

Per Departmental Manual Release 505 DM 2, a written justification to the file must be prepared to explain why competition is not practicable, including a statement of which criteria described below justify the action and why. The justification will include a discussion of the program legislative history, unique capabilities of the proposed recipient, and cost-sharing contribution offered by the proposed recipient, as applicable.

Criteria for Justifying Award Without Competition.

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 award to a particular recipient or 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.

Each justification shall contain sufficient facts and rationale to justify the criteria cited. At a minimum, each justification shall include the following information:

AWARD WITHOUT COMPETITION JUSTIFICATION
Nevada Conservation Corps – Great Basin Institute

(1) Identification of the agency and the program office.

Lake Mead National Recreation Area
601 Nevada Way
Boulder City, NV 89005

(2) Nature and/or description of the work to be performed (including a discussion of the program legislative history).

The purpose of this project is to provide a team of student interns who will provide valuable guidance to visitors at park launch ramps by directing ramp traffic and informing them of environmental and safety regulations. Interns will check vessels for required safety equipment and will also be trained to provide immediate response to medical emergencies. This project will enhance the quality of the visitor experience by reducing chaos on launch ramps throughout the park, will increase visitor safety, and will also meet the Recreation Fee Program Expenditure Goal of Stewardship by reducing the carbon footprint by decreasing wait lines on launch ramps and decreasing the spread of the invasive quagga mussel.

AUTHORITY: 16 U.S.C. § 1g

STATEMENT OF WORK –

Description: Partner non-profit organization: The Nevada Conservation Corps (NCC) is a component of the Great Basin Institute based at the University of Nevada, Reno. The work for FY11 includes from one to four project crews to complete the projects.

The NPS agrees to:

1. Provide interns with training in launch ramp operations, safety procedures, safety regulations and resource information. At a minimum, this will include training in CPR, first aid, use of park radios, medical emergencies, launch conditions and the basics of boat launching and retrieval.
2. Lead overall project management and monitoring
3. Provide an opportunity for the employees to be exposed to a variety of professional agency personnel who can encourage them to consider land and resource management careers.
4. Provide NPS Desert Tortoise Awareness training classes to all interns assigned to this project.

Great Basin Institute-Nevada Conservation Corps agrees to:

1. Coordinate with NPS to recruit and hire interns for this project
2. Provide all staffing services for this project
3. Provide a uniform stipend for all interns involved in this project
4. Ensure that all interns involved with the project complete the NPS Desert Tortoise Awareness training.

The NPS and the Great Basin Institute-Nevada Conservation Corps jointly agree to:

1. Meet together to facilitate coordination of project, including developing work schedule, project planning, technical training and technical oversight
2. Identify personnel needed to work on individual projects.
3. Meet to evaluate success of the project.

(3) An identification of the criteria permitting award without competition.

The NCC is uniquely qualified in programs related to resource conservation and is willing to continue its youth employment and training program with the assistance of the NPS.

(4) A demonstration that the proposed recipient's unique qualifications or the nature of the project requires use of the criteria cited (for example, if Unique Qualifications are cited as a reason for not competing the award, a detailed account of those qualifications needs to be presented).

NCC provides students and young professionals opportunities to make meaningful contributions toward protecting and conserving natural heritage, while also gaining valuable training and work experience in the natural resource management field.

(5) A description of the market research conducted that supports the unique qualification of the recipient and the results (showing that no other entity is able to perform the work) or a statement of the reason market research was not conducted.

The NCC is uniquely qualified in programs related to resource conservation and is willing to continue its youth employment and training program with the assistance of the NPS. The NPS and NCC desire to build upon the good record established by youth conservation corps of restoring and maintaining NPS resources in a cost-effective and efficient manner, especially since they have participated in mutually beneficial conservation-related projects for many years through previous cooperative agreements.

Approved:



Barbara Eschels
Contracting Officer



Date