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-0135
Project Title	Sudbury, Assabet, Concord Wild & Scenic River Assistance
Recipient	Sudbury Valley Trustees
Anticipated Federal Funding	$105,000
Non-Federal Cost Share	$0
Total Anticipated Award Amount	$105,000
Award Instrument	☐ Task Agreement ☑ Cooperative Agreement ☐ Grant Agreement
Anticipated Period of Performance	August 15, 2017 - August 1, 2022
Legal Authority	16 U.S.C §1281(e); PL 106-20; 54 USC 101702(a)
CFDA # and Title	15.962 National Wild and Scenic River 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 project goal is to implement PL 106-20. The Sudbury, Assabet and Concord River was designated as a National Wild and Scenic River on April 9, 1999 pursuant to enactment of PL 106-20. Consistent with National Park Service policy for Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers, and as encouraged and authorized under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, it is the intent of the National Park Service to conduct a partnership-based approach to implementing the designation of the Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Wild and Scenic River in close cooperation with local stakeholders and communities, as represented on the River Stewardship Council and in partnership with Sudbury Valley Trustees.

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

The Agreement advances the objectives of the National Park Service and Sudbury Valley Trustees in working in partnership to conserve the resources of the Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Wild and Scenic River through joint implementation of the locally-developed River Conservation Plan, the management plan for the River adopted by all parties through Town vote in 1996. This work includes facilitating the transfer of appropriated funds to the Recipient for expenditure in accordance with the Conservation Plan and on the River Stewardship Council, representing the towns of Framingham, Wayland, Sudbury, Concord, Lincoln, Carlisle, Bedford, Billerica; and implementing specific projects as mutually determined by the River Stewardship Council and Sudbury Valley Trustees in an annual workplan. Projects as outlined in the Conservation Plan include projects related to public access and recreation, history and literature, land protection and conservation, water quality monitoring, community outreach and education, project review, and wildlife and ecology.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

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

Sudbury Valley Trustees
1. Work cooperatively with the National Park Service and the Sudbury, Assabet and Concord 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 River Conservation Plan.
2. Serve as the fiscal agent for the 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.
3. 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 the River Stewardship Council and Sudbury Valley Trustees in the design and completion of specific projects and initiatives undertaken as a result of this Agreement.
2. Provide funding as available through appropriations, and in accordance with Article VI, for the execution of agreed upon objectives and the undertaking of mutually agreed upon projects.
3. Recognize Recipient participation and give appropriate credit in all efforts which benefit from this collaboration.
4. Review and analyze program results regularly with Recipient.
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.

PL 106-20 requires the NPS to administer the Wild and Scenic River designation in collaboration with the River Stewardship Council, consistent with the Partnership Wild and Scenic River model. The cooperative agreement with Sudbury Valley Trustees serves to implement this model by providing funds to implement annual workplans of the Council in implementing PL 106-20 and the River Conservation Plan. The Council has chosen Sudbury Valley Trustees as the Council member best suited to enter into a cooperative agreement with the NPS through a unanimous vote. Sudbury Valley Trustees has been serving this role since the designation, for close to twenty years, and is thus uniquely qualified. Sudbury Valley Trustees is a 501 (c)3 nonprofit organization, with a long and successful track record as a regional conservation organization operating in the watershed. Based on these factors no

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.
- [x] Access to outdoor recreation opportunities.

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

- [x] 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.
- [x] 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

- [x] Be a better neighbor with those closest to our resources by improving dialogue and relationships with persons and entities bordering our lands.
- [x] 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: