Assessments of Grasslands and Wetlands in the Prairie Pothole Region

Notice of Funding Opportunity Number: F19AS00295

Federal Program: Department of the Interior, United States (U.S.) Fish and Wildlife Service, National Wildlife Refuge System Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 15.678

Authorizing Legislation: Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, 16 U.S.C. §§661-666; Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. §1531 et seq.; Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 16 U.S.C. §2901 et seq.; Fish and Wildlife Act, 16 U.S.C. §742 et seq.; Migratory Bird Treaty Act, 16 U.S.C §703 et seq.; Coastal Barrier Resources Act, 16 U.S.C. §3501 et seq.; Public Lands Corps Act - Public Lands Corps, 16 U.S.C. §§1721-1726; and Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act, P.L. No:114-322, Sec. 5005.

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

Projects under the Great Plains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESU) program can be research, technical assistance, or education, but primarily are either research or technical assistance, and focus on natural or cultural resources. For eligibility, these three criteria must be met: 1) partners must be approved partners of the CESU Network; 2) The project should support or stimulate a public purpose (financial assistance) rather than for the exclusive direct benefit of the Government (procurement); and 3) substantial involvement is expected between the executive agency and the award recipient.

For this current project, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is working with our state partners at the land grant university in North Dakota to improve our assets by using the best science possible. We are addressing three secretarial priorities with this effort. By striving to improve the science basis for trust resources, we are accountable to the American Public not only for conservation and stewardship of wetlands and grasslands, but also for helping to ensure hunting and fishing opportunities into the future. If we have high quality assets (i.e., Service Lands), there will be more hunting and fishing

resources. This is reflective of priority number 1, “Creating a conservation stewardship legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt”. We are also addressing priority number 2, “Utilizing our natural resources” because one of our treatment options will require grazing (i.e., collaboration with our ranching neighbors) for long-term sustainability. The challenge is to make sure we target grazing treatment timing and intensity to reduce non-native plants, and increase native plants. This provides an opportunity for the ranching community to use the Service’s natural resources to feed their cattle. If we cannot learn the specifics of how grazing and other treatments will help reduce our non-native plants (as this current project is working on), over the long-term we will have less grazing opportunities because we will need to use more intensive (e.g., herbicide, cultivation) measures to control the non-native plants. Finally, we are addressing priority 3, “Restoring trust within our local communities”. Creating more opportunities for grazing cattle and other livestock on Service lands helps to restore trust and build collaborations with our communities. This project will provide the impetus for Service assets to be seen as a valuable inclusion into the community, as opposed to be viewed as outside the community.

II. Federal Award Information

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 6 intends to award a single source financial assistance agreement as authorized by 505 DM 2 (2) Continuation and (4) Unique Qualifications to North Dakota State University. Estimated total program funding will potentially range between $112,500 and $300,000 over a five year period. This will be a single source cooperative agreement. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) will be substantially involved in projects under this funding opportunity. In particular, the Service will be responsible for the following: 1) collaborating jointly with the recipient scientists, graduate students, and assistants in carrying out the scope of work, training recipient personnel, or detailing Federal personnel to work on projects. Tasks involved with this effort include: 1) FWS staff will work in cooperation with the recipient to finalize study protocols and designs; 2) FWS staff will provide on-site assistance necessary to traverse sites that are difficult to access, and to assist with site evaluations; 3) FWS staff will provide site preparation and management data; 4) FWS staff will provide training for vegetation identification; 5) FWS staff will serve on the graduate student committee for this project.

III. Eligibility Information

A. Eligible Applicants

This is a notice of intent to award a single source cooperative agreement to North Dakota State University in accordance with DOI Policy 505 DM 2. 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. U.S. non-profit, non-governmental organizations must provide a copy of their Section 501(c)(3) or (4) status determination letter received from the Internal Revenue Service.

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

There is not cost share or matching requirement.

C. Other Eligibility Criteria

There are no further eligibility criteria.

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

If the applicant does not have internet access to forms and instructions, please contact Cami Dixon, 5924 19th St. SE, Woodworth, ND 58496, 701.752.4218.

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 title – Assessment of Grasslands and Wetlands in the Prairie Pothole Region

Overview of Project - This project will take place in the prairie pothole region of Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota in collaboration with North Dakota State University (NDSU). NDSU professors and students will help develop study designs, collect data, and analyze results. The purpose is to improve the science behind administering Service lands, especially for reducing non-native plants. We will evaluate wetlands and grasslands to frame the problem of non-native plants, and then develop treatment options.

Statement of Need:

Grasslands Portion of Project – One of the major threats to the integrity of Service-owned grasslands in the prairie pothole region is the invasion of introduced cool-season grasses. Grasslands that are highly invaded with these species are less productive for trust resources such as game birds and pollinators. The Native Prairie Adaptive Management Program (NPAM) is one of the main tools to help with documenting and implementing restoration efforts to improve wildlife habitat; however, there is a need to thoroughly assess the vegetation condition on the enrolled NPAM units to understand the effects of the management treatments and progression toward restoration. Assessing these data will provide the necessary information to document whether or not we are meeting the intended objectives, as well as gain information on the systematics of management treatments and the associated effects.

Wetlands Portion of the Project –

One of the major concerns related to prairie pothole wetlands is the invasion of non-native plants (i.e., *Typha glauca, T. angustifolia, Phalaris arundinacea*). In situations where a monotype of these plants occurs, the wetland may be less attractive to breeding waterfowl. Currently, we

do not know the current condition of wetlands on Service-owned lands in the prairie pothole region. Obtaining these data will provide context for the severity of the problem and document the scope and scale.

Goals and Objectives: The purpose of this project is twofold: 1) assess Service and private grasslands to measure the effectiveness of management treatments at increasing native plants and decreasing introduced cool-season grasses; 2) identify the current condition of temporary and seasonal wetlands on Service lands to frame the problem of non-native plant invasion, and strive to develop management strategies.

Project Area, Methods, and Timetable- This project will take place across eastern North and South Dakota for approximately the next five years. Personnel from NDSU in collaboration with the Service will develop the study designs and associated protocols, implement data collection, and conduct associated analyses.

Deliverables –

- For the grassland portion of this project deliverables include: data from assessed grasslands; correlations between current grassland condition to prior treatments; and recommendations for adjusting future management treatments and associated restoration objectives.
- For the wetland portion of this project deliverables include: data from assessed wetlands; documentation of the scope and scale of non-native plants; documentation of landscape and local level attributes affecting wetland functionality; and recommendations treatments.

Stakeholder Coordination/Involvement - Personnel from NDSU and the Service will collaborate to finalize study design and subsequent protocols. Service staff will identify sites that will be used in the evaluations. Service staff will provide associated information for each survey site to obtain the historical and recent activities on the respective sites. Service staff will assist NDSU staff with traversing survey sites where necessary. Service staff will provide assistance with vegetation identification where necessary. Service staff will serve as a member of the graduate student(s) committee.

Project Monitoring and Evaluation -Monthly conference calls or meetings will be implemented to keep the project on track and focused on stated objectives. Written annual reports will be required, and when appropriate (i.e., when analysis is producing some results that would be of immediate interest), oral presentations will be provided to cooperating Service stations. A final thesis or disseration will be produced along with associated peer reviewed publications. This information will allow practitioners to incorporate the best possible science into day-to-day efforts, and provide the opportunity for success.

Description of Entities Undertaking the Project -North Dakota State University is the land grant university in North Dakota, and member of the Norther Great Plains CESU. Dr. Edward Shawn Dekeyser, Program Leader, Natural Resources Management Department is the primary investigator for this project. He is an expert in grassland and wetland ecology, with numerous

publications in peer reviewed literature. Dr. Dekeyser has worked on prior projects with the Service on related to grassland and wetland restoration. See attached resume including background and contact information.

Sustainability: We will continue to monitor certain sites beyond this current study, and look to Dr. Norland/NDSU for quantitative assistance. Potential funding will depend on intensity of assistance needed.

Map of Project Area -



4. 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.

5. Budget Narrative

List and describe requested budget items and costs, under the following three categories: personnel costs, materials and supplies, and travel. These amounts must reflect the SF-424 Budget Information, Object Class Category totals. 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.

6. **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.

7. **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 university that is submitting this proposal for consideration under the "Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit Network", which has a Department of the Interior-approved indirect cost rate cap of [17.5%]. 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.

8. **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 may not solicit, obtain, or use non-public information that may be of competitive interest to the entity, including information regarding the funding opportunity, evaluation, award, or administration of an award to the entity. 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. Applicants may not have a former Federal employee as a key project official, or in any other substantial role for the proposed project, whose participation puts them out of compliance with the legal authorities addressing post-Government employment restrictions. See the U.S. Office of Government Ethic's website at https://oge.gov/ for more information on these restrictions. The Service will examine each conflict of interest disclosure based on its particular facts and the nature of the proposed project and will determine whether a significant potential conflict exists. If it does, the Service may work with the applicant determine an appropriate resolution. 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.

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**
- ☐ **Conflict of Interest Disclosure (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
July 18, 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
Funding can be used for salaries, travel, supplies and materials, and publishing costs assisted with this project.

E. Submission Instructions
This program encourages applicants to submit their applications online through Grants.gov. Follow these steps to apply through Grants.gov.

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

To be considered for funding, applications must possess experiences working on prior phases of this current project. This is a continuation of ongoing efforts to evaluate the efficacy of grassland and wetland restoration efforts specifically for the purpose of providing wildlife habitat for grassland obligate wildlife (specifically pollinators such as monarch butterflies and Dakota skippers; and grassland nesting birds). Additionally, the following priorities and policy must be reflected in the project: Regional Director's Priorities (see priority goals: 1. monarch butterflies, and 2. grassland migratory birds); and associated policy (601 FW 3, Biological Integrity, Diversity and Environmental Health). The primary investigator must be an expert in grassland and wetland ecology for the prairie pothole region have been part of prior phases of this project including study design, protocols, and analyses. Membership in the Great Plains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit is also necessary to obtain reduced indirect costs.

B. Review and Selection Process

1) Will the project inform management on National Wildlife Refuge System Lands?
2) How well qualified is the individual to conduct the proposed project (i.e., is the applicant an expert in grassland and wetland restoration ecology for the Prairie Pothole Region)?

3) Will the project address Regional Director's Priorities (see priority goals: 1. monarch butterflies, and 2. grassland migratory birds); and associated policy (601 FW 3, Biological Integrity, Diversity and Environmental Health)?
4) The current project must integrate prior project phase's protocols, analyses, and results.
5) Is it feasible to achieve the proposed project in with the time frame and proposed funding?

The Project Officer will conduct the review and selection process.

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. The "Department of the Interior (DOI) Award Provisions" attached to this Funding Opportunity also apply to Service awards (Attachment A).

The Recipient will conduct scientific and scholarly activities as defined in Department of the Interior policy 305 DM 3, *Integrity of Scientific and Scholarly Activities* that are intended for use in Service decision-making processes and/or publications. Acceptance of this award carries with it the responsibility to be aware of and follow the Code of Scientific and Scholarly Conduct described in 305 DM 3, Section 3.7 to the best of your ability.

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. See Service policy 516 FW 1, Monitoring Financial and Performance Reporting for Financial Assistance for more information.

2. Performance Reports

Annual written interim reports must be provided noting what was accomplished the respective year and how the project is progressing to meet the stated objectives. The final report will be in the form of a thesis or dissertation, and associated publications if applicable. Final reports are due no later than 90 calendar days after the award period of performance end date or termination date. 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 conflict of interest that arise during the life of their Federal award, including those reported to them by any subrecipient under the award. Recipients must notify the 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. Recipients may not have a former Federal employee as a key project official, or in any other substantial role related to their award, whose participation put them out of compliance with the legal authorities addressing post-Government employment restrictions. See the U.S. Office of Government Ethics website at https://oge.gov/ for more information on these restrictions. The Service will examine each conflict of interest disclosure based on its particular facts and the nature of the project and will determine if a significant potential conflict exists. If it does, the Service will work with the recipient to determine an appropriate resolution. Failure to disclose and resolve conflicts of interest in a manner that satisfies the Service may result in any of the remedies described in 2 CFR 200.338 Remedies for Noncompliance, including termination of the award.

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)

Project Officer: Cami Dixon
Project Officer Phone: 701.752.4218
Project Officer E-mail: cami_dixon@fws.gov

Administrative Officer: Jolene Beaudry
Administrative Officer Phone:303.236.4370
Administrative Officer E-mail: jolene_beaudry@fws.gov

Attachment A: DOI Award Provisions

I. Conflicts of Interest

(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 that recipient or subrecipient.

(c) Notification.

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

(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 4 3 CFR Part 18 and 31 USC 13 52.

(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).

II. 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 2 CFR 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:

(1) The scientific data relied upon;

(2) The analysis relied upon; and

(3) The methodology, including models, used to gather and analyze data.