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-18-NERO-0200
Project Title	AT relocation phase II construction (Palmerton restoration)
Recipient	Appalachian Trail Conservancy
Anticipated Federal Funding	$725,437.00
Non-Federal Cost Share	$0.00
Total Anticipated Award Amount	$725,437.00
Award Instrument	☑ Task Agreement ☐ Cooperative Agreement ☐ Grant Agreement
Anticipated Period of Performance	Date of final signature and extend through 12/31/2022
Legal Authority	54 U.S.C. §101702(a), 82 Stat. 919, 16 USC § 1246(h)(1)
CFDA # and Title	15.935 / National Trails System Projects
Single Source Justification Criteria	
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Section 1. Project Summary

PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

A. Project Goals –
Restore the segment of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail footpath and associated side trails from Lehigh Furnace Gap to the junction with the Upper Winter Trail on Blue Mountain near Palmerton, Pennsylvania that was impacted by the Palmerton Zinc Pile Superfund Site. Create a sustainable trail (reduce erosion and minimize future maintenance needs) in an optimal permanent location that provides for the conservation, public use, enjoyment, and appreciation of the scenic, historic, natural and cultural quality of the areas through which the trail passes. The completed trail relocation will enhance hiker opportunities, restore trail conditions, and improve trail stability and hiker safety.

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC PURPOSE

Construction of a permanent and sustainable new Appalachian Trail route along Blue Mountain will compensate the public for the loss of services that the Trail and associated natural resources would have provided had the Palmerton Zinc Pile Superfund injury not occurred. This project will conduct critical trail repair, relocation, and construction activities along a section of the Appalachian Trail impacted by the Palmerton Superfund Site. The NPS has obtained funding for the work through the Palmerton Zinc Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Settlement. The project will repair, relocate, and construct trail sections from Lehigh Furnace Gap to the the junction with the Upper Winter Trail on Blue Mountain. Major trail construction items to be completed will include corridor clearing, tread definition, leveling and setting stones, step construction, and drainage diversions. Project will be managed and implemented through a partnership between the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) and the NPS Appalachian National Scenic Trail. Work will be performed as specified in Design of Permanent Route of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail Through Palmerton, PA Superfund Site, Lehigh Furnace Gap to Little Gap, December 2014.

STATEMENT OF WORK SUMMARY

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy will work cooperatively with volunteer trail clubs, NPS, Pennsylvania Game Commission, and other partners to implement construction of the designed permanent relocation route of the Appalachian Trail from Lehigh Furnace Gap to the top of Lehigh Gap at Upper Winter Trail on Blue Mountain. The design of the trail relocation route was completed in 2014 by Peter S. Jensen & Associates, LLC. The length of the re-route is approximately 9.52 miles. Major trail construction items to be completed will include corridor clearing, tread definition, leveling and setting stones, step construction, and drainage diversions. Work will be performed as specified in Design of Permanent Route of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail Through Palmerton, PA Superfund Site, Lehigh Furnace Gap to Little Gap, December 2014.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

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

Appalachian Trail Conservancy
agrees to:

1. Work cooperatively with the NPS, volunteer trail clubs, Pennsylvania Game Commission, and other partners to implement the construction of the permanent route of the A.T. from Lehigh Furnace Gap to the junction with Upper Winter Trail.

2. Prior to beginning work each calendar year, submit annual work plans to NPS in a mutually agreed upon format. Work plans are to include: maps or descriptions of trail segments where work will be performed, any equipment or material staging areas, and estimated work schedules and crew size.

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. 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 request, and tasks identified below. Additional monitoring activities may include site visits, conference calls, and other on-site and off-site monitoring activities. At the Recipient's request, NPS may also provide additional technical assistance to the Recipient in support of the objectives of this agreement.

2. Work directly with ATC to coordinate with other federal, state, and local agency partners to implement construction of the permanent route of the A.T. from Lehigh Furnace Gap to the junction with Upper Winter Trail

3. Provide technical assistance, guidance, and support to ATC and partners in project implementation.

☐ 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;

(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. A single source on the basis of continuation must demonstrate that competition would result in a substantial duplicate cost to the government that cannot be recovered through competition;

(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;

(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.

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.
- [x] Supporting DOI Infrastructure needs.
- [x] Creating jobs in the American economy.
- [x] Access to outdoor recreation opportunities.

Priority 1: Creating a conservation stewardship legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt

- [x] 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.
- [x] 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.
- [x] 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.
- [x] 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: