

Bureau of Reclamation

Notice of Funding Opportunity

Bluff Wetland 60% Design

Funding Opportunity Number

R25AS00295

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BASIC INFORMATION

Announcement Type: Initial

Funding Opportunity Number: R25AS00295

Assistance Listing Number(s): 15.529

Estimated Total Program Funding: \$300,000

Expected Number of Awards: 1

Award Ceiling: \$300,000

Award Floor: \$1

Cost Sharing Required?

No

Closing Date Explanation

Submission Due Date and Time: Friday, October 17, 2025, 4:00 p.m. MST

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

Have Questions?

For questions regarding application and submission, contact Autumn Anderson at email: amanderson@usbr.gov

For questions regarding applicant and project eligibility, programmatic or technical questions contact: Kerri Pedersen at email: kpetersen@usbr.gov

Please include the NOFO number [R25AS00295] in the subject line of any email correspondence.

Executive Summary

The San Juan River Basin Endangered Fish Recovery Program (Recovery Program) was established in 1992 and is comprised of federal, state, and tribal entities that work cooperatively towards recovery of endangered Colorado pikeminnow and razorback sucker. The Recovery Program has identified a lack of rearing habitat as the factor that most limits recruitment of razorback suckers to the juvenile life stage and ultimately recovery of the species in the San Juan Basin. Although flows from Navajo Reservoir would ideally maintain and restore these types of habitats, sufficient water has not been available for release and the Recovery Program has concluded that non-flow alternatives to provide rearing habitat need to be implemented.

The purpose of the wetland is to entrain and rear larval razorback sucker. The Recovery Program already supported development of a conceptual design (30%) for the wetland along the San Juan River immediately south of Bluff, Utah. The goal of this next stage of the project is to build on the elements included in the 30% design to complete 60% design.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible Applicants

Others (see text field entitled "Additional Information on Eligibility" for clarification)

Additional Information on Eligibility

Non-federal entities eligible.

Cost Sharing Requirement

Cost Sharing Required?

No

GET READY TO APPLY

Required System Registrations

Unique Entity Identifier and SAM.gov Registration

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

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

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

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

Refer to Attachment – Submission Instructions & Tips.

GRANTS.GOV

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

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Program Goals

- The San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program (Recovery Program) was established in 1992 to allow water development to continue within the Basin while still complying with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to protect the endangered Colorado pikeminnow and razorback sucker. The Recovery Program is authorized through Public Law 106-392 as amended and consists of partners who are committed to the recovery of the listed fishes under the ESA and includes water users, conservation groups, state, federal and tribal agencies.

One of the ways that the Bureau of Reclamation supports the Recovery Program is through construction and improvement of habitat for the endangered fish. To provide a

framework for recovery of the endangered fish, the Recovery Program developed a Long-Range Plan that contains six Recovery Elements. One of these Recovery Elements is Protection, Management, and Augmentation of Habitat, which is the recovery element this funding opportunity will support. Though the Recovery Program focuses on recovery of both endangered species, this funding opportunity is directed towards habitat for razorback suckers.

Although razorback sucker spawning has occurred consistently in the San Juan River since 1998, a lack of rearing habitat is thought to be the factor that most limits recruitment to the juvenile life-stage and ultimately recovery of razorback sucker in the San Juan River Basin. Although the goal was for flows from Navajo Reservoir to maintain and restore these types of habitats, sufficient water has not been available for release and the Recovery Program has concluded that non-flow alternatives to provide rearing habitat need to be implemented.

The site in Bluff, Utah that is the focus of this project was identified in a 2018 survey for potential locations for wetland locations (San Juan River Larval Razorback Sucker Refugia Enhancement Conceptual Design Final Report prepared for the Nature Conservancy by Keller-Bliesner Engineering, LLC, January 19, 2018). This site is on private property and associated with a business called Recapture Lodge. The owner of this property contacted the Recovery Program to determine how the property could be used to support razorback sucker recovery and provide an educational outreach opportunity for tourists that visit the area. Thus, this project offers a unique opportunity to develop off-channel rearing habitat for razorback sucker, partner with a willing landowner, and provide an educational and outreach opportunity for a business as well as the Recovery Program.

Program Description

The goal of this project is to develop a 60% design for a wetland along the San Juan River immediately south of Bluff, Utah. The primary purpose of the wetland would be to entrain and rear wild razorback sucker larvae which would be tagged and released after sufficient growth into the San Juan River. The purpose of this project is to increase the survival of razorback suckers by rearing them in a more natural environment prior to release into the San Juan River. Because frequency and magnitude of flows are important triggers for various life cycle stages of endangered species, the Recovery Program developed [flow recommendations](#) to guide releases from Navajo Dam. The flow recommendations are designed to meet the conditions required to develop and maintain habitat for Colorado pike-minnow and razorback sucker and provide the necessary hydrologic conditions for the various life stages of endangered and other native fishes. Flow determines the amount of slow moving and backwater habitat that is available which is especially important for early life stages of razorback suckers and Colorado pike-minnow. Habitat is a limiting factor for razorback sucker and Colorado pike-minnow. The goal to construct a managed wetland along the San Juan River south of Bluff, Utah to facilitate the recovery of the endangered razorback sucker. The wetland will allow entrainments of larval razorback sucker through backwater and flow through connections with the river. Ideally this will support suitable growth to increase the likelihood of survival when released into the San Juan River.

[A conceptual design](#) (30%) was completed for this project in March 2025 and included a site assessment, hydrographic survey, test pits, cultural resources desktop review, and wetland delineations. The design included a concept for developing a scalable wetland between 2 and 15 acres. A smaller wetland could be refreshed with a spring-fed watering system whereas a larger one would require a river pump. The Recovery Program is exploring the water rights associated with the property to aid in the decision of the wetland area that aligns best with the Program's objectives. This decision will be made prior to awarding of this funding opportunity and the recipient will be notified of the size of the wetland for design purposes at the virtual kickoff meeting.

The key design criteria that were incorporated in the conceptual design include:

- The facility needs to have the ability to attract drifting larval fish and entrain wild razorback sucker larva through backwater (preferred) or flow through.
- The facility needs to have a target depth of 6 feet and maintain water surface elevations through the summer months, accounting for evapotranspiration and infiltration. This criterion requires the facility to have a refresh flow source and connection to supply water to the facility throughout the summer months.
- Hydraulic connections between the San Juan River and the off-channel facility need to be Screened to manage non-native fish species.
- The facility needs to drain completely in the winter for invasive species management.
- Facility needs to manage potential impacts from high flow events, in this case from both the San Juan River, south of the project area, and Cottonwood Creek, west of the project area.

The current phase of the project (60% design) is building on the conceptual design. Applications should at a minimum include a proposal of how the following objectives will be completed during this phase:

1. Conduct a site assessment and formal survey with survey-grade GPS equipment.
2. Develop an existing conditions floodplain conveyance.
3. Structural and geotechnical design consultation
 - a. Determine maintenance access point
 - b. Determine pond liner options & configuration
 - c. Evaluate the structural and geotechnical related project elements including the kettle, gates, vehicle and pedestrian crossings, berms & liners (see conceptual (30% design) report).
 - d. Determine individual habitat elements in the wetland and adjacent to the facility to maximize growth of entrained razorback suckers.
 - e. Develop a vegetation and planting plan for the project site.
 - f. Identify non-native exclusion devices (fish screens).
 - g. Install temporary wells to monitor groundwater depth fluctuations for 6 months.
4. Compile survey data & update the project's hydrographic/topographic base map from the 30% design (files will be provided to recipient to update).
5. Update the SRH-2D multidimensional hydraulic model from the one created during 30% design.
6. Complete draft 60% design.
7. Incorporate edits from Recovery Program & Reclamation into a revised 60% design.

8. After Reclamation's review of the revised 60% design (from step 7), incorporate any additional edits into the final 60% design.
9. Provide a general cost estimate for the final design.
10. Provide a preliminary operations, maintenance, repair, rehabilitation, and replacement estimate.

The exact schedule of activities will be determined in close coordination with Reclamation. Below is a general idea of expected time frames for activities.

Task	Objective	Time frame
Virtual kickoff meeting with Reclamation	Wetland size decision will be provided to contractor (2-15 acres)	Within 3 weeks of award
Conduct site assessment and formal survey with survey-grade GPS equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine property ownership • Record water surfaces throughout project reach • Make groundwater measurements • Survey the Cottonwood Creek/San Juan River Confluence • Document downstream boundary control conditions for the project reach • Document vegetation conditions on the proposed project site. • Identify property corners and property boundaries Identify maintenance access road	Within 3 months of award
Develop an existing conditions floodplain conveyance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine flood hazards and erosion control plan for the project site including grading and drainage. • Use it to develop existing conditions flood model 	Within 6 months of award
Update the existing and proposed SRH-2D multidimensional hydraulic models	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform substrate stability and erosion/scour calculations of proposed in-channel project elements to support the project's design • Perform sediment transport analysis 	Within 6 months of award
Conduct structural and geotechnical investigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult with subject-matter experts on kettles, gates, 	Within 8 months of award

	<p>vehicle and pedestrian crossings, berm surrounding wetland.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine pond liner options and configuration. • Identify non-native fish exclusion devices (fish screens) • Determine the best maintenance access point • Incorporate results of monitoring temporary wells that will be installed at the project site to monitor fluctuations in groundwater depth for 6 months. 	
Identify habitat elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine the habitat elements within and adjacent to facility to best benefit fish (based on input from the Recovery Program which will be coordinated by Reclamation) • Develop a vegetation and planting plan for the project site 	Within 8 months of award
Provide draft 60% design drawing package	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Package should include site layout, geotechnical, and structural drawings completed to a 60% design level to Reclamation for distribution to design team and Recovery Program 	Within 10 months of award
Provide construction cost estimate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete quantity take-offs for all relevant bid line items based on 60% design • Produce a Class 2 cost estimate based on the 60% design and quantities in accordance with ASTM E2516-11(2019) 	Within 10 months of award
Complete draft 60% design report with construction cost estimate for design and cost estimate for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide draft design report to Reclamation for distribution 	Within 10 months of award

maintenance of facility (reviewed by Reclamation and Recovery Program)	to design team and Recovery Program	
Provide a virtual presentation in PowerPoint of the draft 60% design to Reclamation & Recovery Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present a summary of the draft 60% design to the Recovery Program & Reclamation • Obtain feedback and incorporate relevant suggestions into revised 60% design report 	Within 11 months of award
Incorporate edits into revised 60% design report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure design considers elements of importance to the Recovery Program • Ensure edits from Reclamation's design team are incorporated 	Within 12 months of award (Reclamation and Recovery program will have 2 weeks to review)
Final review and approval of 60% design report by Reclamation's design team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure Reclamation is satisfied with final 60% design and incorporate any additional minor edits 	Within 14 months of award (Reclamation design team will have 2 weeks to review)

The following links may be useful for the applicant:

Bluff Off-Channel 30% Design Report

<https://coloradoriverrecovery.org/sj/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2025/03/Bluff-Off-Channel-Habtiat-Conceptual-Design-Memo-Final-031425.pdf>

San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program

<https://www.fws.gov/office/new-mexico-ecological-services/san-juan-river-basin-recovery-implementation-program>

and

<https://coloradoriverrecovery.org/sj/>

San Juan River Larval Razorback Sucker Refugia Enhancement Conceptual Design Final Report

https://coloradoriverrecovery.org/sj/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2025/03/KellerBliesner_Larval-Razorback-Wetland-Refugia-Report_011918-1.pdf

Long Range Plan

https://coloradoriverrecovery.org/sj/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2023/03/2022-SJRRIP-Long-Range-Plan-May-2022_508.pdf

Revised Navajo Dam Operating Procedures for the 1999 San Juan River Flow Recommendations

https://coloradoriverrecovery.org/sj/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2022/03/Flow_Recommendations_Revised_Navajo_Dam_Operating_Procedures_2018.pdf

Razorback Sucker Recovery Goals

https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/RazorbackSucker_2002_Plan.pdf

Species Status Assessment for the Razorback Sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*)

[https://coloradoriverrecovery.org/sj/wp-](https://coloradoriverrecovery.org/sj/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2022/03/rg_RBS_SSA_2018_FINAL.pdf)

[content/uploads/sites/3/2022/03/rg_RBS_SSA_2018_FINAL.pdf](https://coloradoriverrecovery.org/sj/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2022/03/rg_RBS_SSA_2018_FINAL.pdf)

Increasing Water Availability for the Razorback sucker

<https://www.fws.gov/project/increasing-water-availability-razorback-sucker>

Certified Local Governments are encouraged to prioritize projects in support of the celebration of America's 250th birthday (American250). This may include, but is not limited to, preservation planning, interpretation, public engagement, and rehabilitation projects that recognize and honor the nation's founding, history, and cultural heritage.

Legislative Authority

This Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is issued under the authority of Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins Endangered Fish Recovery Programs, Pub. L. 106-392, 114 Stat. 1602, as amended; Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins Endangered Fish Recovery Programs Extension, Pub. L. 107-375, 116 Stat. 3113

Type of Award

Projects will be funded through CA (Cooperative Agreement).

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

The successful applicant should expect Reclamation to have substantial involvement in the project including:

- Scheduling a virtual kickoff meeting where the wetland size will be provided for the design (between 2-15 acres).
- Providing introduction and coordination with landowner and recipient.
- Providing technical support to assist with the project.
- Collaborating on the development of the design.
- Providing review of draft and revised 60% design for incorporation into final 60% design.
- Facilitating input from the Recovery Program ([Biology Committee members](#) will provide comments/edits for incorporation into final 60% design).
- Collaborating in management of the project.
- Providing review, input, and approval at key interim stages of the project
- Distributing the draft 60% design report to the Recovery Program and coordinating presentation to the Biology Committee.

Prior to applying, applicants should review presidential actions found at:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/> and DOI Secretary's Orders found at:

<https://www.doi.gov/document-library/secretary-order>. By applying in response to this Notice of Funding Opportunity, the applicant certifies awareness and compliance with all currently effective and applicable executive orders and secretary's orders, including, but not limited to the Executive Order titled Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing as well as the Executive Order and Secretary's order titled Restoring Truth and

Sanity to American History. Applicants are responsible for ensuring their proposed activities are consistent with the intent and requirements of these directives.

PREPARE YOUR APPLICATION

Application Content and Format

Application Documents

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

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

Project Narrative

Application Format and Length

The total technical proposal and criteria section (defined below) shall be limited to a maximum of 25 consecutively numbered pages. Pages should be numbered. If this section exceeds 25 pages, only the first 25 pages will be evaluated. The font shall be at least 12 points in size and easily readable. Page size shall be 8½ by 11 inches, including charts, maps, and drawings. Margins should be standard 1-inch margins. Oversize pages will not be accepted.

Applications will be pre-screened for compliance to the above page number limitation. Project applications exceeding 25 pages excluding appendices, will be removed and not considered in the evaluation of the proposed project. Project summary, figures, tables, maps, curriculum vitae and required standard forms do not count toward the 25-page limit, and applicants are encouraged to use appendices as appropriate.

The following sections are required in the technical proposal:

Title Page

Provide a brief, informative, and descriptive title for the proposed work. Include the name and address of the applicant, and the name and address, e-mail address, and telephone of the Project Manager.

Table of Contents

List all major sections of the proposal in the table of contents.

Project description

A detailed description of the 60% design project which describes the specific activities with associated estimated time frames for completion should be included. A clear description of the technical steps of the project should be described in this section and any aspect of the project that reviewers may need additional information to understand should be addressed. Specifically, this section should describe the steps the applicant will take to complete the 60% design as described in the Program Description section. A communication plan should also be included.

The project should be developed to complete the steps from time of award through final report within 2 years. A competitive proposal should include a clear plan and well-described methods of how to complete the objectives listed in the Program Description.

Environmental & Cultural Compliance

Reclamation will complete the compliance that is necessary to comply with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Compliance with NEPA, Endangered Species Act (ESA), and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) will be required. Further, monitoring, measurement, or other field work may be required to complete environmental and cultural resources' compliance, with some of the field work also requiring individual compliance provided by the applicant.

Required Permits

The recipient shall adhere to Federal, State, territorial, Tribal and local laws, regulations and codes, as applicable, and shall obtain all required approvals and permits. The recipient shall also coordinate and obtain approvals from site owners and operators.

Experience & Technical Qualifications of Staff Undertaking the Project

Provide a brief description of the applicant's 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.

The applicant should identify past projects of a similar nature completed or underway by the applicant, project manager, or entity with particular emphasis on projects conducted on the San Juan River. Past projects should include dates, brief description, and status.

Provide brief (1-page) curricula vitae for key personnel, identifying their qualifications to meet the project objectives. To prevent unnecessary transmission of Personally Identifiable Information, *do NOT include Social Security numbers, the names of family members, or any other personal or sensitive information including marital status, religion, or physical characteristics in the description of key personnel qualifications. The curricula vitae does not count towards the total page count.*

Describe the staff levels and expertise, the number of staff hours, and the schedule for completing each task.

Literature Cited (if applicable)

Include this section as an addendum if need and not within the text of the proposal.

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).

The budget narrative provides a written description of the costs included in each budget category on the SF-424A and how they were estimated. While the SF-424A gives the total cost for each category of the budget, the budget narrative gives the item by item breakdown for each category and shows the calculations used to derive the costs.

The budget description serves two purposes: 1) it explains how the costs were estimated, and 2) it justifies the need for the cost.

See Attachment A for Budget Narrative Guidance and Attachment B is a suggested format for capturing budget details to support the Narrative.

Pre-award costs (defined at [2 CFR 200.458](#)) are allowed, subject to Grant Officer approval. To be eligible, pre-award costs must be incurred after the posting date of this NOFO. Pre-award costs are at the applicant's risk. Successful applicants may submit requests for approval of pre-award costs to the awarding Grant Officer.

Conflict of Interest and Unresolved Matters Disclosures:

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

Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement:

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

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

Other Required Information

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES

Address to Request Application Package

All applications should be submitted on Grants.gov.

Grants.gov contains a complete application kit to submit a full application in response to this NOFO. Instructions for the Grants.gov application process are [available here](#).

Contact Autumn Anderson at email: amanderson@usbr.gov if you are unable to access the application materials electronically.

Proposals received after the application deadline will not be considered unless it can be determined that the delay was caused by Reclamation or there were technical issues with [Grants.gov](#). To document a delay due to a technical issue in Grants.gov, you must furnish a Grants.gov helpdesk ticket number to the NOFO team that validates the delay. Difficulties related to an applicant's Grants.gov profile (e.g., incorrect organizational representative), uploading documents to Grants.gov, or an applicant's SAM.gov registration are not considered technical issues with the Grants.gov system.

Submission Dates and Times

Closing Date for Applications: 10/17/2025

Closing Date Explanation

Submission Due Date and Time: Friday, October 17, 2025, 4:00 p.m. MST

Submission Instructions

Apply Through Grants.gov

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

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

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

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

APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

Eligibility Review

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

The Grants Officer will remove an application if it does not include:

- Completed SF-424 and SF-424A forms
- SAM registration, with a valid UEI (unless an exemption at 2 CFR 25.110 applies, see below)

- A project narrative
- A budget narrative

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

An Application Review Committee (ARC), made up of experts in relevant disciplines, will review the technical merit of the application, based on the evaluation criteria:

The ARC will also review the application to ensure that the project is eligible and meets the objective of this NOFO. During ARC review, Reclamation may contact applicants to request clarifications to the information provided, if necessary.

Evaluation Criteria Scoring Summary	Possible Points
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Past Performance 	20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of applicant's key personnel • Demonstrate experience of applicant's personnel and collaborators • Experience working on similar projects 	30
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost 	15
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasibility of Achieving Stated Objectives • How well proposal addresses the objectives of this funding opportunity within the proposed schedule. • Capacity of the applicant to implement the project • Well-defined methods and clear, detailed project plan 	35
TOTAL	100

Evaluation Criteria

Evaluation Criteria A. Past Performance

The applicant will provide a history of past contracts, especially federal grants and contracts, which have been completed or are in progress that are related to this type of work. Past customers will be contacted to evaluate the applicant's history of completing high quality work.

Evaluation Criteria B. Experience of Applicant's Key Personnel

Evaluation Sub-criterion No. B1 – Experience of applicant's personnel and collaborators

The applicant will be evaluated to the extent they demonstrate that they have the capability and capacity to do the proposed work.

Evaluation Sub-criterion No. B2 – Demonstrate experience of applicant's personnel and collaborators

The applicant will be evaluated to the extent that they demonstrate the qualifications of the applicant's personnel and collaborators.

Evaluation Sub-criterion No. B3 – Experience working on similar projects

The applicant will list examples of past work on similar projects that are similar in scope and show experience working on the San Juan River or similar river systems that demonstrate experience with habitat design.

Evaluation Criteria C. Cost

This includes the overall cost of the project as well as the proportion of the budget dedicated to the individual categories listed in the budget (excel) spreadsheet.

Evaluation Criteria D. Feasibility of Achieving Stated Objectives

The Offeror will be evaluated to the extent that they demonstrate the feasibility of achieving stated objectives in the specified timetable by submitting a reasonable schedule of milestones

Evaluation Sub-criterion No. D1 - How well proposal addresses the objectives of this funding opportunity within the proposed schedule.

Evaluation Sub-criterion No. D2 – Capacity of the applicant to implement the project

The applicant will be evaluated based on a proposal that is clear, well-organized, and concise.

Evaluation Sub-criterion No. D3 - Well-defined methods and clear, detailed project plan

The applicant will be evaluated based on the sampling design, methods, and overall lay out of the monitoring plan. The applicant will demonstrate in the proposal how they will integrate all available and relevant information into the reports.

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.

Prior to conducting the comprehensive merit review, an initial review will be performed to determine whether: (1) the applicant is eligible for an award; (2) the information required by the NOFO has been submitted; (3) all mandatory requirements of the NOFO are satisfied; (4) the proposed project is responsive to the program objectives of the NOFO (program determination); and (5) the proposed project is in compliance with all applicable executive and secretary orders, including the President’s executive order on Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing as well as the executive order and Secretary order on Restoring Truth and Sanity to American History. If an applicant fails to meet the requirements or objectives of the NOFO, or does not provide sufficient information for review, the applicant will be considered nonresponsive and eliminated from further review.

After the merit review, Reclamation conducts a “red-flag” review of top-ranking applications. During this review, Reclamation identifies any reasons a project would not be feasible or advisable, including environmental or cultural compliance, permitting, legal, financial, performance or other concerns. After the red-flag review, Reclamation conducts a “managerial review” of top-ranking applications. The managerial review prioritizes applications for selection based on the objectives of the NOFO. Geographic dispersion and project types may be considered during this review. Selections are finalized once these reviews are complete, and all applicants are notified.

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.

A Reclamation Grants Officer conducts a detailed budget analysis and a business evaluation and responsibility determination. During this evaluation, the Reclamation Grants Officer will consider several factors, such as:

- Allowability, allocability, and reasonableness of proposed costs
- Financial strength and stability of the applicant
- Past performance, including satisfactory compliance with all terms and conditions of previous awards, such as environmental compliance, reporting requirements, and audit compliance
- Adequacy of personnel practices, procurement procedures, and accounting policies and procedures.

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: 12/01/2025

Anticipated Project End Date: 12/31/2027

Reclamation anticipates contacting potential award recipients and unsuccessful applicants in October 2025, subject to the timing and amount of final appropriations. Reclamation will contact award recipients individually to discuss the time frame for the completion of their agreement.

Reclamation may post successful applications on a Reclamation website, after necessary redaction's, in consultation with the successful applicant.

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](#).

Automated Standard Application for Payments Registration

All recipients must be registered with and willing to process all payments through the Department of Treasury Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP) system. All recipients with active financial assistance agreements with Reclamation must be enrolled in ASAP under the appropriate Agency Location Code(s) and UEI Number prior to the award of funds. If a recipient has multiple UEI numbers, they must separately enroll within ASAP for each unique UEI Number and/or Agency. If your entity is currently enrolled in the ASAP system with an agency other than Reclamation, you must enroll specifically with Reclamation in order to process payments. All of the information on the enrollment process for recipients, will be sent to you by ASAP staff if selected for award.

Environmental and Cultural Resources Compliance

The recipient must comply with all applicable Federal, State, and local environmental, cultural, and paleontological resource laws and regulations. Data collections supporting compliance efforts must follow separate compliance procedures. All projects will require compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) before any ground-disturbing activity may begin.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

Please note that any application submitted for funding under this NOFO may be subjected to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request (5 U.S.C. §552, as amended by P.L. No. 110-175), and as a result, may be made publicly available.

In response to a FOIA request for research data relating to published research findings produced under a Federal award that were used by the Federal Government in developing an agency action

that has the force and effect of law, the Federal awarding agency must request, and the recipient must provide, within a reasonable time, the research data so that they can be made available to the public through the procedures established under the FOIA.

Geospatial Data

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

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

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

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

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

Reporting

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

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

- Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (FFATA) requires certain recipients to report information on executive compensation through SAM.gov and information on all sub-awards, subcontracts, and consortiums over \$30,000 to the [FFATA Subaward Reporting System \(FSRS\)](#).

The following deliverables are expected from the recipient:

- Base map incorporating water surfaces throughout project reach, groundwater measurements, confluence of Cottonwood Creek and San Juan River, downstream boundary control conditions on proposed project site, vegetation conditions on proposed project site, and property corners and boundaries.
- Geotechnical report presenting the results of the subsurface evaluation and laboratory testing, as well as preliminary geotechnical recommendations. The report will also incorporate the results of monitoring temporary wells that will be installed at the project site to monitor fluctuations in groundwater for 6 months.
- Provide a hydrographic/topographic base map in PDF and DWG format.
- Provide 60% design plans and report (in PDF format) which includes:
 - an updated (from 30% design) SRH-2D multi-dimensional hydraulic model
 - substrate stability and erosion/scour calculations of proposed in-channel project elements
 - sediment transport analysis
 - pond liner design
 - protection berm surrounding the off-channel habitat
 - structural project elements including gates, fish exclusion devices, kettle, sediment basin and culvert crossings
 - ecological restoration and planting plan for the area surrounding the facility
 - aquatic habitat elements in the wetland area
- Provide an engineer's opinion of cost for the 60% design.
- Present the 60% design virtually to the Recovery Program & Reclamation.
- Provide a preliminary Operations, Maintenance, Repair, Rehabilitation, and Replacement memorandum.

Recipients of Reclamation awards must include the following information in performance reports:

- a comparison of actual accomplishments to the milestones established by the financial assistance agreement for the period,
- the reasons why the project did not meet established milestones, if applicable,
- the status of milestones not met from the previous reporting period, if applicable,
- whether the project is on schedule and within the original cost estimate,
- any additional pertinent information or issues related to the status of the project, and
- photographs documenting the project (appreciated, although not required). Note: Reclamation may print photos with appropriate credit to the recipient.
- Final reports are public documents and may be made available on Reclamation's website.

Other Information

None