

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

* 1. Type of Submission: <input type="checkbox"/> Preapplication <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Application <input type="checkbox"/> Changed/Corrected Application	* 2. Type of Application: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Continuation <input type="checkbox"/> Revision	* If Revision, select appropriate letter(s): _____ * Other (Specify): _____
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* 3. Date Received: _____	4. Applicant Identifier: _____
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5a. Federal Entity Identifier: _____	5b. Federal Award Identifier: _____
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State Use Only:

6. Date Received by State: _____	7. State Application Identifier: _____
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8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:

* a. Legal Name: American Bird Conservancy	
* b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN): 52-1501259	* c. Organizational DUNS: 9430472250000

d. Address:

* Street1: P.O. Box 249
Street2: 4249 Loudoun Ave
* City: The Plains
County/Parish: _____
* State: VA: Virginia
Province: _____
* Country: USA: UNITED STATES
* Zip / Postal Code: 20198-0000

e. Organizational Unit:

Department Name: North American Birds & Habitats	Division Name: Migratory Birds
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f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:

Prefix: _____	* First Name: Merrie
Middle Name: S.	
* Last Name: Morrison	
Suffix: _____	
Title: Vice President for Operations	
Organizational Affiliation: American Bird Conservancy	
* Telephone Number: 540-253-5780	Fax Number: 540-253-5782
* Email: mmorr@abcbirds.org	

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

*** 9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type:**

M: Nonprofit with 501c3 IRS Status (Other than Institution of Higher Education)

Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type:

Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:

* Other (specify):

*** 10. Name of Federal Agency:**

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:

10.930

CFDA Title:

*** 12. Funding Opportunity Number:**

USDA-NRCS-NHQ-RCPP-14-01

* Title:

Regional Conservation Partnership Program

13. Competition Identification Number:

Title:

14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):

ABCCounties&CongDistricts Habitat Focus Are

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

*** 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:**

Improving Forest Health For Wildlife Resources in MN, WI, MI

Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.

Add Attachments

Delete Attachments

View Attachments

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16. Congressional Districts Of:

* a. Applicant

* b. Program/Project

Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed.

17. Proposed Project:

* a. Start Date:

* b. End Date:

18. Estimated Funding (\$):

* a. Federal	5,464,781.00
* b. Applicant	3,539,485.00
* c. State	981,004.00
* d. Local	768,005.00
* e. Other	1,407,772.00
* f. Program Income	0.00
* g. TOTAL	12,161,047.00

*** 19. Is Application Subject to Review By State Under Executive Order 12372 Process?**

- a. This application was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372 Process for review on
- b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the State for review.
- c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.

*** 20. Is the Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt? (If "Yes," provide explanation in attachment.)**

- Yes
- No

If "Yes", provide explanation and attach

21. *By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances** and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 218, Section 1001)**

** I AGREE

** The list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.

Authorized Representative:

Prefix: * First Name:

Middle Name:

* Last Name:

Suffix:

* Title:

* Telephone Number: Fax Number:

* Email:

* Signature of Authorized Representative: 

* Date Signed:

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APPLICATION COVER

- a) **Project title:** Improving forest health for at-risk wildlife resources in MN, WI, and MI
- b) **Project Director:** Andrew Rothman, American Bird Conservancy (ABC), arothman@abcbirds.org; 540-253-5780.
- c) **Lead partner and collaborating partners:** American Bird Conservancy (ABC), Natural Resources Conservation Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge, Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources, Woodcock Minnesota, Beltrami County, MN, The Conservation Fund, Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources, US Forest Service, Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, Ruffed Grouse Society, Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association, Wisconsin County Forests Association, Wildlife Management Institute, The Forestland Group, Pheasants Forever, National Wild Turkey Federation, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Louisiana-Pacific Corporation, Michigan Tech University, Indiana University of Pennsylvania Resource Institute, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.
- d) **Lead partner mailing address/telephone #:** P.O. Box 249, 4249 Loudoun Avenue, The Plains, VA 20198; 540-253-5780
- e) **Funding Pool:** National
- f) **Short general summary of project and description of resource issues to be addressed:** The objective of this project is to address NRCS resource concerns of **at-risk species habitat** in MN, WI and MI through **forest restoration** and habitat management for the **recovery of threatened and endangered species**. Specifically, this project is part of a national and international conservation initiative by government agencies and private conservation organizations to make unnecessary the potential listing of the Golden-winged Warbler (GWWA) under the Endangered Species Act in the next three years. Together, MN, WI and MI, have the largest remaining breeding population of GWWA in the world and are critical to rebuilding populations rapidly. The GWWA, identified as a species of conservation concern in U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), State Wildlife Agency, Joint Venture, and other conservation organization plans, needs quality young forest (also known as early successional) with mature forest nearby to breed and successfully raise young. **The high quality young forests required by GWWAs also provide important habitat for more than 19 other at-risk species.**

The Golden-winged Warbler Working Group has identified focal conservation areas to guide GWWA conservation in these states as part of the Golden-winged Warbler Status Review and Conservation Action Plan. Land ownership within the focal areas is a mix of public and private lands. Through this project, ABC and its partners will contact and provide technical support to private landowners within the focal areas to create conservation management plans for their properties that use **established NRCS practices to meet GWWA Best Management Practices (BMPs) and to assist them with enrolling in appropriate NRCS programs.** The GWWA BMPs can be found at <http://www.gwwa.org/plan.html> . **This project will improve forest age class management across land ownerships and measurably increase productivity of at-risk wildlife.** Complementing the private lands effort, this project will plan and implement GWWA BMPs on public lands across county, state and federal lands and advance GWWA conservation planning and implementation on its wintering grounds in Latin America.

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Specifically, this project will contribute **significant near term results** through the implementation of GWWA BMPs on a total of **11,800 acres of private lands in MN, WI and MI resulting in urgently needed new breeding territories** for an estimated 1,180 pairs of GWWA and an increase of an estimated 2,950 GWWA individuals in four years. *With leveraged funding, additional* forest habitat management and restoration for at-risk species will be conducted on **at least 52,000 acres on public and private lands** by federal, state, and non-profit partners implementing habitat management in the Great Lakes using the GWWA BMPs for young forest management. This may increase the GWWA population by an estimated **13,000 additional individuals**. The GWWA is currently under review by USFWS for listing under the Endangered Species Act with a decision likely in 2017. Evidence that sufficient private conservation actions are underway and succeeding will play an important role in the USFWS's decision.

ABC and its partners will gauge success and monitor results of the project based on the number of private landowners and acres managed for GWWA in the focal areas using NRCS practices and GWWA BMPs. We will measure species response to the BMPs, particularly for **at-risk species** such as the GWWA, American Woodcock, Ruffed Grouse, and Black-billed Cuckoo with a monitoring program. Project outcome assessments will be monitored in multiple ways including number of private landowners engaged, the number of NRCS contracts, and the number of acres treated to improve habitat for at-risk wildlife. In addition, our program will be implemented to evaluate response of at-risk wildlife to the treatments and habitat improvements conducted. The tremendous leveraged resources and participation in this project by more than a dozen experienced partners including NRCS, federal, state, county resource agencies, and NGOs make possible a landscape level movement toward diverse, highly productive forest habitats.

- g) Specific project geographical location:** Multi-state (MN, WI, MI). NRCS funding requested may be implemented within **Golden-winged Warbler and American Woodcock focal areas** identified by the Golden-winged Warbler Working Group and the Wildlife Management Institute within the following counties; **MN:** *Initial focal counties:* Beltrami, Itasca, St. Louis, Cass, Becker, Hibbard, Crow Wing, Carlton, Pine, Mille Lacs, Lake of the Woods, Clearwater, Wadena, Roseau, *Additional Counties of expansion:* Koochiching, Aitken **WI:** *Initial focal counties:* Taylor, Rusk, Oneida, Langlade, Price, Lincoln. *Additional Counties of expansion:* Iron, Ashland, Vilas, Forest, Florence, Marinette, Oconto, Shawano, Menominee, Sawyer, Bayfield, Washburn, Douglas, Burnett **MI:** *Initial focal counties:* Marquette, Baraga, Iron, Dickinson, and Menominee. *Counties of expansion:* Houghton, Ontonagon, Gogebic, Delta, Schoolcraft, Mackinac, Emmet, Cheboygan, Ostego, Antrim, Kalkaska, Wexford, Ministee, Oscoda, Alcona, Iosco, Ogemaw.
- h) Application form SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance.** Please see attached.
- i) Applicants must also clearly state, by project objective, how they intend to leverage Federal funds along with partner resources (identify in-kind and cash contributions).**

OBJECTIVE 1: *Implement forest habitat management using established GWWA BMPs for young forest on a total of 11,800 acres of private lands in MN, WI and MI through NRCS technical and financial assistance programs by 2019.* This objective will be funded 100% using NRCS funding because these

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acres are targeted for enrollment in NRCS programs. However, complimentary resource management on other lands is necessary to scale up efforts to fully address identified NRCS resource concerns for at-risk wildlife using leveraged funds (see Objective 2).

OBJECTIVE 2: *Implement forest habitat management using established GWWA BMPs for young forest on at least 52,000 acres of public and private lands held by federal, state, county and non-profit partners in the Great Lakes States (WI, MN, MI) by 2019.* This objective will be funded 100% using leveraged funds from multiple sources using cash and in-kind leverage for implementation of BMPs on a significant number of acres as to successfully meet NRCS identified resource concern for at-risk species. This includes \$3,571,484 in cash resources for this objective.

Objective 2: Totals By Agency	Cash Leverage	In – kind Leverage
ABC	\$ 3,439,484	
RGS	\$ 112,000	\$ 8,000
MN-DNR		\$ 593,800
WI - DNR		\$ 387,204
WI - Counties		\$ 768,005
USFWS		\$ 412,432
USFWS Partners Program		\$ 149,460
US Forest Service	\$ 20,000	\$ 297,000
IUP		\$ 8,880
Total	\$ 3,571,484	\$ 2,624,781

OBJECTIVE 3: *As part of a national and international conservation initiative by government agencies and private conservation organizations, this project has the objective to make the potential listing of the GWWA under the Endangered Species Act unnecessary within the next three years.* ABC and IUP will conduct a monitoring program to demonstrate project success. Results will be communicated to the USFWS. This objective will be completed 100% with leveraged cash funds.

- a) American Bird Conservancy: (cash: \$100,000)
- b) Indiana University of Pennsylvania (cash: \$400,000)* *Note: * = Applied For*

j) Form 424A, Budget Information – Non-Construction Programs (Form, Instructions). Please see Attached.

k) Proposed project start/end dates and a table showing how much Financial Assistance (FA) and Technical Assistance (TA) funds are being requested from covered programs by fiscal year.

The proposed project start/end dates are September 1, 2014 – August 31, 2018. Financial and Technical Assistance will be disbursed over the life of this project as identified in the table below.

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	EQIP	TOTAL
FY 2015		
Partner request for FA \$	\$ 1,034,400	\$ 1,034,400
Partner request for TA \$	\$ 175,720	\$ 175,720
Partner provided TA \$		\$ -
Partner provided FA \$		\$ -
*Partner Admin \$	\$ 35,144	\$ 35,144
FY 2016		
Partner request for FA \$	\$ 1,034,400	\$ 1,034,400
Partner request for TA \$	\$ 298,009	\$ 298,009
Partner provided TA \$		\$ -
Partner provided FA \$		\$ -
*Partner Admin \$	\$ 59,602	\$ 59,602
FY 2017		
Partner request for FA \$	\$ 1,034,400	\$ 1,034,400
Partner request for TA \$	\$ 309,929	\$ 309,929
Partner provided TA \$		\$ -
Partner provided FA \$		\$ -
*Partner Admin \$	\$ 61,986	\$ 61,986
FY 2018		
Partner request for FA \$	\$ 1,034,400	\$ 1,034,400
Partner request for TA \$	\$ 322,326	\$ 322,326
Partner provided TA \$		\$ -
Partner provided FA \$		\$ -
*Partner Admin \$	\$ 64,465	\$ 64,465
FY 2019		
Partner request for FA \$		\$ -
Partner request for TA \$		\$ -
Partner provided TA \$		\$ -
Partner provided FA \$		\$ -
Partner Admin \$		\$ -
TOTALS	\$ 5,464,781	\$ 5,464,781
Note: FA Costs do not include Indirect		
* Partner Admin = Indirect		

l) A budget table, by fiscal year, that describes the activities and resource contributions.

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED BUDGET TABLE

m) Describe the intended producer and landowner participants.

The intended landowners for this project are non-industrial private forestland owners, which may include tribal entities, in specific areas of MN, WI and MI where at-risk, endangered, or threatened

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wildlife species have been identified. Priority will be given to landowners who are veterans, beginning farmers/producers, or those who qualify as historically underserved participants (socially disadvantaged or limited resources). All landowners who have an interest in managing their forestlands for wildlife and timber will be included in this project; however, specific attention will be given to landowners who have tag alder and aspen species present. Secondly, we will focus on landowners that have jack pine and red oak, all species considered good for wildlife as part of young forest habitat. Ideally, participants will own at least 40 acres, but preferably 80 or more to meet the best management practices of target species such as GWWA. Similarly, we will focus work on public lands that have these same ecological features.

n) Describe the land that will be the focus of the project (e.g. cropland, grazing land, forest land and incidental land uses). The land that is the focus of this project is forestland with the potential for young forest habitat as well as surrounding habitat that will support wildlife. Land that has the potential to regenerate tag alder, aspen, jack pine, and red oak with surrounding forests of northern hardwoods and conifers is ideal. The larger the tract of forestland, the better; however, this is not a limiting factor when working with private landowner participants. Most tag alder is found near wetlands; therefore, care will be taken to help protect these sensitive areas when work is completed.

2. Letter of Support from the applicable NRCS State Conservationist. PLEASE SEE ATTACHED.

3. Natural Resources and Objectives (not to exceed four pages).

a. Identify the specific primary natural resource concern and any secondary resource concerns to be addressed through the project. Provide details about the natural resource concerns to be addressed and how they were identified. This project will address the NRCS resource concern of **at-risk species habitat** in MN, WI and MI through **forest restoration** and habitat management for the **recovery of threatened and endangered species.**

Declining numbers of bird species such as GWWA, American Woodcock and Ruffed Grouse have been observed in these areas that were once common breeding grounds. These species all rely on young forest habitat for part of their life cycle and their abundances can be increased if forestland is properly managed for this habitat type.

Additionally, the resource concerns of plant productivity, health, and vigor will be addressed through sound forest management practices. Management of rare and endangered plant species as well as forest pests will be a secondary objective to help improve the overall health of the forest while promoting diversity and habitat for wildlife species. Sound forest management practices that improve the health and biodiversity of a forest will ultimately positively impact the resource concerns of soil and water.

Harvesting will not negatively impact soil erosion and compaction and will also protect water quality from runoff and increased temperatures by promoting forest buffers around streams and other wetlands.

b. List the proposed objectives and how they will address the identified resource concern. The overall objective of this project is to address NRCS resource concerns of **at-risk species habitat** in MN, WI and MI through **forest restoration** and habitat management for the **recovery of threatened and**

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endangered species. Specifically, this project, as part of a national conservation initiative by government agencies and private conservation organizations, has the objective to make the potential listing of the GWWA under the Endangered Species Act unnecessary within the next four years. Together, these three states have the largest remaining breeding population of GWWA and habitat management actions here are critical to rebuilding populations rapidly. The GWWA, identified in USFWS, State Wildlife Agency, Joint Venture and other conservation organization plans, needs quality young forest (also known as early successional) with mature forest nearby to breed. The high quality young forests required by GWWAs also provides important habitat for more than 19 other at-risk species including the American Woodcock. The Golden-winged Warbler Working Group has identified focal conservation areas to guide GWWA conservation in these states as part of the Golden-winged Warbler Status Review and Conservation Action Plan. The Wildlife Management Institute has identified focal areas for the American Woodcock in these three states as well. Focal areas are places where target species are present and where conservation actions are expected to result in positive response by the target species based on habitat potential and surrounding landscape conditions. **By using established NRCS practices to meet GWWA BMPs, which have proven benefits for American Woodcock, in the identified focal areas, this project will improve forest age class management and measurably increase productivity of at-risk wildlife.**

Specific Project Objectives are:

1. Implement forest habitat management using established GWWA BMPs for young forest on a total of 11,800 acres of private lands in MN, WI and MI through NRCS technical and financial assistance programs by 2019, resulting in new breeding territories for an estimated 1,180 pairs of GWWA and an increase in GWWA individuals of an estimated 2,950 in four years.
2. Implement forest habitat management using established GWWA BMPs for young forest on at least 52,000 acres of public and private lands held by federal, state, county and non-profit partners in the Great Lakes States (WI, MN, MI) by 2019. These actions, conducted with leveraged funds, will increase the GWWA population by an estimated 13,000 additional individuals.
3. As part of a national and international conservation initiative by government agencies and private conservation organizations, this project has the objective to make the potential listing of the GWWA under the Endangered Species Act unnecessary within the next four years.

c. For each objective, identify the actions to be completed to achieve the objective and to address the identified natural resource concern. Note which actions are to be addressed through this project using NRCS program assistance and which actions are being addressed through non-Federal funding sources or other resources provided.

Primary Activities: Private lands (Technical Assistant) staff will conduct outreach to private landowners, conduct field visits, provide technical assistance, develop stewardship c. management plans, provide support to facilitate NRCS contracting, and oversee implementation of NRCS practices on the ground. Staff will also coordinate with partners to ensure implementation of activities to meet complimentary project objectives on public lands with leveraged funds. Successful implementation of this project will require maintaining two existing private lands staff (a forester in MN and habitat coordinator in WI) for three additional years, and hiring three additional foresters for four years to provide technical

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assistance to landowners. These staff will be housed in NRCS offices in Duluth, MN, Rhinelander, WI and Marquette, MI. They will be hired and cooperatively managed by American Bird Conservancy and NRCS.

Objective 1: Implement young forest BMPs on a total of 11,800 acres of private lands in MN, WI and MI through NRCS technical and financial assistance programs by 2019, resulting in new breeding territories for an estimated 1,180 pairs of GWWA and an increase in GWWA individuals of an estimated 2,950 in four years. This objective is conducted to meet the primary goal and resource concern of this project which is to address the NRCS resource concern for at-risk species habitat in MN, WI and MI through forest restoration and habitat management for the recovery of threatened and endangered species. This objective will be funded 100% using NRCS funding because these acres are targeted for enrollment in NRCS programs. However, complimentary resource management on other lands is necessary to scale up effort to fully address identified NRCS resource concerns for at-risk wildlife using leveraged funds (see Objective 2).

Activity 1: ABC and its project partners will conduct outreach to an estimated 30,000 private landowners in 56 focal counties across Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan using a direct mailing approach to focal landowners. Landowners who own at least 40 acres, but preferably 80 acres or more, of possible habitat will be targeted for this program for implementing best management practices for target species such as GWWA and American Woodcock. This outreach system has proven successful in drawing in private landowners in MN, WI and PA. Outreach activities will be dependent upon need and number of possible landowners in each county that may participate, and will occur at a pace that is appropriate to expand from initial focal counties (25) to additional counties (56) across all three states in years two, three and four. Training of other technical service providers, NRCS staff, private landowners, and other resource agency staff will occur to ensure an understanding of how and why to properly implement young forest management using the GWWA BMPs as well as assist in promoting the use of these practices on both public and private lands.

Activity 2: Following the outreach campaign, project staff will have direct contact (via phone, email, or in person) with a minimum of 3,000 private landowners in MN, WI and MI over 4 years.

Activity 3: Project staff will coordinate and facilitate a minimum of 1,500 property field visits. Visits will be conducted by project foresters or by other resource professionals trained in the GWWA BMPs that facilitate proper management of young forest habitat for over 19 at-risk, priority species of wildlife.

Activity 4: Project staff will facilitate the enrolling of a total minimum of 975 private landowners in MN, WI, and MI in NRCS programs resulting in applications. Staff will direct landowners to NRCS offices and assist landowners through the application process. This will result in the signing of a minimum of 975 NRCS contracts with private landowners during the courses of this project. Project staff will assist NRCS with ranking and assembly of these contracts.

Activity 5: Provide conservation technical assistance with NRCS planning steps 1 to 6 to a minimum of 975 private land owners in MN, WI and MI to facilitate development of stewardship/ management plans to be entered into NRCS Toolkit. Young forest BMPs, scientifically proven to increase breeding habitat for GWWA and other at-risk species and compatible with NRCS conservation practices, will be

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emphasized. ABC and its partners have a proven track record in engaging private landowners in NRCS conservation programs to benefit the GWWA in MN, WI and the Appalachians. NRCS conservation practices that this project will implement include:

- 314 (Brush Mgmt)
- 315 (Herbaceous Weed Control)
- 327 (Conservation cover)
- 338 (Prescribed burning)
- 382 or 472 (Fence/Access Control) – Deer exclusion
- 490 (Forest Site Preparation)
- 528 (Prescribed Grazing)
- 645 (Upland Maintenance)
- 647 (Early Successional Habitat Mgmt)
- 666 (Forest Stand Improvement)

Activity 6: Project staff will oversee the implementation of NRCS approved practices with use of NRCS Financial Assistance on a minimum of 11,800 acres across MN, WI and MI between 2015 and 2019.

Objective 2: Implement forest habitat management using established GWWA BMPs on at least 52,000 acres of public and private lands by held by federal, state, county and non-profit partners in the Great Lakes States (WI, MN, MI) by 2019. This will increase the GWWA population by an estimated 13,000 additional individuals. This objective is conducted to meet the primary goal and resource concern of this project which is to address NRCS resource concerns of at-risk species habitat in MN, WI and MI through forest restoration and habitat management for the recovery of threatened and endangered species. This work will be conducted with leveraged funding.

Activity 1: In MN, acquire 1,505 acres of forest habitat for permanent protection and public use. This acquisition will expand a wildlife management area whose current management includes management for young forest and associated species.

Activity 2: Conduct 400 acres of young forest habitat restoration for Ruffed Grouse habitat with the Ruffed Grouse Society in MN, WI or MI.

Activity 3: Restore and manage 10,500 acres of young forest habitat on public lands (county, state, federal) in MN.

Activity 4: Manage for young forest habitat and associated species on 16,000 acres of US Forest Service Lands in WI.

Activity 5: Conduct young forest management on 21,382 acres of county forest lands in WI.

Activity 6: Successfully enroll 600 additional acres of private lands into NRCS programs with current ABC – NRCS staff in MN and WI.

Activity 7: Manage for young forest habitat and associated species on 2,000 acres of WI-DNR Bureau of Wildlife Management and Division of Forestry lands.

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Activity 8: Conduct 350 acres of young forest habitat restoration on private lands via the USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife program in MN, WI and MI.

Activity 9: Conduct a minimum of 9 outreach and resource manager training programs on GWWA BMPs and young forest habitat management to ensure resource professionals are using the most up to date, science based best management practices.

Objective 3: As part of a national and international conservation initiative by government agencies and private conservation organizations, this project has the objective to make the potential listing of the Golden-winged Warbler (GWWA) under the Endangered Species Act, unnecessary within the next three years. This work will be conducted with leveraged funding.

Activity 1: Led by Dr. Jeff Larkin of Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP), ABC and other partners will further develop, test, and apply a standard GWWA monitoring protocol for selected treated properties. This data will be analyzed and shared with USFWS, NRCS, state wildlife agencies and other partners and will be included in national efforts to track and evaluate the collective response of the GWWA to conservation actions being taken throughout its range. Monitoring data and analysis from this project will also be used to refine or adapt the BMPs as needed to address local conditions or habitats in MN, WI, and MI. In addition, data will be collected on other species such as American Woodcock to demonstrate response to GWWA BMPs by other species. ABC and partners will track acres and landowners contacted and enrolled in NRCS conservation programs and will provide this data annually to NRCS, or on an agreed upon schedule. This information will be compiled along with other young forest management information and used to demonstrate conservation action underway for the GWWA to the USFWS and the US Department of Interior.

In addition, ABC will lead international efforts to develop, implement, and monitor GWWA conservation actions on their wintering grounds to ensure full life-cycle conservation.

Taken together, the activities that will be conducted in this project will make significant, measurable contributions to the recovery of at-risk species such as GWWA; increase habitat for American Woodcock and Ruffed Grouse; improve hunting opportunities; and stimulate the logging industry in MN, WI and MI. Most importantly, the project will result in better and more integrated forest age class management across a matrix of public and private lands which will facilitate the recovery of threatened and endangered species. The tremendous leveraged resources and participation in this project by more than a dozen experienced partners including NRCS, federal, state, and county resource agencies, and NGOs make possible a landscape level movement toward diverse, highly productive forest habitats.

4. Detailed application requirements (narrative must not exceed 12 pages, not including forms, maps, and tables).

- a. A detailed map, accompanied by a narrative description of the geographic area covered by the application.** Please see Attached Map
 - i. Describe the location and size of the proposed project area.** This project will take place in northern parts of MN, WI, the Upper Peninsula of MI as well as the northern portion of the Lower Peninsula of MI. Within these forested regions, activities are

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targeted to be conducted in 56 counties. Specific attention will be given properties within the established GWWA and American Woodcock Focal Areas (see map) that have tag alder, aspen, jack pine or red oak habitat types as these are all tree species considered good for wildlife as part of young forest habitat. We will target landowners in these counties who own at least 40 acres or more, with landowners who have more than 80 acres preferred as to meet the best management practices of target species.

- ii. Briefly describe the major land uses of the area with special emphasis on the lands that will be included in the project.** Our project will primarily focus on timber and forest management. Secondly we will work with agricultural and recreational land uses. Work may be conducted near wetlands, or near the edges of other open habitat types.
- iii. Briefly describe why the particular area was chosen, including the scientific basis for choosing the area (e.g. the area contains known habitat for an endangered or listed species), and why targeted conservation in this area will contribute to national priorities:** Fifty-six counties targeted for this project fall within GWWA Focal Areas as established by the Golden-winged Warbler Working Group and American Woodcock focal areas in the Great Lakes as determined by the Wildlife Management Institute. These areas are known nesting and breeding grounds for GWWA and American Woodcock. Studies have shown that an increase in suitable early successional habitat around known breeding and nesting ground can increase breeding pairs and productivity; resulting in increased population of target species that are of national priority.
- iv. Outline on the map or describe in the application the areas that need conservation treatment and identify the number of acres involved.** On the attached maps we have identified the initial focal counties where we will work, as well as the counties for expansion. Additionally, we have identified the location of GWWA Focal Areas on this map. A second map of American Woodcock focal regions has been included as well. As demonstrated by the map, our work will fall principally in the GWWA or American Woodcock Focal Areas. Our project is targeting 11,800 acres of private lands and 52,000 acres of public or other non-NRCS program private lands within this geographic region.

- b. Describe the consideration of cost-effectiveness of the proposed approach in terms of achieving the stated goals of the project. Briefly describe whether and how the application contributes to the efficient use of funding compared to at least one alternative approach, which may include an “as is” scenario describing the cost-effectiveness of current program delivery in the project area. The partner is encouraged to consider other alternative approaches to achieving the stated goals of the project and the relative cost-effectiveness of these approaches, and why the approach described in the application was chosen.**

We expect that the proposed methods will 1) increase GWWA populations (reducing the likelihood of an ESA listing and 2) allow for landowners to obtain CCAAs or Safe Harbor agreements via Section 10 if the species is listed. Under scenario 1, ESA regulations that increase costs or lower profitability will be avoided. Under scenario 2, economic activity will still be allowed post-listing. The “as-is” scenario is NO ACTION (e.g., no NRCS programs explicitly

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address the needs of GWWA). In 2012, NRCS ranked 5th among all federal agencies in ESA expenditures and 2nd among land management agencies (only slightly behind USFWS). Additional listed species in NRCS project areas will increase these costs. Our informed prediction is that increased costs due to listing would be at least an order of magnitude more costly than proactive conservation programs that effectively improve a species population baseline and address major habitat issues.

c. A description of how the partners will collaborate to achieve the objectives of the partnership agreement and the roles, responsibilities, and capabilities of the partners.

ABC has taken a leadership role advancing the conservation of the GWWA and other young forest species in the upper Great Lakes. Currently we have one private lands forester and a public lands forester in MN, and a private lands coordinator in WI who is helping to coordinate the Wisconsin Young Forest Partnership. These staff have established relationships with many partners who are interested and active in the management of young forest habitat in MN, WI and MI. These staff along with additional hired staff and the staff of partners will work together to ensure the implementation of the activities defined in this project. Entities that will assist with private lands work as they have proven experience in working with private landowners, including industrial forest lands, or have experience with the development and implementation of best management practices and NRCS practices include: ABC, Pheasants Forever, Ruffed Grouse Society, National Wild Turkey Federation, USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN-DNR), Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WI-DNR) Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP), and Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. Additionally partners who will work on public lands habitat management based on their proven experience in implementation of young forest habitat and forest management on public lands include the following: US Fish and Wildlife Service, Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge, Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge, MN-DNR, Woodcock Minnesota, Beltrami County, MN, The Conservation Fund, Wildlife Management Institute, WI-DNR, US Forest Service; Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, Ruffed Grouse Society, Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association, Wisconsin County Forests Association (in particular Price, Douglas, Florence, Bayfield, Lincoln, Talor and Marathon counties), The Forestland Group, Pheasants Forever, National Wild Turkey Federation, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Louisiana-Pacific Corporation, Michigan Tech University, Indiana University of Pennsylvania Resource Institute. Finally, American Bird Conservancy, state natural resource agencies of MN, WI and MI, and IUP have experience in conducting wildlife research and will be the entities to conduct this work.

d. A description of the project timeline, not to exceed 5 years in length, and a project implementation schedule which details when the potential partner anticipates finishing the project and submitting annual reports and final report.

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Activity	FY2015				FY2016				FY2017				FY2018			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4												
Conduct outreach to Private Land Owners	x	x	x		x	x	x		x	x	x		x	x		
Direct communication with landowners including field visits and providing technical assistance.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
Facilitate NRCS application / contract process		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Implement NRCS practices on 11,8000 acres				x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Acquire 1505 acres of habitat	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x								
Conduct restoration on public lands in MN, WI and MI on minimum of 52,000 acres	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Conduct resource manager training programs		x	x	x		x	x	x		x	x	x				
Conduct Habitat and Avian Monitoring			x	x	x			x	x	x		x	x	x		x
Annual Reporting				x				x				x				x
Final Reporting																x

- e. **A listing and description of the conservation activity plans, conservation practices, enhancements, and other partner activities to be implemented during the project timeframe and the general sequence of implantation of the project. Include TA efforts that will be made by the partner and those that the partner requests NRCS provide using eligible approved conservation practices and enhancements. Describe any activities that are innovative or include outcome-based performance measures implemented by the partner.**

This project is focused on providing habitat for at-risk species through the implementation of management practices for young forest that are based on the Golden-winged Warbler Best Management Practices as published by the Golden-winged Warbler Working Group and its member partner. We will implement NRCS practices that are compatible with the GWWA BMPs on a total of 11,800 acres of private lands in MN, WI and MI using NRCS technical and financial assistance programs by 2019. ABC and its partners are leveraging NRCS dollars at a greater than 1:1 rate to implement the same practices on public lands and other private lands to meet the same resource concern of habitat management for the recovery of at-risk wildlife species.

The basic implementation plan for this project is to identify possible landowners within the focal counties of this project, conduct a direct mail outreach effort to those landowners, and then provide capacity to work with interested and qualifying landowners to develop Conservation Activity Plans (CAP) or other stewardship plans, enroll them in the project and facilitate habitat management on private lands. Coordinated with this effort will be trainings for wildlife resource managers and an integrated young forest habitat management effort on public lands of different ownerships to facilitate improvement of the quantity and quality of habitat available for at-risk wildlife in MN, WI and MI.

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The GWWA, a species that has experienced a population decline range-wide of 3.1% per year over the last 40 years, is the focus of a large national and international conservation effort being led by American Bird Conservancy and a wide range of partners. The decline of this species can be attributed in part to the loss of diverse forest age class distribution, including the loss of young forest due to forest maturation. The GWWA needs young forest, or portions of older forest along young forest edges, for nesting. Additionally, GWWA needs older forest with a structurally diverse understory for foraging and rearing young once they have fledged from the nest. This diversity of habitat needs makes the GWWA a species whose conservation and management benefits a wide range of wildlife species. In particular this work will also improve habitat and increase populations for key game species such as American Woodcock, Ruffed Grouse, black bear, and white-tailed deer and other species important to landowners. In Wisconsin there is a particular need for aspen management on private lands as nearly 40% of all aspen is in the greater than 40 year age class on private lands. There is a great need for regenerating new young aspen in WI.

Improved forest management will also contribute to Wisconsin's new "D-Map" program and provide Wisconsin landowners with an opportunity to finance private land habitat management that meets the deer management goals of the state. Activities of our project will also help stimulate the logging industry in areas of MN, WI and MI where these industries have lagged in the last decade, providing a wider economic benefit to the counties within the project.

NRCS practices that benefit early successional habitat (young forest) management for the benefit of wildlife have already been established through the EQIP Program and are the practices that will be used in this project. Management activities conducted during this project to benefit at-risk wildlife will include alder shearing and other brush management, aspen harvesting, prescribed fire, fencing to deter deer access, prescribed grazing, upland maintenance, forest site preparation and forest protection. Technical Assistants (Foresters and Habitat Coordinators) along with Public Lands managers will be trained in the implementation GWWA BMPs as to implement the mentioned management practices to best provide urgently needed habitat for at-risk wildlife species. This training also includes training of foresters and other Technical Assistance providers in Michigan with the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. The training will provide direct benefits to, and will work together well with the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development RCPP proposal entitled "Initiative for Upper Great Lakes Healthy Forests".

As part of this project we will also be encouraging brush shearing and roller chopping as an innovative way to create early successional habitat across the landscape. Roller chopping does not extract a marketable product and is not being done large scale to create young forest habitat; therefore it requires incentives to motivate landowners to use this practice. This project enables landowners to manage this type of habitat so that it will benefit the target suite of species. ABC and its partners will provide NRCS additional technical guidance through "technical notes" on the implementation of some EQIP practice standards to ensure that the scientifically established best management practices for wildlife are properly achieved.

It is becoming widely recognized that single site management or single agency management of habitat for wildlife is incapable of properly meeting the full habitat management needs for at-risk wildlife. As such this project is taking the **innovative approach** of bringing together public land management with private

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land management to create a dynamic forest landscape to meet the population needs of at-risk wildlife. This approach of balancing forest age class distribution across a landscape will also help to keep common wildlife common. Thus a central objective of this project is to integrate, communicate, monitor and coordinate the activities undertaken through this project at a landscape scale with private landowners, country forest managers, state wildlife agencies, and the US Forest Service and USFWS. This integrated approach to forest management is necessary for long term healthy forests and wildlife population management.

Implementing this initiative will also advance the established goals of prior and existing NRCS initiatives such as the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, the Lake Superior Landscape and the Young Forest Initiative.

f.g. A description of the plans for assessing and evaluating the results of the project along with plans for reporting on progress to achieve the objectives.

To monitor the success of this project, ABC and project staff will track and provide annual reports to NRCS on a negotiated time table:

- Number of landowners contacted with outreach
- Number of direct landowner contacts post outreach
- Number of landowner site visits
- Number of conservation plans developed
- Number of NRCS applications submitted
- Number of projects contracted
- Number of acres treated with a given core practice

We will also ensure the implementation of leveraged activities which are being conducted to address the same resource concern of at-risk species habitat in MN, WI and MI via forest restoration and habitat management for the recovery of threatened and endangered species. To that end we will monitor:

- Number of acres treated for young forest habitat using GWWA BMPs by partner
- Number of acres acquired for protection and management for at-risk wildlife
- Number of resource professional trainings conducted

As part of the national initiative to recover GWWA populations and other young forest at-risk species, IUP, a leader in GWWA conservation, has developed and is field testing scientific protocols to monitor post-treatment response by GWWA, American Woodcock and other at-risk species. Monitoring results from the 2014 field season have shown that implementation of young forest BMPs have been very successful in increasing breeding territories for GWWA; occupancy by GWWA in high numbers; and increasing the number of young produced and fledged. ABC, IUP and project partners will implement this protocol during the project in MN, WI and MI to evaluate response of at-risk species to treatments and practices implemented during this project.

ABC and IUP are also in the process of developing a Golden-winged Warbler Registry that will allow for the collection and management of geospatial and acreage data (to Township and Range for private lands

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projects). This breeding range wide data base of information on young forest is needed for proper landscape scale forest management across landownership and administrative boundaries. Having this information will allow us to help guide private and public long term forest management in a new and innovative way in to the future.

h. Identify potential criteria to be used by NRCS to evaluate and rank agricultural producers or landowners RCPP program applications in the project areas that are linked to NRCS' overarching metrics for judging the success of the program: solutions, contributions, innovation and participation. Those criteria should reflect local priorities in addressing the primary resource concern as well as local considerations for conservation implementation. For all applications, potential partners should collaborate with the appropriate NRCS State Conservationist(s) or his or her designee to develop these criteria.

Due to the fact that ABC is already working with NRCS in MN and WI to implement GWWA BMPs for improved young forest habitat management, both states have a Young Forest Ranking Tool. We will work with State Conservationists as well as District Conservationists and hired Technical Assistance staff in the regions where we will be working as part of this project to review and standardize the Young Forest Application Ranking Summary that will be used in MN, WI, and MI. The standardized ranking system will serve as an evaluation tool to rank landowner applications. Included within the Ranking Summary are questions that relate to National Priorities such as Water Quality and Water Conservation, Clean Air and Soil Health, Habitat Conservation and Healthy Plan and Animal Communities, and State Issues such as proximity to other early successional habitat or continuous forest and proximity to known GWWA or American Woodcock populations, as well as Local Issues such as size of the treatment area, cover type to be treated, resulting residual conditions, and percent of property to be treated. As there are particular locations where management of early successional habitat for GWWA and American Woodcock converges with the management of habitat for Sharp-tailed Grouse, properties that include the possibility of improving Sharp-tailed Grouse habitat, while improving habitat for GWWA and American Woodcock at the same, will also be eligible for this program. Criteria will be established to identify those particular properties that may benefit Sharp-tailed Grouse habitat.

i. An estimate of the percentage of eligible producers and landowners in the project area who may participated in the project, along with an estimate of the total number of participants located in the project area. Include a description of how the partner will provide outreach to producers. Include a description of the partner or partners history of working with landowners to address the conservation objectives to be achieved, any barriers expected in working with landowners to adopt conservation, and how those barriers will be addressed. How will the partner encourage participation to guarantee success of the project? Describe how the partner will assist producers in applying for NRCS programs, including acting on the behalf of a producer at the producer's request.

Landowners will be identified by looking at the tax rolls for NIPF in the focal counties identified for the project. Landowners who have 40 - 80 acres or more will be identified as possible clients. A review of land uses on possible client properties will be conducted using LANDSAT, USGS data, Google Earth, and recent aerial infrared photos. We estimate that 30,000 landowners across the 56 counties of this project will be identified as possible clients that could have proper habitat conditions. These landowners

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will receive a targeted mailing presenting information about wildlife, forest management and NRCS programs as to attract landowners to this program. Follow up letters will be issued up to three times in an attempt to establish communication with possible clients. The letters that we will use have proven to be successful in attracting landowners to NRCS programs in PA, MN and WI. The letter format has been developed in conjunction with the DJ Case and Associates, an environmental communications company with a strong record of conservation success.

For those clients who show interest in the program, the hired technical assistance (TA) staff, both foresters and habitat coordinators, will begin to contact the clients and establish the interests of the client and their property conditions. An analysis using NRCS application questions will be conducted to determine if they are eligible for the program. If a client is eligible, the hired TA staff will coordinate a site visit, conduct a property assessment and talk with the landowner to provide technical assistance in developing a management plan suitable to meet the needs of the this program and to meet the recommended best management practices for the GWWA. The TA staff will develop the management plans and work with the landowners to follow through with the application process. For landowners that have their applications approved, the Habitat Coordinator will help facilitate contracting with the landowner and with resource management companies who could perform and execute the contractual management actions. The TA staff will oversee work conducted by resource management companies to ensure compliance and proper execution of management actions to meet the terms of the contracts.

j. If applicable, how the project will help producers in the need to meet natural resource regulatory requirements. Briefly describe the regulation or potential regulation; the impact or potential impact of the regulation on producers, including any economic impact or impact on production; what mechanism (Statelevel or “safe-harbor”, agreement or Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances) will allow project activities to be considered under the regulation.

Implementing GWWA BMPs for healthy forest management will result in a population increase of the GWWA, a species which has shown a precipitous range-wide decline. Currently the GWWA is a species being evaluated for listing under the Endangered Species Act. The work of this project will be presented to the USFWS to be considered during their evaluation of conservation actions occurring or planned that benefit the GWWA. This pro-active conservation effort may help influence the evaluation of the petition and contribute to the decision to deny the petition. A decision by USFWS to list the GWWA would create regulatory requirements for landowners of all types. This project is working to avoid the need for such future regulation.

k. A description of any requested adjustments of terms, by program, with an explanation of why the adjustment of terms is needed in order to achieve the objectives of the projects. If a partner is requesting specific program flexibilities that depend on detailed participant or project information, the application must provide the needed information. Partners should contact the appropriate NRCS State Conservationist, or his or her designee, to determine the specific information that may be required. No adjustments are being requested.

l. Will the project request an alternative funding arrangement? No.

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m. Does the proposal include any activity not covered by one of the NRCS conservation practice standards? No.

n. Certifications: SF-424B must be included.

o. Must have DUNS Number, and enroll in SAM. ABC DUNS # is 94-304-7225. ABC is enrolled in SAM.

ASSURANCES - NON-CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0040), Washington, DC 20503.

PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED BY THE SPONSORING AGENCY.

NOTE: Certain of these assurances may not be applicable to your project or program. If you have questions, please contact the awarding agency. Further, certain Federal awarding agencies may require applicants to certify to additional assurances. If such is the case, you will be notified.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I certify that the applicant:

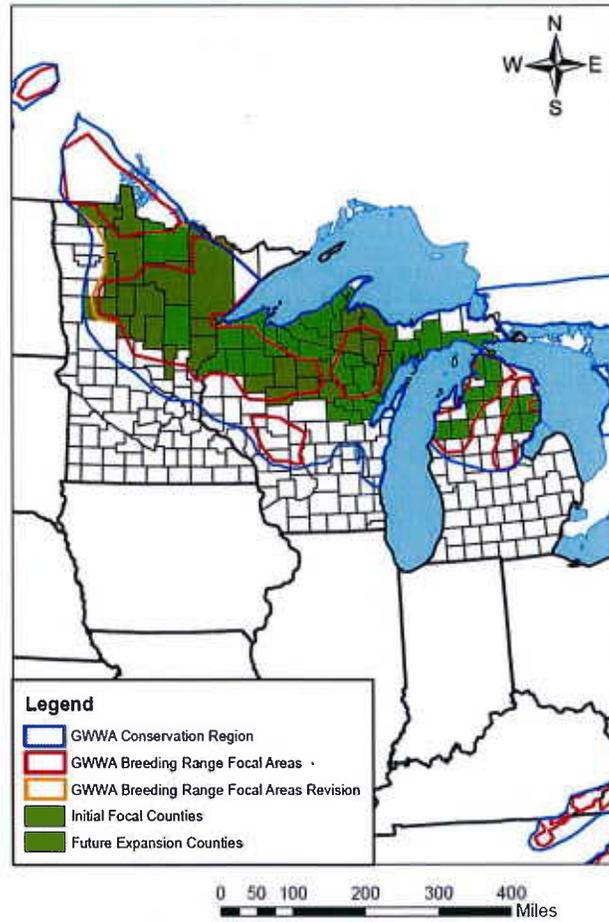
1. Has the legal authority to apply for Federal assistance and the institutional, managerial and financial capability (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal share of project cost) to ensure proper planning, management and completion of the project described in this application.
2. Will give the awarding agency, the Comptroller General of the United States and, if appropriate, the State, through any authorized representative, access to and the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the award; and will establish a proper accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards or agency directives.
3. Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain.
4. Will initiate and complete the work within the applicable time frame after receipt of approval of the awarding agency.
5. Will comply with the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. §§4728-4763) relating to prescribed standards for merit systems for programs funded under one of the 19 statutes or regulations specified in Appendix A of OPM's Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration (5 C.F.R. 900, Subpart F).
6. Will comply with all Federal statutes relating to nondiscrimination. These include but are not limited to: (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin; (b) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. §§1681-1683, and 1685-1686), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; (c) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. §794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps; (d) the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§6101-6107), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; (e) the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-255), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of drug abuse; (f) the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-616), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of alcohol abuse or alcoholism; (g) §§523 and 527 of the Public Health Service Act of 1912 (42 U.S.C. §§290 dd-3 and 290 ee-3), as amended, relating to confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse patient records; (h) Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. §§3601 et seq.), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing; (i) any other nondiscrimination provisions in the specific statute(s) under which application for Federal assistance is being made; and, (j) the requirements of any other nondiscrimination statute(s) which may apply to the application.
7. Will comply, or has already complied, with the requirements of Titles II and III of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646) which provide for fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced or whose property is acquired as a result of Federal or federally-assisted programs. These requirements apply to all interests in real property acquired for project purposes regardless of Federal participation in purchases.
8. Will comply, as applicable, with provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. §§1501-1508 and 7324-7328) which limit the political activities of employees whose principal employment activities are funded in whole or in part with Federal funds.

9. Will comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. §§276a to 276a-7), the Copeland Act (40 U.S.C. §276c and 18 U.S.C. §874), and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. §§327-333), regarding labor standards for federally-assisted construction subagreements.
10. Will comply, if applicable, with flood insurance purchase requirements of Section 102(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-234) which requires recipients in a special flood hazard area to participate in the program and to purchase flood insurance if the total cost of insurable construction and acquisition is \$10,000 or more.
11. Will comply with environmental standards which may be prescribed pursuant to the following: (a) institution of environmental quality control measures under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190) and Executive Order (EO) 11514; (b) notification of violating facilities pursuant to EO 11738; (c) protection of wetlands pursuant to EO 11990; (d) evaluation of flood hazards in floodplains in accordance with EO 11988; (e) assurance of project consistency with the approved State management program developed under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. §§1451 et seq.); (f) conformity of Federal actions to State (Clean Air) Implementation Plans under Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act of 1955, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§7401 et seq.); (g) protection of underground sources of drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended (P.L. 93-523); and, (h) protection of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (P.L. 93-205).
12. Will comply with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. §§1271 et seq.) related to protecting components or potential components of the national wild and scenic rivers system.
13. Will assist the awarding agency in assuring compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. §470), EO 11593 (identification and protection of historic properties), and the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. §§469a-1 et seq.).
14. Will comply with P.L. 93-348 regarding the protection of human subjects involved in research, development, and related activities supported by this award of assistance.
15. Will comply with the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act of 1966 (P.L. 89-544, as amended, 7 U.S.C. §§2131 et seq.) pertaining to the care, handling, and treatment of warm blooded animals held for research, teaching, or other activities supported by this award of assistance.
16. Will comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. §§4801 et seq.) which prohibits the use of lead-based paint in construction or rehabilitation of residence structures.
17. Will cause to be performed the required financial and compliance audits in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and OMB Circular No. A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations."
18. Will comply with all applicable requirements of all other Federal laws, executive orders, regulations, and policies governing this program.
19. Will comply with the requirements of Section 106(g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, as amended (22 U.S.C. 7104) which prohibits grant award recipients or a sub-recipient from (1) Engaging in severe forms of trafficking in persons during the period of time that the award is in effect (2) Procuring a commercial sex act during the period of time that the award is in effect or (3) Using forced labor in the performance of the award or subawards under the award.

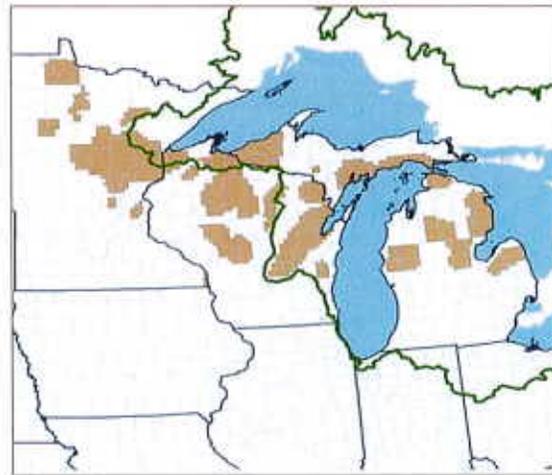
SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED CERTIFYING OFFICIAL	TITLE
	Merrie S. Morrison
APPLICANT ORGANIZATION	DATE SUBMITTED
American Bird Conservancy	9/30/14

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MAP 1. Geographic area of project, including focal counties, counties of expansion and GWWA Focal Areas



MAP 2. American Woodcock Focal Areas



ABC RCPP Grant Proposal: GWWA Habitat Focus Areas with State Congressional Districts

