THE GREAT NORTHERN LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION COOPERATIVE
Strategic Science Support Program

FY2017 Funding Guidance

Contents

Overview

Federal Agency Name: US Fish and Wildlife Service in support of the Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative (GNLCC).

Funding Opportunity Title: US FWS Great Northern LCC FY17 Funding Guidance

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: US Fish and Wildlife Service, Cooperative Landscape Conservation No. 15.669

Dates: The deadline for submissions is February 17, 2017 by COB at 5pm MST.
If you do not have the capability to submit electronically through the on-line submission form (see Section IV-Submission), please contact GNLCC Coordinator, Yvette Converse (Yvette_Converse@fws.gov) for information on how you may apply under this announcement.

Funding Opportunity Description: A total estimated amount up to $1,000,000 for 5-15 science, data, capacity and information-oriented projects that support priorities (see below) of the Great Northern LCC may be awarded. The estimated amount may change pending US Fish and Wildlife Service budget allocations, which are not yet final.

GNLCC may opt to solicit proposals directly from a specific agency or organization with proprietary or jurisdictional rights or a Request for Proposals for a specific type of work may be released with this announcement. Unsolicited proposals may be submitted but will be reviewed through the criteria included in this guidance.

How to submit: See Section IV for information on how to apply.

I. Funding Opportunity Description

Under this FY17 Great Northern LCC Funding Guidance, the US Fish and Wildlife Service Mountain-Prairie Region (FWS R6) is requesting project proposals in support of the Great Northern LCC. Awards issued pursuant to this announcement will be expected to result in various products or outcomes. Details describing data and deliverable product expectations can be found in GNLCC Information Management, Delivery, and Sharing Standards
(http://greatnorthernlcc.org/sites/default/files/documents/gnlcc_datamgt_sharing_policy.pdf).

FWS R6 reserves the right to make no awards under this announcement. Funding amounts among these needs are not explicit; final amount awarded is at discretion of the GNLCC Steering Committee and FWS R6 Regional Director.

GNLCC seeks specifically identified data and information needs and resource vulnerability assessments that contribute to collective understanding of the effects of priority landscape

stressors on priority conservation targets. Specifically, information obtained through this funding guidance should help GNLCC achieve our **five** stated conservation goals:

1. Maintain large, intact landscapes of naturally functioning terrestrial and aquatic community assemblages.
2. Conserve a permeable landscape with connectivity across aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, including species movement, migration, dispersal, life history, and biophysical processes.
3. Maintain hydrologic regimes that support native or desirable aquatic plant and animal communities in still and moving water systems.
4. Promote landscape-scale disturbance regimes that operate within a future range of variability and sustain ecological integrity.
5. Maintain large functional landscapes where local people and communities, including tribes and First Nations, can sustain their livelihood, stories, culture, and identity supported by the lands and waters, and fish and wildlife they steward.

Under these Goals, Projects must fit into one or more of the following framework for funding which will guide work from FY17-21:

FY17-21 FUNDING FRAMEWORK

This 5-year funding framework will serve as a description of the investment architecture for the GNLCC for the 2017-2021 fiscal years.   It is intended to demonstrate the multi-scaled, tiered and collaborative approach that GNLCC has deemed necessary for successful landscape conservation efforts.
 This framework may be useful to GNLCC partners as well by serving as a common investment strategy. Each year, the GNLCC SC will focus on several categories of funding based on the on-going cross-walk analysis. The SC will not invest in every category of the strategy each year; rather, the focus each year must fit into the framework and tracking these investments allows the SC to track what is missing or where there is disproportionate investment.

The framework includes 3 main categories:
1. Broad-scale Baseline Data-development and Landscape Context
2. Shared Conservation Planning, Design and Implementation
3. Capacity for Partners and Local Collaborations

FY17 High Level Direction: Conservation Goals and Landscape Stressors

Within the 3 main categories GNLCC seeks topical science and capacity proposals that align with outcomes of the recent High Level Direction outcomes (http://greatnorthernlcc.org/document/outcomes-gnlcc-high-level-priorities-2016-working-draft). FY17 priorities, based on the High Level Direction prioritization process, are:

• Ecological Connectivity with respect to impacts from Land Use Change and Climate Change
• Aquatic Integrity with respect to impacts from Climate Change

Ecological Connectivity: GNLCC seeks to develop and implement a connectivity strategy through the collaborative efforts of multi-jurisdiction/multi-sector decision makers. This Strategy is intended to mitigate loss of or restore connectivity throughout the GNLCC through a common strategy. The strategy seeks conservation outcomes (e.g., reduced impact of road crossing, informed siting of energy and transportation infrastructure, appropriate placement of housing and human services) and partnership outcomes (e.g.,

integrated governance fostered through multi-jurisdiction/multi-sector stakeholder communication, learning, and decision-making). Proposals should consider a focus on topics such as:

- Conduct baseline connectivity analysis (current and projected future) at the GNLCC scale;
  - Synthesize all connectivity and connectivity-relevant data across GNLCC
  - Incorporate riparian condition, fire refugia, phenology and other data
- Link sub-regional (e.g., Columbia Plateau, Crown of Continent) outcomes to GNLCC-wide analysis
- Assess, develop, and coordinate connectivity policy GNLCC-wide
  - Leverage top-down approach to engage local decision makers and technical staff
- Bottom-up implementation of collaborative landscape conservation efforts within the focal areas that have been identified at the larger GNLCC-wide scale

Aquatic Integrity: GNLCC seeks to identify and promote cold water refugia for native and culturally important species (salmon), wetland systems that maintain high function and provide ecosystem services, and riparian and floodplain vegetation and structure that provide natural resilience to climate-driven changes. The aquatic integrity focus seeks conservation outcomes (e.g., wetland systems maintain high function as habitat and to provide ecosystem services, floodplains and riparian vegetation are maintained to provide natural resilience to climate-driven changes) and partnership outcomes (e.g., complementary, coordinated management actions, undertaken by each partner, improve aquatic integrity across the landscape). Proposals should consider a focus on topics such as:

- Create a landscape-wide, dynamic mapping tool describing relative ecological function of watersheds
- Comprehensive mapping effort (like NorWest) on floodplain connectivity (location of dikes, levees and irrigation/drainage) and riparian habitat distribution
  - Web-based models that support 'place-based' use and planning for threat reduction
- Conduct a GAP analysis of existing wetlands monitoring system.
  - Develop a strategy to fill the gaps in a wetland monitoring program
- Support the utilization of the existing tools to implement on-the-ground action

Inspiration and additional specificity describing requested products can be found in the GNLCC Science Plan, Partner Forum reports, recently revised State Wildlife Action Plans, USFS Forest Plans, BLM Land Use Plans and Rapid Ecological Assessment, Secretarial Order 3336 reports, BC FLNR Ministry Climate Change Strategy 2015-2020, and similar sources of information needs. Conservation delivery entities, especially those functioning at meso-regional and broader scales, are integral partners in a successful proposal.

Funded proposal in this category are expected to be led by manager-scientist collaborations and include representation from multiple jurisdictions and disciplines (i.e., co-productions representing broad, inter-jurisdictional geographies). Where possible, products should leverage and employ proven information delivery systems. In addition to baseline data, desirable products include systematic ecological connectivity and integrity data integration systems, distributed data sharing networks, and data delivery facilitation for (i.e.) decision support, leading to application of consistent conservation delivery based on valid, reliable broad-scale natural and/or cultural resource information.

1) Broad-scale Baseline Data-development and Landscape Context

This category includes large-scale (regional or meso-regional) GNLCC (or other regional construct)-wide analyses that provide a common landscape context for partners through development of tools, information

and metrics for understanding trend information of landscape-scale factors related to GNLCC common goals.

These analyses should include factors such as landscape (terrestrial and aquatic) integrity and connectivity (e.g. land facet, niche, human footprint, connectivity, network or human dimension analyses).

These types of projects would focus on or could include:

- a. GNLCC (or other regional construct)-wide analysis
- b. focus on GNLCC goals or stressors (connectivity, climate etc)
- c. Transboundary, interjurisdictional data, tools and information
- d. high level monitoring of broadly scaled factors that inform integrity or progress toward goals
- e. Roll up of locally-endorsed designs and plans that share GNLCC goals

Proposals in this category are expected to provide broad-scale (GNLCC-wide, regional or meso-regional) data synthesis, integration and analyses that provide a common landscape context for resource managers and decision-makers through development of maps, spatial data, tools, information and/or metrics that lead to improved understanding of status and trend of physical and ecological conditions related to common GNLCC goal-stressor interactions.

Successful examples of GNLCC-funded baseline data and landscape context include:

- GNLCC Connectivity Strategy (http://greatnorthernlcc.org/connectivity)
- NorWeST Stream Temperature data and climate modeling
(http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/boise/AWAE/projects/NorWeST.html)
- Incorporating ecological integrity and stream-network connectivity
(https://www.sciencebase.gov/catalog/item/530cfdcce4b08f991722dcd9)

2) Partnership-driven Conservation Planning, Design and Implementation (LCD and other)

This category includes specific science, data, information and tools that provide outputs needed to achieve GNLCC and partnership goals.

These types of projects would focus on or could include:

- a. Critical ties to item 1

- b. Specific needs for Landscape Conservation Design such as data and tools or LCD project funding
  - o Agreed upon goals/targets/stressors
  - o Spatial assessment (to include above)
  - o Projects for change due to stressors
  - o Desired conditions
  - o Implementation plan for partner action
  - o Support for implementation

- c. Specific needs for collaborations to maintain or restore ecological connectivity across organization boundaries, particularly related to Focal Areas of importance identified by current GNLCC partners in the Great Northern Connectivity Project. To see those Focal

Areas, go to: https://sites.google.com/site/gnecoconnectivity/

    d.   Local, partner-driven, piloted models for networked collaborative conservation related to aquatic integrity and/or ecological connectivity as impacted by land-use change and climate change.

Successful examples of GNLCC-funded LCD work and pilot projects include:
- Montana Drought Resiliency Project:
  http://greatnorthernlcc.org/PTS/prj_report.html?PRJ_ID=395
- Columbia Plateau LCD: http://greatnorthernlcc.org/PTS/prj_report.html?PRJ_ID=327
- High Divide LCD: http://greatnorthernlcc.org/PTS/prj_report.html?PRJ_ID=390
- CMP Baseline Assessment (LCD): http://greatnorthernlcc.org/PTS/prj_report.html?PRJ_ID=362
- Flathead MOU integrated support and management: http://greatnorthernlcc.org/transboundary-flathead

3) Capacity for Partners and Local Collaborations

This category includes grants primarily for capacity to partners. This can be for Tribal, State or Partner Forum capacity needs to participate in landscape efforts and collaborations; or as specific capacity identified by an LCD project partnership.

These types of projects would focus on or could include:

    a.   Partner Forum grants as they fit into this framework

    b.   Tribal, First Nations, and state grants for participation in landscape conservation with partners including support from partnerships or Partner Forums to help Tribes and First Nations with climate change strategies

    c.   Other underfunded partnerships or demographics not currently identified

    d.   Local collaborations working on shared landscape outcomes that achieve stated GNLCC goals (capacity for 3rd party workshops or other)

Applicants are required to categorize each of their submissions to the above and address the vision, goals and conservation targets of the GNLCC Strategic Conservation Framework (see: http://greatnorthernlcc.org/sites/default/files/documents/gnlcc_framework_final_small.pdf). Submissions will be evaluated with other proposals using the general criteria and relevance criteria. Section V of this guidance identifies general and relevance criteria applicable to all submissions within the context of the GNLCC Strategic Conservation Framework as it is summarized here:

II. Award Information

A total estimated amount of up to but not guaranteed $1,000,000 for an estimated 5 to 15 projects which may be awarded under this announcement for delivering expressed science needs and supporting landscape conservation delivery within the GNLCC.

Anticipated Start and End Dates and Project Duration. Most projects selected for funding will begin in summer or fall 2017. GNLCC will accept proposals for projects that span up to 3 years total; however, this allocation only awards funds for FY17.

If a multi-year project is funded in FY17 (i.e., year 1), **out-year proposals must be**

submitted for review and approval each subsequent year. GNLCC does not guarantee out-year (years 2 and 3) funds but will seek to promote completion of projects where feasible.

Applicants should also consider the GNLCC project tracking, deliverables and timelines during proposal development. Details describing product expectations can be found in GNLCC Information Management, Delivery, and Sharing Standards (http://greatnorthernlcc.org/sites/default/files/documents/gnlcc_datamgt_sharing_policy.pdf).

GNLCC expects to be acknowledged as a funding partner in all products, tools and deliverables as well as websites, publications, and tools where the project/products is described and/or made available.   The GNLCC logo will be available if needed for acknowledgements.

Partial Funding. US FWS R6 reserves the right to offer partial funding to submissions by funding discrete activities, portions, or phases of the proposed project. If US FWS R6 decides to partially fund the proposed project, it will do so in a manner that does not prejudice any applicant or affect the basis upon which the proposed project, or portion thereof, was evaluated and selected, and that maintains the integrity of the competition and the selection/evaluation process.

Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Unit Projects. Any CESU non-federal partner should include the CESU negotiated indirect costs rate in their budget estimates if submitting a CESU proposal that meets the criteria for a CESU project according to that University.

III. Eligibility and Matching

Applicant Eligibility. Federal, State, Tribal, Canadian, and other public or nonprofit private agencies, institutions, and organizations are eligible; "for-profit" organizations are not, however, consultants may be awarded for specialized work that is unique. U.S. federal agencies are public agencies or institutions; they are eligible to submit.

Eligible Activities. Assistance is available for science and information projects informing or directly affecting landscape conservation delivery in the Great Northern area but funding may support data collection and analyses for areas outside the Great Northern geography provided it informs stated information needs expressed in the Framework.

To be eligible for funding consideration, projects must identify FY17-21 Funding Framework and FY17 science needs (see Section I, for descriptions)

Note that each grant amount requested must be tied to products developed covering a period of one year or less during the project schedule and amount of funding obligated. Project submissions having a longer budget period may be rejected for consideration unless acceptable justification is provided showing how leveraged funds from other

sources can support the project into succeeding years.

Ineligible Activities. Under this announcement, US FWS R6 will not fund: "construction grant" projects; land acquisition; or projects whose principal purpose is general operating support.

Match. A match is not required, but cost-leveraging is one of the weighted criteria in Section V and will be considered by reviewers during evaluations.

IV. Application and Submission

1. Read and follow instructions. **Proposals that are too long or do not follow the template may be disqualified for consideration**.
2. Develop and edit your project submission in light of the criteria (general and relevance, Section V).
3. Read and understand the requirements described in Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative Information Management, Delivery, and Sharing Standards and be prepared to meet those requirements and timelines.
4. Complete and submit your proposal to contacts by deadline.

Examples from Previous Years. You may look at submissions of successful projects from previous years at: http://greatnorthernlcc.org/supported-science-projects.

Note, however, that this funding guidance is new for FY17 and substantially different compared to previous years; therefore all aspects of these requirements may not have been addressed in prior submissions.

Format. Please deliver your proposals in MS WORD or Portable Document Format (PDF). Please use the project template below (Section VIII,) and complete the template with the appropriate information requested. Your proposal should be about 5 pages long. Proposals that are too long may be disqualified for consideration.

Please write up a detailed budget as a separate file (also MS WORD or PDF, Use the template in Section IX).

Submission. Electronic submissions are preferable. To submit your proposal and budget go to the following link, follow instructions, and complete information requested: http://greatnorthernlcc.org/node/211.

If you do not have the capability to submit electronically, please contact Yvette Converse (406-994-7486 / Yvette_Converse@fws.gov).

Deadline. Submissions are due by February 17, 2017 at 5pm MST.
GNLCC Coordinator will determine timeliness by reviewing the date and time of electronic submission.

Confidentiality. Applicants may claim all or a portion of their proposal submission as confidential business information. Applicants must clearly mark submissions or portions thereof which they claim as confidential. If no claim of confidentiality is made, USFWS R6 is not responsible to maintain confidentiality. Note that data produced under a Federal award is subject to the Freedom of Information Act with some exceptions according to FOIA.

V. Application Review

Criteria. Proposals will initially be screened based on the General Criteria specified below. Those proposals which pass initial screening will be ranked based on the Relevance Criteria (below) as they apply to the focal science need(s) addressed by each proposal. Criteria are weighted as noted.

GENERAL CRITERIA: These criteria are used for screening purposes to evaluate whether proposals reflect a minimum standard as determined by the Advisory Team (see GNLCC Governance Structure: http://greatnorthernlcc.org/sites/default/files/documents/august_2012_gnlcc_charter_final.pdf) or a subset of the Advisory Team, the GNLCC Ad-Hoc Selection Committee.

General Criteria are:
a. **Rationale/Relevance/Bias for Action:** Potential, whether direct or indirect, to effect conservation delivery within the Great Northern area or to inform policymakers in a value-adding way or to result in practical activities which promise measurable outcomes to effect conservation delivery.
b. **Actionable Science:** Process and product ideally co-produced by scientists and decision-makers, and creates rigorous, understandable, accessible, and usable products to meet the needs of stakeholders make informed natural and cultural resource management decisions.
c. **Scientific/Professional Merit:** Soundness of technical approach, including design, objectives, and scientific viability of the project. Compliance with and adherence to the GNLCC Information Management, Delivery, and Sharing Standards (http://greatnorthernlcc.org/sites/default/files/documents/gnlcc_datamgt_sharing_policy.pdf).
d. **Programmatic Capability:** The collective technical capability of the applicant team to successfully carry out a project taking into account such factors as the applicant's (1) past performance in successfully completing projects similar in scope; (2) history of meeting reporting requirements on prior or current assistance agreements; (3) organizational support indicating capacity to manage complex projects; and (4) staff expertise, qualifications, knowledge, and resources to successfully achieve project goals.
e. **Amplification**: Potential to impact the entire GNLCC, facilitate partner engagement, and/or benefit to neighboring LCCs.
f. **Appropriate Budget/Leveraging:** (1) Reasonableness and appropriateness of the budget for the level of work proposed and the expected benefits achieved; (2) leverage of other federal and/or non-federal funds to carry out the proposed project(s) or complement activities relevant to the proposed project(s). Applicants may cite their own funds, in-kind or other resources for a voluntary match or cost share. Only eligible and allowable costs will be considered matches or cost shares.

RELEVANCE CRITERIA: The sub-set of proposals received that best meet the General Criteria will be passed to a second round when they will be scored against Relevance Criteria. Each proposal category (see Section I) has slightly different relevance criteria tailored to expected outcomes under each specific category. GNLCC Selection Committees, subsets of the GNLCC Advisory Team, with balanced representation (i.e., fed/state, science/management) will review and score proposals in consultation with objective subject matter experts where appropriate.

Category I. Broad-scale Baseline Data-development and Landscape Context
1) Relevance to priorities and needs identified in Strategic Conservation Framework, in the Science Plan, and GNLCC High Level Direction (30%)

Criteria: Articulate how project products and outcomes will address specific needs identified in the GNLCC High Level Direction emphasis areas and informed by the Strategic Framework, Science Plan, and/or by Partner Forums. Identify specific section of Framework, Plan, as appropriate.

Does the project proposal:
a) directly address one (or more) GNLCC emphasis areas?
b) improve our collective understanding of landscape-scale status and trend of emphasis area goal-stressor combinations?
b) adequately frame the project deliverables relative to improving our understanding of how priority conservation targets (species, habitats, processes) may respond to key landscape stressors?
c) appropriately lead to development of quantifiable measures to assess GNLCC's progress in conserving ecosystem processes, habitats or species (i.e., population indicators) that relate to landscape scale issues?
d) articulate how project products will provide management and conservation guidance for actions that will move conservation targets closer to desired condition?

2) Relevance to on the ground conservation delivery – i.e., actionable science (30%)
Criteria: Articulate how project products and outcomes provide data, analyses, projections, or tools that are co-produced by scientists and decision-makers, and create rigorous, understandable, accessible, and usable products to meet the needs of stakeholders.

Does the project proposal:
a) address an existing need identified by an operational resource management plan (e.g., Comprehensive Conservation Plan, Forest Plan, Land Use Plan, State Wildlife Action Plan)?
b) allow for more effective conservation delivery? How?
c) inform or prioritize conservation delivery actions and/or locales in the near future?
d) ensure success in FY15-16 through a clearly articulated outcome and high confidence in completion and application to conservation goals?

3) Relevance to effective application of the science (20%)
Criteria: Articulate how project products and outcomes provide data, analyses, projections, or tools that will be made more available to managers. How will products and outcomes be integrated with existing data, tools, and programs to enhance and extend managers ability to act strategically and effectively?

Does the project proposal:
- a) include training, workshops, or extension capacity aimed at applying science/data to inform decision making?
- b) provide information immediately applicable to decision-making for a priority resource, resource condition, habitat, or species in a large portion of the LCC?
- c) include or reference feedback loops to evaluate the effectiveness of training, workshops, or extension capacity?

4) Relevance to partner engagement and landscape context (20%)

Criteria: Articulate how project outcomes will engage and benefit multiple stakeholders and how the conservation benefit will be extended beyond the geographic, taxonomic, or jurisdictional focus.

Does the project proposal:
- a) articulate project benefits for all partners and other programs that share trust resources, jurisdiction and geographic boundaries?
- b) engage, leverage or catalyze a broad existing partnership that may include federal, state, Tribal, local, NGO, and private or corporate support (support = in-kind and/or monetary)?
- c) engage "new" partners?

Category II: Partnership-driven Conservation Planning, Design and Implementation (LCD and other)

1) Relevance to priorities and needs identified in Strategic Conservation Framework, in the Science Plan, and GNLCC High Level Direction (30%)

Criteria: Articulate how project and outcomes will address specific needs identified in the GNLCC High Level Direction emphasis areas and informed by the Strategic Framework, Science Plan, and/or by Partner Forums. Identify specific section of Framework, Plan, as appropriate.

Does the project proposal:
- a) directly address one (or more) GNLCC emphasis areas?
- b) improve our collective understanding of landscape-scale status and trend of emphasis area goal-stressor combinations?
- b) adequately frame the project deliverables relative to improving our understanding of how priority conservation targets (species, habitats, processes) may respond to key landscape stressors?
- c) appropriately lead to development of quantifiable measures to assess GNLCC's progress in conserving ecosystem processes, habitats or species (i.e., population indicators) that relate to landscape scale issues?
- d) articulate how project products will provide management and conservation guidance for actions that will move conservation targets closer to desired condition?

2) Relevance to Landscape Conservation Design or landscape-scale products used for landscape design and conservation delivery (30%)

Criteria: Articulate how project and outcomes provide a shared design that partners will integrate and respectively adopt and implement.

Does the project:
- a. Provide specific needs for Landscape Conservation Design such as data and tools or LCD project funding such as

      o   Agreed upon goals/targets/stressors

      o   Spatial assessment (to include above)

      o   Projects for change due to stressors

      o   Desired conditions

      o   Implementation plan for partner action

      o   Support for implementation

b) address an existing need identified by an operational resource management plan (e.g., Comprehensive Conservation Plan, Forest Plan, Land Use Plan, State Wildlife Action Plan)?

c) allow for more effective conservation delivery? How?

d) inform or prioritize conservation delivery actions and/or locales in the near future?

3) Relevance to effective application of the science (20%)

Criteria: Articulate how project and outcomes provide data, analyses, projections, or tools that will be made more available to managers. How will products and outcomes be integrated with existing data, tools, and programs to enhance and extend managers ability to act strategically and effectively?

Does the project proposal:

a) include training, workshops, or extension capacity aimed at applying science/data to inform decision making?

b) provide information immediately applicable to decision-making for a priority resource, resource condition, habitat, or species in a large portion of the LCC?

c) include or reference feedback loops to evaluate the effectiveness of training, workshops, or extension capacity?

4) Relevance to partner engagement and landscape context (20%)

Criteria: Articulate how project outcomes will engage and benefit multiple stakeholders and how the conservation benefit will be extended beyond the geographic, taxonomic, or jurisdictional focus.

Does the project proposal:

a) articulate project benefits for all partners and other programs that share trust resources, jurisdiction and geographic boundaries?

b) engage, leverage or catalyze a broad existing partnership that may include federal, state, Tribal, local, NGO, and private or corporate support (support = in-kind and/or monetary)?

c) engage "new" partners?

Category III: Capacity for Partners, Tribes and Local Collaborations

1) Relevance to Tribal or community leadership (governance or community) and membership engagement, and expressed local capacity and information needs (20%)

Criteria: Articulate how the proposal will engage local leadership (councils, communities and/or committees) to participate in coordinated, partnership-based conservation and how community members will benefit from outcomes.

Does the proposal:

a) include community or tribal leaders in the proposal's Project Coordinator, PIs and/or Partners or have the endorsement of a recognized community, committee or council

entities?
b) describe specific benefits to community or tribal decision processes and conservation concerns?
c) include mechanisms to reach out to and engage a large portion of the tribal or local community?

2) Relevance to GNLCC priorities and practices as identified in the Strategic Plan, Science Plan, and Communication Strategy (30%)
Criteria: Articulate how the project will help or support tribal or local communities to address priority GNLCC conservation targets, stressors and communicate that to local or community members and partners.
Does the proposal:
a) focus on appropriate priorities (goals, conservation targets, stressors) of GNLCC?
b) integrate elements of Traditional Ecological Knowledge or local traditional knowledge in proposed outcomes?
c) lead to development of information needs identified in the GNLCC Science Plan?

3) Relevance to strengthening partnerships across the Partner Forum (20%)
Criteria: Articulate how the project will both build upon and strengthen existing partnerships in the region and engage new partners and partnerships into a coordinated conservation community.
Does the project proposal:
a) Articulate project benefits for all partners and other programs that share trust resources, jurisdiction and geographic boundaries?
b) Engage, leverage or catalyze a broad existing partnership that may include federal, state, Tribal, local, NGO, and private or corporate support (support = in-kind and/or monetary)
c) Engage "new" partners?
d) include interjurisdictional or transboundary landscapes/habitats identified regional conservation plans or by partner groups/agencies?

4) Relevance to priorities and needs identified in Strategic Conservation Framework, in the Science Plan, and by Partner Forums (30%)
Criteria: Articulate how project products and outcomes will address specific needs identified in the Strategic Framework, Science Plan (and other GNLCC-wide efforts), and/or by Partner Forums. Identify specific section of Framework, Plan, as appropriate.
Does the project proposal:
a) directly address two (or more) stated GNLCC conservation targets and stressors?
b) adequately frame the project actions relative to improving our understanding of how priority conservation targets (species, habitats, processes) may respond to key landscape stressors?
c) lead to development of quantifiable measures to assess partnership and GNLCC's progress in conserving ecosystem processes, habitats or species (i.e., population indicators) that relate to landscape scale issues?
d) articulate how project products will provide management and conservation guidance for actions that will move conservation targets closer to desired condition?

Review and Selection Process. Selection recommendations will be based on an evaluation of projects against the General Criteria and the Relevance Criteria. Applicants that submit

more than one proposal must indicate which projects is highest priority (see Section IV, Multiple Project Submissions).

Category A-C project proposals will be evaluated through the following review process:

1. GNLCC Staff will screen submissions upon receipt for eligibility, conformance to the announcement provisions, and to ensure proposed projects are aligned with the appropriate FY17 needs. As mentioned above, if the project is not aligned with the appropriate need and the applicant approves, the project may be evaluated under a different need or rejected.

2. Proposals passing step 1 will be evaluated against each element of the General Criteria by a staff team consisting of GNLCC Coordinators, Science Coordinator, GIS Administrator, Outreach Specialist, and the USFWS Region 6 Chief of Landscape Conservation. Proposal header information (Project Title, Coordinator, PI(s), Partners, and Summary), Deliverables, and Budget are the primary focus of General Criteria evaluation.

3. Proposal passing the General Criteria will be scored by Category-specific GNLCC Selection Committees, consisting of GNLCC Advisory Team, Steering Committee and staff. Each Selection Committee will consist of 3-7 reviewers. Committee members will independently score each proposal based on the weighted Relevance Criteria and submit scores to the GNLCC Coordinator.

3. Selection Committee evaluation results will be made available to the GNLCC Steering Committee.

4. The GNLCC Coordinator or delegate will prepare a spreadsheet compiling the results of the individual evaluations.

5. The Selection Committee will develop a recommended list of projects for funding to present to the GNLCC Advisory Team and Steering Committee. The list will be reviewed by the Advisory Team that will then prepare funding recommendations to the Steering Committee.

6. Before making the final recommendations, in addition to evaluating proposed projects against the general and relevance criteria, the Steering Committee may also consider the geographic distribution of projects and funds, selecting technically sound projects across the GNLCC area at both a geographic and institutional level to achieve a reasonable balance of funding by GNLCC, applicant type, conservation target(s), location and impact.

7. After the GNLCC Steering Committee approves projects for funding consideration, and US FWS R6 agrees to fund, all applicants will be notified of the projects that have been selected.

8. Applicants for the projects that have been selected will be asked to submit final proposals (if any changes requested) along with the SF-424 and attendant documentation for Federal assistance (Application Packages).

9. Final decisions will be based upon the completed final proposals and application packages.

10. Applicants will be asked to submit a project Data Management Plan in accordance with the GNLCC Information Management, Delivery, and Sharing Standards (http://greatnorthernlcc.org/sites/default/files/documents/gnlcc_datamgt_sharing_po

licy_fy13_11-26-12.pdf) before funds are disbursed.

Schedule.

Conference Call(s) for Public Questions*	January 9, 2017 (Mon) 2:30pm MST
	January 18, 2017 (Thurs) 10:30am MST
Deadline for Submissions	February 17, 2017 (Fri) 5pm MST
Reviews	Feb-March
Applicants Notified	April 15 (pending SC approval and Federal
budget)	
Application Packages due	May 15 (pending above date met)
Final Awards in place	June 30 to August 31

* GNLCC will host 2 public conference calls during which applicants can ask any questions about the Funding Guidance. Info as follows:

Dates: January 9, 2017 (Mon) 2:30pm MST
         January 18, 2017 (Thurs) 10:30am MST

Call Leader:	**GNLCC Coordinators**
US/Canada Dial-In Number:	**866-795-8047**
Conference Code:	**6972717#**

VI. Proposal and Award Administration

Proposal Solicitation: Based on the GNLCC Governance Charter (http://greatnorthernlcc.org/sites/default/files/documents/august_2012_gnlcc_charter_final.pdf), science products and information needs can be developed and acquired by either of the following means:

1. Support for Existing Partnership Products and Information – If a partnership is supporting the identified project, this process can be used. This process will allow the GNLCC to support and network the work of existing landscape partnerships. This consists of querying existing partnerships for specific projects that meet criteria the GNLCC identified in the Strategic Conservation Framework (http://greatnorthernlcc.org/sites/default/files/documents/gnlcc_framework_final_small.pdf). This process may be more desirable in the early years of the GNLCC as a means to leverage existing efforts.

2. Request for Proposal (RFP) – If the identified project is not currently supported by existing partnerships, the RFP process can be used to procure competitive and effective proposals for a specific science product or information need. The GNLCC may choose to put more emphasis on an RFP process. The RFP process must include:

    a. Development of an RFP with a clearly stated science product or information
    need from the Annual Workplan *(or draft Strategic Conservation Framework as*

Science needs identified herein)
b. Widespread circulation of the RFP within and outside the GNLCC
c. Peer-review of all proposals that are received (using review template and process)
d. Selection Committee will be established at time of RFP development.

Deliverables
The following process ensures that funded projects are completed, deliverables produced, and findings are timely, responsive and applicable to the original needs identified.

Results will also be used to revise and update the Strategic Conservation Framework. This ensures an accountable, iterative mechanism for funding and will ensure use and application of science products and information gained towards the collective GNLCC understanding of landscape conservation as we work together to achieve resource resilience through GNLCC partners respective of joint adaptation strategies.

Project Coordinators and Principal Investigators will be expected to comply with the requirements outlined GNLCC Information Management, Delivery, and Sharing Standards (http://greatnorthernlcc.org/sites/default/files/documents/gnlcc_datamgt_sharing_policy.pdf) including completion of a Data Management Plan which must be approved by the Coordinator and Science Coordinator before any funds are provided to the Principal Investigator. The GNLCC Science Coordinator is available to assist with Data Management Plan development.

The completed Data Management Plan includes simple, concise guidance on product documentation and delivery and should be referred to regularly at each key stage of a project's lifecycle.

In addition, all GNLCC-endorsed projects are expected to include interim reports on a schedule determined during contracting and a final report submitted within 6 months of project completion (unless otherwise arranged). This report should include:

- Executive Summary
- Project explanation or Study Design
- Methods or Application
- Recommendations for use, application or next steps

Notification: We will confirm proposal receipt within: (i) one week for electronic submissions or (ii) two weeks for regular mail.

Contact Yvette_Converse@fws.gov if you do not receive a confirmation or if your project is not posted. GNLCC Coordinator will contact all Applicants to tell them whether or not they will be asked to submit Application Packages.

VII. Agency Contacts

General Contact:
Yvette Converse, GNLCC Coordinator
Yvette_Converse@fws.gov
406-994-7486

Tom Olliff, GNLCC Coordinator
Tom_Olliff@nps.gov
406-994-7920

VIII. Project Template

GREAT NORTHERN LCC PROJECT TEMPLATE (Please limit to 5 pages)

Project Title:
Project Coordinator (contact information):
Project PI(s) (who is doing the work; contact information):
Partners (name, affiliation, location):

Project Summary (3 sentence target):

Category(s) for Proposal (see pg 2-3):

I) Broad-scale Baseline Data-development and Landscape Context

II) Partnership-driven Conservation Planning, Design and Implementation (LCD and other)

III) Capacity for Partners and Local Collaborations

Need:
While it may be useful to include a brief amount of background information in this section, be sure to clearly address the following:
- What is the need within the Great Northern landscape?
- What landscape-level issue is this work related to and how (e.g. climate, habitat fragmentation)
- Why is it important?
- What science products will be provided, problem addressed, or what information or other needs will your project provide?
- What is the science product or direct management application?
- What is the geographic scope?
- Is the need identified in other conservation, management, or other plans?

Objective: What will you accomplish?   Define how this project will contribute to provision of one or more of the following elements to support LCC objectives and functions:
- Decision support tools/systems or science applications for focused resource conservation
- Tracking or evaluation of resource management efforts
- Testing assumptions of model projections
- Inventory of resource conditions or trends

Methods: How will the objectives be attained? What work activities or tasks will be done? Include specific procedures, methodologies, or protocols. Will there be any key cooperators, and what will their role be (identify any in-kind support provided)?

Deliverables: List the final product(s), including the final report, which will result from this project and delivery date(s).

Statement of compliance: A statement indicating the Project coordinator and Principal Investigator have read Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative Information Management, Delivery, and Sharing Standards and agree to comply with those standards if the proposal is selected.

Schedule: Provide a time line with dates and tasks. Include key project work items and dates for events such as start-up, interim milestones, presentations, deliverables, submittal of final report, and project completion. Identify if project is multiple year and projected outyear schedule.

Budget (please include in a separate file from the body of the proposal): Provide a detailed breakdown of costs (Salaries, contracts, travel, publication costs, equipment, services, etc). Describe in-kind or matching funds for the project if applicable. Describe out-year estimated budget if multi-year project.

IX. Budget Template

Project Title:

Project Coordinator & PI:

Budget Narrative: Explain any necessary detail of the fund request, matching or in-kind.

	Request from GNLCC	Matching	In-Kind	Comments
Personnel				
Salary 1 (rate)				
Salary 2 (rate)				
Salary 3 (rate)				
Total for Salaries	$	$	$	
Supplies/Equipment				
Equipment A				
Equipment B				
Total Supplies/Equipment	$	$	$	
Travel				
Meeting				
Training				
Total Travel	$	$	$	
Agreements/Contracts				
Agreement 1				
Contract 1				
Agreements/Contracts Total	$	$	$	

Data Collection				
Vehicle Costs				
Technician Travel (i.e., lodging, per diem)				
Data Collection Total	$	$	$	
Data Analysis, Management and Reporting				
Technical Support				
Metadata, Data Management, Tech Transfer				
Printing, publications				
Data Analysis, Management and Reporting Total	$	$	$	
Subtotal before Overhead:	$	$	$	
Administrative				
Overhead				
Total Cost	$	$	$	