

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

FWS - Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration

<https://www.fws.gov/wsfrprograms>

Multistate Conservation Grant (MSCG) Program

Fiscal Year: 2023

F23AS00007

Due Date for Applications: 05/18/2022

Table of Contents

A. Program Description	2
B. Federal Award Information.....	6
B1. Total Funding	6
B2. Expected Award Amount	6
B3. Expected Award Funding and Anticipated Dates	6
B4. Number of Awards	7
B5. Type of Award.....	7
C. Eligibility Information	7
C1. Eligible Applicants	7
C2. Cost Sharing or Matching.....	8
C3. Other	8
D. Application and Submission Information	8
D1. Address to Request Application Package	9
D2. Content and Form of Application Submission.....	9
D3. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM).....	15
D4. Submission Dates and Times	16
D5. Intergovernmental Review	17
D6. Funding Restrictions	17
D7. Other Submission Requirements.....	20
E. Application Review Information.....	21
E1. Criteria	21
E2. Review and Selection Process	23
E3. CFR – Regulatory Information.....	24
E4. Anticipated Announcement and Federal Award Dates	24
F. Federal Award Administration Information.....	24
F1. Federal Award Notices	24
F2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements	25
F3. Reporting	25
G. Federal Awarding Agency Contact(s)	27
G1. Program Technical Contact.....	28
G2. Program Administration.....	28
G3. Application System Technical Support.....	28
H. Other Information	28

A. Program Description

Authority:

The Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 777 et seq.) and the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669 et seq.) as amended by the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106-408, 114 STAT. 1766 §113 and 114 STAT. 1722 §122) authorize the Secretary of the Interior to make up to \$6,000,000 available annually under the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR) to fund multistate conservation project grants. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) will cite this traditional program as the T-MSCGP.

In addition, the Modernizing the Pittman-Robertson Fund for Tomorrow's Needs Act (Modernizing PR Act, 16 U.S.C. 669) amended the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to, among other measures, make hunter recruitment and recreational shooter recruitment grants that promote a national hunting and shooting sports recruitment program, including related communication and outreach activities. The Service will cite this as the R3 Multistate Conservation Grant Program (R3-MSCGP). The R3-MSCGP will make up to an additional \$5,000,000 available specifically for these grants.

Assistance Listing Number:

15.628

Background, Purpose and Program Requirements:

The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) and the Service work cooperatively to manage T-MSCGP and R3-MSCGP. Administratively, both programs will function similarly, with AFWA providing the Service with a priority list of projects to be considered for award and the Service administering the program and managing the awards. This Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) provides application guidance for both competitive programs.

Eligible grant proposals are shared with the AFWA National Grants Committee (NGC) for review and ranking to aid in the selection process. Proposals must address eligible activities in one or more of the selected AFWA Strategic Priorities to be considered. Strategic Priorities are annually selected by AFWA to establish the State fish and wildlife agencies' (States) conservation priorities (under T-MSCGP) or national recruitment priorities (under R3-MSCGP), and they are used to guide proposal development and grant selection for the programs. The primary goal of both programs is to provide grant funds to address regional or national priority needs of the States and their partners that are beyond the scope and capabilities of a single State. Projects selected and awarded are annually published in the Federal Register. Lists of past awards are also available from the Service and AFWA (see Section G, Federal Awarding Agency Contacts).

Recipients awarded under T-MSCGP may use the funds for sport fisheries and wildlife management including research projects, boating access development, hunter safety and education, aquatic education, fish and wildlife habitat improvements, and other purposes consistent with the enabling legislation.

Recipients awarded under the R3-MSCGP can only use the funds for making hunter recruitment and recreational shooter recruitment projects that promote a national hunting and shooting sport recruitment program, including related communication and outreach activities.

AFWA Strategic Priorities

1. Conservation & Science

- A. Large Landscape Systems & Species
- B. Climate
- C. Wildlife Disease Including Connections with Human Health (“One Health”)
- D. Data
- E. Human Dimensions & Social Science
- F. Invasive Species

2. Relevancy & Inclusion & Participation

- A. Enhancing Conservation Through Broader Engagement
- B. Communication Programs that Further Regional & National Conservation Efforts
- C. Implementing and/or Expanding Internal and External Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Efforts

3. Coordination, Capacity Building & Fish and Wildlife Agencies Support

- A. Leadership Development
- B. Conservation Education
- C. Coordination of International, National & Regional Conservation Efforts & Policies
- D. Integration of Law Enforcement

4. Trust Fund Stewardship

- A. Research that Informs & Supports Conservation Efforts
- B. Trust Fund Education & Promotion of North American Model of Conservation (“Legal Strategy”)
- C. Conservation Law Education

5. AFWA Priorities Identified in AFWA Funding Principles (submitted by ExCom)

- A. Management Assistance Team
- B. Management of MSCGP Program
- C. CITES and International Conservation Programs and Their Impact of State Agencies
- D. Coordination of Conservation on National Scale

6. Recruitment, Retention, Reactivation (R3)*

*The category was recently developed in response to the Pittman Roberson Modernization Act and includes up to an additional \$5 million for R3 projects focused specifically on hunting and shooting sports (i.e. recreational target shooting). Potential projects under sections (6a – 6e) of this priority should be broad in scope and far-reaching. Collaboration between new and existing partners such as industry, NGO’s and state agencies is encouraged. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion can refer to racial diversity. Proposals should include a detailed monitoring and evaluation plan. The Association is also requesting R3 projects focused on fishing through this

category although they will be funded through the Traditional MSCGP program using available Sport Fish Restoration funding.

A. Monitoring and Evaluation (Wildlife Restoration Only)

Description: Development of tools, trainings and technologies that allow R3 practitioners to document the influence of R3 effort implementation on the target participants' or populations' initiation into and/or increased avidity in hunting and/or recreational target shooting.

Potential projects might include: Development of tools to support data collection methodologies, data dashboards, and resources that increase R3 staff competency and capacity to evaluate, manage, and interpret data in order to benefit decision making. Creation of R3 effort outcome indicators measurement and collection systems that allow participant and license sales data to be summarized and compared at regional or national scales.

B. Marketing

Description: Identification, development and implementation of strategic marketing tools and resources (with defined and measurable R3 outcomes) intended to 1) maximize social support for (from increasing broad societal awareness and acceptance, to connecting prospects with opportunities) and to 2) increase participation in hunting and/or recreational target shooting. Projects will also be considered for fishing participation under this category using funds from the Traditional MSCGP.

Potential Projects might include: Market research; best marketing practices; development of marketing toolkits; strategies to form regional or national marketing campaigns; or increase community-wide engagement and implementation of marketing tactics.

C. Mentoring

Description: Identification and evaluation of elements of successful mentoring programs as well as current mentor/mentee motivations and application of that knowledge to expand and promote effective mentoring or instructional efforts from the current base of hunting and/or recreational target shooting participants. Projects will also be considered for fishing participation under this category using funds from the Traditional MSCGP.

Potential projects might include: Development of program guidance to increase effectiveness, capacity, scalability, and collaboration of partners; efforts to increase involvement and marketing to current participants to become mentors; efforts to increase understanding and engagement of potential mentees; and efforts to facilitate effective brokering of mentoring or instructional experiences within populations of mentors/instructors and prospective mentees/students.

D. Engaging New Audiences

Description: Assist organizations and R3 efforts with targeting new or underserved audiences

by further defining likely new and efficient audiences, and then identifying effective pathways and tools to create targeted R3 efforts to engage those new and diverse audiences. Proposals focused specifically on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Initiatives are encouraged.

Potential projects might include: Development of tools to increase the effectiveness of targeted R3 efforts; evaluation of adoption and effectiveness of existing toolkits; research projects to understand potential target audiences; development of additional toolkits or trainings to increase organizations' effectiveness and capacity in retaining new hunting and target shooting participants. Projects will also be considered for fishing participation under this category using funds from the Traditional MSCGP.

E. R3 Capacity and Infrastructure

Description: Assist the R3 community in increasing capacity and infrastructure to address regional and national R3 threats and barriers; and provide for the unification of strategic and effective R3 efforts by state and federal fish and wildlife agencies, NGO and industry partners to yield measurable outcomes.

Potential projects might include: Development of resources to help organizations improve effectiveness in R3 efforts; projects that increase partners' (industry, NGO, regional associations, etc.) capacity to work on collaborative R3 efforts; development of tools that foster effective communication, planning, coordination, and networking at all levels on R3 efforts; facilitation of strategic efforts to unify the R3 community in its pursuits.

Wildlife TRACS (Tracking and Reporting Actions for the Conservation of Species) is the tracking and reporting system used by the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration (WSFR) Program to capture conservation and related actions funded by its grant programs. TRACS serves as the electronic repository system for all performance and accomplishment reporting related to those Federal awards administered by the WSFR program. TRACS highlights program accountability by documenting program accomplishments and results-oriented accountability. As outlined in this NOFO, grant and project statement information and performance reporting data must be entered into TRACS, as authorized under [2 CFR 200.102\(c\)](#), [200.202](#), [200.301](#), and [200.329](#).

WSFR's mission is to work through partnerships to conserve and manage fish and wildlife and their habitats for the use and enjoyment of current and future generations. WSFR's vision is of healthy, diverse, and accessible fish and wildlife populations that offer recreation, economic activity, and other societal benefits, in addition to sustainable ecological functions. WSFR's guiding principle is that society benefits from conservation-based management of fish and wildlife and their habitats and opportunities to use and enjoy them. Both funding programs align with WSFR's mission, vision, and guiding principle.

Grant awards issued under this program typically include projects for biological research, training, species population status assessment, fish and wildlife conservation outreach, data collection regarding hunter and angler participation, hunter and aquatic education, assessing the economic value of fishing and hunting, and regional or multistate habitat needs

assessments. Many of the projects that will be conducted under these types of projects either directly or indirectly support Executive Order 14008: Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad. For example, regional or habitat needs assessments will support climate resilience, land conservation, and biodiversity efforts, including the 30 x 30 initiative.

If you have questions for the AFWA, please contact the Grant Program Manager or visit the AFWA website more additional information:

Silvana Yaroschuk

Multistate Conservation Grant Program Manager

Phone: 202-838-3467

Email: syaroschuk@fishwildlife.org

<https://www.fishwildlife.org/afwa-informs/multi-state-conservation-grants-program>

B. Federal Award Information

B1. Total Funding

Estimated Total Funding

\$11,000,000

Estimated Funding for T-MSCGP: \$6,000,000

Estimated Funding for R3-MSCGP: \$5,000,000

B2. Expected Award Amount

Maximum Award

\$1,000,000

Minimum Award

\$50,000

\$200,000 to \$300,000 (average awards)

B3. Expected Award Funding and Anticipated Dates

Expected Award Funding

\$230,000

Expected Award Date

January 01, 2023

MSCGP grants are traditionally approved for one year of funding. Applicants whose projects are expected to last for more than one year are encouraged to let the Grants Committee know that they will apply for a subsequent year(s) of funding for the project and will need to report on progress made in the first year as part of the justification for subsequent / supplemental funding. Subsequent funding is not guaranteed and will depend on the project's merits, available funding and progress made to date.

Under special circumstances the Grants Committee will consider approving multiple years of funding (multi-year funding). The criteria for multiyear funding established by the National

Grants Committee is included in the application package. Please note that there is a very high bar to justify multi-year funding and most applicants will be requested to apply for one year of funding at a time.

B4. Number of Awards

Expected Number of Awards

50

T-MSCGP Expected Number of Awards: 25-35

R3-MSCGP Expected Number of Awards: 20-25

B5. Type of Award

Funding Instrument Type

G - Grant

C. Eligibility Information

C1. Eligible Applicants

Eligible Applicants

06 – Public and State controlled institutions of higher education

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

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

00 – State governments

Additional Information on Eligibility

Eligible applicants are the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, or a State or group of States, for the purpose of carrying out the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation. The State governments' designation refers to Agencies with lead management responsibility for fish and wildlife resources in each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia (Sport Fish Restoration only), Commonwealths of Puerto Rico and the Northern Mariana Islands, and the territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, or a group of these agencies.

Eligible proposals must benefit:

1. A majority of States.
2. A majority (over 50%) of the States in a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Region. Please list the Regions and States in each Region that will benefit (use State abbreviations).
3. A majority (over 50%) of the States belonging to a regional association of State fish and wildlife agencies (click each of the Associations for the state members, [WAFWA](#), [MAFWA](#), [NEAFWA](#), [SEAFWA](#)). Please indicate the regional fish and wildlife association that will benefit and list each region's States.

Any nongovernmental organization that applies for a grant shall submit with the application a certification that the organization will not use the grant funds to fund, in whole or in part, any activity of the organization that promotes or encourages opposition to the regulated hunting or trapping of wildlife, to recreational shooting activities, or to the regulated taking of fish.

C2. Cost Sharing or Matching

Cost Sharing / Matching Requirement

No

Percentage of Cost Sharing / Matching Requirement

C3. Other

Detailed information regarding AFWA Selected Priorities can be found at the AFWA website, <https://www.fishwildlife.org/afwa-informs/multi-state-conservation-grants-program>. A final Priority List of projects will be recommended by the AFWA National Grants Committee and forwarded to the Service by October 1, 2022. All applications for T-MSCGP grants can be eligible for the Wildlife Restoration Program, the Sport Fish Restoration Program, or a combination of both programs. All proposals applying for R3-MSCGP are only eligible for Wildlife Restoration Program funds and specifically must focus 100 percent on Hunter Recruitment and Recreational Shooter Recruitment. No Sport Fish Restoration Program funds are available under the R3-MSCGP.

Foreign Entities or Projects:

State Sponsors of Terrorism: This program will not fund projects in [countries determined by the U.S. Department of State to have repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism](#) and therefore are subject to sanctions restricting receipt of U.S. foreign assistance and other financial transactions.

Office of Foreign Assets Control Sanctions: This program will not fund projects in countries subject to [comprehensive sanction programs administered by the U.S. Department of Treasury, Office of Foreign Asset Control](#) without proper licenses.

In-Country Licenses, Permits, or Approvals: Entities conducting activities outside the U.S. are responsible for coordinating with appropriate U.S. and foreign government authorities as necessary to obtain all required licenses, permits, or approvals before undertaking project activities. The Service does not assume responsibility for recipient compliance with the laws, regulations, policies, or procedures of the foreign country in which they are conducting work.

Excluded Parties:

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

D. Application and Submission Information

D1. Address to Request Application Package

Applying for funding through the T-MSCGP and R3-MSCGP requires a two-part process that is managed in partnership with AFWA. Please specify which program you are applying for in your application. In part one, applicants submit their Initial Proposal by May 18, 2022 for review. Initial Proposal requirements and deadline (May 18, 2022) information is available from the [AFWA MSCGP webpage](#). Initial Proposals are required to address one or more of the AFWA Strategic Priorities listed within this webpage. Applicants *must submit* the Initial Proposals through the [AFWA MSCGP portal](#). In part two, AFWA will invite the best Initial Proposals to submit a Final Proposal package through the [AFWA MSCGP portal](#) as well as through GrantSolutions. These sites have all required Federal grant forms.

To submit a Final Proposal package, download the Application Package linked to this Funding Opportunity in GrantSolutions to begin the application process. Using the “Search Grants” tab, enter Funding Opportunity Number F23AS00007. Downloading and saving the Application Package to your computer makes the required government-wide standard forms fillable and printable. Submit completed applications electronically through GrantSolutions.gov. A complete copy of your application in PDF format should also be submitted through the [AFWA MSCGP portal](#). *Full grant proposals will only be considered for funding if the applicant submits an initial proposal by the deadline of May 18, 2022, AFWA invites the applicant to submit a full proposal for the relevant project, and the applicant submits the full grant proposal for the relevant project by the deadline of July 19, 2022 to both the [AFWA MSCGP portal](#) as well as GrantSolutions.*

Program Website Link

<https://www.fws.gov/wsfrprograms>

D2. Content and Form of Application Submission

SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance

All applicants must submit the Standard Form (SF)-424, Application for Federal Assistance. This form is available with the announcement on Grants.gov and in GrantSolutions. The form must be complete and signed by an Authorized Representative. For all applicants except private citizens, the Authorized Representative’s signature on a standard application form submitted to the Service represents their certification that the entity’s financial management system meets [2 CFR §200.302](#) financial management requirements. The non-Federal entity’s financial management system must be sufficient to:

1. Permit the preparation of required reports;
2. Trace funds to a level of expenditures adequate to establish that the entity has used such funds per Federal statutes, regulations, and terms and conditions of the Federal award;
3. Provide for the requirements in [2 CFR §200.302\(b\)](#); and
4. Comply with [§200.334](#) Retention requirements for records, [§200.335](#) Requests for transfer of records, [§200.336](#) Methods for collection, transmission, and storage of information, and [§200.337](#) Access to records.

When completing the SF-424 Application form, enter only the amount requested from this Federal program in Box 18a, Estimated Federal Funding. Include any other Federal sources of

funding in Box 18e. Estimated Other Funding and identify any such sources and amounts in the required Budget Narrative (see below). For individuals applying as a private citizen (i.e., unrelated to any business or nonprofit organization you may own or operate in your name), do NOT include your Social Security Number on this or any other document to be submitted with your application! When completing the SF-424 Application form, individuals must enter in Box 8b. Employee/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN) the substitute number "444-44-4444" and in Box 8c. For organizational DUNS substitute number "123456789". For UEI substitute the number "000123456789".

Project Abstract Summary (OMB Number 4040-0019)

Applicants must complete and submit the Project Abstract Summary form. The Project Abstract Summary form must provide a brief award description. The description must be in plain language that the public can understand without viewing the full application proposal. It should include a brief, simple description of the project purpose, activities to be performed, deliverables and expected outcomes, intended beneficiaries, and subrecipient activities, if known at the time of submission.

Do not include personally identifiable, sensitive, or proprietary information in the award description as this is available to the public. Use only English characters, numbers, punctuation, and standard symbols. Use of non-English, non-standard characters (also referred to as special or extended ASCII characters) will result in the award description failing to be reported correctly to USASpending.gov. Award descriptions are limited to 4,000 characters or less. Applicants should check the length of the award description and proofread for proper grammar and spelling.

For applicants applying through Grants.gov: Applicants must download and complete the Grants.gov "Project Abstract Summary" form from the full text announcement. To submit the Grants.gov "Project Abstract Summary" form with the application, applicants must add the form as an attachment to the Grants.gov "Attachments" form that is included in the application package.

For applicants applying through GrantSolutions-Grants Management Module (GS-GMM): Applicants must enter the information in the Project Abstract Summary screen. Do not upload a document in place of entering the information directly into GS-GMM Project Abstract Screen.

Project Narrative

The Service has implemented an electronic performance reporting system, TRACS (<https://tracs.fws.gov>), in order to document recipient performance and reporting on national program accomplishments that deliver meaningful results consistent with the program's authorizing legislation. Unless exempt, applicants/recipients will be required to enter grant and project statement information into TRACS. The Service encourages applicants to enter their grant and project statement information into TRACS prior to formally applying in GrantSolutions.

TRACS data entry includes the required elements of [50 CFR 80.82\(c\)](#) and will facilitate development of a complete project statement. Once entered, TRACS will generate a project statement that you may use as part of your formal application in GrantSolutions. Applicants who decline to enter their grant and project statement information in TRACS prior to formally applying in GrantSolutions will be required to enter this information within 60 calendar days of

the latter: (a) period of performance start date; or (b) the date the award was approved. If you need assistance, please contact the Service's Program Technical contact (see Section G. Program Technical Contacts).

Applicants applying for awards on a project-by-project basis are required to submit a project narrative (statement) containing the elements required by 50 CFR 80.82(c). The project statement must provide sufficient information so reviewers may verify that the proposed activities are eligible for funding and substantial in character and design (see 50 CFR 80.56).

Please address all the following items/elements and include this information within your proposal when following the specific format required by AFWA. The Project Narrative must not exceed 8 pages in length. Supplemental information or materials (e.g., pamphlets, booklets, fliers, etc.) will not be accepted. All information the applicant wants considered during the selection process should be presented in the Project Narrative. The technical scoring criteria included in this package reference specific information requirements relative to project scoring. Proposers are encouraged to carefully review the technical scoring criteria and ensure proposals are accurately responsive in this regard. The Project Narrative should include the following information:

Need

This should be a clear and concise account of the problems or issues that need to be addressed, and which were the foundation for applying for this specific grant in the first place. The important aspect is to present the data in relation to your proposal to clarify a need that only grant funding can relieve. Applicants will want to note how the organization or individual came to notice the problem or issue, the nature of the problem, what is currently being done, and the purpose for developing the proposal. Also include the remaining, (if limited), alternatives if funds are not allocated, and what will happen if the project or problem is not addressed.

Purpose

The Purpose states the desired outcome of the project by describing the benefits to users, habitat and/or species and the expected results/outcomes from resolving a conservation need.

Objectives

The Service created Standard Objectives to standardize performance reporting and document national accomplishments that deliver results consistent with the MSCGP's authorizing legislation. To avoid delay, your project narrative must only use one or more of the Standard Objectives listed in the [TRACS Performance Matrix](#). We encourage you to work with the WSFR Contact if you have questions about the use of TRACS Standard Objectives in your Project Narrative. Please refer to the Service's WSFR Training Portal site for [example project statements](#) that utilize TRACS Standard Objectives.

Approach

The approach describes the specific methods necessary to accomplish the objective. The approach answers the question of "how" the objective will be accomplished by describing the actual work that will be done. This approach should include an adequate level of detail in order to demonstrate sound design, appropriate procedures, and accepted fish and wildlife

conservation, 10 management, or research principles.

Results and Benefits

Describe the expected results or benefits from accomplishing the objectives. Describe the deliverables to be provided, including the evaluation results, how the results will be disseminated to the intended users, and the benefits of each deliverable. As best as possible, the benefits should be expressed in measurable outcomes when possible (i.e., number of participants likely to continue the learned outdoor activity and purchase licenses in the future).

Experience

Include a brief history of previous work conducted by the applicant and/or others that substantiates experiences and abilities to successfully complete this project and address the Strategic Priority. Personal Qualifications will be provided later. Describe any relationship with other grants. Describe any relationship between the proposed project and other related work funded by Federal grants that is planned, anticipated, or underway.

SF-424A, Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs

Applicants must complete and submit the SF-424A Budget Information form for Non-Construction Programs or Projects. All required application forms are available with this announcement on Grants.gov or in GrantSolutions. Federal award recipients and subrecipients are subject to Federal award cost principles in Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part 200. Applicants must show funds requested from this Federal program separately from any other Federal sources of funding. In “Section A – Budget Summary” on the SF-424A form enter the funding requested from this Federal program in the first row. Identify any other Federal funding sources and amounts in the required Budget Narrative (see below).

Budget Narrative

Applicants must include a budget narrative that describes and justifies requested budget items and costs. In your budget narrative, describe how the SF-424 Budget Information, “Object Class Category” totals were determined. For personnel salary costs, generally describe how estimates were determined by identifying what type of staff will support the project and how much time they will contribute to the project (in hours or workdays). Describe any proposed [items of cost that require prior approval](#) under the [Federal award cost principles](#), including any anticipated subawarding, transferring, or contracting out of any work under the award. If equipment previously purchased with Federal funds is available for the project, provide a list of that equipment and identify the Federal funding source. Identify any third-party cash or in-kind contributions that a partner or other entity will contribute to the project and describe how the contributions directly and substantively benefit completion of the project. For in-kind contributions, identify the source, the amount, and the valuation methodology used to determine the total value. See [2 CFR §200.306](#) for more information.

Describe and justify requested budget items and costs. Detail how the SF-424 Budget Information, Object Class Category totals were determined. For personnel salary costs, include the baseline salary figures and the estimates of time. Describe any item of cost that requires prior approval under the Federal cost principles. See [2 CFR 200.407](#) “Prior written approval (prior approval)” for more information. If equipment purchased previously with Federal funds is available for the project, provide a list of that equipment and identify the Federal funding source. Identify any cash or in-kind contributions that a partner or other entity will contribute to

the project and describe how the contributions directly and substantively benefit completion of the project. For in-kind contributions, include the source, the amount, and the valuation methodology used to determine the total value. See 2 CFR 200.306 “Cost sharing or matching” for more information.

Please note within your narrative the total costs budgeted to subrecipients or contractors and how many subrecipients or contractors are planned to work on your project and how much each is to be awarded for their part of the project.

Applicants intending to act as a fiscal agent (a pass through) for another organization must clearly state that they are acting as a fiscal agent and why it is necessary. Fiscal agents must clearly show in the budget what costs (if any) they are charging to the grant.

If applicable, please include information on:

Contingency Costs: Contingency costs estimated using broadly-accepted cost estimating methodologies are permissible but must be separately identified in your budget; they must comply with Federal Cost Principles, these must be necessary and reasonable for proper and efficient accomplishment of project or program objectives, and these must be verifiable from your financial records (2 CFR 200.433). Explain how any contingency costs were calculated and why they are necessary to improve the precision of your budget estimates.

Program Income: Program income is gross income received by the grantee or subrecipient and earned only as a result of the grant during the grant period. Estimate the amount of program income that the project is likely to generate. If necessary, indicate the method or combination of methods (deduction, addition, or matching) of applying your expected program income. The Service’s approval is required for the additive or matching method. Indicate whether the agency wants to treat income that it earns after the grant period as additional funding for purposes consistent with the grant terms and conditions or program regulations.

Equipment: Equipment means tangible personal property (including information technology systems) having a useful life of more than one year and a per-unit acquisition cost which equals or exceeds the lesser of the capitalization level established by the non-Federal entity for financial statement purposes, or \$5,000 (see 2 CFR 200.1 Equipment). Grantees and subrecipients must follow the requirements at 2 CFR 200 when acquiring equipment under an award, with emphasis on 200.313, 200.317 through 200.327, and 200.439.

Useful life: Propose a useful life for each capital improvement that costs at least \$25,000 to build, acquire, or install (see 50 CFR 80.2), and reference the method used to determine the useful life of a capital improvement with a value greater than \$100,000 (see 50 CFR 80.82(c)(5).)

Participant Support Costs: Participant support costs means direct costs for items such as stipends or subsistence allowances, travel allowances, and registration fees paid to or on behalf of participants or trainees (but not employees) in connection with conferences, or training projects (see 2 CFR 200.1). These costs should be described in the narrative and identified in the

budget under “OTHER” cost category. Grantees and subrecipients must follow the requirements at 2 CFR 200 when expending participant support costs under an award, with emphasis on 200.68, 200.75, 200.308, and 200.456.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Per the Financial Assistance Interior Regulation (FAIR), [2 CFR §1402.112](#), applicants must state in their application if any actual or potential conflict of interest exists at the time of submission.

- 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 sub recipients, the conflict of interest provisions in [2 CFR §200.318](#) apply.
- b. *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](#).
 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 sub recipients.
- c. *Restrictions on lobbying.* Non-Federal entities are strictly prohibited from using funds under a grant or cooperative agreement for lobbying activities and must provide the required certifications and disclosures pursuant to [43 CFR §18](#) and [31 USC §1352](#).
- d. *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.

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 §200.339](#), Remedies for noncompliance, including suspension or debarment (see also [2 CFR §180](#)).

Uniform Audit Reporting Statement

All U.S. states, local governments, Indian tribes, institutions of higher education, 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](#), in accordance with 2 CFR 200 subpart F. U.S. state, local government, Indian tribes, institutions of higher education, 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.

Certification Regarding Lobbying

Applicants requesting more than \$100,000 in Federal funding must certify to the statements in [43CFR 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](#).

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

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 regard 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 regard 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 regard 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."

D3. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM)

Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM.gov) Registration:

This requirement does not apply to individuals applying for funds as an individual (i.e., unrelated to any business or nonprofit organization you may own, operate, or work within), or any entity with an exception to bypass SAM.gov registration with prior approval from the funding bureau

or office in accordance with bureau or office policy. All other applicants are required to register in SAM.gov prior to submitting a Federal award application and obtain a [Unique Entity Identifier \(UEI\)](#) which will replace Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number from Dun & Bradstreet in April 2022. A Federal award may not be made 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 program is ready to make an award, the program may determine the applicant is not qualified to receive an award. Applicants registering in SAM.gov prior to April 2022 may still be required to obtain a DUNS number prior to completing the registration process within SAM.gov. Federal award recipients must also 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. **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.**

Obtain a DUNS Number

In April 2022, the Federal Government will stop requiring DUNS numbers. At that point, entities doing business with the government will use the Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) created in SAM.gov in place of a DUNS number. A UEI will be assigned to entities upon registering with SAM.

If an entity is applying for federal financial assistance prior to April 2022, a DUNS number may still be required as part of the SAM registration process. A DUNS Number can be requested through the Dun & Bradstreet website. The official website address is <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>. For technical difficulties, go to www.dnb.com/govtduns. 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 (version 3).

Register with the System for Award Management (SAM)

Applicants can register on the [SAM.gov](#) website. The “Help” tab on the website contains User Guides and other information to assist you with registration. The Grants.gov “[Register with SAM](#)” page also provides detailed instructions. Applicants can 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 made to the entity’s IRS information. If applicable, foreign entities who want to receive payment directly to a U.S. bank account must enter and maintain valid, current banking information in SAM.

D4. Submission Dates and Times

Due Date for Applications

05/18/2022

Electronically submitted applications must be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m., ET, on the listed application due date.

Application Due Date Explanation

Applying for funding through the T-MSCGP and R3-MSCGP requires a two-part process that is managed in partnership with AFWA. Please specify which program you are applying for in your application. In part one, applicants submit their Initial Proposal by **May 18, 2022** for review. Initial Proposal requirements and deadline (May 18, 2022) information is available from the [AFWA MSCGP webpage](#). Initial Proposals are required to address one or more of the AFWA Strategic Priorities listed within this webpage. Applicants *must submit* the Initial Proposals through the [AFWA MSCGP portal](#). In part two, AFWA will invite the best Initial Proposals to submit a Final Proposal package through the [AFWA MSCGP portal](#) as well as through GrantSolutions. These sites have all required Federal grant forms.

Full grant proposals will only be considered for funding if the applicant submits an initial proposal by the deadline of May 18, 2022, AFWA invites the applicant to submit a full proposal for the relevant project, and the applicant submits the full grant proposal for the relevant project by the deadline of July 19, 2022 to both the [AFWA MSCGP portal](#) as well as GrantSolutions.

D5. Intergovernmental Review

An intergovernmental review may be required for applications submissions from a U.S. state or local government prior to submission. Applicants must contact their State's Single Point of Contact (SPOC) to comply with the state's process under [Executive Order 12372](#). The State Single Point of Contact list is available on the [OMB Office of Federal Financial Management website](#).

D6. Funding Restrictions

Indirect Costs: Individuals

Individuals applying for and receiving funds separate from a business or non-profit organization they may operate are not eligible to charge indirect costs to their award. If you are an individual applying for funding, you must not include any indirect costs in your proposed budget.

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 (DOI) is your organization's cognizant agency, the Interior Business Center (IBC) will negotiate your indirect cost rate. Contact the IBC 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 may not shift unallowable indirect costs to another Federal award unless specifically authorized to do so by legislation.

Required Indirect Cost Statement to be submitted by Organization:

U.S. state or local government entities receiving more than \$35 million in direct Federal funding must include the following statement in their application and attach a copy of their most recently negotiated rate agreement:

- We are a U.S. state or local government entity receiving more than \$35 million in direct Federal funding. We submit our indirect cost rate proposals to our cognizant agency. Our current indirect cost rate is [insert rate]. Attached is a copy of our most recently negotiated rate agreement/certification.

U.S. state or local government entities receiving \$35 million or less in direct Federal funding must include the applicable statement from this list:

- We are a U.S. state or local government entity receiving \$35 million or less in direct Federal funding. We prepare and retain for audit an indirect cost rate proposal and documentation per 2 CFR 200, Appendix VII. Our current indirect cost rate is [insert rate], which is charged against [insert a complete description of the direct cost base used to distribute indirect costs to the award].
- We are a U.S. state or local government entity receiving \$35 million or less in direct Federal funding. We have not prepared an indirect cost rate proposal and documentation per 2 CFR §200, Appendix VII and elect to charge the de minimis rate of 10% of Modified Total Direct Costs as defined in 2 CFR §200.1. We understand we must use this methodology consistently for all Federal awards until we choose to establish a rate per 2 CFR §200. We understand we must notify the Service in writing if we establish a rate that changes the methodology used to charge indirect costs during the award period. We understand that additional Federal funds may not be available to support an unexpected increase in indirect costs during the project period and that such changes are subject to review, negotiation, and prior approval by the Service.

All other organizations must include the applicable statement from this list and any related documentation in their application. Please note, an organization with a current negotiated (including provisional) rate may not elect to charge the 10% de minimis rate of Modified Total Direct Costs during the period covered by their current negotiated rate.

- We are an organization with a current negotiated indirect cost rate. In the event we receive an award, we will charge indirect costs per our current negotiated rate agreement. Attached is a copy of our current rate agreement.
- We are an organization with a negotiated indirect cost rate that has expired. Attached is copy of our most recently negotiated rate agreement. If we receive an award, we will submit an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency within 90 calendar days after the award date. We understand we must provide the Service a copy of our approved rate agreement before charging indirect costs to the Federal award.
- We are an organization that has never negotiated an indirect cost rate with our cognizant agency. Our indirect cost rate is [insert rate], which is charged against [insert a complete description of the direct cost base used to distribute indirect costs to the award]. If we receive an award, we will submit an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency within 90 calendar days after the award date. We understand we must provide the Service

a copy of our approved rate agreement before charging indirect costs to the Federal award.

- We are an organization that does not have a current negotiated (including provisional) rate. In the event an award is made, we elect to charge the de minimis rate of 10% of Modified Total Direct Costs as defined in 2 CFR §200.1. We understand we must use this methodology consistently for all Federal awards until such time as we negotiate a different rate with our cognizant agency. We understand that we must notify the Service in writing if during the award period we establish a rate that changes the methodology used to charge indirect costs to the award. We understand that additional Federal funds may not be available to support an unexpected increase in indirect costs and that such changes are subject to review, negotiation, and prior approval by the Service.
- We are an organization submitting a [insert either “Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit Program” or “Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit Network”] project proposal, which has an indirect cost rate cap of [insert rate; CRU is currently 15%; CESU is currently 17.5%]. In the event we receive an award, we understand that if we have a current negotiated (including provisional) rate we must charge the program’s capped indirect cost rate to the same base identified in our approved indirect cost rate agreement, per 2 CFR §1402.414. If we do not have current negotiated (including provisional) rate, we understand we must charge the capped indirect cost rate against Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC) as defined in 2 CFR §200.1.
- We are an organization that will charge all costs directly.

Additional Required Statements

Recipients are encouraged to compile all required statements within one document. The document should come from the recipient and/or their organization. The Service should be able to correctly identify the source of the document (i.e. Organization letterhead, signed document from the recipient point of contact).

Certification Statement Regarding Fishing/Hunting/Recreational Shooting Activities

All proposals must include a fishing/hunting/recreational shooting activities certification as required by law (16 U.S.C. 669h-2 and 16 U.S.C. 777m). It is recommended that you use the following certification statement: “By submitting this proposal, the organization’s primary contact and/or authorized representative identified in this grant application certifies that the (insert name of organization): (1) will not use the grant funds to fund, in whole or in part, any activity that promotes or encourages opposition to the regulated hunting or trapping of wildlife, the regulated taking of fish, or recreational shooting activities; and (2) that the grant funds will not be used, in whole or in part, for an activity, project, or program that promotes or encourages opposition to the regulated hunting and trapping of wildlife, the regulated taking of fish, or recreational shooting activities.”

Ineligible Activities

Ineligible activities include activities conducted for the primary purpose of producing income, and activities, projects, or programs that promote or encourage opposition to the regulated taking of fish, hunting, or the trapping of wildlife (see 50 CFR 80.54). The T-MSCGP provides Federal grant funds (\$6,000,000) for projects that address one or more of the annually selected AFWA Strategic Priorities listed within their website. Grantees under the T-MSCGP may use the awarded funds for sport fisheries and wildlife management and research projects, boating access

development, hunter safety and education, aquatic education, fish and wildlife habitat improvements, and other purposes consistent with the enabling legislation. Grant funds for the R3-MSCGP (\$5,000,000) are to be used exclusively for making hunter recruitment and recreational shooter recruitment projects that promote a national hunting and shooting sport recruitment program, including related communication and outreach activities. Projects must benefit at least 26 States, a majority of States in a Region of the Service, or a regional association of State fish and game departments. Please note the MSCGP program has traditionally asked applicants to voluntarily cap their overhead at 20% in order to make more funds available for programmatic activity. Please contact the Association if you have any questions or concerns about this.

D7. Other Submission Requirements

The Service requests applicants to apply electronically using GrantSolutions. To apply electronically the Applicant Organization and Organization Officials must be established in GrantSolutions. If your Organization and/or Organization Officials do not currently exist in GrantSolutions follow the instructions below.

New Organization Request

Send an email requesting a new organization to be with the following information to help@grantsolutions.gov:

- Organization/Individual Name
- POC first and last name
- POC email
- POC phone number
- Organization Type
- DUNS # (unless exempt)
- EIN (Applicants that are INDIVIDUALS SHOULD NOT include their social security number)
- Address

If your Organization is new or you do not have the appropriate officials in GrantSolutions you must also establish an individual account for each of the Organization Officials and assign the appropriate role. At a minimum the Authorizing Official and Principal Investigator/Program Director roles must be assigned. Individual Organization Official accounts may be requested by completing the [Recipient User Account Request Form](#) and emailing the completed form to at help@grantsolutions.gov.

If your organization already exists in GrantSolutions please verify that the correct Organization Officials have an individual GrantSolutions account.

If your Organization and Organization Officials already exists in GrantSolutions, please login using your existing username and password. If you do not remember your account information, please contact the GrantSolutions Help Desk at (866) 577-0771 or by email at help@grantsolutions.gov

For more information on how to apply please see [GrantSolutions Help](#) for instructions and videos.

Please contact GrantSolutions Help Desk if you have any questions regarding your account or GrantSolution issues at (866) 577-0771 or by email at help@grantsolutions.gov

Submit Initial Proposals to AFWA by May 18, 2022. If you are invited by AFWA, submit Final Full application packages electronically through GrantSolutions.gov and to AFWA by July 19, 2022. In accepting Federal funds, you must comply with all the applicable Federal laws, regulations, and policies. If your application is selected, you may need to provide evidence of compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and other Federal laws, or regulations as part of the post-selection approval process.

Grants with a start date of January 01, 2022 or later must be entered into TRACS within 60-days of the latter: a) period of performance start date, or b) the date the grant was approved. We encourage you to work with the Service's Program Technical Contact if you have questions about data entry in TRACS.

In accepting Federal funds, you must comply with all applicable Federal laws, regulations, and policies. If we select the application for award, you may need to provide evidence of compliance with NEPA, ESA, NHPA, and other Federal laws or regulations as part of the post-selection approval process.

E. Application Review Information

E1. Criteria

Criteria

Final Proposal Review and Selection Process: Once proposals have been submitted to the Association, they will be distributed to the Technical Review Committee to review and score. The members' responses will be used to develop a relative ranking of proposals for the final review stage of the grant selection process. The technical scoring criteria used to evaluate proposals are listed below. Each criterion listed below should be scored on a scale from 0-5, with 0 representing the lowest score and 5 representing the highest score.

Impact

1. How adequately does the proposal respond to the strategic priority?
2. How adequately does the proposal incorporate the most relevant science and other best practices needed to address the strategic priority effectively?
3. Is it clear how the deliverables (tools, resources, or information) developed in this project will help agencies manage fish, wildlife, or constituent resources?

Project Objective

4. Are the project objectives specific, measurable, time-bound, and clearly define what you want to achieve?

Methods

5. How likely is the project's proposed methodology to accomplish its stated goals and objectives?
6. How likely is the project's proposed methodology to produce dependable and useful deliverables to state fish and wildlife agencies and their partners?

Anticipated Life of Deliverables

7. Will the project have a long-term, sustainable impact, and can that long-term impact be adequately quantified?

Monitoring and Evaluation

8. How effectively will the proposal's evaluation and monitoring plan accurately document and assess the project's desired outcomes?
9. How well do the project's desired outcomes align with those indicated in the strategic priority under which the proposal was submitted?
10. Is the evaluation process clearly described and included in the proposal as part of the tasks to be completed and information disseminated in a final report?

Project Costs

11. Are the proposed project costs reasonable?

Guidelines

12. Did the Applicant follow the guidelines on preparing this proposal?

Open-Ended Questions:

Did the Applicant consider the Technical Review Team's recommendations?

How can the Applicant improve outputs/outcomes during the implementation?

Other comments.

Additional Information on Scoring Criteria

AFWA develops the scoring criteria, ranks, and selects proposals for funding and produces an annual Priority List according to the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106-408). The Service selects awards from the proposals that are listed within the AFWA Priority List. The Service can only award projects for T-MSCGP and M-MSCGP that appear on this list.

Final Proposal Review and Selection Process: Once all proposals of both programs have been submitted to AFWA, they will be distributed to the Technical Review Teams (subject matter experts) to review and score. The technical scoring criteria used to evaluate proposals are listed above. Technical Review Teams members' responses will be used to develop a relative ranking of proposals for the final review stage of the grant selection process by the National Grants Committee. Each criterion listed below is scored on a scale from 0-5, with 0 representing the lowest score and 5 representing the highest score.

Scale:

5 = Exceptional

4 = Very Good

3 = Good
2 = Fair
1 = Poor
0 = Very Poor

E2. Review and Selection Process

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

The program 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 Bureau 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 program will evaluate the risk posed by applicants as required in [2 CFR §200.206](#). Prior to approving awards for Federal funding in excess of the simplified acquisition threshold (currently \$250,000), the Bureau is required to review and consider any information about or from the applicant found in the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System. The Bureau will consider this information when completing the risk review. The Bureau 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 §200.208](#) should be applied to the award.

The AFWA National Grants Committee (NGC) will recommend a Priority List of project proposals for T-MSCGP and R3-MSCGP programs to the Service by October 1, 2022. The T-MSCGP and the R3-MSCGP have an annual cooperative selection cycle.

1. By May 18, 2022, Initial Proposals are due to AFWA through the [AFWA MSCGP portal](#). Relevant AFWA Technical Review Teams will begin their review.
2. By June 24, 2022, AFWA will invite applicants with high ranking initial proposals to submit Full Grant Proposals.
3. By July 19, 2022, Full Grant Proposals must be submitted through GrantSolutions and through the [AFWA MSCGP portal](#).
4. During August 2022, the AFWA National Grants Committee will review the Full Grant Proposals and make recommendations to State Directors.
5. In September 2022, the State Directors will approve the Priority List containing the highest scoring and ranked Full Grant Proposals.
6. By October 1, 2022, AFWA will forward the Priority List of projects recommended for funding to the Service.

7. By January 2023, the Service will begin to award the grants from the Priority List and subsequently publish the list in the *Federal Register*. The Service can only award projects that appear on the Priority List.

During the AFWA review, AFWA may determine that a proposal is eligible and could be better aligned, either programmatically or administratively, to a different MSCGP (Traditional or R3) than indicated in the proposal. If it is beneficial to the MSCGP goals and objectives, AFWA reserves the right to make such changes.

Prior to award, the program will review any application 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 program 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 program 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.

E3. CFR – Regulatory Information

See the [Service’s General Award Terms and Conditions](#) for the general administrative and national policy requirements applicable to Service awards. The Service will communicate any other program- or project-specific special terms and conditions to recipients in their notices of award.

E4. Anticipated Announcement and Federal Award Dates

The Service anticipates the announcement of awards by January 2023.

F. Federal Award Administration Information

F1. Federal Award Notices

The Service Headquarters Office will contact applicants for any additional information required during the review process, including satisfactory completion of compliance requirements. When these requirements are met, GrantSolutions will email the organization’s point of contact requesting that they log onto the system to obtain the Notice of Award letter. This document will provide the details of the terms and conditions of the award. Notice of funding approval is not an approval of pre-award costs.

F2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

See the [DOI Standard Terms and Conditions](#) for the administrative and national policy requirements applicable to DOI awards.

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

As required by Section 70914 of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (also known as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act), [P.L. 117-58](#), on or after May 14, 2022, none of the funds under a federal award that are part of a Federal financial assistance program for infrastructure may be obligated for a project unless all of the iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in the project are produced in the United States, unless subject to an approved waiver. The requirements of this section must be included in all subawards, including all contracts and purchase orders for work or products under this program.

Data Availability

Per the Financial Assistance Interior Regulation (FAIR), [2 CFR §1402.315](#):

- a. All data, methodology, factual inputs, models, analyses, technical information, reports, conclusions, valuation products or other scientific assessments in any medium or form, including textual, numerical, graphic, cartographic, narrative, or audiovisual, resulting from a financial assistance agreement is available for use by the Department of the Interior, including being available in a manner that is sufficient for independent verification.
- b. The Federal Government has the right to:
 1. Obtain, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use the data, methodology, factual inputs, models, analyses, technical information, reports, conclusions, or other scientific assessments, produced under a Federal award; and
 2. Authorize others to receive, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use such data, methodology, factual inputs, models, analyses, technical information, reports, conclusions, or other scientific assessments, for Federal purposes, including to allow for meaningful third-party evaluation.

F3. Reporting

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 120 calendar days after the award period of performance end date or termination date. For awards with periods of performance longer than 12 months, recipients are required to submit **interim** financial reports on the frequency established in the Notice of Award. The only exception to the interim financial reporting requirement is if the recipient is required to use the SF 270/271 to request payment and requests payment at least once annually through the entire award period of performance. We will describe all financial reporting requirements in the Notice of Award.

Performance Reports

Performance reports must contain a comparison of actual accomplishments with the established goals and objectives of the award; a description of reasons why established goals was not met, if appropriate; and any other pertinent information relevant to the project results. **Final** reports are due no later than 120 calendar days after the award period of performance end date or termination date. For awards with periods of performance longer than 12 months, recipients are required to submit **interim performance** reports on the frequency established in the Notice of Award.

You must submit all performance reports in TRACS and GrantSolutions as described in the notice of award. You should complete your performance reports in TRACS first. Once completed, TRACS will generate a performance report that you can upload in GrantSolutions. Your performance report information must provide quantitative outputs for each of your approved Standard Objectives, and you must provide narrative responses to the following questions:

1. What progress has been made towards completing the objective(s) of the project?
2. Please describe and justify any changes in the implementation of your objective(s) or approach(es).
3. If applicable, please share if your project resulted in any unexpected benefits, promising practices, new understandings, cost efficiencies, management recommendations, or lessons learned.
4. For survey projects only: If applicable, does this project continue work from a previous award? If so, how do the current results compare to prior results? (Recipients may elect to add attachments such as tables, figures, or graphs to provide further detail when answering this question).
5. If applicable, identify and attach selected publications, photographs, screenshots of websites, or other documentation (including articles in popular literature, scientific literature, or other public information products) that have resulted from this project that highlight the accomplishments of the project.
6. Is this a project you wish to highlight for communication purposes?
7. For CMS States only: If the grant is a CMS, has the agency state submitted an updated report every 3 years detailing the CMS components: (a) inventory and scanning; (b) strategic plan; (c) operational plan; and (d) evaluation and control have been reviewed and summaries included which provide detailed review results and recommendations?

Significant Development Reports

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

Real Property Reports

Recipients and subrecipients are required to submit status reports on the status of real property acquired under the award 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 Bureau will include recipient-specific real property reporting requirements, including the required standard form or data elements, reporting frequency, and report due dates, in the Notice of Award when applicable.

Conflict of Interest Disclosures

Recipients must notify the program 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 program 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](#) 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 for noncompliance described in [2 CFR §200.339](#), including termination of the award.

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 terms and conditions 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 for noncompliance described in [2 CFR §200.339](#), including suspension or debarment.

Reporting Matters Related to Recipient Integrity and Performance

If the total value of your currently active grants, cooperative agreements, and procurement contracts from all Federal awarding agencies exceeds \$10,000,000 for any period of time during the period of performance of this Federal award, then you as the recipient during that period of time must maintain the currency of information reported to the [System for Award Management](#) that is made available in the designated integrity and performance system (currently the [Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System](#)) about civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings in accordance with [Appendix XII to 2 CFR 200](#).

G. Federal Awarding Agency Contact(s)

G1. Program Technical Contact

For **programmatic technical assistance**, contact:

First and Last Name:

Lori Bennett

Telephone:

703-358-2033

Email:

lori_bennett@fws.gov

G2. Program Administration

For **program administration assistance**, contact:

First and Last Name:

Lori Bennett

Telephone:

703-358-2033

Email:

lori_bennett@fws.gov

G3. Application System Technical Support

For **Grants.gov technical registration and submission, downloading forms and application packages**, contact:

Grants.gov Customer Support

Numeric Input Field: 1-800-518-4726

Support@grants.gov

For **GrantSolutions technical registration, submission, and other assistance contact**:

GrantSolutions Customer Support

1-866-577-0771

Help@grantsolutions.gov

H. Other Information

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 Bureau 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.

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT:

OMB Control Number: 1018-0100

Per the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA; 44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) collects information in accordance with program authorizing legislation to conduct a review and select projects for funding and, if awarded, to evaluate performance. Your response is required to obtain or retain a benefit. We may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Privacy Act Statement: This information collection is authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5701 et seq. The information provided will be used to administer all Service financial assistance programs and activities including to: (1) determine eligibility under the authorizing legislation and applicable program regulations; (2) determine allowability of major cost items under the Cost Principles at 2 CFR 200; (3) select those projects that will provide the highest return on the Federal investment; and (4) assist in compliance with laws, as applicable, such as the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970. This information may be shared in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 and the routine uses listed in INTERIOR/DOI-89, Grants and Cooperative Agreements: FBMS - 73 FR 43775 (July 28, 2008). Furnishing this information is voluntary; however, failure to provide all requested information may prevent the Service from awarding funds.

Estimated Burden Statement: 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 times for these activities will vary depending on program-specific requirements. Direct comments regarding the burden estimates or any other aspect of the specific forms to the Service Information Clearance Officer, USFWS, U.S. Department of the Interior, 5275 Leesburg Pike, MS: PRB (JAO/3W), Falls Church, VA 22041-3803, or by email to Info [_Coll@fws.gov](mailto:Coll@fws.gov).