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	P20AS00069
Project Title	Population Analysis of Big Cypress National Preserve Deer
Recipient	Texas A & M University-Kingsville
Anticipated Federal Funding	$70,000
Non-Federal Cost Share	N/A
Total Anticipated Award Amount	$70,000
Award Instrument	☐ Task Agreement ☑ Cooperative Agreement ☐ Grant Agreement
Anticipated Period of Performance	6/1/2020 - 12/31/2021
Legal Authority	54 U.S.C. § 101702(a)
CFDA # and Title	15.945 Cooperative Research and Training Programs
Single Source Justification Criteria	Continuation & Unique Qualifications
National Park Service Point of Contact	Emmett Collin Johnson

Section 1. Project Summary

PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

To determine deer population trends in Big Cypress and what variables account for temporal and spatial changes;
To make recommendations to Big Cypress management on future deer herd monitoring and management options.

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC PURPOSE

The project assists in the promotion, facilitation, and improvement of the publics' understanding of natural resources of National Parks. This project will benefit academic researchers (graduate students, post-doctoral researchers, and faculty) by providing them with exposure to National Park Service natural resources and the opportunity to work with National Park Service, data to: a. understand current status and trends in resource conditions; b. to advance their professional expertise.

STATEMENT OF WORK SUMMARY

• Estimate the abundance and population dynamics of white-tailed deer at Big Cypress;
• Confirm statistically, that a collapse of the white-tailed deer herd occurred in the southern one-third of the Preserve in 2008, ascertaining the probable cause(s) for the population decline;
• Determine the effects of physical and biological variables (vegetation, hydrology, hurricanes, fire frequency, off-road vehicle use, hunter harvest, and predation) on the trends in the white-tailed deer herd in Big Cypress;
• Recommend management actions that can be taken to maintain a healthy deer herd in Big Cypress;
• Recommend techniques to assess deer population trends in the future.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

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

Create time series for mean deer detection rates, sex-ratios, fawn-doe ratios, and antler points per adult male for each transect and aerial survey unit in BCNP.
Identify environmental and anthropogenic factors influencing spatial and temporal variation in deer population abundance (i.e., mean deer detection rates), population structure (i.e., sex-ratios), recruitment (i.e., fawn-doe ratios), and nutritional condition (i.e., antler point per adult male).
Provide recommendations for future monitoring of deer populations in BIg Cypress National Preserve.

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:

Assist the recipient with logistical support while working in the park, assist with compliance and permitting, as needed.
Provide historic data and reports (including baseline geographic information system layers) when required to facilitate a comprehensive analysis of Florida panther conservation.
Assist cooperator staff with development of metadata required for any products developed as a part of this agreement.
Determine the appropriate level of authorship or acknowledgment for deliverables that are included as part of National Park Service publications.
Assist in the identification of technical reviewers. Complete a timely review of project deliverables including the interim and final reports. Provide assistance with the editing and formatting of all report products to ensure compliance with National Park Service publication standards.
Work with the recipient to develop management recommendations for future monitoring of deer populations in Big Cypress National Preserve.

☐ 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.

Dr, Cherry has a strong record of collaborative research on deer populations in the south conducting studies in FL, GA, LA and WV with the state (e.g., Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission), US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service and others. His work has explored the effects of prescribed fire on deer in BICY. He also served as CoPI on the 2014 - 2018 South Florida Deer Study that took place in BICY and Florida Panther NWR. The primary goals were to better understanding of how hydrology, predation, and hunting affect deer populations, and to develop a monitoring technique to provide reliable estimates of deer densities. The study was foundational to this study providing techniques to continue this work.

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.
- [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.
- [ ] Foster relationships with conservation organizations advocating for balanced stewardship and use of public lands.
- [x] 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: