

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 without competition.

ABSTRACT	
Funding Announcement Number	P17AS00414
Project Title	Student Experience in Historical Research on National Historic Trails in Kansas and Missouri
Recipient	University of Missouri, John Wigger
Anticipated Federal Funding	\$26,663
Anticipated Period of Performance	7/15/17-9/30/18
Award Instrument	Cooperative Agreement
Statutory Authority	54 U.S.C. §100703 Cooperative Study Units
CFDA # and Title	15.945 CESU
Single Source Justification Criteria	Unique Qualifications
Point of Contact	Katie Gaertner Katie_Gaertner@nps.gov

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

A graduate student (project historian) working through the Department of History at the University of Missouri will work with NPS in order to compile a historical narrative of overland trail activities in eastern Kansas and western Missouri between the mid-1850s and the mid-1860s. The turbulence that affected those areas during this period – specifically, “Bleeding Kansas” and the Civil War – disrupted the well-established westbound traffic over the Santa Fe, Oregon, and California trails. Due to recurring violence in those areas, some wagon trains chose to follow nearby routes, others abandoned the area altogether, and still others may have encountered violence themselves. The proposed research is intended to detail how this decade-long period of instability affected traffic over the various overland trails in eastern Kansas and western Missouri.

All tasks are intended to enhance the student(s) skills and contribute toward his/her education, and provide a broad array of historical information to the public and trail partners at historical sites and museums. As part of the work, the student(s) will be introduced to, and at times work with, various entities and professionals involved with national trails across the nation.

STATEMENT OF WORK

A graduate student from the Department of History at the University of Missouri will work with NPS National Trails Intermountain Region (NTIR) in order to compile a historical narrative of overland trail activities in eastern Kansas and western Missouri between the mid-1850s and the mid-1860s. The proposed research is intended to detail how this decade-long period of instability affected traffic over the various overland trails in eastern Kansas and western Missouri.

The project will focus on the Santa Fe, Oregon, and California trails, which are national historic trails administered by NPS NTIR. The graduate student will consult archival and secondary resources such

as maps, letters and diaries, local newspapers, memoirs, governmental and war records. Archives include Kansas State Historical Society (Topeka, KS); Missouri State Archives (Springfield, MO); Special Collections (Columbia, MO); and National Archives (Kansas City, MO).

The research and final narrative report will provide valuable historic information to the public and trail partners and advocates.

RECIPIENT AGREES TO:

1. PI will recruit a suitable student(s) in collaboration with NTIR
2. Provide graduate student (project historian) to work in support of the National Trails Intermountain Region (NTIR) historical activities. Activities will include support for three national historic trails: Oregon, California, and Santa Fe national historic trails.
3. Provide periodic briefings (each 60 days) beginning 30 days after initiation of project.
4. Provide space and equipment, as needed and mutually agreed to, to the student (project historian) in support of this Cooperative Agreement.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AGREES TO:

1. Prepare planning documents and reports to assist the student (project historian) and the PI regarding NTIR activities.
2. Provide technical assistance, historical research materials, and trail documentation to the student (project historian).
3. Provide student (project historian) with guidance/training in producing Section 508 accessibility compliant electronic documents and will implement, to the best of their ability, these practices in their work products.
4. Collaborate with the PI and the student (project historian), as needed, throughout the project.
5. Provide consultation, advice and technical assistance from the NTIR office as needed.
6. Provide the student (project historian) with an overview of the NPS, its mission and internal programs, and how the project interrelates and supports this mission.
7. Review and approve the draft historical narrative, both upon its completion and, as needed, at dates prior to that completion date. Staff from the NTIR (Santa Fe office and the Albuquerque field office) will be actively involved in making crucial decisions regarding the agreement.
8. Designate an NPS employee who, as needed, shall act as a technical liaison on the project. The NPS liaison, along with the ATR, will represent the interests of the NPS and will provide assistance to the PI that is within the scope of this agreement.
9. Provide quality control review of data development.
10. Communicate regularly with the PI and the student (project historian) via email, telephone calls, and /or physical meetings throughout duration of task project stages.

SINGLE-SOURCE JUSTIFICATION

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE SINGLE SOURCE POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Department of the Interior Policy (505 DM 2) and National Park Service Policy FAP&P 1443-2015-06 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, for which competition would have a significant adverse effect on the continuity or completion of the activity. A single source on the basis of continuation must demonstrate that competition would result in a substantial duplicate cost to the government that cannot be recovered through competition.;
- (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.

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

In order to answer the questions that have been outlined above, a skilled historian will be necessary that has two additional key qualifications: 1) he/she will need to be trained as a historian at the graduate level, and 2) he/she will need to have ready access to sources that are available only in western Missouri and eastern Kansas. In order to fulfill both qualifications, there are relatively few

graduate-level research universities that are suitably qualified. The University of Missouri, the flagship public university in that state, offers an excellent, graduate-level history department, an excellent historical library, easy access to the state's historical archives (in Jefferson City), and relatively easy access to additional repositories that may be available in the Kansas City area or in eastern Kansas.

When the project was initially being proposed, it was recognized that three public universities were in the most advantageous position to provide a student that could undertake this project: the University of Missouri (Columbia), the University of Kansas (Lawrence), and Kansas State Univ. (Manhattan). All are part of a CESU network. Attempts to contact History Dept. personnel at KSU went unanswered. At the Univ. of Kansas, one professor (Jennifer Weber) showed interest, but she was unable to interest KU grad students in this project.