

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. *Refer to Section 2. Grants.gov Posting Determination.*

ABSTRACT	
Grants.gov Opportunity Number	P19AS00560
Project Title	Next Generation Stewards Interns at Pinnacles National Park
Recipient	American Conservation Experience
Anticipated Federal Funding	\$232,000.00, subject to available funding (\$111,014.00 initially)
Non-Federal Cost Share	\$86,331.90 (\$37,004.67 initially)
Total Anticipated Award Amount	\$318,331.90, subject to available funding
Award Instrument	☒ Task Agreement ☐ Cooperative Agreement ☐ Grant Agreement
Anticipated Period of Performance	09/01/2019 – 12/30/2022
Legal Authority	16 U.S.C. §1723(c)
CFDA # and Title	15.931, Conservation Activities by Youth Service Organizations
Single Source Justification Criteria	
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Section 1. Project Summary

PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Pinnacles National Park (PINN or park) and American Conservation Experience (ACE) will collaborate to create a new youth program, Next Generation Stewards, to provide job opportunities and inspire youth engagement through applied conservation projects. With support from existing community partnerships, the project will reach underserved communities surrounding PINN, which have traditionally low visitation due to economic challenges. A diverse group of local and urban youth will be recruited and obtain skills that will aid them in their future careers. ACE interns will work on various natural and cultural resources and interpretation projects at PINN. Interns will gain technical skills such as habitat restoration, invasive species management, wildlife tracking and observations, monitoring environmental quality, computer data entry, public speaking, interpretation, and communication. The interns' work will directly help enhance wildlife populations that are high value to NPS and the public and that are frequently threatened by invasive species.

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC PURPOSE

This project will provide training, work experience and educational opportunities for youth, through resource management and monitoring activities. This project will also positively impact recovery efforts of the California condor, native habitat restoration, cultural resources, and the management of invasive species at the park. Endangered species recovery and native habitats are public values that support public recreation and appreciation of wildlife and wildflowers on public and private lands. This project will result in new interpretation programs and materials at PINN that can be disseminated to other national parks and central California conservation partners involved in interpreting condor biology, native habitats, and threats posed by invasive species.

STATEMENT OF WORK SUMMARY

1. Habitat Restoration: Interns will assist in restoring native plants to PINN's bottomlands and high priority habitats through the removal of noxious weeds that threaten native plants. Five different invasive plants will be targeted for removal which will be prioritized based on the season, location, their spread, and immediate needs of the Habitat Restoration team at PINN. Plants may include yellow star thistle, Italian thistle, or other high priority noxious weeds.
2. California Condor Recovery: Interns will monitor California condors on a regular basis under direction of Pinnacles Condor Recovery Program and Field Crew Leader. Monitoring tasks include radio-tracking 40 condors, field observations, trapping, and nest monitoring at one nest site. In addition, interns regularly interact with the public and interpret the condor program and condor biology to park visitors they meet along the trail and at the campground.
3. Wildlife Tracking and Observations: Interns will assist with frog, reptile, bat, and/or raptor surveys, including field observations and recording data. Interns will hike the park trails to collect field data on wildlife movements.
4. Interpretation and Communication: Interns will learn about environmental concepts and how to communicate these to the public, park visitors, and their peers. Interns will receive interpretation and public speaking training by NPS, and will practice these skills at formal and informal natural and cultural resource interpretation talks at PINN's amphitheater, campground, and along park trails and will have opportunities to have face to face contact with park visitors.
5. Monitoring Environmental Quality: Interns will assist the Inventory and Monitoring program with stream water quality monitoring.
6. Cultural Resources: On a limited basis, interns may assist Cultural Resource staff during historical architecture, trail, or museum tasks, including assisting with field notes.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

A. The recipient shall be responsible for the following items under this agreement:

1. Collaboratively recruit 6-8 interns for phase 1 of the project. Recruit additional interns for future phases, subject to availability of funds.
2. Conduct local outreach and recruitment using local resources and existing youth servicing organizations, and focus on creating a diverse pool of candidates that is representative of the surrounding demographic.
3. Administer all aspects of the internships, and work closely with PINN to schedule interns' time.
4. Assist with the logistical needs of the interns while with the NPS.

B. The NPS Responsibilities:



A task agreement is proposed;



A cooperative agreement is proposed;

therefore substantial involvement by NPS is anticipated during the period of performance of this agreement. In support of this agreement NPS will:

1. Provide detailed training on natural and cultural resource projects, interpretation, park safety, and the NPS mission.
2. Ensure ACE interns are given proper orientation to the park, logistical support, and technical education on natural and cultural resource management.
3. Hold orientation meetings with ACE members and staff to explain all technical aspects, safety considerations, and other details necessary for successful completion of the project.
4. Work with ACE to coordinate all scheduling and intern terms and to specifically train interns in resource management skills, condor monitoring, and interpretation techniques.
5. Provide all required supplies needed for project activities.
6. Assist with the safe undertaking of fieldwork and have appropriate NPS staff accompany interns when needed in the field.
7. Provide feedback to interns and ACE on intern performance and project success.
8. When feasible, provide housing for interns that require housing.
9. Provide appropriate safety training and coaching to ensure intern safety and engagement.



A grant agreement is proposed, therefore no substantial involvement on the part of the NPS is anticipated for the successful completion of the statement of work. It is anticipated that involvement will be limited to actions related to monitoring project performance and technical assistance at the request of the recipient.

Section 2. Grants.gov Posting Determination

- ☒ The National Park Service intends to award a task agreement under a previously competed or single source justified award.
- ☐ The National Park Service intends to award a single source justified cooperative agreement. *Refer to Section 3 Single Source Justification.*
- ☐ The National Park Service intends to award a single source justified grant agreement. *Refer to Section 3 Single Source Justification.*

Section 3. Single Source Justification

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE SINGLE SOURCE POLICY REQUIREMENTS

National Park Service Policy FAP&P 1443-2015-06 requires a written justification which explains why competition is not practicable. The justification must address one of the following criteria.

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. The unsolicited proposal must demonstrate an innovative capability or concept not currently available to the government, and prepared without Government involvement. ;
- (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;
- (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, technical expertise, or other such unique qualifications. Successful past performance, familiarity with existing requirements, capabilities that can be obtained or matched by a competitor, or a positive reputation, are not considered to be 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:

- ☒ Task Agreement issued under previously competed or single source master cooperative agreement per Section 2 above. Single Source Justification not applicable.
- ☐ Unsolicited Proposal ☐ Continuation ☐ Emergency
- ☐ Legislative Intent ☐ Unique Qualifications

Explanation of the proposed recipient's qualifications or the criteria of the proposed project which requires use of the single source criteria cited.

Section 4. Department of the Interior Secretary's Priorities

This award will support the following DOI Secretary priority(ies):

Other Key Initiatives:

- ☐ Employment of veterans.
- ☐ Supporting DOI Infrastructure needs.
- ☒ Creating jobs in the American economy.
- ☐ Access to outdoor recreation opportunities.

Priority 1: Creating a conservation stewardship legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt

- ☐ Utilize science to identify best practices to manage land and water resources and adapt to changes in the environment.
- ☐ Examine land use planning process and land use designations that govern public use and access.
- ☐ Revise and streamline the environmental and regulatory review process while maintaining environmental standards.
- ☐ Review DOI water storage, transportation, and distribution systems to identify opportunities to resolve conflicts and expand capacity.
- ☐ Foster relationships with conservation organizations advocating for balanced stewardship and use of public lands.
- ☐ Identify and implement initiatives to expand access to DOI lands for hunting and fishing.
- ☐ Shift the balance towards providing greater public access to public lands over restrictions to access.

Priority 2: Utilizing our natural resources

- ☐ Ensure American energy is available to meet our security and economic needs.
- ☐ Ensure access to mineral resources, especially the critical and rare earth minerals.
- ☐ Refocus timber programs to embrace the entire 'healthy forests' lifecycle.
- ☐ Manage competition for grazing resources.

Priority 3: Restoring trust with local communities

- ☐ Be a better neighbor with those closest to our resources by improving dialogue and relationships with persons and entities bordering our lands.
- ☐ Expand the lines of communication with Governors, state natural resource offices, Fish and Wildlife offices, water authorities, county commissioners, Tribes, and local communities.

Priority 4: Ensuring sovereignty means something

- ☐ Support tribal self-determination, self-governance, and sovereignty.
- ☐ Solidify mutual interests between the U.S. and the freely associated states and territories.

Priority 5: Generating additional revenues to support DOI & National interests

- ☐ Ensure that the public receives the full market value for the natural resources produced on Federal lands.
- ☐ Ensure that fees or costs levied for DOI services are reasonable and targeted to achieve cost recovery.
- ☐ Consider the impact of DOI decisions on economic development and job creation.

Priority 6: Protecting our people and the border

- ☐ Actively support efforts to secure our southern border.
- ☐ Ensure DOI law enforcement staffing addresses public safety risks anticipated on DOI land.
- ☐ Promote a "public service" demeanor within our law enforcement community.

Priority 7: Striking a regulatory balance

- ☐ Reduce the administrative and regulatory burden imposed on U.S. industry and the public.
- ☐ Ensure that Endangered Species Act decisions are based on strong science and thorough analysis.

Priority 8: Modernizing our infrastructure

- ☐ Support the White House Public/Private Partnership Initiative to modernize U.S. infrastructure.
- ☐ Remove impediments to infrastructure development and facilitate private sector efforts to construct infrastructure projects serving American needs.
- ☐ Prioritize DOI infrastructure needs to highlight:
 1. Construction of infrastructure;
 2. Cyclical maintenance;
 3. Deferred maintenance.

Priority 9: Reorganizing for the next 100 years

- ☐ Improve alignment and integration of the DOI organizational structure. Redistribute organizational resources (people and funding) to enhance mission achievement and improved public service.
- ☐ Improve organizational alignment with Executive Branch counterparts with major land management assets or influence.

Priority 10: Achieving our goals and leading our team forward

- ☐ Senior executives are expected to provide leadership in achieving goals of the President and the Secretary.
- ☐ The Management Team is expected to:
 1. Ensure cost-effective operations and quality service to the public;
 2. Facilitate organizational cooperation and conflict resolution;
 3. Ensure the workplace environment is conducive to employee productivity and safety;
 4. Hold individuals accountable for actions that violate DOI policies and requirements.

The proposed project does not support any of the DOI Secretary priorities, but the project is being funded for the following reasons: