

# Western Big Game Migration and Connectivity Fund

FOUNDATION FOR AMERICA'S PUBLIC LANDS | BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

## Basic Information:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages millions of acres of priority big game habitats throughout the West, yet continued pressure from prolonged drought, uncharacteristic wildfire, invasive species, expanding human development and infrastructure, among other stressors, threaten key wildlife migrations. In support of [Secretarial Order 3362](#) (SO3362), the BLM made funding available to western state game and fish agencies to identify priority migration corridors and needed interventions to support thriving populations of pronghorn, mule deer and elk. The Foundation for America's Public Lands, the official Congressionally-chartered partner of the BLM, is now opening a funding opportunity to address threats to habitat and movement in State-identified priority areas that fall within the sagebrush biome and support the multiple-use and sustained yield mission of the BLM. This program is made possible through funding from the BLM.

## Key Dates

Applicant Webinar: 3pm ET/1pm MT on December 2, 2025

Webinar Recording Link: [FAPL | BLM - Applicant Webinar](#)

Proposals Due: 11:59pm ET/9:59pm MT February 4, 2026

Awards Announced: April 2026

## Eligibility:

- Eligible applicants include state government agencies, non-profit 501(c) organizations, local governments, municipal governments, tribal governments and organizations. To be competitive, applicant organizations must demonstrate capacity and experience commensurate with the scale of the project being proposed and the funding being requested. Individuals, federal government agencies, and for-profit entities are not eligible to apply for grant funding.
- All applicants must be registered in SAM.gov. During the SAM.gov registration the entity will obtain their Unique Entity Identifier (UEI). The SAM.gov registration process can take several months. If your organization is not already registered in SAM.gov, begin the registration process as soon as possible.
- Applications must include a letter of support or acknowledgement from both the relevant State Fish and Wildlife agency (Director preferred) and the relevant field or district office of the BLM.

## Priorities:

This funding opportunity seeks to fulfill the vision of SO3362 to improve the management of big game migration corridors and winter range habitats. Competitive projects will benefit 1) the

multiple-use and sustained yield mandate of BLM lands; 2) sagebrush ecosystems; and 3) State priorities for managing big game species. Projects may benefit multiple species but must specifically address needs for pronghorn, mule deer, or elk as identified in a [State Action Plan](#). Projects should be designed and implemented in coordination with a field or district office of the BLM.

Projects should address at least one of the following resource concerns:

- **Connectivity:** Projects which improve big game movements and increase access to core habitats and migration corridors. Activities may include removal of derelict or unnecessary fencing, modification of existing fencing to wildlife-friendly specifications, promotion of virtual fencing, or addition of exclusionary fencing to guide wildlife to over and underpass crossings.
- **Habitat:** Projects which restore seasonal winter range habitats for ungulates. Activities may include treatment for invasive species (e.g., woody encroachment or invasive annual grasses), reseeding native sagebrush seed mixes, direct post-fire restoration or preventative fuels treatment.
- **Water Availability:** Projects which address water shortages and habitat degradation from prolonged drought. Activities may include installation of guzzlers or artificial water structures (including plans for long term maintenance), low-tech process-based restoration in wet meadow systems, or integrated temporary artificial water structures with stream restoration.

Projects will be expected to select at least two performance metrics (available [here](#)) to measure progress against through the life of the grant. Applicants may also suggest their own performance metric(s) if additional outcomes of grant activities are not captured in the list provided.

#### Geographic Focus:

All projects must be located (1) within state-identified priority areas as identified under SO3362, (2) in sagebrush habitat (core sagebrush habitats preferred: [Core Sagebrush Areas map](#) – PDF; [ScienceBase](#) – Shapefile), and (3) on BLM-managed lands and waters. Projects can be multi-jurisdictional if matching contributions cover all components of the project which are not located on BLM-managed lands and waters.

Applications should include a PDF map which shows the project location preferably overlaid with the relevant state priority area, sagebrush habitat, and BLM-managed lands and water. Maps which also include collar data are preferred.

#### Award Information:

The Foundation anticipates awarding approximately \$600,000 with this grant cycle. Award sizes will range but requests should not exceed \$250,000. The Foundation expects to grant between 4-6 awards this cycle. Projects are expected to provide a 25% non-federal cost-share (\$0.25 of

matching contributions for every \$1 requested). Larger match ratios and matching funds being contributed by multiple partners will be more competitive. Requests to waive the non-federal matching contribution expectation may be considered on a case-by-case basis. If you would like to request a match waiver, please contact the Program Officer, Daley Burns (daley.burns@americaslands.org).

Non-federal Matching Contributions must be:

- Verifiable from the grantee's records
- Not included as contributions for any other Federal award
- Reasonable and necessary for accomplishment of project or program objectives
- Committed directly to the project and used within the period of performance
- Allowable under OMB 2 CFR 200 Cost Principles

Federal Matching Contributions\* must be:

- Verifiable from the grantee's records
- Reasonable and necessary for accomplishment of project or program objectives
- Committed directly to the project and used within the period of performance

*\*While they do not count toward the 25% non-federal matching requirement, applicants are encouraged to include federal contributions to demonstrate the full scope and support of the project or to meet the match requirement of a non-federal program contribution.*

#### Evaluation Criteria:

Proposals will be evaluated based on the review criterion listed below.

Submitted letters of support from partners, stakeholders, locally- or regionally-based organizations, and the BLM. Support must be demonstrated from the relevant state fish and wildlife agency(ies).

Mission and objectives, including achievable project goals and how they align with State Action Plan and BLM priorities

Technical approach, measurable indicators and milestones necessary to report on performance measures.

Long term monitoring and evaluation plan to ensure sustainability of project interventions  
Strategy for public communication efforts or a willingness to contribute to communication efforts lead by the Foundation and/or BLM

Budget line items are allowable, allocable, reasonable in price, and appropriate for the level of effort needed to accomplish the project

Ratio of non-federal matching contributions to requested amount – minimum 25% non-federal cost share expected but higher ratios of matching contributions are encouraged and will be evaluated more favorably

Secured necessary permits and approvals including NEPA / NHPA (or plan to secure compliance documentation)

How to Apply:

Applications must be submitted in the Foundation's grant portal. To request access to the portal, fill out your organization's information [here](#). For more information on how to navigate the online application portal, please view our Guidance Document [here](#). All materials needed to submit for the application are available in the grant portal, however a copy of the proposal narrative questions can be accessed [here](#).

Applications must include a letter of support or acknowledgement from both the relevant State Fish and Wildlife agency (Director preferred) and the relevant field or district office of the BLM. For assistance identifying the appropriate BLM office, please see the [BLM National ADMU Administrative Unit Boundary Polygons and Office Points - Overview](#).

Applicants are encouraged to reach out to the Program Officer, Daley Burns ([daley.burns@americaslands.org](mailto:daley.burns@americaslands.org)) to discuss project ideas before submitting.