# NOTIFICACIÓN A LAS PARTES

No. 2024/020 Ginebra, 17 de enero de 2024

ASUNTO:

ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA

Aviso de Oportunidad de Financiamiento (NOFO):
Programa de Conservación de Tortugas Marinas

1. La presente notificación se publica a petición de los Estados Unidos de América.

2. El Programa de Conservación de Tortugas Marinas del Servicio de Pesca y Vida Silvestre de EE.UU. ha anunciado el lanzamiento de su Aviso de Oportunidad de Financiamiento (NOFO) para el año fiscal 2024, centrado en las poblaciones prioritarias y la reducción de amenazas en el Océano Pacífico, incluido el Sudeste Asiático (como se indica a continuación).

   Tortugas bobas: Poblaciones del Pacífico Norte y del Pacífico Sur.

   Tortugas verdes: Poblaciones del Pacífico Sur Central y Pacífico Centro-Occidental.

   Tortugas carey: Poblaciones del Pacífico, incluido el Sudeste Asiático.

   Tortugas laúdes: Poblaciones del Pacífico y el Sudeste Asiático.

   Tortugas oliváceas: Poblaciones del Sudeste Asiático.

3. Se alienta a las Partes y a los interesados a enviar sus solicitudes guiándose por la información accesible a través del Aviso de Oportunidad de Financiamiento (también incluido en el anexo para facilitar su consulta), antes de las **23:59 EST (hora estándar del este de EE.UU.) del 18 de marzo de 2024**.

4. Para cualquier pregunta, escriba a Ann Marie Lauritsen a la dirección annmarie_lauritsen@fws.gov.

Anexo

# U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

FWS - International Conservation

https://www.fws.gov/marine-turtle-conservation-fund

Marine Turtle Conservation Fund
Fiscal Year: 2024
F24AS00158

Due Date for Applications: **03/18/2024**

## Table of Contents

## A. Program Description

### A1. Authority

Marine Turtle Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. §6601 et seq.), as amended by the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act of 2019 (Public Law 116-9, section 7001)

### A2. Assistance Listing Number

15.645

### A3. Background, Purpose and Program Requirements

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) mission is to work with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The International Affairs Program delivers on this mission through its financial and technical assistance programs by supporting strategic projects that deliver measurable conservation results for priority species and their habitats around the world.

In response to the alarming decline of marine turtle populations worldwide and serious threats to their long-term survival, the U.S. Government enacted the Marine Turtle Conservation Act (MTCA) of 2004, and subsequently amended. The purpose of the MTCA is to assist in the conservation of marine turtles and their nesting habitats in foreign countries and U.S. territories by supporting projects that conserve marine turtles in their habitats, conserve their nesting habitats, and address other threats to the survival of marine turtles.

The goal of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) Marine Turtle Conservation Program is to recover and sustain viable populations of marine turtles in the wild by reducing threats to these marine turtles in their natural habitat. We do this through financial and technical assistance to support evidence-based, quantifiable interventions with regular evaluations that shape our conservation strategy to carry out the purpose of the MTCA.

Our strategy encompasses the following key objectives to meet our goal:

- **Marine Turtle Conservation on Nesting Beaches**: Conserving marine turtles in their nesting habitats (including undisturbed nesting turtles, in-situ nests and hatchlings reaching the surf unobstructed) through collaborative, measurable actions to reduce threats from coastal development including artificial lighting and other human-induced disturbances, while promoting responsible beach use and coastal resiliency.
- **Reducing Exploitation:** Supporting community-driven initiatives to curb poaching by developing alternative livelihoods, co-developed with local stakeholders, and launching behavior change outreach programs based on social science concepts.
- **Combating Trafficking:** Strengthening legal protections for marine turtles by collaborating with governmental and regional entities and building partnerships that focus

on sharing intelligence in a timely and coordinated manner to identify and address gaps in law enforcement capacity and judicial processes. Additionally, implementing outreach programs to reduce the demand for marine turtles.

- **Implementing Marine Turtle Bycatch Reduction**: Building collaborative, implementable solutions with stakeholders to reduce marine turtle bycatch in fisheries (both interaction and mortality), through modifying fishing gear and practices guided by bycatch reduction assessments, local ecological knowledge, and active engagement with fishing communities.

Competitive projects will work to support the Service's key objectives and enhance long-term conservation capacity for marine turtle populations. We broadly define capacity to include: 1) the capacity of habitat to sustain marine turtle populations through threat reduction, nesting beach protection and coastal resilience strategies, and 2) the capacity of individuals and institutions at local and national levels to champion the conservation of marine turtles in those countries and regions.

We prioritize the following actions to bolster long-term marine turtle conservation capacity within the broader Service program goal:

- Cultivate enduring conservation capacity and engagement among local and indigenous communities, local and national non-governmental organizations, government bodies, and other pertinent stakeholders.
- Support the growth of local conservation initiatives that promotes opportunities to build skills of interdisciplinary practitioners relevant to marine turtle conservation.
- Implement structured knowledge exchange programs between communities, governments, regional and international entities that include effective techniques to reduce critical threats to the survival of marine turtles in their habitats and promote nesting beach resiliency.
- Develop and implement community-led action plans that prioritize sustained threat reduction, with consistent monitoring to identify and alert relevant entities for more urgent or expanded attention if increased threats are identified.

Proposals should demonstrate how project activities directly address one or more of the key objectives and actions, including specific monitoring and evaluation plans with identified metrics.

For this Notice of Funding Opportunity, while all projects that work to implement the Service's goal is eligible for funding, **marine turtle populations in the Pacific Ocean including Southeast Asia** (as listed below) will be prioritized.

Loggerhead turtles: North Pacific and South Pacific populations

Green turtles: Central South Pacific and Central West Pacific populations

Hawksbill turtles: Populations in the Pacific including Southeast Asia

Leatherback turtles: Populations in the Pacific and Southeast Asia

Olive Ridley turtles: Populations in Southeast Asia

## A4. Funding Opportunity Goals

The goal of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) Marine Turtle Conservation Program is to recover and sustain viable populations of marine turtles in the wild by reducing threats to these marine turtles in their natural habitat. We do this through financial and technical assistance to support evidence-based interventions and regular evaluations that shape our conservation strategy to carry out the purpose of the Marine Turtle Conservation Act (MCTA).

# B. Federal Award Information

## B1. Total Funding

**Estimated Total Funding**

$2,000,000

## B2. Expected Award Amount

**Maximum Award**

$500,000

**Minimum Award**

$150,000

Projects should have a period of performance of **three years (36 months) and should not exceed $500,000 over a three-year period.**

## B3. Expected Award Funding and Anticipated Dates

**Expected Award Funding**

**Expected Award Date**

July 01, 2024

## B4. Number of Awards

**Expected Number of Awards**

10

A total of ten awards are anticipated depending on availability of funds. Awards should be three years (36 months) in duration. The minimum for any single award is $150,000 and the maximum is $500,000 over a three-year period.

## B5. Type of Award

**Funding Instrument Type**

G - Grant

CA - Cooperative Agreement

Under cooperative agreements, the Service will be substantially involved in projects under this funding opportunity. In particular, the Service will be responsible for the following:

The Service's Marine Turtle Conservation Program has built a portfolio of projects and partners that are developing new and innovative tools to respond to emerging pressures. The Service's technical experts may work with the project staff to implement a tailored program to align the project with our objectives to increase community engagement within the project and to sustainably reduce marine turtle threats in their habitats. This may include consultation and connecting with the Service's partners experienced in the focused threat reduction field and facilitated information exchanges to share proven threat reduction.

As part of its role in a cooperative agreement, the Service may coordinate specific technical input, tools and expertise being developed in interrelated projects receiving Service support to maximize conservation impact across the region, contingent on available financial and staff resources. This may include, but is not limited to, implementing methods addressing coastal development including artificial lighting, predation, bycatch, poaching, and marine turtle trafficking. In addition, the Service will engage, as appropriate, the governments, as well as the donor community, to advance marine turtle conservation. The Service will foster partnerships and identify areas of collaboration to connect Service grantees with technical experts in behavior change, bycatch reduction strategies, ecosystem-sound predation control, responsible beach use initiatives, and artificial lighting reduction within the Service and our partners. Substantial involvement does NOT include routine monitoring or approval of workplans.

To submit a proposal for consideration as a cooperative agreement, provide a justification statement in the project proposal as to the type and duration of assistance requested by the Service and a rationale for why substantial involvement of the Service is needed to fulfill the project objectives.

## C. Eligibility Information

### C1. Eligible Applicants

**Eligible Applicants**
25 – Others (see text field entitled "Additional Information on Eligibility" for clarification)

**Additional Information on Eligibility**
Applicants may be individuals, multinational secretariats, foreign national and local government agencies, U.S. and foreign non-profits, non-governmental organizations, for-profit organizations, community and Indigenous organizations, U.S. and foreign public and private institutions of higher education, and U.S. territorial governments.

### C2. Cost Sharing or Matching

**Cost Sharing / Matching Requirement**
No

**Percentage of Cost Sharing / Matching Requirement**
Cost sharing is the portion of program costs not borne by the Service. Under this program, cost share is not required but may be committed voluntarily. Voluntary Committed Cost Share (See 2 CFR 200.1) is not an eligibility factor, and contributions will not result in a more favorable

competitive ranking. Cost share should be necessary and reasonable to accomplish project objectives, and allowable in accordance with 2 CFR 200 Subpart E—Cost Principles.

Applicants may consider all types of cost sharing, including in-kind and public-private partnerships. Examples include the use of office space owned by other entities; donated or borrowed supplies and equipment; (non-federal) sponsored travel costs; waived indirect costs; and program activities, translations, or consultations conducted by qualified volunteers. Assign a monetary value in U.S. dollars to each in-kind contribution. The values of offered cost-share should be included in the detailed budget and explanations of contributions should be included in the Budget Narrative whether cash or in-kind.

If the proposed project is a component of a larger program, identify other funding sources and the specific funding amount to be provided by those sources. In addition, it is recommended that the Budget Narrative address the overall cost-effectiveness of the proposal, including leveraging institutional or other resources.

Funds provided by another U.S. Federal Government agency or another Service award cannot be reported as cost share, but contributions should be noted and explained in detail in the Budget Narrative.

If cost share is included in the budget, written records must be maintained to support all allowable costs that are claimed as its contribution to cost share, as well as costs to be paid by the Federal government. Such records are subject to audit.

## 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

This funding opportunity contains everything needed to apply. To request paper copies of materials, please contact mscf_marineturtle@fws.gov.

**Program Website Link**

https://www.fws.gov/marine-turtle-conservation-fund

### 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".

**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**
Please note: Project narratives should be fifteen pages or less. Pages should be numbered. Project summary, figures, tables, maps, curriculum vitae, and required standard forms do not count toward the fifteen-page limit, and applicants are encouraged to utilize appendices as appropriate.

**1. Project title** - Provide a basic description of the project, including the location and country, in the title. If this is a continuation of an earlier funded proposal, use the same title and include the appropriate number to denote that this is a subsequent proposal. Please note: This title will be the reference archived and communicated in all future documents.

**2. Statement of Need:** This section should answer the question, “Why is this project necessary?” Clearly identify:

- the marine turtle population, habitat, or ecosystem targeted for conservation (including any existing estimates of population size or nesting trends, and if available, known areas of nesting, foraging, migration for that population);
- a description of the direct threats that affect the targeted population at the project site; and
- the specific threats that the project will address.

This section should describe how the proposed activities are expected to lead to desired conservation outcomes, such as the reduction of direct threats or improvement of the status of marine turtles in their habitats. Summarize previous or ongoing efforts (of you/your organization, and other organizations or individuals) that are relevant to the proposed work, including how the proposal differs from past work, or builds upon it, and how the applicant plans to expand upon the successes, failures, and lessons learned from past efforts.

It is important for applicants to show that conservation project proposals are based on the best available evidence. Applicants are encouraged to describe and cite the evidence base for the most important conservation activities within a proposal. For example, applicants should describe the existing evidence that suggests proposed activities will be effective, with a focus on activities that may have substantial or sensitive consequences or activities that are considered high risk by the project.

To identify evidence for conservation activities, applicants are encouraged to search and cite specific examples of reducing threats to marine turtles in their habitats. The evidence base may include published or grey literature, previous personal experience, Indigenous and/or traditional knowledge, evidence review and synthesis libraries (e.g., CEEDER, Evidence for Nature and People Data Portal), or species assessments published under the Endangered Species Act and the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

If a proposed activity is considered sensitive or high risk but has little to no existing evidence base among these information sources, applicants are encouraged to discuss where new evidence is needed to understand effectiveness. Further guidance and examples are available in Parks et al. (2022) Funding Evidence-Based Conservation and its supplementary materials.

If you have received funding previously from the Service for this specific project work or site, list the award number and provide a summary of the funding, associated activities, products, outcomes, and associated measurable conservation results. Please note how the proposal will progress the Service's objectives and actions building from previously funded actions. A table may be the most efficient way to convey this information: including columns for donor, reference number, amount funded, year of activity, and bullet points of major activities, outcomes, products, and associated measurable conservation results. Projects with funding from any other government source or eligible for any other government source should add a section describing the activities supported and the added value of Service support. Please note how the proposal differs or builds upon funding available from other major donors. Former recipients of Service support should note that every proposal is expected to be a stand-alone document. Not all proposal reviewers may be familiar with past grants and a summary of activities and accomplishments helps all reviewers to better understand the proposal in context.

**3. Project Goals, Objectives, Activities and Methods**: This section should answer the question, “What do you want to achieve and how are you going to do it?” State the long-term goals of what your project aims to achieve. Objectives are the specific steps that you will take to reach your stated goals. Your objectives must be attainable within the project period and should be specific, measurable, and realistic. Activities are the specific actions to be undertaken to fulfill the project objectives and reach the project goal(s). The proposed project activities narrative must be detailed enough for reviewers to make a clear connection between the activities and the proposed project costs. Provide a detailed description of the method(s) used to carry out each activity.

The following format is recommended:

GOAL:

Objective 1.

Activity 1.1

Activity 1.2

Objective 2.

Activity 2.1

Objective 3.

Activity 3.1

Activity 3.2

Activity 3.3

Consider including activities that meet one or more of the following conditions:

1. Activities that clearly address the specific direct threats described in the above section titled: Statement of Need.
2. Activities that are feasible and likely to be successfully implemented as stated;
3. Activities that apply the best scientific and/or technical information and methods available;
4. Activities that include the participation of local partners in project activities, including meaningful involvement of government, community, or civil society stakeholders; and
5. Activities resulting in benefits continuing beyond the period of performance of the project.

**4. Project Timetable:** This section should answer the question, "Over what period will project activities be implemented? Provide a timetable indicating roughly when activities or project milestones are to be accomplished. Include any resulting tables, spreadsheets or flow charts within the body of the project narrative (do not include as separate attachments). The timetable should not propose specific dates but instead group activities by month for each month over the entire proposed project period.

**5. Stakeholder Coordination/Involvement:** This section should answer the question, “Who is impacted by this project and how will they be incorporated into the project (e.g. consultation mechanism, inclusion in governance system, outreach etc.)?” As applicable, describe how you/your organization has coordinated with and involved other relevant organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, 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. Please describe any previous work with these stakeholders and how working with them relates to the specific threats and target audiences. Where multiple groups are working in the same site or are listed as stakeholders in the proposal, letters of endorsement specifically referring to this proposal and the proposed collaboration from each partner organization will strengthen your proposal and may be requested by reviewers. If the project impacts changes in access to resources by indigenous peoples and local communities, letters of support or documentation of consultation may be requested by the reviewers.

**6. Project Monitoring and Evaluation:** This section should answer the question, “How will you evaluate the progress and success of this project?” Identify specific indicators for each objective and action and include a detailed monitoring and evaluation plan for the project. Building on the stated project objectives, which must be specific and measurable, identify what you will measure (i.e., quantitative/quantifiable indicators) and how you will measure or metrics for measuring (i.e., methods, sample size, survey tools). Note that outputs (or products) should generally NOT be used as indicators, including Service performance reports. Indicators should reflect a change in the identified threat and status or response of the target species, local capacity engagement in marine turtle conservation, and human behavior to directly influence threat reduction. If the current status of the indicator is known, and the applicant identifies the indicator's desired status or qualitative condition, providing this information will strengthen the proposal.

The following table format is recommended:

| **Objective/Action** | **Indicator**<br>(i.e., what you will measure to track your progress toward achieving the objective) | **Monitoring Method (metrics)**<br>(i.e., how you will measure the indicator) | **Current Status**<br>(if known) | **Desired Status** |
|---|---|---|---|---|

The Service values projects that report both the success and failures of efforts as a means by which an applicant can improve their performance and provide lessons learned to improve our efforts to conserve wildlife.

**7. Description of Entities Undertaking the Project**: This section should answer the question, "Who will carry out the project, and what are their specific qualifications?" Provide a brief description of the applicant organization and all participating entities and/or individuals. Where relevant, refer to any institutional codes of conduct or safeguarding policies the institution organization has in place to demonstrate capacity to implement the proposed project in accordance with relevant laws and best practices. Based on the activities involved, reviewers may request additional information regarding institutional policies and codes of conduct that demonstrate such measures are in place. Identify which of the proposed activities each agency, organization, group, or individual is responsible for conducting or managing. On the SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance, provide complete contact information for the individual within the organization that will oversee/manage the project activities on a day-to-day basis. Provide brief (**1-page**) *curricula vitae* for key personnel, identifying their qualifications to meet the project objectives. To prevent unnecessary transmission of Personally Identifiable Information, ***DO NOT include Social Security numbers, the names of family members, or any other personal or sensitive information including marital status, religion or physical characteristics in the description of key personnel qualifications.***

**8. Sustainability:** This section should answer the question, "What is your long-term plan for this project beyond the Service funding period?" As applicable, describe which project activities will continue beyond the proposed project period, who will continue the work or act on the results achieved, and how and at what level you expect these future activities will be funded.

**9. Literature Cited:** (if applicable) include as an addendum and not within the text of the proposal.

**10. Map of Project Area:** This section should answer the question, "Where is the project located?" The map should clearly delineate the project area and be large enough to be legible. Label any sites referenced in the project narrative.

**11. Government Letter of Endorsement:** For projects implemented outside of the United States, non-governmental applicants must include a recent letter of support (no older than two years) from the appropriate local, regional, or national government wildlife or conservation authority. A current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the applicant and the government authority may be accepted as long as the MOU references the proposed work. Where appropriate, letters of support from local communities or project beneficiaries should be provided. Endorsement letters should be in English and make specific reference to the Service and the proposed work. If a support or endorsement letter is not in English, applicants must also provide an English translation of the letter. Letters must be addressed to the US Fish and Wildlife Service International Affairs or the International Marine Turtle Conservation Program. If the applicant itself is a government agency, the letter must be endorsed by someone other than those listed as key personnel.

**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).

**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.

## 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**
03/18/2024

**Application Due Date Explanation**
Applications must be submitted electronically through GrantSolutions by 11:59 PM **ET on March 18**, **2024.** Applications must be submitted in English. **Late applications will not be accepted**. A confirmation email containing an assigned application number beginning with "FWS-" will be sent to applicants upon submission. If you do not receive this email within five days of the opportunity closing date, contact mscf_marineturtle@fws.gov. **DO NOT SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION MORE THAN ONCE. Duplicate applications will be discarded. Please see more information about submission requirements in section D7. Other Submission Requirements. Applicants must have an active registration in SAM to apply.**

## 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.

The Service will not fund:

- the purchase of firearms or ammunition;
- gathering information by persons who conceal their true identity;
- buying or purchasing of intelligence, evidence or information or paying informants;
- law enforcement operations that, to arrest suspects, prompt them to carry out illegal activities (entrapment); and
- any activity that would circumvent sanctions, laws, or regulations of either the U.S. or the country of the proposed activity.

The following cost elements **are not allowable** under this program:

- Publication of materials for distribution within the United States that are not related to the program
- Pre-award Costs - Expenses incurred before the specified dates of award period of performance (unless prior written approval is received.)
- Programs designed to advocate policy views or positions of foreign governments or views of a particular political faction
- Entertainment and/or alcoholic beverages
- Purchase of land
- Direct support or the appearance of direct support for individual or single-party electoral campaigns
- Duplication of services immediately available through municipal, provincial, or national government

## 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 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. 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.

Applicants must be registered in the System for Award Management before attempting to register in GrantSolutions. If you experience problems registering or submitting an application in GrantSolutions, you may be granted a waiver. If you wish to seek a waiver, you must submit supporting documentation to demonstrate the issues you are experiencing. Documentation may include computer screenshots showing error messages or email communication with the GrantSolutions Help Desk attempting to resolve the issue. The request must be submitted at least three days before the submission deadline. Please send your waiver request to DIC_GRANTS@fws.gov. If you are granted a waiver, you will submit your application to the Marine Turtle program mailbox: mscf_marineturtle@fws.gov. Organizations that plan to submit separate applications for multiple projects are encouraged to combine project proposals into one single application. Each component of the application will be reviewed, and we reserve the right to negotiate the inclusion or exclusion of any component.

## E. Application Review Information

### E1. Criteria

**Merit Review Criteria**

Proposals will be evaluated and scored on how well each proposal addresses program priorities and the requested proposal elements. High priority, well-justified projects that address all of the requested proposal elements will receive higher scores. Other review criteria include:

1. Compelling project design, including the degree to which: (i) a project is well justified, has clear benefits, makes a significant contribution in reducing threats to marine turtles and increases community-led conservation capacity; (ii) the goals are well-defined and relevant to the project's Statement of Need; (iii) the objectives, methods, and activities are well-defined, measurable (metrics for indicators are included), statistically valid, realistic, and apply the best scientific and technical information available; and (iv) the budget line items are appropriate, allowable and reasonable, justified in the proposal narrative, and in-kind contributions are acceptable.

2. Capacity of the applicant to implement the project, including the degree to which the proposal: (i) indicates that the applicant has the ability to implement the proposed activities effectively; (ii) details relevant qualifications and institutional policies of the applicant; and (iii) the applicant has a positive record of accomplishment with the Service based on previous grant support, if applicable, including timely submission of financial and performance reports.

3. Experience of applicant's key personnel and the inclusion of local/national personnel, including the degree to which the proposal: (i) demonstrates experience of key personnel; (ii) includes participation of locals/nationals in the project activities and management; (iii) includes

on-the-ground presence of key project personnel; and (iv) provides training essential to the development of local capacity to implement and sustain conservation activities.

4. Evidence of collaboration with or inclusion of key stakeholders, including host country governments and impacted Indigenous peoples and local communities, including the degree to which the proposal: (i) demonstrates how local stakeholders will be incorporated in the project and if efforts were made to solicit and incorporate their participation in the project; (ii) details coordination of project activities with similar, ongoing or planned activities of other stakeholders; (ii) promotes networking, partnerships and/or coalitions; and (iii) suggests activities that are non-duplicative of other ongoing activities;

5. Relevance of activities, including the degree to which: (i) the proposal addresses an emerging issue with potential significant conservation value; and (ii) the proposal addresses a conservation need identified by a specialist group, or by a regional, national or global strategy; and

6. Sustainability of project, including the degree to which: (i) the proposal provides for the development of an activity that can be replicated for widespread use; (ii) the proposal provides benefits beyond the life of the grant; (iii) the monitoring and evaluation plans are well described, appropriate and adequate; and (iv) the expected products/outputs/outcomes are identified and enumerated, their impact is apparent, and they will be effectively distributed to resource managers, community members, researchers and other stakeholders.

Reviewers may consider the following sub-factors to break ties and further distinguish between applications with equivalent scores: financial need; geographical and project diversity in the Service portfolio; and proportion of proposal budget dedicated to administration, salaries, and travel.

## 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.

The Service's International Affairs program evaluates proposals by scoring how well each proposal addresses the program priorities and the requested elements listed in the E1. Criteria section above. Programs MUST ensure that: (1) applications are reviewed and evaluated by qualified reviewers; (2) applications are scored and selected based on announced criteria; (3) consideration is given to applicant risk and past performance; (4) competitive applications are ranked; and (5) funding determinations are made. Programs must establish an evaluation plan comprised of five basic elements: (1) merit review factors and subfactors; (2) a rating system for competitive applications (e.g., adjectival, color coding, numerical, or ordinal); (3) evaluation standards or descriptions which explain the basis for assignment of the various rating system grades/scores; (4) program policy factors; and (5) the basis for selection.

The following describes the review and selection process:

**Recruitment of merit review panel**: Prior to convening a merit review panel, the Service Program Officer will identify, recruit, and receive approval for each reviewer on the merit review panel. A minimum of five U.S. Government employees are required for each panel: at least three merit reviewers, one panel chair, and one recorder. Only permanent U.S. Government staff may score proposals. Prior to participating in any review or evaluation process, all staff and peer reviewers, evaluators, panel members, and advisors must sign and return to the program office Point of Contact the "Department of the Interior Conflict of Interest Certification" form. By signing this form, the reviewer agrees to recuse themselves from scoring or commenting on proposals for which they have a conflict of interest or appearance thereof. This form must be signed and filed before a reviewer can participate in the merit review panel. For a copy of this form, contact the Service Point of Contact identified in the Agency Contacts section below.

**Initial Program Officer review for minimum programmatic requirements**: After submission, each proposal will be reviewed by the relevant Program Officer to ensure that the proposal meets minimum programmatic requirements before advancing to the merit review. The minimum programmatic requirements are listed in Section E1. Criteria. The Program Officer will share with the merit review panel any proposals that did not meet minimum programmatic requirements and the reasons why, and the panel will have an opportunity to discuss.

**Merit review to evaluate and select proposals for funding**: Applications that meet minimum programmatic requirements will then be reviewed by the approved merit review panel with subject area and/or regional expertise. The Service's Program Officer may also solicit technical advice from qualified U.S. Government specific subject area experts to provide feedback prior to the panel review.  Feedback from these technical experts will be provided to the panel during their review process. The Service's Program Officer may also discuss the proposal with known past and present partners who are relevant technical experts to verify project feasibility and to encourage coordination and collaboration among projects on the ground.

After reading proposals, reviewers will individually assign a 1-3 score to each application, based on the degree to which the application meets the criteria described in Section E1. Criteria. The scoring system is as follows:

Category 1: Excellent, highest priority to fund: Excellent proposal with no issues or minor revisions are needed. Important, critical, compelling, high-priority project and proposal meets all program requirements. Minor revisions including addressing comments and recommendations from the merit review panel should occur before funding is finalized.

Category 2: Acceptable, lower priority to fund: Acceptable to fund if additional funds become available. Proposal meets program requirements but is not the highest conservation priority. Concerns and conditions for the proposal should be described in detail by the reviewers. Revisions including addressing comments and recommendations from the merit review panel should occur before funding is possible.

Category 3: Do not fund. Reject proposal. Project does not address a priority or is unlikely to achieve the desired impact, and/or proposal has other fundamental issues or problems that make it unsuitable for this program.

Each review panel submits their individual scores to the panel chair prior to the review. The panel chair will organize the scores to identify trends and areas of alignment among the reviewers. These trends and areas of alignment may be used to facilitate the panel discussion (i.e., the highest ranked proposals may get discussed first). During the review, the panel will briefly discuss each proposal and the feedback from the subject area experts and agree on a consensus score using the same 1-3 scoring system above. The panel recorder will document any pertinent discussion items that demonstrate how a panel reached consensus to provide sufficient support for the consensus score. Ultimately, it is the consensus score of the review panel that will determine whether the proposal is recommended for award. The Service will attempt to fund all projects in the highest ranked category (Category 1). If available funding is insufficient to fund them all, proposals within the highest ranked category will be further ranked, then funded in order of that ranking.

**Proposal revisions:** Following review, applicants whose proposals scored a Category 1 or a Category 2 in merit review may be asked to provide revisions to the project scope and/or budget before an award is made. Applicants whose project is recommended for funding may be asked to demonstrate financial capabilities to manage Federal funds in accordance with standards set in 2 CFR 200.302 Financial management.

**Communication of funding decisions:** Successful applicants will receive an official Notice of Award sent via GrantSolutions. Unsuccessful applicants will receive an email from the Program Officer stating the application was not recommended for funding. If the proposal was not recommended for funding, the applicant can request feedback (via the Program Officer) from the merit review panel. Funding decisions are typically made within 180 days. If we have not contacted you regarding our funding decision within 180 days, you may contact the Service Program Officer using the contact information in section G.2.

## 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

# F. Federal Award Administration Information

## F1. Federal Award Notices

Successful applicants will receive a written Notice of Award document. Notices of Award are issued electronically by GrantSolutions. Successful applicants may also receive an additional email from the awarding program email address (mscf_marineturtle@fws.gov). Award recipients are not required to sign/return the Notice of Award document. Acceptance of an award is defined as starting work, drawing down funds or accepting the award via electronic means. Applicants whose projects are not selected for funding will receive written notice, most often by email, within 180 days of the final review decision. Applicants are not authorized to incur pre-award costs without prior written approval. Costs incurred prior to the effective date of award are incurred at the applicant's risk. The Service is not required to reimburse such costs if for any reason the applicant does not receive a Federal award or if the Federal award is less than anticipated and inadequate to cover such costs.

## 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.

## 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:
Ann Marie Lauritsen

Telephone:
571-547-3125

Email:

AnnMarie_Lauritsen@fws.gov

## G2. Program Administration

For **program administration assistance**, contact:

First and Last Name:
Ann Marie Lauritsen

Telephone:
571-547-3125

Email:
AnnMarie_Lauritsen@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

**For GrantSolutions technical registration, submission, and other assistance contact:**
GrantSolutions Customer Support
1-866-577-0771
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.

**Application Checklist**

- SF-424 - Application for Federal Assistance form (signature of authorized representative must match first and last name)
- Project Abstract Summary
- Project Narrative (Items 1-10)
- SF 424A
- Itemized Budget

- Budget Narrative
- Conflict of interest disclosure (If applicable)
- Uniform Audit Reporting Statement (Domestic applicants)
- SF-LLL form (If applicable)
- Overlap/Duplication statement
- Indirect Cost Statement
- Active registration in System for Award Management (Initiate at least 30 days before the submission deadline)
- Registration in GrantSolutions (New registrants)

**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.