

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Improving the Science Foundation for Bird Conservation

<https://umgljv.org/> and <http://ppjv.org/>

Notice of Funding Opportunity – Fiscal Year 2021

Funding Opportunity Number F21AS00358

Closing Date: 05/10/2021

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT:

OMB Control Number: 1018-0100, Expiration Date: 7/31/2021

We are collecting this information in accordance with the authorizing legislation identified above. Your response is required to obtain or retain a benefit. We will use the information you provide to conduct a competitive review and select projects for funding and, if awarded, to evaluate performance. We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. 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 time for these activities will vary depending on program-specific requirements. You may send comments on the burden estimate or any other aspect of this information collection to the Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS BPHC, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.

A. Program Description

A1. Authority

Migratory Bird Joint Ventures 15.637 authorizing statutes related to this agreement include: Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 742a-754; Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1958, 16 U.S.C.661-667(e); Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 16 U.S.C, 2901-2911; and Migratory Bird Treaty Act, (16U.S.C. 709a); Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531-43).

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 15.637

A2. Background, Purpose and Program Requirements

The goal of the Joint Venture (JV) is to assist partners in implementing effective science-based bird conservation projects in the Upper Mississippi / Great Lakes Joint Venture (UMGLJV) and Prairie Pothole Joint Venture (PPJV). Two discrete fund accounts will be used to fund grants respectively within the UMGLJV (Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin, plus portions of Iowa, Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, Minnesota, Nebraska and Ohio) and from the PPJV region of Minnesota and Iowa.

Each JV has identified priority evaluation needs to fill information gaps and test assumptions used in plan development. Proposals for monitoring and applied research that improve JV conservation decision tools, especially for grassland nesting birds, will be given higher grant priority. In addition, projects to address conservation priorities in State Wildlife Action Plans (SWAPs) (<https://www.fishwildlife.org/afwa-informs/state-wildlife-action-plans>), and for JV focal species identified in JV plans/strategies, should be highlighted. Proposal objectives should directly relate to information needs identified in respective JV Implementation Plans and Habitat Conservation Strategies, and SWAPs. Please clearly identify the plan(s) you are addressing and cite the information need(s) identified. For projects that involve the collection of bird population abundance data, the proposal must state that grantees will upload and make project data available through the Midwest Avian Data Center or similar framework allowing retrieval by the scientific community.

Please highlight your objectives that address conservation priorities in State Wildlife Action Plans (<https://www.fishwildlife.org/afwa-informs/state-wildlife-action-plans>) for the state(s) you propose activities in, identifying the state(s) and citing respective SWAP objective(s).

Proposal objectives should directly relate to information needs identified in respective JV Implementation Plans and Habitat Conservation Strategies. All submissions should explain how the outcome of proposed projects is regional in scope. Applicants should also describe the entire scope of the project and explain how JV funded activities will be leveraged against other partner investments towards the success of the entire project.

The UMGLJV has an Implementation Plan and conservation strategies identifying bird habitat, monitoring, and research needs with an emphasis on JV focal species. In addition to scientific evaluation, the UMGLJV will consider funding proposals related to coordination, outreach, and bird habitat restoration / enhancement contributing toward goals identified in the JV plans will also be considered, if adequate funds are available. These plans and associated research and monitoring needs can be found at www.umgljv.org, <https://umgljv.org/planning/joint-venture-plans/>, and <https://umgljv.org/science/>.

Following are themes prominent in UMGLJV planning documents, with focus on priority species (JV focal species) and increasing conservation effectiveness:

- 1) Test planning assumptions, determine factors most limiting population growth during the full annual cycle, and build / refine models to more effectively target bird habitat conservation;
- 2) Improve understanding of focal species habitat selection, survival, migration chronology, and human influences on migrating and wintering populations;
- 3) Assess bird densities and vital rates in breeding and nonbreeding areas to better predict carrying capacity for birds in quality habitats; and
- 4) Improve understanding of regional human dimensions related to enjoyment of birds, bird habitats, ecological services provided by bird habitats, and how to most effectively grow public support for bird habitat conservation.

We encourage you to discuss proposal ideas for the UMGLJV region with Science Coordinator Greg Soulliere (phone 517-351-4214, Greg_Soulliere@fws.gov).

The PPJV has an Implementation Plan that identifies regional bird habitat conservation strategies, planning uncertainties, and associated information and research needs. Additionally, it includes State Tactical Plans further identifying information and research needs unique to each state conservation strategy. They can be found at www.ppjv.org/resources/implementation-plan/2017-implementation-plan.

Prominent themes in the PPJV planning documents to increase effectiveness of grassland and wetland conservation that benefit priority JV species include:

- 1) Evaluation of planning assumptions and quantification of population limiting factors,
- 2) quantifying ecosystem services and socio-economic benefits generated by wetland and grassland conservation delivery,
- 3) evaluate wetland degradation and function in cropped landscapes and effects on breeding and migrating wetland birds,
- 4) refine understanding of how landscape composition affects demographic parameters (i.e.,

survival, fecundity) for breeding grassland and wetland species at local and regional scales.

We encourage you to discuss proposal ideas for the PPJV region with Science Coordinator Josh Vest (phone 406-552-3657, josh_vest@fws.gov).

B. Federal Award Information

B1. Total Funding

Estimated Total Funding: \$200,000 – Each JV will issue one or more grants annually under this NOFO, with a total funding amount of \$100,000 for each JV, or \$200,000 total. Each JV will issue one or more grants annually under this NOFO (multi-year grants may be issued contingent on funding, with a multi-year funding maximum of \$100,000).

B2. Expected Award Amount

Minimum Award: Minimum Award: \$25,000

Maximum Award: \$100,000

B3. Expected Award Date: October 1, 2021

B4. Number of Awards

Expected Number of Awards: One or more per JV

B5. Type of Award

Funding Instrument Type: Grants, Cooperative Agreements

Eligibility Information

C1. Eligible Applicants

Federal, State, and local government agencies

Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized)

Native American tribal organizations (other than Federally recognized tribal governments)

Public and State controlled institutions of higher education

Nonprofits having a 501 (c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education

Nonprofits that do not have a 501 (c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education

Private institutions of higher education

Interstate and intrastate entities

Individuals

For profit organization other than small businesses

Small businesses

Others

C2. Cost Sharing or Matching

Does the program have a cost sharing or matching requirement? No

Excluded Parties: FWS conducts a review of the SAM.gov Exclusions database for all applicant

entities and their key project personnel prior to award. The Bureau 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 a paper application package and these other information materials, please contact

UMGLJV Joint Venture Coordinator Doug Gorby

Phone 517-351-8286, douglas_gorby@fws.gov

USFWS – UMGLJV

Michigan Field Office

2651 Coolidge Road, Suite 101

East Lansing, MI 48823

or PPJV Coordinator Sean Fields

Phone 406-727-7400 ext. 218, sean_fields@fws.gov

USFWS – PPJV

922 Bootlegger Trail

Great Falls, MT 59404

(Please be sure to follow up with the respective JV coordinator by phone or email if requesting anything through mail.)

D2. Content and Form of Application Submission SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance

Applicants must submit the appropriate [Standard Form \(SF\)-424, “Application for Federal Assistance”](#). Individuals applying as a private citizen (i.e., unrelated to any business or nonprofit organization you may own or operate in your name), must complete the SF-424, “Application for Federal Assistance-Individual” form. All other applicants must complete the standard SF-424, “Application for Federal Assistance”. The required application forms are available with this announcement on Grants.gov. The SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance must be complete, and signed and dated. Please note: Enter only the amount requested from this Federal program in the “Federal” funding box on the SF-424 Application form. Include any other Federal sources of funding in the “Other” box and provide details on those Federal source(s) and funding amount(s) in the required Budget Narrative (see the “Budget Narrative” section below).

SF 424B, Assurances for Non-Construction Programs

When requesting support for a non-construction project, *individuals* applying for and receiving funds separate from a business or non-profit organization he/she may own or operate *and any entity waived by the Service from the SAM.gov registration requirements* must submit a signed and dated [SF-424B, “Assurances for Non-Construction Programs”](#) form. All of the required application forms are available on with this announcement on Grants.gov.

SF 424D, Assurances for Construction Programs

Any applicant requesting support for a construction project must submit the SF-424D, “Assurances for Construction Programs”. All required application forms are available with this announcement on Grants.gov.

Project Narrative

- Project title;

- Description of entity(ies) undertaking the project;
- Statement of need: Describe why this project is necessary (significance/value) and include supporting information. Summarize previous or on-going efforts (of you/your organization, and other organizations or individuals) that are relevant to the proposed work. Explain the successes or failures of past efforts and how your proposed project builds on them. Describe how this project relates to UMGLJV or PPJV Implementation Plans. If you have received funding previously (from the Service or any other entity) for this specific project work or site, provide a summary of the funding, associated activities and products/outcomes;
- Goals and objectives: State the long-term, overarching goal(s) of the program/project. State the objectives of the project. Objectives are the specific outcomes to be accomplished in order to reach the stated goal(s). The project objectives must be specific, measurable, and realistic (attainable within the project's proposed project period);
- Activities, Methods, and Timetable: List the proposed project activities and describe how they relate to the stated objectives. 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 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;
- Information to support environmental compliance review requirements: For projects being conducted within the United States, the narrative must provide enough detail so that reviewers are able to determine project compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Provide a detailed description of the method(s) to be used to carry out each activity;
- Description of stakeholder coordination or involvement: As applicable, describe how you/your organization has coordinated with and involved other relevant organizations or individuals in planning the project, and detail if/how they will be involved in conducting project activities, disseminating project results and/or incorporating your results/products into their activities;
- Required project monitoring and evaluation plan, including description of assessment tools to be used;
- Information on key project personnel: Provide a brief description of the applicant organization and all participating entities and/or individuals. Identify which of the proposed activities each agency, organization, group, or individual is responsible for conducting or managing;
- Anticipated future funding needs;
- Details and supporting documentation on the project location;
- Sustainability: 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;
- Literature Cited

SF-424A, Budget Information for Non-Construction Program

Applicants must submit the appropriate SF-424 Budget Information form and Budget Narrative. For non-construction programs or projects, applicants must complete and submit the [SF-424A, "Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs"](#) form. All of the required application forms are available with this announcement on Grants.gov. Federal award recipients and subrecipients are subject to Federal award cost principles per the Service's General Award Terms and Conditions. Applicants must show funds requested from this Federal program separately from any other Federal sources of funding. In the "Budget Summary" section of the appropriate SF-424 budget form, use the first row for funding requested from this Federal program. Use subsequent row(s) for funding requested from this Federal

program. Use subsequent row(s) for other Federal funding. Enter each Federal program's CFDA number(s) in the corresponding fields on the form. The CFDA number(s) for this program appears on the first page of this announcement.

Request to Acquire, Improve, or Furnish Real Property

Applicants seeking approval to acquire real property under an award must complete and submit the [SF-429, "Real Property Status Report \(Cover Page\)"](#) and the [SF-429-B, "Real Property Status Report Attachment B \(Request to Acquire, Improve, or Furnish\)"](#). These forms are required if the real property is acquired with Federal funds, with recipient cost share or matching funds, or as an in-kind contribution under the award.

Budget Narrative

Describe and justify requested budget items and costs. Detail how the SF-424 Budget Information, Object Class Category totals were determined. For personnel salary costs, include the baseline salary figures and the estimates of time. Describe any item of cost that requires prior approval under the Federal cost principles. See [2 CFR 200.407](#) "Prior written approval (prior approval)" for more information. If equipment purchased previously with Federal funds is available for the project, provide a list of that equipment and identify the Federal funding source. Identify any 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, include the source, the amount, and the valuation methodology used to determine the total value. See [2 CFR 200.306](#) "Cost sharing or matching" for more information.

Please contact the Region 3 Joint Venture Assistant Coordinator, Anna Sidie-Slettedahl (anna_sidie-slettedahl@fws.gov), for examples of completed budget justifications.

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 subrecipients.

(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 part 18 and 31 U.S.C. 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.

(e) *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 200.338](#), Remedies for noncompliance, including suspension or debarment (see also 2 CFR part 180).

Single Audit Reporting Statement

All U.S. states, local governments, federally recognized Indian tribal governments, 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](#). U.S. state, local government, federally recognized Indian tribal government, 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 [43 CFR 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 regards 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 regards 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 regards 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 Wild life 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 individual (i.e., unrelated to any business or nonprofit organization you may own or operate) or any entity with an exception approved by the funding bureau or office in accordance with bureau or office policy. All other applicants are required to obtain a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number from Dun & Bradstreet and then register in SAM.gov prior to submitting a Federal award application. Federal award recipients must continue to maintain an active SAM.gov registration with current information through the life of their Federal award(s). See the “Submission Requirements” section of this document below for more information on SAM.gov registration. We 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 program 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. **There is no cost to register with Dun & Bradstreet or SAM.gov.** There are third-party vendors who will charge a fee in exchange for registering entities with Dun & Bradstreet and SAM.gov; **please be aware you can register and request help for free.**

Obtain a DUNS Number

Request a DUNS Number through the Dun & Bradstreet website. The official website address is <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>. For technical difficulties, send an email to the D&B SAM Help Desk. Please ensure that you are able to receive emails from SAMHelp@dnb.com. The Grants.gov “Obtain a DUNS Number” webpage also provides detailed instructions. Once assigned a DUNS number, your organization must maintain up-to-date information with Dun & Bradstreet. Applicants must enter their DUNS number in the “Organizational DUNS” field on the SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance form.

Register with the System for Award Management (SAM)

Register on the [SAM.gov website](#). “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. You can also 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 to the entity’s DUNS or IRS information.

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: 05/10/2021

D5. Intergovernmental Review

Prior to application submission, U.S. state and local government applicants should visit the [OMB Office of Federal Financial Management website](#) and view the “State Point of Contact (SPOC) List” to determine whether their application is subject to the state intergovernmental review process under Executive Order (E.O.) 12372 “Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs.” States not on the list do not participate in the intergovernmental review process, and therefore do not have a SPOC. If you are located within a State that does not have a SPOC, you may send application materials directly to a Federal awarding agency. If your state is on the list, contact the designated entity for more information on the state’s prior review requirements for Federal assistance applications.

D6. Funding Restrictions

Pre-award costs may be reimbursed. Cooperative agreements issued to Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESU) Network partners will qualify as CESU projects and therefore will be subject to the CESU indirect cost rate cap (currently 17.5%).

Funding will be restricted to proposals focusing on monitoring and applied research that improve the science foundation for JV conservation plans. For the UMGLJV, proposals related to coordination, outreach, and bird habitat restoration / enhancement contributing toward goals identified in the JV plans will also be considered, if adequate funds are available.

The reimbursement of pre-Federal award costs will be allowed. If applying for pre-Federal award costs, be sure to make the actions, timeline, and amount of pre-award costs clear and justifiable in the proposal and budget.

Indirect Costs: Individuals

Individuals applying for and receiving funds separate from a business or non-profit organization he/she 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. Individuals are not required to submit any of the following statements regarding indirect costs.

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 is your organization's cognizant agency, the Interior Business Center will negotiate your indirect cost rate. Contact the Interior Business Center 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 must have prior written approval from the Service to use amounts budgeted for direct costs to satisfy cost-share or match requirements or to cover unallowable indirect costs. Recipients shall not shift unallowable indirect costs to another Federal award unless specifically authorized to do so by legislation.

Required Indirect Cost Statement

All organizations must include the applicable statement from the following list in their application and attach to their application any documentation identified in the applicable statement:

We are:

- ┌ A U.S. state or local government entity receiving more than \$35 million in direct Federal funding each year with an indirect cost rate of [insert rate]. We submit our indirect cost rate proposals to our cognizant agency. Attached is a copy of our most recently approved rate agreement/certification.
- ┌ A U.S. state or local government entity receiving less than \$35 million in direct Federal funding with an indirect cost rate of [insert rate]. We have prepared and will retain for audit an indirect cost rate proposal and related documentation.
- ┌ A [insert your organization type; U.S. states and local governments, do not use this statement] that has previously negotiated or currently has an approved indirect cost rate with our cognizant agency. Our indirect cost rate is [insert rate]. [Insert either: "Attached is a copy of our most recently approved but expired rate agreement. In the event an award is made, we will submit an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency within 90 calendar days after the award is made." or "Attached is a copy of our current negotiated indirect cost rate agreement."]
- ┌ A [insert your organization type] that has never submitted an indirect cost rate proposal to our

cognizant agency. Our indirect cost rate is [insert rate]. 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.

┌ A [insert your organization type] that has never submitted an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency and has an indirect cost rate that is lower than 10%. Our indirect cost rate is [insert rate; must be lower than 10%]. However, if we receive an award we will not be able to meet the requirement to submit an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency within 90 calendar days after award. We request as a condition of award to charge a flat indirect cost rate of [insert rate; must be lower than 10%] against [insert a clear description of the direct cost base against which your rate is charged (e.g., salaries; salaries and fringe benefits; or modified total direct costs)]. However, please note that your organization cannot charge indirect costs in excess of the indirect costs that would be recovered if applied against modified total direct costs as defined in [2 CFR §200.68](#). We understand that we must notify the Service in writing if we establish an approved rate with our cognizant agency at any point during the award period.

┌ A [insert your organization type] that has never submitted an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency and has an indirect cost rate that is 10% or higher. Our indirect cost rate is [insert your organization's indirect rate; must be 10% or higher]. However, if we receive an award we will not be able to meet the requirement to submit an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency within 90 calendar days after award. We request as a condition of award to charge a flat *de minimis* indirect cost rate of 10% to be charged against modified total direct project costs as defined in [2 CFR §200.68](#). We understand that we must notify the Service in writing if we establish a negotiated rate with our cognizant agency at any point 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.

┌ A [insert your organization type] that is submitting this proposal for consideration under the [insert either "Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit Program" or "Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit Network"], which has a Department of the Interior-approved indirect cost rate cap of [insert program rate]. If we have an approved indirect cost rate with our cognizant agency, we understand that we must apply this reduced rate against the same direct cost base as identified in our approved indirect cost rate agreement per [2 CFR §1402.414](#). If we do not have an approved indirect cost rate with our cognizant agency, we understand that we must charge indirect costs against the modified total direct cost base defined in [2 CFR §200.68](#), Modified Total Direct Cost (MTDC). We understand that we must request prior approval from the Service to use the 2 CFR 200 MTDC base instead of the base identified in our approved indirect cost rate agreement. We understand that Service approval of such a request will be based on: 1) a determination that our approved base is only a subset of the MTDC (such as salaries and wages); and 2) that use of the MTDC base will still result in a reduction of the total indirect costs to be charged to the award. In accordance with [2 CFR §200.405](#), we understand that indirect costs not recovered due to a voluntary reduction to our federally negotiated rate are not allowable for recovery via any other means.

┌ A [insert your organization type] that will charge all costs directly.

D7. Other Submission Requirements

Submit applications through [GrantSolutions.gov](#). Grants state dates must be January 1, April 1, June 1, or October 1.

Application Review Information

E1. Criteria

To be considered for funding, application objectives must address information needs in the most recent versions of JV conservation planning document referenced in A2. Each JV has identified priority evaluation needs to fill information gaps and test assumptions related to these documents (<https://umgljv.org/science/>). Proposal objectives should address monitoring and applied research that improves JV conservation decision tools. In addition, projects that complement conservation priorities in State Wildlife Action Plans (<https://www.fishwildlife.org/afwa-informs/state-wildlife-action-plans>), and for JV focal species associated with grassland communities should be highlighted. In addition to scientific evaluation, the UMGLJV will consider funding proposals related to coordination, outreach, and bird habitat restoration / enhancement contributing toward goals identified in the JV plans will also be considered, if adequate funds are available. Each JV Technical Committee member will independently review and rank proposals based on scores of the following criteria:

- Topic Value (i.e., importance to achieving JV goals; 0-10 points),
- Technical Merit (i.e., scientific rigor; 0-10 points)
- Benefit to SWAP or JV focal species (0-5 points).

These scores are compiled and used as the foundation for a discussion by the full Technical Committee, resulting in a final ranking of proposals. Final proposal ranking by each Technical Committee, with recommendations for funding highest ranked projects, will be provided to their respective Joint Venture Coordinator. The Joint Venture Coordinator makes the final funding selections.

E2. Review and Selection Process

Projects are reviewed by respective JV Technical Committees and selected for funding by each JV based upon their recommendations.

UMGLJV and PPJV grant applications will be reviewed and ranked by their respective Joint Venture Technical Committees. JV Technical Committees are comprised of 10 (UMGLJV) and 13 (PPJV) scientists representing agencies and organizations of the JV partnership. After pooling these individual scores, Technical Committee members within each JV meet and review results of the pooled ranking of proposals, then they discuss scoring variation and discrepancies among individual reviewers. This discussion results in a final proposal ranking by each Technical Committee, with recommendations for funding highest ranked projects provided to their respective Joint Venture Coordinator, who makes the final funding decisions.

Application acceptance - The Regional WSFR Office determines agency eligibility and whether applications are complete, substantial, and contain only activities that are eligible. Applications that are ineligible are returned to the grantee. Revision and resubmission of returned applications is allowable up until the identified deadline for application submittals. Prior to award, the Service 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 Service may request modification to the application, other pending applications, or an active award, as needed to eliminate any duplication of effort, or the Service may choose not to fund the selected project.

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 Bureau may choose not to fund the selected project. The program may not make a Federal award to an applicant that has not completed the

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

Prior to award, the program will evaluate the risk posed by applicants as required in [2 CFR 200.205](#). Programs document applicant risk evaluations using the Bureau's "Financial Assistance Recipient Risk Assessment" form. 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 200.207](#) should be applied the award.

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

Selection will be announced within 10 weeks of NOFO closure and funds will be obligated when all grant application requirements have been met.

Federal Award Administration Information

F1. Federal Award Notices

Following review, applicants may be requested to revise the project scope and/or budget before an award is made. Successful applicants will receive written notice in the form of a notice of award document. Notices of award are typically sent to recipients by e-mail. If e-mail notification is unsuccessful, the documents will be sent by courier mail (e.g., FedEx, DHL or UPS). Applicants whose projects are not selected for funding will receive written notice, most often by e-mail, within 30 days of the final review decision. Awards are based on the application submitted to and approved by the Service and are subject to the terms and conditions incorporated into the Notice of Award either by direct citation or by reference to the following: Federal regulations; program legislation or regulation; and special award terms and conditions. Recipient acceptance of a Federal award from the Service carries with it the responsibility to be aware of and comply with all terms and conditions applicable to the award. Recipients indicate their acceptance of the Federal award by starting work, drawing down funds, or accepting the award via electronic means.

F2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Data Availability

Any peer-reviewed publications produced under this award must include the following statement acknowledging support from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: "This research was funded in part through a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation."

The Recipient will conduct scientific and scholarly activities as defined in Department of the Interior policy 305 DM 3, Integrity of Scientific and Scholarly Activities that are intended for use in Service

decision-making processes and/or publications. Acceptance of this award carries with it the responsibility to be aware of and follow the Code of Scientific and Scholarly Conduct described in 305 DM 3, Section 3.7 to the best of your ability.

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

(a) All data, methodology, factual inputs, models, analyses, technical information, reports, conclusions, valuation products or other scientific assessments in any medium or form, including textual, numerical, graphic, cartographic, narrative, or audiovisual, resulting from a financial assistance agreement is available for use by the Department of the Interior, including being available in a manner that is sufficient for independent verification.

(b) The Federal Government has the right to:

(1) Obtain, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use the data, methodology, factual inputs, models, analyses, technical information, reports, conclusions, or other scientific assessments, produced under a Federal award; and

(2) Authorize others to receive, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use such data, methodology, factual inputs, models, analyses, technical information, reports, conclusions, or other scientific assessments, for Federal purposes, including to allow for meaningful third-party evaluation.

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.

F3. Reporting

All reports must be submitted in GrantSolutions.

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 90 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.

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 were not met, if appropriate; and any other pertinent information relevant to the project results. **Final** performance reports are due no later than 90 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.

Specific to these Joint Venture awards, upon completion, a professional project report with abstract, detailed background, methods, results, discussion, and management implications is required, and annual interim (progress) reports are required for multiple-year projects. Progress reports should include detailed background (including project objectives), methods, and interim results, and unexpected challenges related to achieving project objectives.

Significant Developments Reports

Events may occur between the scheduled performance reporting dates that 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 data elements, reporting frequency, and report due dates, in the Notice of Award when applicable.

Conflict of Interest Disclosures

Recipients must notify the program immediately in writing of any conflict of interest that arise during the life of their Federal award, including those reported to them by any subrecipient under the award. Recipients must notify the program in writing if any employees, including subrecipient and contractor personnel, are related to, married to, or have a close personal relationship with any Federal employee in the Federal funding program or who otherwise may have been involved in the review and selection of the award. The term employee means any individual engaged in the performance of work pursuant to the Federal award. Recipients may not have a former Federal employee as a key project official, or in any other substantial role related to their award, whose participation put them out of compliance with the legal authorities addressing post-Government employment restrictions. See the [U.S. Office of Government Ethics website](#) for more information on these restrictions. The Service will examine each conflict of interest disclosure based on its particular facts and the nature of the project and will determine if a significant potential conflict exists. If it does, the Service will work with the recipient to determine an appropriate resolution. Failure to disclose and resolve conflicts of interest in a manner that satisfies the Service may result in any of the remedies described in [2 CFR 200.338](#) Remedies for Noncompliance, including 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 described in [2 CFR 200.338](#) Remedies for Noncompliance, 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 (SAM) 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)

Program Technical Contact

For programmatic technical assistance, contact:

Questions specific to UMGLJV funding should be directed to Joint Venture Coordinator Doug Gorby (phone 517-351-8286, douglas_gorby@fws.gov). You are encouraged to discuss proposal ideas for the UMGLJV region with Science Coordinator Greg Soulliere (phone 517-351-4214, Greg_Soulliere@fws.gov).

Questions specific to PPJV funding should be directed to Joint Venture Coordinator Sean Fields (phone 406-727-7400 x 218, sean_fields@fws.gov). You are encouraged to discuss proposal ideas for the PPJV region of Minnesota and Iowa with Science Coordinator Josh Vest (406-552-3657, josh_vest@fws.gov).

Program Administration Contact

For program administration assistance, contact: Abbey Kucera (abbey_kucera@fws.gov, 612-308-9957).

Application System Technical Support

For **Grants.gov** technical registration and submission, downloading forms and application packages, contact Grants.gov Customer Support at 1-800-518-4726 or by email to Support@grants.gov.

For **GrantSolutions** technical registration and submissions, downloading forms and application packages, contact GrantSolutions Customer Support at 1-866-577-0771 or by email to Help@grantsolutions.gov.

E. Other Information Payments

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

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT:

OMB Control Number: 1018-0100, Expiration Date: 7/31/2021

We are collecting this information in accordance with the authorizing legislation identified above. Your response is required to obtain or retain a benefit. We will use the information you provide to conduct a competitive review and select projects for funding and, if awarded, to evaluate performance. We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. 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 time for these activities will vary depending on program-specific requirements. You may send comments on the burden estimate or any other aspect of this information collection to the Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS BPHC, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.