

# 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**

Wildlife Management Institute, Inc.

**Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project**

Human Dimensions 101: An Introductory Course for Agency Staff, Commissioners and Elected Officials

**Project Abstract**

The purpose of this project is to review and revise existing materials that increase agency knowledge of social science and create additional products that can be used with staff, commissioners and stakeholders to explain the essential role of social science in conservation decision-making processes. It will produce a tool kit of basic information about the need for, acquisition, and application of social science for state agencies to use and customize for their context and audiences. The materials will be targeted for mid-level career staff who are promoting into roles of higher-level decision-making. The materials can be used for individual learning or customized for in-house training sessions or presentations to commissioners and elected officials about the need for and application of social science in conservation.

1. Objective 1: Provide learning modules for state fish and wildlife agencies on the important role of social science in conservation decision-making.

The Wildlife Management Institute (WMI) will review peer-reviewed literature, white papers, existing training materials and guides to develop free online, on-demand technical assistance materials about the importance, acquisition and application of social science (human dimensions of wildlife) in fish and wildlife conservation. These materials may include videos, white papers, slide decks with notes, case studies, compilations of additional resources, and training agenda(s) with discussion questions that will be "open source" and customizable for each agency. The primary audience for this technical assistance is mid-level agency staff. Mid-level staff may have had an introductory human dimensions of wildlife class in their academic program but likely had little need to apply social science early in their careers. As they move into higher-level positions in their agencies and have a bigger role in conservation decision-making, these materials can provide a refresher "course" on the importance of social science in conservation and where to find more information on how to get and apply social science. Additional materials will be developed for use with commissioners, elected officials and agency leadership that may not fully understand the role of social science in fish and wildlife conservation.

This project will provide materials to conservation agencies that don't have in-house social science expertise to increase understanding of the role of social science in conservation and also as support resources for those agencies that do have in-house expertise. These products can be customized and used for in-person trainings at national, regional or state-based professional meetings (e.g., AFWA, AFS, TWS). These free resources will be available using the existing Relevancy Community of Practice website (the AFWA Human Dimensions/Social Science Subcommittee is using this as their communications platform).