

Presidential Migratory Bird Federal Stewardship Award Nomination Information, Application Information, and Instructions Guide

The Presidential Migratory Bird Federal Stewardship Award, selected by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Council for the Conservation of Migratory Birds, annually recognizes a single project or action conducted by or in partnership with a Federal agency that meets the intent and spirit of Executive Order 13186 by focusing on migratory bird conservation. Actions may involve reducing existing or potential adverse impacts to migratory birds and their habitats, restoring or enhancing migratory bird habitat, and incorporating conservation of migratory birds and their habitat into agency plans, guidance, or other activities. The action should demonstrate leadership in inspiring others to further migratory bird conservation. This could include developing and implementing best-management practices, a policy action, or research.

Eligible Projects:

An eligible project is any project that has been initiated by, or in partnership with any federal agency subsequent to the project initiation cut-off date that has demonstrated impacts to migratory birds within and/or outside the United States.

Project initiation cut-off date: The project is eligible if it was initiated on or after 2001 and the project has been actively worked on and/or reassessed and adapted within the last 5 years. Nominations submitted in previous years may be re-submitted for consideration if they meet this criterion. Nominations submitted that include any portion of the project being initiated prior to this cut-off date or that do not have a major milestone in the last 5 years may be subject to disqualification.

Applicants and Co-Applicants:

The applicant indicated on the application form must be a single federal agency. If more than one federal agency is involved with the project, the applicant should be the lead federal agency for the project.

Co-applicants are partners in the project. The co-applicant can be any agency, organization or private individual that the applicant wants to receive recognition for the project. There is no limit on the number of co-applicants that can be included with a nomination.

For more information on the award please visit the USFWS 2017 award nomination information webpage: <https://www.fws.gov/birds/management/bird-conservation-partnership-and-initiatives/council-for-the-conservation-of-migratory-birds/presidential-award.php>

Nominations are officially submitted by Geoff Walsh, the BLM's agency award contact. Applications must be submitted electronically to **Geoff Walsh, Wildlife Biologist**, at gwalsh@blm.gov **no later than February 10, 2017.**

Presidential Migratory Bird Federal Stewardship Award

Required Nomination Application Information

Please submit the following information to Geoff Walsh. This information is copied from the official USFWS application form.

Project Name: (155 characters):

1. Applicant (must be a Federal Agency; if more than one, list the lead agency).(limit 200 characters)
2. Co-applicant(s) (any agency, organization, or private individual that should receive recognition for the project). (limit 880 characters)
3. Action (Describe the Agency's action. Consider how the Agency demonstrates leadership in the conservation of migratory birds). (limit 2,000 characters)
4. When was the action initiated (initiation date must be 2001 or later, and a major milestone for the project must have occurred in the last 5 years)? (limit 1,000 characters)
5. Does the action meet or exceed the agency's legal mandates and stated mission for implementing bird conservation actions. Please explain. (limit 3,000 characters)
6. Explain how the action promoted or resulted in effective migratory bird conservation. Please include information about the way in which these conservation benefits have been determined and/or demonstrated (e.g. follow-up survey/monitoring protocols, direct observation, etc.) for each migratory bird species of concern (see question # 10). If specific migratory bird species have not yet benefited, how does your agency hope to contribute to the conservation of a migratory bird species as the project continues? If the action is innovative (projects that utilize original and creative strategies, ideas, concepts or tools to achieve successful goals and results), describe that here as well. (limit 4,000 characters)
7. Describe the roles and responsibilities of partners and co-applicants (if any). Partners are associated with the action through monetary or in-kind support. (limit 1,500 characters)
8. Have others expressed interest in this work to the extent that the interest would serve to broaden or increase the benefits for migratory birds beyond that of the original project. If so, please explain who is interested, why, and the scope/manner of the interest. Examples of this may include interest by other organizations, agencies, countries or individuals in: becoming a project contributor or partner; replicating project practices that have shown success; or receiving training or expert advice to apply similar project practices in other locations or arenas. (limit 2,200 characters)

9. How did the action impact your agency's current migratory bird conservation practices (i.e., new policy, initiatives or guidance was developed to improve bird conservation actions)? (limit 2,080 characters)

10. List the migratory bird species of concern that have benefited from your action (use the attached Migratory Bird Species of Concern List to identify specific species of concern that have benefitted)? Please make sure you have included information about the way in which these conservation benefits have been determined and/or demonstrated for each species listed for question # 6 above (e.g. follow-up survey/monitoring protocols, direct observation, etc.) (limit 1,370 characters)

11. References: (limit 4,000 characters)

Presidential Migratory Bird Federal Stewardship Award Scoring Criteria

Award nominations are scored based on the following criteria. Please consider these criteria when completing the nomination application for your project:

- The extent to which the project meets or exceeds its agency's mission or daily activities for migratory bird conservation, and any legal mandates it must meet to stay in compliance with the law: more weight is given to agencies that go beyond agency mission or daily requirements and what is required by law.
- The extent to which the project has demonstrated effectiveness, which includes realized results and demonstrated positive impacts on migratory birds: more weight is given to projects that have been more effective, with additional weight for projects that are also innovative (i.e. the project utilizes original and creative strategies, ideas, concepts or tools to achieve successful goals and results).
- The number of partnerships, including the diversity of these partnerships (industry, Federal government, private landowners, etc.): more weight is given to those projects with a greater number and diversity of partnerships.
- The extent to which there are expressions of interest in the project: more weight is given to projects that received interest by others on a larger scale (e.g. across the country or multiple countries vs. at the regional or local scale, and so forth).
- The extent to which the project has had an influence on the agency's migratory bird conservation practices: more weight is given to projects that have resulted in significant positive influences, including the development of new guidance or initiatives that is being applied within the agency.
- The extent to which the project has benefited or has the potential to benefit species of concern: more weight is given to projects that have demonstrated more widespread and significant beneficial impacts to a larger number of migratory bird species of concern (Species of concern include national birds that are of conservation concern due to population declines, naturally or human caused small ranges or population sizes, threats to habitat, or other factors. Such bird species include those birds on the USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern list and Threatened and Endangered (T&E) species list)

Things to Consider When Completing Your Presidential Migratory Bird Federal Stewardship Application Form

1. Make sure to read each question carefully and answer as clearly, concisely and thoroughly as possible.

The content of your nomination should to the greatest extent possible directly address the questions. Answers that do not clearly and directly address the question, or that leave out critical details, may detract from the nomination's overall score and make the nomination less competitive. This is because each question has been carefully crafted to garner information directly relevant to the ranking criteria used to score the nominations. If the answer is too general or does not clearly answer the question being asked, the scorer has the option of providing the lowest score for the scoring category corresponding to that answer during the scoring process.

Places in the nomination form where special attention should be paid to providing clear, concise answers and critical details include:

- Question 3: Identify actions of the project that are planned and those actions that are completed.
- Question 6: Provide details regarding demonstrated migratory bird conservation benefits. Please be as detailed as possible about the way in which these conservation benefits have been determined and/or demonstrated (e.g. follow-up survey/monitoring protocols, direct observation, etc.)
- Question 7: Provide specific details regarding the contributions of each coapplicant (partner)
- Question 10: Provide the names of each individual bird species of concern that has benefited from your project (use the attached list of Birds of Concern to help you identify which birds are Birds of Concern). Make sure that in Question #6 you have provided details about the way in which conservation benefits to each of these species.

Examples of when the score for an answer may be marked down.

- E.g. Expressions of interest:
 - “Many other federal and state agencies have used information generated by our studies and are interested in results of our ongoing and new studies.” The problem: The answer is too vague/general. Please be specific about which agencies have used the studies and how they have used them.
- E.g. Species of Concern Benefited:
 - “Wintering migratory waterbirds including waterfowl, wading birds, secret marsh birds and shorebirds benefited from the project” The problem: Again, the answer is too vague/general. Please list the individual species of concern that have benefited from the project. Use the attached Birds of Concern list as a guide to

which species are considered Birds of Concern. Also make sure you explain in #6 how you know that species has benefited. Avoid including irrelevant information.

2. Do not include additional pictures, diagrams, videos and links.

To keep all nominations on a level playing field, each nominee will be restricted to scoring based only on the text provided in response to the application.