

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**Notice of Funding Opportunity**

F25AS00165 Partners for Fish and Wildlife FY25

Funding Opportunity Number

F25AS00165

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## BASIC INFORMATION

**Announcement Type:** Initial

**Funding Opportunity Number:** F25AS00165

**Assistance Listing Number(s):** 15.631

**Estimated Total Program Funding:** \$15,000,000

**Expected Number of Awards:** 500

**Award Ceiling:** \$750,000

**Award Floor:** \$1

**Cost Sharing Required?**

No

**Closing Date Explanation**

Electronically submitted applications must be submitted no later than 11:59 PM, ET, on the listed application due date. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis between January 1, 2025, and September 30, 2025. **In order for applications to be considered for funding in FY25, they must be submitted before May 30, 2025.** Applications received after May 30, 2025, may not be awarded until the following fiscal year, subject to fund availability.

Applicants seeking technical or financial assistance from the PFW Program are required to contact a local PFW Program office BEFORE developing or submitting an application by visiting our [website](#). All applications must be submitted through [GrantSolutions](#) to be considered for award. Applications submitted through grants.gov will not be evaluated.

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**OMB Control Number:** [1018-0100](#)

**Have Questions?**

Contact a local Partners for Fish and Wildlife biologist in your state by visiting [our website](#), or email our national point of contact at [andreas\\_moshogianis@fws.gov](mailto:andreas_moshogianis@fws.gov) for more information.

**Executive Summary**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) Program helps private landowners restore and protect habitats for fish and wildlife. It offers both technical assistance and financial support, mainly through cooperative agreements.

The PFW Program has over 250 staff working in all 50 states and territories. They work together with project partners and stakeholders in key areas for conservation and set habitat goals. These focus areas guide the program on where to direct resources for conserving important habitats for federal trust species. The Program also has strategic plans that help determine which projects receive funding.

Since it began in 1987, the PFW Program has successfully assisted many landowners. When choosing projects, the Program aims to support specific priorities set by the Administration and Secretary of the Interior. All projects will promote the goals of the Program, the Department of the Interior, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. These goals focus on increasing biological diversity and are based on sound scientific principles.

Applicants seeking technical or financial assistance from the PFW Program are required to contact a local Program office BEFORE developing or submitting an application by visiting [our website](#).

## **ELIGIBILITY**

### **Eligible Applicants**

State governments

County governments

City or township governments

Special district governments

Independent school districts

Public and State controlled institutions of higher education

Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized)

Public housing authorities/Indian housing authorities

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

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

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

Private institutions of higher education

Individuals

For profit organization other than small businesses

Small businesses

Unrestricted (i.e., open to any type of entity above), subject to any clarification in the text field entitled "Additional Information on Eligibility"

### **Additional Information on Eligibility**

The PFW Program can reject projects that do not fit with regional plans or priorities. To get funding, PFW projects must be on private lands.

"Private lands" means any properties not owned by the state or federal government. This includes tribal lands, Hawaiian homelands, cities, municipalities, non-governmental properties, and private properties. Groups with 501(c)(3) status should have proof of their status from the Internal Revenue Service. Tribal applicants may be required to provide an authorizing tribal resolution.

The Program seeks projects year-round. Program staff work with applicants to find common conservation goals. We require that all interested applicants contact their local PFW staff before submitting an application.

## Cost Sharing Requirement

### Cost Sharing Required?

No

## GET READY TO APPLY

### Required System Registrations

#### Unique Entity Identifier and SAM.gov Registration

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

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

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

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

This program may allow an applicant to apply while their SAM.gov registration is in progress, with prior approval. For more information, refer to the point of contact identified in the Basic Information section above.

## GRANTSOLUTIONS

This program accepts applications through GrantSolutions.gov. You must register with GrantSolutions. See [Submission Instructions](#).

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

### Program Goals

- **Species Conservation:** The program works on habitat projects in specific areas to help protect species at risk. This includes federally listed species, Birds of Conservation Concern, pollinators, and interjurisdictional fish. The goal is to improve the conservation status of these species of concern.

- **Habitat Connectivity:** The program connects habitats to make them better for wildlife. Connected habitats and migration paths are vital for fish and wildlife. These projects can also support other conservation efforts, like National Wildlife Refuges and other protected lands.
- **Resilient Ecosystems:** The program aims to make ecosystems healthier and more resilient for fish, wildlife, plants, and people. The program works with different partners to take action that helps ecosystems be more resilient to change and benefit communities that depend on them.

## Program Description

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program is a voluntary program that creates partnerships to help people and communities while supporting fish, wildlife, and their habitats. The PFW Program provides technical help and financial support, mostly through cooperative agreements with private landowners. This support aims to restore and conserve fish and wildlife habitats for the benefit of federal trust resources.

To find lists of priority species and focus areas, you can contact your local Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program office by visiting [our website](#).

Each project has specific goals and activities outlined in an approved agreement. This agreement includes the scope of work, budget, and notice of award. A project's success will be measured by whether it meets the goals described in the agreement.

Certain project costs are not allowed and include land acquisition, foreign travel, pre-award costs, unauthorized equipment, and indirect costs above the negotiated rate.

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

## Legislative Authority

Partners for Fish and Wildlife Act (16 U.S.C. 3771-3774)

## Type of Award

Projects will be funded through:

### Funding Instrument

CA (Cooperative Agreement)

G (Grant)

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

In a cooperative agreement, the recipient should expect the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program to be substantially involved in the project. Program staff will work with the recipient on the project plan, which may include:

- Developing and managing the budget
- Overseeing and monitoring the project
- Approving changes to the project and sub-grants
- Organizing staff and structure

- Tracking project performance

Program staff can stop the project if the performance standards are not met.

## PREPARE YOUR APPLICATION

### Application Content and Format

#### Pre-Application Requirements

Applicants seeking technical or financial assistance from the PFW Program are required to contact a local PFW Program office BEFORE developing or submitting an application.

Applicants can find local program staff by visiting our website at <https://www.fws.gov/program/partners-fish-and-wildlife/contact-us>.

### Application Documents

Applicants must submit the following forms with their application as specified below. Instructions for accessing and submitting application forms are provided in the [Submission Instructions](#) section of this document below. For instructions on completing form fields, see the form instructions on the [Grants.gov Forms Repository](#).

| Forms/Assurances/Certifications   | Submission Requirement  |
|---|---|
| SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance<br>Note: For applicants requesting more than \$100,000 in Federal funds, the Authorized Representative's signature (or electronic equivalent) on the Application for Federal Assistance form also represents their certification of the statements in <a href="#">Appendix A to 43 CFR 18-Certification Regarding Lobbying</a> | Required from all applicants  |
| SF-424A, Budget Information – Non-Construction Programs   | Required for non-construction projects  |
| SF-424C: Budget Information – Construction Programs   | Required for construction projects  |
| SF-429 (Cover Page & Attachment B), Request to Acquire, Improve, or Furnish Real Property<br>Note: The SF-429 forms are only available in the <a href="#">Grants.gov Forms Repository</a> . Applicants must download the form and include the completed form as an application attachment.  | Required if requesting to acquire, improve, or furnish real property.   |
| SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities   | Required if requesting more than \$100,000 in Federal funds <u>and</u> the applicant has used or plans to use funds other than Federal appropriated funds for lobbying related to the proposed project. |

| Forms/Assurances/Certifications  | Submission Requirement       |
|--|------------------------------|
| Project Abstract Summary (OMB 4040-0019). Must include, in plain language: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Award purpose,</li> <li>• Activities to be performed,</li> <li>• Expected deliverables or outcomes,</li> <li>• Intended beneficiaries,</li> </ul> Subrecipient activities (if known or specified at time of award) | Required from all applicants |
|  |                              |
|  |                              |

### Project Narrative

Briefly summarize the project. Include the title of the project, geographic location, and a brief overview of the need for the project, goal(s), objectives, specific project activities, beneficiaries, and expected outcomes consistent with this funding opportunity. As applicable, describe how you / your business / organization has coordinated with and involved other relevant organizations or individuals in planning the project on your land, and detail how they will be involved in conducting project activities and/or disseminating project results.

In no more than three (3) pages of text and two (2) pages maps/photos, please provide the following information:

- Briefly describe the project, including the name, location, and habitat conservation goals.
- Provide a list of the species, habitats, or ecosystems that will benefit and describe how they will benefit.
- Describe the conservation challenges, ecosystem stressors, and degradation factors.
- Describe how the project will support or complement existing conservation plans.
- Provide a timeline that describes how conservation actions and/or treatments are sequenced.
- Describe the entities undertaking the project: Provide a brief description of the applicant organization and all participating entities and/or individuals. Identify which of the proposed activities each agency, organization, group, or individual is responsible for conducting or managing. Provide complete contact information for the individual within the organization that will oversee/manage the project activities on a day-to-day basis.
- Describe the post-project monitoring and how the project will be maintained in the future.

### Budget Narrative

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

Budget items must be:



- Reasonable, allowable, allocable, and necessary
- Compliant with [2 CFR §200 Subpart E](#) cost principles

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

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

### **Other Required Information**

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

### **Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement:**

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

- Activities: Description any overlapping activities.
- Costs: Description of any overlapping costs.
- Time: Description of any overlapping key personnel time.
- A copy of any overlapping or duplicative proposal submitted to any other potential funding entity.
- Details on when any overlapping proposal was submitted, to whom, and the expected date of the funding decision.

## **SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES**

### **Address to Request Application Package**

Applicants seeking technical or financial assistance from the PFW Program are required to contact a local PFW Program office BEFORE developing or submitting an application by visiting our website at <https://www.fws.gov/program/partners-fish-and-wildlife/contact-us>.

### **Submission Dates and Times**

**Closing Date for Applications:** 09/30/2025

### **Closing Date Explanation**

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## Submission Instructions

### Simplified Application Procedures for Certain Applicants and Applications

Certain applicants may be eligible to apply following the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) simplified application procedures. These procedures remove the requirement to register in and apply through the Department of the Interior's grants management system. You may be eligible to follow our simplified application procedures if all the following apply:

Your proposal requests \$200,000 or less from the FWS and, in the event an award is made, would not be expected to exceed that amount over the life of the award from the FWS, AND

You are not requesting funds to purchase land or for a major construction project, AND

Your proposed project can be completed within three years or less, AND

You are NOT a State, an Institution of Higher Education, or a large Nonprofit Organization (i.e., received more than \$10M from Department of the Interior bureaus and offices combined in the past three years)

If you and your project meet the above criteria and you do not want to register in and apply through the Department of the Interior's grants management system, do not follow the application instructions below. Instead, please contact us (see contact information below) to confirm your eligibility and request alternate application instructions. If you and your project do not meet the above criteria, follow our standard application instructions below.

### Apply Through GrantSolutions

To apply through [GrantSolutions](#), follow these steps:

1. **Register your organization.** Send an e-mail to [help@grantsolutions.gov](mailto:help@grantsolutions.gov) with:
  - Subject: New Organization Request
  - Entity name (organization or individual applying as a natural person)
  - Entity type
  - SAM.gov Unique Entity Identifier (not required for individuals)
  - Employer Identification Number (individuals, do not include your SSN)
  - Address
  - Contact details (First and last name, e-mail, phone)This information should be the same as entered on the entity's SAM.gov profile.
2. **Assign system user roles.** Follow the [GrantSolutions "Recipient user" registration instructions](#). Submit a separate Recipient User Account Request form for each official to

be assigned a system role. At minimum, the Authorizing Official (ADO) and Principal Investigator/Program Director (PI/PD) must be assigned.

3. **Log in.** GrantSolutions requires users to log in through Login.gov. Each user must create a [Login.gov](#) account. For instructions, see the [GrantSolutions Training Resources web page](#).
4. **Find and apply to this Funding Opportunity.** After logging in, click on either the “Begin an application” link (first time applicants) or the “Funding Opportunity” link to go to the “Competing Announcements-Application Kits” list screen. Search the list for this Funding Opportunity’s title and number. Click on the associated “Apply” link. Follow the prompts from there. Required applications forms are provided with the Funding Opportunity in GrantSolutions unless otherwise indicated on the Required Forms table above.
5. For detailed instructions, see the [GrantSolutions Training Resources web page](#).
6. **Need help?** Find help topics and contact information on the [GrantSolutions Contact Us page](#).

## APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

### Eligibility Review

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

The PFW Program is a voluntary, incentive-based program that provides direct technical assistance and financial assistance primarily through cooperative agreements to conservation partners and landowners to restore and conserve fish and wildlife habitat on private lands for the benefit of federal trust resources.

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program will not support projects that:

- Do not align with the regional strategic implementation plans or program priorities.
- Generate compensatory mitigation credits under a Federal or state regulatory program or accept mitigation or in-lieu funds as non-Federal cost share for a project.
- Acquire land although it can support title searches and real estate appraisals.
- Include foreign travel, pre-award costs, purchase of unauthorized equipment, indirect costs in excess of the negotiated indirect cost rate or the de minimus indirect cost rate.

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

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

excluded from receiving or participating in an award, as their ineligibility condition applies to this program.

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

## **Merit Review**

The following are selection criteria for Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program projects. Projects meeting the factors below will be considered for program funding, based on annual funding appropriations. Projects must meet at least one of the factors below to be considered:

- Contributes toward achievement of one or more of the Partners Program strategic plan goals.
- Benefits federal trust species, regional priority species and other species of conservation concern to the Service.
- Restores ecological integrity of habitat on lands with Farm Service Agency (FSA) conservation easements or that FSA has transferred in fee title to the Service.
- Implements a priority action/conservation strategy identified in a national/regional/state conservation plan or initiative including, but not limited to the following: State Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy, State Wildlife Action Plan, Landscape Conservation Cooperative Science Plan, National Fish Habitat Plan, DOI or USDA Initiative.
- Supports the objectives of other Service plans and programs, including, but not limited to, the National Wildlife Refuge System; Ecological Services and Fisheries program strategic plans; the National Invasive Species Management Plan; threatened and endangered species recovery plans; Coastal Program management plans; fisheries management and restoration plans; ecosystem management plans; U.S. Migratory Bird Joint Ventures strategic plans and associated waterfowl, shorebird and land-bird conservation plans/initiatives; and other landscape habitat plans and assessments.
- Reflects the application of the most biologically sound and cost-effective techniques based on state-of-the-art methodologies and adaptive management.
- Improves capacity to achieve priority program goals and/or leverages non-federal funding partners.
- Promotes habitat conservation and stewardship of private lands and encourages voluntary public participation in on-the-ground conservation efforts.
- Broadens public understanding of fish and wildlife, habitat functions, and restoration techniques, and of the benefits derived from improved fish and wildlife habitat.

If all other considerations are equal, priority for funding will be given to projects that have a greater longevity, involve higher monetary and non-monetary partner contributions, and are the most cost-effective.

## **Review and Selection Process**

This program reviews proposed budgets to ensure:

- figures are correct
- estimated costs are necessary and reasonable and clearly linked to project narratives

- avoid obviously unallowable costs
- identify costs requiring prior approval
- ensure indirect cost rates are applied correctly
- confirm cost sharing requirements are reflected in the budget.

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

Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program field staff are responsible for evaluating applications and selecting habitat conservation projects, with concurrence from the field station Project Leader, or other appropriate authority. Field staff will use the project selection criteria to identify projects that maximize benefits to federal trust species, address Department of the Interior and Service priorities, and use program resources efficiently and effectively. Successful applicants may be required to submit project plan revisions and additional project information, including evidence of regulatory compliance.

## Risk Review

Prior to making an award, the program assesses the risk posed by the applicant per [2 CFR 200.206](#). If an award will be made, the program may apply special conditions corresponding to the risk assessed. For awards over the simplified acquisition threshold (currently \$250,000), the program reviews eligibility and financial integrity information in the applicant's SAM.gov records per [2 CFR 200.206\(a\)](#). The program also assesses financial management capabilities, project delivery experience, staffing resources, past performance, administration and reporting compliance records, and overall project complexity and potential challenges.

## AWARD NOTICES

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

**Anticipated Project Start Date:** 01/01/2025

**Anticipated Project End Date:** 09/30/2029

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## POST AWARD REQUIREMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

## Administration and National Policy Requirements

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

See the [FWS General Award Terms and Conditions](#) for national policy requirements for FWS awards. Special terms and conditions will be detailed in award notices.

## Reporting

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

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

## Other Information

Applicants seeking technical or financial assistance from the PFW Program are requested to consult with a local PFW Program office BEFORE developing or submitting an application by visiting <https://www.fws.gov/program/partners-fish-and-wildlife/contact-us>.