

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Determination for Issuing a Single Source Financial Assistance Award

Instructions: In accordance with Service policy 516 FW 6, *Issuing Discretionary Grant and Cooperative Agreement Awards without Competition*, complete this form to document the justification for issuing a single source grant or cooperative agreement award. This form must be signed by both a program representative and the employee with signature authority for the award to be issued (see 516 FW 3, *Signature Authority for Grant and Cooperative Agreement Awards*). The completed and signed form must be maintained in the official award file.

Recipient Name: Mississippi State University

Project Title: Strategic Conservation Assessment of Gulf Coast Landscapes

Program Contact: John Tirpak

Select all criteria that apply (from 505 DM 2):

✓	(1) Unsolicited Proposal: The proposed award is the result of an unsolicited application that represents a unique or innovative idea, method, or approach that is not the subject of a current or planned award, but is found to be advantageous to program objectives.
	(2) Continuation: The activity to be funded is necessary for the satisfactory completion of, or is a continuation of, an activity we are funding and holding a competition would have a significant adverse effect on continuing or completing the activity.
	(3) Legislative Intent: The language in the applicable authorizing legislation or legislative history clearly indicates the intent of Congress to restrict the award to a particular recipient or purpose.
✓	(4) Unique Qualifications: The applicant is uniquely qualified to perform the activity based on 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: Because of a compelling and unusual urgency, or substantial danger to health or safety, there is not enough time to follow adequate competitive procedures.

Explain below why competition for this award is not practical. As applicable, summarize the program legislative history, unique capabilities of the proposed recipient, and any cost-sharing contribution offered by the proposed recipient. Be brief and specific:

This project represents an unsolicited proposal to develop tools and related resources critical to landscape-level conservation planning in the Gulf Coast Region as part of a Strategic Conservation Assessment (SCA) for Gulf Coast Landscapes. Mississippi State University (MSU) was selected as a single source recipient for this award based on its unique qualifications stemming from both its location in a Gulf state (a requisite for these funds) and demonstrated ability to cost share and successfully coordinate with key entities associated with this project. MSU offers extensive expertise and experience in landscape-scale conservation planning and assessment in addition to on- and off-campus faculty with expertise in ecology, geospatial modeling, and socioeconomic valuation. MSU has an excellent reputation for high-caliber research programs and offers the appropriate facilities and computing power necessary to carry out SCA project objectives. This includes supercomputing capacity at the MSU High Processing Computing Center, large-scale geospatial mapping and planning expertise at the MSU Geosystems Research Institute, and generations of coastal expertise at the MSU Northern Gulf Institute and Coastal Research and Extension Center. MSU also serves as a central hub for Gulf Coast LCC work, and currently hosts 2 full-time LCC staff and the Services' Southeast Region Chief of the National Wildlife Refuge System Inventory and Monitoring Network.

I have determined that this project meets the requirements for a single source award and recommend that it be awarded to the recipient named above.

I, as the Service employee with signature authority for this award under 516 FW 3, have reviewed this program recommendation and find that it meets the requirements for a single source award.

 4/14/17

Program Representative Sign and Date
John Tirpak

Printed Name of Program Representative

Authorized Signator Sign and Date

Printed Name of Signator