

Applicant Webinar for NOAA's Community-based Restoration Program:

Coastal and Marine Habitat Restoration Grants Fiscal Year 2019

December 6, 2018

12:00 pm CT

Coordinator: Welcome and thank you for standing by. At this time all participant are in a listen-only mode. During the question and answer session, please press star 1.

Today's conference is being recorded. If you have any objections you may disconnect at this time. Now I would like to turn the meeting over to Natalie McLenaghan. Thank you. You may begin.

Natalie McLenaghan: Thank you, (Diane). Good afternoon everybody and welcome to the Applicant Webinar for NOAA's Coastal and Marine Habitat Restoration Grants through the Community-based Restoration Program.

Thank you for your interest in this federal funding opportunity. This is Natalie McLenaghan from the NOAA Restoration Center and my colleagues (Rina Studds) and (Melanie Gange) will be joining us later in the presentation. The purpose of today's information session is to help stakeholders understand the components of the funding opportunity and allow applicants to ask general questions about the competition.

If you are tuning into the recording of the Webinar following today's presentation, or if you have highly specific questions about a project, please feel free to reach out to the contact listed on the last slide. For this presentation we will be highlighting pertinent information from the sections included in the funding opportunity document that can be downloaded from [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov).

These numbers listed here on the slide correspond to the actual section headers in the funding opportunity so you can cross-reference them when reading through the document. We will not be highlighting Sections 7 and 8 during the Webinar, so please refer to the document itself for questions regarding agency-level contacts and other information.

For this funding opportunity, we anticipate that up to \$6 million will be available for FY19 and another \$6 million in additional funds for FY20 and '21 for a total of \$12 million for this competition. We want to emphasize that for this year's competition, there is a mandatory pre-proposal that must be received by January 14th. The exact date for full proposal submission will be determined following the pre-proposal review process, but will be no earlier than April 15th.

Section 1 of the Federal Funding Opportunity, which we will refer to as the FFO for short, outlines the program's objectives and priorities. The principal objective of this FFO is to provide federal financial and technical assistance to habitat restoration projects by using ecosystem based approach to foster species recovery and increase populations under NOAA's jurisdiction.

Proposals will be evaluated based on their potential to: help recover threatened and endangered species listed under the Endangered Species Act, referred to as Listed Species, including NOAA's Species in the Spotlight, and also to sustain or help build fish stocks managed under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, which we refer to as Managed Species, or contribute to the sustainability of saltwater recreational fisheries by the restoration of habitats that benefit recreational fishing.

We want to call your attention to the four program priorities that you can find in Section 1B of the FFO. The priorities are not listed in any order of importance, but we will describe them numerically in the order they are outlined in the FFO.

The first priority that the projects will be evaluated on is the potential to contribute to the recovery of Listed Species under NOAA jurisdiction, including those designated by NOAA as Species in the Spotlight, where habitat availability and quality is limiting the recovery of the species.

The second priority that projects will be evaluated on is the potential to enhance or sustain populations of commercial or recreational Managed Species or their prey, specifically through projects that restore or enhance Essential Fish Habitat or address actions supported by Fishery Management Plans or the National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy and Implementation Plan.

The third priority that projects will be evaluated on is the potential to provide sustainable and lasting ecological benefits of regional or national significance for the species targeted by the project and its habitat. Projects that restore natural ecosystem function and processes will receive higher priority than projects that install structures that require maintenance. For example, dam removal projects will receive higher priority than projects installing fish passage devices.

The fourth priority that projects will be evaluated on is the potential to demonstrate importance within the watershed or other geographic boundary through an inclusive planning process that determines the project's relative importance in context within the landscape. Projects that were developed by collaborative processes, have coordinated investment strategies, and have engaged diverse communities in planning and ranking projects will be prioritized.

And then continuing from the previous slide, another part of the fourth program priority applies specifically to projects proposed in the northeastern U.S ranging from Virginia to Maine. For fish passage projects proposed in these states, please see the website listed in this section of the FFO to check the priority level of the watershed. We included a thumbnail image of the map here in this slide, but you can see a larger version and find more info on the website.

Okay, Section 2 of the FFO deals with funding availability. NOAA will consider applications for awards covering a one-year period that will be supported with FY19 funds only -- as well as applications for multi-year awards for up to three funding years through FY21.

As we stated previously, NOAA anticipates up to \$6 million available in FY19 with an additional \$6 million over FY20 and '21 to support selected awards -- so a total of \$12 million under this opportunity. NOAA will not accept proposals with a Federal Funding Request of less than 75,000 or more than 3 million over a three-year project period.

Section 3 of the FFO deals with eligibility. Eligible applicant types include institutions of higher education, nonprofit and for profit organizations, U.S territories and state, local and Native American tribal governments.

Applicants must propose work in geographic areas that benefit species with a nexus to NOAA management. There is no statutory requirement for matching funds, however, please note that cost sharing is an element of project cost under the evaluation criteria. We have included some examples here for types of ineligible projects but please consult this section of the FFO for more details.

Some examples include projects that solely benefit species under U.S Fish and Wildlife Service jurisdiction unless the species are jointly managed by NOAA. Projects that focus on marine debris prevention and removal, acquisition of real property, or beach re-nourishment for recreational purposes are also ineligible. Proposals that address hard infrastructure only for water quality improvement are also not eligible. Additionally, activities that alleviate legally required mitigation, constitute compensatory restoration for natural resource damages, or are required by a separate consent decree, court order, statute or regulations are ineligible.

Submission information can be found in Section 4 of the FFO. For application packages, federal forms and instructions, please find the funding opportunity on the Grants.gov website. As a reminder, there is a mandatory pre-proposal for this competition. Follow the guidance for Project Summary starting on Page 12 in the FFO which outlines the components of the four-page pre-proposal narrative. The Standard Form SF-424 is also required with the pre-proposal and can be found on Grants.gov. In order to submit a full proposal, applicants must be invited by NOAA to do so. Applicants should be registered in SAM, the System for Award Management, and also provide a valid DUNS number on the application. DUNS is the Data Universal Number System. Now would be a good time to initiate the registration processes if you have not done so already, or check whether your status is active, if you have registered previously. Please consult Section 4 in the FFO for guidance on registration. We highly recommend submitting your proposal through Grants.gov, but please see the FFO for additional guidance on mailing in paper applications.

Section 5 of the FFO provides application review information, which includes the evaluation criteria for both pre- and full proposals. Please pay special attention to this section and be sure that your four-page pre-proposal narrative addresses all four evaluation criteria starting on Page 21 of the FFO.

Each pre-proposal criteria is scored on a zero to three scale. Number one, to what extent does the proposed project meet the program objectives and priorities described in Section 1A and 1B? This includes whether the project addresses a habitat issue limiting the recovery of a Listed Species or sustainability of Managed Species and or their prey. Number two, to what extent was the proposed project developed through multi-stakeholder comprehensive planning efforts and identified in species recovery plans, fishery management plans and/or other relevant conservation planning documents? Number three, to what extent has the applicant indicated that they have given consideration to changing environmental conditions and that the proposed project is likely to be sustainable? And number four, to what extent are the proposed activities achievable according to the provided timeline and within the proposed project period?

At the bottom of Page 21 in the FFO you can find the beginning of the evaluation criteria for the full proposal. There are too many sub-criteria to recite here on the Webinar so please do read this section carefully if you are invited to submit a full proposal, and also to check how well your project fits within the criteria.

Briefly, the five main criteria are: One - Importance and Applicability. Two - Technical and Scientific Merit. Three - Applicant Qualifications. Four - Project Costs. And, Five - Outreach and Education. Note that for the full proposal, the evaluation criteria are not on the same point scale.

Once the pre-proposals are fully reviewed, we will notify all applicants regarding eligibility to submit full proposals. The email will be sent from restoration.grants@noaa.gov and we expect to notify applicants approximately 30 to 40 days after the pre-proposal deadline, which will be mid to late February. Eligible applicants will receive reviewer comments and notice of the full proposal deadline within the email. For full proposals,

eligible applications will undergo technical review, ranking, and selection based on program priorities and the evaluation criteria. Applicants will receive notification regarding funding by June 30, 2019. The earliest anticipated start date for awards will be October 1, 2019.

Okay, here is some helpful reminders and tips for submission. Number one, start the process of registration now if you are not yet registered or currently active. SAM registration can take several weeks so save yourself some stress and start early. For Grants.gov, register your organization and create accounts for people authorized to submit proposals. Two, speaking of starting early, don't wait until the last minute to submit your application. Grants.gov can take up to two business days to validate or reject applications. Three, if you decide to submit a paper application rather than uploading through Grants.gov, be sure to sign required forms in ink. I will say that one more time, be sure to sign your required forms in ink. A missing required signature can disqualify an entire application and that's no fun for anyone involved. Number four, please read the entire FFO and verify that all requirements are complete before you submit. And finally, please do refer to the websites that are listed throughout the FFO for more information.

All right, now onto the frequently asked questions section. The first question is...

Rina Studds: What types of projects will be supported by this funding?

Natalie McLenaghan: Restoration includes activities that return degraded or altered marine, estuarine, coastal and freshwater migratory fish habitats to functioning conditions and techniques that return NOAA's trust species to their historic habitats.

Rina Studds: Will proposals that seek to restore habitats important to species such as forage fish be considered?

Natalie McLenaghan: Yes. All projects that propose to restore coastal habitats for estuarine and marine species, including forage fish or prey of species managed under the Magnuson-Stevens Act or listed under the Endangered Species Act, are eligible for funding and will be considered through the evaluation criteria.

Rina Studds: Is this competition strictly for shovel-ready projects or do you consider proposals for planning and design?

Natalie McLenaghan: Great question. We will consider proposals across a range of project phases including planning, implementation, or a combination thereof. The evaluation criteria have been structured to incorporate different project stages. See the FFO for more detail.

Rina Studds: Can projects in the Great Lake be funded?

Natalie McLenaghan: Unfortunately, no. There are other funding opportunities available to fund restoration in the Great Lakes region. And for that see Section 3C of the FFO. The FY19 Great Lakes FFO should be available very soon.

Rina Studds: What funding sources and activities count as non-federal match?

Natalie McLenaghan: Another good question. Match to NOAA funds can come from a variety of public and private sources and can include third party in kind goods and services and volunteer labor. Federal sources cannot be considered for matching funds, but can be described in the budget narrative to demonstrate additional leverage and collaboration.

We recommend referring to 2 CFR 200.306 for details, which you can find online on the eCFR website. And don't worry, you don't need to read the entire Code of Federal Regulations. You can navigate the links within to find a specific topic that you are searching for.

Rina Studds: Is there a limit on the number of proposals from any one applicant, geographic area or region?

Natalie McLenaghan: No. There is no limit on the number of proposals from any one applicant, geographic area, or region.

Rina Studds: Will NOAA assure geographic distribution for selected awards?

Natalie McLenaghan: The NOAA Selecting Official will select proposals in rank order unless a proposal is justified to be selected out of rank order based upon standard selection factors outlined in the FFO -- including the availability of funding and balance distribution of funds according to geography, types of partners, focus areas, and project types.

Rina Studds: Will there be another FFO like this one issued next year?

Natalie McLenaghan: We plan to issue another FFO depending on funding appropriated by Congress for the program. In 2020, funding appropriated to the Community-based Restoration Program will be used to both run another competition and to support the progress of projects awarded under this FY19 competition.

All right, that concludes the presentation section of the Webinar and we do thank you for listening. And we would now like to open up the floor for any questions, so I will pass it back to you (Diane).

Coordinator: Thank you. If you would like to ask a question, please press star 1 -- you will be prompted to record your name. To withdraw your request, please press star 2. One moment please to see if we have any questions or comments.

And again, as a reminder if you do have any questions or comments, please press star 1 and record your name. (Daniel), your line is open.

Attendee: Yes. We have a project we are interested in applying for and some initial money comes from mitigation dollars. Would that still count as match even though it not strictly voluntary?

Melanie Gange: Hey everybody. So before we address the mitigation question, we will just sort of in general refer people back to the Code of Federal Regulations on that. I know we skimmed over that.

That will provide you with several overarching guidelines for your matching funds. And they include things like whether or not the funding is necessary to complete the work you are proposing to us. And also there is a question of whether or not that funding has happened in a timeframe that is close enough to this project to be included as match.

But I want to remind people that matching funds are first of all not a criterion for the pre-proposal review and secondly that it's also a maximum of five points in the full proposal review. And for more specifics please do call Natalie and discuss this individually.

Coordinator: (Gwen), your line is now open.

Attendee: Thank you very much. I have a question regarding whether the funds would pay for engineering, for technical design and then the project itself for removal of infrastructure water line that's hampering our ability to restore a tidal marsh?

Natalie McLenaghan: Great. Thanks for your question. So for the - so it's a two-part question and the first was about whether engineering design activities can be funded. They are eligible, anything from feasibility studies to planning, engineering, design, implementation. We are open to a variety of project phases so that is eligible.

And then for the infrastructure, please look at the section of the FFO that states whether infrastructure projects are just improving water quality -- there is ineligibility for projects dealing with infrastructure upgrades that are just for water quality improvements.

But if there is a wetland restoration project please do give me a call after the Webinar to discuss the details of the project. But infrastructure for the sole purpose of water quality improvement is not considered eligible.

Attendee: Thank you.

Coordinator: Our next question comes from (Alex). Your line is now open.

Attendee: Yes. Hi, good afternoon. Actually my question is similar to one that was asked already and the answer covers it. Thank you.

Natalie McLenaghan: Thank you.

Coordinator: We do have a question from Barbara. Your line is open.

Attendee: Thank you. My question has to do with the scale of restoration that you are talking about. The size of the grant implies to somewhat modest scale because of the cost involved particularly with our project. Can you tell me how the size of the project will impact your priorities?

Natalie McLenaghan: Yes. Thanks for your question. The federal request, which relates to the scale or scope of the project, is not within the evaluation criteria so that would be basically blind in terms of looking at the evaluation criteria and the priorities.

So a \$3 million project isn't going to be graded differently by reviewers than a \$75,000. They would be looking at the technical and scientific merits and all of the other evaluation criteria. So that would not be a factor that would bias a reviewer in looking at the price tags. Does that answer your question?

Barbara: It does. Thank you.

Natalie McLenaghan: Thanks.

Coordinator: (Christopher), your line is now open.

Melanie Gange: (Diane), just a second I want to just do a quick follow up. Our evaluation criteria are focused on the impact of the restoration work and not necessarily just a number of miles or just an acre of marsh. Thanks.

Coordinator: All right, (Christopher), your line is open.

Attendee: Hi, thank you. I submitted a few through the Web portal there but I will just pick one. If you submit like a multi-project pre-proposal, are you then able to separate those into full proposals assuming you are invited to apply?

Natalie McLenaghan: We would advise against that and to call either myself - this is Natalie - or technical staff out in your area to discuss the specifics of the project. This might be a question better handled offline looking at specific projects and how close they might be to each other or how interrelated different project components could be.

So I'm not sure if that answers your question right here on the line but, please do give us a call afterwards to talk about the specifics.

Attendee: All right. Thanks.

Coordinator: (Daniel), your line is open.

Attendee: Hi, thank you. We have a stream in Maine that historically we believe could have hosted populations of Atlantic salmon and/or sturgeon but it's difficult to come up with clear evidence that that was the case. Can we still pursue the recovery of Atlantic salmon even though we don't have absolute proof on these ponds and these streams?

Natalie McLenaghan: Yes. I would suggest if there is any supporting literature or evidence that you do have access to certainly include it within the proposal including anecdotal accounts.

But I would also direct you to Matt Bernier up in Maine who is one of our field staff up there. And to also have connections to other species beyond Atlantic salmon that the

restoration could be supporting. If the restoration work would support species other than Atlantic salmon that are Managed, that would certainly qualify for eligibility towards the...

Attendee: Yes. For sure wildlife existed in this stream -- we are just looking at what other species might have too.

Natalie McLenaghan: Yes. So I suggest whatever evidence you can provide and we would also want to caution against taking a look at stocking and historical populations. So if you want to give us a call or Matt Bernier a call to discuss the stream and locations feel free to do so.

Attendee: Okay. Thank you.

Natalie McLenaghan: Yes.

Coordinator: (Alex), your line is open.

Attendee: Yes, thank you. I just wanted to clarify about the - if the pre-proposals are due in January, I wanted to know when or how long we will find out when we are accepted to do a full proposal. Just for our program's timeline it's important to know that we will have enough time and if it's - you know, when to start cliffs from other grants in this project are obviously going on at the same time?

Natalie McLenaghan: Yes. We are expecting to notify people 30 to 40 days after the pre-proposal deadline, which will be mid to late February -- and of course all of the timelines depend on the government being open and appropriations and being able to review during that mid-January to mid-February timeline.

And so we will keep people apprised if there are any changes to those published deadlines but we are expecting to reach out to people in mid to late February regarding eligibility - or not - to submit full proposals.

Attendee: Okay, thank you. And I guess I had another question along the line about the cost sharing requirements. It looks like they are not - you don't have to have a full - there is no percentage required for match but I thought I heard somewhere that it was recommended to have 100% match requirement?

Natalie McLenaghan: Yes. So it's recommended but certainly not required in terms of statutory requirements. So I would direct you to Page 25 of the FFO and - so the cost sharing is not something that will be evaluated for the pre-proposal but just in the full proposal criteria.

And it is a pretty minor component under - so there are five main evaluation criteria for the full proposals and the one that has project costs does have one sub-criterion for cost sharing.

So you can find that at the bottom of Page 25 of the PDF and it will give you an indication of the scoring for how much match is going to be provided. So someone would get the full five points for that sub-criterion if they have one-to-one match that's secured. Yes, so see the sub-criterion D cost sharing on Page 25. Does that answer your question?

Attendee: Yes. Completely. Thank you, I appreciate all your answers.

Natalie McLenaghan: Sure.

Coordinator: (Gwen McDonald), your line is now open. Please check your mute button. Please check your mute button, we cannot hear you.

Our next question comes from (Marko), your line is open.

Attendee: Okay. Thank you. I have sort of a two-part question about the pre-proposal. How much detail are you expecting about specific activities both in terms of a description of the activities themselves and the budget numbers that go with them in the pre-proposal?

Natalie McLenaghan: Sure. Did you say you had a two-part question or was that your full...

Attendee: Yes. I guess, I'm trying to figure out how much narrative description you need for different types of activities. So for example, we have got, you know, different kinds of activities -- some of its permitting support, some of its monitoring actual, you know, design work and for multiple locations throughout the estuary. Do you need to know those details in the pre-proposal or is that something you wouldn't spell out until the full proposal?

Natalie McLenaghan: Great. Thanks for the question. So there is - you know, there is limited space for the pre-proposal. There are only four pages to describe all of the necessary items. And I have the FFO in front of me and I'm trying to find the section that lists the project summary for the...

Attendee: Yes, I think it's on Page 12 or 11 or 12.

Natalie McLenaghan: Yes. So I think part of your question was about how much detail budget wise to include, is that right?

Attendee: Right.

Natalie McLenaghan: So for the pre-proposal, you will fill out an SF-424 that has a federal funding request but beyond that we are not expecting or evaluating much with respect to the budget -- that will come into play for the full proposal and is outlined under that project cost criteria.

So my general suggestion would be to make sure to go to that section of the FFO and check off all the boxes for what we are saying is required as part of the project summary and compare that to those four evaluation criteria for the pre-proposal -- and just make sure that your description hits all of those marks - those questions that the reviewer will be looking at.

And so depending on how complicated the project is, obviously that lends itself to different levels of detail that can be provided for something that's a very small site versus something that's a little bit more complicated.

So think like - your question might warrant another offline discussion with us but, that would be my general piece of advice is to you make sure you pay very close attention to what's published in the FFO that the reviewers are required to evaluate all the pre-proposals against, to make sure that you are answering all those questions. I hope that helps.

Attendee: It does. Just to follow up a little bit, I mean, this is a very complicated project and the individual activities all add up to a very large restoration but the work is ongoing. So I'm just trying to get a sense of how much detail do you want to see about those individual activities?

Should we describe them generically to say that, you know, we will be doing monitoring and permitting and, you know, infrastructure design? Or do you need to have more specifics about what exactly those things are?

Natalie McLenaghan: Again, I would say, you know, whatever you can squeeze into that four page limit. Without knowing the specific details of the project it's sort of hard to say in advance what should or should not be included but please, do feel free to call us and talk it out.

Attendee: Okay.

Natalie McLenaghan: That helps?

Attendee: Yes.

Natalie McLenaghan: Okay.

Coordinator: (Sheree), your line is open.

Attendee: Good afternoon. Thank you for doing this. My question I think really builds on all the other questions but it's more broad in that, we are trying to get an understanding of what you mean by ecosystem management and what you are looking for in terms of, you know, what is and what is not.

So can you give an example of the type of ecosystem management that you are looking for? In an estuary, you know, for example, how far up to the head of tide? Is it more the socio-economic impact of the people? What is it that you're looking for?

Melanie Gange: I believe your question is concerning some of the information we presented at the beginning of the Webinar where we said that, the reason why we do habitat restoration is that we want to restore Managed Species and Listed Species -- and the reason we do habitat restoration is to support an ecosystem-based approach to that recovery and population increase.

And so we are not looking for proposals that propose ecosystem-based management, we are looking for proposals that propose habitat restoration. And the statement is really just putting habitat restoration into the context of why we are doing it. Is that helpful?

Attendee: Not really.

Melanie Gange: All right, please ask your question again.

Attendee: Well, I think it would be helpful to understand what is not. It sounds like the ecosystem management is the buzz word for everything that is already written and described so that it sounds like you are not actually asking for anything different. That is the overall description for the details presented in the application, is that true?

Melanie Gange: I believe that's accurate. Ecosystem-based approach is describing how we connect to the overall mandates of NOAA Fisheries. But what we are looking for is habitat restoration as described in the program objectives - program priorities.

And looking at the evaluation criteria for full proposals, even while you are preparing your pre-proposal it may be helpful to help you understand what would score well in a full proposal review.

Natalie McLenaghan: Yes, and I'm not sure if this is exactly what you are getting at but I would add, so say for example there is an endangered species that NOAA wants recovered. We are looking at proposals that are, you know, restoring habitats that those species occupy with the idea that the habitat restoration is going to support the recovery and that, you know, we are not looking at proposals to clone a fish in a lab outside of the ecosystem and just looking the species itself outside of the ecosystem and the habitat that it occupies.

Attendee: That's helpful. Thank you.

Melanie Gange: Yes, and if you have any more questions about that, feel free to email or call us too.

Attendee: Thank you.

Coordinator: (Jasper Cole), your line is now open.

Attendee: Yes. Hi, earlier there were some comments on different phases of the project that can include planning and design and I believe a question was asked about engineering? What about tool development and testing tools that would improve transplant for restoration success?

Melanie Gange: I think the easiest thing to do is to refer you to the evaluation criteria for the full proposal. And if you believe what you are doing will score well in there, it could be a component of it but we are also very much - it should include the habitat restoration itself or designing the habitat restoration.

Attendee: Yes, there will definitely be habitat restoration involved but to improve the success of restoration we would like to develop some tools to improve that.

Melanie Gange: It's a primary focus area of our program but go ahead and give Natalie a call to discuss it in more detail and she will also provide you with a local contact in your area.

Attendee: Okay. Thanks.

Melanie Gange: Thanks.

Coordinator: (Dan), your line is now open.

Attendee: (Jon Ording).

Coordinator: Oh, I do apologize. It's (Jon Ording), your line is now open.

Attendee: Hi, yes. Thank you. My question is, would the scope of this opportunity allow for any sort of conservation planning process on the front-end? For example, to evaluate a fleet of potential projects for selection or maybe look within a larger landscape to locate a project - again, on the front-end with the understanding that the bulk of the proposal would be the implementation process.

Natalie McLenaghan: Yes, thanks for your question. So I would say - so we do support planning activities and I would - sorry, I just lost my train of thought. But I would say to make sure when writing the pre-proposal to make those direct connections to how it would support habitat restoration. That would be broad advice in general for applicants and if you want to talk specifics, feel free to give us a call or send an email.

Melanie Gange: The biggest area of concern there even within a 36 month project period is that we are all aware of how long habitat restoration can take. And so if you have not yet selected a project site the process of designing, permitting, and restoration may very well take longer than 36 months.

And/or there are a lot of potential points of failure along the way, and so while the evaluation criteria are designed to allow for projects that, say, end at project design, they are also asking for a level of certainty that the restoration will happen eventually.

So again, yes, I think it's another good opportunity to go look at the full proposal evaluation criteria even as you are looking at your pre-proposal just for the context of what's likely to compete well in a full proposal context

Coordinator: My next question comes from (Anna). Your line is open.

Attendee: Hi, I was wondering, last year after the pre-proposal round the FFO was administered by a third party. Is it possible that something like that would happen again this year?

Natalie McLenaghan: Thanks for your question. So we did run a pre-proposal competition through the Coastal Resilience Program in the spring so that might be - which was through our office - so that might be what you are thinking of.

For this specific competition for the Coastal and Marine Habitat Restoration Grants, this is the first time for this program that we are running the pre-proposals. So that was sort of a special case for the Coastal Resilience competition from earlier this year.

Attendee: Okay. So you guys expect to run the pre-proposals directly through NOAA? Or sorry, the full proposals directly through NOAA?

Natalie McLenaghan: Yes.

Attendee: Okay. Great. Thank you.

Natalie McLenaghan: You're welcome.

Coordinator: (Michel Myers), your line is open.

Attendee: Hi, yes. Thank you. Just quick clarifications, just two on acquisitions related to habitat restoration, is that eligible?

Natalie McLenaghan: Excuse me. Acquisition of real property is unfortunately not an eligible activity. If you want to - I'm trying to find the page number - Section 3 deals with eligibility starting on Page 7 and we do outline some of the ineligible project types and activities. So unfortunately, acquisition is not an eligible activity.

Attendee: Okay. Great. Thank you. And just the second part or last question is on monitoring and assessments. Can we include monitoring and assessments with engineering and design habitat restoration and not - we are not ready to go to construction yet but rather have assessments and monitoring through our design process?

Natalie McLenaghan: Sure. So just to make sure because the volume is a little bit low for this connection but you are asking about basically pre-monitoring and whether that's an acceptable cost?

Attendee: Yes, before construction.

Natalie McLenaghan: Yes. And I would at least for the full proposal would direct people to the section of the FFO that shows where the RC Tier 1 monitoring guidance is. So for projects that are restoring hydrologic connections, fish passage, coral reefs and shellfish -- we have a document that's posted on our Web site that outlines what we term Tier 1 implementation monitoring. So my colleague just found the page, it's on Page 16 in the FFO that outlines project monitoring and assessment. So that hopefully can answer some of your questions I think.

Attendee: Thank you.

Natalie McLenaghan: Yes.

Coordinator: (Tamiel), your line is now open.

Attendee: Hey. My question is, to be accepted to habitat restoration after the hurricane past season in Puerto Rico and older reefs that were (unintelligible) corals?

Melanie Gange: I heard that your question was related to coral reef restoration but could you restate it again, please?

Attendee: Yes. Will it consider an accepted project for habitat restoration that were affected by the hurricanes?

Natalie McLenaghan: Yes. Doing coral restoration, regardless of whether it was impacted by hurricanes or not, is eligible as a project activity.

Attendee: Thank you.

Natalie McLenaghan: Yes.

Coordinator: (Diane Cullen), your line is now open.

Attendee: Hi, thank you. I'm wondering if a restoration project restoring a habitat for a federally managed species, also regionally managed would be considered if that species is not included under Essential Fish Habitat.

Natalie McLenaghan: Just to make sure I understand, so is it managed under Magnuson-Stevens or not?

Attendee: Yes.

Natalie McLenaghan: Okay. If it's a species that's managed under Magnuson-Stevens yes, it is part of the program priorities.

Attendee: Okay. Thank you.

Coordinator: (Alexa), your line is now open.

Attendee: Hi, thank you. I was just wondering a quick question on the format of the pre-proposal. Do you prefer a sort of point by point addressing of these items or do you prefer more of a narrative paragraph form?

Natalie McLenaghan: I would refer you to the project summary section in the FFO. Doing it according to how it's written point by point can be sometimes easier as a reviewer to

cross check to make sure all of those criteria are touched upon. But if it's more natural provided in a narrative form that strays a little bit from point 1, 2, 3, 4 et cetera, I would say whatever works. But if you want to talk some of those specifics I'm happy to. But my general advice would just be to make sure that, in whatever format it's written just make sure that all of the criteria are addressed.

Attendee: Okay. Thank you.

Natalie McLenaghan: Yes.

Coordinator: And again as a reminder, if you do have any further questions or comments, please press star 1 and record your name. We do have a question from (Christopher). Your line is open.

Attendee: Hi again, thank you. Actually if I could just ask two quick questions, one quick one following up on the previous. The question of land acquisition, what about if you were consider that as part of your match proposal, would land acquisition costs be eligible?

Melanie Gange: Those questions tend to be pretty project specific, again, often relating to the time frame in which the land acquisition occurred. But the other thing I have to caution you about is that match gets treated exactly the same as federal funds. And so by using your land as match you will be establishing a federal interest in that land and so many people are not interested in doing that. But Natalie can work with you more specifically on your particular situation.

Attendee: Okay. Thanks. And then I figured I just ask, if you submit a pre-proposal and you are invited to apply, does the initial lead applicant for that pre-proposal have to be the

same or does the initial applicant - does the applicant for the full proposal have to be the same as the initial proposal applicant?

Natalie McLenaghan: No.

Attendee: Or could you switch to like a different project partner?

Natalie McLenaghan: You could switch to a different project partner.

Attendee: Okay. Thanks.

Coordinator: And the last question come from (Daniel). Your line is now open.

Attendee: Yes, thanks. I'm looking at the FFO in the Section C on Page Number 12 and it lists different things that you have to submit and there is a section there - Number 3 - that says project design for proposals including on-the-ground restoration. I'm wondering what level of design that you are looking for? In other words, it's pretty typical that, you know, as you get closer to construction your designs get more and more complete. Would you accept something more on a conceptual engineering design?

Natalie McLenaghan: Great. So I would say that, so going to point three project designs on Page 12. You know, if you have 90%, 60%, 30%, whatever stage that the design is at the time of submitting, I would suggest to include, and I will also note, within that bullet point that there is no page limit for the project design.

So whatever seems most appropriate to upload I would suggest doing and if there are questions about that that can't be answered just by what's stated in the FFO, then feel free to contact us.

Melanie Gange: In addition just for clarity for everybody on the call, that question is relevant to the full proposal only, not to the pre-proposal. The pre-proposal remains a four-page pre-proposal.

Attendee: Got you. So at that stage you would not be expecting any kind of engineering design?

Melanie Gange: Right.

Attendee: Got you. Thanks.

Coordinator: We do have one more question that just came through. (Marko), your line is now open.

Attendee: Okay. Thanks. I also wanted to just ask sort of pragmatic question about the SF-424 Form. I went on the Grants.gov site and it's a little confusing as to which form we are supposed to be using -- it seems like there's more than one. Which one are we supposed to use?

Natalie McLenaghan: Sure. So for the pre-proposal, if you go to the funding opportunity through Grants.gov within the workspace I believe you should see available as the one required form for the pre-proposal is the SF-424.

And what I think can be a little confusing is then for full proposals we refer to the SF-424 Family and so there is also an SF-424A and other forms with the full proposal that are required.

So again, for the pre-proposal just the SF-424, for the full proposal it's the SF-424 Family. And I haven't worked through Grants.gov myself as part of applying to anything and so I'm sort of speculating about what the view would be for the applicant on the computer. But it should direct you within the funding opportunity to the required form for the pre-proposal versus the full proposal.

So if there are issues that need troubleshooting with Grants.gov I would suggest calling their help line if it's a Grants.gov problem or if it's just wanting to make sure which one for which, for pre versus full, like I said, SF-424 for the pre-proposal.

Attendee: Okay. And just to be clear that that's the only form that we need for the pre-proposal, the rest of it is narrative that, you know, follows the outline that you have given in the announcement?

Natalie McLenaghan: Correct.

Attendee: Okay.

Coordinator: We do have another question. (Anne), your line is open.

Attendee: Thank you. I have a question about the funding availability. It sounds like it's a three-year term and if you have a multi - I guess a multi-year project, it sounds like the funds for the second and third year aren't guaranteed.

But because the funds aren't going to be here because construction can't start until October of 2019, the fish window that we are working with would require that construction begin in 2020 during the summer.

So would 2020 be considered the second year or the first year and if it's the second year, is that funding guaranteed or is that I guess left up to the federal budget?

Natalie McLenaghan: Sure. It seems like this is a bit multi-part so I will just tackle the one point about appropriation for subsequent years and add that, yes, at this point nothing is guaranteed. We are projecting the available amounts and so they are anticipated not guaranteed.

And also note that October 1 is the earliest start date but it's not the required start date. You can propose a start date that's after October 1, 2019, that will be using FY19 funds if that makes sense.

Attendee: Okay. Yes, that's helpful. So the 2019 funds could be proposed for use in 2020, could they be proposed for use in 2021 if the construction extended through the kind of the winter?

Natalie McLenaghan: I would suggest giving me a call afterwards just to talk a little bit more about the timelines. In our experience, we do have projects that, you know, occasionally you have funding proposed for a certain calendar year that bleeds into the next year because of natural disasters or permitting issues.

We do understand that timelines can shift which is part of why having a multi-year award can be helpful to accommodate those shifts and project timelines for circumstances out of your control or under partial control. So yes, please give me a call if you want to chat more because I think we are about out of time for the Webinar but hopefully that answered your question.

Attendee: Yes. Thanks.

Natalie McLenaghan: Great.

Coordinator: And we do have one more question from (Diane Cullen). Your line is open.

Attendee: Thank you. I thought of another question because of the form and I think that it's probably something that I can talk to an administrator about. But if registering as a domestic entity that's SAM requirement are you the right people to ask?

Melanie Gange: When it comes to registering for DUNS or SAM please give us a call but what we will probably do is direct you to help documents that we are aware of on various Web sites.

I think as a closing reminder, the thing we want everybody to take home is, if you are having problems with your registration in DUNS, SAM, Grants.gov, and you are not confident that your proposal - your pre-proposal - has been submitted through Grants.gov. Please also have a backup plan for how you plan to submit your pre-proposal by mail prior to the postmarked deadline.

If you submit it by mail prior to the post marked deadline it will be part of our review process. If you call us the next morning and say, "I'm sorry, something went wrong at the last minute," we don't have a way to accept your proposal late.

So submitting it by paper if you can't submit it electronically is very important.

Attendee: Okay. Thank you.

Natalie McLenaghan: All right. And it looks like our room reservation is expiring here so we are going to have to have that be the last question for now but - and we do apologize that we haven't been able to monitor the chat box during the presentation. But if you have questions that you weren't able to ask feel free to call or email and my contact information is right here on this slide.

Natalie McLenaghan: (Diane) our moderator, do you have anything to close this out?

Coordinator: I sure do. I do want to thank all of you for joining this call. You may disconnect at this time.

END