

Aquatic Invasive Species Research Grants

Fiscal Year 2026–2027 Request for Proposals

Project Statement Guidelines

Project statements for proposals to TPWD for consideration under this grant program must follow the bulleted guidelines below. Failure to follow format instructions or omission of required information/documentation will result in the application package being returned and could preclude consideration of the proposal for funding. It is recommended that proposals not exceed 10 pages, not including references, CVs, and letters of collaboration; shorter proposals will be accepted but should include adequate detail for proposal evaluation. **Project proposals are due April 30, 2025.**

Include the following sections in your Project Statement:

- **Project Title.**
- **Principal Investigator and Co-Investigators.** Include title, name, affiliation, full contact information and a brief description of qualifications for the Principal Investigator, identifying them as such, and for each Co-Investigator. Please include address for the PI. Note that a separate curriculum vitae (may be abbreviated to pertinent experience and publications) is also required for the PI and co-investigators as part of the overall proposal package and may be referenced here following a brief description of qualifications.
- **Statement of Need.** Provide a brief description of what you will investigate. Identify which research priority topic(s) from the request for proposals (copying priority topics verbatim is recommended) is addressed by this project and clearly describe the project connection to the topic(s). Identify which priority species is being addressed, if applicable. Explain why the project is being undertaken, including any relevant background information, and which information gaps will be filled by the proposed research findings. Reference pertinent literature as applicable.
- **Objectives.** Explain what is to be accomplished during the period of the grant pursuant to the stated need. Identify a recognizable endpoint that is quantifiable or verifiable; good study objectives are very specific and measurable and better allow TPWD to evaluate scope of inference, impact to TPWD, and design that is ultimately proposed. One way to improve an objective is to state the desired outcome rather than the process.
- **Scope of Inference.** Describe the anticipated scope of inference of this research.
 - True scope of inference: Should clearly define the spatial and temporal “population” from which one will draw the sample. This will reflect the objectively true sample frame from which the experimental units will be randomly selected. In cases of a management evaluation, if there will be no random selection, the true scope is the experimental unit during that time period.

- Anticipated scope of inference: This is the population that the researcher wants to draw inferences on. Oftentimes, the anticipated scope is larger than the true scope because the PI believes that the responses they see are generalizable to a larger population. For example, while one reservoir may be used within the actual experiment, there may be reasons to believe those findings could apply to other reservoirs. Whereas the true scope is objectively defined, the anticipated scope is routinely subjective, and hence, up for debate.
- **Methods.** Explain how the objective(s) will be accomplished. Include and describe methods for specific procedures or tasks, citing pertinent literature as needed. Description of methods should be brief but adequately detailed on how the project will be implemented and designed to answer or address project objectives. Components should include a brief description of study design, including study sites/location (maps encouraged), associated level of replication, summary of data collection and metrics of interest, and anticipated data processing and analysis.
- **Expected Results and Benefits.** Explain the results or benefits of the proposed project focusing on conservation or applied management implications. In addition, describe the intended type of publication outlet for the research.
- **Milestone Schedule.** Timetable for initiation and completion of procedures outlined in the “Approach” section and any key deliverables. Note that reporting dates will be set by TPWD and do not need to be included in this section; these will include brief monthly updates (email), year 1 progress report, and final technical report. Projects (i.e., expenditures) must be completed by August 31, 2027 with final reports due by September 30, 2027. Awards will begin no earlier than September 1, 2025 with all grants terminating no later than August 31, 2027; note that no-cost extensions are not possible with this funding source. Please note that the contracting process may take several months. Each contract will include a pre-award clause authorizing spending as of September 1, 2025 at the institution’s risk. However, if spending under a pre-award clause is not acceptable to your institution, you should take this delayed start into account in your timeline.
- **Collaborators.** Identify any additional collaborators (name and affiliation) for this project. **For each non-TPWD collaborator, please provide a letter of support indicating intent to participate in the project.**
- **Literature Cited.**
- **Budget/Budget Justification.** Using the budget template spreadsheet provided, provide budget justification and signed budget as a PDF. It is preferred for this information to be included in the same PDF with the proposal, curriculum vitae, and letters of support. Please also provide the Excel spreadsheet with your submission as the PDF print may be small. Please note the budget signature requirements in the spreadsheet and ensure signatures from the appropriate individuals (e.g., office of sponsored research) are obtained.

Proposal submission contact information:***Submit proposals via email to -***

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Aquatic Invasive Species Research Coordination Committee Chair

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