

## **Bird Habitat Implementation Plan (BHIP) 2025 Applicant Questions & Answers:**

Q: The RFQ states that the contractor will use stakeholder expertise and available data to complete the project deliverables. Could you please clarify whether the priority is on using existing bird and habitat data or on having stakeholders collect new data? How many stakeholders are likely to be involved and what condition are their data sets in?

A: The priority is to use existing data—we are not planning to collect new data. There are three to four key stakeholders that have collected data over the past few years. They are the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC), the Middle Rio Grande Conservation District (MRGCD), and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS). Their data collection is sophisticated but not perfectly coordinated.

Q: Our organization is concerned about the quick proposal deadline on April 4<sup>th</sup>. This is not a simple proposal, and the deadline could be a deciding factor for whether we apply or not. Is there any possibility of extending the submission deadline?

A: Unfortunately, the deadline is short because of an unanticipated gap in NFWF's administrative approval schedule. If we do not make a mid-April deadline to recommend a contractor internally, we will have to wait two months, which would mean that the work will not be able to start until July instead of May, and we'd prefer to get started on this work as soon as possible.

We would suggest evaluating the level of detail that is necessary to fulfill what NFWF is asking for in the proposal. We are not looking for a highly detailed, technical proposal, but one which explains past experience and credentials, and how you would approach the project knowing that much of the analytical framework will be developed in cooperation with the stakeholders once under contract.

Q: Is it possible to submit a proposal for a subset of tasks? Would NFWF coordinate activities between multiple Offerors, or would this be the Offerors' responsibility?

A: Yes, it is fine to apply for a subset of tasks. NFWF will coordinate activities between multiple offerors.

Q: Is a DUNS number a requirement for application?

A: A DUNS number is not required for application. However, UEI and EIN numbers are required, and must be provided at the time of application.

Q: For Task 3, are datasets (e.g., regarding groundwater and surface hydrology) available such that no new field work or data collection is needed or expected?

A: Yes, data sets are available, there will be no new fieldwork or data collection.

Q: For Task 6, the table of deliverables mentions monitoring protocols and monitoring efforts. Does this refer to bird monitoring, restoration (plant) monitoring, or both?

A: Bird monitoring. These protocols already exist. The deliverable is to make sure all monitoring partners use them in the future, so data is interoperable.