



**National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior**

NOTICE OF INTENT TO AWARD

This Funding Announcement is not a request for applications. This announcement is to provide public notice of the National Park Service's intention to fund the following project activities without full and open competition.

ABSTRACT	
Funding Announcement	NPS P14AS00329
Project Title	Landbird monitoring NCCN 2014
Recipient	Institute Bird Population (IBP)
Principle Investigator / Program Manager	Rodney Siegel, Ph.D., IBP
Total Anticipated Award Amount	Task Award \$42,000
Cost Share	N/A
New Award or Continuation?	Continuation of existing Task Award (Announcement# P14AS00079)
Anticipated Length of Agreement	Approximately 1 Year
Anticipated Period of Performance	09/20/14 through 08/31/15
Award Instrument	Cooperative Agreement (modification to task award)
Statutory Authority	16 U.S.C. §1g
CFDA # and Title	15.944 Natural Resource Stewardship
Single Source Justification Criteria Cited	(4) Unique Qualifications
NPS Point of Contact	Barry Fetzer Contracting Officer North Cascades National Park 810 State Route 20 Sedro-Woolley, Wa 98284 Office: 360-854-7219

OVERVIEW

NPS, working with government agencies, universities, and private not-for-profit organizations, has designed a process and developed protocols for monitoring long-term ecological integrity of national park ecosystems in the North Coast and Cascades Network (NCCN) of national parks of the Pacific Northwest. The NCCN consists of three large natural area parks (Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks) and four smaller cultural and historical parks (Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve, Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, Lewis and Clark National Historical Park, and San Juan Island National Historical Park) in western Washington and Oregon. Breeding populations of landbirds have been identified as an important indicator of changes in ecological condition of these park units, and have been selected for long-term monitoring. This action originally announced on Grants.gov as P14AS00079 and is herein modified.

The Institute of Bird Populations (IBP) has a lengthy history of working with the National Park Service to inventory avifauna in park units throughout the country. In 2000, the Institute began working directly with NCCN parks, first, by working with North Cascades National Park to summarize recommendations of an expert panel for developing a spatially extensive inventory and monitoring program in North Cascades National Park (Siegel and Kuntz, 2000). Subsequently, the NCCN adapted those recommendations and established a cooperative agreement with the Institute to conduct large-scale avian inventories in North Cascades, Olympic, Mount Rainier, and San Juan Islands. The Institute completed fieldwork for these avian inventories in 2004 (Siegel et al. 2002, 2004a, 2004b, 2005a, 2005b). Consequently, the Institute has become the leading expert in conducting avian inventories and monitoring programs in national parks of the NCCN.

In October 2003, the Institute entered into a 3-year cooperative agreement with US Geological Survey to help the NCCN develop a Landbird Monitoring Plan that included a peer-reviewed monitoring protocol and a manual of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). A draft protocol and SOPs were written and peer-reviewed in summer/fall of 2006. Implementing this protocol enabled NCCN parks to track and understand how avian communities and their habitats respond to natural processes, to distinguish differences between human-induced disturbance effects and those caused by natural processes, to provide early detection of environmental impairment, and to provide park managers with comprehensive, scientifically-based information about the nature and status of selected biological resources occurring within park boundaries in a form that increases its accessibility and utility for making management decisions, for scientific research, and for educating the public.

RECIPIENT INVOLVEMENT

IBP agrees to:

Provide Pre-Season Planning for Monitoring

1. Revise safety standards for field operation based on experiences from FY 14.

2. Recruit and hire a well-qualified crew that can work in wilderness safely and skills in bird identification skills.
3. Inventory equipment and make purchases accordingly
Data forms should be printed or copied (approximately 50% on rain-proof paper), and topographic maps (1:24,000 scale) for the year's targeted transects should be printed and assembled.
4. Secure field crew housing needs at each of the large parks
5. Complete pre-season preparations on data management and GIS operations, including setting up project work space on server and computer access.
6. Meet with NPS data management staff to review data collection operations and review database functionality and procedures.

Revise Landbird Protocol Methods and SOPs

A synthesis report on the first eight years of monitoring was completed in FY 14. One objective of that report was to evaluate the effectiveness of the monitoring project and identify any improvements that may be implemented. This task involves integrating the report recommendations into the monitoring protocol and SOPs and revising the documentation accordingly. The topics to be addressed for the document revision include

1. Analytical approach

Limitations to the current analytical approaches being used were identified in the synthesis report. A variety of advances in the field of modeling detectability and trend have become available--since the landbird protocol was developed 10 years ago--that could improve future analyses of these data. This necessitates the development of a new analytical frame of protocol methods and accompanying SOP to be addressed in this task agreement to test hypotheses on the distribution and abundance of species to environmental covariates, including modeling of the detection process and analyzing observations (detection process), population state (occupancy, population size, density), and change (trend, local colonization and extinction rates, turnover) simultaneously.

2. Operational aspects of the NCCN landbird monitoring project, including safety, optimal crew size, data-sharing and dissemination, and training.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE INVOLVEMENT

The National Park Service will:

1. Provide financial assistance to the Institute for work performed as outlined in this agreement.
2. Assign Wildlife Branch Chief Patti Happe, OLYM Resource Management Division to represent the NCCN as the NPS Key Official.
3. NPS Key Official will provide technical support, guidance, documentation, consultation, and liaison with the Institute in connection with each task level of this study. Substantial

collaboration with the Institute will be necessary to accomplish each task cited in this agreement and attachments.

4. Coordinate meetings between the Institute and National Park Service to plan and execute monitoring objectives and QA/QC goals.
5. Coordinate logistics with the Institute (e.g., training and management of field personnel).
6. Collaborate with and review all written reports and facilitate their review by NPS Park Leads.
7. Facilitate review of products (reports, modifications to protocol narrative, SOPs, and appendices).
8. Review and participate with the Institute in presenting findings at professional meetings and in writing publications to submit to peer-reviewed professional journals, as applies.
9. In conjunction with IBP, review and approve each phase of the project work.

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.

The National Park Service will award this task to the Institute of Bird Population based on the following exception.

(4) Unique Qualifications - IBP is uniquely qualified to perform the activity based upon demonstrated factors, specifically, location, technical expertise, and other unique qualifications as outlined in this document. The National Park Service, North Cascades National Park, intends to award a Modification to Task Agreement (TA) P14AC01123 to provide for additional avian studies in fiscal year 2015 based upon this announcement and the receipt of additional funding after the original Task Order was awarded in April 2014. Presently, a five year Cooperative Agreement is in place for avian monitoring and related services, this TA is to fund the following:

The IBP will provide the following deliverables as part of the Task Order modification:

- A. Pre-season planning for monitoring in FY 15 (Sept 2014 – April 30, 2015)
- B. Revise Landbird protocol methods and SOPs based on recommendations in the published the synthesis report. (Sept 20, 2014 – August 31, 2015)