

North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative

FY2012 Funding Guidance

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I. Overview

Federal Agency Name: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in support of the North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative (NPLCC)

Funding Opportunity Title: USFWS NPLCC FY12 Funding Guidance

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fish and Wildlife Coordination and Assistance Programs No.15.664

Dates: The deadline for submissions is May 16 by COB 5pm PDT. If you do not have the capability to submit electronically, please contact NPLCC Coordinator, John Mankowski (John_Mankowski@fws.gov, 360-534-9330) or NPLCC Science Coordinator, Mary Mahaffy (mary_mahaffy@fws.gov, 360-753-7763) for information on how you may apply under this announcement.

Funding Opportunity Description: A total estimated amount of \$50,000 to \$200,000 will be available for 2 to 5 projects. The maximum amount that will be awarded to a project is \$50,000. Projects must address one or both of the following eligible activities:

- 1) Explore where, when, and how traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) can be integrated into research, landscape level conservation, sustainable resource management as well as NPLCC priorities and goals.
- 2) Identify Tribal and First Nations information needs related to conservation and management of natural and cultural resources potentially affected by climate change.

Proposals will be reviewed using the criteria included in this guidance.

Nontribal applicants must show substantive involvement from Tribal/First Nations entities. Involvement could include subcontracting, cost-sharing, statements of support, etc.

How to submit: Proposals should be submitted electronically to nplcc@fws.gov. Please convert your proposals to a PDF format before submitting. See Section IV for information on how to apply.

II. Funding Opportunity Description

Under this FY12 North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative (NPLCC) Funding Guidance, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Pacific Region (USFWS R1) is requesting project proposals for traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) studies and identification of Tribal and First Nations information needs, as they relate to NPLCC mission and goals (see Section IV for eligible activities).

Background: The area encompassed by the NPLCC supports scores of native plant and animal species, a growing human population, and a rich diversity of natural resource-dependent traditions, cultures, and businesses. Resources within this 200,000 square-mile area are affected by climate change and related large-scale environmental stressors.

In close partnership with science and management organizations, the NPLCC will maximize the ability of its partners to make informed decisions with respect to conservation and sustainable resource management of natural and cultural resources subject to climate change and related large-scale stressors. It will do this by helping to coordinate the development, accessibility, and use of high-priority, management-relevant science and information related to our coastal, marine, estuarine, freshwater, and terrestrial ecosystems.

As an international member-driven partnership of state, federal, and provincial agencies; Tribes and First Nations; nongovernmental organizations; universities; and others, the NPLCC builds upon the institutional knowledge these cooperators bring to address natural and cultural resource management challenges of the 21st century.

The NPLCC is committed to engaging Tribes and First Nations as it achieves its mission and goals. Part of this commitment is developing strategies to incorporate TEK into the NPLCC's plans, priorities, and projects. The purpose of this Funding Opportunity is to demonstrate how TEK can be integrated with the work of the NPLCC and to identify un-met information needs of Tribes and First Nations regarding how natural and cultural resources may be affected by climate change.

NPLCC Mission: The North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative promotes development, coordination and dissemination of science to inform landscape level conservation and sustainable resource management in the face of a changing climate and related stressors.

NPLCC Goals:

- 1) Maximize the ability of partners to make informed decisions with respect to conservation and sustainable resource management of priority natural and cultural resources subject to climate change and related large-scale stressors in the NPLCC region. (*Conservation and restoration*)
- 2) Identify and address trans-boundary landscape-level natural and cultural resource information needs that the LCC is uniquely qualified to address -- including the identification of opportunities for (and barriers to) landscape-level conservation/sustainable resource management. (*Unique role of LCC*)
- 3) Identify priorities for applied science and other information for conservation/sustainable resource management. Coordinate efforts with the relevant Climate Science Centers and other research entities to help inform research priorities. (*Information priorities*)

- 4) Promote identification, use, and sharing of science, traditional knowledge and other relevant information to support conservation/sustainable resource management, and adaptive management decisions. (*Use of information*)
- 5) Maximize the availability and accessibility of data and information about large-scale stressors and their impacts on natural and cultural resources, and about conservation/sustainable resource management approaches and effectiveness. (*Availability of information*)
- 6) Promote coordination and efficiency of efforts among resource managers and science entities that are addressing science, traditional knowledge and other relevant information to achieve landscape level conservation/sustainable resource management. (*Coordination*)
- 7) Promote awareness and understanding of NPLCC and its products for landscape-level conservation and the effects of climate change on ecosystems, resources, cultures, and economies. (*Outreach*)

In support of the NPLCC and consistent with Secretarial Order 3289, awards issued pursuant to the respective themes above will be expected to result in various products or outcomes. USFWS R1 reserves the right to make no awards under this announcement. Funding amounts among these needs are not explicit; final amount awarded is at discretion of the NPLCC Steering Committee and USFWS R1.

III. Award Information

A total estimated amount of \$50,000 to 200,000 for 2 to 5 projects may be awarded under this announcement for supporting NPLCC partners and landscape conservation delivery within the geographic range of the NPLCC. The maximum amount that will be awarded to a project is \$50,000.

Anticipated Start and End Dates: Projects selected for funding will begin in summer or fall 2012. Applicants should plan for projects to be completed within 1 year of their start dates unless specifically stated and explain as to why a longer period of time is necessary to complete the work.

Partial Funding: USFWS R1 reserves the right to offer partial funding to submissions by funding discrete activities, portions, or phases of the proposed project. If US FWS R1 decides to partially fund the proposed project, it will do so in a manner that does not prejudice any applicants or affect the basis upon which the proposed project, or portion thereof, was evaluated and selected, and that maintains the integrity of the competition and the selection/evaluation process.

IV. Eligibility and Matching

Applicant Eligibility: Federal, State, Tribal, Canadian, and other public or nonprofit private agencies, institutions, and organizations are eligible; "for-profit" organizations are not, although consultants may be subcontracted for specialized work.

Eligible Activities:

Projects should address one or both of the following eligible activities:

- 1) Explore where, when, and how TEK can be integrated into research, landscape level conservation, sustainable resource management as well as NPLCC priorities.
- 2) Identify Tribal and First Nations information needs related to conservation and management of natural and cultural resources potentially affected by climate change.

Nontribal applicants must show substantive involvement from Tribal/First Nations entities. Involvement could include subcontracting, cost-sharing, statements of support, etc.

The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance identifies this assistance as: US Fish and Wildlife Service, Fish and Wildlife Coordination and Assistance Programs No.15.664.

Ineligible Activities: Under this announcement, US FWS R1 will not fund: "construction grant" projects; species-specific research (unless it supports a larger-scoped landscape approach to conservation delivery or is one of the identified science needs); land acquisition; or projects whose principal purpose is general operating support.

Match: A match is not required, but cost-leveraging is one of the criteria in Section VI which will be considered by reviewers during evaluations.

Sensitivity of Tribal/First Nations Knowledge: Proposed work must include methods to protect sensitive TEK. This should include an opportunity for Tribal or First Nations to identify any information or materials (e.g., text/narrative or maps) they consider "sensitive" or "protected" and to classify and describe the TEK/Climate Change tribal issues that are permissible or "OK" to share, as appropriate.

V. Application and Submission

Getting Started:

- 1) Read and follow instructions. Proposals that are too long or do not follow the template may be disqualified for consideration.
- 2) Develop and edit your project submission in light of the evaluation criteria.
- 3) Complete and submit your project to contacts by deadline.

Format: Please convert your proposals to a PDF format prior to submission. Please use the project template below (Section IX page 9) and complete the template with the appropriate information requested. Your proposal should be no more than 4 pages long, not including budget, literature cited, and principal investigator(s)' resume. Proposals that are too long may be disqualified for consideration.

Submission: Electronic submissions are preferable. Please email your proposals to: nplcc@fws.gov. If you do not have the capability to submit electronically, please contact Mary Mahaffy (360-753-7763/ mary_mahaffy@fws.gov) or John Mankowski (360-534-9330/ john_mankowski@fws.gov).

Deadline: Submissions are due by May 16 by COB 5pm PDT. The NPLCC Coordinator will determine timeliness by reviewing the date and time of electronic submission. Absent compelling circumstances which justify the acceptance of a late submission and that do not affect the integrity of the competition, late submissions will not be reviewed or considered.

Funding Restrictions: See Eligibility - Ineligible Activities.

Confidentiality: Applicants may claim all or a portion of their project submission as confidential business information. Applicants must clearly mark submissions or portions thereof which they claim as confidential. If no claim of confidentiality is made, USFWS R1 is not responsible to maintain confidentiality. Note that data produced under a Federal award is subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

Multiple Project Submissions: If your organization submits more than one project and chooses to prioritize them, you must identify an overall contact (including phone, e-mail, and address) and send a single, coordinated submittal. Prioritization information can be sent directly to mary_mahaffy@fws.gov.

VI. Application Review

Evaluation Criteria: Projects will be ranked based on the following Criteria:

- 1) **Clarity and responsiveness:** Proposal should clearly describe the proposed work, including goals, methods, and the expected outcomes of the project. Proposals will be evaluated in terms of how clearly and how well they address one or both of the eligible activities listed above.
- 2) **Capabilities of the project team:** Ability of the project team to accomplish the work, including staff capabilities.
- 3) **Budget:** Reasonable and appropriate budget for the level of work proposed and expected benefits to be achieved. Consideration will be given to matching funds, cost-sharing, and/or in-kind support.
- 4) **Relevance to management decisions:** Identifies conservation and sustainable resource management decisions that the identified (or to-be-identified) TEK would inform or support. Descriptions of decision types, specific decisions, and decision-making entities that could potentially benefit from the information will be useful to evaluators. (This criterion-is particularly important for proposals addressing topic #2)
- 5) **Scope and scalability:** Proposals should address multiple issues, issues that are relevant across the NPLCC geography and/or issues of interest and concern to multiple tribes/Nations. More narrowly focused proposals or should describe how they can be scaled or transferred to other geographic areas within the NPLCC, other issues, or other Tribes/ First Nations.

Review and Selection Process: Recommendations for funding will be based on an evaluation of projects against the Evaluation Criteria. The selection process will not penalize the applicant for submitting more than one project.

Project proposals will be evaluated through the following review process:

- 1) Submissions will be screened by the North Pacific Science Coordinator or Coordinator upon receipt for eligibility for conformance to the announcement provisions.
- 2) Individuals from a NPLCC Science/TEK Subcommittee Work Group will independently evaluate all projects against the evaluation criteria. Reviewers will abstain from reviewing any proposals where a conflict of interest could be perceived.
- 3) The NPLCC Science/TEK Subcommittee Work Group will prepare a list of projects recommended for funding. The compiled list of individual evaluations and recommendations will be provided to the NPLCC Steering Committee (or a Steering Committee Work Group) for approval.
- 4) The final funding recommendations may take account of other factors in addition to the evaluation criteria. These factors may include, for example, selecting technically sound projects across the NPLCC area at both a geographic and institutional level to achieve a reasonable balance of funding by cost, applicant type, and or the project location or impact.
- 5) After the NPLCC Steering Committee selects projects for funding consideration, and US FWS R1 agrees to fund, all applicants will be notified of the projects that have been selected.
- 6) Applicants for the projects that have been selected will be asked to submit final proposals along with the documentation for Federal assistance (Section VI. Application Packages).
- 7) Final decisions will be based upon the completed final proposals and Application Packages.

Schedule:

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| Deadline for Submissions | May 16, 2012 |
| Reviews | May 17-28, 2012 |
| Applicants Notified | June 4, 2012 |
| Application Packages due | June 18, 2012 |
| Registration on Central Contractor Registration (CCR)..... | June 29, 2012 |

VII. Proposal and Award Administration

Award Notices: Applicants with projects selected for funding will be notified by email or telephone, and asked to complete the application process by providing completed documentation for Federal assistance (Application Packages). Applicants selected for funding will also need to register on Central Contractor Registration (CCR).

Application Packages: Selected applicants will be required to submit the following documents to complete the application for funding:

- SF-424 (Application for Federal Assistance – Mandatory)
- SF-424A (Budget information, non-construction programs)
- SF-424B (Assurances, non-construction programs)

Deliverables:

The following process ensures that funded projects are completed, deliverables produced, and findings are timely, responsive and applicable to the original needs identified. Results will also be used to revise and update the NPLCC Science Plan. This ensures an accountable, iterative mechanism for funding and will ensure use and application of science products and information gained towards the collective NPLCC understanding of large-scale conservation as we work together to achieve resource resilience through NPLCC partners’ respective or joint adaptation strategies.

All NPLCC endorsed projects are expected to include interim reports on a scheduled determined during contracting and a final report submitted within 6 months of project completion (unless otherwise arranged). Deliverables should include:

- Executive Summary
- Project explanation or Study Design
- Methods or Application
- Recommendations for use, application or next steps

Notification: We will confirm submission receipt within one week from the application deadline.

Contact Mary Mahaffy (mary_mahaffy@fws.gov) if you do not receive a confirmation. The NPLCC Science Coordinator will contact all applicants to tell them whether or not they will be asked to submit Application Packages.

VIII. Agency Contact(s)

John Mankowski, NPLCC Coordinator
john_mankowski@fws.gov; 360-534-9330

Or

Mary Mahaffy, NPLCC Science Coordinator
mary_mahaffy@fws.gov; 360-753-7763

IX. PROJECT PROPOSAL TEMPLATE (Please limit to 4 pages - not including budget, resumes for project leader(s), or literature cited)

Project Title:

Project Leader or Principal Investigator responsible for completion of project (*Name, organization, email address, phone number*):

Cooperators/Partners (*name, affiliation, email address, phone*) **and anticipated project contributions:**

Project Summary: (*3 sentences target*)

Project Proposal: *Provide a brief description.*

Objective: *What will you accomplish? How will this project contribute to the NPLCC goals?*

Methods: *How will the objectives be attained? What work activities or tasks will be done? Include specific procedures, methodologies, or protocols. Will there be any key cooperators, and what will their role be (identify any in-kind support provided)?*

Geographic Extent: *Describe the geographic area for both project focus and ability to extrapolate information.*

Timeline of Schedules, Products and Outcomes: *Provide a time line with dates and tasks. Identify products and outcomes. Include key project work items and dates for events such as start-up, interim milestones, presentations, deliverables, submittal of final report, and project completion.*

Budget (please include in a separate file from the body of the proposal): *Provide a detailed breakdown of costs (salaries, contracts, travel, equipment, services, overhead, etc). Describe in-kind or matching funds for the project if applicable (provide dollar estimates).*

Disclaimer regarding Data Sharing: *Briefly describe any known restrictions on sharing of the data expected to be generated by this project.*