

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
Notice of Intent to Award to a Single Source without Competition (NOI)

Per 505 DM 2, Section 2.14, a single source award is a financial assistance award specifically directed to a known recipient that is statutorily designated or determined to be an appropriate partner based on demonstrable criteria, such as unique expertise or capacity. Decisions to award funds to a single source without engaging in competition must withstand scrutiny, should protect the public interest, and should comport with management priorities, objectives and statutory requirements. **Programs must use this NOI template to document justification for issuing funds in any amount to a single source without competition.** The completed NOI template must be included in the official award file maintained by the program office. When issuing funds of \$25,000 or more to a single source a Grants.gov funding opportunity posting, including a synopsis and a complete application package, is required. The completed NOI template must be scanned and uploaded as an attachment to the Grants.gov funding opportunity synopsis.

Recipient:	Friends of the Wildlife Corridor
Project Title:	Mitigation Services for Land Conservation in Lower Rio Grande Valley, Texas
USFWS Contact Name:	Dr. Larisa Ford
USFWS Contact Email:	Larisa_Ford@fws.gov

Single Source Justification (as per 505 DM 2.14) - select the applicable justification(s):

☐	(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 award to a particular recipient or 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.

Explain below why competition for this award is not practicable. Include a discussion of the program legislative history, unique capabilities of the proposed recipient, and any cost-sharing contribution offered by the proposed recipient, as applicable. Be brief and specific:

In accordance with Department of the Interior guidance (505 DM 2.14) the Fish and Wildlife Service Ecological Services (USFWS ES), Region 2, provides notice of its intent to make a single-source award via an cooperative agreement and a grant with The Friends of the Wildlife Corridor to fund mitigation services in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas. These services include acquisition of land for conservation and to provide for maintenance of these land until they can be transferred to a USFWS approved land trust, these land acquisition will help restore or preserve the wildlife corridor for ocelots, jaguarundi and other species that depend on the wildfire habitat along the Lower Rio Grande on both sides of the border. For the purposes of this agreement, land acquisition will only occur in Texas, from willing sellers, and from land tracts that will be approved by the USFWS as appropriate for inclusion in the corridor. The Friends of the Wildlife Corridor have over 10 years of expertise acquiring land and have good relationships with willing sellers in the area of interest. The Friends of the Wildlife Corridor are particular adept at acquiring small tracts of land and dealing with small purchases of \$1 million or less. We expect that no land tract purchased under this agreement will exceed \$1 million and that several smaller tracts will be purchased. The Friends of the Wildlife Corridor have been successful in placing lands they purchase into conservation status with other agencies or land trusts as appropriate for preservation of these lands in perpetuity. They use the same survey, titling and acquisition process that is required by Federal Standards. With this inherent expertise, they require no training or start-up time to get acquisition off the ground. Also, they have the manpower and the expertise in the local area to get projects done in a timely manner. They have expertise in collaborating with the staff of the South Texas Refuge Complex and Ecological Services and have always worked with the utmost professionalism and with the fulfilling the needs of the Wildlife Corridor as their highest priority.