NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

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Executive Summary

Federal Agency Name

NOS National Center for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS)

Funding Opportunity Title

NOAA RESTORE Science Program FFO-2025: Long-term Trends

Announcement Type

Competitive

Funding Opportunity Number

NOAA-NOS-RESTORE-2025-26020

Assistance Listing Number(s)

11.451

Dates

Letters of Intent due 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time on May 23, 2024

Full proposals due 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time on August 22, 2024

Funding Opportunity Description

The purpose of this document is to advise the public that the NOAA RESTORE Science Program is soliciting proposals for projects of five years in duration with the option for a five year, non-competitive renewal award for high-performing projects. This announcement invites proposals that request funding for partnerships that include researchers, resource managers, and other interested parties to conduct a collaborative research project that will identify, track, understand, or predict trends and variability in the Gulf of Mexico's natural resources and the abiotic and biotic factors driving those trends. Funding is contingent upon the availability of funds in the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund. It is anticipated that final recommendations for funding under this Announcement will be made in June 2025, and that projects funded under this Announcement will have a October 1, 2025 start date. Total funding for this competition will be approximately $17.5 million over five years and approximately six projects may be funded. The minimum individual award amount is approximately $1 million over five years (an average of $200,000 per year) and the maximum individual award amount is approximately $4 million over five years (an average of $800,000 per year). An additional $21 million may be available for five year, non-competitive renewals for high performing projects. Information regarding this Announcement, including webinars and additional background information, is available on the Science Program's website (https://restoreactscienceprogram.noaa.gov/funding-opportunities/ffo-2025).

The NOAA RESTORE Science Program encourages applicants and awardees to support the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion when writing their proposals and performing their work. Promoting diversity, inclusion, and equity improves the creativity, productivity, and vitality of the research and management communities and leads to more robust natural resource management decisions.

Electronic Access: The NOAA RESTORE Science Program website (http://restoreactscienceprogram.noaa.gov/) furnishes supplementary information. Full proposals should be submitted electronically through Grants.gov (http://www.grants.gov).

Full Text of Announcement

I. Funding Opportunity Description

A. Program Objective

The mission of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) RESTORE Science Program is to carry out research, observation, and monitoring to support the long-term sustainability of the ecosystem, fish stocks, fish habitat, and the recreational, commercial, and charter-fishing industry in the Gulf of Mexico. NOAA was authorized to establish and administer the Science Program, in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, by the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf States Act of 2012 (RESTORE Act) (Public Law 112-141, Section 1604). The RESTORE Act also directs NOAA to prioritize integrated, long-term projects that address current or anticipated coastal and marine ecosystem, fishery, wildlife, or habitat management information needs.

In developing proposals for this Announcement, applicants should consider the Science Program's long-term outcomes. First, the Science Program supports research that fosters an integrated understanding of the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem. This means focusing on the connections among species, habitats, and ecosystem processes as well as the cause-and-effect relationships that govern the strength of those connections. Second, the Science Program supports the use of this integrated understanding of the ecosystem to guide natural resource management, including restoration. Natural resource managers and natural resource management bodies are individuals or groups with authority to make decisions regarding the human use of or interaction with natural resources. Natural resource management takes many forms, including wildlife and fishery management, state and federal rulemaking and permitting, conservation practices by public or private landowners, place-based management, and restoration planning.

B. Program Priorities

Effective management of the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem requires an understanding of the status of the ecosystem's natural resources and the linkages between natural resources, economic activity, and community well-being. By tracking the status of an ecosystem's natural resources, researchers and natural resource managers can better understand if and how a natural resource is changing over time and space. Assessing change over time and space for a particular natural resource requires knowledge of long-term trends and variability in the resource, as well as the long-term trends of biotic and abiotic factors that directly and indirectly impact the target natural resource. This knowledge can be derived from the collection and analysis of long-term data on natural resources. Long-term data includes scientific information and local and Indigenous knowledge systems.

This funding opportunity is designed to support projects that will contribute to our knowledge of the trends and variability in the Gulf of Mexico's natural resources, and the associated dynamics of abiotic and biotic factors driving those trends. Consistent with the need for long-term study, these projects will be funded for five years with the option for an additional five years of funding through a non-competitive renewal award. Projects should be co-produced with resource managers so that the research findings and products are scoped, designed, and utilized by the resource managers and their institutions throughout the project's award period and beyond. There may be other individuals or institutions that intend to or do use the findings and products from the research project. These end users may be from the research community, non-governmental and boundary organizations, and affected communities and can be incorporated into the co-production process along with other interested parties. Overall, these awards are designed to facilitate long-term relationships between the researchers, natural resource managers, and other interested parties, which should result in the use of project findings and products in a management context. A decadal plan that describes a 10-year approach to the proposed research activities, including planning activities, must be included in all full proposals.

An effective co-production model includes planning time during the development of the project and throughout its duration as learning is applied. Applicants are encouraged to schedule additional planning time throughout the project, particularly within the first year of the award period in order to strengthen team relationships, clearly define a co-production or collaborative process for the project, and engage additional managers and end users that did not participate in planning during the pre-award period. Co-production also requires careful attention to how project findings and products are relayed to the science and management communities for their uses. Applicants are encouraged to utilize planning time throughout the award period to develop approaches to aid with that transfer (*e.g.*, training, workshops, webinars, and other forms of communication and outreach materials). Examples of co-production, as well as guidelines and best practices, can be found in Beier *et al.* (2017), Djenontin and Meadow (2018), Vincent *et al.* (2018), Laudien *et al.* (2019), and Miller *et al.* (2017), among others.

2. Priority

This Announcement invites proposals that will identify, track, understand, or predict trends and variability in the Gulf of Mexico's natural resources and the abiotic and biotic factors driving those trends. Applicants are required to form a team of researchers, resource managers, and other interested parties focused on the natural resource management issue(s) they intend to investigate.

This competition is for five-year awards with the option for a five-year, non-competitive renewal award for high-performing projects. Projects should meet the needs of the end user community with a focus on improving our ability to manage natural resources. Applicants must clearly state their targeted natural resource(s), associated management issue(s), and area(s) of emphasis (see below) for their project and clearly identify the resource management entities and any interested parties with whom they are working.

In advance of this funding opportunity, the NOAA RESTORE Science Program conducted a series of outreach sessions that identified regional interests and topical areas in need of sustained funding for longer-term research in the Gulf of Mexico region. Participants represented local, state, and federal management agencies; academic institutions; and not-for-profit organizations from all five Gulf states. Applicants may propose research that aligns with one or more of three areas of emphasis identified from that process:

1. Climate change - Research in this area should investigate if long-term trends and variability in key natural resources in the Gulf Region are or will be impacted by changes in the climate and its associated variability (*e.g.*, extreme events such as hurricanes, precipitation events, drought, heat waves, *etc*.)
2. Water quality and quantity - Research in this area should investigate if long-term trends and variability in key natural resources in the Gulf region are impacted or will be impacted by water quality and/or quantity (*e.g.*, nutrient status and cycling, saltwater intrusion, harmful algal blooms, salinity dynamics, wastewater management, flooding, *etc*.)
3. Fish, fisheries, and fishing communities - Research in this area should investigate long-term trends and variability in fish stocks, fisheries, and fishing communities that enhance our understanding or lead to improved management of managed or endangered species, spawning aggregations, aquaculture, fisheries, and stressors.

Applicants may also choose to propose a project that tracks long-term trends and variability in key natural resources in the Gulf region outside of these three areas of emphasis. If an applicant chooses to do so, they must have a strong justification for selecting an abiotic or biotic factor that does not fall within the three areas of emphasis described above. Regardless, all applicants should keep in mind the program's legislative authority, which directs it to prioritize integrated, long-term projects that address current or anticipated coastal and marine ecosystem, fishery, wildlife, or habitat management information needs. If applicable for their project, applicants may also make connections among the areas of emphasis and the human communities and economic activities that are impacted by natural resource management decisions. Applicants may also choose to design a project that informs Gulf of Mexico restoration activities, but the Science Program will not directly fund restoration implementation.

Applicants should assemble project teams that span the disciplines and expertise necessary to identify, track, understand, or predict trends and variability in the Gulf of Mexico's natural resources and the abiotic and biotic factors driving them in the area(s) of emphasis identified in their proposal. The project team should include individuals with expertise in transferring research findings and products to resource managers and others or a plan for how such expertise will be obtained through partnership. Applicants are encouraged to include one or more team members with facilitation expertise and experience. Applicants are encouraged to submit proposals with diverse types of institutions (*e.g.*, institutions of higher education; not-for-profit institutions; local, state, territorial, federal, and tribal government entities; for-profit organizations) and partners commensurate with the proposed research and its application.

Project teams are required to include one or more natural resource managers. Applicants must describe how the team's natural resource managers will shape the project throughout the award period, and, if possible, how the project fits into a strategic goal or plan laid out by the natural resource management agency. A letter of participation is required from the natural resource manager(s) or natural resource management bodies responsible for the identified resource. If multiple managers from one management body are on the project team, they may submit one combined letter. The letter should describe their role as the project lead or as an equal partner in the project, how they were involved in the project planning process and their role in the project moving forward, and how and when they will use the findings and products from the research.

Proposals may also include one or more representatives from other parties with an interest in the project's targeted natural resources (*e.g.,* resource users, non-governmental organizations, *etc.*) on their project team. Identified interested parties should be included in the co-production process throughout the award period.

To effectively co-produce a long-term and applied ecosystem research project, applicants should dedicate planning time to build connections between researchers, resource managers, and other interested parties; to design the research plan; to design and gain support for products coming from the research; and to plan for the eventual dissemination of those materials to the end user community. Applicants should describe the planning efforts they conducted that led to the development and submission of their proposal. To refine project activities and products as new information and data is gathered and assembled, applicants are also encouraged to include planning activities in their project timeline and milestone chart. In all cases, applicants must clearly demonstrate how the proposed work will generate research findings or products of significance and utility to resource managers and the broader end user community within the first five years of the project. The proposal must also include a decadal plan that demonstrates how the initial five years of work could inform and serve as the basis for up to 10 years of continuous work.

Project teams should reserve time at the end of the first five-year award period to ensure project products are effectively shared with the end user community, including the natural resource management bodies, through communication products, workshops, training, and other mutually agreed upon activities.

Analysis of long-term trends and variability in natural resources requires the use of long-term datasets. Yet in the Gulf of Mexico, the limited availability of long-term datasets, especially outside of fisheries and water quality, impedes resource managers' capacity to address pressing resource management issues. Applicants should consider leveraging existing datasets that are relevant for the management issue they are addressing (*e.g.*, from the management entities represented on their team, other end users, and interested parties). Applicants may approach the collection and use of datasets by proposing to:

- Use existing datasets;
- Collect additional data to complement or extend existing datasets; or
- Collect new datasets

The proposed research and the resource management issue being addressed must occur in the Gulf of Mexico or its watersheds. The Gulf of Mexico is defined as the ocean basin bounded by the United States along its northeastern, northern, and northwestern edges; Mexico on its southwestern and southern edges; and Cuba on its southeastern edge. This definition of the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem includes the estuarine and marine environments of the basin's continental shelf and its deepwater environments. If occurring in a watershed, which includes freshwater wetlands and uplands, the research must focus on a species, habitat, or process that has a direct, significant, and quantifiable impact on the Gulf of Mexico.

Applicants must incorporate the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion when writing their proposals and performing their work. Diversity here is defined as a collection of individual attributes that together help support effective natural resource management decisions and the research that underpins them. Equity here is defined as the quality of being fair and impartial. Ensuring equity means paying attention to end users and other resource users' barriers to informing and influencing decisions and taking steps to maximize fairness, transparency, and accountability with them. Inclusion here is defined as a culture that intentionally creates opportunities to connect each person to the larger organizing structure, for example, a researcher being a part of a research team or a resource user having an opportunity to participate in a natural resource management decision process. Promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion improves the creativity, productivity, and vitality of the research and management communities and leads to more robust natural resource management decisions. Applicants may demonstrate this in a variety of ways. Examples include, but are not limited to, broadening the participation of underrepresented groups; having a diverse project team across several factors (*e.g.*, sectors, disciplines, age, career stage, gender, ethnicity, disability, geography, *etc.*); working with under-resourced, underserved, underrepresented, or under-engaged communities who may be impacted by the natural resource management decision; partnering with minority serving institutions or programs actively seeking diversity in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; encouraging diverse perspectives from project team members and partners; fostering an inclusive and safe environment; or incorporating different learning or engagement approaches into the project.

References

Beier, P., L.J. Hansen, L. Helbrecht, and D. Behar. 2017. A how-to guide for coproduction of actionable science. Conservation Letters. 10:288-296. https://doi.org/10.1111/conl.12300.

Djenontin, I.N. and A.M. Meadow. 2018. The art of co-production of knowledge in environmental sciences and management: Lessons from international practice. Environmental Management. 61:885–903. https://doi.org/10.1007/s00267-018-1028-3.

Vincent, K., M. Daly, C. Scannell, and B. Leathes. 2018. What can climate services learn from theory and practice of co-production? Climate Services. 12:48-58. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cliser.2018.11.001.

Laudien, R., E. Boon, H. Goosen, and K. van Nieuwaal. 2019. The Dutch adaptation web portal: seven lessons learnt from a co-production point of view. Climatic Change. 153:509–521. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10584-018-2179-1.

Miller, B.W., A.J. Symstad, L. Frid, N.A. Fisichelli, and G.W. Schuurman. 2017. Co-producing simulation models to inform resource management: a case study from southwest South Dakota. Ecosphere 8(12):e02020. https://doi.org/10.1002/ecs2.2020.

C. Program Authority

Public Law 112-141, Section 1604, the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Science, Observation, Monitoring and Technology Program; 33 U.S.C. § 1321 note.

II. Award Information

A. Funding Availability

Funding is contingent upon availability of funds in the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund. It is anticipated that total funding for this funding opportunity will be approximately $17.5 million and will fund approximately six projects. The minimum individual award amount is approximately $1 million over five years (an average of $200,000 per year) and the maximum individual award amount is approximately $4 million over five years (an average of $800,000 per year) in duration. An additional $21 million may be available for five year, non-competitive renewals for high performing projects.

B. Project/Award Period

Full applications (hereafter, “proposals”) must cover an award period of five years and include a decadal plan that outlines the potential scope of the project over 10 years. Projects selected for an initial five year award may be invited to submit a new, non-competitive renewal proposal for an additional five year award that builds upon the initial five-year project and original decadal plan. Invitations to submit a non-competitive renewal proposal are at the sole discretion of the Science Program and all decisions will be considered final. The Science Program will use the findings from (1) a quality and relevancy review of the initial five-year project conducted by an expert panel of researchers and resource managers and (2) a review of programmatic, financial, and administrative performance of the initial five-year project to determine whether an invitation to submit a subsequent five-year non-competitive renewal proposal is warranted. An invitation to submit a non-competitive renewal proposal does not obligate the Science Program to select those proposals for funding. All non-competitive renewal proposals will be subject to independent merit review (see Section V.A). The initial five-year project reviews described above will be made available to the independent merit reviewers and will be considered in their review of the renewal proposal. Funding decisions will be based on the outcome of that review process.

It is anticipated that final recommendations for funding under this Announcement will be made in June 2025, and that projects funded under this Announcement will have a October 1, 2025 start date.

C. Type of Funding Instrument

In an effort to maximize the use of limited resources, proposals from non-federal, non-NOAA federal, and NOAA federal applicants will be evaluated in the same competition, with different funding instruments applicable to the type of applicant.

The funding instrument for a full proposal selected for funding from a non-federal applicant is expected to be a cooperative agreement. A cooperative agreement is similar to a grant, but used when substantial federal government involvement is anticipated. This means that the recipient can expect substantial agency collaboration, participation, or intervention in project performance. Substantial involvement exists when responsibility for the management, control, direction, or performance of the project is shared by the assisting agency and the recipient; or, the assisting agency has the right to intervene (including interruption or modification) in the conduct or performance of project activities. Substantial involvement will be coordinated and communicated by the Science Program, and may include, but is not limited to, collaboration and participation by NOAA, involvement in investigator meetings, setting up management advisory groups, support for the co-production of science process, review of financial expenditures, and communication and dissemination of project results.

If the non-federal applicant is at an institution that has a NOAA approved Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU) and meets the criteria described below for using that status, they may include a cover letter with their proposal stating their desire to have the proposal associated with that CESU. This letter should specify the name of the CESU. Of the 17 CESUs across the nation, NOAA is a member of 10: North and West Alaska, California, Hawaii-Pacific Islands, South Florida-Caribbean, Gulf Coast, Piedmont-South Atlantic Coast, Chesapeake Watershed, North Atlantic Coast, Pacific Northwest, and Great Plains. The following criteria must be met for NOAA to use the established partnerships with CESUs:

- The proposed project must fit within the objectives of the National CESU Network Program, which are to provide research, technical assistance, and education to federal land management, environmental, and research agencies and their partners in biological, physical, social, cultural, or engineering disciplines needed to address natural and cultural resource management issues at multiple scales and in an ecosystem context.
- The proposed project must fit the intent of the CESU's existing Cooperative and Joint Agreement, which means (1) the research partnership will carry out or stimulate an activity (*e.g.*, data, products, or services) for a public purpose, and (2) NOAA will be significantly involved in the work.

The funding instrument for a selected proposal from an eligible NOAA federal applicant will be an intra-agency transfer of funds.

The funding instrument for a selected proposal from a non-NOAA federal applicant will be through an inter-agency transfer of funds, provided legal authority exists for the federal applicant to receive funds from another agency. NOTE: Before non-NOAA federal applicants may be funded, they must demonstrate that they have applicable legal authority for an inter-agency transfer of funds. Non-NOAA federal applicants that intend to be the lead institution should contact the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) Grants Administrator to discuss technical details (refer to section VII for contact information). Support may be solely through the Science Program or partnered with other federal offices and agencies.

The intra- and inter-agency transfers of funds are not federal assistance (grants or cooperative agreements), and the policies described in this Announcement applicable to federal assistance awards do not apply to federal entities receiving intra- and inter-agency transfers of funds. In the agreements implemented in these situations, NOAA will be substantially involved in the projects in a manner similar to the cooperative agreements with non-federal parties. Contact the NCCOS Grants Administrator for more information (refer to section VII for contact information).

III. Eligibility Information

A. Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants are institutions of higher education; not-for-profit institutions; for-profit organizations; local, state, and tribal government entities; and U.S. territories and federal agencies that possess the statutory authority to accept funding for this type of work. The lead applicant must be from a U.S.-based entity.

Science Program funding opportunities may not be used to hire and fund the salaries of any permanent federal employees. Federal award recipients may use their funding to cover travel, equipment, supplies, and contractual personnel costs associated with the proposed work.

Investigators are not required to be employed by an eligible entity that is based in one of the five Gulf of Mexico States (Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas). However, investigators that are not employed by or associated with Gulf of Mexico-based eligible entities are strongly encouraged to collaborate with partners from Gulf of Mexico-based eligible entities.

Foreign researchers may participate by submitting a sub-award or contract through an eligible U.S. entity. Science Program funding may not be spent in Cuba.

The Department of Commerce and NOAA support cultural and gender diversity and encourage proposals involving women and minority investigators, participants, and groups. In addition, the Department of Commerce and NOAA are strongly committed to broadening the participation of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and institutions that work in underserved areas. The Department of Commerce and NOAA encourage any of the above institutions to apply.

B. Cost Share or Matching Requirement

None

C. Other Criteria that Affect Eligibility

An LOI is required to apply for this Announcement. Full proposals that do not have an associated LOI that was submitted by the deadline will not be considered, and the full proposal will be returned to the applicant without review.

Each proposal must substantially comply with the 19 elements listed under Required Elements in section IV.B.3.(1)-(19), or it will be returned to the sender without further consideration. A checklist with the required and optional elements can be found in section VIII.B.

IV. Application and Submission Information

A. Address to Request Application Package

Proposal materials are available at http://www.grants.gov as part of the electronic proposal package, which includes the federal forms. Please contact the NCCOS Grants Administrator should you have an issue accessing the materials (see section VII for contact information).

B. Content and Form of Application

A. Address to Request Application Package

Proposal materials are available at http://www.grants.gov as part of the electronic proposal package, which includes the federal forms. Please contact the NCCOS Grants Administrator should you have an issue accessing the materials (see section VII for contact information).

B. Content and Form of Application

1. Letter of Intent

An LOI is required to apply for this Announcement. The purpose of the LOI process is to provide information to potential applicants on the relevance of their proposal to the program priority described in this Announcement (section I.B.) in advance of preparing a full proposal. Full proposals will be encouraged only for LOIs deemed relevant; however, the final decision to submit a full proposal is made by the investigator. The LOI should provide a concise description of the proposed work and its relevance to this competition. The LOI must be no more than three pages in length, single spaced in 12-point font with 1-inch margins and must include, in order, the components listed below. If these listed components are not included, the LOI may not be considered and the applicant may not be eligible to submit a full proposal:

1. The tentative project title.
2. The name, institution, and email address of each investigator. Identify the lead investigator, natural resource manager(s), other co-investigators, and unfunded collaborators that are making a substantial contribution to the project.
3. The targeted natural resource(s) for which you propose to identify, track, understand, or predict trends and variability, including the abiotic and biotic factors driving those trends and your area(s) of emphasis;
4. A brief description of the resource management entities with whom you are working, the natural resource management issue(s) the research plans to inform, and how the findings and products from the proposed research would improve our ability to manage your targeted natural resource(s).
5. A brief summary of your research methods, including your approach for developing and transferring project findings and products to your resource management entities, other potential end users, and interested parties.
6. A brief overview of how the research will leverage existing or generate new datasets to address the proposed resource management issue(s).
7. A brief summary of how the proposed project incorporates the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion.
8. The approximate cost of the five-year project, including a brief overview of its budget.
9. An abbreviated decadal plan (*i.e.*, 10 years) that provides:
    - An explanation of how the work accomplished in the first five years will generate additional hypotheses, impact resource management and decision-making, and inform the need for continued support in a subsequent five year period; and

- An overview of the work planned for a subsequent five years that would complement and build upon the work proposed for the initial five years.

Section IV.D.1 provides a deadline by which the LOI must be submitted and instructions for how to submit it. The Science Program will conduct a review of each LOI to determine whether it is responsive to the program priority as detailed in section I.B. Emails to encourage or discourage a full proposal will be sent to the lead investigator for each LOI approximately four weeks after the LOI due date. The final decision to submit a full proposal will be made by the applicant(s) and institution(s), regardless of the recommendations of the Science Program regarding the LOI.

2. Application

The provisions for preparing full proposals provided here are mandatory. Proposals received after the published deadline (see section IV.D.2) or proposals that deviate from the prescribed format will be returned to the sender without further consideration. Information regarding this Announcement, including webinars and additional background information, is available on the Science Program website (https://restoreactscienceprogram.noaa.gov/funding-opportunities/ffo-2025). An example proposal may be found at https://restoreactscienceprogram.noaa.gov/resources. Please note the example is available for general guidance purposes only; applicants must comply with the complete instructions included within this Announcement. Answers to frequently asked questions are available at https://restoreactscienceprogram.noaa.gov/funding-opportunities/ffo-2025/faqs.

For clarity in the submission of proposals, the following definitions are provided for applicant use:

- *Funding or Budget Period* - The period of time when federal funding is available for obligation by the recipient. A funding or budget period is typically 12 months and must be specified in multi-year awards, if applicable.
- *Period of Performance* - The period of time established in the award document during which federal sponsorship begins and ends. The term “award period” or “project period” may be used interchangeably with “period of performance.”
- *Proposals with subcontractors or subawards* - The lead institution on a collaborative proposal may request direct funding by NOAA. If funded, the lead institution will disburse funds to the contractors or sub-recipient institutions. A sub-recipient receives funds from the lead institution to carry out part of the federal award. A subcontractor provides property or services needed to carry out the project in the federal award.

3. Required Elements

Each proposal must substantially comply with the following 19 elements or it will be returned to the sender without further consideration. The summary title page, abstract, project narrative, decadal plan, data management plan, references, biographical sketch, and budget narrative must be single spaced in 12-point font with 1-inch margins. The 19 elements are as follows (see section VIII.B. for a checklist of elements):

1. *Standard Form (SF)-424:* All applicants requesting direct funding must submit the Standard Form, SF-424, “Application for Federal Assistance,” to indicate the total amount of funding proposed for their institution for the whole project period. This form is to be the cover page for the original proposal and is the first required form in the Grants.gov proposal package.

2. *Summary title page (one (1) page maximum):* The summary title page includes, in order, (a) the project's title; (b) the letter of intent number (provided by the Science Program after the LOI review); (c) the lead investigator's name, affiliation, complete address, phone number, and email address; (d) the name of each natural resource manager on the project team including their affiliation, complete address, phone number, and email address; (e) the targeted natural resource(s) and area(s) of emphasis; and (f) the requested funding amounts for each fiscal year. Separate budget information is not requested on the title page for institutions that are proposed to receive funds through a subaward to the lead institution; however, an accompanying budget narrative must be submitted for each subaward. For further details on budget information, please see elements 15 and 16 below. Applicants may suggest merit reviewers on a page after the summary title page.
3. *Abstract (one (1) page maximum)*: The abstract should appear on a separate single page, and include: (a) the project title; (b) the name, institution, and email address for the lead investigator, natural resource manager(s), other co-investigators, representatives from other parties with an interest in the project's targeted natural resources, and unfunded collaborators that are making a substantial contribution to the project; (c) the total proposed cost (including shiptime, if any); (d) the funding period; and (e) a brief summary of your targeted natural resource(s) and management issue(s), area(s) of emphasis, research methods, expected findings and products, and approach for developing and transferring project findings and products to your resource management entities and other potential end users. It should be written in the third person. Project abstracts of proposals that receive funding may be posted on program-related websites.
4. *Project narrative (twelve (12) page maximum):* The project narrative must describe the project and indicate its relevance to the stated program priority (refer to section I.B.), as follows:
    - Describe how the project proposes to identify, track, understand, or predict trends and variability in the Gulf of Mexico's natural resources and the abiotic and biotic factors driving those trends. Include the targeted natural resource(s) and which area(s) of emphasis the proposal intends to address.
    - Describe the resource management entities with whom you are working, the natural resource management issue(s) the research plans to inform, and how the findings and products from the proposed research would be used by them to improve our ability to manage the targeted natural resource(s). Also describe other potential end users (*e.g.*, resource management, scientific, non-governmental organization communities, interested parties) and how project findings and products could be of use for them.
    - Describe the methodology and approaches for: (a) conducting the research, including how the project will leverage or build upon existing and relevant datasets or generate new datasets to address your natural resource management issue, and (b) developing project findings into products for the management community. Include a description of the types of findings and products expected to come from the research and how they would be transferred to your resource management entities, other potential end users, and other interested parties during the project's period of performance.
    - Describe the composition of the project team and the responsibilities of each team member, including a designated lead investigator, natural resource managers (one or more is required), other co-investigators, representatives from other parties with an interest in the project's targeted natural resources, and all unfunded collaborators.
5. *Decadal Plan (two (2) page maximum):* The decadal plan (*i.e.*, 10 years) should provide:

- A rationale for why the resource management issue(s) to be addressed by the proposal requires a decade of research and investment;
- A description of how the applicant(s) will engage the natural resource management community, scientific communities, and other interested parties throughout the 10 years and how they should benefit from the findings and products from the research;
- An explanation of how the work accomplished in the first five years will generate hypotheses, impact resource management and decision-making, and inform the need for continued support in a subsequent five year period; and
- An overview of the work planned for a subsequent five years that would complement and build upon the work proposed in the project narrative for the initial five years.

6. *Diversity, equity, and inclusion plan (one (1) page maximum):* Describe how the proposed project incorporates the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Applicants may also highlight past diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts and the value those experiences will add to the proposal.
7. *Data management plan (two (2) page maximum):* Provide a detailed data management plan that describes how the proposal will meet NOAA's data management requirements. The plan should describe how metadata and data used as part of the proposed work will be disseminated to the broader community and include a plan for long-term archiving of these data. Costs associated with data preparation, accessibility, and archiving may be included in the proposal budget (see element 16). Refer to sections VI.B. and VIII.A. for specific data management guidance.
8. *References cited:* Each reference must include the names of all authors in the same sequence they appear in the publication, the article title, volume number, page numbers, and year of publication. While there is no established page limitation, this section should only include bibliographic citations and should not be used to provide parenthetical information outside of the twelve (12) page project narrative.
9. *Natural resource management letter(s) of participation*: Each proposal must include a letter of participation from each natural resource management body represented on the project team. The letter should describe their roles in the project, how they were previously involved in the planning process and their roles in the project moving forward, and their plan for how and when they will use the findings and products from the research.
10. *Milestone chart:* Provide the anticipated timelines of major tasks and milestones associated with the proposed work. Applicants are required to use the milestone chart template (which includes an example) included with the electronic proposal package (and also available at https://restoreactscienceprogram.noaa.gov/resources; OMB Control No. 0648-0384).
11. *Biographical sketches:* The lead investigator and each co-investigator (including natural resource managers) must provide a summary of up to two pages that includes: (a) their email and mailing address; (b) a list of professional and academic credentials and accomplishments; (c) a list of up to five examples or publications that describe their past experience working with researcher and natural resource manager partnerships and transferring and applying research findings and products in a natural resource management context; and (d) a list of up to five archived datasets most closely related to the proposed project.

12. *Current and pending support:* The lead investigator, each co-investigator (including natural resource managers), and each unfunded collaborator making a substantial contribution to the project must provide a description of all current and pending financial/funding support (*e.g.*, federal, state, not-for-profit institutions, for-profit organizations). The capability of the investigators and collaborators to complete the proposed work in light of present and future commitments to other projects should be addressed. Therefore, please discuss the percentage of time investigators and collaborators have devoted to other federal or non-federal projects, as compared to the time that will be devoted to the proposed work solicited under this notice. A current and pending support form is available on the NCCOS website for your use: https://coastalscience.noaa.gov/about/funding-opportunities/application-forms/. You must respond to the requirement whether or not you have any current or pending support.
13. *Accomplishments from prior support:* If the lead investigator or co-investigators (including natural resource managers) have received federal or state funding awards in the past five years for research relevant to this funding opportunity, information on the awards is required. The following information must be provided: (a) the award number, amount, and period of support; (b) the title of the project; (c) a summary of the results of the completed work; (d) publications resulting from the award; (e) archived datasets resulting from the award; (f) a brief description of outputs and outcomes, especially the application of research findings and products in a natural resource management context; and (g) as appropriate, a description of the relationship of the completed work to the proposed work.
14. *Permits:* Provide a list of all applicable permits that will be required to perform the proposed work. You must respond to this required element whether or not permits are required.
15. *SF-424A:* The SF-424A identifies the budget for each fiscal year of the proposal. Applicants are required to apply for five (5) years of funding. Since the SF-424A only has four columns (see page 2), you MUST use and submit two SF-424A forms, as follows:
    - Place the first four years on one of the SF-424A forms in Section B, columns (1) through (4).
    - Total the first four years in column (5).
    - Place the total from the first form (from column (5)) onto the second SF- 424A form in Section B column (1) and use column (2) for the fifth year budget figures.
    - Total all five years in column (5) on the second SF-424A.
    - The budget figures must correspond with the description contained in the budget justification.
    - Multi-investigator proposals using a subaward approach must submit an SF-424A for each subaward that has the same budget figures as its corresponding budget narrative. The lead institution should list the total for subcontracts under 6.f. “Contractual” and the total for subawards under 6.h. “Other” in their SF-424A.
16. *Budget narratives:* Proposals must include a detailed budget narrative covering the proposed period of performance with a justification to support all proposed budget categories. For additional information concerning each of the required budget categories and appropriate level of disclosure please see https://www.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/legacy/document/2019/Jun/gmd_budget_narrative_guidance_-_05-24-2017_final.pdf.

- Personnel costs should be broken out for each named investigator, number of months, and percentage of time requested per investigator. Support for each investigator should be commensurate with their stated involvement. Any unnamed personnel (*e.g.*, graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, technicians) should be identified by their job title and their personnel costs explained similar to investigator personnel costs above. The contribution of any personnel to the project goals should be explained.
- Travel costs should be broken out by number of people traveling, destination and purpose of travel, and projected costs per person. Equipment costs should describe the equipment to be purchased and its contribution to the achievement of the project goals. Applicants may include publication costs and we encourage the use of open access options.
- Proposals are permitted to include the costs of project-level data management, including coordinating, organizing, documenting, formatting, or otherwise preparing datasets for submission to NOAA or non-NOAA data archive facilities; establishing and maintaining data access tools and services and related metadata; and managing non-digital data that are not required to be made publicly accessible, including laboratory notebooks, preliminary analyses, drafts of scientific papers, plans for future research, peer review reports, communications with colleagues, or physical objects such as laboratory specimens.
- A separate budget narrative is required for each institution that is proposed to receive funds through a subaward or subcontract to the lead institution. The budget narratives should describe the work to be supported and indicate the applicability or necessity to the project. When a collaborator or contractor is known before applying, signed approval from the institution of each subaward and subcontract must accompany its budget justification. The lead institution is responsible for sending funds to its subaward and subcontract institutions. For acquisition contracts, the purpose and cost or price must be fully justified and the contract must comply with 2 C.F.R. 200.317-.326.

17. *CD-511: Certification Regarding Lobbying:* Required only for the lead institution, which may submit this form through the Grants.gov CD511 document placeholder without a hard signature because electronic signatures are allowed on documents from the submitting institution.
18. *SF-424B: Assurances - Non-Construction Programs:* Required only for the lead institution, which may submit this form through the Grants.gov SF-424B document placeholder without a hard signature because electronic signatures are allowed on documents from the submitting institutions.
19. *Alphabetized list of collaborators, advisors, and advisees:* Provide ONE (1) list per proposal that includes all collaborators, advisors, and advisees and their respective institutions for each investigator (lead investigator, co-investigators, postdocs, sub-awardees, *etc.*). The combined and alphabetized list should be on a spreadsheet with column headers for (A) First Name, (B) Last Name, and (C) Institution. Collaborators are individuals who have participated in a project or publication within the last 48 months with any investigator, including co-authors on publications. Collaborators also include those persons with whom the investigators may have ongoing collaboration negotiations. Advisees and advisors do not have a time limit. Advisees are persons with whom the individual investigator has had an association as thesis or dissertation advisor or postdoctoral sponsor. Advisors include an individual’s own graduate and postgraduate advisors. Unfunded participants in the proposed study should also be included on the list, but not their collaborators. This information is critical for identifying potential conflicts of interests and avoiding bias in the selection of reviewers.

In summary, multi-investigator proposals proposing a subrecipient known in advance MUST provide the following for each proposed subaward: SF-424A; budget narrative; signed approval; and, for each investigator, a biographical sketch, current and pending support form, and accomplishments from prior support. Likewise, multi-investigator proposals that include a contractor known in advance MUST provide signed approval; cost or price justification; and, for each contractor, a biographical sketch, current and pending support form, and accomplishments from prior support.

4. Optional Elements

Applicants may include other materials as listed below in addition to the 19 required elements; these elements are encouraged, but not required (see section VIII.B. for a checklist of elements):

1. *Letters of support or commitment:* Letters of support or commitment in addition to the required natural resource management letter(s) of participation (see section IV.B.3. required element 9) are strongly encouraged, but not required. Consider providing letters from partners that confirm contributions to and support for the proposed work, such as team members included in the project but not funded in the budget, natural resource management bodies and other interested parties not represented on the project team who play a role in the management of the targeted natural resource(s), and individuals or groups that provide access to data or other needs for the proposed project. If applicable, the letter should summarize how input from those not on the team will be considered and how the applicants will coordinate with them on the development, transfer, and application of research findings and products.
2. *Indirect costs rate agreements:* Proposals that request funds for indirect costs for institutions that have a current federally approved rate should provide the indirect cost rate agreement for the lead institution and each institution that is proposed to receive funds through a subaward or subcontract to the lead institution. An applicant without a federally approved rate should refer to section IV.F. of this Announcement regarding options.
3. *SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities:* If lobbying activity is or has been secured to influence the outcome of a covered federal action, complete the SF-LLL standard lobbying disclosure form found at https://www.grants.gov/forms/forms-repository/sf-424-family and include it with your proposal package.

5. Proposal Format and Assembly

“Workspace” is the standard way for organizations or individuals to apply for federal grants in Grants.gov. “Workspace” allows a grant team to simultaneously access and edit different forms within a proposal. Plus, the forms can be filled out online or offline.

“Workspace” also allows applicants and organizations to tailor their proposal workflow. Please refer to https://www.grants.gov/applicants/workspace-overview.html to determine which of the three approaches your institution should take when completing a “Workspace” proposal. This web page also contains resources to aid in setting up the workspace and the proposal submission process.

If you experience submission problems that may result in your proposal being late, email support@grants.gov and call the Grants.gov help desk (800-518-4726). The federal program officer for this Announcement will use programmatic discretion in accepting proposals due to documented electronic submission problems. If more than one submission of a proposal is performed, the last proposal submitted before the due date and time will be the official version.

Proposals submitted in response to this Announcement must include a Data Management Plan (up to 2 pages). See Section VI.B., Administrative and National Policy Requirements, below for additional information on what the plan should contain.

NOAA must analyze the potential environmental impacts, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), for applicant projects or proposals which are seeking NOAA federal funding opportunities. Detailed information on NOAA compliance with NEPA can be found at the following NOAA NEPA website: http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/, including our NOAA Administrative Order 216-6 for NEPA, http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/NAO216_6.pdf, and the Council on Environmental Quality implementation regulations, http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/NEPA-40CFR1500_1508.pdf. Consequently, as part of an applicant's package, and under their description of their program activities, applicants are required to provide detailed information on the activities to be conducted, locations, sites, species, and habitats to be affected, possible construction activities, and any environmental concerns that may exist (*e.g.*, the use and disposal of hazardous or toxic chemicals, introduction of non- indigenous species, impacts to endangered and threatened species, aquaculture projects, and impacts to coral reef systems). In addition to providing specific information that will serve as the basis for any required impact analyses, applicants may also be requested to assist NOAA in drafting an environmental assessment, if NOAA determines an assessment is required. Applicants will also be required to cooperate with NOAA in identifying feasible measures to reduce or avoid any identified adverse environmental impacts of their proposal. Failure to do so shall be grounds for not selecting an application. In some cases if additional information is required after an application is selected, funds can be withheld by the Grants Officer under a special award condition requiring the recipient to submit additional environmental compliance information sufficient to enable NOAA to make an assessment on any impacts that a project may have on the environment.

C. Unique entity identifier and System for Award Management (SAM)

Each applicant (unless the applicant is an individual or Federal awarding agency that is excepted from those requirements under 2 CFR 25.110(b) or (c), or has an exception approved by the Federal awarding agency under 2 CFR 25.110(d)) is required to: (i) Be registered in SAM before submitting its application; (ii) Provide a valid unique entity identifier (UEI) in its application; and (iii) Continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active Federal award or an application or plan under consideration by a Federal awarding agency. NOAA may not make a Federal award to an applicant until the applicant has complied with all applicable unique entity identifier and SAM requirements and, if an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements by the time NOAA is ready to make a Federal award, NOAA may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive a Federal award and use that determination as a basis for making a Federal award to another applicant.

D. Submission Dates and Times

1. Letter of Intent

An LOI is required for applying to this Announcement. Lead investigators should submit their LOI as an attachment to an email addressed to noaarestorescience@noaa.gov. Please name your LOI file as follows: “2025 - Lead Investigator First Name Last Name - X.”, where “X” is a number (*e.g.*, 1, 2, *etc.*) that differentiates LOIs should you submit more than one. The deadline for receipt of an LOI for this Announcement is 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time on May 23, 2024. Late LOIs will not be considered and associated full proposals will not be reviewed or considered.

2. Full Application

The deadline for receipt of full proposals is 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time on August 22, 2024. Full proposals should be submitted electronically through Grants.gov (http://www.grants.gov). NOAA does not plan to review or consider full proposals received after the closing time and date, to assure timely processing; however, if an applicant has extenuating circumstances such as extreme weather or technical issues, NOAA may consider extending the deadline for that applicant (contact the NCCOS grants official listed in section VII as soon as possible, generally within one business day of the deadline.). As a precaution against unanticipated delays, applicants are advised to complete Grants.gov registration and to submit their proposals to Grants.gov well in advance of the full proposal deadline.

If use of Grants.gov is not feasible, contact the NCCOS Grants Administrator (see section VII for contact information) as soon as possible and no later than a week before the due date to assess whether alternative arrangements can be made.

After electronic submission of the proposal through Grants.gov, the person submitting the proposal will receive a series of email notifications for up to two business days from Grants.gov updating them on the progress of their proposal. The first email will confirm receipt of the proposal by the Grants.gov system and the second email will indicate that the proposal has either been successfully validated by the system before transmission to the grantor agency (NOAA) or has been rejected because of errors. Only validated proposals are sent to NOAA for review. After the proposal has been validated, this same person will receive a third email, generally within two business days, when the proposal has been downloaded by NOAA. If an applicant has not received an email verifying that the proposal has been downloaded by NOAA, the applicant is responsible for contacting the federal program officer for this Announcement (refer to section VII for contact information) and providing documentation that demonstrates the proposal was submitted to Grants.gov ahead of the deadline.

E. Intergovernmental Review

Proposals under this program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, “Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs.” It has been determined that this notice is not significant for purposes of Executive Order 12866. Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(a)(2), an opportunity for public notice and comment is not required for this notice relating to grants, benefits, and contracts. Because this notice is exempt from the notice and comment provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, a Regulatory Flexibility Analysis is not required, and none has been prepared. It has been determined that this notice does not contain policies with federalism implications as that term is defined in Executive Order 13132.

F. Funding Restrictions

Indirect Costs: If an applicant has not previously established an indirect cost rate with a federal agency they may choose to negotiate a rate with the Department of Commerce or use the *de minimis* indirect cost rate of 10% of Modified Total Direct Costs (as allowable under 2 C.F.R. §200.414). The negotiation and approval of a rate is subject to the procedures required by NOAA and the Department of Commerce Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions Section B.06 (*effective November 2020*) found at https://www.commerce.gov/sites/default/files/2020-11/DOC%20Standard%20Terms%20and%20Conditions%20-%2012%20November%202020%20PDF_0.pdf. For questions, please contact the Grants Officer for indirect or facilities and administrative costs (refer to section VII for contact information).

Funding Restrictions specific to the RESTORE Act: The RESTORE Act stipulates the eligible activities for the Science Program and what the funds may NOT be used for. Per the Act, "The funds ...may not be used for any existing or planned research led by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, unless agreed to in writing by the grant recipient." NOAA has interpreted this language to mean that if the proposed work is captured within any of the following three categories, then it will be considered as "existing or planned research led by NOAA":

1. Substantially part of work that is currently tracked in NOAA Line Office Annual Operating Plans, part of any NOAA grant or other NOAA funding mechanism documentation, or part of other NOAA budgetary or program management documents; or
2. Substantially part of work that has been proposed in a NOAA Budget Formulation Program Change Summary or other budget formulation documents at the NOAA Line Office level since July 2012, regardless of success; or
3. Substantially duplicative of efforts implemented by NOAA (*i.e.*, conducted by NOAA federal scientists or contract scientists on behalf of NOAA).

Final determination of the eligibility of the proposed work will be made by the Science Program. The Science Program will also not fund start-up or operational costs for private business ventures and neither fees nor profits will be considered as allowable costs. For questions, please contact the federal program officer (refer to section VII for contact information).

G. Other Submission Requirements

Applicant organizations must complete and maintain three registrations to be eligible to apply for or receive an award. These registrations includeSAM.gov, Grants.gov, and eRA Commons. All registrations must be completed prior to the application being submitted. The complete registration process for all three systems can take 4 to 6 weeks, so applicants should begin this activity as soon as possible. If an eligible applicant does not have access to the internet, please contact the Agency Contacts listed in Section VII for submission instructions.

Prior to registering with eRA Commons, applicant organizations must first obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) from SAM.gov, if needed (refer to Section IV. Applications and Submission Information, Section C). Organizations can register with eRA Commons in tandem with completing their full SAM and Grants.gov registrations; however, all registrations must be in place by time of application submission. eRA Commons requires organizations to identify at least one Signing Official (SO) and at least one Program Director/Principal Investigator (PD/PI) account in order to submit an application.

The first PD/PI listed on the application must include their eRA Commons ID in the"Credential, e.g. agency login" Applicant Identifier field on the SF424 form. Failure to register in the Commons and to include a valid PD/PI Commons ID in the Applicant Identifier field will prevent the successful submission of an electronic application.

V. Application Review Information

Evaluation Criteria

Importance and Applicability	**Maximum Points:** 25

This assesses whether there is intrinsic value in the proposed work and/or relevance to NOAA, federal, regional, state, or local activities. For this merit review, the Science Program will evaluate how well the applicant demonstrates: (1) alignment with the program priority and area(s) of emphasis or the strength of the justification for an alternative area of emphasis; (2) comprehensive understanding of the resource management issue(s) to be addressed; (3) the potential for contributions to our understanding and management of the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem and its natural resources; (4) the strength of the rationale within the decadal plan for 10 years of sustained investment and research; and (5) plans to incorporate the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion in the project's execution.

Technical and Scientific Merit	Maximum Points: 30

This assesses whether the approach is technically sound and innovative, if the methods are appropriate, and whether there are clear project goals and objectives. For this merit review, the Science Program will evaluate: (1) the clarity of the project's goals and objectives, (2) the proposed methods to conduct the research; (3) the types of findings and products expected from the research; (4) the data management plan; and (5) how the project intends to leverage or build upon existing datasets or generate new ones

Overall Qualifications of Applicants	Maximum Points: 15

This assesses whether the applicants possess the necessary education, experience, training, facilities, and administrative resources to accomplish the project. For this merit review, the Science Program will evaluate the capability and composition of the project team to complete the proposed work based on: (1) their subject matter expertise and accomplishments from past research and its application; (2) their experience with collaborative activities such as planning, engaging natural resource managers and other interested parties, and facilitation; (3) their demonstrated ability to develop research findings into products and transfer them to intended users; (4) their demonstrated experience regarding data management and the timely communication of findings, data, and other research products; and (5) whether the project team has a diverse mix of institutions and partners commensurate with the proposed research and its application.

Project Costs	Maximum Points: 10

This assesses the budget to determine if it is realistic and commensurate with the needs and time frame of the proposed work. For this merit review, the Science Program will evaluate: (1) the completeness of the budget narrative and how realistic the budget is for completing the proposed project and (2) the potential impact of the project's findings and products relative to the cost of the project.

Dissemination and Application	Maximum Points: 20

This assesses whether the applicants have proposed sound and timely approaches for making project findings and products available to intended end users, other interested parties, and the broader scientific community for use. For this merit review, the Science Program will evaluate: (1) alignment of identified end users with project goals and objectives; (2) engagement of end users in project planning, implementation, and product design and their commitment to apply project findings; (3) the effectiveness of the plan to transfer findings and products to end users and other interested parties, including training; and (4) their plan to make project findings and products known and available to the broader Gulf of Mexico scientific community.

Review and Selection Process

Once a full proposal has been received by NOAA, an initial administrative review is conducted to determine if it is timely, responsive, and complete. NOAA, in its sole discretion, may continue the review process for proposals with non-substantive issues that can be easily rectified or cured. Ineligible, incomplete, duplicate, or non-responsive proposals may be eliminated from further review.

All proposals that pass this initial administrative review will be evaluated individually by independent peer mail review and/or independent peer panel review. Both federal and non-federal experts may be used in this process. The federal program officer identified in section VII is responsible for conducting the evaluation process described in this Announcement.

For peer mail review, proposals will be evaluated and scored individually by at least three professionally and technically qualified reviewers. Each peer mail reviewer will see only certain individual proposals within their area of expertise and score them individually on a scale of 20 to 100 in accordance with the assigned weights of the evaluation criteria (refer to section V.A.). The peer mail reviewer applies a rating of 1 – 5 to each criterion (refer to section V.A.), where the rating represents the reviewer's view of how well the applicant met the standards described for a particular criterion using the following scale:

- Poor (1): the applicant has not addressed the criterion adequately or it has substantial deficiencies;
- Fair (2): the applicant has minimally addressed the criterion or it has moderate deficiencies;
- Good (3): the applicant has addressed the criterion adequately or it has low deficiencies;
- Very Good (4): the applicant has addressed the criterion satisfactorily or it has no deficiencies; or
- Excellent (5): the applicant has addressed the criterion exceptionally well or is outstanding.

The total score is then calculated using the weights and ratings for each criterion), as follows:

[(Rating *(a)* × 25) + (Rating *(b)* × 30) + (Rating *(c)* × 15) + (Rating *(d)* × 10) + (Rating *(e)* × 20)]/5 = Total score

Total scores from each review are averaged and rounded to the nearest integer. Based on the scores from mail peer review, a cutoff will be established for proposals to proceed to the next stage of review. Depending on the nature and quality of the proposal pool and the available funding, NOAA expects approximately 40 proposals may be sent forward to the independent peer panel, where they will be evaluated and scored individually by the panelists. Proposals not sent forward to the peer panel will not be given further consideration and applicants will be notified of non-selection.

The peer panel will be diverse and inclusive and composed of several individuals with a range of professional and technical expertise such that the panel, as a whole, covers the range of topics addressed by the proposals being reviewed. The panel will have access to all mail reviews of proposals and will use the mail reviews in discussion and evaluation of the entire slate of proposals. The peer panel shall rate the proposals using the evaluation criteria (refer to section V.A.). Individual peer panel reviewers will consider the relative weighting of the evaluation criteria in providing their individual score. The individual peer panelists' scores shall be combined, using one or more methods, to obtain a numerical ranking of the proposals. Only the panel scores will be used to rank each proposal. When more than one non-federal reviewer is used, no consensus advice will be given by the independent peer mail review or the review panel. The federal program officer will not vote, score, or participate in discussion of the merits of any proposals other than to ask clarifying questions and respond to programmatic questions from the reviewers.

Following the peer panel, the federal program officer may interview natural resource managers named on highly-ranked proposals to gain additional insights into their commitments and plans for participating in the conduct of the project and applying the findings and products expected from their project.

The federal program officer will create a ranking of the proposals using the combined panel scores and make recommendations on which proposals to fund and at what amounts given the program priority, the approximate number of expected awards, the approximate amount of funding available for this competition, interviews with natural resource managers on highly-ranked proposals, and the selection factors (refer to section V.C.). Following the evaluation process, applicants recommended for funding may be asked to modify objectives, work plans, or budgets and provide supplemental information required by the agency prior to award. NOAA may select some, all, or none of the proposals, or part(s) of any particular proposal, may request that applicants combine projects, and may delay a potential award to a subsequent period without re-competition.

Recommendations for funding are sent to the Science Program's Director for review. The Director will solicit input from the Science Program's Executive Oversight Board on the broad portfolio of recommendations; there will be no review by the Executive Oversight Board of individual proposals. The Director then sends their final recommendations for funding to the Selecting Official, the Director of NCCOS, for final funding recommendations.

In making final funding recommendations the Selecting Official will award in rank order from the peer-review process unless selection out of rank order is justified based on the selection factors (refer to section V.C.).

When a decision has been made (whether an award or declination), verbatim anonymous copies of peer reviews and summaries of review panel deliberations, if any, will be made available to the applicant. Declined proposals will be held for the required three years, in accordance with current retention requirements, and then destroyed.

Selection Factors

Proposals may be selected out of rank order based upon one or more of the following factors:

1. Availability of funding;
2. Balance or distribution of funds:
    1. Geographically;
    2. By type of institutions;
    3. By type of partners; and
    4. By topical areas.
3. Whether this project duplicates projects funded or considered for funding by NOAA or other state and federal agencies or science initiatives;
4. Program objectives, program priority, and policy factors (refer to sections I.A. and I.B.);
5. Applicant's prior award performance;
6. Partnerships or participation of targeted groups; and
7. Adequacy of information necessary for NOAA to make a NEPA determination and draft necessary documentation before recommendations for funding are made to the grants officer.

Awards may also be modified for selected projects depending on budget availability or according to the selection factors listed above.

Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates

Subject to the availability of funds, review of proposals will begin in August 2024. It is anticipated that final recommendations for funding under this Announcement will be made in June 2025. Applicants should use a start date of October 1, 2025.

VI. Award Administration Information

A. Award Notices

PRE-AWARD COSTS. Per 2 CFR 200.458, NOAA authorizes award recipients to expend pre-award costs up to 90 days before the period of performance start date at the applicant's own risk without approval from NOAA and in accordance with the applicant's internal policies and procedures. Such costs are allowable only to the extent that they would have been allowable if incurred after the date of the Federal award. This does not include direct proposal costs (as defined at 2 CFR 200.460). In no event will NOAA or the Department of Commerce be responsible for direct proposal preparation costs. Pre-award costs will be a portion of, not in addition to, the approved total budget of the award. Pre-award costs expended more than 90 days prior to the period of performance start date require approval from the Grants Officer. This does not change the period of performance start date.

GRANTS OFFICER SIGNATURE. Proposals submitted in response to this solicitation are not considered awards until the Grants Officer has signed the grant agreement. Only Grants Officers can bind the Government to the expenditure of funds. The Grants Officer's digital signature constitutes an obligation of funds by the federal government and formal approval of the award.

LIMITATION OF LIABILITY. Funding for programs listed in this notice is contingent upon the availability of funds. Applicants are hereby given notice that funds may not have been appropriated yet for the programs listed in this notice. Publication of this announcement does not oblige NOAA to award any specific project or to obligate any available funds.

B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

UNIFORM ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS, COST PRINCIPLES, AND AUDIT REQUIREMENTS. Through 2 C.F.R. § 1327.101, the Department of Commerce adopted Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards at 2 C.F.R. Part 200, which applies to awards in this program. Refer to http://go.usa.gov/SBYh and http://go.usa.gov/SBg4.

RESEARCH TERMS AND CONDITIONS. For awards designated on the CD-450 as Research, the Commerce Terms, and the Federal-wide Research Terms and Conditions (Research Terms) as implemented by the Department of Commerce, currently, at https://www.nsf.gov/awards/managing/rtc.jsp, both apply to the award. The Commerce Terms and the Research Terms are generally intended to harmonize with each other; however, where the Commerce Terms and the Research Terms differ in a Research award, the Research Terms prevail, unless otherwise indicated in a specific award condition.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PRE-AWARD NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR GRANTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS. The Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements contained in the Federal Register notice of December 30, 2014 (79 FR 78390) are applicable to this solicitation and may be accessed online at http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-12-30/pdf/2014-30297.pdf.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (DOC) TERMS AND CONDITIONS. Successful applicants who accept a NOAA award under this solicitation will be bound by the DOC Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions. This document will be provided in the award package in eRA at http://www.ago.noaa.gov and at https://www.commerce.gov/oam/policy/financial-assistance-policy.

BUREAU TERMS AND CONDITIONS. Successful applicants who accept an award under this solicitation will be bound by bureau-specific standard terms and conditions. These terms and conditions will be provided in the award package in NOAA's Grants Online system. For NOAA awards only, the Administrative Standard Award Conditions for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Financial Assistance Awards U.S. Department of Commerce are applicable to this solicitation and may be accessed online at https://www.noaa.gov/organization/acquisition-grants/financial-assistance

HUMAN SUBJECTS RESEARCH. For research projects involving Human Subjects an Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval or an exemption determination will be required in accordance with DOC Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions Section G.05.i "Research Involving Human Subjects" found at https://www.commerce.gov/oam/policy/financial-assistance-policy.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA). NOAA must analyze the potential environmental impacts, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), for applicant projects or proposals which are seeking NOAA federal funding opportunities. Detailed information on NOAA compliance with NEPA can be found at the following NOAA NEPA website: http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/, including our NOAA Administrative Order 216-6 for NEPA, http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/NAO216_6.pdf, and the Council on Environmental Quality implementation regulations, http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/NEPA-40CFR1500_1508.pdf. Consequently, as part of an applicant's package, and under their description of their program activities, applicants are required to provide detailed information on the activities to be conducted, locations, sites, species and habitat to be affected, possible construction activities, and any environmental concerns that may exist (e.g., the use and disposal of hazardous or toxic chemicals, introduction of non- indigenous species, impacts to endangered and threatened species, aquaculture projects, and impacts to coral reef systems). In addition to providing specific information that will serve as the basis for any required impact analyses, applicants may also be requested to assist NOAA in drafting an environmental assessment, if NOAA determines an assessment is required. Applicants will also be required to cooperate with NOAA in identifying feasible measures to reduce or avoid any identified adverse environmental impacts of their proposal. Failure to do so shall be grounds for not selecting an application. In some cases if additional information is required after an application is selected, funds can be withheld by the Grants Officer under a special award condition requiring the recipient to submit additional environmental compliance information sufficient to enable NOAA to make an assessment on any impacts that a project may have on the environment.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT. Department of Commerce regulations implementing the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. Sec. 552, are found at 15 C.F.R. Part 4, Public Information. These regulations set forth rules for the Department regarding making requested materials, information, and records publicly available under the FOIA. Applications submitted in response to this Notice of Funding Opportunity may be subject to requests for release under the Act. In the event that an application contains information or data that the applicant deems to be confidential commercial information that should be exempt from disclosure under FOIA, that information should be identified, bracketed, and marked as Privileged, Confidential, Commercial or Financial Information. In accordance with 15 CFR § 4.9, the Department of Commerce will protect from disclosure confidential business information contained in financial assistance applications and other documentation provided by applicants to the extent permitted by law.

MINORITY SERVING INSTITUTIONS. The Department of Commerce/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (DOC/NOAA) is strongly committed to increasing the participation of Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), i.e., Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, Tribal colleges and universities, Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian institutions, and institutions that work in underserved communities.

DATA SHARING PLAN.1. Environmental data and information collected or created under NOAA grants or cooperative agreements must be made discoverable by and accessible to the general public, in a timely fashion (typically within two years), free of charge or at no more than the cost of reproduction, unless an exemption is granted by the NOAA Program. Data should be available in at least one machine-readable format, preferably a widely-used or open-standard format, and should also be accompanied by machine-readable documentation (metadata), preferably based on widely used or international standards. 2. Proposals submitted in response to this Announcement must include a Data Management Plan of up to two pages describing how these requirements will be satisfied. The Data Management Plan should be aligned with the Data Management Guidance provided by NOAA in the Announcement. The contents of the Data Management Plan (or absence thereof), and past performance regarding such plans, will be considered as part of proposal review. A typical plan should include descriptions of the types of environmental data and information expected to be created during the course of the project; the tentative date by which data will be shared; the standards to be used for data/metadata format and content; methods for providing data access; approximate total volume of data to be collected; and prior experience in making such data accessible. The costs of data preparation, accessibility, or archiving may be included in the proposal budget unless otherwise stated in the Guidance. Accepted submission of data to the NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) is one way to satisfy data sharing requirements; however, NCEI is not obligated to accept all submissions and may charge a fee, particularly for large or unusual datasets. 3. NOAA may, at its own discretion, make publicly visible the Data Management Plan from funded proposals, or use information from the Data Management Plan to produce a formal metadata record and include that metadata in a Catalog to indicate the pending availability of new data. 4. Proposal submitters are hereby advised that the final pre-publication manuscripts of scholarly articles produced entirely or primarily with NOAA funding will be required to be submitted to NOAA Institutional Repository after acceptance, and no later than upon publication. Such manuscripts shall be made publicly available by NOAA one year after publication by the journal.

More information can be found on NOAA’s Data Management Procedures at: https://nosc.noaa.gov/EDMC/documents/Data_Sharing_Directive_v3.0_remediated.pdf and at NAO 212-15 Management of Environmental Data and Information:

https://www.noaa.gov/organization/administration/nao-212-15-management-of-environmental-data-and-information

NOAA SEXUAL ASSAULT AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE POLICY. NOAA requires organizations receiving federal assistance to report findings of sexual harassment, or any other kind of harassment, regarding a Principal Investigator (PI), co-PI, or any other key personnel in the award.

NOAA expects all financial assistance recipients to establish and maintain clear and unambiguous standards of behavior to ensure harassment free workplaces wherever NOAA grant or cooperative agreement work is conducted, including notification pathways for all personnel, including students, on the awards. This expectation includes activities at all on- and offsite facilities and during conferences and workshops. All such settings should have accessible and evident means for reporting violations and recipients should exercise due diligence with timely investigations of allegations and corrective actions.

For more information, please visit: https://www.noaa.gov/organization/acquisition-grants/noaa-workplace-harassment-training-for-contractors-and-financial.

SCIENCE INTEGRITY. 1. Maintaining Integrity. The non-Federal entity shall maintain the scientific integrity of research performed pursuant to this grant or financial assistance award including the prevention, detection, and remediation of any allegations regarding the violation of scientific integrity or scientific and research misconduct, and the conduct of inquiries, investigations, and adjudications of allegations of violations of scientific integrity or scientific and research misconduct. All the requirements of this provision flow down to subrecipients. 2. Peer Review. The peer review of the results of scientific activities under a NOAA grant, financial assistance award or cooperative agreement shall be accomplished to ensure consistency with NOAA standards on quality, relevance, scientific integrity, reproducibility, transparency, and performance. NOAA will ensure that peer review of "influential scientific information" or "highly influential scientific assessments" is conducted in accordance with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review and NOAA policies on peer review, such as the Information Quality Guidelines. 3. In performing or presenting the results of scientific activities under the NOAA grant, financial assistance award, or cooperative agreement and in responding to allegations regarding the violation of scientific integrity or scientific and research misconduct, the non-Federal entity and all subrecipients shall comply with the provisions herein and NOAA Administrative Order (NAO) 202-735D, Scientific Integrity, and its Procedural Handbook, including any amendments thereto. That Order can be found athttp://nrc.noaa.gov/ScientificIntegrityCommons.aspx. 4. Primary Responsibility. The non-Federal entity shall have the primary responsibility to prevent, detect, and investigate allegations of a violation of scientific integrity or scientific and research misconduct. Unless otherwise instructed by the grants officer, the non-Federal entity shall promptly conduct an initial inquiry into any allegation of such misconduct and may rely on its internal policies and procedures, as appropriate, to do so. 5. By executing this grant, financial assistance award, or cooperative agreement the non-Federal entity provides its assurance that it has established an administrative process for performing an inquiry, investigating, and reporting allegations of a violation of scientific integrity or scientific and research misconduct; and that it will comply with its own administrative process for performing an inquiry, investigation, and reporting of such misconduct. 6. The non-Federal entity shall insert this provision in all subawards at all tiers under this grant, financial assistance award, or cooperative agreement.

REVIEW OF RISK. After applications are proposed for funding by the Selecting Official, the Grants Office will perform administrative reviews, including an assessment of risk posed by the applicant under 2 C.F.R. 200.206. These may include assessments of the financial stability of an applicant and the quality of the applicant's management systems, history of performance, and the applicant's ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements imposed on non-Federal entities. Special conditions that address any risks determined to exist may be applied. Applicants may submit comments about any information concerning organizational performance listed in the Responsibility/Qualification section of SAM.gov for consideration by the awarding agency.

REVIEWS AND EVALUATION. The applicant acknowledges and understands that information and data contained in applications for financial assistance, as well as information and data contained in financial, performance and other reports submitted by applicants, may be used by the Department of Commerce in conducting reviews and evaluations of its financial assistance programs. For this purpose, applicant information and data may be accessed, reviewed and evaluated by Department of Commerce employees, other Federal employees, and also by Federal agents and contractors, and/or by non-Federal personnel, all of whom enter into appropriate conflict of interest and confidentiality agreements covering the use of such information. As may be provided in the terms and conditions of a specific financial assistance award, applicants are expected to support program reviews and evaluations by submitting required financial and performance information and data in an accurate and timely manner, and by cooperating with the Department of Commerce and external program evaluators. In accordance with §200.303(e), applicants are reminded that they must take reasonable measures to safeguard protected personally identifiable information and other confidential or sensitive personal or business information created or obtained in connection with a Department of Commerce financial assistance award.

REQUIRED USE OF AMERICAN IRON, STEEL, MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS, AND CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS. If applicable, and pursuant to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act ("IIJA"), Pub.L. No. 117-58, which includes the Build American, Buy American (BABA) Act, Pub. L. No. 117-58, §§ 70901-52 and OMB M-22-11, recipients of an award of Federal financial assistance from the Department of Commerce (DOC) are hereby notified that 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 materials1 are manufactured in the United States—this means that all manufacturing processes for the construction material occurred in the United States. The Buy America preference only applies to articles, materials, and supplies that are 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, that are used at or within the finished infrastructure project but are not an integral part of the structure or permanently affixed to the infrastructure project.

WAIVERS. When necessary, recipients may apply for, and DOC may grant, a waiver from these requirements. DOC will notify the recipient for information on the process for requesting a waiver from these requirements. 1) When DOC has made a determination that one of the following exceptions applies, the awarding official may waive the application of the domestic content procurement preference in any case in which DOC determines that: a. applying the domestic content procurement preference would be inconsistent with the public interest; b. 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; or c. 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. A request to waive the application of the domestic content procurement preference must be in writing. DOC will provide instructions on the format, contents, and supporting materials required for any waiver request. Waiver requests are subject to public comment periods of no less than 15 days and must be reviewed by the Made in America Office. There may be instances where an award qualifies, in whole or in part, for an existing waiver described at whitehouse.gov/omb/management/made-in-america.

DEFINITIONS. “Construction materials” includes an article, material, or supply—other than an item of primarily iron or steel; a manufactured product; cement and cementitious materials; aggregates such as stone, sand, or gravel; or aggregate binding agents or additives2 —that is or consists primarily of: non-ferrous metals; plastic and polymer-based products (including polyvinylchloride, composite building materials, and polymers used in fiber optic cables); glass (including optic glass); lumber; or drywall. “Domestic content procurement preference’’ means all iron and steel used in the project are produced in the United States; the manufactured products used in the project are produced in the United States; or the construction materials used in the project are produced in the United States. “Infrastructure” includes, at a minimum, the structures, facilities, and equipment for, in the United States, roads, highways, and bridges; public transportation; dams, ports, harbors, and other maritime facilities; intercity passenger and freight railroads; freight and intermodal facilities; airports; water systems, including drinking water and wastewater systems; electrical transmission facilities and systems; utilities; broadband infrastructure; and buildings and real property. Infrastructure includes facilities that generate, transport, and distribute energy. ‘‘Project’’ means the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of infrastructure in the United States. -- 1 Excludes cement and cementitious materials, aggregates such as stone, sand, or gravel, or aggregate binding agents or additives. 2 IIJA, § 70917(c)(1).

PERMITS. It is the applicant's responsibility to obtain all permits and approvals from federal, state, tribal, and local governments and private landowners where necessary for the proposed work to be conducted. If applicable, documentation of requests or approvals of environmental permits must be received by the federal program office prior to release of funding. Failure to apply for and obtain federal, state, tribal, and local permits, approvals, or letters of agreement may delay the award of funds if a project is otherwise selected for funding. In some cases, if additional permits and approvals are required after a proposal is selected, funds may be withheld by the Grants Officer under a Specific Award Condition requiring the recipient to submit required permits and approvals.

C. Reporting

In accordance with 2 CFR 200.328-9 and the terms and conditions of the award, financial reports are to be submitted every six months and performance (technical) reports are to be submitted every six months. Reports are submitted electronically through eRA.

The Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act, 31 U.S.C. 6101 note, includes a requirement for awardees of applicable Federal grants to report information about first-tier subawards and executive compensation under Federal assistance awards. All awardees of applicable grants and cooperative agreements are required to report to the FFATA Subaward Reporting System (FSRS) available at https://www.fsrs.gov/ on all subawards over $30,000. Refer to 2 CFR Part 170.

VII. Agency Contacts

Technical Program Information: Caitlin Young, Federal Program Officer, 631-415-7095, caitlin.young@noaa.gov.

Grants Administration Information: NCCOS Grants Administrator, nccos.grant.awards@noaa.gov.

Data Management Information: Lauren Jackson, NCCOS Scientific Data Coordinator, (985) 238-0925, nccos.data@noaa.gov.

Indirect or Facilities and Administrative Costs Information: Raishan Adams, Grants Officer, NOAA Grants Management Division, raishan.adams@noaa.gov.

VIII. Other Information

NOAA requires public access with an open data license to grant data. Data management plans (see sections IV.B.3.(7) and VI.B.) submitted with proposals MUST reflect one or more of these option(s):

Option A: For the majority of oceanographic and ecological data, except those listed below, funding recipients are expected to submit data to NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) for long-term preservation, which will provide public access, archiving, discovery metadata meeting NOAA standards and formats, and a Digital Object Identifier (DOI). NCEI is not obligated to accept all submissions and may charge a fee, particularly for large or unusual datasets.

Option B: For any other data not appropriate for submission to NOAA NCEI, funding recipients are expected to submit data to an appropriate data facility that preserves data for the long-term, properly manages archived data to assure their quality, mints DOIs, and makes archived data and related information available in a timely and efficient manner. Please consult with the NCCOS Scientific Data Coordinator (see section VII) for additional details on non-NCEI repositories.

Option C: For limited-release data that are limited by law, regulation, policy, security requirements, commercial or international agreements, or valid technical considerations, funding recipients must request permission from the federal program officer not to make data publicly accessible.

Refer to https://restoreactscienceprogram.noaa.gov/resources for additional guidance and definitions for data management plans.

B. Checklist for Required and Requested Elements:

Required elements:

1. SF-424
2. Summary title page (one (1) page maximum)
3. Abstract (one (1) page maximum)
4. Project narrative (twelve (12) page maximum)
5. Decadal plan (two (2) page maximum)

6. Diversity, equity, and inclusion plan (one (1) page maximum)
7. Data management plan (two (2) page maximum)
8. References cited
9. Natural resource management and other interested parties letter(s) of participation
10. Milestone chart
11. Biographical sketches
12. Current and pending support
13. Accomplishments from prior support (if none, indicate such)
14. Permits (if none, indicate such)
15. SF-424A (one for the lead institution and one for each subaward and subcontract institution)
16. Budget narratives (one for the lead institution; one for each subaward and subcontract including signed approval)
17. CD-511
18. SF-424B
19. Alphabetized list of collaborators, advisors, and advisees (ONE (1) spreadsheet that includes the list for all investigators)