

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

NOTICE OF INTENT TO AWARD

This Funding Announcement is not a request for applications. This announcement is to provide public notice of the Bureau of Reclamation's intention to fund the following project activities without full and open competition.

ABSTRACT	
Funding Announcement	BOR-MP-17-N005
Project Title	The Nature Conservancy Truckee River Water Resource Protection Program and Restoration Demonstration Sites
Recipient	The Nature Conservancy
Principal Investigator / Program Manager	Mickey Hazelwood, Truckee River Project Director
Anticipated Federal Amount	\$5,332,112.00
Anticipated Non-Federal Amount	\$0.00
New Award or Continuation?	New Award
Anticipated Period of Performance	Approximately 5 years from date of execution
Award Instrument	Grant
Statutory Authority	Public Law 113-79 Title II, Section 2507 (a)(3)(B), (d)(1)(C)(2), (e)(2) and Public Law 108-7 Sec. 207. (a)(b)
CFDA # and Title	15.508 – Providing Water to At-Risk Natural Desert Terminal Lakes
Single Source Justification Criteria Cited	(4) Unique Qualifications
Reclamation Point of Contact	Caryn Hunt DeCarlo \ Crystal Oliver

OVERVIEW

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has ongoing management responsibilities of the Independence Lake Preserve and the lower Truckee River restoration sites that result in benefits to fish, wildlife and plant habitat resources of the Truckee River watershed and Pyramid Lake. The proposed grant is to provide research information on the benefit to land and water managers of prioritizing land management practices, primarily forest hazardous fuels reduction to protect the Truckee River and Pyramid Lake habitat resources, conduct research to inform strategic planning for Truckee River watershed managers and stakeholders, and demonstrate the indicated restoration activities and public/private partnerships necessary. TNC has been involved in ecosystem restoration along the lower Truckee River for more than a decade and has several restoration projects at various stages of completion along more than 11 miles of the river. The maintenance of the restoration demonstration sites would also promote ecosystem health for habitat resources and protection of fish, wildlife, and habitat resources through applicable management activities at the Independence Lake Preserve and the Lower Truckee River restoration sites.

RECIPIENT INVOLVEMENT

The Nature Conservancy agrees to:

- 1) Provide research information on the benefit to land and water managers of prioritizing land management practices, primarily forest hazardous fuels reduction to protect the Truckee River and Pyramid Lake habitat resources.
- 2) Conduct research to inform strategic planning for Truckee River watershed managers and stakeholders, and demonstrate the indicated restoration activities and public/private partnerships.
- 3) Provide maintenance to the restoration demonstration sites in order to promote ecosystem health for habitat resources and protection of fish, wildlife, and habitat resources through applicable management activities at the Independence Lake Preserve and the Lower Truckee River restoration sites.
- 4) Assess the potential for high intensity wildfire in the Truckee River watershed and quantify the impacts to water quality, through targeted restoration activities and costs.
- 5) Draft a strategic plan to address current and future threats to the Truckee River and Pyramid Lake, the plan will provide guidance to The Recipient's ongoing engagement in Truckee River watershed issues; present the plan to appropriate stakeholders, and use the plan as a platform for development of potential partnerships and agreements.
- 6) Implement effective maintenance of TNC's restoration sites to demonstrate proof of concept to stakeholders for both on-the-ground results for water quality and habitat improvements and public/private partnership arrangements for attaining those results.
- 7) Utilize study and plan results, as tools to increase private investment in watershed restoration.

RECLAMATION INVOLVEMENT

No substantial involvement on the part of Reclamation is anticipated for the successful completion of the objectives to be funded by this award. It is anticipated that Reclamation's involvement will consist of standard federal stewardship responsibilities such as monitoring project performance, technical assistance at the request of the recipient, etc.

SINGLE-SOURCE JUSTIFICATION

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR SINGLE SOURCE POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Department of the Interior Policy (505 DM 2) requires a written justification which explains why competition is not practicable for each single-source award. The justification must address one or more of the following criteria as well as discussion of the program legislative history, unique capabilities of the proposed recipient, and cost-sharing contribution offered by the proposed recipient, as applicable.

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, and for which competition would have a significant adverse effect on the continuity or completion of the activity;
- (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, cost-sharing ability if applicable, 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.

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

(4) UNIQUE QUALIFICATIONS

Single Source Justification Description:

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is uniquely qualified to perform the Landscape Conservation Forecast Model (LCF) based watershed study and strategic planning exercise based on several demonstrable factors, including the TNC staff who developed the LCF model will assist on the project and currently convening and responding to the interests of the key stakeholders for the study. TNC's long history on the Truckee River established a partnership for both public and private entities in the watershed. TNC has demonstrated the indicated restoration activities and potential for greater public/private partnership having been engaging in these specific activities for both private and public lands. TNC demonstrates activities to provide information for stakeholders on best conservation activities for the watershed based on their technical expertise of the ongoing management and restoration activities.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

Public law 108-7, Consolidated Appropriations Resolution Sec. 207. Restoration of fish, wildlife, and associated habitats in watersheds of certain lakes.

(a) IN GENERAL.--In carrying out section 2507 of Public Law 107 171, the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation, shall--

...

(b) ADMINISTRATION.--The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation, may provide financial assistance to State and local public agencies, Indian tribes, nonprofit organizations, and individuals to carry out this section and section 2507 of Public Law 107-171.

**Public Law 113-79 Title II, Section 2507, enacted February 7, 2014
Agricultural Act of 2014 (Farm Bill) 'SEC. 2507. TERMINAL LAKES ASSISTANCE.**

Section 2507 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (43 U.S.C. 2211 note; Public Law 107-171) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(3) TERMINAL LAKE.—The term ‘terminal lake’ means a lake and its associated riparian and watershed resources that is—

“(B) considered terminal because it has no natural outlet and is at risk due to a history of consistent Federal assistance to address critical resource conditions, including insufficient water available to meet the needs of the lake, general uses, and water rights.

“(d) WATER ASSISTANCE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation, may use the funds described in subsection (e)(2) to administer and provide financial assistance to carry out this subsection to provide water and assistance to a terminal lake described in subsection (a)(3)(B) through willing sellers or willing participants only—

“(A) to lease water;

“(B) to purchase land, water appurtenant to the land, and related interests; and

“(C) to carry out research, support, and conservation activities for associated fish, wildlife, plant, and habitat resources.

“(2) EXCLUSIONS.—The Secretary of the Interior may not use this subsection to deliver assistance to the Great Salt Lake in Utah, lakes that are considered dry lakes, or other lakes that do not meet the purposes of this section, as determined by the Secretary of the Interior.

“(e) FUNDING.—

“(2) COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2014, the Secretary shall transfer to the ‘Bureau of Reclamation— Water and Related Resources’ account \$150,000,000 from the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation to carry out subsection (d), to remain available until expended.