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	P19AS00491
Project Title	Restoring Watershed And Enhancing Habitat In Partnership
Recipient	Save the Redwoods League
Anticipated Federal Funding	$2,150,000
Non-Federal Cost Share	$2,150,000
Total Anticipated Award Amount	$4,300,000
Award Instrument	☐ Task Agreement ☑ Cooperative Agreement ☐ Grant Agreement
Anticipated Period of Performance	08/15/2019 to 07/31/2024
Legal Authority	54 USC §101702(d)
CFDA # and Title	15.944, Natural Resources Stewardship
Single Source Justification Criteria	Unique Qualifications
National Park Service Point of Contact	Lilette J. Baltodano, Awarding Officer| National Park Service| Pacific West Region| 333 Bush St., Ste 500|San Francisco, CA

Section 1. Project Summary

PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The goals are to: Thin 1000 acres of forest to reestablish old growth connectivity; enhance complexity; encourage understory; and increase resilience to environmental stressors (e.g., severe wildfire and drought). Utilize sale of biomass to offset cost of the project. All revenue generated from sales will be retained within the project to restore unfunded acres.

Remove 8 miles of non-functioning legacy logging roads to reduce erosion threat and sediment delivery into streams, to protect water quality, habitat for anadromous fish, and restore disrupted watersheds. Removing roads will reestablish natural stream morphology, hydrology, stream function, and fish passage where these features currently intersect failing removed roads.

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC PURPOSE

The parties of the Redwoods Rising collaborative desire to cooperate with one another for their mutual benefit to restore, monitor, and protect the natural resources of the park. This project engages the SRL and RNSP in a shared vision of environmental stewardship that is designed to restore terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems damaged by recent land uses associated with industrial timber operations. Through successful implementation of this agreement, current and future generations of visitors, will benefit and enjoy these irreplaceable natural resources as intended by the Congress and California Legislature when establishing the parks that define RNSP. While the collaborative and project are focused on restoration, the partners also seek to engage youth in park restoration. Redwoods Rising has developed an apprenticeship program (established 2017) that will be utilized to introduce youth to the benefits of public land restoration. This apprenticeship program seeks to involve youth in watershed management surveying and monitoring, protection of public resources, and experiencing the planning and implementation of land stewardship projects, with the purpose of fostering youth engagement in stewardship of public lands.

STATEMENT OF WORK SUMMARY

The project is focused in the coastal watersheds of Redwood National and State Parks dominated by coastal redwood forests but that have been degraded by past logging practices prior to park establishment. The project specifically seeks to reconnect existing old-growth islands by restoring second-growth forest through accelerating development of late seral forest conditions. It will achieve these goals through forest management that primarily includes thinning of trees up to 30 inches in diameter, biomass utilization through the sale of merchantable trees, road removal and reforestation, and aquatic habitat enhancement through placement of wood structures in streams. The area being restored currently provides little recreational access to park visitors, and no existing trails or visitor use areas will be permanently closed as a consequence of this project. Project benefits include reducing wildfire risk, increasing carbon sequestration and storage rates, increasing habitat climate resiliency, enhancing biodiversity, protecting water quality, enhanced opportunities for rural communities, youth engagement, and restoring overall forest health. The project will utilize science-based natural resource stewardship techniques, developed and standardized by park staff and other resource management practitioners to implement the project.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

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

Implement tasks 1 and 2 set out in the Statement of Work. The project deliverables include: Task 1 - A minimum of 1000 acres of second growth forest will be treated to reduce overall tree density, promote vigorous growth and progression of desired trees towards late-successional forest habitat. Task 2 – Up to 8 miles of road will be removed. Additional work identified in Phase 1 treatments will be implemented by the League, dependent on available funding from the partners of this collaborative.

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:

Provide technical support for the data management, particularly associated with inventory, prioritization, and GIS applications; work collaboratively with SRL to implement restoration plans according to agency requirements; Work collaboratively with SRL to sequence restoration actions consistent with plans that improve efficiency and effectiveness; Share information on project results, data, and to improve knowledge and communication with SRL and others parties; Review and provide comment and/or concurrence to CDPR on plans, specifications and other documents submitted pursuant to Article III. A. 1 above, within thirty (30) days of receipt.

☐ 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 Save the Redwoods League is a private non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that is uniquely qualified to work cooperatively with RNSP staff to manage and implement the proposed project. They have worked closely with RNSP staff, implementing small scale restoration efforts over the last 2 decades in the parks. As an organization, they are dedicated to restoring redwood forests they have acquired to enhance habitat and ecosystem function. SRL has planned and implemented complex forest management, restoration, and stewardship projects across thousands of acres on privately held redwood forest properties in California. Their vision of restoration is aligned perfectly with the RNSP vision of managing its second growth redwood forests and watersheds, and removing roads to stabilize erosional threats. In addition, SRL has demonstrated the technical and financial expertise needed to manage complex projects, raise the necessary funds to implement the proposed work (approximately $20 million total cost), and to coordinate restoration seamlessly across State and National park boundaries within RNSP. Lastly, with a total annual operating budget of $30,569,107 (FY17/18) and a permanent stewardship reserve, the League has the fiscal capacity and staffing expertise to conduct the proposed Project on-time and on-budget. There is no other organization that combines the skill sets needed to implement redwood forest restoration actions in forests, streams, and roads, while having the requisite close working relationship with RNSP staff, to implement

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: