

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE: NOTICE OF INTENT TO AWARD

This announcement is not a request for applications.

This announcement is to provide public notice of the National Park Service's intention to award financial assistance for the following project activities. *Refer to Section 2. Grants.gov Posting Determination.*

ABSTRACT	
Grants.gov Opportunity Number	NPS-18-NERO-0142
Project Title	Taunton Wild and Scenic River Assistance
Recipient	Southeast Region Planning and Economic Development
Anticipated Federal Funding	\$120,000
Non-Federal Cost Share	\$0
Total Anticipated Award Amount	\$120,000
Award Instrument	☐ Task Agreement ☒ Cooperative Agreement ☐ Grant Agreement
Anticipated Period of Performance	August 23, 2017 to August 31, 2022
Legal Authority	PL111-11; 54 USC 101702(a)
CFDA # and Title	15.962 – National Wild and Scenic Rivers System
Single Source Justification Criteria	Unique Qualifications
National Park Service Point of Contact	Patrick Reidy, Grants Management Specialist 215-597-5949

Section 1. Project Summary

PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The objective of the Cooperative Agreement is to stimulate the long-term capacity of the Southeast Region Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD) and the communities that SRPEDD represents to plan for the conservation and management of the Taunton Wild and Scenic River and its natural cultural and recreational resources, consistent with the purposes of Section 11(b)(1) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and as specified in PL111-11, March 30, 2009, which established the Taunton River Stewardship Plan as the approved comprehensive river management plan for the Taunton Wild and Scenic River.

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC PURPOSE

1. The project engages recipients, partners, communities, and/or visitors in shared environmental stewardship.
2. The scientific community and/or researchers external to NPS gains by new knowledge provided through research and related results dissemination of natural, cultural and/or historical resource information.
3. The project assists in the creation, promotion, facilitation, and/or improvement of the public's understanding of natural, cultural, historic, recreational and other aspects of areas such as ecological conservation areas, and state and local parks.

STATEMENT OF WORK SUMMARY

This Agreement replaces P12AC31129 and continues the work program begun under that Agreement to implement the community-based management plan for the Taunton River, a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Through annual work plans developed in collaboration with the Taunton River Stewardship Council, this cooperative agreement serves to implement the action programs and objectives of the Wild and Scenic River designation consistent with the Partnership Wild and Scenic River model, and as specified in PL111-11.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

A. The recipient shall be responsible for the following items under this agreement:

1. Work cooperatively with NPS, the Taunton River Stewardship Council, and its member entities in the development of specific workplans to implement this Agreement and achieve the mutually agreed upon objectives of the Taunton River Stewardship Plan.
2. Work closely with the NPS and Taunton River Stewardship Council to develop specific plans to educate the public about the Taunton River, the Taunton River Stewardship Plan and its recommended actions.
3. Serve as the fiduciary agent for the Taunton River Stewardship Council in the expenditure of funds provided subsequent to this Agreement, and to not expend any funds under this Agreement without approval of the Stewardship Council and NPS.
4. Provide such other support as mutually agreed upon and specified in amendments to this Agreement.

B. The NPS Responsibilities:

- ☐ A task agreement is proposed;
- ☒ A cooperative agreement is proposed;

therefore substantial involvement by NPS is anticipated during the period of performance of this agreement. In support of this agreement NPS will:

1. Provide professional staff to work in partnership with SRPEDD in the design and completion of specific projects and initiatives undertaken as a result of this Agreement.
2. Provide funding as available through appropriations for the execution of agreed upon objectives and the undertaking of mutually agreed upon projects.
3. Recognize SRPEDD participation and give appropriate credit in all efforts which benefit from this collaboration.
4. Review and analyze program results regularly with SRPEDD.
5. Provide such other support as mutually agreed upon and specified in amendments to this Agreement.

- ☐ A grant agreement is proposed, therefore no substantial involvement on the part of the NPS is anticipated for the successful completion of the statement of work. It is anticipated that involvement will be limited to actions related to monitoring project performance and technical assistance at the request of the recipient.

Section 2. Grants.gov Posting Determination

- ☐ The National Park Service intends to award a task agreement under a previously competed or single source justified award.
- ☒ The National Park Service intends to award a single source justified cooperative agreement. *Refer to Section 3 Single Source Justification.*
- ☐ The National Park Service intends to award a single source justified grant agreement. *Refer to Section 3 Single Source Justification.*

Section 3. Single Source Justification

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE SINGLE SOURCE POLICY REQUIREMENTS

National Park Service Policy FAP&P 1443-2015-06 requires a written justification which explains why competition is not practicable. The justification must address one of the following criteria.

In order for an assistance award to be made without competition, the award must satisfy one or more of the following criteria:

- (1) Unsolicited Proposal – The proposed award is the result of an unsolicited assistance application which represents a unique or innovative idea, method, or approach which is not the subject of a current or planned contract or assistance award, but which is deemed advantageous to the program objectives;
- (2) Continuation – The activity to be funded is necessary to the satisfactory completion of, or is a continuation of, an activity presently being funded, for which competition would have a significant adverse effect on the continuity or completion of the activity. A single source on the basis of continuation must demonstrate that competition would result in a substantial duplicate cost to the government that cannot be recovered through competition;
- (3) Legislative intent – The language in the applicable authorizing legislation or legislative history clearly indicates Congress' intent to restrict the award to a particular recipient of purpose;
- (4) Unique Qualifications – The applicant is uniquely qualified to perform the activity based upon a variety of demonstrable factors such as location, property ownership, voluntary support capacity, technical expertise, or other such unique qualifications;
- (5) Emergencies – Program/award where there is insufficient time available (due to a compelling and unusual urgency, or substantial danger to health or safety) for adequate competitive procedures to be followed.

NPS did not solicit full and open competition for this award based the following criteria:

- ☐ Task Agreement issued under previously competed or single source master cooperative agreement per Section 2 above. Single Source Justification not applicable.
- ☐ Unsolicited Proposal ☐ Continuation ☐ Emergency
- ☐ Legislative Intent ☒ Unique Qualifications

Explanation of the proposed recipient's qualifications or the criteria of the proposed project which requires use of the single source criteria cited.

PL111-11 directs the NPS to administer the Taunton Wild and Scenic River designation, and implement the Taunton River Stewardship Plan, in partnership with the Taunton River Stewardship Council. The Council has chosen SRPEDD as the Council member best suited to serve as Fiscal Agent to enter into a cooperative agreement with the NPS as a vehicle for providing financial assistance to the Council in the implementation of the Plan. SRPEDD has an established history of planning for the conservation and wise use of the Taunton River and its natural, cultural, and recreational resources, and is the established agency charged with local planning assistance to the affected Taunton River communities. SRPEDD is thus uniquely qualified as a member of the Council that has been chosen by vote of the Council to serve as its fiscal agent.

Section 4. Department of the Interior Secretary's Priorities

This award will support the following DOI Secretary priority(ies):

Other Key Initiatives:

- ☐ Employment of veterans.
- ☐ Supporting DOI Infrastructure needs.
- ☐ Creating jobs in the American economy.
- ☒ Access to outdoor recreation opportunities.

Priority 1: Creating a conservation stewardship legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt

- ☒ Utilize science to identify best practices to manage land and water resources and adapt to changes in the environment.
- ☐ Examine land use planning process and land use designations that govern public use and access.
- ☐ Revise and streamline the environmental and regulatory review process while maintaining environmental standards.
- ☐ Review DOI water storage, transportation, and distribution systems to identify opportunities to resolve conflicts and expand capacity.
- ☒ Foster relationships with conservation organizations advocating for balanced stewardship and use of public lands.
- ☐ Identify and implement initiatives to expand access to DOI lands for hunting and fishing.
- ☐ Shift the balance towards providing greater public access to public lands over restrictions to access.

Priority 2: Utilizing our natural resources

- ☐ Ensure American energy is available to meet our security and economic needs.
- ☐ Ensure access to mineral resources, especially the critical and rare earth minerals.
- ☐ Refocus timber programs to embrace the entire 'healthy forests' lifecycle.
- ☐ Manage competition for grazing resources.

Priority 3: Restoring trust with local communities

- ☒ Be a better neighbor with those closest to our resources by improving dialogue and relationships with persons and entities bordering our lands.
- ☒ Expand the lines of communication with Governors, state natural resource offices, Fish and Wildlife offices, water authorities, county commissioners, Tribes, and local communities.
- ☐

Priority 4: Ensuring sovereignty means something

- ☐ Support tribal self-determination, self-governance, and sovereignty.
- ☐ Solidify mutual interests between the U.S. and the freely associated states and territories.

Priority 5: Generating additional revenues to support DOI & National interests

- ☐ Ensure that the public receives the full market value for the natural resources produced on Federal lands.
- ☐ Ensure that fees or costs levied for DOI services are reasonable and targeted to achieve cost recovery.
- ☐ Consider the impact of DOI decisions on economic development and job creation.

Priority 6: Protecting our people and the border

- ☐ Actively support efforts to secure our southern border.
- ☐ Ensure DOI law enforcement staffing addresses public safety risks anticipated on DOI land.
- ☐ Promote a "public service" demeanor within our law enforcement community.

Priority 7: Striking a regulatory balance

- ☐ Reduce the administrative and regulatory burden imposed on U.S. industry and the public.
- ☐ Ensure that Endangered Species Act decisions are based on strong science and thorough analysis.

Priority 8: Modernizing our infrastructure

- ☐ Support the White House Public/Private Partnership Initiative to modernize U.S. infrastructure.
- ☐ Remove impediments to infrastructure development and facilitate private sector efforts to construct infrastructure projects serving American needs.
- ☐ Prioritize DOI infrastructure needs to highlight:
 1. Construction of infrastructure;
 2. Cyclical maintenance;
 3. Deferred maintenance.

Priority 9: Reorganizing for the next 100 years

- ☒ Improve alignment and integration of the DOI organizational structure. Redistribute organizational resources (people and funding) to enhance mission achievement and improved public service.
- ☐ Improve organizational alignment with Executive Branch counterparts with major land management assets or influence.

Priority 10: Achieving our goals and leading our team forward

- ☐ Senior executives are expected to provide leadership in achieving goals of the President and the Secretary.
- ☐ The Management Team is expected to:
 1. Ensure cost-effective operations and quality service to the public;
 2. Facilitate organizational cooperation and conflict resolution;
 3. Ensure the workplace environment is conducive to employee productivity and safety;
 4. Hold individuals accountable for actions that violate DOI policies and requirements.

The proposed project does not support any of the DOI Secretary priorities, but the project is being funded for the following reasons: