

# 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 USAspending.gov.*

## Funding Opportunity Number

F-FWS-WSFR-23-001

## CFDA(s)

15.628

## Applicant Name

National Wild Turkey Federation

## Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project

Supporting Undergraduate/Graduate/Law Students' & Post-Graduates' Education & Professional Experience in Conservation Law & Policy

## Project Abstract

The Center for Conservation Excellence / Conservation Law Program educates students, legal practitioners, & additional audiences on threats to conservation efforts. These threats are largely against Americans' rights to hunt and fish and are predominantly narrated by the animal rights movement. The animal rights movement has unfortunately seen huge growth- in the late 1990s, there were only one or two animal law courses being taught at U.S. law schools, but by 2007, there were approximately seventy, with most of the nation's elite law schools represented. Today there are 167 law schools that offer at least one animal law course- teaching the concepts of animal rights and animal personhood.

To combat the animal rights movement, the Program offers students, lawyers, and judges the opportunity to study conservation LAW, not ideologies. The Program teaches key concepts to strengthen the legal conservation community, preparing them to contribute to conservation professionally on the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, public trust stewardship in state wildlife management, and beyond. This is incredibly important because decisions based on the court of public opinion in lieu of sound science and appropriate wildlife management tools are influencing how the public views wildlife.

The Program strives to foster the change necessary to influence American decision makers by teaching the fundamentals and importance of conservation law and policy to help America's wildlife and Americans' rights.

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The core objectives to create and maintain informed conservation professionals are:

1. Provide Undergraduate/Graduate Level Education: Wildlife Law & Policy Courses in law colleges, as well as other academic programs in conservation.
2. Post-Graduate / Supplemental Education: continued education in the form of Continuing Legal Education Seminars and communication of principles of wildlife management via re-recorded videos on introductory topics of wildlife law.
3. Create Professional Opportunities: conservation-based internships, externships, careers, and educators.