

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 a task agreement under a previously competed or single source justified master cooperative agreement.

| ABSTRACT                                 |                                                                                    |
|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Funding Announcement Number</b>       | P17AC00739                                                                         |
| <b>Project Title</b>                     | Conserve Objects for Exhibits                                                      |
| <b>Recipient</b>                         | Pearce Paul Creasman, University of Arizona                                        |
| <b>Anticipated Federal Funding</b>       | \$89,901                                                                           |
| <b>Anticipated Period of Performance</b> | September 1, 2017 – December 31, 2020                                              |
| <b>Award Instrument</b>                  | Task Agreement                                                                     |
| <b>Statutory Authority</b>               | 54 U.S.C. §100703, 101702(a), (b)                                                  |
| <b>CFDA # and Title</b>                  | 15.945 CESU                                                                        |
| <b>Point of Contact</b>                  | Katie Gaertner, <a href="mailto:Katie_gaertner@nps.gov">Katie_gaertner@nps.gov</a> |

**BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES**

Cooperative Agreement Number P17AC00671 was entered into by and between the Department of the Interior, National Park Service, (NPS), and The University of Arizona (hereafter referred to as 'Recipient') for the purpose of providing research, technical assistance, and/or education, as described below. Unless otherwise specified herein, the terms and conditions as stated in the Cooperative Agreement will apply to this Task Agreement. This agreement is also subject to the terms and conditions of Cooperative Agreement Number P14AC00921 for the Colorado Plateau Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Unit.

**STATEMENT OF WORK**

Background: The Intermountain Region Museum Services Program curates approximately 14.5 million museum objects, specimens, and archives for more than 70 national parks at the Western Archeological and Conservation Center (WACC), Tucson, Arizona. This facility houses a conservation lab and employs specialists that provide conservation support to the museum collections within the region. In addition to caring for collections stored at WACC, this team works with collections from around the western states that are transported to the lab for stabilization conservation treatments and documentation. This project will enable participants to acquire and apply diverse skills related to preventive care, accountability, and conservation treatment.

This project fulfills a public purpose of supporting Government objectives by providing a museum-focused educational work opportunity for students with art conservation interest that complements classroom instruction. The participants will acquire and apply diverse skills related to preventive care, accountability, and art conservation protocols. Techniques and standards gained from this work can be readily applied in other museum settings. The additional training and practical work experience from this project will enhance the participant's employability in the public or private sector.

The Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research has successfully collaborated with the conservation

program within the Intermountain Region Museum Services Program at WACC over the past year under three CESU task agreements (UAZCP 311, P17AC00105, and P17AC00586) to survey collections for condition, perform stabilization treatments, and improve storage conditions.

Objectives and Methodology: Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research (LTRR) and the WACC conservation staff will collaborate on the following museum-focused educational work experience opportunities for pre-graduate/graduate art conservation students that will complement classroom instruction. The students will acquire and apply diverse skills related to preventive care, accountability, and conservation treatment. Work will be completed at the Western Archeological and Conservation Center, Tucson, Arizona and onsite at Fort Larned National Historic Site, Kansas, and Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site, Colorado.

To provide a diverse student experience, this joint effort will be directed in the following areas:

**Pack and Transport Collections:** Preparing collections for transit requires specific packing methods that ensure stability and proper inventory during transportation. Packing collections onsite at a park requires additional considerations to ensure the safety of collections throughout the process. Cooperators will travel to Fort Larned to work with NPS staff to pack collections requiring treatment and transport the items back to WACC. Upon completion of the treatments to be performed at WACC, the cooperators and students will pack the collections and transport the items to the park. Inventories and Department of the Interior Receipts for Property at each stage of the packing and unpacking processes will ensure all objects are tracked. This will provide experience to the cooperators in coordinating the needs of the group and training students, and the students will be exposed to the thought process of preparing and tracking collections for transit.

**Perform Conservation Treatments in the Laboratory Setting:** Conservation treatment is commonly required for historic material that has been on exhibit or going to be placed on exhibit. The objects from Fort Larned that have been identified as requiring treatment prior to exhibit include both organic and inorganic material types. Ceramics and lanterns currently on exhibit and in use in the historic Old Santa Fe Trail Building (OSTB) require cyclic maintenance treatments to be performed while the building undergoes renovation. The condition issues will provide a diverse educational experience for participants. In all an estimated 140 objects will receive stabilization treatments.

**Perform Conservation Treatment in a Park Setting:** Onsite conservation treatment is often required for large objects on exhibit and requires creative solutions that are not necessary in the lab setting. An historic Conestoga wagon at Bent's Old Fort National Monument (BEOL) requires onsite stabilization treatment and will provide an opportunity for cooperators to collaborate with NPS Conservators and experience the development of onsite conservation treatment methods. Anticipated to be one week onsite at the park working in tandem with NPS staff, one large object will receive stabilization treatment.

**Create Documentation:** Conservation treatments require research into appropriate treatment methods, full documentation including a condition report and treatment proposal approved by a NPS conservator and NPS curator, and initial before treatment photography before the

stabilization treatment can proceed. A final treatment report and after treatment photographs for each object document the results of the treatment work. Reporting is completed in a FileMaker Pro database. NPS owns copyright of all documentation images. All work will meet standards in accordance with the Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Practice of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works and the *NPS Museum Handbook*. Students will work alongside the cooperators to learn examination techniques and documentation methods.

Upon completion of the project, treatment reports and images will be provided to the park, regional office, and filed on the WACC server and in the WACC files.

**Collaborate with Exhibit Fabricators:** Conservation guidance is often necessary when exhibit cases and object exhibit mounts are designed and fabricated. Cooperators and students will collaborate with NPS staff and fabricators visiting WACC to prepare support materials for the Fort Larned objects to be exhibited. Students will be included in these discussions to be exposed to the issues associated with protecting museum collections on exhibit.

**RECIPIENT AGREES TO:**

1. Collaboratively undertake a project titled: “Conserve Objects for Exhibits.”
2. Pack and transport objects between Fort Larned and WACC to facilitate the conservation project as identified in Article III, Section A, Pack and Transport Collections.
3. Perform conservation treatment for an estimated 141 objects as identified in Article III, Section A, Perform Conservation Treatments in a Laboratory Setting, and Perform Conservation Treatments in a Park Setting.
4. Create documentation for conservation treatments and provide copies to the park and WACC as described in Article III, Section A, Create Documentation. NPS owns copyright of all documentation images.
5. Collaborate with exhibit fabricators as described in Article III, Section A, Collaborate with Exhibit Fabricators.
6. Follow existing local protocols for laboratory safety and carrying out the tasks and collaboratively confer with NPS staff for any situations that are not already addressed by existing protocols. Maintain an on-going dialog and exchange of information and documentation about issues and tasks with the ATR and NPS Technical Experts who may bring together other identified relevant parties (parks and partners) for discussions about changes to protocols, achieving efficiencies, setting priorities, identifying action items, and scheduling.
7. Provide all electronic records created or revised during the project to the Technical Experts for review and make any necessary corrections resulting from that review.

8. Not reveal locations of any cultural resources in any publically released products unless granted written permission to do so by the ATR.
9. Fully acknowledge the NPS in any published or formally presented material developed or derived from this Task Agreement.
10. Comply with NPS personal identity verification procedures that implement Homeland Security Presidential Directive-12 (HSPD-12), Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidance M-05-24, and Federal Information Processing Standards Publication (FIPS PUB) Number 201 and insert paragraph 13 of this Article in all subcontracts when the subcontractor is required to have physical access to a federally-controlled facility or access to a Federal information system.

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AGREES TO:**

1. Work with the Recipient's program coordinator on recruiting, interviewing, and recommending appropriate candidates.
2. Coordinate the work of LTRR staff, NPS interns, and any volunteers that may be assigned to various aspects of this project.
3. Select objects to be addressed by the project.
4. Provide protocols and consultation throughout the project for laboratory safety; object handling; survey techniques and documentation; photographic documentation; treatment proposals, reporting and standards; and conservation database entry into FileMaker Pro.
5. Provide technical consultation on the conservation process throughout the ongoing work.
6. Facilitate scheduling and coordinate receipt for property forms and incoming loan paperwork so collections from Fort Larned can be transported from the park to the conservation laboratory at WACC.
7. Transport objects from OSTB to Tucson for treatment.
8. Provide space at WACC, Tucson, AZ, and equipment, including government laptop or desktop computers, scanners, network access, camera, and lights for all work. NPS owns copyright of all documentation images.
9. Review all products and the final project report and provide students with feedback and corrections needed for the products to meet standards.
10. Collaborate with the Recipient's Principle Investigator on a final report summarizing the project.

11. Complete background investigations deemed necessary for any University of Arizona staff provided access to NPS facilities or computers.
12. Fully acknowledge The University of Arizona and LTRR in any published or formally presented materials developed under or derived from the Task Agreement.