

# SONORAN JOINT VENTURE

## 2008 AWARDS PROGRAM REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS



### GENERAL INFORMATION

#### **Awards Program Objective**

The objective of the Sonoran Joint Venture (SJV) Awards Program is to support the investigation and conservation of birds and their habitats within SJV boundaries by providing funds through a competitive program.

#### **Project Eligibility**

Proposals for projects that support the SJV mission and objectives are eligible for funding. This includes: habitat management, research, monitoring, education, community involvement, outreach, ecotourism, and training.

#### **Available Funding**

The amount of funding available each year varies based on contributions from Congressional appropriations and partners. SJV Awards range from \$1,000-\$10,000, with an average of \$5,000. Any proposals with budgets that exceed \$10,000 will not be considered for funding from the SJV Awards Program, although we will maintain the proposal on file in the event that an appropriate funding opportunity arises.

#### **General Project Considerations**

1. The Awards Program proposals do not require partnerships, but proposals that have partnerships are encouraged. Partnerships that include new partners to the SJV, as well as those that include nontraditional partners, are especially encouraged. Partners may include those contributing funds, in-kind services, land base, technical assistance, coordination, etc.
2. Proposals must address the bird conservation goals and objectives of the SJV and/or the four major bird initiatives (the [SJV Conservation Plan](http://sonoranjv.org/planning/cons_plan/SJVConsPlan.html); available at [http://sonoranjv.org/planning/cons\\_plan/SJVConsPlan.html](http://sonoranjv.org/planning/cons_plan/SJVConsPlan.html), the [North American Waterfowl Management Plan](#), the [Partners in Flight Landbird Conservation Plan](#), the [National Shorebird Conservation Plan](#), and/or the [North American Waterbird Conservation Plan](#); available at <http://sonoranjv.org/planning/initiatives.html>). Grant seekers should refer to the priority birds in the SJV Conservation Plan and the priority habitats and actions selected for the 2008 Awards Cycle (see below). Proposals addressing multiple species are encouraged over single species projects. However, single species projects that address a specific SJV or bird initiative objective will be considered.
3. Projects that address the quantity or quality of priority habitats or threats that impact the distribution and abundance of priority species are encouraged.
4. Projects or segments of projects that include other SJV goals such as monitoring, outreach and/or education, involvement of indigenous or local communities, avitourism, and professional training are encouraged.

#### **Specific Project Considerations**

##### ***CHANGES FOR THE 2008 FUNDING CYCLE***

In addition to a coversheet and proposal, all applicants must also submit four federal forms (SF-424, SF-424A, SF-424B, and Certification for Federal Grants and Cooperative Agreements). For further details please consult Section IV of Project Application Guidelines (page 7 of this document).

### *2008 Awards Program Funding Priorities*

In an effort to focus the Awards Program, the SJV Technical Committee has identified priorities by SJV ecological region for Awards Seekers. Proposals that address these priority habitats and project types are encouraged. Priority bird species can be found in the [SJV Conservation Plan](http://sonoranjv.org/planning/cons_plan/SJVConsPlan.html); available at [http://sonoranjv.org/planning/cons\\_plan/SJVConsPlan.html](http://sonoranjv.org/planning/cons_plan/SJVConsPlan.html).

#### **Arid Borderlands**

##### *Priority Habitats:*

- (1) riparian wetlands
- (2) desert grasslands
- (3) desert scrub

##### *Priority Actions (for all habitats):*

- (1) habitat management, protection, and/or restoration
- (2) monitoring; and
- (3) environmental education and outreach

#### **Mexican Highlands**

##### *Priority Habitats and Actions:*

- (1) **Riparian:** (a) habitat management/restoration; (b) monitoring; and (c) private landowner outreach--provide discussions of management options and cultivate a cooperative atmosphere to promote easements and other tools.
- (2) **Desert Grasslands:** (a) private landowner outreach--provide discussions of management options and cultivate a cooperative atmosphere to promote easements and other tools; and (b) habitat management/restoration.
- (3) **Mixed Conifer/Pine-Oak:** (a) community-based conservation programs; (b) inventory and monitoring; and (c) habitat management, including silviculture, treatments, and monitoring.

#### **California Coasts and Mountains**

##### *Priority Habitats:*

- (1) coastal sage scrublands
- (2) grasslands
- (3) riparian and freshwater wetlands

##### *Priority Actions (for all habitats)*

- (1) Private landowner outreach (provide discussions of management options and cultivate a cooperative atmosphere to promote easements and other tools); and
- (2) Monitoring programs to gather baseline information for conservation groups and landowners to assist in determining management options.

#### **Pacific Lowlands**

##### *Priority Habitats*

- (1) Tropical deciduous forest (scrub deciduous forest)
- (2) Coastal Wetlands
- (3) Islands
- (4) Riparian

##### *Priority Actions (for all habitats):*

- (1) Monitoring and surveys to determine population size, distribution and relative abundance of priority species.

(2) Landowner outreach to preserve existing or restore degraded habitat.

**Timetable**

<i>December 1</i>	Official Request for Proposals made available. Proposals are accepted year-round and are held for evaluation during the review and ranking period.
<i>April 1</i>	All proposals must be received by the SJV no later than midnight, Arizona time.
<i>May 1</i>	SJV Science Coordinator, Education and Outreach Coordinator, and subcommittee of Technical Committee and Education & Outreach Committee will complete the review and ranking process and provide their recommendations to the Management Board for approval.
<i>June 30</i>	All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application no later than this date.

## SUMMARY OF RANKING CONSIDERATIONS



The following outline describes the criteria by which the SJV will rank proposals. In order to achieve a high ranking, proposals should address all of the major headings listed below.

### *I. Biological Value*

- A. Benefits priority bird species as identified by a national bird initiative or by the SJV, secondarily benefits to other taxa.
- B. Benefits priority habitats as identified by the SJV (including # of acres or miles impacted).
- C. Benefits a focus area identified by the SJV.

### *II. Threat*

- A. Addresses threats that impact the quality or quantity of priority species and/or habitats and/or other goals below.
- B. Has threats that are immediate and quantified, especially if the project is not initiated.

### *III. Partnerships*

- A. Includes partnerships (number and type), especially new partners, nontraditional partners.
- B. Documents match ratio.
- C. Describes opportunity–match that might be lost, partners’ needs, other opportunities forgone.

### *IV. Plan Objectives*

- A. Addresses a stated objective or recommendation in an existing bird initiative or SJV plan.

### *V. Other Project Goals*

- A. Addresses a monitoring need.
- B. Addresses an outreach or education need.
- C. Involves an indigenous or local community (including the # of people contacted).
- D. Addresses a professional training need.
- E. Supports avitourism.

# PROJECT APPLICATION GUIDELINES



SJV Awards applications should be 3-5 pages in length, excluding cover sheet, maps, and letters of support. Applications must be submitted electronically to both Robert Mesta ([Robert\\_Mesta@fws.gov](mailto:Robert_Mesta@fws.gov)) and Carol Beardmore ([Carol\\_Beardmore@fws.gov](mailto:Carol_Beardmore@fws.gov)) by 1 April 2008.

If you have further questions about the application process or the Awards Program, contact Carol Beardmore or visit the SJV website (<http://sonoranjv.org/funding/funding01.html>).

## Format

All proposals must be submitted electronically in either PDF or Microsoft Word format. Use a font size no smaller than 11 point and margins of at least 3/4 inch.

All applications must include the following four parts:

### I. Application Cover Sheet

(available at [http://sonoranjv.org/funding/awards\\_program/AwardCoverSheet2008.html](http://sonoranjv.org/funding/awards_program/AwardCoverSheet2008.html)).

### II. Project Details

- *Project Need:* Explain how your project is important for bird conservation in the SJV region.
- *Project Location:* Identify where in the SJV region this project will take place.
  1. For monitoring, restoration, or habitat protection projects that have specific sites identified, please provide information on:
    - Location and ownership of project site(s).
    - Brief description of project site(s), including dominant habitat types.
    - Number of acres that will be affected by this project (restoration and habitat protection projects)
  2. For communications, education, outreach, and ecotourism projects:
    - Identify the primary audience(s) targeted by the project (including ages, ethnicity, and gender, if applicable). If the project targets a specific group (i.e., Scouts, elementary schools, etc.), please list.
    - Describe the geographic area targeted by the project, if any.
- *Project Objectives and Outcomes:* Clearly state one-sentence project objectives in list format. For each objective, include a detailed description of expected outcomes. For all projects, explain how they address SJV and/or other bird initiative plan objectives.
  1. For monitoring, restoration, or habitat protection projects, please address the following:
    - What are the project outcomes/benefits in terms of acres, flora, and fauna? Explain what species of birds are intended to benefit, in what way, and due to which actions.
    - When explaining how the project meets SJV or bird initiative plan objectives, be specific in your answer (i.e., will provide habitat for eight pairs of Yellow-billed Cuckoos, will protect six acres of critical desert grasslands).
    - Explain how you will incorporate your data into a National or International database (i.e., Avian Knowledge Network, eBird, etc.)
  2. For research projects, please address the following:
    - Explain how the proposed project will add to the existing body of knowledge about habitats and/or species.

- Describe the geographic scope and specific habitat type(s) where the results of your study will be applicable (i.e., riparian, tropical deciduous forest, Madrean pine-oak, etc.)
  - Describe management and/or planning applications of this project.
  - Explain how you will incorporate your data into a National or International database (i.e., Avian Knowledge Network, eBird, etc.)
- 3. For communications, education, outreach, and ecotourism projects, please address the following:
  - What is the projected number of people that will be reached?
  - Provide a description of tangible products produced as a result of the project (i.e., brochure, manual, website, teaching materials, etc.)
  - Explain how this project will directly support and raise awareness of bird and habitat conservation or address a communications, education, outreach, or ecotourism objective within the SJV region.
- *Methodology*: Describe the methods you will use to implement your project. This might include a brief description of survey methodology, restoration techniques, or education and outreach strategies.
- *Timetable*: In addition to details about when your project will be implemented throughout the year, please be sure to include projected start and end dates, as well as dates for Interim and Final Report submission. Funds will become available by mid- to late-September of each year, so plan your timetable accordingly.
- *Map of Project Location*: At a minimum, include a large scale map that places your project in the context of the SJV region. Monitoring, restoration, habitat protection, and research projects should also include a detailed map of the project site(s).
- *Evaluation*: Explain how you will measure and evaluate success or effectiveness of project outcomes.
- *List of partners and their contributions*: In addition to a complete list of partners and contributions, please submit letters of support from all partners.

### **III. Budget**

- Projects that have little or no overhead or administrative costs are preferred. Funds requested for salaries must be tied directly to deliverable products, such as plans, databases, reports, on-the-ground work, etc. that address SJV objectives. Salaries of permanent employees coordinating projects may be used for matching funds.
- The SJV Awards Program does not require matching funds, but proposals that include matching funds are encouraged. Matching funds may be cash or in-kind partner contributions and may be from any source (federal or non-federal). There is no required match ratio between SJV and partner contributions.
- Please note whether matching funds are already secured or whether they pending. If still pending, when will you find out if you have been successful? How will you implement your project if you do not receive the pending funds?

The following is sample budget layout.

Budget Categories (such as):	SJV Request	Applicant Contribution	Partner(s) Contribution(s) (monetary)	Partner(s) Contribution(s) (non-monetary value/in-kind)	Total
Salaries					
Materials					
Travel					
Printing					
Other (specify)					
Total					

#### IV. Other Forms

In addition to the coversheet, proposal, budget, and any letters of support from project partners, all Awards applicants must also submit the following forms:

- Standard Form 424
- Standard Form 424A
- Standard Form 424B
- Certifications for Federal Grants and Cooperative Agreements

Links to these forms, along with instructions and an example of SF-424, are available on the SJV website ([http://sonoranjv.org/funding/awards\\_program/AwardSeeker\\_Guidelines.html](http://sonoranjv.org/funding/awards_program/AwardSeeker_Guidelines.html)). Email a PDF or fax these forms to Carol Beardmore ([Carol\\_Beardmore@fws.gov](mailto:Carol_Beardmore@fws.gov) or 602-242-2513). Applicants should keep the originals. All applicants must submit these four forms even if they have previously received an Award from the Sonoran Joint Venture.

#### V. Compliance

Describe what is needed for environmental, cultural, archaeological, and legal compliance. Every successful grantee is responsible for obtaining all necessary permits and permissions and complying with all environmental and cultural/archaeological regulations.