

# 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

ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES

\* Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project

2023 Multistate Conservation Grant Program Management

\* Project Abstract

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 under the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR) to fund multistate conservation project grants. In addition to the traditionally \$6,000,000 available funding (\$3,000,000 for Wildlife Restoration and \$3,000,000 for Sportfish Restoration), the President signed the Modernizing the Pittman-Robertson Fund for Tomorrow's Needs Act (Modernizing PR Act) (Public Law (Pub. L.) 116-94) into law on December 20, 2019. This law, among other measures, created a new "Modern Multistate Conservation Grant Program" designed to support "R3" projects for hunting and shooting sports.

The M-MSCGP will make up to an additional \$5,000,000 available for the hunter and recreational shooter recruitment-related grants, including related communication and outreach activities.

These Acts did not provide any administrative funds for the Association's use in administering and implementing its significant responsibilities under this grant program. In 2022 the Association was awarded a one-year Multistate Conservation Grant that currently supports through December 2022 the Multistate Conservation Grant Program Manager. The primary objective is to continue meeting the responsibilities of the Association as required under the Federal authorizing legislation for administering and coordinating the MSCGP.

However, additional emphasis will be placed on program evaluation and the communication of program results.

Professional development will also remain a priority, and the MSCGP Manager will continue to attend pertinent grant administrative training. As a program manager/facilitator, the MSCGP Manager will work to maximize the benefits to the State Fish and Wildlife Agencies throughout the grant cycle and the grant proposal selection process.

The MSCGP Manager manages the activities that implement the grant program. This project would provide continued program manager funding and support those administrative responsibilities necessary to implement the Multistate Conservation Grant Program.