher education

Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized)

Native American tribal organizations (other than Federally recognized tribal governments)

Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education

Nonprofits without 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education

Private institutions of higher education

Additional Information on Eligibility

Individuals and For-Profit Organizations are ineligible to apply for awards under this NOFO.

This program NOFO does not support entities hiring interns or crews under the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993. The Public Lands Corps Act of 1993, 16 USC, Chapter 37, Subchapter II-Public Lands Corps, is the only legislative authority that allows BLM to "hire" interns under this authority. Therefore, eligible Youth Conservation Corps may only apply for projects developed under NOFO 15.243 – BLM Youth Conservation Opportunities on Public Lands.

CESUs are partnerships with a purpose to promote, conduct, and provide research, studies, assessments, monitoring, technical assistance, and educational services. If a cooperative agreement is awarded to a CESU partner under a formally negotiated Master CESU agreement which is consistent with the CESU purpose, indirect costs are limited to a rate of no-more-than 17.5 percent of the indirect cost base recognized in the partner's Federal Agency-approved Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA). Applicant's should specify if their proposal furthers the purpose of the CESU program, and if so which CESU Network should be considered as host.

Cost Sharing Requirement

Cost Sharing Required?

No

GET READY TO APPLY

Required System Registrations

Unique Entity Identifier and SAM.gov Registration

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

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

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

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

Refer to Attachment – Submission Instructions & Tips.

GRANTS.GOV

This program accepts applications through [Grants.gov](#) so once you receive your UEI return to [Grants.gov](#) to [register](#) with Grants.gov. Please allow 30 days to register and set up a [Workspace](#) in Grants.gov. See [Submission Instructions](#) section below for additional details.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Program Goals

- **Management-Driven Research:** On the ground research that provides information that can directly inform a pertinent and pressing management question at units of BLMs National Conservation Lands.
- **Community/Citizen Science:** Science that engages citizens (volunteers) as assistants in data collection, compilation, or analysis to improve BLM's management and, advance evidence-informed decision-making, while benefiting society.
- **Tribal Co-Stewardship:** studies which explore opportunities for, evaluate, or seek to re-invigorate co-stewardship activities with Tribal entities, including but not limited to application of Indigenous Knowledge.

Program Description

The BLM is unique in its mission of managing the public lands for multiple use and sustained yield of resources, including conservation. Approximately 387 million acres of BLM land is recognized for outstanding conservation values as designated for special management by acts of Congress or Presidential Proclamations.

The BLM manages these special areas to maintain and enhance their conservation values with

the goal to conserve, protect, and restore these important landscapes and their outstanding cultural, ecological, and scientific values. These areas range from broad Alaskan tundra to red rock deserts and from deep river canyons to rugged ocean coastlines and include some of America's finest natural and cultural treasures.

The National Conservation Lands include the following unit designations:

- National Monuments
- National Conservation Areas
- Wilderness
- Wilderness Study Areas
- National Wild and Scenic Rivers
- National Scenic and Historic Trails
- California Desert National Conservation Lands
- Other similar Congressional designations such as Outstanding Natural Areas, National Scenic Areas, and Cooperative Management Areas.

Cultural, Ecological, and Scientific Benefits - The National Conservation Lands protect a myriad of rare species, diverse habitats and ecosystems, dark environments, iconic land-forms, historic properties, and cultural resources. These designated lands help ensure that the Nation's extraordinary natural resources and cultural heritage will be sustained for present and future generations to enjoy. Scientific resources span unique paleontological and geological records of deep time, extraordinary opportunities to learn from biodiversity, traditional landscapes and cultural sites. National Conservation Lands are also places of learning, teaching, exploration, and innovation where best management practices can be identified for application across the broader spectrum of public lands.

Recreation Benefits - The National Conservation Lands conserve diverse landscapes for the public to explore and enjoy and host more than one-fourth of all recreation on BLM lands. These lands provide physical and psychological benefits through opportunities for outdoor recreation of all kinds, from stargazing to wildlife watching, rock climbing to hunting and fishing, hiking and skiing to bicycling, boating and off-highway vehicle riding. The BLM manages units that include over 2,700 recreation sites and 22 visitor centers and serves approximately 14 million visitors annually.

Public Benefits – National Conservation Lands benefit the communities which live, work, recreate, and learn from the lands and resources in their midst. Management studies may benefit the public with increased understanding of dynamic resources and corresponding management considerations. These lands and resources promote benefits to the public with opportunities to understand natural as well as social systems including unique human-land relationships through history, traditional uses, and contemporary working landscapes. Management of Federal lands and waters shall occur in a manner that protects the treaty, religious, subsistence, and cultural interests of federally recognized Indian Tribes, consistent with the nation-to-nation relationship between the United States and federally recognized Indian Tribes and fulfills the United States' unique trust obligation to federally recognized Indian Tribes and their citizens. In addition, demonstrated engagement of the public in the production of knowledge strengthens the values for which National Conservation Lands were designated.

Objectives:

National Conservation Lands programs financially support studies and other activities aimed at increasing our understanding of the resources present on BLM lands, the values these areas protect, and the effectiveness of BLM's management decisions. The program seeks to develop and maintain strong partnerships with State, local, university, tribal, and non-profit stakeholders in shared conservation stewardship by engaging partners in conducting management-focused research on the National Conservation Lands. Results from these studies on National Conservation Lands will inform management strategies utilized throughout BLM as well as other land management entities.

The Management Studies Support Program for National Conservation Lands will use partnerships with University, State, local, tribal, and non-profit entities to gather the best available data and synthesize information to support BLM's land management decision processes, citizen science, and tribal co-stewardship initiatives.

Legislated Priorities:

The Management Studies Support Program for National Conservation lands aligns with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 which states that BLM can cooperate with partners on investigations, studies, and experiments involving the management and protection of public lands. *Sec. 307. [43 U.S.C. 1737] (a) The Secretary may conduct investigations, studies, and experiments, on his own initiative or in cooperation with others, involving the management, protection, development, acquisition, and conveying of the public lands.*

Projects must assist BLM in meeting one or more priorities as drawn from at least one of the following:

- Federal Land Policy and Management Act, as amended, 43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq., <https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?path=/prelim@title43/chapter35&edition=prelim>
- Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, 16 U.S.C. 7201 et seq., <https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?path=/prelim@title16/chapter91&edition=prelim>
- Antiquities Act, as amended, 54 U.S.C. 320301 et seq., <https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?path=/prelim@title54/subtitle3/divisionC/chapter3203&edition=prelim>
- Wilderness Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq., <https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?path=/prelim@title16/chapter23&edition=prelim>
- Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1271 et seq., <https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?path=/prelim@title16/chapter28&edition=prelim>
- National Trails System Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1241 et seq. <https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?path=/prelim@title16/chapter27&edition=prelim>
- Crowdsourcing or Citizen Science Act <https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=granuleid:USC-prelim-title15-section3724&num=0&edition=prelim>
- Authorities that support tribal stewardship and co-stewardship <https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/-final-legal-rvw-v-final-pdf-508.pdf>
- State or local BLM staff contacts can provide additional detail regarding individual National Conservation Lands designation purpose and local resource management plans,

unit science plans, and other needs (see “Related Documents” files at the grants.gov site listing this NOFO for contact details).

Program Expected Outcomes:

The National Conservation Lands program requires specific performance goals and outcomes to be accomplished. Proposals must identify how the project incorporates at least one of the following themes:

- **Management-Driven Research:** On-the-ground studies that provide information that can directly inform a pertinent and pressing management question.
- **Community/Citizen Science:** Science that engages citizens (volunteers) as assistants in data collection, compilation, or data analysis to improve BLM’s management of the National Conservation Lands and advance evidence-informed decision-making, while benefiting society. Citizen Science is defined as: *a form of open collaboration in which individuals or organizations participate voluntarily in the scientific process in various ways, including-(A) enabling the formulation of research questions; (B) creating and refining project design; (C) conducting scientific experiments; (D) collecting and analyzing data; (E) interpreting the results of data; (F) developing technologies and applications; (G) making discoveries; and (H) solving problems.* See the Crowdsourcing and Citizen Science Act, [15 U.S.C. 3724](#) et seq., for additional information.
- **Tribal Co-Stewardship:** studies which explore opportunities for, evaluate, or seek to re-invigorate co-stewardship activities with Tribal entities (as consistent with [Joint Secretary’s Order 3403 \[SO 3403\]](#) and BLM [Permanent Instruction Memorandum 2022-011](#)). Authorities supporting tribal stewardship and co-stewardship, as well as Indigenous Knowledge, are available from the Department of the Interior’s [Final Report on Co-Stewardship Authorities](#).

The project proposal must identify specific deliverables or outcomes to be accomplished (e.g., reports, peer-reviewed articles, GIS files, outreach tools). At a minimum, deliverables must include:

- Annual progress reports;
- A final report, suitable for distribution to BLM staff; and
- A manager’s summary, suitable for broad public distribution (less than one-page report that helps inform manager's decisions).

All proposed projects submitted under this funding opportunity must state a benefit to the public.

Buy America Preferences for Infrastructure Projects

This program has Federal funding for infrastructure projects. Buy America preferences apply to Federal awards for infrastructure projects in the United States. Reference [2 CFR Part 184 - Buy America Preferences for Infrastructure Project](#) for further guidance.

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Legislative Authority

[Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 \(FLPMA\), 43 USC §1737 \(b\), Public Law 94-579](#)

[Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act \(ANILCA\), 16 USC §3119](#)

[Federal Noxious Weed Act 7 USC §2814 Management of Undesirable Plants on Federal Lands](#)

[Good Neighbor Authority \(GNA\), 16 USC §2113a](#)

[Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2005, 16 USC §6501](#)

[National Trails Systems Act, 16 USC §1246](#)

[Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience \(NATIVE\) Act, 25 USC § 4351](#)

[Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978, 43 USC §1906](#)

[Sikes Act, 16 USC §670h and §6701j](#)

[Take Pride in America Act \(TPIA\), 16 USC §4605](#)

[Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Agreements \(aka Wyden Amendment\), 16 USC §1011](#)

[Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, 16 USC §1281](#)

Type of Award

Projects will be funded through CA (Cooperative Agreement).

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

Joint collaboration between the BLM and recipient in carrying out management, development, implementation, and evaluation of the proposed work.

Training of recipient personnel.

Review and approval by the BLM of one stage of work prior to the start of the next stage.

Review and approval by the BLM of modifications or sub-awards prior to their award.

Participation in selecting recipient project staff.

Directing or redirecting of recipient work by the BLM because of relationships to other projects.

Ability to immediately halt work because of failure to meet agreement objectives; and

Close monitoring and/or operational involvement in the proposed work.

PREPARE YOUR APPLICATION

Application Content and Format

Application Documents

Applicants must submit the following forms with their application as specified below.

Instructions for accessing and submitting application forms are provided in the [Submission](#)

[Instructions](#) section of this document below. For instructions on completing form fields, see the form instructions on the [Grants.gov Forms Repository](#).

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

Project Narrative

Project Title: Must name the State where project is located.

(Suggested format, Attachment A Project Proposal template may be used when submitting your proposal.) The project proposal must be no longer than 15 pages, with a typeface no smaller than 11-point, and have at least one (1) inch margins on all sides. The 15-page limit includes all text,

figures, references, and vitae, but does not include the Budget Detail (Attachment B). Application narrative requirements may include:

- Project title
- Project location (*National Conservation Lands unit[s]*)
- Project theme
(*Management-driven research, community/citizen science, or tribal co-stewardship*)
- Project abstract
- Partners and roles
- Statement of need
- Goals and objectives
- Legislated priorities
- Scope
(*whether the project addresses a local, regional, or national conservation issue*)
- Methods and Study Area
- Timetable and milestones
- Public benefit
- Compliance review considerations
- *Project applicants should allow for sufficient time for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other compliance requirements to be completed by the BLM. For projects affecting wildlife (habitat), native plants, threatened and endangered species habitat conservation, or similar resources the narrative should provide enough detail so that reviewers are able to determine project compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973. Projects involving cultural resources should provide enough detail so that reviewers are able to determine the type of compliance needed, or if other authorizations are needed, such as requests for consumptive analysis of BLM museum property. Wilderness proposals should identify any prohibited uses. Tribal co-stewardship and indigenous knowledge proposals should identify consultation expectations.*
- Stakeholder coordination or involvement
- Project monitoring and evaluation
(*including how you will measure project performance and assessment tools to be used*)
- Prior funding received
- Anticipated future funding needs

All proposals are confidential.

Budget Narrative

Applicants must describe and justify items and costs listed in their budget. The budget narrative must identify the following cost items: total estimated costs, non-Federal cost share, third-party contributions, and any pre-award costs. Total project cost is the sum of all allowable costs, including required and voluntary cost share and third-party contributions.

Budget items must be:

- Reasonable, allowable, allocable, and necessary

- Compliant with [2 CFR §200 Subpart E](#) cost principles

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

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

This program has a mandated cap on indirect costs or approved rate deviation.

CESUs are partnerships with a purpose to promote, conduct, and provide research, studies, assessments, monitoring, technical assistance, and educational services. If a cooperative agreement is awarded to a CESU partner under a formally negotiated Master CESU agreement which is consistent with the CESU purpose, indirect costs are limited to a rate of no-more-than 17.5 percent of the indirect cost base recognized in the partner's Federal Agency-approved Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA). Applicant's should specify if their proposal furthers the purpose of the CESU program, and if so which CESU Network should be considered as host.

Data and Evaluation Costs: Applicant budgets may include costs related to data and evaluation as relevant per 2 CFR §200.455.

Applicants budgets may include costs related to data and evaluation as relevant per 2 CFR 200.455.

Refer to Budget Detail and Narrative, Attachment B as a suggested format.

Conflict of Interest and Unresolved Matters Disclosures:

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

Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement:

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

- Activities: Description any overlapping activities.
- Costs: Description of any overlapping costs.
- Time: Description of any overlapping key personnel time.
- A copy of any overlapping or duplicative proposal submitted to any other potential funding entity.

- Details on when any overlapping proposal was submitted, to whom, and the expected date of the funding decision.

Other Required Information

Other documentation may include curriculum vitae or other biographical information for key personnel, project location maps, any documentation to support an eligibility determination (e.g., proof of certain tax status, authorizing tribal resolution), third-party references, letters of support, or letters of cost sharing or other commitments to the project, independent audit report, or negotiated indirect cost rate letter.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES

Address to Request Application Package

This NOFO includes all information, documents, and electronic addresses needed to submit an application through www.Grants.gov. Contact Ramon “Luis” Burgos-Candelaria at rburgoscandelaria@blm.gov for any additional questions.

Submission Dates and Times

Closing Date for Applications: 07/11/2025

Closing Date Explanation

Electronically submitted applications must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m., ET, on the listed application due dates.

Applications will be reviewed, rated, ranked and selected by the following rounds:

Open from June 10, 2025 through July 11, 2025

Extensions to NOFO close dates will be unallowed, except in extenuating circumstances.

Submission Instructions

Apply Through Grants.gov

To apply through Grants.gov, please follow the instructions in the [Quick Start Guide for Applicants](#). Before applying, ensure that at least one person at your organization is registered and has the Authorized Organization Representative (AOR). Only the AOR can submit the application. If you need more users, they must create their own Grants.gov account. Follow these steps below to apply:

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

- Track a Workspace Submission: After successfully submitting a workspace application, a Grants.gov Tracking Number (GRANTXXXXXXXX) is automatically assigned to the application.

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

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

APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

Eligibility Review

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

Applications will be screened by the Grants Management Officer to ensure that applications meet basic eligibility requirements. Depending on the specifics of the funding opportunity, screening may include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Submission is timely;
- Program and/or legislative authority requirements are met; and
- Complete and properly executed required application package documents are included.

Applications must satisfy basic eligibility screening requirements to be considered for further review.

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

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

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

Merit Review

Each BLM State Office will be responsible for designating a State Evaluation Committee (Committee) with appropriate expertise and professional qualifications for the Merit

Review Evaluation. The BLM State Offices will evaluate proposals only for their specific State. The Committee will review, rate, and recommend eligible applications for award in an objective and unbiased manner using the below evaluation criteria. An overall rating will be determined for each application and submitted to BLM Headquarters Office, National Conservation Lands Division.

Projects will be evaluated by the State Evaluation Committee in a two-step process.

Step 1: Assess proposal relevance to themes and coordination with BLM

The Project clearly addresses one or more of the themes listed above (**Yes or No**).

There is clear demonstration of early coordination with the appropriate State Lead or unit manager in project development, design, compliance and stakeholder coordination, and implementation (**Yes or No**).

Note: potential applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the appropriate BLM office to discuss these considerations prior to submitting an application.

Projects that do not meet both of these criteria will not be considered for funding.

Step 2: Rate each proposal that addresses one or more theme and demonstrates BLM coordination using the following criteria

The project products has clear management application, i.e. addresses an important conservation or management decision. **(45%)**

There is clear demonstration of the management issue being addressed and how well the information from the project feeds back to that management issue. 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)).

Technical Merit (30%)

Objectives are clearly stated, procedures are well designed, results are attainable, quantifiable estimates will be statistically reliable and comparable to other studies. There is a clear statement of project objectives and explanation as to how the proposed approach and methods are a technically sound and feasible way to meet those objectives.

The project addresses a legislated priority **(15%)**

Maximum score is given if the proposal clearly states how the project addresses the designating authority for the local applicable National Conservation Lands, and if applicable the Crowdsourcing and Citizen Science Act

(<https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=granuleid:USC-prelim-title15-section3724&num=0&edition=prelim>) or authorities that support tribal stewardship and co-stewardship of these areas (<https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/-final-legal-rvw-v-final-pdf-508.pdf>).

The project clearly demonstrates a public benefit **(10%)**

Projects which clearly demonstrate dissemination of information to the public or other public benefits will receive higher scores.

BLM Headquarters Office National Conservation Lands

The National Office will have a national committee with membership based on expertise and professional qualification to review applications. Eligible applications will be evaluated in an objective and unbiased manner with the following merit review criteria. An overall rating will be determined for each application. The State and Headquarters ratings and proposals will be submitted to the Assistant Director of the National Conservation Lands and Community Partnerships for funding determinations.

1. State Evaluation Committee Ranking (75%)
2. Headquarter review project's scope has broad regional or national conservation or management relevance in line with legislated priorities (25%)

Higher scores given to projects with broader regional or national application compared to projects that have significant but local application.

Review and Selection Process

This program reviews proposed budgets to ensure:

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

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

Budget review is based on the following:

- Budget line items must be allowable, allocable, reasonable in price, and appropriate for the level of effort needed to accomplish the project.
- Budget details and narrative must provide adequate explanation of, and justification for, each estimated cost.
- Requested equipment must be justified and necessary for completion of the project.
- Cost Sharing/Matching funds must not come from Federal sources.

Final Review of Selected Applicants:

Final review will be made by management to determine if the selected proposed project(s) are in line with available funds and legislated priorities. This process may take a few months to finalize.

Risk Review

Prior to making an award, the program assesses the risk posed by the applicant per [2 CFR 200.206](#). If an award will be made, the program may apply special conditions corresponding to the risk assessed. For awards over the simplified acquisition threshold (currently \$250,000), the

program reviews eligibility and financial integrity information in the applicant’s SAM.gov records per [2 CFR 200.206\(a\)](#). The program also assesses financial management capabilities, project delivery experience, staffing resources, past performance, administration and reporting compliance records, and overall project complexity and potential challenges.

Prior to award, the BLM will evaluate the risk posed by applicants as required in 2 CFR 200.206. BLM programs document applicant risk evaluations using the DOI “Financial Assistance Recipient Risk Assessment” form. Prior to approving awards, the BLM is required to review and consider any information about or from the applicant found in the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System. The BLM will consider this information when completing the risk review. The BLM 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.

If the results of all pre-award reviews and clearances are satisfactory, an award of funding will be made once the agreement is finalized. If the BLM determines that a Federal award will be made, special conditions that correspond to the degree of risk assessed may be applied to the Federal award.

AWARD NOTICES

Notices of Federal Award are sent electronically via GrantSolutions or e-mail. These notices outline the terms, conditions, and payment instructions per [2 CFR 200.211](#). The Notice of Federal Award signed by an authorized Grants Officer is the legal instrument obligating financial assistance to a recipient. Any other prior notice is not an authorization to begin work. If the program allows pre-award costs per [2 CFR 200.458](#), beginning performance before receiving a Notice of Federal Award is at the applicant’s own risk.

Anticipated Project Start Date: 09/25/2025

Anticipated Project End Date: 08/24/2030

Proposals will have a start date in FY2025 and a maximum end date of 09/30/2030.

POST AWARD REQUIREMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

Administration and National Policy Requirements

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

[BLM Standard Terms and Conditions](#)

[See the Award Term - Required Use of American Iron, Steel, Manufactured Products, and Construction Materials:](#)

Geospatial Data

If you receive financial assistance from the Department of the Interior (DOI), recipient must follow these rules for geospatial data:

Follow Federal Standards: All geospatial data you collect or create must meet the standards set by the Federal Geospatial Data Committee (FGDC) or the Department of the Interior. This is required by the Geospatial Data Act of 2018, which is part of Public Law 115-254, specifically in Subtitle F (Geospatial Data), sections 751-759C (codified at [43 U.S.C. §§ 2801–2811](#)).

Include Metadata: Your Geographic Information Systems (GIS) files must include complete metadata. Metadata is information that describes the data, such as where it came from, how accurate it is, and how it should be used. This is to ensure that anyone using the data understands its context and quality.

Check for Existing Data: Before you start collecting new geospatial data, you need to check GeoPlatform.gov. This is to see if there is already existing geospatial data from federal, state, local, or private sources that can meet your needs and is available for free. If such data is available, you should use it instead of gathering new data.

These rules help ensure that geospatial data is reliable, high-quality, and that resources are used efficiently.

Reporting

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

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

Other Information

Synopsis

L25AS00311

FY25 Bureau of Land Management National Conservation Lands- Management Studies Support Program

General Information

Summary

Bureau or Office

Bureau of Land Management

Announcement Type

Initial

Fiscal Year

2025

Opportunity Category

D (Discretionary)

Opportunity Category Explanation

Assistance Listing Number(s)

15.248

Funding Instrument Type

CA (Cooperative Agreement)

Funding Activity Category

NR (Natural Resources)

Funding Category Explanation

Award Information

Cost Sharing Requirement

No

Expected Number of Awards

5

Estimated Total Program Funding

\$228,000

Award Ceiling

\$45,000

Award Floor

\$5,000

Award Floor/Ceiling Explanation

Key Dates

Estimated Post Date

06/10/2025

Closing Date for Applications

07/11/2025

Closing Date Explanation

Electronically submitted applications must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m., ET, on the listed application due dates.

Applications will be reviewed, rated, ranked and selected by the following rounds:

Open from June 10, 2025 through July 11, 2025

Extensions to NOFO close dates will be unallowed, except in extenuating circumstances.

Project Period | Expected Duration in Months

60

Estimated Project Start Date

September 25, 2025

Estimated Project End Date

August 24, 2030

Archive Date

08/15/2025

Eligibility Information

Eligibility Category

State governments

County governments

City or township governments

Public and State controlled institutions of higher education

Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized)

Native American tribal organizations (other than Federally recognized tribal governments)

Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education

Nonprofits without 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education

Private institutions of higher education

Additional Information on Eligibility (Grants.gov 4,000/GMM 2,500 character limit)

Individuals and For-Profit Organizations are ineligible to apply for awards under this NOFO.

This program NOFO does not support entities hiring interns or crews under the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993. The Public Lands Corps Act of 1993, 16 USC, Chapter 37, Subchapter II-Public Lands Corps, is the only legislative authority that allows BLM to "hire" interns under this authority. Therefore, eligible Youth Conservation Corps may only apply for projects developed under NOFO 15.243 – BLM Youth Conservation Opportunities on Public Lands.

CESUs are partnerships with a purpose to promote, conduct, and provide research, studies, assessments, monitoring, technical assistance, and educational services. If a cooperative

agreement is awarded to a CESU partner under a formally negotiated Master CESU agreement which is consistent with the CESU purpose, indirect costs are limited to a rate of no-more-than 17.5 percent of the indirect cost base recognized in the partner's Federal Agency-approved Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA). Applicant's should specify if their proposal furthers the purpose of the CESU program, and if so which CESU Network should be considered as host.

Additional Information

Executive Summary

The National Conservation Lands programs financially support studies aimed at increasing our understanding of the resources present on BLM lands, the values these areas protect, and the effectiveness of BLM's resource management decisions. The program seeks to develop and maintain strong partnerships with State, local, university, tribal, and non-profit stakeholders in shared conservation stewardship by engaging partners in conducting management-focused studies on the National Conservation Lands. Results from these studies on National Conservation Lands will inform management strategies throughout BLM as well as other land management entities.

The Management Studies Support Program for National Conservation Lands will use partnerships with University, State, local, tribal, and non-profit entities to gather the best available data and synthesize information to support BLM's land management decision processes, citizen science, and tribal co-stewardship initiatives.

Awarding Officer Contact Name

Ramon "Luis" Burgos-Candelaria

Awarding Officer Contact Phone

303-236-6967

Awarding Officer Email Address

rburgoscandelaria@blm.gov

Awarding Officer Email Description

rburgoscandelaria@blm.gov

Link to Additional Information