

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Funding Opportunity

F27AS00007_FY 2027_National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program_Notice of Funding Opportunity

Funding Opportunity Number

F27AS00007

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BASIC INFORMATION

Announcement Type: Initial

Funding Opportunity Number: F27AS00007

Assistance Listing Number(s): 15.614

Estimated Total Program Funding: \$18,000,000

Expected Number of Awards: 35

Award Ceiling: \$1,000,000

Award Floor: \$50,000

Cost Sharing Required?

Yes

Closing Date Explanation

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

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](#).

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

Have Questions?

National Coastal Program Contact: Chris Darnell, Chris_Darnell@fws.gov

National Office of Conservation Investment Contact: Christy Vigfusson, Christy_Vigfusson@fws.gov

Regional Contacts

| Service Region | Eligible States / Territories | Coastal Program / Ecological Services / Migratory Birds Contacts | Office of Conservation Investment Contacts |
|----------------|--|--|--|
| Pacific | American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Hawai'i, Oregon, Washington | Kaitlyn_Landfield@fws.gov Teal_Waterstrat@fws.gov Tyler_Porter@fws.gov | Chris_Swenson@fws.gov |
| Southwest | Texas | Woody_Woodrow@fws.gov Scott_Williams@fws.gov Adriana_Leiva@fws.gov | Brian_Hobbs@fws.gov |
| Midwest | Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin | Jessica_Collier@fws.gov | Amanda_Kamps@fws.gov |
| Southeast | Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands | Katie_Conrad@fws.gov | Matthew_E_Thomas@fws.gov |

| | | | |
|-------------------|--|--|--|
| Northeast | Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia | Mark_Cookson@fws.gov | Chris_Dwyer@fws.gov |
| Alaska | Alaska | Mike_Daigneault@fws.gov | Cary_Myler@fws.gov |
| Pacific Southwest | California | Colleen_Grant@fws.gov | Julie_Hana@fws.gov Northern California (from Golden Gate Bridge) Shawn_Milar@fws.gov Southern California (from Golden Gate Bridge) |

Executive Summary

The National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program supports the long-term conservation of coastal wetland ecosystems for the benefit of coastal communities, fish and wildlife and their habitats, and the recreating public. The Program provides designated State and Territory agencies with cost sharing awards for projects that protect and restore valuable coastal wetland resources. Projects may include the acquisition of real property interests in a coastal wetland ecosystem and the restoration, enhancement, or management of coastal wetlands.

Coastal wetlands are valued because they protect against flooding, help maintain water quality, and provide habitats for fish and wildlife. Coastal environments are also important economically, generating billions of dollars annually through recreational and commercial fishing, boating, and tourism.

The Program is co-administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Coastal Program and the Office of Conservation Investment. For more information, visit the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's [National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grants Home Page](#).

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible Applicants

State governments

Additional Information on Eligibility

Participation is limited to State and Territory agencies designated as eligible by the Governor of each jurisdiction. The eligible agency is usually a natural resource or fish and wildlife agency. Applications from agencies that are not designated as eligible will not be accepted. Applicants that are uncertain of their eligibility should contact the Regional Office of Conservation Investment before preparing or submitting an application (see Basic Information above).

Eligible States and Territories are those bordering the Great Lakes, and those bordering the Atlantic, Gulf (except Louisiana), and Pacific coasts. Louisiana is not eligible because it receives separate funding through the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 3955 (b)(1)).

The complete list of eligible States and Territories is: Alabama, Alaska, American Samoa, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Guam, Hawai'i, Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin.

Cost Sharing Requirement

Cost Sharing Required?

Yes

Exceptions for Certain Territories: In accordance with an October 12, 2022, Policy Advisory Notice from the Department of the Interior ([Reference No. 2023-001](#)) and [48 U.S.C. 1469\(a\), Amendment of Subsection \(d\)](#), the Service's Regional Directors shall waive cost sharing requirements described in this announcement in any award to American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Qualifying Funds and Federal Participation Rates: For coastal States and Territories that have established and are using a fund for acquiring coastal wetlands, other natural areas, or open space, the Federal share of an award may not exceed 75 percent of the total project cost. Applicants must provide a description of the fund in sufficient detail for Service personnel to make an eligibility determination, or a statement that eligibility has been previously approved and there has been no change in the fund. For coastal States and Territories that have not established such a fund, the Federal share of an award may not exceed 50 percent of the total project cost. Other resources that are related to the project but are not designated as cost share in the project budget are not included in the total project cost when calculating the maximum Federal participation rate.

Cost Sharing from Third Parties: Recipients may meet the minimum required cost sharing through contributions from one or more third parties. A third party is any individual or organization other than the recipient, such as a partner or subrecipient. Cost sharing must meet the criteria in [2 CFR 200.306\(b\)](#). The recipient is responsible for the cost share committed to a project, including resources provided by one or more third parties.

Indirect Costs as Cost Share: Recipients and other project participants may attribute some or all of their allowable indirect costs as voluntary committed cost share; however, they may only charge to the Federal award the indirect costs calculated against the allowable direct costs charged to the Federal award.

Cost Sharing and Project Scoring: To receive points on Criterion 11 ([50 CFR 84.32 \(a\)\(11\)](#)), at least some of the non-federal cost share must be provided in the form of U.S. currency. Some examples include a cash contribution for the purchase of real property, a direct payment to a contractor, or funds allocated for employee salaries and benefits.

Real Property as Cost Share: Recipients proposing to use the value of donated real property as all or a portion of their non-federal cost share must justify in the Project Narrative why the property is necessary for accomplishing the project objectives. Include information on all parcels whether they will be conserved with Program funding or used in cost sharing.

Letters of Commitment: Recipients must document cost sharing provided by any third party with a signed letter of financial commitment from an authorized representative. The letter must detail the dollar value of donated cash, real property, equipment, and/or in-kind services.

Valuing Volunteer Services: When assigning a value to volunteer services, the recipient must explain in the Project Narrative and/or Budget Narrative why the volunteer activity is necessary and reasonable and reference the compensation rate(s) for an equivalent agency position or justify typical costs in the labor marketplace for similar work in the area.

Non-Federal Sources with Exception: Contributions from Federal sources are not eligible for use in cost sharing unless authorized by Federal statute (such as the Department of Defense Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program or REPI funds).

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](#).

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.

GRANTSOLUTIONS

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

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Program Goals

- The primary goal of the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program is the long-term conservation of coastal wetland ecosystems. The Program accomplishes this goal by helping eligible States and U.S. Territories protect, restore, manage, and enhance their coastal wetlands and expand or improve opportunities for public recreation and education. Results are measured in acres protected, restored, managed, and enhanced.

Program Description

The National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program (Program) supports the long-term conservation of coastal wetland ecosystems for the benefit of coastal communities, fish and wildlife and their habitats, and the recreating public.

The Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act (Title III, Section 301, Public Law 101-646, [16 U.S.C. 3951-3956](#)) established the Program to acquire, enhance, manage, and restore wetlands in coastal areas through competitive cost sharing awards to designated coastal State and U.S. Territory agencies. Coastal wetlands are valued because they protect against flooding and help maintain water quality for millions of people in the United States while providing habitats for fish and wildlife. Coastal environments are also important economically, generating billions of dollars annually through recreational and commercial fishing, boating, and tourism. Supported projects must ensure conservation activities endure and provide benefits for at least 20 years. Eligible activities include any combination of real property acquisition and the restoration, enhancement, or management of coastal wetlands ecosystems or their components.

The Program is funded by federal taxes or import duties collected from the sale of sport fishing equipment, pleasure boats and yachts, electric motors, and a portion of the federal gas tax attributable to motorboats and small engines. A portion of this revenue is allocated to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to support the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program, one of several conservation initiatives funded through the Trust Fund.

The Final Rule establishing the requirements for participation in the Program was published in the Federal Register on July 30, 2002 ([67 Federal Register \(FR\) 49264](#)). The Program regulations are in [Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\), Part 84](#). Applications are scored and ranked based on criteria in [50 CFR 84.32](#).

The Program is co-administered by the Service's Coastal Program and the Office of Conservation Investment. Additional information about the Program is available [here](#).

Buy America Preferences for Infrastructure Projects

This program has Federal funding for infrastructure projects. 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.

All iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in a project must meet Buy America requirements unless waived. For more information, see the [FWS Financial Assistance Wiki](#). If further guidance is needed, contact the Regional Office of Conservation Investment (see Basic Information above).

Legislative Authority

Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act (Title III, Section 301, Public Law 101-646, 16 U.S.C. 3951-3956)

Type of Award

Projects will be funded through G (Grant).

PREPARE YOUR APPLICATION

Application Content and Format

Pre-Application Requirements

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.

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 and non-acquisition projects. Applicants may also submit the same or more detailed information in a customized budget table. |
| SF-424C: Budget Information – Construction Programs | Required for construction or acquisition projects. Applicants may also submit the same or more detailed |

| Forms/Assurances/Certifications | Submission Requirement |
|---|---|
| | information in a customized budget table. |
| SF-429 (Cover Page & Attachment B), Request to Acquire, Improve, or Furnish Real Property Note: The SF-429 forms are only available in the Grants.gov Forms Repository . 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. |
| 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

Submit a Project Narrative of no more than **seven pages** addressing the elements described below. The Project Narrative must be formatted to fit on an 8.5” x 11” document, with 1” margins at the top, bottom, and sides, and include page numbers at the bottom (starting with the first page of the Project Narrative). Font size should be no less than 12-point.

Need: The need for the project within the purpose of the NCWC Grant Program.

Objectives: The Service created TRACS Standard Objectives for collecting performance information to report accomplishments. Your Project Narrative must use one or more of the Standard Objectives in the [TRACS Performance Matrix](#). Contact the Regional Office of Conservation Investment (see Basic Information above) for more information on using Standard Objectives in the Project Narrative.

Expected Results: Expected results or benefits from accomplishing the objectives.

Approach: Clearly describe the approach or activities to be used in meeting the objectives, including specific procedures, methods, schedules, key personnel, and cooperators. Please include (if applicable):

1. Any organization that will act as a subrecipient and its role(s) in meeting the project objectives. For any key personnel, briefly describe the education, experience, and skills that qualify them to carry out the project (do not attach resumes or curriculum vitae);
2. What organization will hold title to real property being acquired or restored?
3. What type of ownership interest is involved (e.g., fee simple, easement, combination, etc.), and what are the parcel sizes in acres?
4. What organization or individual will manage the real property interest?
5. How will you ensure the long-term conservation (20 years or longer) of acquired or restored areas (e.g., through long-term support from an endowment that is funded outside the grant)?
6. What will be involved in the restoration? Why did you choose that approach? How likely is the proposed restoration technique to succeed? How much maintenance is involved, who will conduct it, and who will support it? Provide examples of your success in implementing the proposed restoration approach in similar, nearby areas, if available.
7. Is the project ready to implement? For example, for acquisition projects, have the landowners supplied willing seller letters? For restoration projects, are the landowners willing to allow and maintain the proposed restoration, and have the required permits been obtained or initiated? Are restoration designs completed or underway? As applicable, describe any seller letters, permits, or designs in the Project Narrative. Copies of these documents may be attached separately but should only be included if they are necessary to demonstrate project readiness.
8. If the project includes recreational or educational objectives, demonstrate that associated activities will not conflict with the primary goal of the Program (the long-term conservation of coastal wetland ecosystems) and that costs for these objectives do not exceed a combined maximum of 10 percent of the total project cost.

Project Location: Provide GPS coordinates in decimal degrees. Justify the eligibility of the project by demonstrating that targeted areas meet the definition of a coastal wetland ecosystem ([50 CFR 84.11](#)). Reference to a coastal Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) alone does not establish eligibility. Maps, drawings, diagrams, and/or photos may be attached separately if necessary.

Timeline: Describe significant milestones within the performance period of the project, including expected dates of initiation and completion of all compliance-related activities. Describe any accomplishments to date.

Compliance: Describe the anticipated Federal compliance requirements, including those involving the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and all other requirements in applicable Federal laws, regulations, and policies. Describe any compliance activities that have already been completed or are currently underway.

State Fund: If applicable, provide a description of the State fund used to verify eligibility for the maximum 75 percent Federal share of the award, or provide a statement that eligibility has been previously approved, and no change has occurred in the fund.

Relationship to Other Projects and/or Other Federal Grants: Briefly describe any other coastal conservation efforts related to the proposed project and identify the key partners involved. Describe how the proposed project fits into the comprehensive natural resource plans for the area. Identify any relationships between the proposed project and other conservation activities

funded by State or Federal grants that are planned, anticipated, or underway. If the project is part of a multiphase conservation plan for the area, describe how the proposed phase is distinct and different from previous and subsequent phases, and how it contributes to the collective goals of the larger plan.

Public Involvement and Interagency Coordination: Describe any public or interagency coordination relevant to the proposed project. Include the organizations or agencies involved and the period of involvement.

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).

If applicable, include information in your Budget Narrative on:

Program Income – Include the source, estimated amount, and the requested method of crediting the program income (e.g. deductive, additive, or cost sharing).

Equipment - Any 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 you or your subrecipient(s) for financial statement purposes, or \$10,000. You and your subrecipients must follow the requirements at [2 CFR 200](#) when acquiring equipment under an award, with emphasis on [200.313](#), [200.317](#) through [200.326](#), and [200.439](#).

Useful Life – Propose a useful life for each capital improvement that costs at least \$25,000 to build, acquire, or install, and reference the method used to determine the useful life of a capital improvement with a value greater than \$100,000.

Contingency Costs – Contingency costs estimated using broadly-accepted cost estimating methodologies are allowable but must be separately identified in your budget; they must comply with the Federal Cost Principles, they must be necessary and reasonable for proper and efficient accomplishment of your project objectives, and they 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.

Pre-Award Costs

Preliminary or “pre-award” costs may be allowable, but only with the approval of the Regional Office of Conservation Investment. Pre-award costs may include costs necessary for preparing the grant proposal, such as feasibility surveys, engineering design, biological reconnaissance, appraisals, or preparation of compliance documents such as environmental assessments ([50 CFR 84.47\(c\)](#)).

Cost Limits and Restrictions

The purpose of the Program is to help eligible recipients acquire, restore, enhance, and/or manage coastal wetland ecosystems. A detailed list of eligible and ineligible activities is provided in the Program regulations ([50 CFR 84.20](#)).

Recreational, educational, and public outreach activities necessary for meeting these purposes are eligible but limited to a combined maximum of 10 percent of the total project cost. Such activities must be site-specific and substantive ([50 CFR 84.32\(a\)\(12\)\(i\)](#)). Any such activities must be described in detail and justified in your application.

Planning and related activities are ineligible as a primary focus but may be allowable as a minor component of a project ([50 CFR 84.20\(b\)\(6\)](#)). Monitoring and related data collection that is necessary for meeting Program purposes are eligible activities, such as evaluating and measuring impacts of the project on targeted resources ([50 CFR 84.12\(b\)](#)). The combined costs for planning, engineering, design, permitting, and monitoring may not exceed 30 percent of the total project cost. These activities must be described and justified in the application.

Costs for research are not eligible ([50 CFR 84.20\(b\)](#)).

Contact the Regional Office of Conservation Investment for more detailed guidance on these limits and requirements (see Basic Information above).

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

Responses to Ranking Criteria (20-Page Limit): In table format, provide a brief description and any documentation necessary to justify how the proposed project addresses each of the 13 ranking criteria in [50 CFR 84.32](#). Include details on all acquisition or restoration parcels to be conserved with Program funds and any parcels used in cost sharing, so reviewers can verify eligibility and make informed scoring decisions.

Drawings/Maps/Photographs (20-Page Limit): Include and identify images or depictions of the proposed project that provide the following information. These should be provided separately from the Project Narrative.

- a. Existing state or conditions of the project area;
- b. Proposed project area and project site(s) in one or more maps, photographs, or images:
 - i. Detail which areas will be part of the grant funded activities, delineating the project boundaries;
 - ii. Detail which areas are valued and used in cost sharing, if applicable;
 - iii. Detail what restoration activities will take place and where, if applicable;
 - iv. Detail which areas, if any, are part of a larger effort that will be funded outside the project;
 - v. Detail wetland types (including National Wetlands Inventory classifications or other State or regional wetland delineations, if available); and
 - vi. Provide any other information that will help reviewers identify project components or factors used in project scoring and ranking.
- c. Two maps of the project location: a map of the State or Territory showing the general location of the project and a map of the project site(s).

Letters of Commitment: Document cost sharing provided by any third party with a signed letter of financial commitment from an authorized representative. The letter must detail the dollar value of donated cash, real property, equipment, and/or in-kind services.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES

Address to Request Application Package

To request a copy of the application package in another format, contact:

Christy Vigfusson, christy_vigfusson@fws.gov

If you need immediate assistance, please call our customer service center at 1-800-344-9453. If you have a hearing impairment or a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services.

The Service recommends early submittal to allow time to resolve potential technical complications, especially for new applicants. All application components including letters of commitment must be submitted by the due date.

Applications must be submitted in GrantSolutions or Grants.gov. Applicants may email a PDF copy to the Regional Office of Conservation Investment as a backup (see Basic Information above).

Regional Program staff may provide technical assistance with an application prior to the due date. Pre-deadline assistance is contingent upon availability of staff.

Submission Dates and Times

Closing Date for Applications: 07/09/2026

Closing Date Explanation

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

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.

Apply Through GrantSolutions

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

1. **Register your organization.** Send an e-mail to 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.

Application Checklist

Use this checklist to ensure the application is complete and eligible. Include only the information necessary to address the requirements in this announcement. The complete application should not exceed 85 pages in total. Contact the Regional Office of Conservation Investment for more information (see Basic Information above).

- SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance
- Project Abstract Summary Form (OMB Form Number: 4040-0019)
- Project Narrative (7-page limit)

- Brief responses to the ranking criteria in [50 CFR 84.32](#) (20-page limit)
- Drawings/maps/photographs or other required information (20-page limit)
- SF-424A (non-construction) or SF-424C (construction or real property acquisition) Budget Information form (applications may include additional budget detail to address requirements)
- Budget Narrative, including a description of how indirect costs will be charged and the indirect cost rate(s)
- Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement

If applicable:

- Completed Request to Acquire, Improve, or Furnish form (SF-429B) for real property to be acquired with Program funds or used in cost sharing
- Conflict of Interest and Unresolved Matters Disclosures
- Letter(s) detailing the value of third-party contributions used in cost sharing
- Completed SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities form

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

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.

Applications are scored on merit review criteria published in [50 CFR 84.32](#). Brief descriptions of the 13 criteria are provided below.

Criterion 1: Wetlands conservation - Maximum Points: 7

How will the project reverse coastal wetland loss or habitat degradation in decreasing or stable coastal wetland types? Reference project location information provided in the Project Narrative. Include a citation for wetland type determinations and reference any maps, diagrams, or other information demonstrating that targeted lands or waters meet the definition of a coastal wetland ecosystem ([50 CFR 84.11](#)).

Criterion 2: Maritime forests on coastal barriers - Maximum Points: 7

How will the project benefit maritime forests on coastal barriers?

Criterion 3: Long-term conservation - Maximum Points: 7

How will the project ensure long-term conservation of coastal wetland functions? The project must provide at least 20 years of conservation benefits to be eligible. Provide evidence by citing published data, modeling, design features, or other information supporting the expected duration of the project's conservation benefits.

Criterion 4: Coastal watershed management - Maximum Points: 3

How will the completed project help accomplish the natural resource goals and objectives of one or more formal, ongoing coastal watershed management plan or effort?

Criterion 5: Conservation of threatened and endangered species - Maximum Points: 5

How will the project benefit State- or federally listed endangered or threatened species, species proposed for listing or recently delisted, and any designated or proposed critical habitat in the project area?

Criterion 6: Benefits to fish - Maximum Points: 5

How will the project benefit important fisheries habitats?

Criterion 7: Benefits to coastal-dependent or migratory birds - Maximum Points: 5

How will the project benefit coastal-dependent or migratory bird habitats?

Criterion 8: Prevent or reduce contamination - Maximum Points: 5

How will the project prevent, remove, or reduce contaminants in the project's targeted coastal wetlands and the surrounding area?

Criterion 9: Catalyst for future conservation - Maximum Points: 4

How will the project leverage other ongoing coastal wetland conservation efforts in the area or provide additional impetus for conservation?

Criterion 10: Partners in conservation - Maximum Points: 4

Will the project receive support, including in-kind cost sharing, from private, local, or other State or Federal partners?

Criterion 11: Federal share reduced - Maximum Points: 5

Does the application demonstrate a reduced Federal share through voluntary cash contributions? See [50 CFR 84.32 \(a\)\(11\)](#).

Criterion 12: Education/outreach program or wildlife-oriented recreation - Maximum Points: 3

Does the proposed project include site-specific, substantive outreach or educational activities? Does it include public access and recreational activities? Describe how the project participants will ensure these activities will not conflict with the primary goal of the Program (the long-term conservation of coastal wetland ecosystems).

Criterion 13: Other Factors - Maximum Points: 4

Summarize how any other factors not covered in the previous criteria make the proposed project or site particularly unique and valuable (see [50 CFR 84.32\(a\)\(13\)](#)). Provide evidence supporting the expected benefits. Other factors may include:

1. Projects providing significant benefits to rare or threatened habitat types, biodiverse habitats, rare or declining species, and/or the local community;
2. Projects that are particularly cost-effective;
3. Projects that assist in the prevention or control of invasive species;
4. Projects that provide important cultural or historical resource benefits;
5. Projects that provide other benefits.

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.

After the Regional Offices of Conservation Investment review applications for completeness and eligibility, a panel of Program specialists evaluates and scores them using the criteria in this announcement. If the review panel finds that an application does not meet the specified requirements or is not substantial in character and design, it may be eliminated from further review.

Any funds not awarded in a fiscal year carry over to the next fiscal year, are combined with new funds, and are distributed nationally through competitive awards. The Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service makes the final project selections, subject to review and approval by the Department of the Interior and the Office of Management and Budget.

Prior to participating in the evaluation process, all staff and peer reviewers, evaluators, panel members, and advisors must sign and return to the Program office the Department of the Interior Conflict of Interest Certification form. For a copy of this form, contact the Regional Office of Conservation Investment (see Basic Information above).

Frequently Asked Questions and Clarification of Selected Ranking Criteria

Are lands proposed for cost sharing purposes considered in scoring? Yes. Because lands that are used for cost sharing purposes are part of the project area, reviewers consider both lands being proposed for acquisition/restoration with Program funds and those proposed as cost sharing. Information on any parcels proposed for acquisition or restoration or used in cost sharing should be described in adequate detail, so reviewers can make informed scoring decisions.

Does land used for all or part of the non-federal cost share need to be necessary and reasonable? Yes. All non-federal cost sharing must be necessary and reasonable for achieving the project objectives, including any lands used in cost sharing. Explain how the cost sharing parcel(s) relate to the overall project and provide detailed information about the parcel(s).

If a project includes a conservation easement, what information is helpful for reviewers? Describe the terms of the conservation easement, including what organization will hold it, its duration, the allowable and prohibited uses on the property, and plans for long-term monitoring and stewardship. This information helps reviewers understand the conservation benefits of the easement.

What organization holds title to land acquired under this program or contributed as cost share? Title to real property acquired or contributed as cost sharing or match will vest upon acquisition in the recipient or subrecipient, as directed in [2 CFR 200.306](#) and [2 CFR 200.311](#). A Notice of Federal Participation must be recorded for all acquired real property, including any real property used in cost sharing.

Should letters of support that do not include financial commitment, or detailed scientific information, be included in an application? No. Include only the information necessary to address the requirements in this announcement. Letters of financial commitment from third-party cost sharing partners are required.

What changes are allowed to an application after it is submitted? Applications must be in their final form by the due date. The only changes that may be accepted after the due date are those that do not impact project scoring or significantly deviate from the original project scope. Service representatives may request corrections or other modifications to ensure compliance with Program regulations or other Federal requirements.

Who determines if an application is eligible? Regional Office of Conservation Investment personnel determine whether an application meets eligibility criteria and should be scored by the review panel. The Headquarters Office of Conservation Investment staff review an application's eligibility if questions arise. If deemed ineligible, the application will not be considered for funding, and the applicant will be notified of this finding.

Can an expense incurred prior to the start date of a project be reimbursed? If costs are incurred before the project performance period, they must be described and justified in the application and approved by the Regional Office of Conservation Investment. These preliminary or "pre-award" costs may include costs necessary for preparing the grant proposal, such as feasibility surveys, engineering design, biological reconnaissance, appraisals, or preparation of environmental assessments for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act or other Federal laws or regulations (see [50 CFR 84.47\(c\)](#)). For more information, contact the Regional Office of Conservation Investment (see Basic Information above).

50 CFR 84.32 (a)(1) (Criterion 1):

Is a score of seven points given for projects that will result in over 50 percent of the project area conserving decreasing coastal wetland types? Yes. An application that documents that over 50 percent of the project area will, upon project completion, conserve decreasing coastal wetland types will receive seven points. Specific guidance on how reviewers score this criterion is provided in [50 CFR 84.32 \(a\)\(1\)](#). Information on coastal wetland types is available [here](#).

Contact the Regional Office of Conservation Investment or Coastal Program staff for additional information about wetland types as needed.

Is a graduated scale used to score applications? Yes. The program regulations in [50 CFR 84.32 \(a\)\(1\)\(v\)](#) provide guidance on the use of intermediate scores.

How are projects that include real property acquisition scored? Project scoring is based on the real property to be acquired with Program funding and any real property proposed as cost sharing, upon project completion.

50 CFR 84.32 (a)(2) (Criterion 2):

What qualifies as a maritime forest? A description of a maritime forest used for the purposes of the Program is provided in [50 CFR 84.11](#).

How is this criterion scored? To receive the maximum seven points for this criterion, the project must benefit maritime forests that: 1) are located on coastal barriers (see definition of “coastal barrier” in [50 CFR 84.11](#)) along the mainland coast from Delaware to Texas, and 2) are broad-leaved forests. Maritime forests are primarily characterized by a closed canopy of various combinations of live oak, upland laurel oak, pignut hickory, southern magnolia, sugarberry, and cabbage palm. Intermediate scores may be awarded ([50 CFR 84.32\(a\)\(2\)\(iii\)](#)).

50 CFR 84.32 (a) (Criteria 5, 6, and 7):

What information should be included about threatened and endangered species in response to Criteria 5, 6, and 7? Include information addressing the ranking criteria (see Merit Review above) in table format. The column headings may include the species' common and scientific names, their conservation status (Federal or State listed, proposed for listing, delisted within the last five years), their habitat type (nesting, breeding, feeding, nursery areas), or other relevant information. Specify whether the identified species have been observed within the project boundary or only in the general vicinity.

50 CFR 84.32 (a)(10) (Criterion 10):

Do non-federal partners' contributions need to be included on the SF-424 as cost sharing to receive points? Yes, the application must identify all contributions used in cost sharing on the SF-424.

Are points awarded for more than one State or Territory agency's participation in a proposed project? In general, applications only receive credit for one State or Territory agency. The exception is when an application includes multiple State/Territory agency participants. In these instances, the application may receive points for each additional State or Territory participating in the project. Partnering entities that receive partial funding from a State/Territory may be considered non-state partners if they also receive non-state/-territory funding; such entities and the nature of their funding should be described in detail in the Project Narrative and/or letter(s) of commitment. Entities that are not generally considered a State or Territory agency due to receipt of non-state/-territory operational funding (such as University Extension) may receive credit as a non-state/-territory partner.

What documentation is required to receive points for non-federal partners? To receive points, any resources supplied by entities other than the recipient must be documented in a

signed letter of commitment from an authorized representative that details the value of the cost share contribution.

50 CFR 84.32 (a)(11) (Criterion 11):

Can in-kind services or contributions be used to meet cost sharing requirements? Yes. In-kind services may be used for part or all of the required cost sharing (i.e., 25 or 50 percent of the total project cost), but points are only awarded if additional cash-based cost sharing is identified in the application.

Are bargain land sales credited? Bargain land sales can be used to meet the required cost share, but cash contributions that exceed the required minimum cost sharing are required to earn points for this criterion. Cash is a liquid asset that can be tracked through audit procedures. A landowner's acceptance of a reduced price for a property is considered an in-kind contribution.

Is the value of the recipient's staff time considered cash match? Yes. Funds allocated by the recipient to staff salaries and benefits for project activities are considered cash for scoring purposes. Staff services contributed by a third party are in-kind contributions. See [2 CFR 200.306](#) for guidance on cost sharing. For more information, contact the Regional Office of Conservation Investment (see Basic Information above).

How are points awarded when scoring on Criterion 11? Each five percent provided in cash over the minimum required cost sharing equals one point up to 25 percent, for a maximum score of five points. The following examples assume a recipient is eligible to receive the maximum 75 percent Federal share.

Example 1:

Total project cost:

\$1,333,334

NCWC Grant Program Request:

\$1,000,000

Non-Federal Cost Share:

\$333,334

Non-federal cost sharing may consist of in-kind resources, cash, or a combination of both. Only cash in excess of the minimum required cost sharing is considered for scoring purposes. The minimum required non-federal cost sharing is determined by dividing the Federal request by three ($\$1,000,000/3 = \$333,334$). The amount of non-federal cost sharing in this example does not exceed the minimum requirement; therefore, no points are awarded.

Example 2:

Total project cost:

\$1,416,834

NCWC Grant Program Request:

\$1,000,000

Non-federal cost sharing (in-kind):

\$333,334

Non-federal cost sharing (cash):

\$83,500

The minimum required non-federal cost sharing is determined by dividing the Federal request by three ($\$1,000,000/3 = \$333,334$). In this example, the minimum is met with in-

kind contributions. The cost sharing provided in cash, all of which exceeds the minimum, is divided by the minimum required non-federal cost sharing ($\$83,500/\$333,334$), giving 25 percent. Five points are awarded.

Example 3:

Total project cost:

\$1,360,000

Federal Request:

\$1,000,000

Non-Federal cost sharing (in-kind):

\$300,000

Non-Federal cost sharing (cash):

\$60,000

In this example, the minimum required non-federal cost sharing is partially met with in-kind resources and partially met with cash. The minimum is determined by dividing the Federal request by three ($\$1,000,000/3 = \$333,334$). Then, in-kind cost sharing is subtracted from this amount ($\$333,334 - \$300,000 = \$33,334$) to determine the amount of cash that is necessary to fulfill the minimum. Subtract the cash used to meet the minimum requirement from the total amount of cash ($\$60,000 - \$33,334 = \$26,666$). Cash exceeding the minimum requirement is then divided by the minimum ($\$26,666/\$333,334$), giving eight percent. One point is awarded.

Can applications from Territories subject to the match waiver in 48 U.S.C. 1469(a) receive points? Yes. Applications from jurisdictions subject to the waiver (includes American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands) that identify any amount of cost sharing in cash are awarded the maximum five points.

Can Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program (REPI) funds be used as cash in meeting the required cost sharing? Yes, REPI funds may be used as non-federal cash in cost sharing.

50 CFR 84.32 (a)(12) (Criterion 12):

Are costs associated with education, recreation, and outreach eligible? Yes, provided that the costs unrelated to conserving the project site do not exceed 10 percent of the total project cost.

50 CFR 84.32 (b)(13) (Criterion 13):

Are there other factors that are used in scoring applications? Yes, the following factors describe other important benefits of a project. To receive points, provide evidence supporting the expected benefits.

1. Projects providing significant benefits to rare or threatened habitat types, habitats supporting a high level of biological variety, rare or declining species, and/or the local community;
2. Projects that are particularly cost-effective;
3. Projects that assist in the prevention or control of invasive species;
4. Projects that provide important cultural or historical resource benefits;
5. Projects that provide other benefits.

50 CFR 84.32(13)(b) (Criterion 13 Additional considerations):

What factors are used in the event of a tie? The following factors are considered if two or more proposals have the same point total:

1. The project would prevent the destruction or degradation of habitat from a pending sale of a property, from adverse effects of current activities such as draining of wetlands, or from natural processes such as erosion at excessive rates;
2. The project would protect unique habitat with a significant level of biological variety;
3. The project has lower costs per acre conserved; and
4. The recipient or third party will acquire new real property that will be used as cost sharing as opposed to using real property already owned by the recipient or third party.

Clarify the phrase, “provides lands” in [\(84.32\(b\)\(4\)](#). The purpose of this tie-breaking factor is to encourage applications that include a contribution of land owned by a recipient or third party. These contributions increase the acreage of land under conservation management and improve conservation outcomes.

Risk Review

Prior to making an award, the applicant will be assessed for their level of risk per [2 CFR 200.206](#). This assessment includes the applicant's financial management capabilities, project delivery experience, staffing resources, past award performance, administration and reporting compliance records, and overall project complexity and potential for challenges. If an award will be made, special conditions may be applied to the award corresponding to the assessed risk. For awards over the simplified acquisition threshold (currently \$350,000), a review of the applicant's eligibility and financial integrity information in the applicant's SAM.gov records will also be performed per [2 CFR 200.206](#).

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: 01/08/2027

Anticipated Project End Date: 01/11/2030

If a project is selected for funding, the Regional Office of Conservation Investment will notify the applicant of the pending award and the process needed to receive funds, including satisfactory completion of compliance requirements. Please submit all required compliance documentation within three months of notification of your award, if possible. When compliance and other requirements are met, the recipient will receive a notification detailing the terms and conditions of the award. The notification will include specific instructions on how to request payment. If applicable, the instructions will detail any additional information or forms required and where to submit payment requests.

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.

When acknowledging funding or project accomplishments supported through National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grants, recipients should use the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service logo and Sport Fish Restoration symbol. See the [Office of Conservation Investment's Grant Acknowledgement and Recognition Guidelines](#), p. 10.

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 \(FSRS\)](#).

At a minimum, 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, applicants are required to submit interim financial reports on the frequency established in the Notice of Federal Award. The only exception to this 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.

Applicants must submit performance reports in TRACS and GrantSolutions as described in the Notice of Federal Award. Complete the performance report in TRACS first. Once completed, TRACS generates a performance report that can be uploaded in GrantSolutions. Performance reports must include quantitative outputs based on the approved Standard Objectives, and narrative responses to the following questions, as applicable:

1. What progress has been made towards completing the objective(s) of the project?
2. Describe and justify any changes in the implementation of the objective(s) or approach(es).
3. If applicable, identify if your project resulted in any unexpected benefits, promising practices, new understandings, cost efficiencies, management recommendations, or lessons learned.
4. Does the project continue work from a previous award? If so, how do the current results compare to prior results? Attachments such as tables, figures, or graphs may be included.
5. If applicable, refer to or attach selected publications, photographs, screenshots of websites, or other documentation (including articles in popular literature, scientific literature, or other public information products) resulting from the project that highlight the accomplishments of the project.
6. Is this a project you wish to highlight for communication purposes?

Construction Performance Reports

For construction awards, onsite technical inspections and certified percentage of completion data may be used to monitor progress. Additional performance reports for construction activities may be required only when considered necessary. However, awards that include both construction and non-construction activities require performance reporting for the non-construction activities. See [2 CFR 200.329](#) for more information.

Significant Development Reports

Events may occur between the scheduled performance reporting dates that have significant impacts on the supported activity. In such cases, recipients are required to notify the Regional Office of Conservation Investment in writing as soon as they become aware of any problems, delays, or adverse conditions that will materially impair their ability to meet the objective(s) 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 provide notification in writing of any favorable developments that enable meeting project milestones 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 reports on the status of real property acquired under an award in which the Federal government retains an interest. The required frequency of these reports depends on the anticipated length of the Federal interest period. The Office of Conservation Investment will include specific real property reporting requirements, including the required standard form or data elements, reporting frequency, and report due dates, in the Notice of Federal Award when applicable.

Real property interests may include, but are not limited to, fee simple, fee with exceptions to title, easements, water rights, and mineral rights. Leaseholds acquired by a recipient or subrecipient must also be reported regardless of their status as real or personal property under

State or Territorial law. The real property and leaseholds to be reported are those that require a Notice of Federal Participation to be recorded in the public recorder's office of the local jurisdiction. They include real property and leaseholds that are:

1. Purchased for a financially assisted project with Federal funds or used in non-federal cost-sharing;
2. Acquired previously by the recipient or subrecipient for another purpose, but committed to the project as an in-kind contribution; or
3. Accepted by the recipient or subrecipient as an in-kind contribution from a non-federal third party.

If an award includes real property or facility acquisition or construction, the recipient is responsible for entering information in the TRACS inventory module and for creating real property/facility record(s). Real property and facility records help ensure the periodic requirement to submit reports on the status of real property acquired or facilities constructed under a Federal award is met. The Director, Office of Grants Management, has approved the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's use of TRACS as an alternate equivalent format for the collection of data required in the OMB-approved form, Real Property Status Report SF 429-A ([2 CFR 1402.329\(d\)\(4\)](#)). If the real property will be held for less than 15 years, reports must be submitted annually. If the real property will be held for 15 years or more, the first report will be due within a year of the end of the period of performance, and subsequent reporting on a schedule determined at a later date. Reports for real property held for 15 years or more will be due at least once every five years but could be required more often.

Other Information

For more information, visit the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's [National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program Home Page](#).

For information on the Program's unique funding model, visit [Partner with a Payer – An initiative of the Office of Conservation Investment](#).