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-0043
Project Title	York Wild and Scenic River Study Assistance
Recipient	Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve
Anticipated Federal Funding	$184,000
Non-Federal Cost Share	$0
Total Anticipated Award Amount	$184,000
Award Instrument	☐ Task Agreement ☑ Cooperative Agreement ☐ Grant Agreement
Anticipated Period of Performance	July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2020
Legal Authority	16 U.S.C. §1282(b)(1); 54 U.S.C. §101702(a); PL 113-291
CFDA # and Title	15.962 – National Wild and Scenic Rivers System
Single Source Justification Criteria	Unique Qualifications
National Park Service Point of Contact	Patrick Reidy, Grants Management Specialist 215-597-5949

Section 1. Project Summary

PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The project goal is to implement PL 113-291. The York River, together with its estuary and tributaries, were designated for study as a potential National Wild and Scenic River (WSR) in December 2014 pursuant to enactment of PL 113-291 (The CARL LEVIN AND HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015). Consistent with NPS policy, and as encouraged and authorized under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, it is the intent of the NPS to conduct the WSR Study in close cooperation with local stakeholders and communities, including the York River Study Committee and its fiduciary agent, the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve.

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC PURPOSE

1. The project engages recipients, partners, communities, and/or visitors in shared environmental stewardship.
2. The scientific community and/or researchers external to NPS gains by new knowledge provided through research and related results dissemination of natural, cultural and/or historical resource information.
3. The project assists in the creation, promotion, facilitation, and/or improvement of the public's understanding of natural, cultural, historic, recreational and other aspects of areas such as ecological conservation areas, and state and local parks.

STATEMENT OF WORK SUMMARY

The Study will:
1. Evaluate the potential to "preserve for the benefit of this and future generations" the outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational attributes of the York River as a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System;
2. Increase the public's awareness and commitment to such preservation; and
3. Result in development and approval of a locally-based Stewardship Plan to guide local river management and protection efforts.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

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

1. Convene, facilitate, and coordinate the York River Wild and Scenic River Study, including community and interest group involvement through the York Wild and Scenic River Study Committee (Study Committee) and other committees/subcommittees as may be necessary and mutually agreed upon.
2. Provide planning, mapping, and other services to the Study and the Study Committee as mutually agreed upon and consistent with priorities established by the NPS, RECIPIENT and the Study Committee.
3. Seek technical assistance from the NPS regarding Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requirements, and follow such assistance when provided.
4. Undertake, through direct support or subcontracting as necessary such other tasks and duties as may be mutually agreed upon. RECIPIENT shall be responsible for any subcontracting deemed necessary and mutually agreed upon.

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. Work with the RECIPIENT in the coordination of Study activities and the conduct of all mutually agreed upon tasks.
2. Assist the RECIPIENT in successfully meeting all required study components, including findings of 'eligibility' and 'suitability' for designation. This will require the "substantial involvement" of the NPS in design and conduct of all study activities and products.
3. Provide ongoing technical assistance to RECIPIENT related to the policy and legislative requirements of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to ensure that work products, processes and outcomes meet those requirements.
4. Provide funding, subject to the availability of funds, to accomplish mutually agreed upon tasks. Additional funding may be provided in modifications to this agreement.

☐ 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.

1. The WELLS RESERVE is the principal non-profit conservation organization devoted to conservation, management, and public education associated with the York River and watershed.
2. The WELLS RESERVE in this capacity has been the principal local sponsor developing community support to undertake the Wild and Scenic River Study based on an understanding that WELLS RESERVE will play a central role in convening and conducting the Study.
3. The WELLS RESERVE has been chosen by the local communities as the uniquely qualified organization for the implementation of the Wild and Scenic River Study, and is also the fiduciary agent for the locally-appointed York River Study Committee.
4. No other entity exists which meets these criteria.

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.
- [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

- [x] 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.
- [ ] 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: