

Project Abstract Summary

This Project Abstract Summary form must be submitted or the application will be considered incomplete. Ensure the Project Abstract field succinctly describes the project in plain language that the public can understand and use without the full proposal. Use 4,000 characters or less. Do not include personally identifiable, sensitive or proprietary information. Refer to Agency instructions for any additional Project Abstract field requirements. If the application is funded, your project abstract information (as submitted) will be made available to public websites and/or databases including USA spending.gov.

* Funding Opportunity Number

F-FWS-WSFR-23-001

CFDA(s)

15.628

* Applicant Name

ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES

* Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project

Promoting Awareness of State Wildlife Management Authority and the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation

* Project Abstract

The legal landscape of wildlife conservation is changing rapidly. Identifying emerging issues and implementing director-driven research programs is more essential than ever for state agencies and partners to keep current, coordinate nationally, and enhance relevance and responsiveness to constituents.

Goal 1 of AFWA's Strategic Plan (2021-2025) calls for strengthening state-federal and non-governmental relationships for the benefit of fish and wildlife management consistent with the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation ("Model"). Similarly, Strategic Priority 4(B) for 2023 is Trust Fund Education & Promotion of North American Model of Conservation ("Legal Strategy"). To address these priorities, AFWA proposes to continue three essential lines of work through its Legal Strategy Advisory Council ("Think Tank"):

1. Engage state and federal legal advisors to review legal issues for state wildlife directors and managers as they fulfill official duties in the field and implement legal and regulatory changes.
2. Increase member and partner understanding of management and jurisdictional issues.
3. Strengthen understanding of state management within the legal profession.

AFWA's Think Tank is composed of approximately 20 state fish and wildlife agency attorneys and directors, and convenes periodically to direct and assess the implementation of legal research projects by AFWA.

Supporting coordination of the Think Tank through 2023 will benefit all state agencies by maintaining current capacity to research, review, and respond to legal issues affecting state authority, and build further capacity to identify emerging issues, conduct outreach, and engage state agency directors in making use of products funded under this and prior grants.

AFWA will not use any awarded grant funds to file amicus briefs, and especially not to participate directly in litigation.