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	P19AS00615
Project Title	Threatened Western Snowy Plover Monitoring and Protection at P
Recipient	Point Blue Conservation Science
Anticipated Federal Funding	$222,000.00, subject to available funding ($37,015.00 initially)
Non-Federal Cost Share	$0.00
Total Anticipated Award Amount	$222,000.00, subject to available funding
Award Instrument	☐ Task Agreement ☑ Cooperative Agreement ☐ Grant Agreement
Anticipated Period of Performance	09/20/2019 – 09/20/2024
Legal Authority	54 U.S.C. §101702(a)
CFDA # and Title	15.944 – Natural Resource Stewardship
Single Source Justification Criteria	(4) Unique Qualifications
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Section 1. Project Summary

PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Pacific Coast population of the western snowy plover was listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act in 1993. This small shorebird nests on open beaches, river mouths, and estuarine habitats in California and its survival has been placed in jeopardy by human recreational activities, nest and chick predation by native and non-native predator species, and habitat loss resulting from coastal development and the introduction of invasive plant species. This project continues a long tradition of collaboration between Point Reyes National Seashore (PORE or park) and Point Blue Conservation Science (Point Blue) to monitor and protect western snowy plovers on Point Reyes beaches since 1995.

Point Blue will assist the National Park Service (NPS) with plover monitoring and protection during the peak of the nesting season in

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC PURPOSE

Birds hold a high level of public interest, and are perhaps the most visible faunal component of park ecosystems. Birds listed under the Endangered Species Act are of particular interest. With over 460 bird species known to occur in the park, PORE is recognized as one of the best locations for bird watching in the entire NPS system. The project will benefit the public by monitoring status and trends of western snowy plovers at PORE, which will provide information that can be shared directly with the public and other scientists who study and manage for plovers locally and along the Pacific Coast. Project results will provide information to the public through the park's interpretive programs and for docents to share through the Snowy Plover Docent Program. Park managers will also use project results to continue and adapt management and protection activities for western snowy plovers at Point Reyes in order to, through time, meet the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) recovery goals for the species.

STATEMENT OF WORK SUMMARY

Point Blue will provide two field biologists to assist with western snowy plover protection and monitoring activities at PORE. Field work will occur three-five days a week during May, June, and July, totaling approximately 520 hours. The weekly schedule and daily activities will occur in coordination with and at the direction of PORE's lead plover biologist.

Point Blue biologists assigned to the project will be previously permitted by the USFWS and the USGS Bird Banding Lab to conduct western snowy plover recovery efforts. Monitoring will occur according to the published protocol. Point Blue biologists will census plovers on nesting beaches, record raven numbers during surveys, collect data on banded plovers, locate snowy plover nests, monitor nests for hatch, and band plover chicks. Point Blue biologists will also help establish and maintain large closure areas using signs and symbolic fencing to protect snowy plover breeding habitat. Predator exclosures will be erected around nests and all nests will be monitored for hatch success. Following hatching, chicks will be banded and the snowy plover broods will be followed in order to determine fledging success. All data will be recorded on datasheets provided by PORE and then turned in to PORE at regular intervals.

While in the field, Point Blue biologists may encounter park visitors with questions about western snowy plovers, plover-related closures, or other questions about the park. Point Blue biologists are expected to interact with the public in a courteous and professional manner and take the opportunity to educate the public about the plover project. On days that the docent program is active, Point Blue biologists will provide plover updates to the docents and assist in viewing plovers that may be in the area.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

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

1. Provide at least two qualified and trained biologists for field work and data analysis.
2. Provide administrative support and logistical support for project activities.
3. Review and provide comment to NPS on the annual monitoring reports.
4. Assist with submitting banding data to the USGS Bird Banding Lab.
5. Acknowledge the NPS in any published or formally presented material developed or derived from this Agreement.

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. Provide logistical support, access, and data management for project activities.
2. Provide overview and orientation associated with all park visits including: briefings on safety procedures; introductions to park staff; and logistical support for field work operations, which include coordination with the park and making safety a priority.
3. Collaborate in making project management decisions throughout the project duration.
4. Assist with safe undertaking of fieldwork within the park and have appropriate NPS staff accompany recipient workers when needed in the field.
5. Assist with data collection and analysis, when possible.
6. Prepare the draft annual monitoring reports and submit to Point Blue for review and comment.
6. Submit final annual reports to the NPS Natural Resources Report series.
7. Fully acknowledge Point Blue in any published or formally presented material developed or derived from 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. 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.

Point Blue has unique qualifications to conduct western snowy plover monitoring and protection activities at PORE due to its location and technical expertise. Point Blue is a long-time leader in western snowy plover monitoring and protection efforts in the San Francisco Bay Area, and the only organization with available staff that is permitted by USFWS and USGS to assist in these efforts at PORE. Point Blue has monitored and protected western snowy plovers on Point Reyes beaches since 1995. From 1995 until 2008, Point Blue led the plover monitoring project with financial and logistical support from PORE. More recently, PORE has taken the lead on the project with NPS staff while Point Blue has provided invaluable guidance and training. Between 2015 and 2017, Point Blue trained NPS staff to handle plover eggs to check for hatch and to band plover chicks. NPS staff are now permitted to band chicks under Point Blue's master banding permit with the USGS Bird Banding Lab. Point Blue staff are considered experts in the field of snowy plover research and recovery. Additionally, Point Blue is located in close proximity to the park, making it time efficient and cost effective to conduct fieldwork and meet regularly with park staff about the project.

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: