

This Funding Announcement is not a request for applications. This announcement is to provide public notice of the National Park Service (NPS), intention to fund the following project activities **without** competition.

ABSTRACT	
Funding Announcement	P17AS00157
Project Title	Protect Mexican Blindcat by Prioritizing Inventories of Cave Ecosystems
Recipient	San Antonio Zoo
Total Anticipated Award Amount	\$49,985
Cost Share	\$14,225
Anticipated Length of Agreement	April 10, 2017-September 30, 2018
Anticipated Period of Performance	April 10, 2017-September 30, 2018
Award Instrument	Task Agreement awarded under Master Agreement P17AC00329
Statutory Authority	54 U.S.C. §101702(a)
CFDA # and Title	15.944
Single Source Justification Criteria Cited	Task Agreement awarded under Master Agreement P17AC00329
Point of Contact	Katie Gaertner, Katie_Gaertner@nps.gov

OVERVIEW

Amistad National Recreation Area has significant cave and karst features that have not been fully identified or inventoried for their biological or cultural resources and recreation opportunities. Program goals are to perform biological inventories of cave fauna and better understand the distribution and conservation status of the federally endangered Mexican blindcat (a blind catfish species) in the US. The eventual development of a cave management plan will help set conservation goals for cave species and open appropriate caves for recreational caving. This project will advance scientific understanding of the Mexican blindcat's distribution and status on public lands, and ultimately guide the park in providing public education and interpretative material on the critical links between aquifer health and human health. Cave species are considered indicators of ecological health, and information gained in this project will be used to assess the health of the aquifer in AMIS and how it relates to water quality and quantity that also supports regional human populations.

STATEMENT OF JOINT OBJECTIVES/PROJECT MANAGEMENT PLAN RECIPIENT INVOLVEMENT

1. Locate and map cave/karst features and drainage features in AMIS areas selected by NPS for Years 1 & 2 in scope of work;
2. Perform biological inventories of cave fauna at AMIS for significant features as jointly determined by team;

3. Provide for care and maintenance of endangered captive Mexican blindcat individuals at zoo facilities

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE INVOLVEMENT

1. Select appropriate cave/karst features for biological surveys;
2. Review data collected from caves;
3. Provide logistical support, including coordination with law enforcement protection, and boat transportation to survey areas;
4. Ensure the protection of sensitive cave resources and their locations;
5. Oversee research activities including proper procedures for specimen collection and preservation following NPS museum guidelines
6. Ensure that all cave research activities are performed safely and in accordance with caving protocols

NPS did not solicit full and open competition for this award based the following criteria:

This is a continuation of the Master Agreement P17AC00329