

# SONORAN JOINT VENTURE

## 2010 AWARDS PROGRAM

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS



#### GENERAL INFORMATION

##### Awards Program Objective

The objective of the Sonoran Joint Venture (SJV) Awards Program is to support the investigation and conservation of birds and their habitats within SJV boundaries by providing funds through a competitive program.

##### Project Eligibility

Proposals for projects that support the SJV mission and objectives are eligible for funding. This includes: habitat management, research, monitoring, education, community involvement, outreach, planning, ecotourism, and professional training.

##### Available Funding

The amount of funding available each year varies based on contributions from Congressional appropriations and partners. SJV Awards range from \$1,000-\$10,000, with an average of \$5,000. Proposals with budget requests that exceed \$10,000 will not be considered, although we will maintain the proposal on file in the event that an appropriate funding opportunity arises.

##### General Project Considerations

1. Awards Program proposals do not require partnerships, but proposals that have partnerships are encouraged. New partnerships, as well as nontraditional partners, are especially encouraged. Partners may include those contributing funds, in-kind services, land base, technical assistance, coordination, etc.
2. Proposals must address the bird conservation goals, objectives, and recommendations of the [SJV Bird Conservation Plan](#) or [Waterfowl Management Supplement](#). Grant seekers should refer to the priority birds in the SJV Conservation Plan and the specific *2010 Awards Program Funding Priorities* (below).
3. We encourage proposals addressing multiple species over single species projects. However, we do encourage single species projects that address a specific SJV objective.
4. We encourage projects that are habitat oriented.
5. We encourage projects that address the quantity or quality of priority habitats or threats that impact the distribution and abundance of priority species.
6. We encourage segments of projects that include additional SJV goals (other than the main project goal), such as monitoring, outreach and/or education, involvement of indigenous or local communities, planning, birding ecotourism, and professional training.
7. We encourage proposals for monitoring that is part of a long-term project or is part of a Coordinated Bird Monitoring project.
8. We encourage projects that are a segment of consensus-built larger project.
9. We encourage projects that can demonstrate a high likelihood of being successful.
10. Monitoring projects must submit their data to the Avian Knowledge Network.

## **CHANGES FOR THE 2010 FUNDING CYCLE**

Please send your application package in three separate files attached in the same email, if possible:

- 1) Cover sheet
- 2) Proposal and letters of support
- 3) Government forms

## **2010 AWARDS PROGRAM FUNDING PRIORITIES**

In an effort to focus the Awards Program, the SJV Technical Committee has identified priorities by SJV ecological region for Awards Seekers. Proposals that address these priority habitats and project types are encouraged. Priority bird species can be found in the [SJV Conservation Plan](#). For 2010 we encourage proposals that address management and restoration in the following habitats:

### **Arid Borderlands**

- (1) riparian wetlands
- (2) desert grasslands
- (3) desert scrub

### **Mexican Highlands**

- (1) Desert grasslands
- (2) Mixed conifer/pine-oak

### **California Coasts and Mountains**

- (1) coastal sage scrublands
- (2) grasslands (including foothills and often associated with oak-savannah)
- (3) riparian and freshwater wetlands

### **Pacific Lowlands**

- (1) tropical deciduous forest (scrub deciduous forest)
- (2) coastal Wetlands
- (3) islands
- (4) riparian

### **We also encourage proposals for Coordinated Bird Monitoring or the following groups:**

- (1) Waterbird and shorebird breeding and wintering surveys; aerial surveys combined with ground surveys for winter; breeding surveys target specific habitats including sand, mud and salt; combine shorebirds with winter waterfowl when possible.
- (2) Landbird surveys, higher elevation forest and grassland surveys, including Sierra Madre Sparrow; surveys along an elevational gradient; includes inventory needs, point counts and area searches.
- (3) Colonial waterbird surveys, specifically for Little Blue Heron, Tricolored Heron, and Reddish Egret.
- (4) Riparian landbird surveys, especially raptors and psitticines in Mexico; projects designed to complement Arizona Bird Conservation Initiative's Coordinated Bird Monitoring riparian project.
- (5) Secretive marsh birds, especially Light-footed Clapper Rail and Black Rail.
- (6) Muscovy and Masked Duck surveys.
- (7) Pelagic bird surveys, including training.

## Timetable

<i>November 1</i>	Official Request for Proposals made available. Proposals are accepted year-round and are held for evaluation during the review and ranking period.
<i>February 1</i>	All proposals must be received by the SJV no later than midnight, Arizona time.
<i>April 1</i>	SJV Science Coordinator, SJV Education and Outreach Coordinator, and the Awards Review subcommittee will complete the review and ranking process and provide their recommendations to the Management Board for approval.
<i>May 15</i>	All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application no later than this date.

## SUMMARY OF RANKING CONSIDERATIONS

The following outline describes the criteria by which the SJV will rank proposals. In order to rank high in the evaluation process, proposals should address all of the major headings listed below.

### *I. Biological Value*

- A. Benefits priority bird species as identified by the SJV, secondarily benefit other taxa.
- B. Benefits priority habitats as identified by the SJV (including # of acres or miles impacted).
- C. Benefits a focus area identified by the SJV.

### *II. Partnerships*

- A. Includes partnerships (number and type).
- B. Documents partner contributions and funds leveraged.
- C. Describes opportunity—other funding that might be lost, partners' needs, other opportunities forgone.

### *III. Plan Objectives and/or Recommendations*

- A. Addresses a stated objective or recommendation in the SJV Bird Conservation Plan or Waterfowl Management Supplement.
- B. Project should demonstrate a high likelihood of being successful.

### *IV. Other Project Goals*

- A. Addresses a monitoring or research need.
- B. Addresses an outreach or education need.
- C. Involves an indigenous or local community (including the # of people to be contacted).
- D. Addresses a professional training need.
- E. Supports birding ecotourism.
- F. Addresses a planning or evaluation need.

### *V. Proposal Format*

- A. Proposal must follow the required format and guidelines.
- B. Application must include all required government forms, completed in full.

## HOW TO APPLY

SJV Awards applications should be 3-5 pages in length, excluding cover sheet, maps, and letters of support. Applications must be submitted electronically to both Robert Mesta ([Robert\\_Mesta@fws.gov](mailto:Robert_Mesta@fws.gov)) and Carol Beardmore ([Carol\\_Beardmore@fws.gov](mailto:Carol_Beardmore@fws.gov)) by 1 February.

If you have further questions about the application process or the Awards Program, contact Carol Beardmore or visit the [SJV website](#).

### Format

All proposals must be submitted electronically in either PDF or Microsoft Word format. Use a font size no smaller than 11 point and margins of at least 3/4 inch. Proposals may be submitted in English or Spanish. If submitted in Spanish, applicants must provide an abstract in English. The entire file should not be over 3 MB.

All applications must include the following five parts:

#### I. Application Cover Sheet

#### II. Project Details

- *Project Need:* Explain how your project is important for bird conservation in the SJV region.
- *Project Location:* Where in the SJV region will this project take place?
  1. For monitoring, restoration, or habitat protection projects that have specific sites identified, please provide information on:
    - Location and ownership of project site(s).
    - Brief description of project site(s), including dominant habitat types.
    - Number of acres that will be affected by this project (restoration and habitat protection projects)
  2. For communications, education, outreach, and ecotourism projects:
    - Identify the primary audience(s) targeted by the project (including ages, ethnicity, and gender, if applicable). If the project targets a specific group (i.e., landowners, legislators, elementary schools, community members, etc.), please list.
    - Describe the geographic area targeted by the project, if any.
- *Project Objectives and Outcomes:* Clearly state one-sentence project objectives in list format. For each objective, include a detailed description of expected outcomes. For all projects, explain how they address SJV and/or other bird initiative plan objectives.
  1. For monitoring, restoration, or habitat protection projects, please address the following:
    - What are the project outcomes/benefits in terms of acres, or numbers of birds? Explain what species of birds are intended to benefit, in what way, and due to which actions.
    - Explain how the project meets the SJV Bird Conservation Plan objectives. Be specific in your answer (i.e., will provide habitat for eight pairs of Yellow-billed Cuckoos, will protect six acres of critical desert grasslands.)
    - Explain how you will incorporate your data into a National or International database (i.e., Avian Knowledge Network, eBird, Aves, etc.)

2. For research projects, please address the following:
    - Explain how the proposed project will add to the existing body of knowledge about habitats and/or species.
    - Describe the geographic scope and specific habitat type(s) where the results of your study will be applicable (i.e., riparian, tropical deciduous forest, Madrean pine-oak, etc.)
    - Describe management and/or planning applications of this project and how you will inform managers of your results.
    - Explain how you will incorporate your data into a National or International database (i.e., Avian Knowledge Network, eBird, etc.)
  3. For communications, education, outreach, and avitourism projects, please address the following:
    - What is the projected number of people that will be reached?
    - Provide a description of tangible products produced as a result of the project (i.e., brochure, manual, website, teaching materials, etc.)
    - Explain how this project will directly support and raise awareness of bird and habitat conservation or address a communications, education, outreach, or ecotourism objective within the SJV region.
- *Methodology:* Describe the methods you will use to implement your project. This might include a brief description of survey methodology, restoration techniques, or education and outreach strategies.
  - *Timetable:* In addition to details about when your project will be implemented throughout the year, please be sure to include projected start and end dates, as well as dates for Interim and Final Report submission.
  - *Map of Project Location:* At a minimum, include a large scale map that places your project in the context of the SJV region. Monitoring, restoration, habitat protection, and research projects should also include a detailed map of the project site(s).
  - *Evaluation:* Explain how you will measure and evaluate success or effectiveness of project outcomes.
  - *List of partners and their contributions:* In addition to a complete list of partners and contributions, please submit letters of support from all partners.

### **III. Budget**

- Projects that have little or no overhead or administrative costs are preferred. Funds requested for salaries must be tied directly to deliverable products, such as plans, databases, reports, or on-the-ground work that address SJV objectives. Salaries of permanent employees coordinating projects may be used as leveraged funds only.
- The SJV Awards Program does not require partner contributions, but proposals that include leveraged funds and partners' contributions are encouraged. They may be cash or in-kind partner contributions and may be from any source (federal or non-federal). There is no required ratio between SJV and partner contributions.
- Please note whether leveraged or partner funds are already secured or whether they pending. If still pending, when will you find out if you have been successful? How will you implement your project if you do not receive the pending funds?

The following is sample budget format.

Budget Categories (such as):	SJV Request	Applicant Contribution	Partner(s) Contribution(s) (monetary)	Partner(s) Contribution(s) (non-monetary value/in-kind)	Total
Salaries					
Materials					
Travel					
Printing					
Other (specify)					
Total					

#### IV. Other Forms

In addition to the coversheet, proposal, budget, and any letters of support from project partners, all Awards applicants must also submit the following forms:

- [Standard Form 424](#)
- [Standard Form 424A](#)
- [Standard Form 424B](#)
- [Certifications for Federal Grants and Cooperative Agreements](#)

NOTE: A [DUNS Number](#) is required to fill out SF 424. If you have not obtained a DUNS number in the past, [click here to complete the process](#). A DUNS number is needed to complete Standard Form 424 and is **REQUIRED** at the time your proposal is submitted.

Examples of SF 424 and 424b are [available on the SJV website](#).

Email a PDF or fax these forms to [Carol Beardmore](#) (602-242-2513) with your application. Applicants should keep the originals. **All applicants must submit these four forms at the time the proposal is submitted even if they have previously received an Award from the Sonoran Joint Venture.**

#### V. Compliance

Describe what is needed for federal and state threatened and endangered species, environmental, cultural, archaeological, and legal compliance and what will be entailed in gaining compliance. Describe any possible impacts and avoidance measures. Every successful **grantee is responsible** for obtaining all necessary permits and permissions and complying with all state and federal environmental and cultural/archaeological regulations. This also includes state and federal permits for banding, handling, or disturbing wildlife.

In the U.S. if a habitat project will impact or possibly impact vegetation, wildlife, structures, artifacts, soil, etc., the **grantee is responsible** for obtaining Endangered Species Act (ESA), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and any state permits or compliance. No funds will be dispersed for the project until all compliance has been successfully completed. Needed permits should be investigated before applying for an award, so there are no surprises. The SJV is not responsible for compliance and does not have funds to pay for it. The SJV will give successful applicants contacts to initiate compliance if needed.

If you are selected to receive an Award, you will be required to provide your bank account information. All **payments are on a reimbursable basis and will be transferred electronically to your bank.**