

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 a task agreement under a previously competed or single source justified master cooperative agreement.

ABSTRACT	
Funding Announcement Number	P17AS00309
Project Title	SCC Youth Crews for Trail Maintenance
Recipient	Southwest Conservation Corps
Anticipated Federal Funding	\$97,500
Non-federal Cost Share	\$32,500
Anticipated Period of Performance	6/15-11/30/2017
Award Instrument	Task Agreement
Statutory Authority	54 USC §101702(a), 16 USC § 1723(c)(1)
CFDA # and Title	15.931 Youth Involvement
Point of Contact	Katie Gaertner Katie_gaertner@nps.gov

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Description: Southwest Conservation Corps Crews, under the technical direction of Great Sand Dunes Trails staff, will perform a variety of maintenance and repair work over 17-weeks on trails in the front and back country of Great Sand Dunes National Park. Work will include:

- Removing winter tree blow-down from trails park wide (Sand Ramp, Mosca Pass, Medano Lake, and Sand Creek Trails). Over 260 4" to 9" diameter trees are anticipated to be down along the trails, and in some cases, have been pushed aside to allow hikers to pass. The crew will remove all trees using hand and cross-cut saws, and disperse all materials out of the view of the hiking public.
- Continuing to restore proper drainage on the Sand Ramp and Sand Creek Trails. After the flash flood of 2012, thousands of feet of trail have been severely damaged by erosion. The crew will continue to repair and/or replace sections of trail under the direct guidance of the NPS Trails representative. It is estimated that the crew will be able to improve 1,000 linear feet of the worst sections of these trails.
- Efforts on the Mosca Pass Trail to improve trail tread by correcting drainage deficiencies. Heavy use and sub-standard soils result in the trail becoming entrenched and "gutter-like". The crew will cut the berm, and use it to fill the entrenched trail, restoring proper outslope and consequently proper drainage. The crew will improve 2,000 linear feet of trail tread as part of this project.

STATEMENT OF WORK

The SCC will provide all food, camp equipment, transportation, field supervisors and the majority of tools. The NPS will provide specialty tools (such as grip-hoists, rock baskets, etc.), and specialty technical guidance for atypical trails tasks assigned. The NPS will provide front-country campsites as required for mobilizations days, and unimproved back-country campsites for field work. The SCC will provide all safety training and oversight, with the NPS representative performing spot inspections, and any specialized training related to atypical trail work activities and tools. The SCC

will provide safety equipment for all participants.

Students will learn technical trail skills, back-country camping and hiking skills, will develop a sense of conservation, will meet and learn from a wide variety of NPS staff (biologists, geologists, rangers) and will get to know the Great Sand Dunes Wilderness Areas.

The work performed by this crew will provide tremendous benefit for the public, as the crews efforts will restore damaged landscapes, prevent further damage by maintaining trails in a sustainable fashion, and will instill a sense of conservation in the corps members.

RECIPIENT AGREES TO:

1. To assist with recruitment and selection of students as crew participants in the work described throughout this document.
2. To provide for transportation to and from Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, near Alamosa, Colorado, and subsistence during the tour of duty.
3. To support park-wide trails maintenance projects at Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve.
4. SCC crews are to arrive on site with, at a minimum, basic safety training, personal protective equipment, all equipment and supplies for back-country camping, and all personal items. Leaders are to have trail construction and maintenance training, be experienced in back-country camping, and have good leadership skills.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AGREES TO:

1. To provide general orientation to park operations and NPS mission.
2. To provide a NPS technical representative to be on-site with the SCC participants to assist with specifics of the project as needed.
3. The NPS will provide trail construction and maintenance tools, technical guidance for all projects, daily check-ins, coaching for crew leaders if challenging interpersonal issues arise among crew members, and other logistical support such as moving gear to back-country camps by pack-horse.