



State of California – Natural Resources Agency  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife

2020 Cooperative Endangered Species  
Conservation Fund (CESCF) Non-Traditional Grants  
Pre-Proposal Solicitation Notice (PPSN)

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has not yet released the 2020 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (CESCF) Non-Traditional Grants. This pre-proposal notice will assist potential subgrantees in preparing proposals for California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) consideration in advance of the 2020 NOFO for the three grant programs funded under the CESCF: Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Planning Assistance, HCP Land Acquisition, and Recovery Land Acquisition.

The goal of this PPSN release prior to the 2020 NOFO is to facilitate a more rapid response to the NOFO once it is released to ensure timelines are met. When the 2020 NOFO is released it may specify scoring criteria and submission requirements which differ from the 2019 NOFO, in which case CDFW will work with applicants to modify proposals to meet the new federal requirements.

In California, CDFW is the eligible applicant. Individuals or groups (for example counties or conservation organizations) may work with CDFW as a subgrantee. Any proposals submitted by a subgrantee directly to the USFWS will not be considered. As applicant, CDFW has discretion regarding which proposals are ultimately submitted to the USFWS for consideration.

[Basic information about the forthcoming 2020 NOFO:](#)

- The 3 Non-traditional Section 6 programs will each have separate NOFOs
  - Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance
  - Habitat Conservation Planning Land Acquisition
  - Recovery Land Acquisition
- Anticipated August release of at least one and/or all NOFOs
- Anticipated 60-day timeline from release of NOFO to submission of proposal package to USFWS. ***Given the anticipated short timeline, you may only have a few weeks to submit your modified proposal to CDFW to allow for review and editing before the final proposals are submitted to USFWS. Please begin working with your CDFW Regional staff and USFWS Field Office staff NOW to develop a proposal.***
- The scoring criteria WILL be different than the 2019 NOFO
  - The criteria will still likely be related to benefits to species covered by the associated HCP, including listed and non-listed species

- HCPLA and RLA proposals will likely need to evaluate species benefits per property or per group of properties (if under the same owner and adjacent/in proximity)
- The proposal template will likely change, perhaps substantially
- If the 2020 NOFO does not reinstitute a cap on award amount per grant, CDFW may institute a cap of \$3 million for HCP Land Acquisition proposals but which could be exceeded with sufficient justification
- If the 2020 NOFO still gives points for proposals that claim they can be completed within one year, CDFW will not allow proposals to make that claim
- A minimum non-federal match of 25% of the total cost of the project is required. The 2019 NOFO indicated that any proposal that included a greater than minimum non-Federal cost share would receive 5 pts. Although the scoring criteria regarding match is currently unknown for the 2020 NOFO, it is strongly suggested that proposals do not commit to a match rate greater than 50%. *Please also note that the match percentage is not variable by task or parcel, it is locked in for each dollar expended on the grant.*

### Important Considerations

For HCPLA and RLA proposals, keep the parcel list as short as possible and focus on those properties that have willing sellers to the extent feasible. For HCPA proposals, make sure that the proposed tasks have realistic timelines and that there is a clear distinction from tasks included in past awarded grants, including a comprehensive Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement. The statement needs to provide a description and explanation of activities, costs, and progress to date.

### Submission of Pre-Proposals

Submit Pre-Proposals to CDFW at [NCCP@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:NCCP@wildlife.ca.gov) by 5 p.m. on Friday, July 31, 2020 using the following templates:

- [Pre-Proposal Template for HCP Planning Assistance](#)
- [Pre-Proposal Template for HCP Land Acquisition](#)
- [Pre-Proposal Template for Recovery Land Acquisition](#)

### Program Contacts

For questions regarding this PPSN or the HCP Planning Assistance and HCP Land Acquisition proposals, please contact [NCCP@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:NCCP@wildlife.ca.gov). Recovery Land Acquisition Grants proposals, please contact Dan Applebee at [Daniel.Applebee@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Daniel.Applebee@wildlife.ca.gov).