



**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	P13AS00177
Project Title	Field Ecology and Technical Support for Long-Term Monitoring in National Parks of the Southern Colorado Plateau Network
Recipient	Northern Arizona University
Principle Investigator / Program Manager	Ron Hiebert
Total Anticipated Award Amount	\$141,500.00
Cost Share	No
New Award or Continuation?	New Task Agreement against the Colorado Plateau Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESU) Cooperative Agreement
Anticipated Length of Agreement	1 year and 7 months
Anticipated Period of Performance	August 2013 through March 2015
Award Instrument	Cooperative Agreement
Statutory Authority	16 U.S.C. §1a-2(j) and 16 U.S.C. §5933
CFDA # and Title	CFDA No. 15.945 Cooperative Research and Training Programs – Resources of the National Park System
Single Source Justification Criteria Cited	(2) Continuation and (4) Unique Qualifications
NPS Point of Contact	Alicia Broner Contract Specialist (Contractor) National Park Service WASO WCP Contracting and Procurement

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OVERVIEW

As part of the Southern Colorado Plateau Network's (SCPN's) Vital Signs monitoring program, this project contributes to understanding the current status and tracking trends in condition through time for a selected suite of indicators of ecosystem condition. The purpose of the project described herein is for SCPN and Northern Arizona University (NAU) to collaborate to conduct long-term monitoring of upland, riparian/aquatic and landscape-level indicators in targeted park ecosystems and to communicate monitoring results to a broad audience of park managers, partners and the general public.

In using the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESU), federal agencies and nonfederal partners (e.g. tribes, universities, state agencies, and other organizations) collaborate through technical assistance, education, and training to address natural and cultural resource management issues. Under the Colorado Plateau CESU, the National Park Service (NPS) and NAU will contribute to describing regional ecological integrity and furthering scientific understanding of the current conditions of park resources, which often serve as reference conditions when evaluating the condition of public lands that are impacted by human use. Results from this project will be publicly available through the SCPN website (<http://science.nature.nps.gov/im/units/scpn/index.cfm>) and the Learning Center of the American Southwest website (<http://www.southwestlearning.org/>).

The specific objectives of this Task Agreement are to implement long-term monitoring projects for water resources and upland ecosystems, to develop the network's data management system, and to prepare reports, articles and other publications describing the program's purpose as well as inventory and monitoring results.

RECIPIENT INVOLVEMENT

CSU agrees to:

- Water Resources Monitoring
- Integrated Upland Monitoring
- Data Management and GIS Support
- Technical Writing/Editing of SCPN Project Reports
- Science Communication Products for SCPN and Learning Center of the American Southwest (LCAS) Websites
- LCAS Website Management
- SCPN-NAU Project Oversight and Administration

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:

- Provide overall coordination of the project and to set the priorities and work schedule.
- Provide relevant reports, data and other supporting material from SCPN and park files.
- Provide timely review of products associated with this project and input as needed.
- Provide field and office equipment to accomplish monitoring objectives.
- Work collaboratively with NAU to meet project objectives.

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.

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The National Park Service did not solicit full and open competition for this award based the following criteria:

**(2) CONTINUATION, AND
(4) UNIQUE QUALIFICATIONS**

Single Source Justification Description:

THIS IS A NOTICE OF INTENT TO AWARD

This is a Task Agreement, P13AC01043, under the Colorado Plateau Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU) Cooperative Agreement H2370094001, in the amount of \$141,500.00 with a period of performance from date of award through March 31, 2015.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

16 U.S.C. §1a-2(j) Cooperative research and training programs
Secretary of the Interior's authorization of activities - Enter into cooperative agreements with public or private educational institutions, States, and their political subdivisions, for the purpose of developing adequate, coordinated, cooperative research and training programs concerning the resources of the National Park System, and, pursuant to any such agreements, to accept from and make available to the cooperator such technical and support staff, financial assistance for mutually agreed upon research projects, supplies and equipment, facilities, and administrative services relating to cooperative research units as the Secretary deems appropriate; except that this paragraph shall not waive any requirements for research projects that are subject to the Federal procurement regulations.

16 U.S.C. §5933 Cooperative agreements

(a) Cooperative study units - The Secretary is authorized and directed to enter into cooperative agreements with colleges and universities, including but not limited to land grant schools, in partnership with other Federal and State agencies, to establish cooperative study units to conduct multi-disciplinary research and develop integrated information products on the resources of the National Park System, or the larger region of which parks are a part.

(b) Report - Within one year of November 13, 1998, the Secretary shall report to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate and the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives on progress in the establishment of a comprehensive network of such college and university based cooperative study units as will provide full geographic and topical coverage for research on the resources contained in units of the National Park System and their larger regions.