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	NPS-NOIP20AC00057
Project Title	Return of Wolves to Isle Royale Consequences for Mesocarnivores
Recipient	University of Wisconsin-Madison
Anticipated Federal Funding	$59,398.60
Non-Federal Cost Share	$0
Total Anticipated Award Amount	$239,400.00
Award Instrument	☐ Task Agreement ☑ Cooperative Agreement ☐ Grant Agreement
Anticipated Period of Performance	April 1, 2020 - March 31, 2023
Legal Authority	54 U.S.C. §101702(b)
CFDA # and Title	15.944 Natural Resource Stewardship
Single Source Justification Criteria	Unique Qualifications
National Park Service Point of Contact	Katherine Borschel, Grants Management Specialist, katherine_borschel@nps.gov, 402-661-1646

Section 1. Project Summary

PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The overall goal of this project is to quantify effects and evaluate the impacts of wolf reintroduction on the other native carnivores, fox and marten, within the park. By combining genetic and non-invasive approaches in the field and molecular markers in the laboratory, we will be able to collect sufficient samples to answer fundamental questions of marten and fox ecology and their response to repatriating wolves to Isle Royale. Specific objectives include: 1) Analyze multi-locus genetic data that has already been collected over two field seasons from marten and fox scat samples to estimate abundance, recruitment, and survivorship of foxes and martens via genetic mark-recapture analyses. 2) Quantify diet of martens and foxes from previously collected hair samples for the analysis of stable isotopes to determine marten and fox proportional dietary inputs before and after wolf repatriation and pack coalescence. Analyze camera trap data to explore carrion use and foraging behavior of mesocarnviores. 3) Use documented presences of martens and foxes

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC PURPOSE

The scientific community and/or researchers external to NPS gains by new knowledge provided through research and related results dissemination of natural resource information. The project assists in the creation, promotion, facilitation, and/or improvement of the public's understanding of the natural resources, ecology, and conservation of Isle Royale National Park.

STATEMENT OF WORK SUMMARY

To determine strength and direction of interactions among the three terrestrial carnivores on Isle Royale and to better understand how this, and other, communities of carnivores are structured by wolf repatriation, we will collect data during three discrete periods: 1) before wolf repatriation; 2) post wolf repatriation; 3) post wolf repatriation and following pack coalescence. with traditional methods is hampered by low detection probabilities and small sample sizes. Such limitations are particularly problematic for studies evaluating the population ecology of carnivores, which are wide-ranging and secretive. We will use both genetic and isotopic methods, combined with non-invasive sampling approaches (where individuals are not actively trapped but biological samples are collected via remote devices) to quantify population attributes and processes for forest carnivores to address the objectives (1-4) outlined above. In particular, genetic approaches, by which individual identity is obtained by multi-locus genotyping and maternity or paternity is assessed based on genotypic data, provide a powerful method for assessing fundamental attributes of a population.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

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

1. Carry out the Statement of Work in accordance with the terms and conditions stated herein. The Recipient shall adhere to Federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and codes, as applicable.
2. Appoint Dr. Johnathan Pauli, Associate Professor, as the principal investigator for administering this work.
3. Hire a graduate student to collect, analyze and produce products (publications, reports, social media and oral presentations) associated with the work outlined in Article IV.
4. Complete DNA-based analyses for population size and vital rates of martens and foxes on Isle Royale. Scat samples will be collected on hiking trails from the end of August to early October in 2020. Each trail will be hiked every 4 days (7 times) and all potential marten and fox samples will be collected and location will be recorded with a handheld GPS rover. Collected scats will be swabbed for DNA extraction. Samples will be genotyped using a multiplex of eighteen previously developed microsatellite markers developed for martens (Pauli et al. 2015; Manlick et al. 2019) and red foxes (Black et al. in press). Determine sex of individuals with the SRY gene (Campbell et al. 2010) or b. To estimate abundance and survivorship employ a robust design model with genotyping error (Lukacs and Burnham, 2005). Individual capture histories from genotypes should

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. Assign Isle Royale Division Chief of Natural Resources, Mark C. Romanski, as the NPS principle investigator.
2. Monitor and provide Federal oversight of activities performed under this Agreement. Monitoring and oversight includes review and approval of financial status and performance reports, payment requests, and tasks identified below. At the Recipient's request, NPS may also provide technical assistance to the Recipient in support of the objectives of this Agreement.
3. Provide one biological science technician to assist with the collection of samples between August and September of 2020.
4. Provide scat samples and camera trap data already being collected in other, on-going NPS work, as soon as it is available, to assist in ensuring the goals and objectives outlined in Article IV are achieved.
5. Provide limited logistical support to assist both NPS and UW-MAD technicians and researchers in accomplishing field related tasks and duties.

☐ 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.

The UW-Madison Pauli Lab is uniquely suited to accomplishing the goal and objectives outlined above for the following reasons: 1) Dr. Pauli and his students have spent the past few years researching the carnivore community on Isle Royale and have demonstrated sound science which has led to three peer reviewed publications on carnivores and their prey; 2) Dr. Pauli's lab specializes in both genetic and isotopic research techniques required for this work, and 3) Dr. Pauli and his students worked with national parks and forests, and state and tribal natural resource management agencies of the Great Lakes region on mesocarnivore ecology, making this lab the leading experts on this subject withing the region.

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: