



**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	P14AS00124
Project Title	Natural Resource Management Educational Workshops and Conferences
Recipient	George Wright Society
Principle Investigator / Program Manager	David Harmon
Total Anticipated Award Amount	Approximately \$100,000.00
Cost Share	none
New Award or Continuation?	Continuation of previous Cooperative Agreements
Anticipated Length of Agreement	From date of award for five years
Anticipated Period of Performance	From date of award for five years
Award Instrument	Cooperative Agreement
Statutory Authority	16 USC 1(g)
CFDA # and Title	15.944 Natural Resource Stewardship
Single Source Justification Criteria Cited	(4) Unique Qualifications
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OVERVIEW

George Wright Society

The George Wright Society (GWS) is a nonprofit association of researchers, managers, administrators, educators, and other professionals which, in part, advances the scientific and heritage values of parks, protected areas, and cultural sites by promoting professional research and resource stewardship across natural and cultural resource disciplines for the benefit of all people. GWS also serves as a focal point for knowledge about the use, conservation, and management of cultural and natural parks, public forests and rangelands, historic and other cultural sites, wildlife refuges, marine reserves, and other protected areas. The GWS achieves its purposes and goals by bringing together through conferences, meetings, and written materials diverse scientific and scholarly professions and concerns for the purposes of compiling scientific and scholarly information, educating and training people, dispensing information, and exploring issues regarding park and related area management.

As part of its purpose, the GWS has established proactive goals to recruit, involve, and train minority professionals for natural and cultural resource management careers in parks, public lands, and related areas. GWS has articulated proactive steps to involve Native Americans in educational, training, and other activities related to natural, cultural, and recreational resources and related areas and to achieving common natural resource and cultural heritage preservation goals.

National Park Service

The NPS preserves and manages more than 84 million acres in over 401 units of the National Park System for the enjoyment of present and future generations and is responsible for increasing the public knowledge, awareness, and appreciation of natural and cultural resources. NPS policies promote the scientific management of natural and cultural resources, including the conservation of native ecosystems, cultural landscapes, and the integrity of resources found therein. The NPS also strives to provide opportunities for the public to enjoy the natural and cultural resources found in parks and to engage ethnically diverse populations and youth in stewardship. The NPS Associate Directorates, Natural Resource Stewardship and Science (NRSS) and Cultural Resource Partnerships and Science (CRPS), are responsible for preserving, protecting, and managing natural and cultural resources throughout the National Park System for the benefit of the public.

B. Public Purpose

The NPS wishes to partner with the GWS for the public purposes of:

1. Promoting, facilitating, and improving people's understanding of natural, cultural, recreational, and other aspects of protected areas, national parks, ecological conservation areas, national forests, and state parks through the GWS Biennial Conferences on Parks, Protected Areas, and Cultural Sites.
2. Preparing, encouraging, and challenging young people, adults, and faculty from underrepresented ethnically diverse backgrounds to develop skills and knowledge about environmental stewardship in parks, protected areas, and cultural sites through the GWS

Biennial Conferences on Parks, Protected Areas, and Cultural Sites.

3. Increasing the availability of science-based information and other scholarly information which forms the basis of NPS management decisions, sharing with others scientific and other scholarly information related to natural and cultural area management generated as a result of research and management conducted in parks, and increasing the NPS's interactions with a diverse body of local, state, federal, tribal, and international natural and cultural management professionals, volunteers, and students through the GWS Biennial Conferences on Parks, Protected Areas, and Cultural Sites.
4. Involving Native Americans and other indigenous people in educational, training, and other activities related to natural, cultural, and recreational resources through the GWS Biennial Conferences on Parks, Protected Areas, and Cultural Sites.

To that end, the objectives of NPS and GWS for entering into this Cooperative Agreement are:

C. Objectives

The objectives of this agreement are:

1. Coordinate efforts to engage GWS members, cultural and natural area managers, private and public sector agencies, and other organizations in cooperative activities with the NPS to address protected area research, conservation, and management challenges through the GWS Biennial Conferences on Parks, Protected Areas and Cultural Sites.
2. Improve partnership efforts with adjacent and related protected areas (federal, state, tribal, private, and international) to conserve natural and cultural resources and landscapes and promote natural and cultural resource-based recreational opportunities through the GWS Biennial Conferences on Parks, Protected Areas, and Cultural Sites.
3. Collaborate with federal, state, tribal, and private partners to design and plan the GWS Biennial Conferences on Parks, Protected Areas, and Cultural Sites.
4. Develop and engage in two Biennial Conferences (2015 and 2017) to assist in the promotion, facilitation, and improvement of a variety of professionals', students', and others' understanding of the natural, cultural, recreational, and other aspects of protected areas such as national parks, ecological conservation areas, national forests, state, and local parks through interdisciplinary and inter-organizational dialogue including but not limited to topics such as:
 - a. Integrated cultural and natural resource management.
 - b. Development and implementation of regional cooperative and adaptive management efforts.
 - c. Cooperation in management activities to conserve resources in the face of challenges such as climate change, habitat fragmentation, oil spills, and lack of diverse professional staff.
 - d. New and innovative approaches that improve the ability of natural and cultural resource conservation practitioners to understand management dynamics and establish more effective ways to address them, utilizing the tools, processes, and

theory developed in the field of resource management and protection to ensure that conservation solutions are more successful and sustainable.

5. Prepare and distribute widely educational proceedings of the two GWS Biennial Conferences which address the educational, research, and interchange content of the conference for distribution nationally and internationally through multiple mechanisms to promote professional natural and cultural resource management.
6. Prepare, encourage, and challenge young adults, adults, and faculty from underrepresented ethnically and economically diverse backgrounds to address environmental and social issues in their community, through leadership development, career exploration, and goal setting. These individuals will be exposed to the skills necessary to become professional resource managers through establishment of a mentoring and engagement program supporting conference participation and travel.
7. Involve Native Americans and other indigenous peoples in educational, training, and other activities related to Native American, natural, cultural, and recreational resources and related areas to achieve common natural and cultural resource heritage preservation goals.
8. Collaborate with NPS, state, federal and tribal agencies to develop up to 4 workshops and other professional meetings a year that contribute to advancing knowledge and/or increasing practical skills with regard to scientific and other scholarly research, cultural and natural resource management, interpretation/education, and related endeavors, focused on parks, protected areas, and cultural sites; as well as fostering partnerships and information exchange among governments, agencies, and nongovernmental organizations.

RECIPIENT INVOLVEMENT

GWS agrees to:

1. Work in collaboration with the NPS and other federal, state, and private partners to design, plan, and conduct two Biennial Conferences to encourage attendees from around the world to explore ways to improve the scientific and scholarly quality of cultural and natural resource and visitor use information and to successfully integrate such information into the planning, management, educational, and training processes of management practices nationally and internationally.
2. Conduct no more than two pre-planning meetings and ten content development sessions (five for natural resources and five for cultural resources) involving NPS personnel and GWS personnel to design and plan each Biennial Conference.
3. Recruit Native Americans and other indigenous peoples to participate in the two Biennial Conferences and in any production of educational and training materials. Collaborate to promote participation of these selected native peoples by issuing waivers to cover cost of registration and providing travel costs and support (GWS Indigenous Participant Travel Grant Program). The program includes non-student

indigenous people from Canada, Mexico, or the USA (including US Territories) who are in management, or the study of land, its biological/cultural systems and features, or Native land rights. “Indigenous people” in this context includes people identifying as American Indians, Alaska Natives, indigenous Mexicans, First Nations, Métis, Native Hawaiians, Inuit, and Aborigines.

4. Recruit minority students in order to encourage students from diverse ethnic, racial, and cultural backgrounds to participate in the two Biennial Conferences and enhance their interest in the conservation and preservation of parks, protected areas, and cultural sites throughout the world. Collaborate to promote the full participation of these selected students in the Biennial Conferences (George Melendez Wright Student Travel Scholarships).
5. Collaborate with the NPS to produce two educational Proceedings for the respective Biennial Conferences which address the educational, research, and interchange content of the conference for distribution through multiple forums nationally and internationally to promote professional natural and cultural resource management in public and private protected areas and parks.
6. Work with the NPS and other cooperators to involve in planning and implementation of Biennial Conferences and workshops, including but not limited to World Heritage, Man and the Biosphere, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and other collaborative organizations..
7. Increase public involvement and participation in the Biennial Conferences through notices on the GWS website and advertisements through various media.
8. Facilitate development of up to 4 workshops and other professional meetings a year that contribute to advancing knowledge and/or increasing practical skills with regard to scientific and other scholarly research, cultural and natural resource management, interpretation/education, and related endeavors. The workshops shall be focused on parks, protected areas, and cultural sites; as well as fostering partnerships and information exchange among governments, agencies, and nongovernmental organizations.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE INVOLVEMENT

Substantial involvement on the part the National Park Service is anticipated for the successful completion of the objectives to be funded by this award. In particular, the National Park Service will be responsible for the following:

NPS agrees to:

1. Work cooperatively with the GWS at the national, regional, and park levels to accomplish the objectives of this agreement in relation to the George Wright Society Biennial Conferences on Parks, Protected Areas, and Cultural Sites.

2. Actively participate in the design, planning, and conduct of two George Wright Society Biennial Conferences on Parks, Protected Areas, and Cultural Sites by providing personnel to help design sessions, chair sessions, lead discussions, participate in sessions, and report the results of the sessions as appropriate to the nature and purpose of the particular session and overall conference theme (*see meeting numbers in #A2 above*).
 3. Assist in the final selection and involvement of Native Americans and other indigenous peoples in attending and participating in the two Biennial Conferences.
 4. Assist in the final selection and involvement of the George Melendez Wright Student Travel Scholarships that encourage minority students from diverse ethnic, racial, and cultural backgrounds to participate in the GWS's Biennial Conferences and enhance their interest in the conservation and preservation of parks, protected areas, and cultural sites throughout the world. The goal of the scholarship is to encourage greater ethnic, racial, and cultural diversity among the park professions. The GWS seeks to encourage scholarship winners to pursue a profession in fields directly related to parks by giving them the opportunity to participate in a professional conference in all its dimensions, whether by taking part in sessions or networking with peers.
 5. Make available to GWS information on natural and cultural resource and landscape needs of the parks.
 6. Provide information on the two Biennial Conferences related to this Cooperative Agreement to involved NPS regions and units.
 7. Provide for NPS scientists, scholars, and other personnel to work with the GWS and other cooperators to facilitate involvement of international professionals in the two Biennial Conference activities and workshops dealing with information exchange, education, training, and associated activities related to natural resource, cultural resource, or recreation resource management in protected areas and parks.
 8. Assist and facilitate activities at the Biennial Conferences related to international programs in which both the GWS and the NPS have an expressed interest, including but not limited to World Heritage, Man and the Biosphere, IUCN, and ICOMOS.
 9. Work cooperatively with the GWS at the national, regional, and park levels to accomplish the objectives of this agreement in relation to the George Wright Society Biennial Conferences on Parks, Protected Areas, and Cultural Sites and other workshops or professional meetings.
- C. The two Biennial Conference projects under this Agreement consist of pre-conference support; Indigenous Participant Travel Grant Program; Student Travel Scholarships; and support for the Biennial Conference Proceedings. All funding will be provided by cooperative agreement modification including a scope of work and budget.

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 did not solicit full and open competition for this award based the following criteria:

(4) UNIQUE QUALIFICATIONS

SINGLE SOURCE JUSTIFICATION DESCRIPTION:

The George Wright Society (GWS) is uniquely qualified to work cooperatively with the NPS through availability of its specialized technical expertise in natural and cultural area management in the US and throughout the world. The GWS promotes professional research and resource stewardship across the natural and cultural disciplines, provides avenues of communication, and student scholarships. The GWS also publishes a variety of materials that discuss timely issues in park research, resource management, and education and makes the information they publish available to as wide an audience as possible. No other entity is available in the US with the expertise in both natural and cultural area management, natural and cultural landscapes and opportunities for crosscutting information exchange with diverse audiences including youth through conferences, publications and proceedings. Additionally, because of their mission GWS has access to volunteer experts in the fields of natural and cultural area management. GWS and other non-federal fund sources will contribute to the objectives of this program. GWS and NPS have shared resource concerns that cross public and private boundaries such as the shared stewardship by the public in natural and cultural landscapes and protected areas.

THIS IS A NOTICE OF INTENT TO AWARD

This is a Cooperative Agreement (P14AC00856) in the amount of \$0.00 with a period of performance from date of award until 09/30/2019.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

16 U.S.C. 1g. NPS authority to enter into cooperative agreements and transfer appropriated funds to nonprofit organizations for the public purpose of NPS programs.