

Funding Opportunity Announcement

Plant Conservation and Restoration Ecology

Funding Agency : US Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District 333 SW First Ave Portland, OR 97204	Funding Instrument: Cooperative Agreement Funding Opportunity No: NWP-13-0003 CFDA No: TBD Program Title: US Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District Environmental Stewardship Program
Issue Date: 15 July 2013	Application Due Date: 31 July 2013
Overview: This agreement represents an opportunity to enter into a follow-on cooperative agreement for plant conservation monitoring, research, and training related to the USACE, Portland District Environmental Stewardship mission at the Willamette Valley Project. Primary duties include scientifically evaluating restoration and management methods in the endangered prairie ecosystems of the Willamette Valley. Managing a native seed production group will be among the prescribed tasks, and additional work in other Valley and Western Cascade biomes is possible. The cooperative agreement will be awarded pursuant to 33 USC 2339(a) – Assistance Programs. This is a follow-on cooperative agreement entered into solely with the Institute of Applied Ecology.	
Estimated Total Funding: \$30,000.00/yr	Estimated Number of Awards:
Contents of Full Text Announcement	
I. Funding Opportunity Description	V. Application Review Information
II. Award Information	VI. Award Administration Information
III. Eligibility Information	VII. Agency Contacts
IV. Application Information	VIII. Other Information
Contact Information: Questions relating to Grants.gov including the registration process and system requirements should be directed to the Grants.gov Contact Center at 1-800-518-4726. For assistance with the requirements of this Funding Opportunity Announcement, please contact karen.j.dailey@usace.army.mil .	
Instructions to Applicants: The complete funding opportunity announcement, application forms, and instructions are available for download at Grants.gov. Applications in response to this Funding Opportunity Announcement shall be submitted by the application due date. Applications may be submitted by mail, email, or via the internet through Grants.gov. Applicants shall have a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number, register with the Central Contract Registry (CCR), and if submitting application via the internet, register with Grants.gov. See Section IV of the Funding Opportunity Announcement for complete application submission information.	

Section I: Funding Opportunity Description

The US Army Corps of Engineers manages public land to promote ecological values and recover endangered species part of its Environmental Stewardship Program. This cooperative agreement will support that mission while providing training and educational benefits to the next generation of conservation professionals and scientists.

This agreement is for plant conservation monitoring, research, and training related to the Corps Environmental Stewardship mission at the Willamette Valley Project. Primary duties include scientifically evaluating restoration and management methods in the endangered prairie ecosystems of the Willamette Valley. Two studies are in progress. Quantitative plant community assessment and adaptive management recommendations in prairie restoration projects is in its sixth year. Determining optimum treatments for invasive exotic grasses in a prescribed fire managed wet prairie system is in its third year. Managing a native seed buyer's group is another on-going effort funded by multiple partners. Additional work in other Valley and Western Cascade biomes is possible. We expect tasks associated with recovery of Willamette Valley ESA species to be initiated in the near future, in particular those associated with an ongoing Willamette daisy restoration project, but also including work with Kincaid's lupine, Bradshaw's lomatium, and golden paintbrush.

All work performed in USACE lands shall be in accordance with EM 385-1-1, "U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Safety and Health Requirements Manual," and FED-OSHA regulations. EM 385-1-1 can be down-loaded from: http://www.hq.usace.army.mil/soh/hqusace_soh.htm.

Section II: Award Information

1. Type of Award Instrument – USACE intends to award a single cooperative agreement on a sole source basis to the Institute of Applied Ecology.
2. Substantial Involvement – USACE will provide study systems in the form of restoration projects, managed natural areas, and experimental sites. USACE will provide local expertise and advice in the design of monitoring projects and experiments as well as labor required for restoration and experimental treatments such as planting, mowing, burning and spraying. USACE specialists will interact directly with students and interns to provide details regarding biology and stewardship methods in Corps-managed sites. In addition, the USACE will provide sites for reintroduction and management experiments performed by the Recipient but funded by other agencies (when compatible with Corps mission).
3. Estimated Funding – USACE intends to award a task order in the amount of \$30,000.00 during the first year of the cooperative agreement. Task orders for subsequent years will be contingent upon need for services and available funding.
4. Period of Performance – The term of the cooperative agreement is anticipated to be from 1 August 2013 through 31 July 2018 with task orders issued as needed. Task orders will have project and budget periods that are specific to the requirement and available funding.

Section III: Eligibility Information

1. Eligible Applicants – Eligible applicants per statute are non-profit 501(c) and academic institutions. For continuity of studies currently on progress, this agreement is awarded on a sole source basis to the Institute of Applied Ecology.
2. Cost Sharing – 100% USACE Funded

Section IV: Application and Submission Information

1. Address to Request Application Package

The complete funding opportunity announcement, application forms, and instructions are available for download at Grants.gov. USACE is not responsible for any loss of internet connectivity or for an applicant's inability to access documents posted at the referenced website.

The administrative point of contact is Karen Dailey (503) 808-4615, karen.j.dailey@usace.army.mil.

2. Content and Form of Application Submission

All mandatory forms and any applicable optional forms must be completed in accordance with the instructions on the forms and the additional instructions below.

- a. SF 424 - Application for Federal Assistance (Required).
- b. SF 424 A – Budget Information for Nonconstruction Programs (To be completed for first year of requirement).
- c. SF 424 B – Assurances – Non-Construction Programs
- d. Program Narrative – Detailed description of applicant's program illustrating ability to continue to achieve the goals and objectives of the program.

3. Application shall be submitted NO LATER THAN 31 July 2013.

4. Submission Instructions

Applications may be submitted by mail, e-mail, or via the internet. Choose ONE of the following submission methods:

- a. Mail one unbound copy of your complete proposal to:
US Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District
Attn: CECT-NWP-S, Karen Dailey
333 SW 1st Ave
Portland, OR 97204
- b. E-mail:
Format all documents to print on Letter (8 ½ x 11") paper. E-mail proposal to alan.takayama@usace.army.mil.
- c. Internet:
Applicants are not required to submit proposals through Grants.gov. However, if applications are submitted via the internet, applicants are responsible for ensuring that their Grants.gov proposal submission is received in its entirety. The Government bears no responsibility for data errors resulting from transmission of conversion processes associated with electronic submissions. The Government will bear no responsibility for delays in submissions due to technical difficulties at or with the Grants.gov website.

All applicants choosing to use Grants.gov to submit proposals must be registered and have an account with Grants.gov. It may take up to three weeks to complete Grants.gov registration. For more information on registration, go to <http://www.grants.gov/ForApplicants>.

Section V: Application Review Information

1. Criteria

The following criteria shall serve as the standard against which any response to this announcement will be evaluated.

- a. Initial Review
The Government will perform an initial review to determine that the applicant is (1) eligible in accordance with Section III of the announcement; (2) all information required by Section IV has been submitted; and (3) all mandatory requirements are satisfied.
 - b. Merit Review
Proposal will be reviewed to evaluate whether applicant demonstrates the ability to continue to meet the goals and objectives and effectively manage the program.
2. Review and Selection Process
 - a. An initial screening will be conducted upon receipt of applications. Applicants meeting the requirements in paragraph 1(a) of this section will be forwarded for a merit review.
 - b. Award determination will be made based on the applicant's ability to continue to meet the requirement. The Government will make a determination all factors considered, including but not limited to merit review, program policy factors, and amount of funds available.
 - c. The Government intends to make a selection without discussions; therefore, it is important to submit all required information with application. The Government may, however, enter into discussions if it chooses to do so.
3. Anticipated Award Date

Announcement Issue Date:	15 July 2013
Announcement Due Date:	31 July 2013
Estimated Award Date:	16 August 2013

Section VI: Award Administration Information

1. Award Notices
Written notice of award will be given in conjunction with issuance of a cooperative agreement signed by a Grants Officer. The cooperative agreement will contain the effective date of the agreement, the period of performance, funding information, and all terms and conditions. The recipient is required to sign and return the document before work under the agreement commences. **Work described in this announcement SHALL NOT begin without prior authorization from a Grants Officer.**
2. Administrative Requirements
The cooperative agreement issued as a result of this announcement is pursuant to the administrative requirements in 32 CFR 215 (A-110) (Universities, Hospital, Non-profit, or For -Profit).
3. Reporting
 - a. Recipient will be required to submit progress reports quarterly, semi-annually, or annually as stipulated in the terms and conditions of the final cooperative agreement.
 - b. Recipient will be required to submit for approval, a budget (SF-424 A) for each task order issued under this cooperative agreement.
 - c. All reporting shall be in accordance with 32 CFR Part 32.

Section VII: Agency Contact

Karen Dailey, Grants Specialist, Contracting Division
USACE, Portland District Tel: 503-808-4615
ATTN: CENWP-CT-S Fax: 503-808-4605
333 SW 1st Avenue E-mail: karen.j.dailey@usace.army.mil
Portland, OR 97204

Section VIII: Other Information

Work under this requirement is currently carried out under Cooperative Agreement W9127N-08-2-0002 with Institute of Applied Ecology. Two research projects and support of a native buyer's group are in progress under the existing agreement and will continue under the new agreement.