

## 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-24-002

CFDA(s)

15.628

\* Applicant Name

ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES

\* Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project

Supporting agency regulated trapping and furbearer management programs by communication and education

\* Project Abstract

This project will have two primary objectives, each of which is designed to support and assist state fish and wildlife agencies with their regulated trapping and furbearer management programs.

First, the AFWA will contract with Responsive Management to conduct a national survey of trappers. The survey will gather information on

- 1) characteristics (demographics, economics, motivations) of the public who participate in trapping,
- 2) trap types being used for the capture of various furbearer species,
- 3) trapper knowledge and use of Best Management Practices for Trapping, and
- 4) the number of trappers in the U.S.

Information gathered in this survey will be used to guide the national program to develop Best Management Practices for Trapping so AFWA can continue to provide our member agencies with trap type/technique recommendations on the most humane, safe, selective, effective, and practical traps to use for the capture of furbearers. Agencies use trapping to achieve many wildlife management objectives, and all agencies want to ensure the "best" traps are being used. AFWA needs to know what trap types are currently in use, so we can scientifically evaluate those devices against the International Organization for Standardization standards. Since 1997 the BMP program has tested over 725 trap types on 23 species of furbearers, conducted over 500 individual field projects to capture furbearers across 41 states, and conducted necropsies on over 10,000 animals to help evaluate the humanness of traps. We recently published some of these results in Wildlife Monographs. But AFWA needs the information that will be collected in this survey to maintain the BMP program's cutting-edge relevance and support agencies' desire to recommend the most humane/safe/selective traps for trappers to use.