

Public Solicitation Notice (release date: 4-15-2014)

Any projects meeting the objectives of the Upland Game Bird Account Grant Program will be considered for funding as described at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/grants/ugma/>. In fiscal year 2014-15 up to \$350,000 in funding will be available. Projects addressing the state's drought with the following themes will be given priority consideration for FY14-15 grant funding:

1. Projects increasing the Departments understanding of drought and climate related stressors to upland game birds and their habitats, including wildfire, invasive species and ecosystem dynamics.
2. Projects that help support upland game bird survival and reproduction during severe drought events.
3. Innovative application/development of contemporary methods for estimating upland game bird population size, distribution and trends.

Submission Procedure:

In order to be considered for FY14/15 funding, all applications must be submitted using the [template](#) provided. Applications may be submitted by email with the subject line title of "Upland Game Bird Account Grant Proposal" to wildlifemgt@wildlife.ca.gov by **May 15, 2014**. Hard copy applications shall be addressed to: Chief, Wildlife Branch - ATTN: Upland Game Bird Account Grant Proposal, 1812 9th Street, Sacramento, CA 95811. All hard copy applications for FY14/15 funding must have a U.S. POSTAL SERVICE POSTMARK no later than **May 15, 2014**. Proposals delivered by any other means (FEDEX, U.P.S., etc.) including hand delivery must be delivered no later than **May 15, 2014 at 3:00 p.m.** Incomplete applications, applications using other than the standard format provided, or those delivered after the identified deadline will not be reviewed or considered for funding.

Scoring Procedure:

Administrative Review

In all program areas, an administrative review will determine if the proposal package is complete and meets all the requirements for submission. If the proposal does not pass the administrative review, the proposal will not be considered further for funding in this cycle.

Proposals not accompanied by a letter of support by the Regional Manager, or their designee, from the region(s) in which they project is located will not be reviewed.

Program Review

I. Scoring Process

A minimum of 3 members of the Department of Fish and Wildlife's (DFW) Upland Game Technical Review Committee (UGTRC) will independently review each proposal submitted based on the criteria identified below. A total of 100 points will be available, but the grant application final score will be based on an average of the individual scorer's results. Applications receiving a final UGTRC score will be prioritized based on the final score and forwarded with a recommendation for approval by the DFW's Executive Team and for review and comment by the "Upland Game Bird Account Management Advisory Committee" established under Section 3684(e) of the Fish and Game Code.

II. Evaluation Criteria:

Individual proposals will be evaluated on the following criteria; for scientific/research projects, use categories a through d; for hunter opportunity and outreach and educational purposes use categories c through f.

a. **Achievement of identified species goals and objectives (Max. 25 pts)**

This category would include, but may not be limited to, the following items:

1. Increasing efficiency of methods used to determine population demographics (abundance and distribution);
2. Increasing wildlife health/condition;
3. Alleviation of depredation and/or nuisance wildlife issues;
4. Increasing the quantity/quality of appropriate habitat types on public lands.

b. **Scientific merit of proposed approach (Max. 25 pts)**

This category would include, but may not be limited to, the following items:

1. Use of peer-reviewed techniques for data collection (study design);
2. Use of appropriate analytical design;
3. Literature search results.
4. Supporting scientific information, and/or demonstrated results for habitat-related activities.

c. **Products (Max. 25 pts)**

This category would include, but may not be limited to, the following items:

1. Publication in scientific journals;
2. Management recommendations;
3. More efficient data collection protocols;
4. Educational materials for public consumption.
5. Acres of habitat treated, manipulated, or improved by project.

d. **Organizational capacity to satisfactorily complete the grant (Max. 25 pts)**

This category would include, but may not be limited to, the following items:

1. Demonstrated ability of proponent to successfully complete grant(s);
2. Sufficient staff available to complete the grant;
3. Existing equipment available for use on the grant project.

e. **Public hunting opportunity (Max. 25 pts)**

This category would include, but may not be limited to, the following items:

1. Enhancing or increasing hunting opportunity for big-game on public lands;
2. Enhancing public hunting access on public and private lands.

f. **Hunting and wildlife conservation outreach & education (Max. 25 pts)**

This category would include, but may not be limited to, the following items;

1. Creating and developing outreach and educational materials;
2. Developing and implementing various hunting and other wildlife related educational programs/activities.