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	P20AS00034
Project Title	Partnership to Support Management of Ranching Operations at Poi
Recipient	Marin Resource Conservation District
Anticipated Federal Funding	$364,901.42, subject to available funding ($69,847.33 initially)
Non-Federal Cost Share	$0.00
Total Anticipated Award Amount	$364,901.42, subject to available funding
Award Instrument	☐ Task Agreement ☑ Cooperative Agreement ☐ Grant Agreement
Anticipated Period of Performance	03/15/2020 – 06/30/2022
Legal Authority	54 USC §101702(a)
CFDA # and Title	15.944 – Natural Resource Stewardship
Single Source Justification Criteria	(4) Unique Qualifications
National Park Service Point of Contact	William Nash | Financial Assistance Awarding Officer | william_nash@nps.gov

Section 1. Project Summary

PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Point Reyes National Seashore (PORE) currently manages approximately 28,000 acres of lands leased for beef and dairy ranching, which includes lands in the north district of Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GOGA). PORE range program activities include: monitoring to determine carrying capacities and evaluate effectiveness of grazing management in maintaining or improving range resources; planning, compliance, implementation and monitoring of projects intended to improve resources and ranch condition.

The Marin Resource Conservation District (MRCD) is involved with region-wide efforts, with a special focus on planning and implementation of conservation practices intended to improve resource conditions on ranch lands. MRCD is routinely involved with planning, funding, and implementation of practices on NPS and private grazing lands throughout Marin County. MRCD and PORE will

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC PURPOSE

This Agreement benefits the public by supporting stewardship activities on ranch operations intended to enhance ecological function, promote native species, protect water quality and limit the populations and extent of invasive/non-native species. The Agreement between MRCD and PORE will maximize beneficial outcomes, such as better ensuring the quality of waters used for recreational and commercial purposes, sequestering carbon, controlling the spread of invasive/non-native species, and improved ranch conditions, benefiting the public by protecting NPS and adjacent lands and waters. The project supports maintenance of the Point Reyes Peninsula and Olema Valley Dairy Ranches Historic Districts, listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

STATEMENT OF WORK SUMMARY

1. Assist with planning, implementation and monitoring of conservation practices on ranches throughout the course of the year. This includes projects proposed by ranch operators to improve range conditions. Upon completion of each individual project, MRCD will submit a detailed project report to NPS that includes project timeline and milestones, cost, as-built maps, metrics for all relevant components, length of stream, acres, or type of resource protected, any photo monitoring, and lessons learned.
2. Assist ranch operators in meeting NEPA and permitting requirements as needed throughout the course of the year.
3. Assist with planning associated with ranch operations as needed throughout the course of the year.
4. Assist with grassland vegetation monitoring in spring.
5. Assist with monitoring of forage production in spring, utilization throughout the year and residual dry matter in fall. MRCD will provide NPS residual dry matter reports for ranches, including maps, photo monitoring, and plots of results by the end of the calendar year.
6. Assist with monitoring and reporting for SFRWQB compliance throughout the course of the year.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

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

1. Assist with planning, implementation and monitoring of projects on NPS ranch lands within PORE and GOGA.
2. Provide all personnel and equipment necessary to accomplish project tasks.
3. Provide supervision and other administrative support for MRCD staff.
4. Provide assistance in field work and data collection based on agreed upon tasks, including vegetation monitoring, forage production monitoring, and residual dry matter monitoring.
5. Provide assistance with identified inventory, monitoring, assessments, research and resource education projects as mutually agreed upon, including development and modifications to ranch operations.
6. Regularly meet with PORE to provide updates on status of agreed upon tasks.
7. Relay relevant communication between/with the MRCD and ranch operators, SFRWQCB, USDA NRCS and other stakeholders.
8. Provide any project information, data, reports, or plans involving actions on NPS lands to PORE, even if funded by lessees operating on NPS lands.

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, to the extent allowed by law and applicable to NPS policies, access to and use of the natural resources of the park for appropriate research, planning, implementation, monitoring and educational activities of MRCD.
2. Provide assistance to MRCD in the form of training and education, planning, technical expertise, coordination of field work, data collection and analysis when time and staff are available.
3. Where appropriate, utilize data and findings from completed work to develop additional appropriate management and interpretive actions.
4. Attend relevant MRCD Board or other meetings and events as appropriate or beneficial.
5. Provide input and feedback on proposals for activities on NPS lands put forth by the MRCD.
6. Direct compliance for proposed activities on NPS lands, including completion of NEPA, necessary cultural resources Section 106 compliance documentation for projects, and necessary Section 7 wildlife evaluations for species listed or proposed for listing under ESA.
7. Fully acknowledge MRCD in any published or formally presented material developed or derived from 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. The unsolicited proposal must demonstrate an innovative capability or concept not currently available to the government, and prepared without Government involvement. ;

(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;

(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. Successful past performance, familiarity with existing requirements, capabilities that can be obtained or matched by a competitor, or a positive reputation, are not considered to be 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.

Marin Resource Conservation District (MRCD) is uniquely qualified to conduct this project based on its technical expertise and location. The mission of MRCD is to provide technical assistance to land owners/managers, implement resource protection projects, provide a platform for regional conservation planning, and provide education and outreach to a variety of stakeholders in Marin county. MRCD is involved with region-wide conservation efforts, with a special focus on planning and implementation of conservation practices intended to improve resource conditions on ranch lands. MRCD is routinely involved with planning, funding, and implementation of practices on NPS and private grazing lands throughout Marin County. They are familiar with the ecology, stakeholders and potential challenges in the area and provide a key nexus for collaborating in the implementation of conservation practices on ranch lands throughout the area. MRCD maintains productive working relationships with the local USDA field office, Regional Water Quality Control Board, State Department of Fish and Wildlife, University of California Cooperative Extension, and others. MRCD's specific familiarity with NPS leased grazing lands includes the collaborative implementation of numerous projects on 5 ranches over the last 15 years, direct relationships with park grazing lease operators, and assistance to NPS with State regulatory compliance and permit streamlining. With a mission and reputation for brining together state, federal and local agencies in the area to conserve soil

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.
- ☐ Access to outdoor recreation opportunities.

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

- ☐ 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.
- ☑ 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

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