

Request for Proposals: Great Lakes Program Grantee Technical Assistance for Regulatory Compliance

Applicant Questions:

1. Please confirm if support to NFWF and Grantees to be regulatory compliant in their application will preclude our ability to pursue, respond to or execute current or future work for the grantees for the compliance work we may be asked to assess / support?

NFWF Response: The awarded NFWF Contractor will not be precluded from working with NFWF grantees outside of the NFWF contract or pursuing future compliance work.

2. Please address which SOGL federal agency partner would be assigned lead federal agency status for project NEPA compliance? If one federal agency would not consistently be the lead for NEPA compliance, how would lead federal agency status be determined for each project?

NFWF Response: Contractor will work with 1-3 specific agency partners with USFWS. These individuals are familiar with the NFWF Great Lakes Programs and worked on these documents with NFWF on past grants.

3. Would the contractor be responsible for or required to assist with public notice, comments, outreach, or meetings as part of grantee NEPA compliance?

NFWF Response: No. The only required meetings will either involve the grantee, USFWS agency partners, or both. Grantees are responsible for facilitating public notice/comments if required. However, this is typically not a part of our compliance process.

4. Would the contractor be responsible for or required to assist with the Administrative Record, if needed, for grantee NEPA compliance?

NFWF Response: Yes, the contractor will be asked to assist with compiling the Administrative Record in collaboration with grantees and presenting a complete and accurate record to NFWF and FWS for compliance review.

5. RFP page 2, bullet point at top of page, states that contractor 'will assist with data collection including project process updates and documentation of changes'. Please confirm if data collection in this instance is strictly referring to 'collection of documentation'. If otherwise, please clarify.

NFWF Response: This is referring specifically to US EPA required reporting for projects receiving Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding. Project specific updates (measurable progress for conservation outcomes e.g. acres restored) are required for GLRI funded NFWF grants each October/November of a given year. Contractor will coordinate with grantees to ensure accurate reporting for this annual exercise (October to November annually) and coordinate with NFWF to input these data into the EPA online reporting system.

6. For this RFP there is an 11pt font requirement on the submittal; can we use a smaller-sized font on Organizational Chart, Tables/ Figures, and captions?

NFWF Response: Yes.

7. Could you please clarify for us if the Contractors Past Performance is or is not included as part of the 4-page narrative limit? Similarly, are biographies and reference separate or included as part of the 4-page narrative limit? May we also include a cover page/back page/Appendix with resumes not included in the 4-page limit?

NFWF Response: The 4 page narrative should include contractors past performance. Biographies and references for staff are not a part of the 4 page narrative. Applicants are welcome to include cover/back pages and appendices as needed.

8. May we include NFWF as a reference? Are we limited to only two client references, or may we provide more?

NFWF Response: Yes, you may include NFWF as a reference and may include more if desired.