



NOTICE OF INTENT TO AWARD

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

ABSTRACT	
Funding Announcement	USGS-16-FA-0192
Project Title	Greater Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Conference (GEER) 2017
Recipient	University of Florida, Office of Conferences and Institutes
Principal Investigator / Program Manager	Dr. Ramesh K. Reddy, Soil and Water Science Dept., University of Florida
Anticipated Federal Amount	\$25,000
Cost Share	0
Total Anticipated Award Amount	\$25,000
New Award or Continuation?	New Award
Anticipated Period of Performance	10/1/16 through 9/6/17
Award Instrument	Grant
CFDA # and Title	15.808
USGS Point of Contact	Nicholas G. Aumen, Regional Science Advisor - South Florida

OVERVIEW

The Greater Everglades Ecosystem Restoration (GEER) Conference is the premier conference that brings together science in support of restoration of the Everglades - a primary and critical interest to the DOI. The DOI has invested hundreds of millions of dollars in restoration of the Everglades over the past two decades and places a very high priority on ensuring that restoration of the Everglades is science-based. Bringing together approximately 600 scientists, managers, policy makers, politicians, tribes, non-government organizations, and private citizens interested in and working on Everglades' issues, the GEER conference has been a cornerstone of that process. The GEER 2017 provides a valuable forum for scientists and engineers to showcase and

communicate the latest scientific developments, and to facilitate information exchange that builds shared understanding among Federal, State, local, and tribal scientists and decision makers, academia, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and private citizens.

RECIPIENT INVOLVEMENT

The University of Florida will coordinate with the USGS, NPS, OERI, and FWS to organize and implement the conference (e.g., meeting logistics, site selection, publicity).

USGS INVOLVEMENT

No substantial involvement on the part of USGS is anticipated for the successful completion of the objectives to be funded by this award. It is anticipated that USGS' 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.
 - (6) Cooperative Agreements - USGS Unique Authority cited at 43 U.S.C. 36d (Federal, State, and academic partners) or DOI Authority cited at 43 U.S.C. 1457b (not-for-profit organizations).

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

(4) UNIQUE QUALIFICATIONS

University of Florida's Office of Conferences and Institutes (OCI) is a full-service conference-planning unit within the University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agriculture Sciences (IFAS). UF's OCI conducts an average of roughly 20 full-scale conferences and 75 smaller workshops a year. UF's OCI specializes in scientific meetings management and produces numerous conference/workshop-related scientific publications a year. UF's OCI is specifically dedicated to working with UF faculty and associated Grants and Contracts partners in facilitating conferences and workshops relevant to the research, education, and outreach mission of the University of Florida and its affiliated partners.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

43 USC 31 et seq.; and Administrative Provisions of P.L. 114-113 (FY 2016 Consolidated Appropriations Act).