



STATE OF VERMONT
JOINT FISCAL OFFICE

MEMORANDUM

To: Joint Fiscal Committee members
From: Sorsha Anderson, Senior Staff Associate
Date: December 26, 2024
Subject: Grant Request– JFO #3236

Enclosed please find one (1) item, which the Joint Fiscal Office has received from the Administration. ***This request is under an expedited review. Please respond by Tuesday, December 31, 2024.***

JFO #3236: \$100,000.00 to the Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Fish and Wildlife from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to address invasive plant species in Vermont. The grant period extends through June 30, 2029. The agency will use \$20,000.00 each year for herbicide contractors to treat invasive plant species in Wildlife Management Areas statewide.

[Received 12/23/2024]

Please review the enclosed materials and notify the Joint Fiscal Office (Sorsha Anderson: sanderson@leg.state.vt.us) if you have questions or would like this item held for legislative review. If we do not have a response by **December 30, 2024**, members will be polled.

**State of Vermont**

Department of Finance & Management
109 State Street, Pavilion Building
Montpelier, VT 05620-0401

Agency of Administration

[phone] 802-828-2376

STATE OF VERMONT FINANCE & MANAGEMENT GRANT REVIEW FORM

Grant Summary:		Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding for invasive plant control in WMAs statewide.			
Date:		11/13/2024			
Department:		Fish & Wildlife			
Legal Title of Grant:		Vermont Fish and Wildlife Northern Forest Conservation Initiative Grant FY2025			
Federal Catalog #:		15.651; F24AP03153			
Grant/Donor Name and Address:		US Fish and Wildlife Service 1849 C St NW, Washington DC 20240			
Grant Period:	From:	8/30/2024	To:	6/30/2029	
Grant/Donation		\$100,000			
	SFY 1	SFY 2	SFY 3	Total	Comments
Grant Amount:	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$60,000	\$100,000	"SFY3" = FY27-FY29
Position Information:		# Positions	Explanation/Comments		
Additional Comments:		100% federal funding. No state match required.			
Department of Finance & Management		Adam Greshin Digitally signed by Adam Greshin Date: 2024.11.14 DocuSigned by: 04AB832CD55C438...		(Initial)	
Secretary of Administration		Sarah Clark		(Initial)	
Sent To Joint Fiscal Office				Date	





Fish & Wildlife Department
1 National Life Drive, Davis 2
Montpelier, Vermont 05620
www.vtfishandwildlife.com

Agency of Natural Resources

MEMORANDUM

TO: Nick Kramer, Budget Analyst

FROM: Elizabeth Stratton, Director of Finance and Administration

SUBJECT: Grant Acceptance Request

DATE: November 7, 2024

Enclosed is a Request for Grant Acceptance (Form AA-1) for Inflation Reduction Act funding that Vermont Fish and Wildlife has received from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The grant award is \$100,000 that will be used to fund invasive plant control over the 8/30/24-6/30/29 performance period; approximately \$20,000 each fiscal year. The Department will use the funds to hire certified herbicide application contractors to treat non-native invasive plant species on Wildlife Management Areas statewide. There is no match required on this grant.

Please let me know if you need any further information.

STATE OF VERMONT REQUEST FOR GRANT (*) ACCEPTANCE (Form AA-1)

BASIC GRANT INFORMATION				
1. Agency:		Agency of Natural Resources		
2. Department:		Fish and Wildlife Department		
3. Program:		Lands and Habitat		
4. Legal Title of Grant:		Vermont Fish and Wildlife Northern Forest Conservation Initiative Grant FY2025		
5. Federal Catalog #:		15.651; F24AP03153		
6. Grant/Donor Name and Address: US Fish and Wildlife Service, 1849 C St NW, Washington DC 20240				
7. Grant Period:		From:	8/30/2024	To: 6/30/29
8. Purpose of Grant: The purpose of this grant is control of invasive plant species.				
9. Impact on existing program if grant is not Accepted: If the grant is not accepted, the Department be unable to utilize federal funding that does not have a match requirement.				
10. BUDGET INFORMATION				
	SFY 1 FY 25	SFY 2 FY 26	SFY 3 FY 27-29	Comments
Expenditures:				
Personal Services	\$	\$	\$	
Operating Expenses	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$60,000	\$20K each SFY
Grants	\$	\$	\$	
Total	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$60,000	
Revenues:				
State Funds:	\$	\$	\$	
Cash	\$	\$	\$	
In-Kind	\$	\$	\$	
Federal Funds:	\$	\$	\$	
(Direct Costs)	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$60,000	
(Statewide Indirect)	\$	\$	\$	
(Departmental Indirect)	\$	\$	\$	
Other Funds:	\$	\$	\$	
Grant (source)	\$	\$	\$	
Total	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$60,000	
Appropriation No:		Amount:	\$	
			\$	
			\$	
			\$	
			\$	
			\$	
			\$	
		Total	\$	

STATE OF VERMONT REQUEST FOR GRANT (*) ACCEPTANCE (Form AA-1)

PERSONAL SERVICE INFORMATION

11. Will monies from this grant be used to fund one or more Personal Service Contracts? ☒ Yes ☐ No
If "Yes", appointing authority must initial here to indicate intent to follow current competitive bidding process/policy.

Appointing Authority Name: Christopher Herrick, Commissioner Agreed by: CH (initial)

12. Limited Service Position Information:

Positions

Title

Total Positions

12a. Equipment and space for these positions:

☐ Is presently available. ☐ Can be obtained with available funds.

13. AUTHORIZATION AGENCY/DEPARTMENT

I/we certify that no funds beyond basic application preparation and filing costs have been expended or committed in anticipation of Joint Fiscal Committee approval of this grant, unless previous notification was made on Form AA-1PN (if applicable):

Signature: Christopher Herrick
Title: Fish and Wildlife Commissioner

Date: 11/8/2024

Signature: [Signature]
Title: Agency of Natural Resources Secretary

Date: 11/8/2024

14. SECRETARY OF ADMINISTRATION

SC

☐

Approved:

(Secretary or designee signature)

DocuSigned by:

Sarah Clark

Date: 11/17/2024 | 7:40

15. ACTION BY GOVERNOR

☒ Check One Box:
Accepted

(Governor's signature)

☐ Rejected

Date: 12/20/24

16. DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED

Required GRANT Documentation

- ☐ Request Memo
- ☐ Dept. project approval (if applicable)
- ☐ Notice of Award
- ☐ Grant Agreement
- ☐ Grant Budget

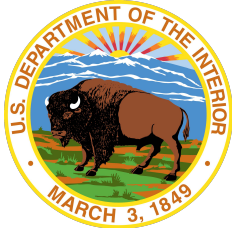
- ☐ Notice of Donation (if any)
- ☐ Grant (Project) Timeline (if applicable)
- ☐ Request for Extension (if applicable)
- ☐ Form AA-1PN attached (if applicable)

End Form AA-1

(*) The term "grant" refers to any grant, gift, loan, or any sum of money or thing of value to be accepted by any agency, department, commission, board, or other part of state government (see 32 V.S.A. §5).

1. DATE ISSUED MM/DD/YYYY 09/16/2024		1a. SUPERSEDES AWARD NOTICE dated except that any additions or restrictions previously imposed remain in effect unless specifically rescinded	
2. CFDA NO. 15.654 - National Wildlife Refuge System Enhancements			
3. ASSISTANCE TYPE Project Grant			
4. GRANT NO. F24AP03153-00 Originating MCA #		5. TYPE OF AWARD Other	
4a. FAIN F24AP03153		5a. ACTION TYPE New	
6. PROJECT PERIOD MM/DD/YYYY From 08/30/2024		Through MM/DD/YYYY 06/30/2029	
7. BUDGET PERIOD MM/DD/YYYY From 08/30/2024		Through MM/DD/YYYY 06/30/2029	
8. TITLE OF PROJECT (OR PROGRAM) Vermont Fish and Wildlife Northern Forest Conservation Initiative Grant FY2025			

NOTICE OF AWARD



AUTHORIZATION (Legislation/Regulations)
Inflation Reduction Act—Weather Events (Pub. L. 117-169 [H.R. 5376], §60302, 136 STAT. 2079)

9a. GRANTEE NAME AND ADDRESS VERMONT DEPARTMENT FISH & WILDLIFE 1 NATIONAL LIFE DR MONTPELIER, VT, 05620-0001		9b. GRANTEE PROJECT DIRECTOR Mr. Ryan Leamy 1 NATIONAL LIFE DR MONTPELIER, VT, 05620-0001 Phone: 8024988087	
10a. GRANTEE AUTHORIZING OFFICIAL Mr. Ryan Leamy 1 NATIONAL LIFE DR MONTPELIER, VT, 05620-0001 Phone: 8024988087		10b. FEDERAL PROJECT OFFICER Mrs. Christina Ryder 1849 C St NW Washington, DC, 20240-0001 Phone: 443-934-7120	

ALL AMOUNTS ARE SHOWN IN USD

11. APPROVED BUDGET (Excludes Direct Assistance)				12. AWARD COMPUTATION			
I Financial Assistance from the Federal Awarding Agency Only				a. Amount of Federal Financial Assistance (from item 11m) \$ 100,000.00			
II Total project costs including grant funds and all other financial participation II				b. Less Unobligated Balance From Prior Budget Periods \$ 0.00			
a. Salaries and Wages\$ 0.00				c. Less Cumulative Prior Award(s) This Budget Period \$ 0.00			
b. Fringe Benefits\$ 0.00				d. AMOUNT OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE THIS ACTION \$ 100,000.00			
c. Total Personnel Costs\$ 0.00				13. Total Federal Funds Awarded to Date for Project Period \$ 100,000.00			
d. Equipment\$ 0.00				14. RECOMMENDED FUTURE SUPPORT			
e. Supplies\$ 0.00				(Subject to the availability of funds and satisfactory progress of the project):			
f. Travel\$ 0.00				YEAR TOTAL DIRECT COSTS YEAR TOTAL DIRECT COSTS			
g. Construction\$ 0.00				a. 2 \$ d. 5 \$			
h. Other\$ 0.00				b. 3 \$ e. 6 \$			
i. Contractual\$ 100,000.00				c. 4 \$ f. 7 \$			
j. TOTAL DIRECT COSTS → \$ 100,000.00				15. PROGRAM INCOME SHALL BE USED IN ACCORD WITH ONE OF THE FOLLOWING ALTERNATIVES:			
k. INDIRECT COSTS \$ 0.00				a. DEDUCTION b. ADDITIONAL COSTS c. MATCHING d. OTHER RESEARCH (Add / Deduct Option) e. OTHER (See REMARKS)			
l. TOTAL APPROVED BUDGET \$ 100,000.00				16. THIS AWARD IS BASED ON AN APPLICATION SUBMITTED TO, AND AS APPROVED BY, THE FEDERAL AWARDING AGENCY ON THE ABOVE TITLED PROJECT AND IS SUBJECT TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS INCORPORATED EITHER DIRECTLY OR BY REFERENCE IN THE FOLLOWING:			
m. Federal Share \$ 100,000.00				a. The grant program legislation b. The grant program regulations. c. This award notice including terms and conditions, if any, noted below under REMARKS. d. Federal administrative requirements, cost principles and audit requirements applicable to this grant.			
n. Non-Federal Share \$ 0.00				In the event there are conflicting or otherwise inconsistent policies applicable to the grant, the above order of precedence shall prevail. Acceptance of the grant terms and conditions is acknowledged by the grantee when funds are drawn or otherwise obtained from the grant payment system.			

REMARKS (Other Terms and Conditions Attached - ☒ Yes ☐ No)

GRANTS MANAGEMENT OFFICIAL:

Heather Leopard, Grants Management Specialist
8637 SW 44th Ct
Ocala, FL, 34476
Phone: 303-275-2359

17. VENDOR CODE 0070066556		18a. UEI X351BGYX9CE5		18b. DUNS 809800311		19. CONG. DIST. 00
LINE#	FINANCIAL ACCT	AMT OF FIN ASST	START DATE	END DATE	TAS ACCT	PO LINE DESCRIPTION
1	0051055539-00010	\$100,000.00	08/30/2024	06/30/2029	1611	VT Fish & Wildlife N Forest Consrv Initia

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Federal Financial Report Cycle			
Reporting Period Start Date	Reporting Period End Date	Reporting Type	Reporting Period Due Date
08/30/2024	09/30/2024	Annual	12/29/2024
10/01/2024	09/30/2025	Annual	12/29/2025
10/01/2025	09/30/2026	Annual	12/29/2026
10/01/2026	09/30/2027	Annual	12/29/2027
10/01/2027	09/30/2028	Annual	12/29/2028
10/01/2028	06/30/2029	Final	10/28/2029

Performance Progress Report Cycle			
Reporting Period Start Date	Reporting Period End Date	Reporting Type	Reporting Period Due Date
08/30/2024	09/30/2024	Annual	12/29/2024
10/01/2024	09/30/2025	Annual	12/29/2025
10/01/2025	09/30/2026	Annual	12/29/2026
10/01/2026	09/30/2027	Annual	12/29/2027
10/01/2027	09/30/2028	Annual	12/29/2028
10/01/2028	06/30/2029	Final	10/28/2029

SCOPE OF WORK

1. Project Description

The Service hereby incorporates the recipient's application submitted to and approved by the Service into these award terms and conditions.

Treat known and emerging non-native invasive plant infestations (knotweed, etc.) via the use of professional treatment contractors to apply herbicide or use mechanical removal methods. Control of invasive plant species maintains ecological integrity of Northern Forest terrestrial and aquatic habitats, particularly as climate change stressors become more prevalent. Control of invasive plant species maintains resiliency of existing habitats to better withstand future climate change-induced stressors placed on these habitats. Invasive plant control maintains the ecological integrity of interior forest and connectivity blocks.

Goal: Provide funding to existing retainer contract involving six professional certified herbicide application contractors for continued ability to treat non-native invasive plant species.

Objective: Apply herbicide or use mechanical methods to remove existing and emerging non-native exotic plants; monitor for treatment response; re-treat as necessary targeting a uniform 90% +/- mortality rate.

1. State land management staff from VT Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation. VT state lands are managed jointly by staff from the Departments of Fish & Wildlife; Forests, Parks and Recreation; and Environmental Conservation—all within the VT Agency of Natural Resources. Foresters with the Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation assist with identification and mapping of sites containing invasive plants and can assist with administration of retainer contract to treat sites on WMAs.
2. USFWS staff associated with Missisquoi NWR and the Nulhegan Basin of the Silvio O. Conte Fish and Wildlife Refuge may assist with identification and mapping of sites containing invasive plants on adjacent state-managed WMAs.
3. The Nature Conservancy and the Vermont Land Trust hold easements on various parcels of WMAs and may assist with identification and mapping of sites containing invasive plants that require control efforts.

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PAYMENTS**1. Domestic Recipients Enrolled in Treasury's ASAP System**

The recipient will request payments under this award in the [U.S. Treasury's Automated Standard Application for Payment \(ASAP\)](#) system. When requesting payment in ASAP, your Payment Requestor will be required to enter an Account ID. The number assigned to this award is the partial Account ID in ASAP. When entering the Account ID in ASAP, the Payment Requestor should enter the award number identified in the notice of award, followed by a percent sign (%). Refer to the ASAP.gov Help menu for detailed instructions on requesting payments in ASAP.

REPORT**1. Interim Financial Reports**

The recipient is required to submit interim financial reports on an annual basis directly in GrantSolutions. The recipient must follow the financial reporting period end dates and due dates provided in GrantSolutions. The interim reporting due dates are available by signing in to GrantSolutions and selecting the menu for Reports>Federal Financial Report. The GrantSolutions financial report data entry fields are the same as those on the SF-425, "[Federal Financial Report](#)" form. See also our instructional video on "[Completing the Federal Financial Report \(SF-425\)](#)".

2. Interim Performance Reports

The recipient is required to submit interim performance reports on an annual basis directly in GrantSolutions. The recipient must follow the performance reporting period end dates and due dates provided in GrantSolutions. The interim reporting due dates are available by signing in to GrantSolutions and selecting the menu for Reports>FPR.

3. Final Reports

The recipient must liquidate all obligations incurred under the award and submit a *final* financial report in GrantSolutions no later than 120 calendar days after the award period of performance end date. The GrantSolutions financial report data entry fields are the same as those on the SF-425, Federal Financial Report form, <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/post-award-reporting-forms.html>. See also our instructional video on "Completing the Federal Financial Report (SF425)" [https://fawiki.fws.gov/display/VLSV#VirtualLearningSeriesVideosHome-CompletingtheFederalFinancialReport\(SF-425\)](https://fawiki.fws.gov/display/VLSV#VirtualLearningSeriesVideosHome-CompletingtheFederalFinancialReport(SF-425))

The recipient must submit a *final* performance report no later than 120 calendar days after the award period of performance end date. Performance reports must contain: 1) a comparison of actual accomplishments with the goals and objectives of the award as detailed in the approved scope of work; 2) a description of reasons why established goals were not met, if appropriate; and 3) any other pertinent information relevant to the project results. Please include the Service award number on all reports.

The recipient must follow the final Federal Financial Report and the final Performance Report reporting period end dates and due dates provided in GrantSolutions. The final reporting due dates are available by signing in to GrantSolutions and selecting the menu for Reports>Federal Financial Report or Reports>FPR.

4. Reporting Due Date Extensions

Reporting due dates may be extended for an award upon request to the Service Project Officer identified in the notice of award. The request should be sent by selecting the award in GrantSolutions and selecting send message. The message must include the type of report to be extended, the requested revised due date, and a justification for the extension. The Service may approve an additional extension if justified by a catastrophe that significantly impairs the award Recipient's operations. The recipient must submit reporting due date extension requests through GrantSolutions to the Service Project Officer identified in their notice of

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award before the original due date. The Service Project Officer will respond to the recipient after approval or denial of the extension request.

5. Significant Developments Reports

See [2 CFR §200.329\(e\)](#). Events may occur between the scheduled performance reporting dates that have significant impact upon the supported activity. In such cases, recipients are required to notify the Service in writing as soon as the recipient becomes aware of any problems, delays, or adverse conditions that will materially impair the ability to meet the objective of the Federal award. This disclosure must include a statement of any corrective action(s) taken or contemplated, and any assistance needed to resolve the situation. The recipient should also notify the Service in writing of any favorable developments that enable meeting time schedules and objectives sooner or at less cost than anticipated or producing more or different beneficial results than originally planned.

STAFF CONTACTS

1. Program Officer Contact Information:

Program Officer Name: Christina Ryder, Wildlife Biologist

Program Officer Email Address: christina_ryder@fws.gov

Program Officer Phone Number: (410) 573-4567

Terms and Conditions

1. Buy America Provision for Infrastructure

Required Use of American Iron, Steel, Manufactured Products, and Construction Materials for Infrastructure

Per 2 CFR Part 184, none of the funds provided under this award may be used for a project for infrastructure unless:

1. All iron and steel used in the project are produced in the United States. This means all manufacturing processes, from the initial melting stage through the application of coatings, occurred in the United States,
2. All manufactured products used in the project are produced in the United States. This means the manufactured product was manufactured in the United States, and the cost of the components of the manufactured product that are mined, produced, or manufactured in the United States is greater than 55 percent of the total cost of all components of the manufactured product, unless another standard for determining the minimum amount of domestic content of the manufactured product has been established under applicable law or regulation, and
3. All construction materials are manufactured in the United States. This means that all manufacturing processes for the construction material occurred in the United States. For construction material standards, see 2 CFR §184.6.

This Buy America preference only applies to articles, materials, and supplies consumed in, incorporated into, or affixed to an infrastructure project. As such, it does not apply to tools, equipment, and supplies, such as temporary scaffolding, brought to the construction site and removed at or before the completion of the infrastructure project. Nor does a Buy America preference apply to equipment and furnishings, such as movable chairs, desks, and portable computer equipment, used at or within the finished infrastructure project but are not an integral part of the structure or permanently affixed to the infrastructure project.

Department of the Interior (DOI) General Applicability Waivers

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There may be instances where an award qualifies, in whole or in part, for an existing DOI general applicability waiver. Recipients are responsible for determining if an approved waiver applies to their project. A list of active waivers is available at: www.doi.gov/grants/BuyAmerica/GeneralApplicabilityWaivers. As new waivers may be issued at any time, we recommend Recipients frequently check this web page through the life of their project. If an active waiver applies to the project, the Recipient must retain a record of the applicable waiver per 2 CFR §200.334 recordkeeping requirements. If the specific financial assistance agreement, infrastructure project, or non-domestic materials meets the criteria of an existing general applicability waiver within the limitations defined within the waiver, the Recipient does not need to request a separate waiver for non-domestic materials.

Waiver Requests

When necessary, recipients may apply for, and the DOI may grant, a waiver from these requirements, subject to review by the Made in America Office. Per 2 CFR §184.7, the DOI may waive the application of the domestic content procurement preference in any case in which it is determined that one of the below circumstances applies:

1. Non-availability Waiver: the types of iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities or of a satisfactory quality,
2. Unreasonable Cost Waiver: the inclusion of iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials produced in the United States will increase the cost of the overall project by more than 25 percent, or
3. Public Interest Waiver: applying the domestic content procurement preference would be inconsistent with the public interest.

If a general applicability waiver does not already apply, and the Recipient believes that one of the above circumstances applies to an award, the Recipient may submit a request to waive the application of the domestic content procurement preference.

Waiver Submission Instructions

Recipients must submit all waiver requests to the Service in writing. Email all waiver requests to fwhqfasupport@fws.gov. Please use the subject line: "Buy America Waiver Request". Include the following information with each waiver request:

1. Type of waiver requested (non-availability, unreasonable cost, or public interest)
2. Requesting entity name and Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)
3. Federal awarding agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, DOI
4. Awarding program Assistance Listing number and title (Notice of Award, Block 2)
5. Project title (Notice of Award, Block 8)
6. Federal Award Identification Number (Notice of Award, Block 4)
7. Federal award amount (Notice of Award, Block 11)
8. Total estimated infrastructure costs, to the extent know (federal and non-federal funds)
9. Infrastructure project description and location, to the extent known
10. List of iron or steel item(s), manufactured goods, and construction material(s) proposed to be waived from the Buy America requirements. Include the name, cost, country of origin, if known, and relevant PSC or NAICS code for each (see <https://psctool.us/> and <https://www.census.gov/naics/>).

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11. A certification that the Recipient made a good faith effort to solicit bids for domestic products supported by terms included in requests for proposals, contracts, and nonproprietary communications with the prime contractor.
12. A statement of waiver justification, including a description of the Recipient's efforts (e.g., market research, industry outreach) to avoid the need for a waiver. Such a justification may cite, if applicable, the absence of any Buy America-compliant bids received in response to a solicitation. For market research conducted, provide details on when it was conducted, and the sources and methods used.
13. Anticipated impact if no waiver is issued.

Do not include any Privacy Act information, sensitive data, or proprietary information with the waiver request.

Waiver Review Process

The Department will post waiver requests to www.doi.gov/grants/buyamerica for the required 15-day public comment period. The Made in America Office will also review all waiver requests. The Department will post approved waivers at www.doi.gov/grants/BuyAmerica/ApprovedWaivers. The Service will notify Recipients of waiver request determinations by email. Waivers may be granted after an award has been issued. However, an approved waiver will not retroactively apply to expenditures already incurred under the award before the effective date of the waiver. Any such expenditures are subject to the Buy America preferences for infrastructure.

Definitions

The terms used in this provision have the meanings given in 2 CFR §184.3.

2. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

General Award Terms and Conditions

Recipients of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) grant and cooperative agreement awards (hereafter referred to as 'awards') are subject to the terms and conditions incorporated into their Notice of Award either by direct citation or by reference to Federal regulations; program legislation or regulation; and special award terms and conditions. Award terms and conditions are applicable unless and until the USFWS removes or revises them in written notice to the recipient. The Service will make such changes by issuing a written notice that describes the change and provides the effective date.

Recipients indicate their acceptance of an award by starting work, drawing down funds, or accepting the award via electronic means. Recipient acceptance of an award carries with it the responsibility to be aware of and comply with all terms and conditions applicable to the award. Recipients are responsible for ensuring that their subrecipients and contractors are aware of and comply with applicable award statutes, regulations, and terms and conditions. Recipient failure to comply with award terms and conditions can result in the Service taking one or more of the remedies and actions described in Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §§200.339—343.

A library of the Service's general award terms and conditions with embedded links to all regulations is available on the Service's website at: <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/financial-assistance-general-award-terms-and-conditions>. Refer to the general terms and conditions in this library in effect as of the signature date on your award. See also the Department of the Interior's General Award Terms and Conditions on their website at: <https://www.doi.gov/grants/doi-standard-terms-and-conditions>.

Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements

These requirements and cost principles are applicable to all awards except those to individuals receiving the award separate from any business or organization they may own or operate. Foreign public entities and foreign organizations must comply with special considerations and requirements specific to their entity type, unless otherwise stated in this section. Foreign public entities must

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comply with those for states.

2 CFR Part 200, Subparts A—D, as supplemented by 2 CFR Part 1402

Foreign public entities must follow payment procedures in 2 CFR §200.305(b). For foreign public entities and foreign organizations, the requirements in 2 CFR §§200.321—323 do not apply.

Appendix XII to 2 CFR Part 200—Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters

Applicable to awards with a total Federal share of more than \$500,000 except for awards of any amount to foreign public entities.

2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E—Cost Principles

Applicable to all domestic and foreign non-Federal entities except non-profit organizations identified in Appendix VIII to 2 CFR Part 200. Non-Federal entities include for-profit organizations.

48 CFR Subpart 31.2—Contracts with Commercial Organizations

Applicable to non-profit organizations identified in Appendix VIII to 2 CFR Part 200.

Indirect Cost Proposals

Requirements for development and submission of indirect cost rate proposals are contained in Appendix III (Institutions of Higher Education), Appendix IV (Nonprofit organizations), and Appendix VII (States, local government agencies, and Indian tribes) to 2 CFR Part 200. See also the DOI negotiated indirect cost rate deviation policies at 2 CFR §1402.414. For-profit entities should contact the DOI National Business Center, Office of Indirect Cost Rate Services at: <https://ibc.doi.gov/ICS/indirect-cost>.

2 CFR Part 200, Subpart F—Audit Requirements

Applicable to U.S. states, local governments, Indian tribes, institutions of higher education, and nonprofit organizations. Not applicable to foreign public entities, foreign organizations, or for-profit entities.

Statutory and National Policy Requirements

These requirements are applicable to all awards, including those to individuals, for-profits, foreign public entities, and foreign organizations, unless otherwise stated in this section.

Appendix A to 2 CFR Part 25—Universal Identifier and System for Award Management

Not applicable to individuals or any entity exempted by the awarding bureau or office prior to award per 2 CFR §25.110(c)(2) and bureau or office policy.

Appendix A to 2 CFR Part 170—Award term for reporting subaward and executive compensation

Not applicable to individuals. See 2 CFR 170 for other exceptions.

2 CFR §175.15—Award Term for Trafficking in Persons

Applicable to private entities as defined in 2 CFR §175.25(d), states, local governments, and Indian tribes. Applicable to foreign public entities if funding could be provided to a private entity as a subrecipient under the award.

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2 CFR Part 184—Buy America Preference for Infrastructure Projects

None of the funds under a Federal award may be obligated for an infrastructure project unless all the iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in the project are produced in the United States, unless subject to an approved waiver. This part applies to an entire infrastructure project even if funded by Federal and non-Federal funds under one or more awards. Recipients must include this preference in all subawards, contracts, and purchase orders related to infrastructure projects under Federal awards. Service awards subject to this preference will include a Buy America Provision for Infrastructure.

2 CFR Part 1400—Nonprocurement Debarment and Suspension

All recipients must ensure they do not enter into any covered transaction with an excluded or disqualified participant or principal. See also 2 CFR Part 180—OMB Guidelines to Agencies on Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement). 2 CFR §180.215 defines nonprocurement transactions that are not covered transactions.

2 CFR Part 1401—Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace (Financial Assistance)

Not applicable to foreign public entities or foreign organizations.

43 CFR Part 18—New Restrictions on Lobbying

Recipients are prohibited from using any federally appropriated funds (annually appropriated or continuing appropriations) or matching funds under a Federal award to pay any person for lobbying in connection with the award. Lobbying is influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any U.S. agency, a Member of the U.S. Congress, or an officer or employee of a Member of the U.S. Congress in connection with the award.

41 U.S.C. §4712—Whistleblower Protection for Contractor and Grantee Employees**41 U.S.C. §6306—Prohibition on Members of Congress Making contracts with Federal Government****Mandatory Disclosures**

Failure to make required disclosures may result in any of the remedies for noncompliance described in 2 CFR §200.339, including suspension or debarment (see also 2 CFR Part 180).

Conflicts of interest: Per 2 CFR §1402.112, non-Federal entities and their employees must take appropriate steps to avoid conflicts of interest in their responsibilities under or with respect to Federal financial assistance agreements. In the procurement of supplies, equipment, construction, and services by recipients and by subrecipients, the provisions in 2 CFR §200.318 apply. Non-Federal entities, including applicants for financial assistance awards, must disclose in writing any conflict of interest to the DOI awarding agency or pass-through entity in accordance with 2 CFR §200.112. Recipients must establish internal controls that include, at a minimum, procedures to identify, disclose, and mitigate or eliminate identified conflicts of interest. The recipient is responsible for notifying the Service Project Officer identified in their notice of award in writing of any conflicts of interest that may arise during the life of the award, including those that reported by subrecipients. The Service will examine each disclosure to determine whether a significant potential conflict exists and, if it does, work with the applicant or recipient to develop an appropriate resolution. Failure to resolve conflicts of interest in a manner that satisfies the government may be cause for termination of the award.

Lobbying: If the Federal share of the award is more than \$100,000, recipients must disclose making or agreeing to make any payment using non-appropriated funds for lobbying in connection with the award. To make such disclosures, recipients must complete and submit the SF-LLL, “Disclosure of Lobbying Activities” form to the USFWS. This form is available at: <https://www.grants.gov/forms/forms-repository/post-award-reporting-forms>. For more information on when additional

NOTICE OF AWARD (Continuation Sheet)

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submission of this form is required, see 43 CFR, Subpart 18.100. These restrictions are not applicable to such expenditures by Indian tribe, tribal organization, or any other Indian organization that is specifically permitted by other Federal law.

Other Mandatory Disclosures: Recipients and subrecipients must disclose, in a timely manner, in writing to the Service Project Officer identified in their notice of award or pass-through entity all violations of Federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the Federal award. Non-Federal entities subject to the 2 CFR 200, Appendix XII—Award Term and Condition for Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters are required to report certain civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings to SAM.

National Policy Encouragements

Executive Order 13043—Increasing Seat Belt Use in the United States

Non-Federal entities are encouraged to adopt and enforce on-the-job seat belt policies and programs for their employees when operating company-owned, rented, or personally owned vehicles. Individuals are encouraged to use seat belts while driving in connection with award activities.

E. O. 13513—Federal Leadership on Reducing Text Messaging While Driving

Non-Federal entities are encouraged to adopt and enforce policies that ban text messaging while driving, including conducting initiatives of the type described in section 3(a) of the order. Individuals are encouraged to not text message while driving in connection with award activities.

BUDGET AND PROGRAM REVISIONS

1. Budget and Program Plan Revisions

The recipient must report to the Service Project Officer identified in their notice of award deviations from budget or project scope or objective, and request prior approvals for budget and program plan revisions per [2 CFR §200.308](#), unless otherwise specifically waived in this award.

AWARD ATTACHMENTS

VERMONT DEPARTMENT FISH & WILDLIFE

F24AP03153-00

1. Project and Budget Narrative

USFWS Northern Forest IRA Funding Initiative
IRA Implementation Award

1. Project Location:

VDFW Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) statewide, with focus on WMAs adjacent to the Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge and the Nulhegan Basin Division of the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge.

2. Statement of Need:

Treat known and emerging non-native invasive plant infestations (knotweed, etc.) via the use of professional treatment contractors to apply herbicide or use mechanical removal methods. Control of invasive plant species maintains ecological integrity of Northern Forest terrestrial and aquatic habitats, particularly as climate change stressors become more prevalent. Control of invasive plant species maintains resiliency of existing habitats to better withstand future climate change-induced stressors placed on these habitats. Invasive plant control maintains the ecological integrity of interior forest and connectivity blocks.

3. Project Goals and Objectives:

Goal: Provide funding to existing retainer contract involving six professional certified herbicide application contractors for continued ability to treat non-native invasive plant species.

Objective: Apply herbicide or use mechanical methods to remove existing and emerging non-native exotic plants; monitor for treatment response; re-treat as necessary targeting a uniform 90% +/- mortality rate.

4. Project Activities, Methods, and Timetable:

Use of mechanical and/or herbicide application techniques via the following methods:

- Backpack treatment (foliar and basal bark)
- Mist blow treatment
- Mechanical treatment: chainsaw/brushcutter-stumpcut/treat
- Vehicle mounted power sprayer
- Hand labor (mechanical)
- ASV mulcher (mechanical)
- Brontosaurus mulcher (mechanical)
- Excavator with brush mower
- Tractor with brush mower / grapple
- Tractor with 100gal boom / spot sprayer
- ATV / SxS with 20gal boom / spot sprayer
- Tracked boom sprayer
- Excavator with boom sprayer

Herbicides to be used depending on applicable treatment protocol, time of year, and site conditions:

GARLON 4

GARLON 3A

ACCORD XRT

ARSENAL AC

VASTLAN

RANGER PRO

PATHWAY

MILESTONE

POAST

Thinvert - Containing Rodeo

Thinvert - Containing Rodeo & Polaris AC or Escort XP

Rodeo to be used in water-based applications

Treatment sites will be monitored and re-treated as needed until a uniform 90% +/- mortality rate is achieved. Efficacy within the treatment area shall be evaluated the following spring by the contractor and a state representative. If a uniform 90% +/- mortality rate is not found throughout the treatment area, the contractor will be required to retreat areas as needed, at their expense.

5. Partner Involvement:

1. State land management staff from VT Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation. VT state lands are managed jointly by staff from the Departments of Fish & Wildlife; Forests, Parks and Recreation; and Environmental Conservation—all within the VT Agency of Natural Resources. Foresters with the Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation assist with identification and mapping of sites containing invasive plants and can assist with administration of retainer contract to treat sites on WMAs.
2. USFWS staff associated with Missisquoi NWR and the Nulhegan Basin of the Silvio O. Conte Fish and Wildlife Refuge may assist with identification and mapping of sites containing invasive plants on adjacent state-managed WMAs.
3. The Nature Conservancy and the Vermont Land Trust hold easements on various parcels of WMAs and may assist with identification and mapping of sites containing invasive plants that require control efforts.

Early detection, identification, and mapping of sites containing invasive plants can be more effectively treated resulting in higher potential for success of project goal and objective.

6. Project Monitoring and Evaluation:

Treatment sites will be monitored and re-treated as needed until a uniform 90% +/- mortality rate is achieved. Efficacy within the treatment area shall be evaluated the following spring by the contractor

and a state representative. If a uniform 90% +/- mortality rate is not found throughout the treatment area, the contractor will be required to retreat areas as needed, at their expense.

7. Points of Contact for the Project (Both Partner and USFWS):

Tim Appleton
Public Land Section Chief
VT Fish & Wildlife Department
374 Emerson Falls Road, Suite 4
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819
Cell: 802-793-5262
tim.appleton@vermont.gov

Christina Ryder
Delaware River Basin Restoration Program Manager
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
177 Admiral Cochrane Drive
Annapolis, MD 21401
Cell: 443-934-7120
christina_ryder@fws.gov

8. Project Sustainability/Stewardship:

Sites containing non-native invasive plant species on VT WMAs will be documented and tracked over time. Treatment sites will be monitored and re-treated as needed until a uniform 90% +/- mortality rate is achieved. Efficacy within the treatment area shall be evaluated the following spring by the contractor and a state representative. If a uniform 90% +/- mortality rate is not found throughout the treatment area, the contractor will be required to retreat areas as needed, at their expense. If subsequent site monitoring results in reestablishment of invasive plant species, treatments will continue until the 90% mortality rate is achieved.

9. Information to Support Environmental Compliance Review Requirements:

The Service is responsible for final compliance determinations with Federal laws, provide insight into how each of these regulatory compliance policies will be met.

- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA): A NEPA compliance letter will be sent to Ms. Colleen Sculley at the USFWS regional office in Hadley, MA. This compliance letter will indicate the project is ***completely covered by 516 DM 8.5 categorical exclusion No(s) B(4)***. The NEPA compliance letter will be entered as a project submittal in Grant Solutions.

- Endangered Species Act (ESA): A Section 7 Compliance and Analysis document will be sent to Ms. Colleen Sculley at the USFWS regional office in Hadley, MA. and will be included as a project submittal in Grant Solutions. This Section 7 document will indicate for species listed under the Endangered Species Act and present in Vermont, "Species Present-- Not Likely to Adversely Affect."

- National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA): The proposed project is related to control of non-native invasive plant species and will not negatively impact historic properties nor archaeological sites. The

primary control technique used involves herbicide application. Ground disturbance associated with mechanical removal of invasive plants is not anticipated at this time but if required, the VT Division of Historic Preservation will be consulted. As of July 5, 2023, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is executed between the VT Departments of Fish & Wildlife and Forests, Parks & Recreation and the VT Division of Historic Preservation and the VT Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. Noxious weed eradication through the application of herbicides and/or hand removal (including the use of a weed wrench, Extractagator, or an ATV with tow-strap) in which minimal ground disturbance occurs, is considered an exempt activity. A programmatic agreement, similar to this MOA, is currently being developed amongst the VT Fish & Wildlife Department, the United States Fish & Wildlife Service, the VT State Historic Preservation Office and the VT Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to efficiently administer compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

- Other Permits: List and provide the current status of any other required Federal permits. None required.

Budget Narrative

Grant funds will be used to hire contractors for the purpose of treating invasive/noxious/exotic plants (upland and wetland sites) on specific properties across the state at the State's request. We currently have a retainer contract in place to facility this work being completed in a timely and effective manner.

Properties will generally be land including but not limited to large forestland tracts, wetland parcels, agricultural lands, and other undeveloped lands with public values such as wildlife habitat and recreational use. The plant control will be completed with a variety of methods based on the site conditions of a specific project. As a result, the cost of the invasive plant control work for a specific project is expected to vary depending on the condition of the site and method used. The state is targeting a uniform 90% +/- mortality rate. Efficacy within the treatment area shall be evaluated the following spring by the contractor and a state representative. If a uniform 90% +/- mortality rate is not found throughout the treatment area, the contractor will be required to retreat areas as needed, at their expense.

Work must conform to all applicable Federal, State, and local laws. All contractors must be a Vermont Agency of Agriculture certified pesticide applicator with appropriate categories.

Contractors within our retainer contract are available to provide access to services as identified by the State on an as needed basis and project-specific bids will be requested. The Contractor shall be available for selection by the State to work based on needs of the State and best match with Contractor's expertise. The State shall select a Contractor for a specific invasive plant treatment project based on proximity, capacity to perform, price and past performance.

BUDGET SUMMARY - FUNDING			
GRANT PROGRAM	FEDERAL SHARE	NON-FEDERAL SHARE	TOTAL
Wildlife Restoration (15.611)	\$ 100,000.00	\$ -	\$ 100,000.00
Program Income	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL	\$ 100,000.00	\$ -	\$ 100,000.00
<i>Direct Charges</i>			Cost
a. Personnel (Permanent and Temporary Employees)			\$ -
b. Fringe Benefits			\$ -
c. Travel			\$ -
d. Equipment			\$ -
e. Supplies			\$ -
f. Contracts (including MOAs)			\$ 100,000.00
g. Sub-Recipient Grants			\$ -
h. Construction			\$ -
Sub-Total Direct Charges			\$ 100,000.00
<i>Other Charges</i>			
j. Indirect Costs			\$ -
GRAND TOTAL			\$ 100,000.00

Personnel & Fringe: No costs associated with this category will be charged to the grant.

Travel: No costs associated with this category will be charged to the grant.

Equipment: No costs associated with this category will be charged to the grant.

Supplies: No costs associated with this category will be charged to the grant.

Contracts: As stated above, the Department of Fish and Wildlife currently has a retainer contract in place with the following organizations to complete the statement of work: New England Forestry Consultants, Long View Forest, Restart, Inc., Habitat Restoration Solutions, LLC, Fogarty Forestry LLC and, Hardt Forestry. Each contract allows staff to put out a request for costs and hire one organization to complete the work in a more effective and efficient manner.

Sub-recipient grants: No costs associated with this category will be charged to the grant.

Indirect Costs: No costs associated with this category will be charged to the grant.

4. Total Request for IRA Funds

Vermont Fish and Wildlife is requesting \$100,000.00 to complete the work listed above.

Total Project Budget

Federal Funds Requested: \$100,000.00

Non-Federal Funds: \$0.00

Total Project Funds Requested: \$100,000.00