

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

Coordination of State Fish and Wildlife Agencies' Authority to Manage Wildlife Resources in Concert with Federal Actions Required by International Treaties, Conventions, Partnerships, and Initiatives.

* Project Abstract

Decisions made in international fora, such as the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES), can positively and negatively affect the management authority or practices of state, provincial, and territorial fish and wildlife agencies. However, it is not realistic nor economically viable for all state fish and wildlife agencies (states) to participate in CITES, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), or other international fora. At the same time, U.S. federal agencies, foreign governments, and NGOs are at the table and have input in decisions. Therefore in 1994, the CITES Technical Work Group (Work Group) was created. It includes a member from each state regional association and AFWA. The Work Group has been highly effective in supporting the state's (and where appropriate Canadian Provinces and Territories) ability to manage and conserve wildlife, and in influencing decisions through science-based positions that encourage the sustainable use of wildlife. In the absence of the Work Group, the states do not have a voice in decisions nor can they bring science-based, on-the-ground expertise to help guide decisions. Considering the current pandemic and the spotlight it has put on fish and wildlife use and consumption, having a voice in international fora is even more critical.

The goal of the Work Group is to ensure that positions are presented in international fora that support sustainable use and the conservation and management of native species, utilize the best available science, and support state management authority; and that the states and the U.S. government collaborate on international conservation issues. Additionally, the Work Group coordinates with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to ensure that processes for the implementation of treaty decisions are practical to implement by the states. To accomplish this, the Work Group must participate in CITES and IUCN meetings and work closely with the USFWS and other federal agencies. This grant will allow the Work Group to ensure that the state's ability to manage wildlife is not infringed upon by actions taken at CITES, IUCN or other fora, and where appropriate, the Work Group will support Canadian Provinces and Territories. The Work Group will also serve as the state fish and wildlife agencies contact point with the USFWS and other federal agencies, providing an efficient way for the U.S. government to cooperatively implement their international obligations. The impact of grant outcomes continues beyond the life of this grant by impacting fish and wildlife conservation and management.