

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

FWS-NNA National Native American Programs Office

<https://www.fws.gov/service/tribal-wildlife-grants>

F24AS00241\_Fiscal Year 2024\_Tribal Wildlife Grant Program (TWG)\_Funding Opportunity  
Announcement  
Fiscal Year: 2024  
F24AS00241

**Due Date for Applications: 06/21/2024**

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## **A. Program Description**

### **A1. Authority**

Further Additional Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, 2024, Public Law 118-35 (H.R. 2872, 118th Cong., Div. A), Continuing Appropriations Act, 2024 and Other Extensions Act, Public Law 118-15 (H.R. 5860, 118th Cong., Div. A) and prior-year appropriations acts.

### **A2. Assistance Listing Number**

15.639

### **A3. Background, Purpose and Program Requirements**

The Tribal Wildlife Grants (TWG) Program was created to support the development and implementation of programs for the benefit of wildlife and their habitats and species of Tribal cultural or traditional importance, including species that are not hunted or fished. The TWG Program is part of the Congressionally authorized State and Tribal Wildlife Grant (STWG) Program which provides wildlife conservation grants to States, Commonwealths, and to the District of Columbia, U.S. Territories, and Tribes under provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. TWG Program funding originates from the Department of the Interior (DOI) and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2002 (Pub. L. 107-63), when Congress first specified that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) use a portion of the funds appropriated under the STWG Program to establish a competitive grant program available to federally recognized Tribes. This language allows the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, through the Director of the Service, to establish a separate competitive Tribal grant program which is not subject to the provisions or other requirements of the STWG Program.

The TWG Program provides opportunities for federally recognized Tribes to engage in fish and wildlife conservation efforts on their lands, many of which are located adjacent to DOI-managed lands. Many of the TWG Program-funded project activities increase fish and wildlife populations, allowing for hunting and fishing opportunities on and off Tribal lands. Additionally, the TWG Program funds project activities that align and assist the Service with Endangered Species Act (ESA) activities supporting downlisting, delisting, and preventing new species listings under the ESA. Eligible projects include those that initiate, develop, or implement activities or programs that benefit wildlife and their habitat, including species of Native

American cultural or traditional importance and species that are not hunted or fished. Activities may include, but are not limited to:

- Planning for conservation of fish and wildlife, and their habitats
- Conservation management actions for fish and wildlife, and their habitats
- Field and laboratory research related to fish and wildlife resources
- Natural history studies
- Fish passages
- Habitat mapping or evaluation
- Field surveys and population monitoring
- Restoration of habitat
- Management of invasive species
- Public education relevant to the proposed project

Since its inception in 2003, the competitive TWG Program has awarded more than \$118.1 million to Native American Tribes, providing support for more than 662 conservation projects. In FY 2022, 51 proposals were received, and 33 awards were issued; in FY 2023, 71 proposals were received, and 36 awards issued; and, in FY 2024, an estimated 50-100 proposals are expected to be received and about 20-40 awards are expected to be issued.

You are encouraged to work with Service staff in developing your applications and addressing all scoring criteria provided in this announcement. Additional information about the TWG Program is on the web at: <http://www.fws.gov/nativeamerican/grants.html>. If you do not have access to the Internet and would like to receive information by mail, contact the Service point of contact identified in this announcement.

To fulfill [Executive Order 14008](https://www.doi.gov/ourpriorities) and meet Department of the Interior and Service priorities (<https://www.doi.gov/ourpriorities>), and commensurate with available appropriations, the Service is implementing a Third-Tier funding process. Third Tier grants target Tribes that have not received TWG Program funds in the past. The purpose is to increase Tribal fish and wildlife management capacity to address threats to tribally identified species, including threats associated with climate change.

### **Regional TWG Program Contact Information:**

#### Portland Regional Office (Region 1)

American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington

Native American Liaison:

Nathan Dexter

(503) 736-4774

[Nathan\\_Dexter@fws.gov](mailto:Nathan_Dexter@fws.gov)

WSFR TWG Program Lead:

Lia McLaughlin

(503) 724-8017

[Lia\\_McLaughlin@fws.gov](mailto:Lia_McLaughlin@fws.gov)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Eastside Federal Complex  
911 NE 11th Avenue  
Portland, OR 97232-4181  
[Rlfa\\_grants@fws.gov](mailto:Rlfa_grants@fws.gov)

Albuquerque Regional Office (Region 2)  
Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas

Native American Liaison:  
Westley Foster  
(480) 421-8889  
[Westley\\_Foster@fws.gov](mailto:Westley_Foster@fws.gov)

WSFR TWG Program Lead:  
Nicole Jimenez  
(505) 238-7154  
[Nicole\\_Jimenez@fws.gov](mailto:Nicole_Jimenez@fws.gov)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
P.O. Box 1306  
500 Gold Avenue, SW  
Albuquerque, NM 87103  
[fw2fa@fws.gov](mailto:fw2fa@fws.gov)

Bloomington Regional Office (Region 3)  
Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin

Native American Liaison:  
Allison Smart (651) 440-5697  
[Allison\\_Smart@fws.gov](mailto:Allison_Smart@fws.gov)

WSFR TWG Program Lead:  
Jennifer (Jennie) Mcnicoll  
(612) 202-0820  
[Jennifer\\_Mcnicoll@fws.gov](mailto:Jennifer_Mcnicoll@fws.gov)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
5600 American Blvd. West, Suite 990  
Bloomington, MN 55437-1458  
[r3fedaid@fws.gov](mailto:r3fedaid@fws.gov)

Atlanta Regional Office (Region 4)  
Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, the  
Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, and the U.S. Virgin Islands

Native American Liaison:  
Tim Binzen  
(413) 253-8731  
[Timothy\\_Binzen@fws.gov](mailto:Timothy_Binzen@fws.gov)

WSFR TWG Program Lead:

Matt Roberts

(470) 813-2848

[Matthew\\_Roberts@fws.gov](mailto:Matthew_Roberts@fws.gov)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 240

Atlanta, GA 30345

[r4federalassistance@fws.gov](mailto:r4federalassistance@fws.gov)

Hadley Regional Office (Region 5)

Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia

Native American Liaison:

Tim Binzen

(413) 253-8731

[Timothy\\_Binzen@fws.gov](mailto:Timothy_Binzen@fws.gov)

WSFR TWG Program Lead:

Richard Zane

(413) 253-8506

[Richard\\_Zane@fws.gov](mailto:Richard_Zane@fws.gov)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service 300 Westgate Center Drive

Hadley, MA 01035

[fw5fareports@fws.gov](mailto:fw5fareports@fws.gov)

Denver Regional Office (Region 6)

Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming

Native American Liaison:

Cassie Powell (406) 885-7988

[Cassie\\_Powell@fws.gov](mailto:Cassie_Powell@fws.gov)

TWG Program Lead:

Cassie Powell (406) 885-7988

[Cassie\\_Powell@fws.gov](mailto:Cassie_Powell@fws.gov)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

134 Union Blvd.

P.O. Box 25486

Denver, Colorado 80225

[fw6fragrants@fws.gov](mailto:fw6fragrants@fws.gov)

Anchorage Regional Office (Region 7)

Alaska

Native American Liaison:

Crystal Leonetti

(907) 786-3868

[Crystal\\_Leonetti@fws.gov](mailto:Crystal_Leonetti@fws.gov)

WSFR TWG Program Lead:

John Warzybok

(907) 227-6943

[John\\_Warzybok@fws.gov](mailto:John_Warzybok@fws.gov)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
1011 East Tudor Road MS-261  
Anchorage, AK 99503  
[ak\\_twg@fws.gov](mailto:ak_twg@fws.gov)

Sacramento Regional Office (Region 8)  
California, Nevada, and Klamath Basin

Native American Liaison:

Eldon Brown

(916) 414-6474

[Michael\\_Eldon\\_Brown@fws.gov](mailto:Michael_Eldon_Brown@fws.gov)

TWG Program Lead:

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
2800 Cottage Way, W-1729  
Sacramento, CA 95825  
[r8fa\\_grants@fws.gov](mailto:r8fa_grants@fws.gov)

## **A4. Funding Opportunity Goals**

The outcome of the Tribal Wildlife Grants (TWG) Program is increased and enhanced fish, wildlife, and plant conservation on Tribal lands. Through projects funded in part by the TWG Program, Tribes protect and restore habitats and populations of species of Native American cultural or traditional importance, enhancing hunting, fishing, and other subsistence or ceremonial opportunities that support Tribal member well-being, economic development, and sovereignty.

## **B. Federal Award Information**

### **B1. Total Funding**

**Estimated Total Funding**

\$6,200,000

## **B2. Expected Award Amount**

**Maximum Award**

\$200,000

**Minimum Award**

\$10,000

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

**Expected Award Funding**

\$6,200,000

**Expected Award Date**

October 18, 2024

## **B4. Number of Awards**

**Expected Number of Awards**

30

## **B5. Type of Award**

**Funding Instrument Type**

G - Grant

## **C. Eligibility Information**

### **C1. Eligible Applicants**

**Eligible Applicants**

07 – Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized)

**Additional Information on Eligibility**

Participation is limited to federally recognized Tribal governments listed in the current Federal Register Notice of Indian Entities Recognized and Eligible to Receive Services from the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs. This is the official listing of all federally recognized Tribes in the United States pursuant to Section 104 of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994 (Pub. L. 103-454; 108 Stat. 4791-4792). The most recent Notice was published in the Federal Register, [89 FR 944](#) (January 8, 2024). Tribal organizations and other entities may participate as subrecipients or contractors to federally recognized Tribal governments. Tribal contact information is available in the [BIA Tribal Leaders Directory](#).

Applicant Tribes must bring all administrative and fiscal reporting for any open TWG Program grants up to date in order to be eligible to apply for new funds. Applicants will be notified within five business days upon receiving proposals noting any outstanding reporting issues that need to



be addressed. Tribes will then have 30 days to bring these grants into compliance. Proposals from Tribes that have not brought past due reports (e.g., interim or final performance reports, or interim or final financial status reports) up to date in this 30-day period will be found ineligible and excluded from further consideration in the FY 2024 TWG Program cycle.

When an applicant is carrying two or more active TWG projects while applying for another, the Service has an administrative obligation to verify that there are no correctable problems in implementing the existing awards. We will review the reasons why those grants are still open before proceeding with further consideration. Tribes that demonstrate their effective use of TWG Program funds will not be affected. Tribes that have taken no significant action on any one of their preexisting awards will not be considered eligible to apply for new TWG Program funds until any correctable problems are resolved. Possible resolutions might be for the Tribe to demonstrate progress in the agreed-upon activities of an inactive grant, demonstrate that the assertion of “no action” is incorrect, or the Tribe may cancel the grant so that the obligated funds may be recovered and made available to other Tribes in the next grant cycle.

## C2. Cost Sharing or Matching

### Cost Sharing / Matching Requirement

No

### Percentage of Cost Sharing / Matching Requirement

0

## C3. Other

There is no limit to the number of applications that may be submitted within a single fiscal year. However, no single Tribe may be funded for multiple projects within a given fiscal year if the total combined federal request exceeds the maximum annually allowable amount of \$200,000. If multiple applications exceed this amount, only the highest scoring application will be accepted, and the other(s) will be determined to be ineligible.

Any entity receiving TWG Program funds as a subrecipient must comply with the requirements described in this announcement, as applicable.

TWG Program funds may not be used to acquire real property interests. Real property interests include, but are not limited to, fee simple, fee with exceptions to title, easements, water rights, mineral rights, and leaseholds.

### 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

If you have access to GrantSolutions, we recommend you apply there. Log in and search for the announcement using Funding Opportunity Number F24AS00241, or search using CFDA number 15.639 or grant program name, then follow the instructions to download required forms and complete and submit your application.

To access the application package in Grants.gov, in the “Search Grants” tab, enter Funding Opportunity Number F24AS00241 or CFDA number 15.639. Downloading and saving the application package to your computer makes the required forms fillable and printable. Submit applications downloaded via Grants.gov in Grants.gov. Applications using the Grants.gov package may also be submitted to your WFSR Regional Office mailbox (see the Regional TWG Program Contact Information in Section A3 of this announcement).

You will receive automatic confirmation of your application submission in GrantSolutions or Grants.gov. We also receive system notifications that document that you have submitted your application by the deadline. Applications received after the deadline will be rejected, unless you can demonstrate that a technical problem with GrantSolutions or Grants.gov resulted in late or incomplete submission of your application.

If you need a copy in another format, contact:

DJ Monette

Associate Native American Liaison Advisor

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

300 Westgate Center Drive

Hadley, MA 01035

413-244-4495

[dj\\_monette@fws.gov](mailto:dj_monette@fws.gov)

**Program Website Link**

<https://www.fws.gov/service/tribal-wildlife-grants>

## **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".

#### **Cover Letter**

The cover letter transmits the project proposal and briefly states its main features.

#### **Cover Page**

Include the following information in the upper right corner of the cover page: Name of Tribe, Project Title, Federal (TWG Program) Funds Requested, Project Start Date, Project End Date, Project Contact's Name and Job Title, Project Contact's Phone Number, Project Contact's E-mail Address, and Date. It also may include the Tribal logo, seal and/or photo.

#### **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**

Submit a Project Narrative of no more than 10 pages addressing all the elements listed below. You may combine your responses as necessary; separate headings or sections for responses to each element are not required. Only your responses to the following requirements in this Project Narrative subsection are included within the page limit, unless otherwise indicated. Your Project Narrative must be formatted to fit on an 8.5” x 11” document, with 1” margins at the top, bottom, and sides and page numbers at the bottom of the page (starting with the first page of the Project Narrative). Font size should be no less than 12 point.

Note: The Project Narrative clearly identifies the problems that the proposal will correct or help solve for the benefit of fish, wildlife, and their habitats, including species of Tribal cultural or traditional importance or species that are not hunted or fished.

1. Need: The need for the proposed project(s) within the purpose of the TWG Program;
2. Objectives: Consider using SMART Objectives in your Project Narrative. SMART Objectives are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-Bound. We encourage you to work with your Tribal Liaison and/or WSFR Regional Office if you have questions about articulating objectives in your Project Narrative. You may also wish to review the [Standard Objectives](#) used in other WSFR programs;
3. Results: Expected results or benefits from accomplishing the objectives;
4. Methodology: The methodology/approach or activities to be used in meeting the objectives, including specific procedures, methods, schedules, key personnel, and cooperators or partners;
5. Monitoring Plan: A description of the monitoring activities and how the project results will be collected and assessed;
6. If applicable, indicate the number of impacted acres and/or miles of stream or shoreline;
7. Environmental Compliance: A description of the activity in sufficient detail, so Service staff are able to evaluate compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 7 of the ESA, and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA);
8. Project Location: Maps or other geographic aids may be attached. Please include GPS

Coordinates in decimal degrees, if available; and

9. Partnership: Describe partnerships with other Tribes, organizations, or agencies.

### **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). In the SF-424A “Contractual” category total, do not combine estimated subawards and contractual costs. Use the “Contractual” category to reflect estimated contractual costs only. Enter estimated subaward costs in the SF-424A “Other” category. Provide a separate description and total estimated costs for both contractual and subaward costs in the required Budget Narrative (see below).

Submit the SF-424A only if your project does not include any construction activities. You may omit the Budget Information form if you provide the same or more detailed budget information in another format. At a minimum, your alternative budget table must include all the Object Class Categories in the Budget Information form.

### **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).

Submit the SF-424C form only if your project involves construction. You may omit the Budget Information form if you provide the same or more detailed budget information in another format. At a minimum, your alternative budget table must include all the Object Class Categories in the Budget Information form.

### **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. Provide a separate description and total estimated costs for both contractual and subaward costs. 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. Please note the prohibitions on certain telecommunications and video surveillance services or equipment in [2 CFR 200.216](#). The Department of the Interior's [Unmanned Aircraft web page](#) provides a list of approved unmanned aircraft and related equipment and software.

As applicable, also provide the following information in your Budget Narrative:

1. Estimate the amount of program income that the project is likely to generate, if any. Indicate the method of applying and disposing of it. For more information on program income, contact your WSFR Regional Office.
2. Describe the method for allocating costs in multipurpose projects and facilities. You must allocate costs in multipurpose projects based on the uses or benefits for each purpose that will result from the completed project or facility, and you must also describe the method used to allocate costs.
3. Identify any equipment, including any tangible personal property (includes 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 \$5,000. 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](#).
4. 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.
5. Contingency costs estimated using broadly accepted cost estimating methodologies are allowable but must be separately identified in your budget; they must comply with Federal Cost Principles, they must be necessary and reasonable for proper and efficient accomplishment of project or program 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.

#### **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 \(UEI\)](#). 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**

06/21/2024

### **Application Due Date Explanation**

Electronically submitted applications must be submitted no later than 11:59 PM, ET, on the listed application due date indicated in GrantSolutions and Grants.gov (June 21, 2024). For applications that are emailed to your WSFR Regional Office, the full application must be received no later than the application due date. Mailed applications must be postmarked no later than the application due date.

## **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) indirect cost rate agreement we must charge the capped indirect cost rate to the same base identified in our approved indirect cost rate agreement. We understand we must request prior approval from the awarding program to use the [2 CFR 200.1 Modified Total Direct Costs](#) (MTDC) base instead of our approved base and that we must submit such requests with our application, including a calculation showing how use of the MTDC base results in an overall reduction in the total indirect costs recovered. 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. If we have never negotiated a rate, we understand we must use the de minimis rate of 10% of MTDC.
- 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).

### **Application Checklist**

Use the application package in GrantSolutions or Grants.gov to complete the required Federal forms below, including the SF-424 (Application for Federal Assistance) and the Project Abstract Summary form (OMB Form Number: 4040-0019). The Budget Information form you may use will depend on whether your project includes construction (SF-424C) or does not include construction (SF-424A); however, you may omit either of these forms if you submit your own customized budget in another format. If you choose this option, your customized budget must include the same or greater level of detail found in the Federal Budget Information forms.

Your customized budget, Cover Letter, Cover Page, Project and Budget Narrative, statements and disclosures, Tribal resolution letter, and responses to the scoring criteria may be combined and submitted as one MS Word document or PDF document. If you are using GrantSolutions or Grants.gov, this combined document may be submitted under the "Project Narrative" selection. Alternatively, you may submit your Project Narrative separately, and submit all other required information under the "Other" selection. Contact your regional Native American Liaison or WSFR TWG Program lead (See Section A3 of this announcement) if you have questions about this checklist.

- SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance
- Cover Letter
- Cover Page
- Project Abstract Summary form (OMB Form Number: 4040-0019)
- Project Narrative (10-page limit)
- Uniform Audit Reporting Statement regarding applicability of and compliance with Single Audit Reporting requirements ([2 CFR 200.501](#))
- A complete SF-424A (Non-Construction projects), SF-424C (Construction projects) Budget Information form, or the same or more detailed budget information in another format
- Budget Narrative
- If applicable, a Conflict of Interest Disclosure
- Certification regarding lobbying and, if applicable, a completed SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities form
- Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement

- Indirect Cost Statement
- If your Budget includes indirect costs, a copy of your Tribe's current Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement
- A signed Tribal resolution of support and / or official signed letter from an individual with delegated Tribal authority stating their support for the proposal application (may be provided after project review/selection)
- Responses to the scoring criteria provided in Section E. Application Review Information and a table identifying the locations of your responses to the criteria

## E. Application Review Information

### E1. Criteria

#### **Resource Benefit - Maximum Points: 30**

What are the expected benefits to Tribal fish and wildlife and their habitats, including species of cultural or traditional importance and species that are not hunted or fished, if this program is successfully completed?

1. Extent to which the project will reduce or restore losses to fish, wildlife, and plant species or their habitats.
2. Extent to which the project will carry out research or monitoring needed to restore or manage fish, wildlife, and plant species or their habitats.
3. Extent to which the project addresses a fish and wildlife resources priority identified by a Tribe or other entity in management or recovery plans.
4. Duration for which the project protects or manages a fish and wildlife resource conservation priority.

#### **Performance Measures - Maximum Points: 18**

To what extent does the proposal identify obtainable and quantifiable performance measures and a means to monitor, evaluate, and report on these measures compared to an initial baseline? The measures should be specific, clear, and provide demonstrable benefits to the target species.

1. Extent to which the project produces measurable results for habitats and/or species.
2. Extent to which the project identifies a baseline and identifies anticipated measurable post-project accomplishments.
3. Extent to which the project implements high priority items and is part of a comprehensive management approach.

#### **Work Plan - Maximum Points: 10**

Are the program activities and objectives well-designed and achievable?

1. Extent to which the project tasks and work products are clearly established and support Tribal goals/objectives.
2. Extent to which the project schedule is achievable.
3. Extent to which the proposal clearly defines and establishes accountability of the applicant.

#### **Budget - Maximum Points: 10**

Are all major budget items justified in relation to the program objectives and clearly explained in the narrative description?

1. Extent to which all parts of the Budget Narrative and associated Budget Table(s) are clear,

concise, and complete.

2. Extent to which the Budget Narrative and associated Budget Table(s) accurately reflect all costs.

### **Capacity Building - Maximum Points: 20**

To what extent does the program increase the recipient's capacity to provide for the benefit of wildlife and their habitat?

1. Extent to which the project contributes to Tribal self-sufficiency in fish and wildlife resource management.
2. Extent to which the project results in the creation or improvement of Tribal wildlife ordinances and/or enforcement.
3. Extent to which the project improves fish and wildlife management capabilities through infrastructure development and training.

### **Outreach, Partnership, and Data Sharing - Maximum Points: 12**

To what extent does the applicant display commitment to the project through outreach, partnerships, and data sharing?

1. Extent to which the project clearly demonstrates outreach actions within the proposal.
2. Extent to which the project involves partnerships with other Tribes, organizations, or agencies.
3. Extent to which the project builds data or information in a format that is shareable with other data systems, Tribes, organizations, or agencies.

**Total Maximum Points: 100**

## **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.

Prior to award, the program will conduct and document a review of the proposed budget to ensure figures are calculated correctly, proposed costs are clearly linked to the project narrative and seem necessary and reasonable, no obviously unallowable costs are included, costs requiring prior approval are identified and described, indirect cost are applied correctly, and any program match or cost share requirements are addressed.

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.

### **Receiving Applications**

Submit your TWG Program grant application(s) either by mail or email to the appropriate regional email address, or electronically through GrantSolutions or Grants.gov. Upon receipt, proposals will be date-stamped and delivered to the appropriate regional Native American Liaison or WSFR TWG Program specialist. Applications must be postmarked on or before the due date for acceptance as identified in this announcement. No facsimile copies of the proposal application will be accepted or processed.

### **Screening and Accepting a Proposal for Consideration**

Prior to accepting an application for consideration, the regional Native American Liaison or WSFR TWG Program specialist will determine if it is complete and meets the requirements of the authorizing legislation. We will ensure the application addresses the information in the Application Checklist (Section D7 of this announcement). If an application package is incomplete, the regional Native American Liaison or WSFR TWG Program specialist may inform an applicant of any required information that is missing so that the applicant may provide the missing information by the due date or resubmit the application for the next funding opportunity. The regional Native American Liaison or WSFR TWG Program specialist (Section A3 of this announcement) determines whether the applicant Tribe is in compliance on previously awarded grants. Tribes not in compliance in existing grants may be ineligible to apply for new grants.

### **Multiple Applications**

Tribes may submit multiple applications under the TWG Program. However, no single Tribe may be funded for multiple projects within a given fiscal year that exceed the maximum annually allowable amount of \$200,000. If multiple applications exceed this amount, the highest scoring application(s) will be accepted and the other(s) will be determined ineligible.

### **Rejecting an Application**

Applications that do not meet all eligibility requirements may be rejected and applicants will be notified by the regional Native American Liaison or WSFR TWG Program contact in a letter that explains why the proposal was rejected. The regional Native American Liaison or TWG Program specialist will retain copies of all submitted proposals in their respective Regional Office.

### **Regional Review Team**

The regional Native American Liaison or WSFR TWG Program specialist will prepare copies of the applications that pass the screening process and are recommended for evaluation for use by the Regional Review Team (Team). The regional Native American Liaison or WSFR TWG Program specialist will coordinate activities of the Team but will not score applications at the Regional level. Applications will be scored independently by Team members according to the established criteria values published in this announcement. Individuals evaluating each proposal will sign and date the completed Scoring Sheet and return it to the Native American Liaison.



## **Regional Ranking**

After all applications have been evaluated, the regional Native American Liaison or WSFR TWG Program specialist will ensure that all applications and scores are accurately entered into an Excel database. All Scoring Sheets will be collected by the regional Native American Liaison or WSFR TWG Program specialist and saved as part of the administrative record.

The regional Native American Liaison or WSFR TWG Program specialist will average the scores for each application to develop regionally ranked TWG Program project lists, with the highest average score being number one, the second highest number two, etc. The Regional ranking lists must be approved by the Team. In order to close out all scoring committee activities, the regional Native American Liaison or WSFR TWG Program specialist is encouraged to convene their scoring committees (in person or by conference call) to review and discuss the final regional ranking before the list is submitted to their respective Regional Director for approval.

## **Tiebreakers**

If two proposals have the same score, the regional Native American Liaison or WSFR TWG Program specialist will determine priority based on the average scores of individual criteria. The Resource Benefit criterion is used first to break ties. If the Resource Benefit scores are the same, the tie breaker process moves to the Capacity Building criterion and then to the Performance Measures criterion.

## **First Tier Proposals**

First Tier proposals bypass the national scoring process and are automatically placed on the list of recommended proposals submitted to the Service Director. The two highest scoring TWG Program applications are considered First Tier proposals at the Regional level. However, Regional Directors have the option of elevating any eligible proposal to First Tier status at their discretion. If this occurs, Regional Director First Tier selections will be moved to the highest rank and all other proposals will be adjusted down as necessary.

## **National Review and Ranking**

**First Tier Proposals at the National Level:** First Tier selections are designated by the Regional Directors, bypass the national review and ranking process, and are accepted into the pool of recommended applications.

**Second Tier Proposals at the National Level:** Second Tier Proposals at the National Level: All Regional average scores or ranks are converted to a Regional percentile. This serves to eliminate any systematic application of the scoring criteria unique to a Region. For example: if a Region received seven proposals scoring 92, 90, 87, 85, 80, 77, and 70, they would be ranked one through seven respectively. The highest scoring proposal, 92, is the best of seven, or  $(7/7) = 100$  percent. The next highest, 90, is ranked sixth out of seven, or  $(6/7) = 86$  percent; and so on – with the remaining five proposals being assigned 71 percent, 57 percent, 43 percent, 29 percent, and 14 percent. The regionally ranked lists are then merged into a single national pool of eligible proposals based on these percentiles. Using this process and the Regional percentiles, an equitable percentage based on the best applications in each Region will move forward for funding recommendation at the National level as funding allows.

**Third Tier Proposals at the National Level:** Federally recognized Tribes that have not received prior funding through the TWG Program are eligible for funding through a Third Tier



process. This process will not modify current project selection procedures or the criteria of this announcement. Regardless of whether a Tribe has received a previous TWG Program award, we will review all applications using the same procedures and criteria. These Third Tier awards will be distributed to first-time TWG Program recipients that are not selected through the First or Second Tiers. Up to one proposal per Service Region may receive funding through this Third Tier process, based on their rank within their respective Service Region.

### **Selection of Proposals to be Funded**

Once the national review process is completed, the final award recommendations are presented to the Service Director for concurrence and approval.

## **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**

We expect to announce awards by December 2024. We typically award grants upon completion of any required compliance documentation, although eligible pre-award costs may be reimbursed as described in Section D6. Funding Restrictions.

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

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

The Service Director or his/her designee approves or disapproves grant proposals. Regional Offices are responsible for notification of grant approval to the applicant.

Following review, applicants may be asked to revise the project scope and/or budget before an award is made. Successful applicants will receive written notice in the form of a notice of award.

Notices of award are typically sent to recipients via notification from GrantSolutions or via email. Award recipients are not required to sign/return the notice of award. Acceptance of an award is defined as starting work, drawing down funds, or accepting the award via electronic means. Awards are based on the application submitted to, and as approved by, the Service. The notice of award will include instructions specific to each recipient on how to request payment. If applicable, the instructions will detail any additional information/forms required and where to submit payment requests. We may also publish one or more media releases and post information about projects selected for funding on our websites. These releases may be made in coordination with the Department of the Interior and may be made nationally and/or regionally.

## 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.

### **Buy America Provision for Infrastructure: Required Use of American Iron, Steel, Manufactured Products, and Construction Materials.**

As required by Section 70914 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Pub. 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 the iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in the project are produced in the United States, unless subject to an approved waiver. Recipients conducting infrastructure projects under the award must include related requirements all subawards, including all contracts and purchase orders for infrastructure work or products under this program. For the full text term applicable to infrastructure and related waiver request standards and procedures, see the Service's General Award Terms and Conditions.

Tribal government recipients of TWG Program awards are not required to comply with the Buy America Provision for Infrastructure described above. Tribes are included in the February 21, 2023, [DOI General Applicability Waiver for Small Grants](#), allowing for use of non-domestic iron, steel, manufactured produces, and construction materials in TWG-funded projects as necessary.

## 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.

TWG Program performance reports must be submitted to the WSFR Regional Office through GrantSolutions, via email, or as otherwise specified in the notice of award letter.

### **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.

Unless otherwise indicated in the notice of award, in submitting performance reports to the WSFR Regional Office, Tribes must provide narrative responses to performance-related questions. The questions are:

1. What progress has been made towards completing your objectives(s) of the project?
2. If established objectives have not been or will not be met, please state the reason(s) why.
3. If applicable, please share if your project resulted in any unexpected benefits, promising practices, new understandings, cost efficiencies, management recommendations, or lessons learned.
4. If applicable, identify and attach selected publications, photographs, screenshots of websites, or other documentation.
5. Indicate whether you wish WSFR to highlight your project for communications purposes.
6. For survey projects only: If applicable, does this project continue work from a previous grant? If so, how do the current results compare to prior results?

### **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.

**Note: Acquisition of real property is not an eligible activity in the TWG Program.**

### **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:

Scott Aikin

Telephone:

(202) 285-4311

Email:

scott\_aikin@fws.gov

## G2. Program Administration

For **program administration assistance**, contact:

First and Last Name:

DJ Monette

Telephone:

(413) 244-4495

Email:

[dj\\_monette@fws.gov](mailto:dj_monette@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:Info_Coll@fws.gov).