Endangered Species Mitigation Fund

Overview

The Endangered Species Mitigation Fund (ESMF) was created during the general session of the 1997 State Legislature (Utah Code 63-34-14) and is administered by the Utah Department of Natural Resources (Department), Recovery Programs Office. The purpose of the ESMF is to serve as a species protection account "to protect any plant or animal species identified as sensitive by the state or as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 [ESA]" by providing funding to facilitate the conservation of sensitive species and their habitats in need of protection. The primary objective of ESMF is to direct funds towards the protection of federally listed and state sensitive species, to promote their recovery and conservation thereby making progress toward down-listing or de-listing federally listed species and precluding the need for listing additional species under the ESA. ESMF is funded through a portion of a 1/16th percent sales tax on water and by a tax provided for in the Brine Shrimp Royalty Act (Title 59, Chapter 23). A total of up to $3 million ($2.45 million plus $550,000 from water tax on brine shrimp tax, respectively) is available on an annual basis. To be eligible for ESMF funding, proposed projects must meet the intent of the legislation and be consistent with the mission and objectives of the Department.

ESMF Legislation

Utah Code 63-34-14 created the Species Protection Account. The legislation, including the purpose of the funds allocated to the account (section 4) is as follows:

Utah Code Section 63-34-14. Species Protection Account.

(1) As used in this section, "species protection" means an action to protect any plant or animal species identified as sensitive by the state or as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, 16 U.S.C. Sec. 1531 et seq.

(2) There is created in the General Fund a restricted account known as the Species Protection Account.

(3) The account shall consist of:

a. Revenue generated by the brine shrimp tax provided for in Title 59, Chapter 23, Brine Shrimp Royalty Act; and

b. Interest earned on monies in the account.

(4) Monies in the account may be appropriated by the Legislature for the following purposes:

a. *To develop and implement species status assessments and species protection measures;*
b. *To obtain biological opinions of proposed species protection measures;*
c. *To conduct studies, investigations, and research into the effects of proposed species protection measures;*
d. *To verify species protection proposals that are not based on valid biological data;*
e. *For Great Salt Lake wetlands mitigation projects in connection with the western transportation corridor;*
f. *To pay for the state's voluntary contributions to the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Account under the Central Utah Project Completion Act, Pub. L. No. 102-575, Titles II-IV, 106 Stat. 4605-4655; and,*
g. *To pay for expenses of the State Tax Commission under Title 59, Chapter 23, Brine Shrimp Royalty Act.*

(5) The purposes specified in Subsections (4)a through (4)d may be accomplished by the state or, in an appropriation act, the Legislature may authorize the Department of Natural Resources to award grants to political subdivision of the state to accomplish those purposes.

(6) Monies in the account may not be used to develop or implement a habitat conservation plan required under federal law unless the federal government pays for at least 1/3 of the habitat conservation plan costs.

Mission of the Department of Natural Resources

The mission of the Department is "*to sustain and enhance the quality of life today and tomorrow through the coordinated and balanced stewardship of our natural resources*". The Department is the parent agency of seven separate divisions. As stated above, ESMF funds are only applied to projects that are consistent with the Department mission.

ESMF Scope

The scope of the ESMF includes sensitive species[1], the habitats they depend upon, and factors that threaten the species and/or their habitats within the State of Utah.

ESMF Vision

[1] Includes species identified on the State Sensitive Species List, species listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act, and species proposed, or likely to be proposed, for federal listing.

To eliminate the need in Utah for federal regulatory intervention and oversight associated with the Endangered Species Act by:

- funding proactive, comprehensive conservation actions to ensure the viability of non-listed species into the foreseeable future; and,
- collaborating with stakeholders to fund and implement recovery actions identified in species recovery plans for federally listed species thereby making progress toward, and ultimately achieving , recovery of the species.

Applying a Risk Assessment Framework to Determine the Allocation of ESMF Funds

The purpose of this section is to outline an objective and comprehensive process for allocating limited fiscal resources to promote the conservation and recovery for State Sensitive and Federally Listed species. Because of continued and increasing needs for species conservation and limitations in available funding to promote and implement conservation and recovery actions, it is important to have a mechanism for evaluating needs and prioritizing conservation and recovery actions for the distribution of ESMF dollars. A risk assessment framework is employed herein as an objective starting point for assigning priorities for funding. The concept of risk has two elements: the likelihood of something happening and the consequences if it happens. Inasmuch as species and project assessments are to a certain degree subjective, and individual species or projects may not be comparable under all considerations, the ESMF program office considers sensitive species status and rankings, conservation and recovery priorities, and the process identified herein as guidance and not as inflexible frameworks for determining funding allocations.

<u>Utah Wildlife Action Plan</u>

The State Wildlife Grants (SWG) program was created by Congress in 2001 to provide states and territories with federal dollars to support proactive conservation aimed at preventing additional federal listings under ESA. To ensure that SWG funds are spent effectively to restore and enhance wildlife populations and their habitats, and prevent the need for additional ESA listings, states were required to complete Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategies (CWCS). SWG programs now serve as the nation's core effort to prevent fish and wildlife from needing protections under ESA. This proactive endeavor attempts to resolve species and their associated habitat conservation issues before the species are designated as federally threatened or endangered.

Utah's CWCS was approved by the federal government and finalized in October 2005, making Utah eligible to receive SWG funding. Utah's CWCS is now referred to as the Utah Wildlife Action Plan (WAP).

The purpose of the WAP is to direct the integration and implementation of ongoing and planned management actions that will conserve native species and thereby prevent the need for additional federal listings. An additional requirement is that SWG funds must be matched with state, local or private money. In Utah, the ESMF is the primary source of funding used for the required match for federal dollars distributed through the SWG program[2].

ESMF and WAP

A performance audit of ESMF was conducted in 2006 by the Office of the Legislative Auditor General which included the recommendation that ESMF competitive grants could be directed and optimized by using the WAP as guidance for "proactively focusing applicants towards submitting high priority projects involving high priority species" and recommended that "ESMF management adopt a proactive approach in soliciting ESMF applications that would be of greatest benefit to the state". In response to this recommendation, WAP has been adopted as the biological foundation for most ESMF funding determinations[3]. Proactive use of WAP for soliciting specific project proposals requires coordination between ESMF management and Utah Division of Wildlife (Division) staff responsible for sensitive species management and WAP implementation.

The legislative auditors also recognized that using the WAP as guidance for directing ESMF funding decisions would allow the WAP to be put to optimal use. The WAP and ESMF share a common goal of implementing proactive species conservation such that the need for additional federal listings and protection under the ESA is precluded. To date, ESMF funds have provided the non-federal source to match federal SWG funds, a requirement to receive those funds. SWG funding, on the other hand, stretches state ESMF dollars enlarging the funding base available to promote species conservation and prevent additional federal listings.

Because of the mutual nature of the WAP, managed by the Division, and ESMF, managed by the Department, collaboration and cooperation between Division staff responsible for implementing the WAP and ESMF management is essential to ensure effective use of limited resources, and to be most effective at planning and implementing species' conservation strategies. On July 1, 2008, the Department and the Division confirmed the mutual nature of these programs by entering into a "Cooperative Agreement for Shared Contributions to Implement the Utah Wildlife Action Plan" where ESMF funds are matched with SWG dollars on an annual basis for the purpose of "funding research and activities to be conducted as part of the WAP" and, "to establish a mechanism for more effective

[2] Federal to state match requirement for SWG dollars is 3:1 for planning purposes and 1:1 for implementation of the plan.

[3] Because Utah Division of Wildlife Resources' authority does not extend to the protection of plants and most invertebrates, they are not included in the WAP. In some cases, ESMF funds have been directed towards conservation actions to benefit sensitive plants and invertebrates not included in the WAP.

coordination between the Department and the Division on sensitive species conservation and recovery." Effective communication and coordination between the Division and the Department is essential to address immediate conservation needs, make informed decisions on funding priorities, and implement a comprehensive multispecies conservation strategy (i.e. WAP).

The purpose of this section is to articulate a process for deciding where to direct limited funds available for species conservation and recovery in Utah. The process includes three steps. First, is an assessment to determine which species in Utah are in need of conservation efforts. The second step is to identify in any given year, and prioritize, species most in need of attention (funding). The third step is to determine what conservation or recovery actions are the highest priority for funding.

Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN): the first step

Administrative Rule R657-48 entitled "Implementation of the Wildlife Species of Concern and Habitat Designation Advisory Committee" outlines a process for determining which species are included on the State Sensitive Species List. These species are identified in the WAP as the Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SCGN). The purpose of Utah's SGCN list is "to identify native wildlife species that do, or plausibly could, cause negative impacts to Utah due to their unhealthy status." However, as mentioned previously, the WAP does not include any plants and many invertebrates due to the limited extent of the lead agency's (the Division's) authority, so although the SGCN list is a good foundation for most ESMF funding decisions, at times there may be a need to direct funding to conservation actions for species not included on the SGCN list (e.g. Coral Pink Sand Dunes tiger beetle, a species that occurs on land managed by the Division of State Parks and Recreation, is currently (2012) proposed for federal listing and represents an example where ESMF funds have been used for a species not identified in WAP or on the SGCN list).

Prioritizing Funding by Species: step two

ESMF funding is available on an annual fiscal cycle; however, in the funding decision process, long-term species conservation needs in the comprehensive context of the WAP strategy and the conservation of multiple species and their habitats must be considered. All sensitive species are in need of proactive conservation measures; however, as funding available for conservation is limited, a systematic and rational process for determining the species that are the highest priority for conservation actions (funding) is warranted. The process for determining which species receive funding could vary depending on the motivation behind, or goal of, species conservation, in general. These goals may include:

- Recovering federally listed species so that they no longer require protection under the ESA;
- Preventing additional species' listings under the ESA;
- Maintaining the ecological function/value/role of species; and/or,

- Maintaining the evolutionary uniqueness of species.

Recovering species already listed under the ESA

Typically, those species where federal listing presents the greatest conflicts with resource use receive priority attention (i.e. ESMF funding and focus). Collaboration with stakeholders, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, through formal recovery programs is the model that Utah employs to minimize conflict while working towards the recovery of federally listed species. Recovery actions implemented under formal recovery programs serve as reasonable and prudent alternatives for impacts associated with resource development and use, thereby making progress toward species recovery while resource use and development continue. The State of Utah is a formal partner in three recovery programs for listed fish species that have the dual goals of recovering the target listed species so that they no longer require protection under the ESA while allowing the continued development and use of water resources for human use. These programs include the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fishes Recovery Implementation Program, the June Sucker Recovery Implementation Program, and the Virgin River Resource Management and Recovery Program. Because of the reliance on established water uses in Utah, fulfilling the State's commitments to these recovery programs is a top priority for ESMF dollars, minimizing conflicts and ensuring ESA compliance thereby allowing for continued water use. Funding for these programs is transferred annually from the ESMF account through formal agreements with program partners. A recently formed program, the Utah Prairie Dog Recovery Implementation Program, was patterned after these fish recovery programs and is intended to function towards recovering the Utah prairie dog while allowing for existing land uses and development. Funding is essential to implement recovery actions and make progress toward recovery sufficient to offset impacts associated with resource use and development; and, these formal programs have, to a large extent, minimized conflicts associated with the ESA.

Preventing additional species listings under ESA

The State Wildlife Grants (SWG) program with the goal of preventing additional ESA listings was established as a proactive measure to provide federal funding to states. The WAP, developed in order for Utah to be eligible to receive these funds, shares this goal, as does the ESMF which often supplies the required matches for SWG funding. There are three areas of consideration when determining funding priorities with the goal of preventing additional listings under ESA: 1) what is the likelihood that a species will be listed; 2) what are the potential consequences if the species were to be listed; and, 3) what ability does the State of Utah have to influence and avoid a listing determination?

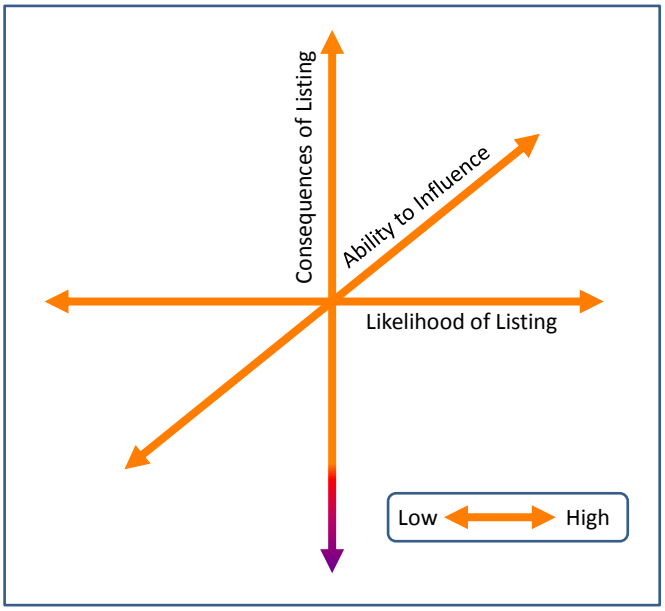

Figure 1: Management scenario planning schematic of three considerations when prioritizing funding with the goal to preventing federal listing under ESA. Eight quadrants represent potential outcomes based on the three listing-prevention considerations: likelihood of listing, consequences of listing, and ability to influence a listing determination.

Figure 1 provides a simplified demonstration of the potential outcomes based on the three areas of consideration in the risk assessment framework. Certainly, for each of axis of the figure, there is a continuous gradient on a scale from "low" to "high", and when assessed in concert with the other two considerations, an infinite number of potential outcomes is possible. Using the schematic as a representation, however, the potential outcomes fall into eight general categories (i.e. quadrants on the figure). Table 1 perhaps more clearly shows the general outcomes possible when assessing a species for priority based on these three considerations for preventing ESA listing. Those species with a high likelihood of being federally listed will always be a higher priority for funding than those that are less likely to be listed. Priorities will differ depending on the potential consequences of listing and Utah's ability of to influence and prevent a federal listing (see table 1).

Likelihood of Listing	Consequences of Listing	Ability to Influence	Priority for Funding
High	High	High	1
High	Low	High	2
High	High	Low	3
High	Low	Low	4
Low	High	High	5
Low	Low	High	6
Low	High	Low	7
Low	Low	Low	8

Table 1: Conceptual outcomes when assessing the risk of a species being listed under the ESA for determining which species are priorities for funding. Priority for funding is based on the assumption that likelihood of listing is the first filter of consideration, seconded by consequences of listing, followed by the ability to influence a listing decision. Priorities would be different if the order of filtering were changed.

Questions to assist in determining the relative status of a species under the three areas of consideration for preventing ESA listing include, but may not be limited to the following:

1. Likelihood of Federal Listing
    - Is species a candidate (found warranted for listing but precluded)?
    - Has species recently been petitioned for federal listing?
    - Has species survived a petition and been found not warranted?
    - Does data indicate a positive population trend for the species?
    - Is the species 'not on the radar' (i.e. not likely to be petitioned)?
    - Is the species targeted by groups for listing as a means to achieve agendas other than, or in addition to, the species protection?

2. Consequences of Federal Listing

    - Does the range of the species occur where land/water use practices would present a conflict with ESA compliance?
    - Is the species broadly or narrowly distributed (broad distribution likely to have greater effect from ESA compliance requirements)?
    - Does the species occur in areas where federal intervention could interfere with economics, social needs/desires, or resource and property development?
    - Is the range of the species in an area already subject to ESA compliance as the result of range overlap with a species which is already federally listed?

3. Ability to Prevent Federal Listing – Is listing inevitable, or does the state have sufficient influence to prevent listing
    - Are the threats to the species clearly understood?
    - What is the capacity/degree of ability to manage threats to benefit the species?
    - What is the capacity to circumvent threats that would occur in the foreseeable future?
    - What percent of the range of the species occurs in Utah (or, is there the ability to isolate Utah with regard to regulatory restrictions [i.e. SPR or DPS designations] if threats are being actively managed to promote the species within the state's borders)?

Other Considerations

Avoiding regulatory pressures under the ESA due to additional federal listings, although perhaps the highest priority for the state in regard to species protection, may not always be the sole motivator driving ESMF funding decisions. Preventing federal listing is a goal based on avoiding potential regulatory restrictions and federal oversight; however, the motivation for species protection could also have a biological or ecological basis. Species have a value in the environment as a result of the role they play ecologically and may warrant conservation attention in order to maintain their functional role in the ecosystem, particularly if their ecological function provides a service to society (e.g. ecological engineer) and/or provides conditions that promote the perpetuation of other species (e.g. keystone species). Also, some would consider protecting a species because of its evolutionary uniqueness is an obligation of the state where the species occurs. Maintaining ecological function or maintaining evolutionary uniqueness may also be considerations when determining funding priorities. Lastly, consideration may be given to the level of community and stakeholder support for listing prevention prior to funding species protection measures.

Ecological considerations

-value/role of species in ecosystem

- Is the species a keystone species (i.e. healthy status has a beneficial controlling influence on the status of other species)?
- Is the species an ecological engineer (e.g. creates conditions/habitat that benefits ecosystem services or other species, i.e. beaver)?
- Does the species contribute to ecosystem processes but shares the role with other species of the same taxonomic group (more species = lesser value)?

-evolutionary uniqueness

- Is the species endemic to Utah?
- Could the species distribution within Utah potentially represent a 'distict population segment' or 'evolutionary significant unit'?
- What is the taxonomic status of the species (e.g. monotypic family, monotypic genus, species in genus with multiple others)?

Community/stakeholder support

- What is the level of community awareness for the species?
- What is the level of community support for promoting the conservation/preventing the federal listing of the species?

Prioritizing Conservation and Recovery Actions: step three

Today's society presents an environment where proactive management is necessary to address threats to species and their habitats sufficiently to ensure their conservation and continued viability. Resource use and development, invasive and nonnative species, climate change and other factors are dynamic and interacting players that continually impact native species and the habitats upon which they depend. Successful species conservation requires flexibility to adapt strategies and accommodate to a changing environment.

Conservation actions, or projects, are typically implemented within the context of a species-specific long-term comprehensive conservation strategy with the ultimate goal of ensuring the species viability into the foreseeable future. Because of uncertainties associated with future conditions or the effectiveness of conservation actions, conservation strategies need to be adaptable to address emerging threats to the species or its habitat and to take advantage of new information based on research findings and the successes or failures of prior conservation efforts. Conservation is best achieved when implemented under an adaptive management framework wherein new information is routinely incorporated into species conservation planning and strategies are adapted accordingly.

Proposals submitted for ESMF funding typically request funds to implement specific conservation actions (projects) to benefit a sensitive species or multiple species. In general, proposed projects must have measurable outcomes, should have a high degree of certainty of success, should be implemented under an adaptive management framework where lessons learned can be applied to future conservation efforts, and should have stakeholder support, conceptually, financially and/or in-kind. Following are questions to aid in deciding whether a project warrants funding and to help determine the project's relative priority for funding.

General

- Is there a multi-stakeholder comprehensive conservation team established for the species?
- Is there a long-term conservation strategy for the species with the goal of restoring or maintaining its viability?
- Is the conservation strategy being implemented under an adaptive management framework?

Project specific

- Does the conservation team endorse (conceptually/financially) the conservation project for which ESMF funds are requested?
- Does the proposal identify measureable outcomes as a result of implementing the conservation project?
- Does the proposed action abate or manage threats to benefit the target species?
- Is the conservation project identified within the long-term conservation strategy for the biodiversity target?
- Does the project have a high likelihood of success?
- Is the conservation project timely in terms of its sequence within the long-term conservation strategy?
- Is effectiveness monitoring for the conservation project a commitment of the project proponent or are there assurances from the project proponent that effectiveness monitoring will be completed?
- Is the proposed action research to better understand or manage threats to the species or its habitat?
- Is the proposed action monitoring threats, environmental correlates, population status, or effectiveness of prior conservation/recovery actions?

- Is the proposed action critical to the species continued survival (e.g. refugia development/captive rearing/augmentation)?

- Is the proposed action the continuation of an essential activity?

- Does the proposed action have a low, moderate, or high outcome value to cost ratio?

- Are their broad ecosystem/multi-species benefits associated with the proposed action?

- Are there broad social or economic benefits associated with the proposed action (i.e. carp removal in Utah Lake)?

- Is there local/stakeholder support for taking action?

Application Process

An electronic copy of the grant application in proper format (see below) should be submitted to the address below no later than 5:00 p.m. on the first business day of April. Emergency grant applications may be received and reviewed at other times of the year at the discretion of the Executive Director of Department. One paper-version grant application, including the signed cover sheet must be delivered to the address below. Documents must also be submitted in MS Word® (or similar) electronic format and can either be sent via e-mail as an attachment to christopherkeleher@utah.gov or put on a compact disk and mailed to the address below. Contact the Recovery Programs Office (801) 538-5216 if questions or needs arise during proposal development. A Department staff member is available to assist applicants with the proposal development process.

Send Grant Applications To:

Recovery Programs Office, c/o Christopher Keleher
Utah Department of Natural Resources
1594 West North Temple, Suite 3310
PO Box 145610
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5610

Grant Selection Process

The ESMF program office has adopted the three-tiered ranking system of the Utah Sensitive Species List and the Utah Wildlife Action Plan (WAP; Utah Division of Wildlife Resources 2005) as the biological foundation for most projects that warrant funding under ESMF; however, the program office recognizes that unforeseen circumstances, threats and/or opportunities can arise that may elevate the urgency of specific projects or species perhaps not considered immediate priorities in the WAP, conservation strategies or recovery plans. Therefore, inasmuch as species and project assessments are to a certain degree subjective, and individual species or projects may not be comparable under all considerations, the ESMF program office considers sensitive species rankings and/or actions identified in the WAP, conservation strategies and recovery plans as guidance and not as inflexible frameworks for determining funding allocations.

Grant applications will be reviewed and ranked by objective technical experts. Grant applications and technical rankings will be provided to the ESMF Advisory Committee made up of representatives from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Utah Farm Bureau Federation, the Utah Association of Counties, the Central Utah Water Conservancy District (representing water users), the Utah Petroleum Association (NOTE: should we revisit the make-up of the Advisory Committee), and the Department. The ESMF Advisory Committee will review grant applications and rankings, particularly looking for conflicts or

collaborative opportunities under their respective disciplines, and provide their recommendations to the Executive Director of the Department. The Department Executive Director will consider technical rankings and Advisory Committee recommendations and, after consultation with the Department Leadership Team, will make the final funding decision on grant applications. Successful applicants will be formally notified in May and funding will be available July 1st through June 30th of the following year, the duration of the fiscal year. A grant contract will be formalized between the applicant and the Department Executive Director prior to the commencement of work.

Conclusion

The cover sheet and grant application format for ESMF funds follows. Funds are very limited. Projects which accomplish the program objectives while minimizing conflicts between sensitive species conservation efforts and local communities, and/or providing assistance to local communities in complying with the Endangered Species Act are encouraged. Effective partnerships with resource agencies, local communities, non-government organizations, universities and others will maximize the long-term benefit to federally listed and state sensitive species, and the impact of limited funds provided through the ESMF. ESMF application materials are provided below. Department personnel are available to answer questions and provide assistance with the grant application process. If questions or needs arise during the grant application process, they should be directed to:

Christopher Keleher, Recovery Programs Assistant Director
Utah Department of Natural Resources
1594 West North Temple, Suite 3310
PO Box 145610
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5610
(801) 538-5216 (office)
christopherkeleher@utah.gov

Endangered Species Mitigation Fund
Grant Application Cover Sheet

For Office Use Only

Date Received:
Grant Number:
Ranking Score:
Funding Recommendation:

Grant Title:		
Contact Information:	**Funding:**	
Name:		
	ESMF request	$
Organization:	Applicant	$
	Federal	$
Mailing Address:	State (other)	$
	Local	$
	Other	$
E-mail Address:		
	TOTAL	$
Telephone:		

Brief Project Summary:

Authorization:
To the best of my knowledge, all information in this grant application is true and correct and duly authorized by the governing body of the applicant.

Name of Authorized Representative (typed):

Title:
Telephone:

Signature of Authorized Representative:	Date Signed:

Endangered Species Mitigation Fund
Grant Application Format

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. **Title of Proposed Project**

2. **Project Proponent(s)**
    - Organization(s) proposing the project (name, address)
    - Project Leader:
        Name:
        Title:
        Telephone:
        e-mail:

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

3. **Project Location**

4. **Project Responsibilities**
    - What organization(s) will be responsible for administering the project?
    - What additional organization(s) or participants, if any, will be involved or have responsibilities in the project?

5. **Project Summary**
    - Summarize the entire project proposal in 200 words or less

6. **Project Proposal**

    Background
    - What are the threats to the target species addressed by the proposal?
    - How imminent/urgent are the risks to the target species posed by the threats addressed by the proposal?
    - Is compliance under Federal (i.e. National Environmental Policy Act, Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act), State, or Tribal law required; and, if so, has it been completed or is completion anticipated prior to initiation of the proposed project?

    Goals and Objectives
    - The goals and objectives should clearly address the threats identified in the background information.

Tasks

- What task(s) will be undertaken and how will they achieve the objectives?
- How will the threats to the target species be addressed?
- What follow up studies will be conducted to insure the objectives have been met?

Anticipated Results

- What benefits are anticipated as a result of implementing the proposed project?
- Will implementation of the proposed project result in long-term benefits to the target species?
- What are the measurable outcomes of implementing the project?

Other Considerations

- Does the project complement sensitive species conservation efforts on adjacent/surrounding lands/water bodies? Explain.
- Is the project consistent with other land use plans, resources management plans, etc.?
- Is the project related to an approved Habitat Conservation Plan, Recovery Plan or Conservation Strategy?
- What management, evaluation, and monitoring activities are planned following project completion to ensure project goals and objectives are achieved?
- Is the project part of a multi-year effort?
- Are there additional factors that the project proponent feels warrant consideration?

7. **Project Budget**
   - Identify the budget for the entire project and the amount requested from ESMF. Include a budget break down for each task.

8. **Project Coordination**
   - Are other funds or in-kind services committed or anticipated? Identify cost share amount or percentage and sources of in-kind services.
   - Have affected agencies, organizations, municipalities and other interested parties been contacted and do they support the proposed project?
   - Is the proposed project coupled with ongoing or other proposed activities that have compatible objectives?
   - Is the project identified as needed in a comprehensive conservation strategy or recovery plan for the species?

9. **Project Schedule**
   - What is the proposed time line and duration for the project?
   - What is the preferred time for the project to begin? Are there circumstances that dictate that the project be initiated at a particular time?

10. **Project Deliverables**
    - What deliverables or tangible products will be provided upon completion of the project?

11. **Literature Cited**

- Supporting documentation should demonstrate that the proposed project is supported by the best and most current scientific information available.