



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-0242
Project Title	Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Science Liaison
Recipient	Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Anticipated Federal Amount	\$141,000 (Year 1)
Cost Share	\$0
Total Anticipated Award Amount	\$282,000 (total of two years)
New Award or Continuation?	New Award
Anticipated Period of Performance	October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2019
Award Instrument	Cooperative Agreement
CFDA # and Title	15.808 U.S. Geological Survey Research and Data Collection
USGS Point of Contact	Steve Hilburger

OVERVIEW

The USGS's Ecosystems Mission Area monitors and assesses the state of the Nation's terrestrial, freshwater, and coastal/marine ecosystems; investigates the causes and consequences of ecological change and function at numerous spatial and temporal scales; examines critical linkages among biological and physical components and processes; provides restoration science tools and approaches vital for protecting and managing ecosystems; and interprets scientific findings for policymakers on how current and future patterns of change will affect sustainability of natural resources. The USGS is awarding funds to strengthen science partnerships with State fish and wildlife agencies, via the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA).

RECIPIENT INVOLVEMENT

The recipient will be responsible for:

- 1) Identification of science needs of State natural resources agencies,
- 2) Development of collaborative approaches among State agencies, USGS, and other Federal agencies in developing research projects,
- 3) Efforts with USGS and other Federal agencies to identify available science expertise, and
- 4) Identification of actions necessary to build State and Federal agency capacity to provide ongoing coordination of science and research activities.

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:

Substantial collaboration with the development of a process for prioritization of research needs, and work to make Federal science expertise available to State fish and wildlife agencies and the broader conservation community for the identification of joint research priorities to prevent duplication of research effort, develop collaborative approaches among State and Federal agencies to identify the available science expertise, and to identify the necessary foundational steps and capacity building to provide ongoing coordination of science and research activities.

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:

AFWA is the sole natural resource affiliated organization that represents all 50 State fish and wildlife resource agencies and includes membership from Federal agencies and interested NGOs. It is a key organization in promoting sound resource management and strengthening cooperation among Federal, State, and private partners toward the purpose of protecting and managing fish and wildlife and their habitats in the public interest. Given AFWA’s broad membership and experience in coordinating natural resource science activities across State government, it is logical for science coordination to come from AFWA. The ability to access all 50 State fish and wildlife agencies and the capabilities they offer are not available from any other organization.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

43 U.S.C. 1457b. 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.