



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-0276
Project Title	National Carbon Accounting Programs – Mapping Paramos and Savannas in Colombia
Recipient	University of Maryland
Principal Investigator / Program Manager	Matthew C. Hansen 2181 LeFrak Hall, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742 Phone: 301-405-2284, Email: mhansen@umd.edu
Anticipated Federal Amount	\$76,000
Cost Share	N/A
Total Anticipated Award Amount	\$76,000
New Award or Continuation?	New award
Anticipated Period of Performance	July 15, 2016 – December 15, 2016
Award Instrument	Cooperative Agreement
CFDA # and Title	15.808
USGS Point of Contact	Sylvia Wilson, 703-648-4809

OVERVIEW

As part of the SilvaCarbon Initiative, the University of Maryland (UMD) will work with colleagues at the Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM) in Colombia on enhancing land cover and forest monitoring in support of national carbon accounting programs. UMD will characterize land covers outside of forests, including paramos and savannas, which are two important ecosystems Colombia seeks to monitor. In past collaborations, UMD created forest cover map products and, with USGS, transferred the capacity to replicate the mapping process in Colombia. By using these products, Colombia has advanced their processing methods, including radiometric corrections, quality assessment, derivation of

time-integrated spectral features, characterization algorithms, integration strategies, product development and iteration, and methods for validation. Now research is needed in mapping paramos and savannas, which have been identified by IDEAM partners as a priority.

RECIPIENT INVOLVEMENT

UMD will run models using training data from Colombia for two grassland ecosystems: paramos and savannas. The research will focus on using the archive of Landsat data to develop metrics that are most useful for IDEAM characterization. These two ecosystems are very important for carbon accounting. The recipient will generate new metrics to estimate change, which is a critical input for Colombia's National Forest Monitoring System.

USGS INVOLVEMENT

Substantial involvement on the part USGS is anticipated for the successful completion of the objectives to be funded by this award. In particular, USGS will bring together different institutions in Colombia (IDEAM and The Ministry of Environment) and set up a series of meetings in Colombia to transfer the mapping methodology to Colombia.

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 the following criteria:

(6) Cooperative Agreements

Single Source Justification Description:

The mapping method has been developed by UMD; therefore, they have the expertise to develop accurate maps of paramos and savanna extent in Colombia on a national scale.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

43 U.S.C. 36d (Federal, State and academic partners):

§ 36d. Cooperative agreements. Notwithstanding the provisions of the Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act of 1977 (31 U.S.C. 6301–6308), the United States Geological Survey is authorized to continue existing, and on and after November 10, 2003, to enter into new cooperative agreements directed towards a particular cooperator, in support of joint research and data collection activities with Federal, State, and academic partners funded by appropriations herein, including those that provide for space in cooperator facilities.