

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

FWS - Fisheries

Preventing the Introduction and Spread of Invasive through Strategic Landscape-Level  
Approaches  
Fiscal Year: 2022  
F22AS00320

Due Date for Applications: **06/22/2022**

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Signature

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Date

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## A. Program Description

### **Authority:**

Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act—Regional coordination (16 U.S.C. §4723), Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act; Public Law 117-58

### **Assistance Listing Number:**

15.608

### **Background, Purpose and Program Requirements:**

Invasive species pose a significant threat to the ecological, economic, and cultural integrity of America's lands and waters and the communities they support. The Department of the Interior (DOI) regards prevention as the most cost-effective and environmentally protective tool to manage the threat of invasive species. Prevention includes efforts to stop the introduction of invasive species into the United States as well as the secondary spread of invasive species already present as many introduced species have not achieved their potential geographic and ecologic distributions.

New species can arrive through different pathways, but most species considered to be invasive are transported as a result of human activities, particularly activities associated with trade and travel, including commercial operations and recreation. Therefore, it is critical to prevent the introduction and movement of invasive species through the development and implementation of risk mitigation measures for these pathways.

Outdoor recreation is a well-known pathway for invasion as plants and animals may be transported on vehicles, watercraft, fishing equipment, hiking boots, other gear, and clothing. In response, many DOI bureaus utilize national education campaigns (e.g., Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers!, PlayCleanGo®, Clean.Drain.Dry, Don't Move Firewood) to raise awareness about this pathway and encourage outdoor recreational users to take proactive steps to prevent the spread of invasive species. These campaigns present a clear call to action; however, with improved access to tools and infrastructure (e.g., boat washing, bait disposal, and boot brush stations), it is easier to perform invasive species preventative actions. Similarly, watercraft, trailers, and vehicles may be transported long distances by individuals or through auctioneers, marinas, manufacturers, and brokers and become a potential vector for the spread of invasive species. Several efforts are underway (e.g., Call Before you Haul) to communicate this risk and provide ample facilities for inspection and decontamination.

Trade is another significant pathway for invasive species. Global markets for live plants and animals continue to expand and recent advances in global trade have facilitated easier and faster movement of organisms. Most organisms transported for sale beyond their native range are confined during transport and, initially, at their destination. However, there is potential for individuals to be released or escape confinement while in the care of importers, retailers, and consumers. Potentially invasive species may also hitchhike in shipments or on other organisms. Mitigation measures in trade activities are needed to reduce the risk of intentional or unintentional introduction of organisms and their hitchhikers. For example, clear, accessible information is needed for sellers and customers that defines invasive species, best practices

related to transport, sale, and ownership of potentially invasive species, and non-invasive alternatives.

Numerous invasive and potentially invasive species are for sale all over the world on commercial websites. Managing the risk associated with electronic commerce, or e-commerce, is particularly challenging because it is not a physical pathway, yet serves as a mechanism to transport and accelerate the movement of live plants or animals across the globe. Similar to brick-and-mortar retail, online sellers and buyers need clear and accurate information on the species they sell or buy. This information should include the taxonomy, biology, and ecology of the species as well as the potential invasiveness and measures to prevent a species escape or release. Collaboration with online sites is also needed to stop sales of live organisms into areas where they are regulated, and to improve correct labelling of traded species.

The information above is provided to illustrate common examples of invasive species pathways and different risk mitigation measures that can be taken to prevent introduction or spread. This is not an inclusive list as invasive species are significant in their breadth and scope and their pathways of introduction and spread vary. Prevention is the first line of defense and the most cost-effective means in combating invasive species. Without prevention, invasive species will continue to harm our nation's land, waters, and communities by establishing infestations that can adversely affect human health and cultural heritage and cause severe economic and ecological damage that can be permanent and irreparable.

### **Description of Funding Opportunity**

Using appropriations to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (also referred to as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS/Service), in collaboration with other DOI bureaus, is providing grants to support implementation of measures to prevent the introduction or spread of invasive species. Proposals are requested that advance strategic, ecologically-based, landscape-level prevention measures. Landscape-level approaches are those that bring together multiple geographies, sectors, and stakeholders to protect and conserve natural resources on a larger scale.

Submitted projects should benefit invasive species prevention efforts on a national or regional context. Proposed activities should focus on either prohibiting the entry of potentially invasive species into the United States or stopping invasive species already in the United States from spreading into new watersheds or geographic areas. Submitted proposals should demonstrate:

- 1) Benefits to Federal and/or Tribal lands or Insular areas (territories), although implementation efforts are not constrained to only on Federal lands and waters;
- 2) An integrated management approach at the landscape-level that can benefit multiple DOI bureaus and geographic areas, particularly those areas that have been identified as high-quality, critical, core habitat, and/or having high risk of invasion;
- 3) Implementation of effective, science-based tools or infrastructure that can be used for long-term invasive species prevention which may include leveraging existing knowledge and tools

and/or building new capacities and capabilities;

4) Partnership building and leveraging for collaborative conservation with other projects, programs and/or State, local, Tribal, and territorial partners;

5) Cost-effectiveness and management efficiencies; and

6) Ability to advance prevention priorities identified in the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force's National Priorities List for Research on Aquatic Invasive Species and/or DOI's 2021-2025 Invasive Species Strategic Plan.

Proposals that service underserved or historically disadvantaged communities are also encouraged; this will be considered as one of the grant review criteria listed under the Application Review Information section later in this document.

The spread of invasive species may be stopped by strategic placement of exclusion barriers. These types of management actions can be perceived as containment, yet will be considered for prevention funding if the proposed project can meet the above objectives.

Proposals submitted for this award should address how the proposed project supports the above objectives and DOI's invasive species management mission to cost-effectively protect the Nation's economy, environment, public health, infrastructure, natural resources, and cultural heritage from the harmful impacts of invasive species for the benefit of current and future generations. Multi-year projects are will be considered. It is preferred that projects be completed within 3 years, but this is negotiable based on project merit and proposed timeline.

## **B. Federal Award Information**

### **B1. Total Funding**

#### **Estimated Total Funding**

\$1,852,550

### **B2. Expected Award Amount**

#### **Maximum Award**

\$1,852,550

#### **Minimum Award**

\$200,000

DOI is requesting proposals for strategic, ecologically-based landscape-level invasive species prevention measures that benefit multiple bureaus and geographic areas; smaller scale projects requesting under \$200,000 will not be considered.

### **B3. Expected Award Funding and Anticipated Dates**

#### **Expected Award Funding**

\$1,852,550

#### **Expected Award Date**

August 05, 2022

The FWS expects to award between one and four projects, ranging between \$200,000 and \$1,852,550.

### **B4. Number of Awards**

#### **Expected Number of Awards**

4

The FWS anticipates between one and four awards resulting from this opportunity.

### **B5. Type of Award**

#### **Funding Instrument Type**

G - Grant

### **C. Eligibility Information**

#### **C1. Eligible Applicants**

##### **Eligible Applicants**

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

##### **Additional Information on Eligibility**

#### **C2. Cost Sharing or Matching**

##### **Cost Sharing / Matching Requirement**

No

##### **Percentage of Cost Sharing / Matching Requirement**

0

Cost sharing or matching funds are not required to be eligible for this grant opportunity. However, cost sharing is considered as one of the grant review criteria listed under the Application Review Information section later in this document. With respect to that criterion, all non-federal types of cost share are eligible (e.g., in-kind contributions). The Bureau of Indian Affairs may be able to provide a percentage of matching funds through a 638 Self-determination contract for proposals submitted by Federally Recognized Tribes.

#### **C3. Other**

##### **Foreign Entities or Projects:**

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

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

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

**Excluded Parties:**

The DOI conducts a review of the SAM.gov Exclusions database for all applicant entities and their key project personnel prior to award. The DOI cannot award funds to entities or their key project personnel identified in the SAM.gov Exclusions database as ineligible, prohibited/restricted or otherwise excluded from receiving Federal contracts, certain subcontracts, and certain Federal assistance and benefits, as their ineligibility condition applies to this Federal program.

## **D. Application and Submission Information**

### **D1. Address to Request Application Package**

All required application materials are contained within this funding opportunity. Supplemental application materials that may be helpful in completing environmental compliance can be requested from the point of contact listed at the end of this notice of funding opportunity.

#### **Program Website Link**

### **D2. Content and Form of Application Submission**

#### **SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance**

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

1. Permit the preparation of required reports;
2. Trace funds to a level of expenditures adequate to establish that the entity has used such funds per Federal statutes, regulations, and terms and conditions of the Federal award;
3. Provide for the requirements in [2 CFR §200.302\(b\)](#); and

4. Comply with [§200.334](#) Retention requirements for records, [§200.335](#) Requests for transfer of records, [§200.336](#) Methods for collection, transmission, and storage of information, and [§200.337](#) Access to records.

If this application requests more than \$100,000 in Federal funds, the Authorized Representative's signature on or submission of the SF-424 form in GrantSolutions also represents their certification of the statements in 43 CFR Part 18, Appendix A-Certification Regarding Lobbying.

When completing the SF-424 Application form, enter only the amount requested from this Federal program in Box 18a, Estimated Federal Funding. Include any other Federal sources of funding in Box 18e, Estimated Other Funding and identify any such sources and amounts in the required Budget Narrative (see below). For individuals applying as a private citizen (i.e., unrelated to any business or nonprofit organization you may own or operate in your name), do NOT include your Social Security Number on this or any other document to be submitted with your application! When completing the SF-424 Application form, individuals must enter in Box 8b, Employee/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN) the substitute number "444-44-4444." Individuals may register in SAM.gov but are not required to have a SAM.gov registration. For individuals without a SAM.gov registration enter in Box 8c, the substitute Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) "KA5HQCLKUVW1 "

#### **SF 424B, Assurances for Non-Construction Programs**

Individuals applying for and receiving funds separate from a business or non-profit organization he/she may own or operate, and entities waived from the SAM.gov registration requirements by the funding bureau or office must submit the signed and dated SF-424B, Assurances for Non-Construction Programs form. All required application forms are available with this announcement on Grants.gov and in GrantSolutions. All other financial assistance applicants must complete the "Financial Assistance General Certifications and Representations" as part of their SAM.gov entity record.

#### **SF-424D, Assurances for Construction Programs**

Any applicant requesting support for a construction projects must submit as signed and dated SF-424D, Assurances for Construction Programs form. All required application forms are available with this announcement on Grants.gov and in GrantSolutions

#### **Project Abstract Summary (OMB Number 4040-0019)**

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

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



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

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

### **Project Narrative**

A Project Narrative that addresses the following elements must be included in the application. In general, the project statement must provide sufficient information so reviewers may verify that the proposed activities are substantial in character and design. The Project Narrative should be a maximum of 15 pages (excluding resumes, references, budget narrative, and any supplemental information).

- Project title.
- Description of entity(ies) undertaking the project – Describe the organization or group of individuals that are being proposed to conduct the project, expressing the specific skills, experience, and resources available related to tasks to be performed. As applicable, describe how you/your organization has coordinated with other relevant organizations or individuals in planning the project, and detail if/how they will be involved in conducting project activities, disseminating project results, and/or incorporating your results/products into their activities.
- Statement of need that addresses: the specific concern, problem, or issue to be addressed or opportunity to be leveraged; the consequences of not addressing the need; and how the proposed project aligns with the needs described by this funding opportunity.
- Information on key project personnel – Provide a list of your proposed Project Team for this assignment, identifying the Team Lead. Indicate each person’s anticipated role/title and their area(s) of expertise relevant to this project. Resumes or CV (2 page limit) should be attached for each team member.
- Purpose – A need statement with the applicant’s understanding of and familiarity with invasive species, why the project is necessary, and how the proposed outcomes from this project will prevent the introduction or spread of invasive species.
- Objectives – State the desired outcome of the proposed project in terms that are specific and quantified. Objectives are meant to be realistic targets or benchmarks that, if achieved, will resolve the project need.
- Methods/Approach – Describes the methods used to achieve the stated objectives.
  - Approach describes the specific prevention actions or efforts necessary to accomplish project objectives, highlighting any unique attributes.
  - Approach answers the question of “how” the objectives will be accomplished by describing the actual work that will be done.

- Approach will demonstrate that the applicant will use sound design, appropriate procedures, and accepted fish and wildlife conservation, management, or research principles.
- Approach will describe any project monitoring and evaluation actions that will be incorporated.
- Any deliverables resulting from the funding should be noted in this section.
- Timetable or milestones – Describe significant milestones in completing the project and anticipated timeline for accomplishments.
- Information to support environmental compliance review requirements (if applicable) - FWS has the responsibility for making the final determination regarding compliance with Federal laws.
  - National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) – provide any information that may be relevant to compliance with NEPA.
  - Endangered Species Act (ESA) – provide any information that may be relevant to compliance with the ESA.
  - National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) – provide any information that may be relevant to compliance with NHPA, such as locations of historic or cultural properties.
  - Other Permits – list and provide the current status of any other required Federal permits.
- References – Contact for three individuals (and their associated organizations) familiar with past work.
- Supplemental information (optional) – May include letters of support, graphics, tables, citations, etc.

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

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

**SF-424C, Budget Information for Construction Program**

Applicants must submit the appropriate SF-424C Budget Information form for Construction Programs or Projects. All required application forms are available with this announcement on Grants.gov and in GrantSolutions. Federal award recipients and subrecipients are subject to Federal award cost principles in 2 CFR 200. Applicants must show funds requested from this Federal program separately from any other Federal sources of funding. Identify any other Federal funding sources and amounts in the required Budget Narrative (see below).

**SF-429 Request to Acquire, Improve, or Furnish Real Property**

Applicants seeking approval to acquire real property under an award must complete and submit the SF-429, “Real Property Status Report (Cover Page)” and the SF-429-B, “Real Property

Status Report Attachment B (Request to Acquire, Improve, or Furnish)”. These forms are required if the real property is acquired with Federal funds, with recipient cost share or matching funds, or as an in-kind contribution under the award. The SF-429 forms are not available with this announcement on Grants.gov; they are available on the [Grants.gov Post-Award Reporting Forms page](#). Please submit these completed forms as attachments to your application.

### **Budget Narrative**

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

### **Conflict of Interest Disclosure**

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

#### *a. Applicability.*

1. This section intends to ensure that non-Federal entities and their employees take appropriate steps to avoid conflicts of interest in their responsibilities under or with respect to Federal financial assistance agreements.
2. In the procurement of supplies, equipment, construction, and services by recipients and by sub recipients, the conflict of interest provisions in [2 CFR §200.318](#) apply.

#### *b. Notification.*

1. Non-Federal entities, including applicants for financial assistance awards, must disclose in writing any conflict of interest to the DOI awarding agency or pass-through entity in accordance with [2 CFR §200.112](#).
2. Recipients must establish internal controls that include, at a minimum, procedures to identify, disclose, and mitigate or eliminate identified conflicts of interest. The recipient is responsible for notifying the Financial Assistance Officer in writing of any conflicts of interest that may arise during the life of the award, including those that have been reported by sub recipients.

#### *c. Restrictions on lobbying.* Non-Federal entities are strictly prohibited from using funds under a grant or cooperative agreement for lobbying activities and must

provide the required certifications and disclosures pursuant to [43 CFR §18](#) and [31 USC §1352](#).

- d. *Review procedures.* The Financial Assistance Officer will examine each conflict of interest disclosure on the basis of its particular facts and the nature of the proposed grant or cooperative agreement, and will determine whether a significant potential conflict exists and, if it does, develop an appropriate means for resolving it.

Enforcement. Failure to resolve conflicts of interest in a manner that satisfies the government may be cause for termination of the award. Failure to make required disclosures may result in any of the remedies described in [2 CFR §200.339](#), Remedies for noncompliance, including suspension or debarment (see also [2 CFR §180](#)).

### **Uniform Audit Reporting Statement**

All U.S. states, local governments, Indian tribes, institutions of higher education, and non-profit organizations expending \$750,000 USD or more in Federal award funds in the applicant's fiscal year must submit a Single Audit report for that year through the [Federal Audit Clearinghouse's Internet Data Entry System](#), in accordance with 2 CFR 200 subpart F. U.S. state, local government, Indian tribes, institutions of higher education, and non-profit applicants must state if your organization was or was not required to submit a Single Audit report for the most recently closed fiscal year. If your organization was required to submit a Single Audit report for the most recently closed fiscal year, provide the EIN associated with that report and state if it is available through the [Federal Audit Clearinghouse](#) website.

### **Certification Regarding Lobbying**

Applicants requesting more than \$100,000 in Federal funding must certify to the statements in [43CFR Part 18, Appendix A-Certification Regarding Lobbying](#). If this application requests more than \$100,000 in Federal funds, the Authorized Official's signature on the appropriate SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance form also represents the entity's certification of the statements in [43 CFR Part 18, Appendix A](#).

### **Disclosure of Lobbying Activities**

Applicants and recipients must not use any federally appropriated funds (annually appropriated or continuing appropriations) or matching funds under a Federal award to pay any person for lobbying in connection with the award. Lobbying is influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any U.S. agency, a Member of the U.S. Congress, an officer or employee of the U.S. Congress, or an employee of a Member of the U.S. Congress connection with the award. Applicants and recipients must complete and submit the [SF-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities"](#) form if the Federal share of the proposal or award is more than \$100,000 and the applicant or recipient has made or has agreed to make any payment using non-appropriated funds for lobbying in connection with the application or award. The SF-LLL form is available with this Funding Opportunity on Grants.gov. See 43 CFR, Subpart 18.100 for more information on when additional submission of this form is required.

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

Applicants must provide a statement indicating if there is any overlap between this Federal application and any other Federal application, or funded project, in regard to activities, costs, or time commitment of key personnel. If no such overlap or duplication exists, state, "There are no overlaps or duplication between this application and any of our other Federal applications or

funded projects, including in regard to activities, costs, or time commitment of key personnel”. If any such overlap exists, provide a complete description of overlaps or duplications between this proposal and any other federally funded project or application in regard to activities, costs, and time commitment of key personnel, as applicable. Provide a copy of any overlapping or duplicative proposal submitted to any other potential funding entity and identify when that proposal was submitted, to whom (entity name and program), and when you anticipate being notified of their funding decision. When overlap exists, your statement must end with “We understand that if at any time we receive funding from another source that is duplicative of the funding we are requesting from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in this application, we will immediately notify the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service point of contact identified in this Funding Opportunity in writing.”

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

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

This requirement does not apply to individuals applying for funds as an individual (i.e., unrelated to any business or nonprofit organization you may own, operate, or work within), or any entity with an exception to bypass SAM.gov registration with prior approval from the funding bureau or office in accordance with bureau or office policy. All other applicants are required to register as a financial assistance recipient in SAM.gov prior to submitting a Federal award application and obtain a [Unique Entity Identifier \(UEI\)](#) which replaced the Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number from Dun & Bradstreet in April 2022. A Federal award may not be made to an applicant that has not completed the SAM.gov registration. If an applicant selected for funding has not completed their SAM.gov registration by the time the program is ready to make an award, the program may determine the applicant is not qualified to receive an award. Federal award recipients must also continue to maintain an active SAM.gov registration with current information through the life of their Federal award(s). Entities already registered in SAM.gov should review their registration to confirm that they are registered as a financial assistance recipient, which requires completion of the SAM.gov “Financial Assistance General Certifications and Representations”. See the “Submission Requirements” section of this document below for more information on SAM.gov registration.

Applicants can register on the [SAM.gov](#) website. The “Help” tab on the website contains User Guides and other information to assist you with registration. The Grants.gov “[Register with SAM](#)” page also provides detailed instructions. Applicants can contact the supporting Federal Service Desk for help registering in SAM. Once registered in SAM, entities must renew and revalidate their SAM registration at least once every 12 months from the date previously registered. Entities are strongly encouraged to revalidate their registration as often as needed to ensure their information is up to date and reflects changes that may have been made to the entity’s IRS information. If applicable, foreign entities who want to receive payment directly to a U.S. bank account must enter and maintain valid, current banking information in SAM.

### **D4. Submission Dates and Times**

#### **Due Date for Applications**

06/22/2022

### **Application Due Date Explanation**

Electronically submitted applications must be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m., ET, on the listed application due date. This funding opportunity will be open for 50 days. All applicants are required to submit the required materials to the program officer by the deadline to be eligible for the funding award.

### **D5. Intergovernmental Review**

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

### **D6. Funding Restrictions**

#### **Indirect Costs: Individuals**

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

#### **Indirect Costs: Organizations**

The Federal awarding agency that provides the largest amount of direct funding to your organization is your cognizant agency for indirect costs, unless otherwise assigned by the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB). If the Department of the Interior (DOI) is your organization's cognizant agency, the Interior Business Center (IBC) will negotiate your indirect cost rate. Contact the IBC by phone 916-930-3803 or using the [IBC Email Submission Form](#). See the [IBC Website](#) for more information.

Organizations must have an active Federal award before they can submit an indirect cost rate proposal to their cognizant agency. Failure to establish an approved rate during the award period renders all costs otherwise allocable as indirect costs unallowable under the award. Recipients may not shift unallowable indirect costs to another Federal award unless specifically authorized to do so by legislation.

#### **Required Indirect Cost Statement to be submitted by Organization:**

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

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

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

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

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

- We are an organization with a current negotiated indirect cost rate. In the event we receive an award, we will charge indirect costs per our current negotiated rate agreement. Attached is a copy of our current rate agreement.
- We are an organization with a negotiated indirect cost rate that has expired. Attached is copy of our most recently negotiated rate agreement. If we receive an award, we will submit an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency within 90 calendar days after the award date. We understand we must provide the Service a copy of our approved rate agreement before charging indirect costs to the Federal award.
- We are an organization that has never negotiated an indirect cost rate with our cognizant agency. Our indirect cost rate is [insert rate], which is charged against [insert a complete description of the direct cost base used to distribute indirect costs to the award]. If we receive an award, we will submit an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency within 90 calendar days after the award date. We understand we must provide the Service a copy of our approved rate agreement before charging indirect costs to the Federal award.
- We are an organization that does not have a current negotiated (including provisional) rate. In the event an award is made, we elect to charge the de minimis rate of 10% of Modified Total Direct Costs as defined in 2 CFR §200.1. We understand we must use this methodology consistently for all Federal awards until such time as we negotiate a different rate with our cognizant agency. We understand that we must notify the Service in writing if during the award period we establish a rate that changes the methodology used to charge indirect costs to the award. We understand that additional Federal funds

may not be available to support an unexpected increase in indirect costs and that such changes are subject to review, negotiation, and prior approval by the Service.

- We are an organization submitting a [insert either “Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit Program” or “Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit Network”] project proposal, which has an indirect cost rate cap of [insert rate; CRU is currently 15%; CESU is currently 17.5%]. In the event we receive an award, we understand that if we have a current negotiated (including provisional) rate we must charge the program’s capped indirect cost rate to the same base identified in our approved indirect cost rate agreement, per 2 CFR §1402.414. If we do not have current negotiated (including provisional) rate, we understand we must charge the capped indirect cost rate against Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC) as defined in 2 CFR §200.1.
- We are an organization that will charge all costs directly.

## **D7. Other Submission Requirements**

The Service uses the GrantSolutions system to manage financial assistance applications and awards. Applicants must register in and conduct any subsequent award business with the Service in GrantSolutions. To apply, your organization and organization officials must be established in GrantSolutions. To register your organization in GrantSolutions, send an email to [help@grantsolutions.gov](mailto:help@grantsolutions.gov) with the following information:

Subject: New Organization Request

- Organization/Individual Name
- Point of Contact first and last name, email, and phone number
- Organization Type
- SAM.gov Unique Entity Identifier (not required for individuals or Service-waived entities)
- Organization Employer Identification Number (Applicants that are INDIVIDUALS DO NOT include your social security number)
- Address

Organizational details should match those in the organization’s SAM.gov registration. To establish organization official accounts and user role(s), complete a Recipient User Account Request Form for each official and email it to [help@grantsolutions.gov](mailto:help@grantsolutions.gov). The GrantSolutions entity user roles are: Authorizing Official (ADO); Principal Investigator/Program Director (PI/PD); Support Specialist (GSS); Financial Officer (FO); and Financial Support Staff (FSS). All roles can do the following: enter applications, amendments, and reports, view awards, and view and create notes. The ADO and the PI/PD roles can also submit applications, amendments, and reports. The FO role can also submit reports. At a minimum, registered organizations must assign someone to the ADO and PI/PD roles. For more information, see the GrantSolutions Recipient Training and FAQs web page. For GrantSolutions registration, submission, and other assistance contact their Customer Support by telephone at 1-866-577-0771 or by email at [help@grantsolutions.gov](mailto:help@grantsolutions.gov).



If an eligible applicant cannot use GrantSolutions for a legitimate reason, application by email may be possible, but requires prior approval by the Program Technical Contact. If given approval to apply by email:

- Format all of your documents to print on letter size (8 ½” x 11”) paper. Format all pages to display and print page numbers. Where possible, save scanned documents in .pdf format. Send application by email to the FWS Program Technical Contact identified in the Grants.gov funding opportunity.
- The required SF 424 Application for Federal Assistance and Assurances forms and any other required standard forms MUST be signed by your organization’s authorized official. The Signature and Date fields on the downloaded standard forms are usually pre-populated with the text “Completed by Grants.gov upon submission” or “Completed on submission to Grants.gov”. Remove this text (manually or digitally) before signing the forms.
- If approved, applications provided by email must be sent by the deadline in GrantSolutions.
- Late applications are not eligible for consideration.

## **E. Application Review Information**

### **E1. Criteria**

Proposals received by the deadline will be evaluated and scored using the merit criteria and assigned weights described below:

- Proposed Approach (60%) – The applicant’s Project Narrative addresses all project activities, identifies specific steps to support each of the activities, and specifies reasonable timeframes for completion. The narrative includes clearly defined deliverables that meet the objectives of this notice of funding opportunity. The applicant demonstrates an understanding of the scope of the project, specific activities to be completed, and deliverables to be produced. A clear connection is made between the proposed deliverables and increasing the effectiveness of prevention to stop the introduction or spread of invasive species. Evaluation criteria that will be used to assess the proposed approach include:
  - Effectiveness – Anticipated ability to achieve the stated project objectives.
  - Return on Investment – The expected effectiveness of the work to prevent introduction and spread of invasive species in relation to the funding provided.
  - Technology resources – Extent to which the proposal leverages existing knowledge and tools on invasive species prevention in pursuit of project objectives.
  - Technology innovation – Extent to which the proposal enhances or builds new capacities and capabilities to prevent introduction and spread of invasive species.
  - Collaboration – Extent to which the proposal leverages other projects and programs or builds partnerships for collaborative conservation with State, local, Tribal, and territorial partners.
  - Landscape-level conservation – Extent to which the proposal brings together multiple geographies, sectors, and stakeholders to protect and conserve natural

resources on a larger scale. Equity – Extent to which the proposal demonstrates a benefit underserved or historically disadvantaged communities.

- Experience and Capabilities (25%) – The applicant’s proposed organization, team lead, and personnel to serve on the project team possess skills and experience related to tasks to be performed. The management structure and time commitment of staff resources support completion of project activities and preparation of deliverables within the time provided.
- Budget (15%) – The budget is sufficiently detailed to show how the total project cost was determined, and costs appear to be reasonable.

## **E2. Review and Selection Process**

Prior to award, the program will review any applicant statement regarding potential overlap or duplication between the project to be funded and any other funded or proposed project in terms of activities, funding, or time commitment of key personnel. Depending on the circumstances, the program may request modification to the application, other pending applications, or an active award, as needed to eliminate any duplication of effort, or the FWS may choose not to fund the selected project.

The program may not make a Federal award to an applicant that has not completed the SAM.gov registration. If an applicant selected for funding has not completed their SAM.gov registration by the time the Bureau is ready to make an award, the program may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive an award. The program can use that determination as a basis for making an award to another applicant.

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

A Review Team will consist of staff from DOI bureaus. It is understood and accepted by the applicant that all recommendations about the degree to which a proposal meets the requirements of this announcement are in the sole determination of this Review Team. To assist in the evaluation of proposals, the Review Team may, but is not required to:

- Conduct reference checks relevant to the proposal with any or all of the references cited in a proposal to verify information regarding an applicant and rely on and consider any relevant information from such cited references in the evaluation of a proposal.
- Seek clarification from a proponent with respect to their proposal. Such clarification will not offer the applicant the opportunity to change or provide new information. To the extent possible, requests made by the Review Team will be sent from the email address of the Federal Awarding Agency Contact.

The Review Team may negotiate selected project scopes of work and budgets prior to award. If the applicant agrees to a new scope of work or budget, the applicants will be required to submit revised SF-424 forms and narratives prior to award. Following evaluation of the proposals against the merit criteria, the Review Team will make a funding recommendation to the FWS, who will process the award and monitor its progress. The successful applicant shall be notified by email or regular mail of the acceptance of their proposal following completion of the proposal evaluation process.

### **E3. CFR – Regulatory Information**

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

### **E4. Anticipated Announcement and Federal Award Dates**

Anticipated award date for funds is August 5, 2022.

## **F. Federal Award Administration Information**

### **F1. Federal Award Notices**

Following review, applicants may be requested to revise the project scope and/or budget before the award is made. Successful applicants will receive written notice in the form of an award document. Notice of Award Letters will be issue within GrantSolutions. Awards are based on the application and are subject to the terms and conditions incorporated into the Notice of Award by direct citation or by reference to the following: Federal regulations; program legislation or regulation; and special award terms and conditions. Recipient acceptance of a Federal award from the Service carries with it the responsibility to be aware of and comply with all term and conditions applicable to the award. Recipients indicate their acceptance of the Federal award by starting work, drawling down funds, or accepting the award via electronic means.

### **F2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements**

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

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

As required by Section 70914 of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (also known as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act), [P.L. 117-58](#), on or after May 14, 2022, none of the funds under a federal award that are part of a Federal financial assistance program for infrastructure may be obligated for a project unless all of the iron, steel, manufactured products,

and construction materials used in the project are produced in the United States, unless subject to an approved waiver. The requirements of this section must be included in all subawards, including all contracts and purchase orders for work or products under this program.

### **Data Availability**

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

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

## **F3. Reporting**

### **Financial Reports**

All recipients must use the [SF-425, Federal Financial Report](#) form for financial reporting. At a minimum, all recipients must submit a **final** financial report. Final reports are due no later than 120 calendar days after the award period of performance end date or termination date. For awards with periods of performance longer than 12 months, recipients are required to submit **interim** financial reports on the frequency established in the Notice of Award. The only exception to the interim financial reporting requirement is if the recipient is required to use the SF 270/271 to request payment and requests payment at least once annually through the entire award period of performance. We will describe all financial reporting requirements in the Notice of Award.

### **Non-Construction Performance Reports**

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

### **Construction Performance Reports**

For construction awards, onsite technical inspections and certified percentage of completion data may be relied on to monitor progress for construction. 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. The USFWS will describe all performance reporting requirements in the Notice of Award.

### **Significant Development Reports**

Events may occur between the scheduled performance reporting dates which have significant impact upon the supported activity. In such cases, recipients are required to notify the Bureau in writing as soon as the recipient becomes aware of any problems, delays, or adverse conditions that will materially impair the ability to meet the objective of the Federal award. This disclosure must include a statement of any corrective action(s) taken or contemplated, and any assistance needed to resolve the situation. The recipient should also notify the Service in writing of any favorable developments that enable meeting time schedules and objectives sooner or at less cost than anticipated or producing more or different beneficial results than originally planned.

### **Real Property Reports**

Recipients and subrecipients are required to submit status reports on the status of real property acquired under the award in which the Federal government retains an interest. The required frequency of these reports will depend on the anticipated length of the Federal interest period. The Bureau will include recipient-specific real property reporting requirements, including the required standard form or data elements, reporting frequency, and report due dates, in the Notice of Award when applicable.

### **Conflict of Interest Disclosures**

Per 2 CFR §1402.112, non-Federal entities and their employees must take appropriate steps to avoid conflicts of interest in their responsibilities under or with respect to Federal financial assistance agreements. In the procurement of supplies, equipment, construction, and services by recipients and by subrecipients, the provisions in [2 CFR §200.318](#) apply. Non-Federal entities, including applicants for financial assistance awards, must disclose in writing any conflict of interest to the DOI awarding agency or pass-through entity in accordance with [2 CFR §200.112](#). Recipients must establish internal controls that include, at a minimum, procedures to identify, disclose, and mitigate or eliminate identified conflicts of interest. The recipient is responsible for notifying the Service Project Officer identified in their notice of award in writing of any conflicts of interest that may arise during the life of the award, including those that reported by subrecipients. The Service will examine each disclosure to determine whether a significant potential conflict exists and, if it does, work with the applicant or recipient to develop an appropriate resolution. Failure to resolve conflicts of interest in a manner that satisfies the government may be cause for termination of the award.

### **Other Mandatory Disclosures**

**The Non-Federal entity or applicant for a Federal award must disclose, in a timely manner, in writing to the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity all violations of Federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the Federal award. Non-Federal entities that receive a Federal award including the terms and conditions outlined in 2 CFR 200, Appendix XII—Award Term and Condition for Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters are required to report certain civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings to SAM. Failure to make required disclosures can result in any of the remedies for noncompliance described in 2 CFR §200.339, including suspension or debarment.**

## **Reporting Matters Related to Recipient Integrity and Performance**

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

### **G. Federal Awarding Agency Contact(s)**

#### **G1. Program Technical Contact**

For **programmatic technical assistance**, contact:

First and Last Name:

Susan Pasko

Telephone:

703-358-2466

Email:

[susan\\_pasko@fws.gov](mailto:susan_pasko@fws.gov)

#### **G2. Program Administration**

For **program administration assistance**, contact:

First and Last Name:

Susan Pasko

Telephone:

703-358-2466

Email:

[susan\\_pasko@fws.gov](mailto:susan_pasko@fws.gov)

#### **G3. Application System Technical Support**

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

Grants.gov Customer Support

Numeric Input Field: 1-800-518-4726

[Support@grants.gov](mailto:Support@grants.gov)

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

GrantSolutions Customer Support

1-866-577-0771

[Help@grantsolutions.gov](mailto:Help@grantsolutions.gov)

## H. Other Information

### Payments

Domestic recipients are required to register in and receive payment through the U.S. Treasury's Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP), unless approved for a waiver by the Service program. Foreign recipients receiving funds to a final destination bank outside the U.S. are required to receive payment through the U.S. Treasury's International Treasury Services (ITS) System. Foreign recipients receiving funds to a final destination bank in the U.S. are required to enter and maintain current banking details in their SAM.gov entity profile and receive payment through the Automated Clearing House network by electronic funds transfer (EFT). The Bureau will include recipient-specific instructions on how to request payment, including identification of any additional information required and where to submit payment requests, as applicable, in all Notices of Award.

### PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT:

#### OMB Control Number: 1018-0100

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

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

**Estimated Burden Statement:** We estimate that it will take you on average about 40 hours to complete an initial application, about 3 hours to revise the terms of an award, and about 8 hours per report to prepare and submit financial and performance reports, including time to maintain records and gather information. Actual times for these activities will vary depending on program-specific requirements. Direct comments regarding the burden estimates or any other aspect of the specific forms to the Service Information Clearance Officer, USFWS, U.S. Department of the Interior, 5275 Leesburg Pike, MS: PRB (JAO/3W), Falls Church, VA 22041-3803, or by email to Info [Coll@fws.gov](mailto:Coll@fws.gov).