



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-17-FA-0215
Project Title	Framework for PAD-US and National Biogeographic Map Support
Recipient	GreenInfo Network
Anticipated Federal Amount	\$150,000
Cost Share	-----
Total Anticipated Award Amount	\$499,000 over three years (dependent on funding availability)
New Award or Continuation?	New Award
Anticipated Period of Performance	September 1, 2017 –August 31, 2020
Award Instrument	Cooperative Agreement
CFDA # and Title	15.811 Gap Analysis Program
USGS Point of Contact	Julie Prior-Magee

OVERVIEW

This proposed project will continue a partnership with GreenInfo to further development of protected lands data and biogeographic data tools and their use in conservation decision making. Much progress has recently been made in both improving PAD-US data and building support for and use of the data. Additional work to improve data technology, outreach and user engagement is needed. The National Biogeographic Map (NBM) is being developed to fill a need to quickly answer questions about biodiversity using the best, most current data. The NBM is building on an existing data foundation, expertise and tools to expand the ability to efficiently integrate data streams, conduct science-based analyses, and provide actionable information.

RECIPIENT INVOLVEMENT

The following objectives will be completed under this award:

1. **DATA TECHNOLOGY** – Develop tools and processes that support improvement of PAD-US and National Biogeographic Map (NBM) data and user engagement.
2. **OUTREACH** - Broaden recognition and use of PAD-US as the nation's authoritative geospatial inventory of protected areas, including presentations, webinars, map and display products and other means. Broaden recognition and use of the NBM as a cohesive resource for biogeographic and biodiversity analysis and synthesis.
3. **PAD-US STATE STEWARDS** – Assist state data stewards and their efforts to create and maintain statewide contributions to PAD-US, including technical support, best practice sharing and other means.
4. **PAD-US and NBM USERS** – Improve the capacity of data users to work with PAD-US and the NBM, including manuals, illustrations and outreach.
5. **COLLABORATION** - Support collaboration of federal agencies and other stakeholder groups in and out of government with PAD-US and the NBM.

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 be responsible for the following:

- USGS will provide information related to the NBM to support efforts to broaden recognition and use of this resource for biogeographic analysis.
- USGS will provide information related to the PAD-US to support efforts to broaden recognition of PAD-US as the authoritative geospatial inventory of protected areas.
- USGS will coordinate with GreenInfo on outreach to other federal agencies in order to increase use of PAD-US and NBM by these agencies.
- USGS will provide periodic review of data tools related to the National Biogeographic Map and PAD-US.
- USGS will provide periodic review of data products related to communication strategies, documents, and web content to ensure proper explanation of protected lands efforts in order to promote involvement by partners.
- USGS will provide periodic review of data products related to communication strategies, documents, and web content to ensure proper explanation of biogeographic data analysis efforts in order to promote involvement by partners.
- USGS will ensure support to state stewards includes use and understanding of the PAD-US data schema by these stewards as their data is included in PAD-US.

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:

(4) UNIQUE QUALIFICATIONS

Single Source Justification Description:

GreenInfo is a non-profit (501c3) organization with a mission to help create, analyze, visualize and communicate information in the public interest. GreenInfo has historically focused on public lands and environmental issues, and effective communication and use of data for conservation decision making. The organization has a long history in working with protected lands data and was the primary actor in creating C-PAD (California Protected Areas Database). C-PAD is a spatial database of California which has been informally adopted as the standard for state protected lands data across the US. This proposal requires expertise in protected areas and biogeographic data information systems, and the organizational and political landscapes which affect the use of these data sets. GreenInfo also specializes in the presentation of spatial data to answer conservation and recreation questions. GreenInfo is uniquely qualified for the work described in this notice of intent.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

43 USC 1457b authorizes the Secretary of the Interior may enter into cooperative agreements with a State or political subdivision (including any agency thereof), or any not-for-profit organization if the agreement will: (1) serve a mutual interest of the parties to the agreement in carrying out the programs administered by the Department of the Interior; and (2) all parties will contribute resources to the accomplishment of these objectives. At the discretion of the Secretary, such agreements shall not be subject to a competitive process.