

This Funding Announcement is not a request for applications. This announcement is to provide public notice of the National Park Service (NPS), intention to fund the following project activities **without** competition.

ABSTRACT	
Funding Announcement	P13AS00017
Project Title	Bird Monitoring in the Southern Plains, Sonoran Desert, and Chihuahuan Desert Networks 2013-2014
Recipient	Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory
Total Anticipated Award Amount	\$120,000.00
Cost Share	No/\$0.00
Anticipated Length of Agreement	One and a half years
Anticipated Period of Performance	April 2013 through September 2014
Award Instrument	Cooperative Agreement
Statutory Authority	16 U.S.C. §1a-2(j)
CFDA # and Title	15.945 Cooperative Research and Training Programs – Resources of the National Park System
Single Source Justification Criteria Cited	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; and 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.
Point of Contact	Alicia Broner Contract Specialist (Contractor) National Park Service WASO WCP Contracting and Procurement P.O. Box 25287, Mail Stop WCP Denver, CO 80225-0287 Phone: (303) 987-6734 Email: alicia_broner@contractor.nps.gov

OVERVIEW

Through a Task Agreement against the Desert Southwest Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESU) Cooperative Agreement, the National Park Service (NPS) and the Rocky Mountain Bird

Observatory will continue in a cooperative effort to monitor birds at 29 NPS units in the Southwest; specifically the Southern Plains, Sonoran Desert, and Chihuahuan Desert Inventory and Monitoring Networks.

STATEMENT OF JOINT OBJECTIVES/PROJECT MANAGEMENT PLAN

The overall goal of the landbird monitoring program is to detect biologically significant changes that are occurring within the national parks and country using comprehensive assessment approach.

RECIPIENT INVOLVEMENT

Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory (RMBO) agrees to:

- Estimate occupancy - estimate the proportion of sites occupied for most species in most parks. Occupancy is a measure of presence or absence of a species in space that, when evaluated across time, indicates changes in the distribution of a species.
- Estimate bird species richness and composition - estimate parameters related to community dynamics, particularly species richness and species composition. Monitoring the richness and composition of native communities of concern and the changes occurring within and among these communities provides a valuable compliment to population-based parameters. Species richness is an essential component of understanding the effects of changing landscapes on native biodiversity. Species composition helps us to understand the effects of management and other changes by assessing which species are or are not responding to changes in the environment.
- Estimate density when feasible. Will monitor density of the most common species for which there are sufficient detections. Will estimate density with the use of the point-transect distance-sampling method at fixed points and subsequent analyses using the Distance program (Thomas et al. 2005). Provided that assumptions are reasonably met, distance-sampling methods allow researchers to model a detection function that adjusts for imperfect detectability.
- Make information collected available to other agencies and the public through the RMBO Avian Data Center.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE INVOLVEMENT

National Park Service agrees to:

- Provide financial support for this project
- Assign the NPS Agreement Technical Representative (ATR)
- Provide the Bird Monitoring Protocol and Standard Operating Procedures that enable park managers to incorporate bird monitoring results into their management planning.
- Assist with the external reviews of the study to ensure scientific reliability.

- Work with RMBO to produce and publish reports as part of the Natural Resource Report Series as well as scientific journals for public dissemination.
- Provide background information of other park resources to be integrated into the interpretation of bird monitoring results nationwide. This can be used to better understand how changes in such things as climate and vegetation can influence and be interpreted as part of the changes in bird communities.
- Incorporate bird monitoring into broader synthesis and interpretation of natural resource condition that can be used for both interpretation and management. The park service will share the results of this monitoring with interpreters and managers both within NPS as well as with non-government organizations and the public. For example, a cooperative effort with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is already being planned that will use the information and planning from this project as part of a broader cooperative effort that will include wildlife refuges.

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.

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

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.

This project is a continuation of a monitoring effort that was initiated in 2009. The RMBO is also uniquely qualified to fulfill the intended purpose.

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.

RMBO maintains a publicly accessible database on birds in the region. This information can be utilized by state and federal agencies to monitor and manage bird populations including those that migrate through parks. Additionally, the public can access this information.