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-NOIP20AC00383
Project Title	Hydrographic Surveys and Coastal Studies in Great Lakes NPs
Recipient	Norhtwestern Michigan College
Anticipated Federal Funding	$28000.21
Non-Federal Cost Share	$0
Total Anticipated Award Amount	$350,000.21
Award Instrument	☐ Task Agreement ☑ Cooperative Agreement ☐ Grant Agreement
Anticipated Period of Performance	April 1, 2020-March 31, 2024
Legal Authority	54 USC §101702(a): Cooperative Agreements, Transfer of Services
CFDA # and Title	15.944 Natural Resource Stewardship
Single Source Justification Criteria	Unique Qualifications
National Park Service Point of Contact	Katherine Borschel, Grants Management Specialist, 402-661-1958, katherine_borschel@nps.gov

Section 1. Project Summary

PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

This Agreement aims to secure assistance from the Great Lakes Water Studies Institute at Northwestern Michigan College (NMC) for lake bottom mapping, coastal monitoring, and native and aquatic invasive species investigations in and around Great Lakes national parks. Northwestern Michigan College will provide specialized underwater imaging assistance and engage students and technicians in providing field support for the same. Lake bottom ground truthing imagery will be collected and native mussels surveys conducted at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore and Isle Royale National Park, respectively. Data from these efforts will contribute to broader lake bottom mapping and habitat classification efforts in Great Lakes national park units, and support interagency habitat restoration, fisheries restoration, and invasive species management.

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC PURPOSE

The project engages recipients, partners, communities, and/or visitors in shared environmental stewardship. The proposed work with NMC, a college near Sleeping Bear Dunes, ensures that NPS will acquire important information about Great Lakes habitat and coastal resources while also engaging a new generation of students and managers in park science. Mapping and underwater imaging products from this work will provide information to support interagency coastal resource stewardship efforts at multiple parks.

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. The proposed work will involve coastal surveys and acquisition of novel underwater images. At Sleeping Bear Dunes, underwater imagery will contribute to mapping products used to identify priority fish spawning habitats for invasive species control and habitat restoration efforts. At Isle Royale, classification of relatively unaltered habitat will be useful for fisheries restoration initiatives in the lower lakes and native species protection within the park. Results will be circulated widely to the Great Lakes science and management community via publications and presentations.

STATEMENT OF WORK SUMMARY

The National Park Service (NPS) protects nearly 2.5 million acres of coastal habitats in the Great Lakes and other coastal parks, but mapping and monitoring efforts in these coastal environments has lagged behind those in terrestrial areas. In an effort to fill these gaps, NPS has partnered with multiple state, federal, and academic institutions to intensify coastal monitoring and mapping activities in Great Lakes national parks. This project continues and expands upon past survey and mapping efforts with Northwestern Michigan College, by engaging students and staff in coastal survey efforts and collection of underwater photo and video imagery. This imagery will be used by NPS, state, and academic partners to develop submerged habitat maps and to prioritize areas for additional coastal management attention.

Initial project activities will be focused on Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in Lake Michigan and Isle Royale National Park in Lake Superior. At Sleeping Bear Dunes, the Recipient will lead an intensive ground truthing mission to support substrate validation and classification work by NPS and other project partners in Lake Michigan waters. Geographic information specialists from NPS will develop a list of priority site and coordinates to facilitate NMC ground truthing activities. The Recipient will provide a boat, captain, and drop camera or remotely operated vehicle for these activities and will provide NPS and partners with georeferenced photographs and/or videos by site. At Isle Royale, initial activities will focus on native mussel reconnaissance in several shallow Lake Superior embayments expected to support native mussel populations. The Recipient will travel to Isle Royale and provide a remotely operated vehicle and operator for these reconnaissance efforts. Detections of native mussels would be georeferenced and flagged for revisiting via more intensive scuba-based surveys by NPS. Efforts at both parks would be completed during the 2020 field season.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

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

1) Carry out the Statement of Work in accordance with the terms and conditions stated herein. The Recipient shall adhere to Federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and codes, as applicable.
2) Provide equipment, students, and staff to assist with field activities in Great Lakes national parks, including coastal monitoring, submerged habitat mapping, underwater exploration and ground truthing, and/or collection of lake bottom samples.
3) Provide NPS with georeferenced imagery data, photographs, and/or videos.

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 requests, 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 technical assistance to the Recipient in support of the objectives of this Agreement.
2) Provide technical assistance with site selection, logistical planning, and sample collection.
3) Support field operations with NPS boats and staff at Isle Royale National
Park as needed and jointly determined.
4) Provide supervisory oversight for any jointly hired positions.
5) Facilitate coordination and collaboration with other ongoing projects in Great Lakes national parks.

☐ 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.

The principle investigator, Dr. Hans VanSumeren, has previously worked with NPS on similar projects and is highly familiar with Great Lakes national park sites, mapping datasets, objectives, and needs. He has has a clear concept of the required tasks and quality of data required. The Great Lakes Water Studies Institute, where Dr. VanSumeren is based, has multiple types of equipment required for the requested work, including a Great Lakes worthy vessel and Remote Operated Vehicles for collecting bottom imagery and material. Geographically, NMC is located very close to Sleeping Bear Dunes, where much of the required work will be performed. Additionally, Dr. VanSumeren and other staff are very familiar with three of the parks and lakeshores on Lake Superior where they have assisted with other projects in the past. Dr. VanSumeren also has a close working history with two NPS technical specialists in the Great Lakes region where the initial project activities will be focused.

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.
- ☐ Access to outdoor recreation opportunities.

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

- ☑ 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.
- ☐ 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: