

Welcome to the Multistate Conservation Grant Program (MSCGP) Applicant Information Session!

- **Session Length:** 90 minutes followed by Q&A session
- This session is being recorded; the recording and slide deck will be posted in [MSCGP Site](#)
- Submit all questions via the chat during the presentation
- Moderator will compile and share chat questions with presenters
- At the start of the Q&A session, we will unlock the microphones for live questions
- Questions not addressed during the session will be answered afterward and shared along with the PowerPoint
- All referenced links and resources will be included in the PowerPoint

Multistate Conservation Grant Program



June 17, 2026



This Project was funded by a Multistate Conservation Grant F26AP00475 from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and jointly administered with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

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Multistate Conservation Grant Program:

Training Overview

- ❑ Multistate Conservation Grant Program (MSCGP) Background
 - Purpose & Administration
 - Funding Source
 - Quick Facts
- ❑ 2027 MSCGP Process
 - Eligibility
 - Elements of the Proposal
 - Project Statement Requirements
 - Budget Requirements & Tips
 - Application Review Process
 - Resources for Applicants
- ❑ Q&A



Multistate Conservation
Grant Program (MSCGP):

Purpose

*“To fund projects that address **regional or national priority needs of State fish and wildlife agencies and their partners** that are beyond the scale, scope, and capabilities of a single State.”*



Multistate Conservation Grant Program

Established in 2000 under the **Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act** - "Traditional" Multistate Conservation Grant Program:

- T-MSCGP: Up to \$6 million available annually the program:
 - \$3 million in Wildlife Restoration funds annually
 - \$3 million in Sport Fish Restoration funds annually
- For wildlife and sport fish conservation, restoration and management projects, and projects that provide public use and benefit from these resources, including R3.



In 2019, the **Modernizing Pittman-Robertson Fund for Tomorrow's Needs Act** authorized additional \$5M for Hunter and Target Shooter "Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation" ("R3"):

- R3-MSCGP: \$5 million in Wildlife Restoration funds annually
- For projects that promote national hunting and target shooting "R3" programs



Domitrovich/USFWS, Public Domain

Multistate Conservation Grant Program: Annual Source of Funding

Wildlife Restoration Act



Federal excise tax paid by manufacturers on:

- firearms
- ammunition
- archery equipment

Initial
Deductions

Traditional Multistate
Conservation Grant Program

\$3 million

R3 Multistate Conservation
Grant Program

\$5 million

Sport Fish Restoration Act



Federal excise tax from:

- manufacturers of fishing equipment
- a portion of motorboat fuel tax
- import duties on tackle and boats

Initial
Deductions

Traditional Multistate Conservation Grant Program

\$3 million

Please visit for more information:
<https://partnerwithapayer.org/>

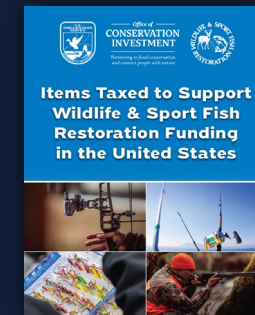
Partner With A Payer



Office of
**CONSERVATION
INVESTMENT**
*Partnering to fund conservation
and connect people with nature*



Partnering to fund conservation and connect people with nature



MSCGP Program Administration

The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) cooperatively administer the MSCG process.

AFWA develops/updates **Strategic Priorities** in consultation with state agencies, conservation partners, and industries.



USFWS publishes the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).



AFWA solicits grant proposals that address the annual **Strategic Priorities** and selects projects that best address the priorities.



AFWA then submits a recommended list of **Priority Projects** to the USFWS for Director's approval.



USFWS completes review and approval of MSCGP grant applications, issues awards, and manages and monitors the grant awards.



Multistate Conservation Grant Program: Quick Facts

- Since 2000, nearly **700 grants** have been awarded through MSCGP, which adds up to about \$180M.
- Approx. **45-55 grants** have been awarded annually since R3-MSCGP funds were added in 2020.
- Typical range of grant funds awarded per grant:
 - T-MSCGP: \$50,000 – \$ 350,000
 - R3-MSCGP: \$100,000 – \$ 1,000,000
- 100% Federal Funds – **no matching/cost-sharing funds required!**
- **Performance Period** is January 1 - December 31 (with few exceptions).

Multiyear Funding

Multi-year proposals will be considered if there is a demonstrated and clearly articulated adherence to the criteria set by National Grants Committee

Inability to complete the outlined work within an annual funding cycle

Ongoing and continuous efforts for which ***permanent dedicated capacity is needed***

Merits of the project are broadly supported by technical review teams and the National Grants Committee

Proposals shall not request funding more than five years in duration

Annual funding amounts obligated to each year will ***not be more than 25%*** of total fund availability by category (WR, SFR, R3) so that adequate funds remain for new proposals in subsequent years.

Previously awarded multi-year obligations will be included as part of the 25% calculation for each year's determination of multi-year fund availability.

2027 Multistate Conservation Grants:

Application Requirements & Process



Resources for Eligibility, Allowable Costs and Application Content:

- [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\) F27AS00009](#)
- 2 CFR 200 Uniform Guidance for Federal Awards, [Subpart E – Cost Principles](#)
- [AFWA MSCGP Website](#)
 - 2027 Strategic Priorities
 - AFWA Grant Proposal Guidelines
 - Templates for:
 - ✓ Project Statement
 - ✓ Budget Narrative and Table
 - ✓ Required Statements – Certifications, Single Audit, Conflict of Interest, and Overlap and Duplication
 - Link to [AFWA Portal](#) for submitting proposals and budgets by 11:59 pm ET July 14, 2026.



Eligibility

Applicants:

- A State or a group of States;
- Nonprofit organizations;
- Private or Public Institutions of higher education (IHE); and
- USFWS, to carry out the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation.

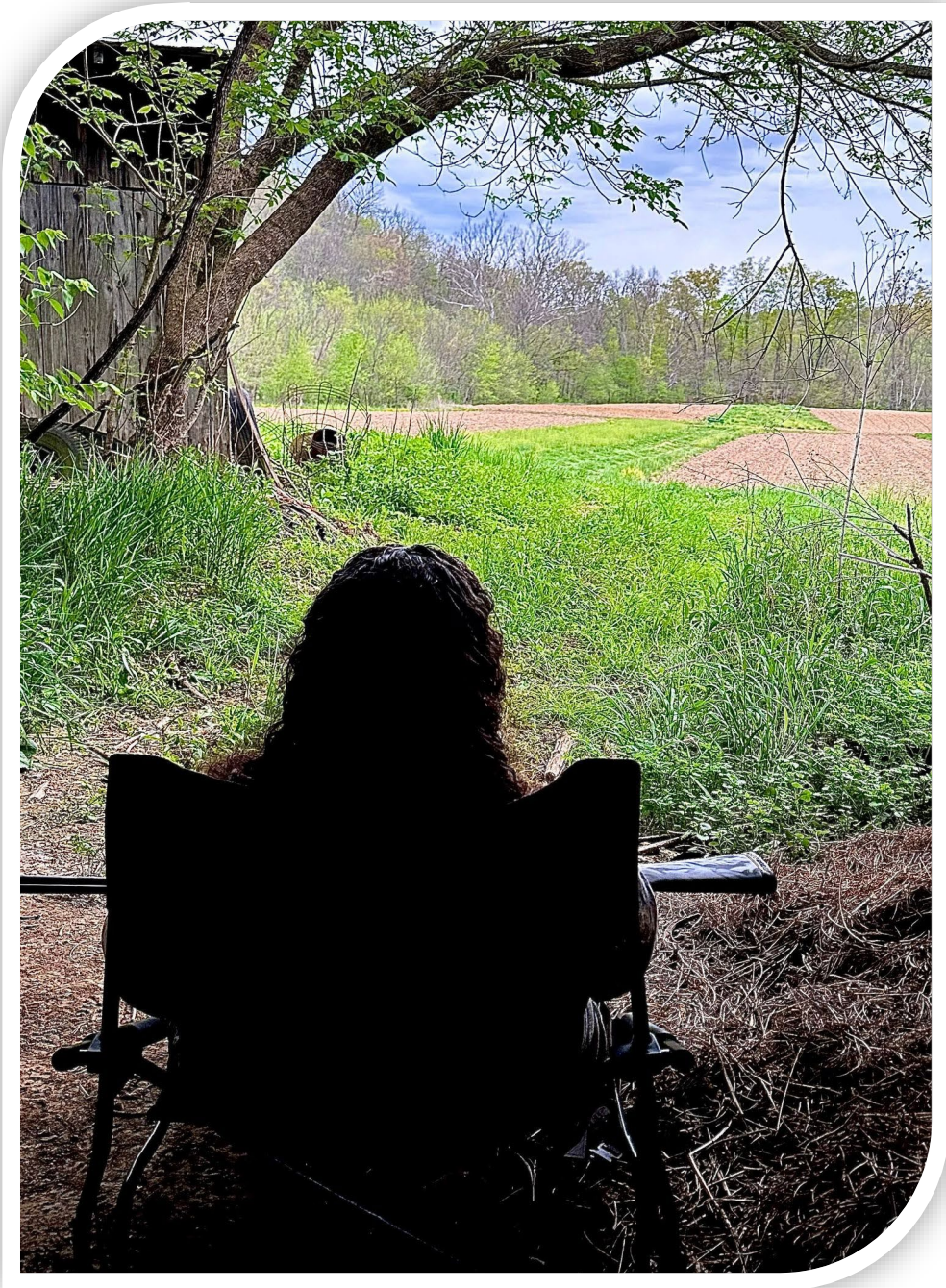
Project Must Benefit:

- At least 26 States; or
- A majority (over 50%) of the States in a USFWS Region; or
- A majority of the States in an AFWA Regional Association.

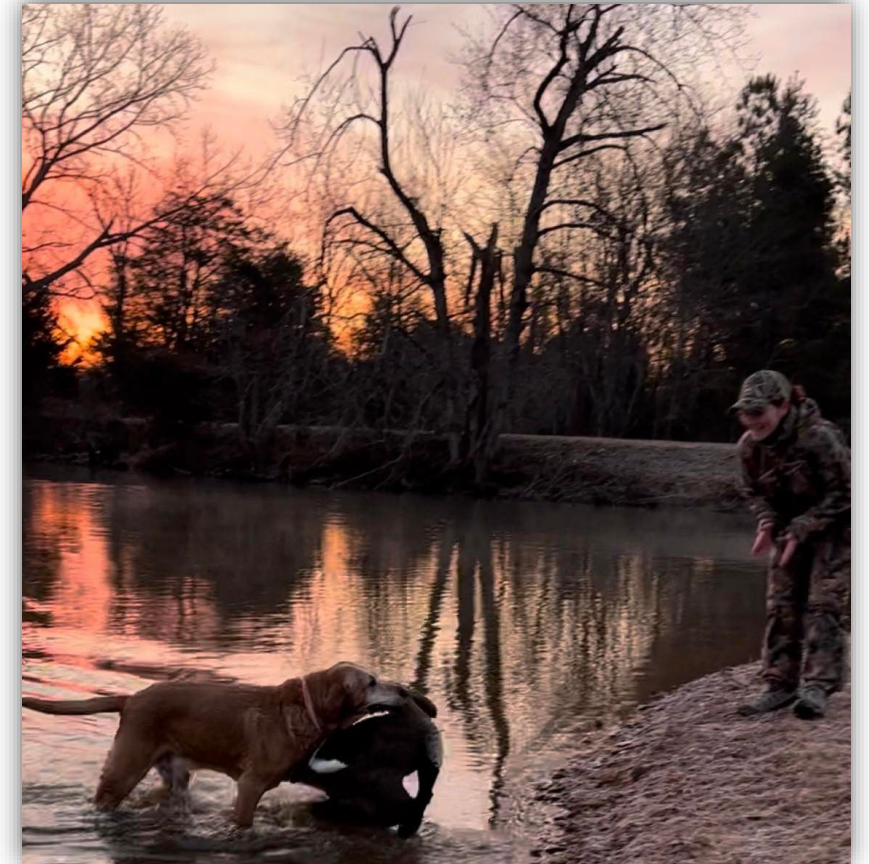
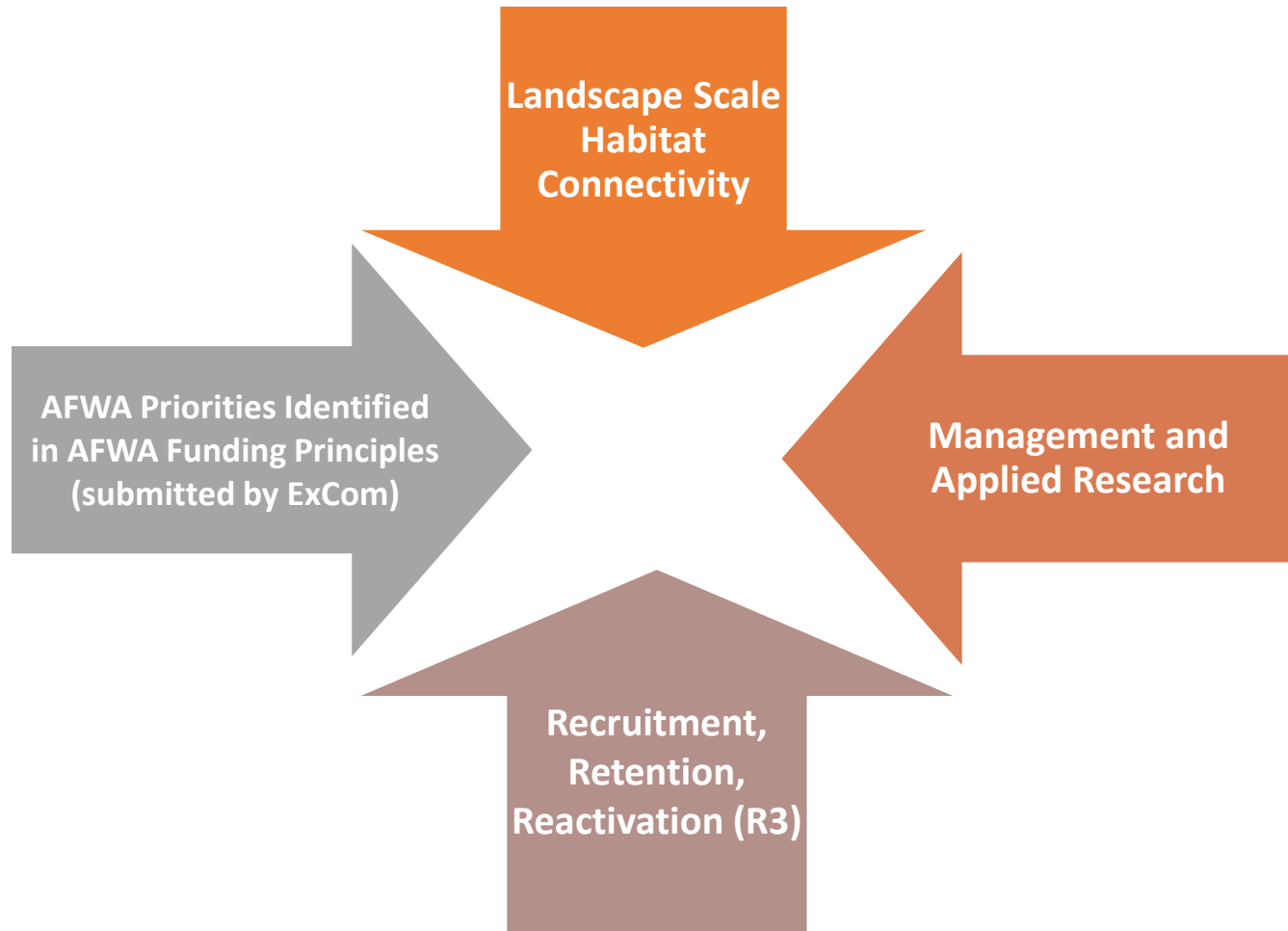
Project must address one of MSCGP Strategic Priorities

Species and Activity Eligibility

Project must be on the Priority List of Projects that AFWA submits to USFWS for review and approval.



Multistate Strategic Priorities



2027 Strategic Priorities: AFWA Multistate Conservation Grant Program Website

FULL GRANT PROPOSALS

- 2027 MSCGP Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
- MSCGP Multiyear Proposals Criteria
- Scoring Criteria
- 2027 MSCGP Strategic Priorities
- 2027 Full Grant Proposal Guidelines
- 2027 Full Grant Proposals Template - Project Narrative
- 2027 Full Grant Proposal Template - Budget Narrative and Table
- Required Statements



1. Landscape Scale Habitat Connectivity

- A. Integrating State Connectivity Needs into Working Lands Conservation
- B. Addressing Adaptive Management from Existing Connectivity Plans
- C. Building Support for Connectivity Strategies Among Key Partners and Stakeholders

2. Management and Applied Research

- A. Applied research to Address Priority Knowledge Gaps
- B. Science-Based Management Tools, Techniques, & Interventions
- C. Multistate Coordination to Implement Existing or Newly Established Plans
- D. Fish & Wildlife Health Science & Management

3. Recruitment, Retention, Reactivation (R3)

- A. Marketing and Engagement
- B. Hunting, Fishing, and Target Shooting Access and Infrastructure

4. AFWA Priorities Identified in AFWA Funding Principles (submitted by ExCom)

- A. National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife Watching
- B. AFWA Facilitated National Priorities
 - Management of the MSCGP Program
 - Professional Development and Capacity Building for WRA and SFRA Programs Delivery
 - National Conservation Coordination

*“To fund projects that address **regional or national priority needs of State fish and wildlife agencies and their partners** that are beyond the scale, scope, and capabilities of a single State.”*

Species Eligibility

The purpose of the proposed projects must benefit the following:

- **T-MSCGP Wildlife Restoration funds:** Indigenous or naturalized species of wild birds or mammals.
- **T-MSCGP Sport Fish Restoration funds:** Aquatic gill-breathing vertebrates with paired fins having marine or freshwater recreational value.
- **Context matters:** Other species MAY be eligible if the project's stated Need, Purpose, and Results & Benefits focus on how the otherwise-ineligible species directly impacts conservation of wild birds or mammals or sport fish.
 - **For example:** Invasive species, food resources, habitats and disease projects are eligible if the proposal demonstrates the primary purpose of the project is to improve conservation for wild birds or mammals or sport fish.



Activity Eligibility

Activities that carry out the purposes of the Wildlife Restoration Act or Sport Fish Restoration Act:

Activities that involve conservation, restoration, management, and enhancement of wild birds and mammals and sport fish and provide for public use and benefit from these resources.

- ✓ **T-MSCGP Activity Examples:** Research on populations, contaminants, diseases, invasive species and human dimensions surveys; development of models, databases and technology; training; best practices for conservation, etc.
- ✓ **R3 MSCGP Activity Examples:** Research on barriers, attitudes, participation, effectiveness, marketing; marketing projects involving social media, mentoring, templates, photo and video collections, toolkits; training and course development; participation through program development and events, etc.



Activity Eligibility *(continued)*

What about Education and Outreach?

WR Act:

▪ Eligible:

- ✓ Educating hunters and archers in skills, knowledge, and developing responsible attitudes.
- ✓ R3 outreach, communication, events, marketing, etc.
- ✓ Projects that inform, translate or otherwise offer technical assistance directly in support of findings or accomplishments of projects funded by the Wildlife Restoration Act.

▪ Ineligible:

- ⊗ General education about wildlife or wildlife conservation
- ⊗ Wildlife viewing activities

SFR Act:

- ✓ Enhancing the public's understanding of water resources, aquatic life forms, and sport fishing, and developing responsible attitudes toward the aquatic environment.
- ✓ R3 fishing activities including outreach, communication, events and marketing, etc.





Ineligible Activities

Ineligible activities include, but are not limited to:

- ⊗ **Public relations** to promote a state fish and wildlife agency or organization.
- ⊗ **General conservation education or wildlife education** that is not specifically related to sharing accomplishments or findings funded by WR Act or SFR Act.
- ⊗ **Revenue generation as the primary purpose**, including all processes and procedures directly related to printing, distribution, issuance or sale of licenses, permits or registrations.
 - ☑ May use the number of licenses, permits and registrations issued as a measure of or to track trends in participation in fishing.
- ⊗ **Establishment of laws and regulations**
 - ☑ May publish and disseminate regulations issued by a State such as laws, orders, seasonal regulations, bag limits, creel limits, license fees ONLY when done to directly support R3 and remove barriers to participation (e.g., increase knowledge, familiarity and comfort with rules, reduced confusion and fear).
- ⊗ **Law enforcement activities**, i.e., enforcement of fish and wildlife laws and regulations.
- ⊗ **Promoting opposition to regulated taking** of fish or hunting or trapping wildlife.
- ⊗ **General wildlife damage control** where the purpose is not eligible under the WR Act or SFR Act.
- ⊗ **Land acquisition and construction or renovation of infrastructure** are not funded through MSCGP because a benefit to 26 or more states or half the states in a FWS region or regional association of fish and wildlife agencies cannot be demonstrated.

Presidential Actions and DOI Secretary's Orders

- **Applicants must review prior to applying.**
- **Applicants are responsible** for ensuring their proposed activities are consistent with the intent and requirements of these directives.

Presidential Actions

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/>

Department of the Interior Secretary's Orders

<https://www.doi.gov/document-library/secretary-order>

2027 Process Timeline

July 14, 2026, 11:59 PM ET: Full Grant Proposals Due to AFWA Portal (no Federal Forms) **No proposals shall be submitted to GrantSolutions at this point.**

July: AFWA and CI review proposals for eligibility.

August-September:

Technical Review Teams, National Grants Committee, and Office of Conservation Investment (CI) review the proposals and provide feedback.

The National Grants Committee votes to advance the Priority List of Projects

September 18:

The Priority List of Projects is approved by the majority of State Directors

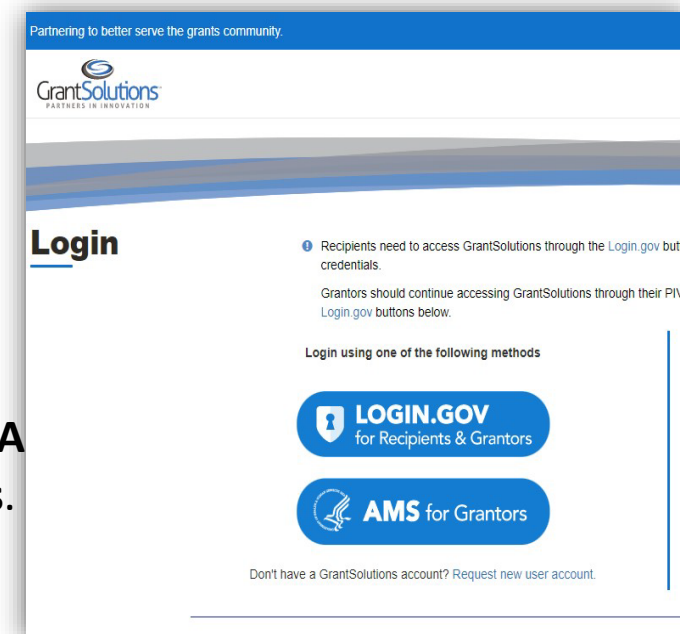
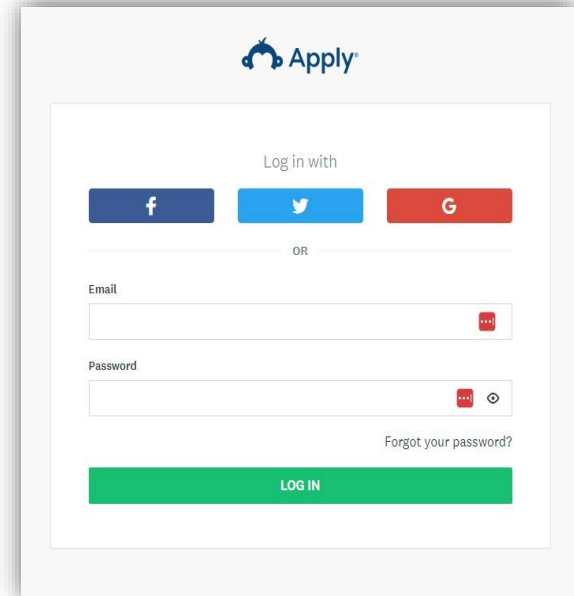
Direct Announcement posted in [GrantSolutions](#)

October:

October 1: The Priority List of Projects is submitted to USFWS Director for review and approval

October 5: Final Applications – with requested edits addressing feedback – are **due in the AFWA Portal** and final applications (proposals with required Federal forms) are **due in GrantSolutions**.

October 2026 - January 2027: USFWS CI conducts detailed reviews and awards grants. *May have additional questions that applicants MUST be timely about addressing!*



MSCGP Application Process

Part I: Grant Proposal –AFWA Portal by July 14, 2026 11:59 PM ET

- Project Narrative
- Budget Narrative and Budget Table
- Letters of Engagement, if applicable

Part II: Required Federal Forms – Via AFWA Portal and GrantSolutions by October 5, 2026

- Project Abstract
- Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)
- Budget Information for Non-Construction Program (SF-424A)
- SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities, if applicable
- Project Narrative
- Budget Narrative and Budget Table
- Letters of Engagement, if applicable

Grant Proposal



Applicant and Project Information

2027 Multistate Conservation Grant Program

GRANT PROPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS

PROPOSAL DETAILS

Descriptive Title:	<i>Provide a <u>BRIEF</u> proposal title.</i>		
Recipient Organization:	<i>Identify the Official Eligible Applicant (only one organization can be the applicant; do not include partnering organizations here)</i>		
Recipient Location:	<i>Identify the State/Territory where headquarters/office resides.</i>		
Grant Start Date:	January 1, 2027	Grant End Date:	<i>Enter the proposed grant end date. Almost all projects should have December 31, <u>2027</u> as the end date.</i>

Project Abstract Summary/Public Description: If your project is selected for funding, this description will appear on USASpending.gov. A complete Project Abstract Summary is limited to 4,000 characters and must include the following: 1) Project purpose, 2) Activities to be performed, 3) Expected outcomes, 4) Deliverables, 5) Intended beneficiaries, and 6) whether there are subrecipient activities associated with the proposed project. Please spell out all words or names of organizations; do not use any abbreviations or acronyms. This abstract is also the first opportunity to outline your proposal and impress upon reviewers your project's importance. ***Be sure your abstract is brief and compelling!***

Grant Recipient Contact(s): List full name, title, phone number, email address, and organization name for the following:

- a. Primary Principal Investigator of the applicant Organization
- b. Primary Authorizing Official of the applicant Organization

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

1. **The Strategic Priority Addressed.** Please refer to the [2027 AFWA Strategic Priorities](#) and list the Strategic Priority your proposal addresses.

2. **Organization Type.** Select one of the following:

- A. State
- B. Nonprofits with or without 501(c)(3) status with the IRS
- C. Private, Public and State Controlled Institutions of Higher Education
- D. Other (see below)

Other eligible applicants include the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or a State or group of States, for the purpose of carrying out the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife Watching. For purposes of the Multistate Conservation Grant Program (MSCGP), 'States' include the 50 U.S. States; the District of Columbia (eligible under Sport Fish Restoration only); the Commonwealths of Puerto Rico and the Northern Mariana Islands; and the territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Canadian provinces and other non-U.S. jurisdictions are not eligible applicants and are not counted when determining whether a project benefits more than 50 percent of the States in a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service region or regional association of State fish and wildlife agencies.

3. Beneficiary Information. The project must benefit at least one of the following.

Please choose one of the following categories that best describes the geographic scope of the project:

***If the proposal does not benefit all states, please list the states (abbreviations) it does benefit.

You must describe how the project will benefit the states or region selected.***



IMPORTANT!

- A. Project benefits at least 26 states, or
- B. Project benefits a majority (over 50%) of the States in a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Region that will benefit, or
- C. Project benefits a majority (over 50%) of the States belonging to a regional association of State fish and wildlife agencies (click each association link for the state members, [WAFWA](#), [MAFWA](#), [NEAFWA](#), [SEAFWA](#)). Please indicate the regional fish and wildlife association that will benefit.

4. Eligibility Standards. To be eligible AND allowable, projects and activities must also follow all current laws, regulations, guidance, and details provided in NOFO; cost principles under [2 CFR 200](#); and any other rules or standards set forth by the USFWS, including Presidential Executive Orders and Department of the Interior Secretarial Orders. Projects proposed for Multistate Conservation Grant (MSCGP) funding must **meet species and activity eligibility standards under the Wildlife Restoration Act and/or Sport Fish Restoration Act** (collectively herein referred to as “the Acts”). Eligible species are wild birds and mammals and sport fish. Proposed project activities must carry out the purposes of the Acts. The purposes of the Acts include conservation, restoration, management and enhancement of wild birds or mammals or sport fish and provide for public use and benefit from these resources.

FUNDING PROGRAM(s).

Identify grant program(s) relevant to your proposal:

- ☐ Traditional Multistate Conservation Grant Program – Wildlife Restoration (T-MSCGP WR)
- ☐ Traditional Multistate Conservation Grant Program – Sport Fish Restoration (T-MSCGP SFR)
- ☐ Modern Multistate Conservation Grant Program – Wildlife Restoration (R3-MSCGP WR)

Traditional Multistate Conservation Grant Program – Wildlife Restoration (T-MSCGP WR) means the funding portion requested for wildlife restoration projects. Proposals may address Strategic Priorities 1- 4.

Traditional Multistate Conservation Grant Program – Sport Fish Restoration (T-MSCGP SFR) means the funding portion requested for sport fish restoration projects, including angler and boater R3 projects. Proposals may address Strategic Priorities 1- 4.

Modern Multistate Conservation Grant Program – Wildlife Restoration (R3-MSCGP WR) means the funding portion requested for Hunting and Target Shooting -related R3 projects under the Wildlife Restoration and the Pittman-Robertson Modernization Act. Proposals may address Strategic Priority 3.

Project Statement

- I. Need**
- II. Purpose**
- III. Objectives**
- IV. Approach**
- V. Results or Benefits Expected**
- VI. Deliverables**
- VII. Timeline**
- VIII. Monitoring**
- IX. Evaluation**
- X. Qualifications of Key Personnel**

Grant Proposal Guidelines:

Project Statement

- Detailed instructions and tips

- Available on AFWA's MSCGP Website

PROJECT STATEMENT

The Project Statement serves as your proposal for funding as part of your application for MSCG funding. The Project Statement is the heart and soul of your grant application. It helps to identify a conservation issue, problem, or opportunity that must be addressed, as well as the actions that your agency/organization will implement to help resolve the issue, problem, or opportunity. A project statement is required for each specific project funded in a grant. Although there is no standard format that all applicants must use for their project statements, certain elements are required and must be included in a complete project statement. These elements are described as follows:

- I. **Need:** This section should be a clear and concise description of the conservation issue or problem that is being addressed by your proposal and should answer the question, "Why is this project necessary?" Provide data or cite evidence to support the issue or problem identified to help strengthen your proposal's case. Be sure to describe the geographic scope of the issue or problem as it relates to project eligibility (i.e., is the problem national or regional in scope), explain how the proposal will address the Strategic Priority, and explain how the issue or problem is related to the purposes of the [Wildlife Restoration Act](#) and/or [Sport Fish Restoration Act](#). Explain your organization's role in addressing the issue, describe what is currently being done by your organization or others to address it, and how this proposal will fulfill a new need or complement existing work on the issue. Explain why MSCG funding is critical to addressing the issue or problem, and describe what will happen if funds are not allocated for the project and the need is not addressed. Do not describe your objectives or your methods in the Need section.
- II. **Purpose:** This section should be brief and **ONLY** state the project's expected outcome after addressing the conservation issue or problem. Good purpose statements:
 - ✓ Are concise, clear, and stated in no more than a sentence or two.
 - ✓ Set the stage by clearly starting with, "The purpose of this project is to ..."
 - ✓ Do not describe or provide a "preview" of the proposal's objectives or methods in this section.
- III. **Objectives:** Objectives should be specific, measurable, achievable within the grant period, relevant to the project's need, purpose, and eligibility, and time-bound within the grant period. Objectives are meant to be realistic targets or benchmarks that, if achieved, will contribute to resolving the need described. Your objectives will be used to measure progress, so don't embellish the numbers! Be realistic, and make sure your objectives can be attained within the grant period. Objective statements should be one sentence, should not restate the Need or Purpose, and should not describe your methods. You can have multiple objectives in your proposal, but be sure to follow each stated objective with a detailed description of your methods in an Approach section. Do not include any objectives that will not or cannot be completed within the grant period.
- IV. **Approach:** This section describes how you will accomplish the stated objective(s). Include an Approach section for each Objective. Provide a detailed description of techniques and methods that will be used to accomplish the objective. Your Approach description must address:
 - What will you do?
 - When will you do it?
 - How many or how frequently will it be done?
 - Where will you conduct the work? For work conducted in the field, specific locations must be identified, and detailed methods must be provided describing how you will access study sites, exactly what will be performed at each site, and when. Describe if wildlife will be captured and handled, and address collecting permits, if applicable.
 - Who will be involved in carrying out the methods? Describe the role of those responsible for conducting the work, including those coordinating the work and those carrying out day-to-day tasks. If contractors/sub-recipients will be used to complete project-related work, indicate which

tasks the contractor/sub-recipient will complete. You will identify specific costs for any contractor/sub-recipient in the budget, not in the Approach.

- Do not re-describe the Need or Purpose in the Approach.
- Do not describe your benefits, monitoring, or evaluation steps in this section; they will be described in the following sections.

- V. **Results or Benefits Expected:** This section specifies intended results, expected benefits, and outcomes that impact the need if the project objectives are completed and the identified need is resolved or significantly improved by your project. Benefits can be described regarding the improved state of fish and wildlife resources, users, economy, and/or society once your project has been completed. Benefits should be expressed in measurable outcomes (e.g., the number of participants likely to continue the learned outdoor activity). Please also address for reviewers how the project benefits will be continued after project completion beyond the life of the grant by describing the anticipated, extended use/life of the project's results, products, or services after the project is completed and how this extended use/life will be sustained.
- VI. **Deliverables:** Identify and describe deliverables that will be produced by your project. Deliverables may include but are not limited to, designed reports, peer-reviewed publications, photo and video collections, marketing templates, toolkits, and presentations and webinars. All deliverables must be submitted to AFWA and USFWS upon project completion, including all photos and video footage obtained using grant funds, even if not selected for use in the project's final products. Also, describe how deliverables will be disseminated to intended users. All deliverables made available for distribution in digital or hard copy format **must** include acknowledgment of the MSCG award number and program logos, which the USFWS will provide if you receive an award. This section in your proposal must acknowledge and commit to these deliverable requirements.
- VII. **Timeline:** Identify time frames within which key project tasks and activities will be carried out. A timeline may be presented as a list or chart. The timeline will help reviewers determine whether the project Objective(s) and Approach(es) are realistic for the grant period.
- VIII. **Monitoring:** Describe how you will track the project's progress in alignment with the proposed timeline and milestones. Significant developments must be disclosed and communicated to AFWA and the Service as soon as they are recognized. Significant developments are defined as problems, delays, or adverse conditions that will materially impair the ability to meet the objective(s) of the grant, or 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.
- IX. **Evaluation:** Describe how you will assess the effectiveness of your project outputs and deliverables in achieving the intended project outcomes (e.g., increased recruitment). Describe how your project outputs and deliverables benefit the geographic scope you selected under "Beneficiary Information".
- X. **Qualifications of Key Personnel:** In one to two paragraphs describe personnel working on the project. Include details about their role in the project, relevant expertise, and significance to the project.

Project Statement – Tips



Use the Template.

[Download](#) and use the template created by AFWA to ensure all required information is provided.

--Use the AFWA Multistate Grant Guidelines (pages 10-11) to ensure all required content is addressed for each section.



Clarity is key! Make it easy for reviewers to find information that is required.

--Keep information in each section relevant to that section's heading.



Level of Detail. Concise, but sufficient detail for reviewers to:

- Determine eligibility
- Assess whether activities are appropriate and realistic
- Assign appropriate scoring
- If funded, supports compliance under NEPA, ESA and NHPA*



[Scoring Details](#). Use as a guide while creating your project narrative.

- Double-check your proposal content to maximize points awarded by reviewers.
- Found on [AFWA's Multistate website](#)

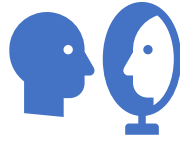


Project Statement – Required Content



1. Needs Statement. Describe specific need, challenge, or opportunity being addressed. “Why is this project necessary?”

- ✓ Be concise!
- ✓ Describe how your project fulfills one or more of the **Strategic Priorities**.
- ✓ **Provide evidence and facts**, not hyperbole and emotion.
- ✓ **Do not** describe Objectives or Approach/Methods in this section.



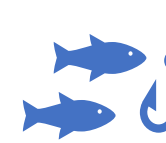
2. Purpose Statement. Briefly state **ONLY** the project’s expected impact or outcome.

- ✓ No more than a sentence or two.
- ✓ Set the stage with, “The purpose of this project is to...”
- ✓ **EXAMPLE:** The purpose of this project is to increase participation in archery among adults aged 18-35 in the southeastern U.S. through interactive social marketing campaigns.
- ✓ **NOTE:** More detail about outcomes should be included under “Results and Benefits”.



3. Objectives. Use SMART Objectives = Specific. Measurable. Attainable. Relevant. Time-bound.

- ✓ May have one or more objectives.
- ✓ Each objective should be stated as a sentence.
- ✓ **Be realistic!** Do not embellish numbers for competitive edge. Reviewers may judge your project as **unrealistic**.
- ✓ **EXAMPLE:** Conduct archery social marketing campaigns in at least 8 states within the SEAFWA region by December 31, 2026.



4. Approach. Describe methods that will be used to achieve your stated objectives.

- ✓ **What** activities that will be carried out, **how**, **where** (include maps or GIS data, as applicable), **when** (specify dates or date ranges), and **by whom** (including roles for contractors or subrecipients, if involved).
- ✓ Include sufficient details for compliance determination.*

* Compliance determinations include: NEPA = National Environmental Policy Act; ESA = Endangered Species Act; NHPA = National Historic Preservation Act

Project Statement – Required Content *(continued)*



5. Results and Benefits. Describe intended results and expected benefits and outcomes when project is complete and the stated Need improved or resolved.

- ✓ In terms of fish and wildlife resources, users, economy or society.
- ✓ How will these benefits be sustained after your project ends?
- ✓ What is the anticipated useful life of the results, deliverables or services produced?



6. Deliverables. Identify and describe products that your project will create. List each and describe **in a sentence or two**.

- ✓ All deliverables must be submitted to USFWS and AFWA.
- ✓ All deliverables and products created or obtained using grant funds must be submitted to USFWS upon project completion, even if not selected for use in the project's final Deliverables (e.g., photos, B-roll video).
- ✓ Include how deliverables will be shared with intended users.
- ✓ Multistate grant funding must be acknowledged on distributed products, with some exceptions. Details provided to awarded projects.
- ✓ **EXAMPLES:** Designed reports of survey results or marketing campaigns, marketing templates, photo or video collections, social media posts, webinars, presentations, toolkits, etc.



7. Timeline. Provide a project schedule identifying major task and activity milestones and deliverables.

- ✓ Demonstrate your project is feasible within the grant period.
- ✓ May be presented as a chart or bulleted list.

Project Statement – Required Content (continued)



8. Monitoring. Describe how you will track the project's progress within the timeline.

- ✓ Significant developments must be communicated with the FWS, including delays, problems, or other adverse conditions, or favorable conditions including completing project sooner, under budget, or with different beneficial results.
- ✓ Don't wait for required reporting to share issues with FWS.



9. Evaluation. Describe how you will assess the effectiveness of project outputs and deliverables in achieving project outcomes.

- ✓ Include how you will determine if the geographic scope you selected for your proposal benefited.
- ✓ **EXAMPLE:** How will you assess whether your project resulted in increase participation in archery among adults aged 18-35 in the southeastern U.S. through interactive social marketing campaigns?



10. Key Personnel Qualifications. Describe the key personnel working on the project in 1-2 paragraphs total.

- ✓ Demonstrates readiness and ability to complete the proposed project.
- ✓ What is each person's assigned role?
- ✓ What is their relevant experience?
- ✓ How significant is their role in the project?

Budget Information

- ☐ **Use the Template.** Includes Budget Narrative and Table in one document. Provided on [AFWA's Multistate website](#).
- ☐ **Consult AFWA's Grant Proposal Guidelines** for detailed Budget instructions.
- ☐ **Consult the NOFO** for Budget information.
- ☐ **Refer to [2 CFR 200.400 Cost Principles](#)** – applies to all Federal financial assistance.
- ☐ Demonstrate that your project is **cost-effective** and proposed costs are **necessary and reasonable** to accomplish objectives.
- ☐ Provide sufficient detail to demonstrate **costs are allowable and allocable**.



Helpful
Tips

Allowable Costs

2 CFR 200.400
Cost Principles

- **Necessary and reasonable**
- **No double dipping:** cannot include costs covered by another Federal program
- **Adequately documented**
- **Incurred during the approved grant period**
- **“Cost allocation”** methods must be described if a cost you propose will benefit other programs, projects or activities that are not part of your proposal.
- Other details about what is allowable and unallowable in [2 CFR 200.400 Cost Principles](#)



Unallowable Costs:

- ✓ General Advertising and Public Relations
- ✓ Fundraising
- ✓ Lobbying
- ✓ Entertainment and alcoholic beverages
- ✓ Costs incurred outside the award period



Office of
**CONSERVATION
INVESTMENT**

Grant Proposal Guidelines: Budget Narrative Instructions

BUDGET NARRATIVE and BUDGET TABLE¹

Applicants must include a budget narrative describing and justifying requested items and costs. All Budget Categories must be addressed in the narrative; for those Budget Categories that are not relevant to your project, simply indicate “N/A.” Be sure to include any cost item that requires prior approval under the Federal cost principles, including any anticipated travel, sub-awarding or contracting out of any work under the award, Participant Support Costs, or transferring costs between Budget Categories. See [2 CFR 200.407](#) “Prior written approval (prior approval)” for more information and the complete list of costs requiring prior approval.

Personnel Salary: For each position involved in the project, indicate the percentage of time (in hours or workdays) anticipated and estimated salary anticipated. Include a brief description of their role in the project.

Fringe Benefits: Identify your organization’s current fringe rate(s) and what is included in the rate (e.g., social security, employee life, health, unemployment, and worker’s compensation insurance, pension, unemployment).

Travel: Describe how travel supports the project objectives, including the purpose of travel and the specific name of the meeting or event that employees are attending. For each travel, describe who is traveling to the meeting or event and their individual roles (e.g., presenting, leading program, facilitating, or participating in the discussion), and describe the breakdown of estimated costs per traveler (e.g., airfare, lodging, meals), as allowable under [2 CFR 200.475 Travel Costs](#).

Equipment: Equipment means tangible personal property (including information technology systems) having a useful life of more than one year and a per-unit acquisition cost which equals or exceeds the lesser of the capitalization level established by the non-Federal entity for financial statement purposes, or \$5,000 (2 CFR 200.1). Grantees and subrecipients must follow the requirements at 2 CFR 200 when acquiring equipment under an award, with emphasis on 200.313, 200.317 through 200.327, and 200.439. 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 lists approved unmanned aircraft and related equipment and software.

If equipment previously purchased with Federal funds is available for the project, provide a list of that equipment and identify the Federal funding source.

Grantees and sub-recipients must follow the requirements at 2 CFR 200 when acquiring equipment under an award, emphasizing 200.313, 200.317 through 200.327, and 200.439.

Supplies: Supplies mean all tangible personal property other than those described in the definition of *equipment*. A computing device is a supply if the acquisition cost is less than the lesser of the capitalization level established by the non-Federal entity for financial statement purposes or \$5,000, regardless of the length of its useful life.

Contractual: Provide a separate description of services and total estimated cost for each **contract** anticipated during the project. (NOTE! Do not describe subawards and subrecipients in this section! See [2 CFR 200.331](#) “Subrecipient and contractor determinations” to learn how to determine the difference.)

Budget Narrative and Table – Recommended Template

2025 Multistate Conservation Grant Program BUDGET NARRATIVE and BUDGET TABLE

Project Title:

Organization:

Personnel Salary:

Fringe Benefits:

Travel:

Equipment:

Supplies

Contractual:

Other:

Subawards:

Participant Support Costs:

Program Income:

Indirect:

****Available on [AFWA’s MSCGP website](#).****

Budget Narrative (continued)

Personnel

- List positions involved and describe role, include salary/wages and % time on project for each position.

Fringe

- Identify organization's approved rate, describe what is included (e.g., social security, employee life, health, unemployment, workers' compensation insurance, pension, and unemployment).

Travel

- Include organization's employees ONLY! Who is traveling, why (role and how supports objectives) and where. Include costs comprising travel estimates (e.g., lodging, per diem, airfare, rental car)

Equipment

- Useful life >1 year and per-unit cost equal to or exceeding the lesser of your organization's established capitalization level or \$10,000.

Supplies

- Items that do not meet the definition of Equipment. Computing devices may fall into this category.

Contractual

- List and describe each contractual service including estimated value. Do not list subawards; subawards should be included under "Other".

Other

- List each Subaward, Participant Support Costs (stipends, participant travel only, registration fees, printing and conference, rental and training costs. Describe details for each.

Indirect Charges

- Describe your organization's Indirect Cost rate (i.e., NICRA, [de minimis](#)), including the actual % rate used and describe base costs upon which indirect is applied.

Program Income

- Describe how income will be earned and how it will be applied to the award (e.g., additive or deductive).

Contractor vs. Subrecipient Determination

- **2 CFR 200.331 Subrecipient and contractor determinations:** Provides information to guide determination. Describes characteristics of contractors vs. subrecipients.
- ***Substance and purpose of the relationship is more important than the form of agreement.*** Consider the participatory effort of the entity you are engaging in the project.
- **Contractor Characteristics:**
 - Provides the goods and services within normal business operations;
 - Provides **similar goods or services to many different purchasers**;
 - Normally operates in a competitive environment;
 - Provides **goods or services that are ancillary to the Federal award**; and
 - Is not subject to compliance requirements of the Federal program as a result of the agreement.
- **Subrecipient Characteristics:**
 - Has its performance measured in relation to whether **objectives of the project** were met;
 - Has **responsibility for programmatic decision-making**;
 - Responsible for adhering to requirements specified in the Federal award; and
 - Uses the Federal funds to **carry out the purpose of the project**, as opposed to providing goods or services for the benefit of the Federal award recipient.

Remember!
Document your
determination and
maintain this
information in your
grant files.



Subaward Process Management

- **Step 1:** Subrecipient vs. Contractor Determination
[§ 200.331 Subrecipient and contractor determinations](#) (a), (b), & (c)
- **Step 2:** Subrecipient Risk Assessment
[§ 200.332 Requirements for pass-through entities](#) (b)
- **Step 3:** Monitoring Plan Development
[§ 200.332 Requirements for pass-through entities](#) (d) & (e)
- **Step 4:** Subaward Agreement Development
[§ 200.332 Requirements for pass-through entities](#) (a) & (c)
- **Step 5:** Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act
[FFATA Reporting Website](#)

Indirect Costs

- Expenses of doing business that are not readily identified with a particular grant, project, or activity, but are necessary for the general operation of the organization.
- Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA):** Applicants must either have an approved NICRA to charge indirect costs to award; OR
- If no NICRA, Applicant may use a **de minimis rate** (2 CFR 200.414), which is currently up to 15% and is applied to the **Modified Total Direct Cost (MTDC)**. MTDC is defined in [2 CFR 200.1](#).

MTDC includes:

- Direct salaries, wages and fringe benefits
- Travel
- Supplies
- Contractual Services
- Up to the first \$50,000 of each subaward

MTDC excludes:

- Equipment
- Capital expenditures
- Rental costs
- Tuition remission, scholarships and fellowships
- Participant support costs
- Portion of each subaward in excess of \$50,000.
- Other items may only be excluded to avoid a serious inequity in the distribution of indirect costs.

Two NICRA Examples: Base Costs

Type	From	To	Rate*	Locations	To
Fixed Carryforward	07/01/15	06/30/16	29.21%	All	All Programs
*Base: Total direct costs, less capital expenditures and passthrough funds. Passthrough funds are normally defined as payments to participants, stipends to eligible recipients, subcontracts and subgrants, all of which normally require minimal administrative effort.					
Treatment of fringe benefits: Fringe benefits applicable to direct salaries and wages are treated as direct costs; fringe benefits applicable to indirect salaries and wages are treated as indirect costs.					
Section II: General					

Clarifying language regarding subgrants and subcontracts

The indirect cost rate contained herein is for use on grants, contracts, and other agreements with the Federal Government to which 2 CFR Part 200 applies for fiscal years beginning on or after December 26, 2014 subject to the limitations in Section II.A. of this agreement. Applicable OMB Circulars and the regulations at 2 CFR 225 will continue to apply to federal funds awarded prior to December 26, 2014. The rate was negotiated by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Interior Business Center, and the subject organization in accordance with the authority contained in applicable regulations.

Section I: Rate		Effective Dates		Rate		
Type	Rate Type	Effective Period		Rate*	Locations	Applicable To
		From	To			
Fixed Carryforward		07/01/15	06/30/16	29.52%	All	All Programs

*Base: Total direct salaries and wages, including fringe benefits. The rate applies to all programs administered by the non-federal entity. To determine the amount of indirect costs to be billed under this agreement, direct salaries and wages and related fringe benefits should be summed and multiplied by the rate. All other program costs should be eliminated from the calculation.

Description of Base

BUDGET TABLE	2026 MSCGP Costs	Base Costs Included in Indirect Cost Calculation: <i>NICRA-specified Base or MTDC Base</i>
PERSONNEL	\$ 24,500.00	\$ 24,500.00
FRINGE (31.00%)	\$ 7,595.00	\$ 7,595.00
TRAVEL	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00
SUPPLIES	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 5,500.00
EQUIPMENT	\$ 12,000.00	\$ -
CONTRACT (Total)	\$ 25,000.00	
1. Contract Name or TBD - \$10,000		
2. Contract Name or TBD - \$15,000		
3. Contract Name or TBD - \$ _____		
OTHER (Specify)		
Participants Support Costs (Total)	\$ 18,000.00	\$ -
Subawards (Total)	\$ 200,000.00	\$ -
1. Subaward Name or TBD - \$75,000		
2. Subaward Name or TBD - \$125,000		
3. Subaward Name or TBD - \$ _____		
<i>Additional lines can be inserted for "Other" costs in this Budget Category</i>		
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS	\$ 300,095.00	\$ 45,095.00
Indirect Costs 29.21%	\$ 13,172.25	0.2921
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 313,267.25	\$ 13,172.25

T-MSCGP SFR: ~~\$156,633.62~~ T-MSCGP WR: ~~\$156,633.62~~ R3-MSCGP WR: ~~\$0~~

Using Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) as basis for Indirect Costs

Section I: Rate

Type	Effective Period		Rate*	Locations	Applicable To
	From	To			
Fixed Carryforward	07/01/15	06/30/16	29.21%	All	All Programs

*Base: Total direct costs, less capital expenditures and passthrough funds. Passthrough funds are normally defined as payments to participants, stipends to eligible recipients, subcontracts and subgrants, all of which normally require minimal administrative effort.

Treatment of fringe benefits: Fringe benefits applicable to direct salaries and wages are treated as direct costs; fringe benefits applicable to indirect salaries and wages are treated as

Clarifying language regarding subgrants and subcontracts

Section II: General

Page 1 of 3



Remember to identify which funds you are requesting. This example is a research project evaluating aquatic habitats for waterfowl and sport fish.

BUDGET TABLE	2025 MSCGP Costs	Base Costs Included in Indirect Cost Calculation:
		<u>NICRA-specified Base or MTDC Base</u>
PERSONNEL	\$ 24,500.00	\$ 24,500.00
FRINGE (31.00%)	\$ 7,595.00	\$ 7,595.00
TRAVEL	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00
SUPPLIES	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 5,500.00
EQUIPMENT	\$ 12,000.00	\$ -
CONTRACT (Total)	\$ 47,000.00	\$ 47,000.00
1. Contract Name or TBD - <u>\$32,000</u>		
2. Contract Name or TBD - <u>\$15,000</u>		
3. Contract Name or TBD - <u>\$</u>		
OTHER (Specify)		
Participants Support Costs (Total)	\$ 28,000.00	\$ -
Subawards (Total)	\$ 139,000.00	\$ 79,000.00
1. Subaward Name or TBD - <u>\$110,000</u> <u>MTDC amount allowable for indirect: \$50,000</u>		
2. Subaward Name or TBD - <u>\$29,000</u> <u>MTDC amount allowable for indirect: \$29,000</u>		
3. Subaward Name or TBD - <u>\$</u>		
Additional lines can be inserted for "Other" costs in this Budget Category.		
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS	\$ 271,095.00	\$ 171,095.00
Indirect Costs 15%	\$ 25,664.25	0.1500
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 296,759.25	\$ 25,664.25

T-MSCGP SFR: \$ 157,152.25 T-MSCGP WR: \$0 R3-MSCGP WR: \$ 157,152.25

Using de minimis rate and Modified Total Direct Cost (MTDC) as basis for Indirect Costs

MTDC includes:

- ✓ Direct salaries, wages and fringe benefits
- ✓ Travel
- ✓ Supplies
- ✓ Contractual Services
- ✓ Up to the first \$50,000 of each subaward

MTDC excludes:

- ✓ Equipment
- ✓ Capital expenditures
- ✓ Rental costs
- ✓ Tuition remission, scholarships and fellowships
- ✓ Participant Support Costs
- ✓ **Portion of each subaward in excess of \$50,000.**
- ✓ Other items may be excluded.



Remember identify which funds you are requesting. This example is a project proposing human dimensions and marketing training for R3 practitioners – those who engage anglers, hunters and recreational target shooters.

Letters of Engagement

- ❖ **If your project relies on engagement of states for activities needed to achieve your objectives (e.g., data sharing, database development, interviews):**
 - ☐ Not required, but STRONGLY encouraged, in this case.
 - ☐ Letters (either official letters or emails) should demonstrate that these states are willing and able to participate in these activities.
- ❖ **If specific states are identified by name in Objectives or Approach (activities), Letters of Engagement are required.**
- ❖ **Letters of engagement may include the following details:**
 - ✓ Engagement Type (e.g., training, data sharing, toolkit development)
 - ✓ Description (Brief overview of the engagement)
 - ✓ Quantifiable Target (e.g., number of trainings, participants, or dataset shared)
 - ✓ Engaged Division/Department Program (e.g., Outreach and Education, Human Dimension, Licensing, etc.)
- ❖ **Letters of Engagement only come from STATES, no other organizations.**

Proposal Review Process

- **After July 14th, AFWA staff and CI staff conduct a Preliminary Screening Review for:**
 - Eligibility and any obvious red flags
- AFWA assigns proposals to **Review Teams** for review and scoring using the technical [scoring criteria](#).
- There are **4 Review Teams** based on Strategic Priority areas:
 - Conservation and Science
 - Relevancy and Capacity Building
 - R3
 - AFWA priorities
- Each Review Team meets to discuss scoring and rank the applications.
- A draft list of proposals ranked by the Review Teams is sent to:
 - Office of Conservation Investment reviews for compliance
 - AFWA's National Grants Committee (NGC) reviews and finalizes the Draft Priority List of Projects.



2027 MSCGP Technical Scoring Criteria

Maximum 100 points

- ☐ **Need**: How well does the proposal meet regional or national priority needs? (Max 10 points).
- ☐ **Benefits and Applicability**: Evaluates the benefits and applicability to multiple states. (Max 15 points)
- ☐ **Feasibility and Technical Merit**: Evaluates whether the proposal presents clear, measurable objectives, a well-supported and detailed approach, and a high likelihood of success within the proposed timeline. (Max 25 points)
- ☐ **Innovation**: Evaluates if the proposal demonstrates innovation in addressing known challenges facing state fish and wildlife agencies and their partners (Max 15 points).
- ☐ **Impact on Conservation/R3 Efforts and Longevity**: Assesses whether the proposal outlines clear, achievable deliverables that are practical for agency use and supported by a reasonable plan for long-term impact (Max 20 points).
- ☐ **Budget**: Evaluates whether the budgeted costs are reasonable and appropriate in relation to the activities planned (Max 15 points).
- ☐ **Open-Ended Questions**: Either the proposal requires changes or improvements.

Required System Registrations:

*If invited to submit
a complete grant
application in
GrantSolutions.*

- ❑ **SAM.gov Registration:** System for Award Management and Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).
- ❑ **GrantSolutions.gov Registration and User Accounts:** Organization, Authorized Representative and Principal Investigator user accounts.
- ❑ **ASAP Registration:** Automated Standard Application for Payment)
 - If your proposal is recommended for funding, be prepared to register in all these systems!
 - Registration may not happen quickly once initiated
 - Delays in obtaining registrations in these systems may delay an award if your application is recommended for funding.



Don't
Forget!

SAM.gov



Registration is
free at
www.SAM.gov

- ✓ **SAM registration is required** for organizations, businesses and individuals doing business with the federal government, including grants – required to apply for grants in GrantSolutions.gov.
- ✓ SAM.gov issues a free **Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)** upon registration.
- ✓ A **UEI** is a 12-character alphanumeric code.
- ✓ **Register now** if your organization is not already registered – can take days to several weeks to complete ("10-15 business days").
- ✓ Make sure your organization's existing registration is **not expired – must show as Active Registration**.

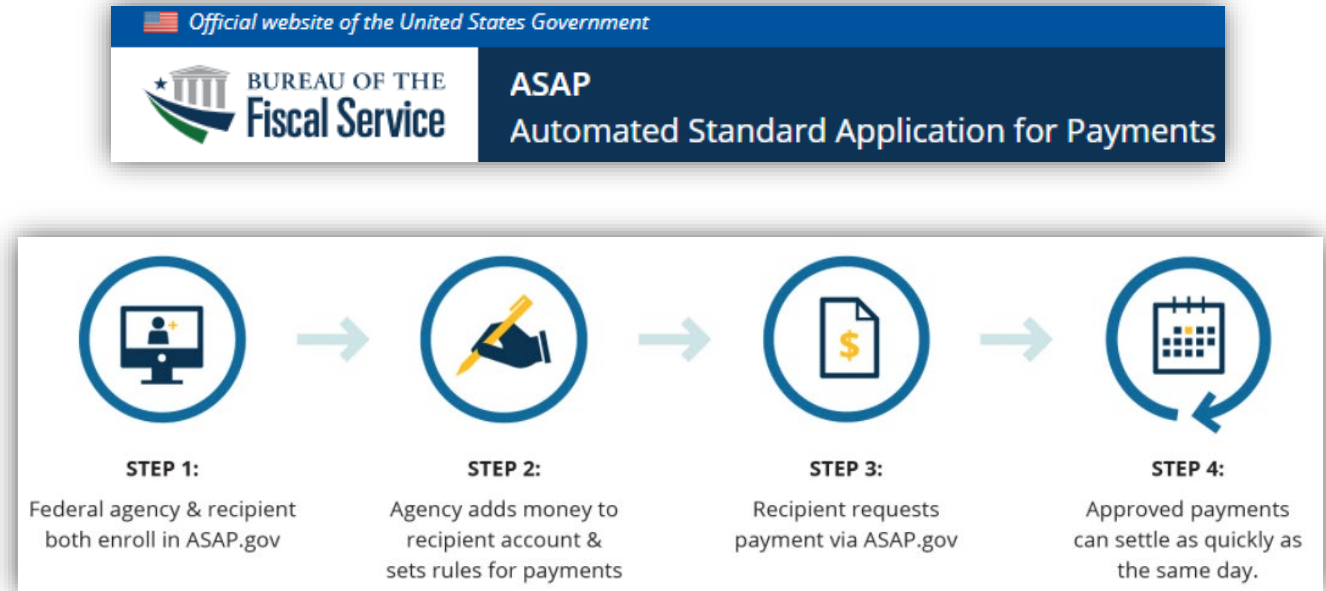
GrantSolutions Registration



- Financial assistance software platform that allows Federal agencies to manage grants throughout the entire grant award life cycle.
- **STEP ONE: Register your organization, if new to GrantSolutions.** Send an e-mail to help@grantsolutions.gov with:
 - Subject: New Organization Request
 - Entity name (organization or individual applying as a natural person)
 - Entity type
 - SAM.gov Unique Entity Identifier (not required for individuals)
 - Employer Identification Number (individuals, do not include your SSN)
 - Address
 - Contact details (First and last name, e-mail, phone) This information should be the same as entered on the entity's SAM.gov profile.
- **STEP TWO: Visit the GrantSolutions Registration webpage** for new Recipient User instructions for those who are submitting the application, serving as Authorizing Representative, and Principal Investigator. Fill out the Recipient User Account Request Form provided.

ASAP: Requesting Payments Under Federal Grants

- **U.S. Treasury's Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP).**
- Fully electronic system.
- Unless waived, recipients must be registered and have a payment method established before Federal funds can be obligated to a grant.
- **Reminder!** If your “Head of Organization” or “Financial Official” or “Payment Requestor” will be changing, update ASAP to avoid delays in payment requests!



Submission Reminders

- ✓ Grant proposals **must** be submitted by **11:59 PM ET on Tuesday, July 14, 2026.**
- ✓ Submit applications in AFWA's grant portal (requires a user account):
<https://afwamscgp.smapply.io/>
Do not submit applications in GrantSolutions.gov at this time!!
- ✓ Applicants are encouraged not to wait to the last minute to submit applications.
- ✓ **NO TRACS**

Resources

AFWA Website: [Multistate Conservation Grant Program](#)

 ASSOCIATION of FISH & WILDLIFE AGENCIES

[Contact](#) | [Careers](#) | [Q](#)

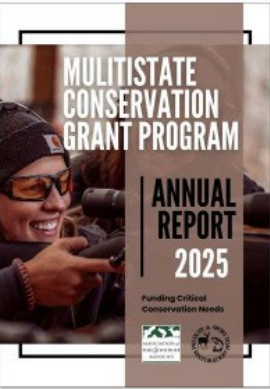
[AFWA Is](#) | [AFWA Acts](#) | [AFWA Informs](#) | [AFWA Inspires](#)

MULTISTATE CONSERVATION GRANT PROGRAM



Program Overview and Application Process

THE MULTISTATE CONSERVATION GRANT PROGRAM ENVISIONS A FUTURE WHERE SUSTAINABLE FISH AND WILDLIFE POPULATIONS, HEALTHY HABITATS, AND ENDURING TRADITIONS OF FISHING, HUNTING, AND SHOOTING SPORTS THRIVE TOGETHER. BY ENABLING INNOVATION, COLLABORATION, AND LEADERSHIP, WE IGNITE LASTING CONSERVATION IMPACT ACROSS STATE JURISDICTIONS AND FOSTER GROWING PARTICIPATION IN HUNTING, TRAPPING, FISHING, AND SHOOTING SPORTS.



The Dingell Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 777 et seq.) and the Pittman Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669 et seq.) as amended by the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106-408, 114 STAT. 1766 §113 and 114 STAT. 1722 §122) authorize the Secretary of the Interior to make up to \$6,000,000 available annually to fund Multistate Conservation project grants. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) will cite this traditional program as the Traditional Multistate Conservation Grant Program (T MSCGP).

In addition, the Modernizing the Pittman Robertson Fund for Tomorrow's Needs Act (Modernizing PR Act, 16 U.S.C. 669) amended the Pittman Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to, among other measures, authorize the Service to make hunter recruitment and recreational target shooter recruitment grants that promote a national hunting and shooting sports recruitment program, including related communication and outreach activities. The Service will cite this program as the R3 Multistate Conservation Grant Program (R3 MSCGP). Up to \$5,000,000 will be available specifically for the R3 MSCGP grants.

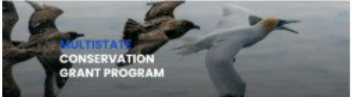
The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) and the Service work cooperatively to manage T MSCGP and R3 MSCGP. Administratively, both programs function similarly. AFWA sets the strategic priorities for project activities and provides the Service with a list of recommended projects to be considered for awards. The Service administers the program and manages the awards.

Stay Informed

Want to receive updates about MSCGP announcements, deadlines, and opportunities?

[\[SIGN UP FOR OUR EMAIL LIST HERE.\]](#)

2001 - Present MSCGP Grants Database



2027 MSCGP FULL GRANT PROPOSAL APPLICATION/BUDGET TRAINING SIGN UP

June 17, 2026

1:00 PM - 3:30 PM EST

2027 Multistate Conservation Grant Program

2027 MSCGP TIMELINE

- 5/15/2026

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) **Posts Notice Of Funding Opportunities (NOFO)**
- 7/14/2026

Proposals due via [AFWA Portal](#)
- By 7/28/2026

AFWA and the Office of Conservation Investments (CI) review proposals for **eligibility and compliance**
- By 8/24/2026

Technical Review Teams (TRT) evaluate, score, and discuss eligible proposals. Preliminary recommendations are forwarded to the **National Grants Committee (NGC)**
- By 9/7/2026

NGC **reviews preliminary recommendations** and assesses the alignment with the program goals.
- AFWA Executive Committee Reviews the high ranking proposals
- By 9/14/2026

CI detailed reviews of high ranking applications
- 9/18/2026

The National Grants Committee votes to advance the Priority List of Projects
- The **Priority List of Projects** is reviewed and approved by a **majority of State Directors**.
- 9/18/2026

Applicants are notified of their Application Status (selected, not selected, revision required)
- October 1, 2026

AFWA submits the final **Priority List of Projects** to the **USFWS**
- 10/5/2026

Applicants **revise and resubmit proposals** in response to NGC/OCI feedback via the AFWA Portal)
- Applicants submit their **Proposals** and the **required Federal Forms** via **GrantSolutions**
- January 2027

USFWS completes the **final review and awards the 2027 MSCGP grants**

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Multistate Conservation Grant Program Policies and Procedures
- MultiState Conservation Grant Program FAQ
- 2026 MSCGP Priority List of Projects
- 2026 MSCGP Awards Abstracts
- Performance Progress Report AFWA Template
- Funding Acknowledgement Fillable Form

FULL GRANT PROPOSALS

- 2027 MSCGP Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
- MSCGP Multiyear Proposals Criteria
- Scoring Criteria
- 2027 MSCGP Strategic Priorities
- 2027 Full Grant Proposal Guidelines
- 2027 Full Grant Proposals Template - Project Narrative
- 2027 Full Grant Proposal Template - Budget Narrative and Table
- Required Statements

AFWA Contact

Silvana Yaroschuk, MultiState Conservation Grant Program Manager
syaroschuk@fishwildlife.org

How to Find Projects Supported by Multistate Grants

AFWA Multistate Database

The screenshot displays the AFWA Multistate Database Grant Search interface. The top navigation bar includes links for Home, About, Priority Lists of Projects, Grant Search, Funding Sources, and Contact. The main section is titled "Grant Search" and features a search form with the following fields:

- Organization: Any
- Year: Any
- Category: Any
- Subcategory: Any (Select a Category)

Below the search form are two buttons: "Search" and "Export Results to Excel".

Annotations (orange arrows) indicate the search process:

- Arrows point from the "Grant Search" title to the search form fields.
- An arrow points from the "Search" button to the "Category" dropdown menu.
- An arrow points from the "Category" dropdown menu to the "Subcategory" dropdown menu.

The "Category" dropdown menu is open, showing the following options:

- Any
- AFWA Priorities Identified in AFWA Funding Principles (submitted by ExCom)
- Capacity Building, Conservation Education, and Coordination of Conservation Policies
- Conservation & Science
- Expanding Relevancy and Engagement
- Recruitment, Retention, Reactivation (R3)

The "Subcategory" dropdown menu is also open, showing the following options:

- Any
- Engaging Participants
- Enhancing Conservation Through Broader Engagement
- Hunting and Shooting Sports Access and Infrastructure
- Marketing
- Mentoring
- Monitoring and Evaluation

Below the search form, there are six project cards, each with a title, a date range (2023 - 2023), and a brief description:

- Organizational Decision Making for R3: A Process for Leadership** (Wildlife Management Institute, Inc.)
- Archery is for Everyone National Awareness Marketing Campaign with Marvel Entertainment, LLC Partnership** (National Archery Association of the US)
- Recruiting Females and Ethnically Diverse Youth Participants into Shooting Sports** (Midwest Association of Fish And Wildlife Agencies)
- When to Leave the Nest - Retention Without Support After Mentoring** (International Hunter Education Association)
- Hunting Mentor Communication Strategy - 8 Pilot State Implementation** (International Hunter Education Association)
- Expanding and Improving the Real-time License Data Dashboard** (Council To Advance Hunting And The Shooting Sports)

On the right side of the interface, there are two additional dropdown menus for "Category" and "Subcategory". The "Category" dropdown is set to "Recruitment, Retention, Reactiv..." and the "Subcategory" dropdown is set to "Any".

- Features Multistate Conservation Grants 2001 through Current Year
- Search options include:
 - Organization
 - Year
 - Priority
 - Key word
- View abstracts and reports



Multistate Conservation Grants

The Multistate Conservation Grant Program annually provides \$11 million dollars from the Wildlife Restoration Account and the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund. This program is jointly administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA). These high priority projects address problems affecting states on a regional or national basis. Projects include species population surveys, outreach, data collection regarding hunter or angler participation, hunter or aquatic education, economic value of fishing and hunting, and regional or multistate habitat needs assessments.

Below are listed the abstracts for the most recent grant abstracts awarded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. These grants are currently active. Interested parties can visit the [AFWA Multistate Grant website](#) for final reports for all grants that have been completed in the past.

[VIEW FINAL REPORTS >](#)

SORT, FILTER & SEARCH FOR GRANTS

[RESET FILTERS](#)

Grant Abstracts

Resources

Partner with a Payer Website

- Visit [Partner with a Payer](#) website provide abstracts up to 2025 grants.
- Once final grant reports are accepted by the USFWS, AFWA will upload grant reports on the AFWA Multistate Dashboard.



Need Assistance?



Office of
**CONSERVATION
INVESTMENT**



Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA)

- Silvana Yaroschuk, MSCGP

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Office of Conservation Investment, USFWS:

- Karen Bennett, Multistate Conservation Grant Coordinator, karen_bennett@fws.gov

Thank you!



- ? How would you recommend showing evidence of the need for the project coming from state agencies in our proposal?
- ? Do MSCGP support research on fisheries ecology or is it only for social science-oriented projects?
- ? Where does it say that projects cannot address food insecurity? That was feedback from a previous proposal.
- ? What type of conservation activities qualify for these grant funds?
- ? Are Alaska-relevant issues considered as a single state issues?
- ? Eligibility = benefit >26 states, could it be a regional project with national implications?
- ? What proportion of proposals are funded?
- ? How much can be used to purchase equipment?
- ? More information on the multi-year proposals vs the likelihood of being able to apply for an obtain additional years of funding would be helpful.
- ? We are hoping to conduct a project that would involve data requests from all 50 states. Do we need letters of support from all agencies, or would a subset suffice?
- ? Would it be possible to go over examples of the kind of proposals that are typically funded, and some examples of projects that would not be a strong fit for this RFP?
- ? Are we able to email grant ideas or concepts to the grant coordinators to confirm eligibility with 2027 Strategic Priorities?
- ? Can letters of engagement from agencies be submitted at later steps of the application process? And are letters of engagement also needed from potential federal fish & wildlife agencies?

Questions?

