

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	P19AS00620
Project Title	Collaborating with Community to Restore a Prairie at Pinnacles Nat
Recipient	Pinnacles National Park Foundation
Anticipated Federal Funding	\$97,027.00, subject to available funding (\$27,027.00 initially)
Non-Federal Cost Share	\$0.00
Total Anticipated Award Amount	\$97,027.00, subject to available funding
Award Instrument	☐ Task Agreement ☒ Cooperative Agreement ☐ Grant Agreement
Anticipated Period of Performance	09/25/2019 – 08/31/2024
Legal Authority	54 USC §101702(d)
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

This Agreement is part of a large-scale project to enhance prairie habitat within Pinnacles National Park (PINN or park) and surrounding areas for native forbs, pollinators, and wildlife species. In a related, but separate part of this larger project, PINN is working with the University of California to study how to restore wildflowers and enhance wildlife habitat using cattle grazing, mowing, and wildflower seeding. This Agreement will focus on a community engagement component to this project by a) coordinating a series of public workshops and newsletters around the project and regional rangeland conservation issues; b) producing interpretive materials about the project; c) assisting with the experiment set up; and d) supporting wildflower seed increase from seed collected by park volunteers.

Pinnacles National Park Foundation (PNPF) is a local, non-profit park partner, formed with the goal of supporting PINN in projects

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC PURPOSE

This project will encourage the public to participate in grassland restoration by engaging members of the public along with nearby ranchers and land owners to share expertise and learn about the efforts of PINN to study the effectiveness of mowing, seeding, and cattle grazing to restore native prairie. Outreach will be conducted in the form of newsletters, web-bulletins, interpretive panels and pamphlets, to help educate the public and increase their understanding of natural resources conservation. Additionally, the restoration from weedy fields to native prairies dotted with colorful wildflowers and native animals will enhance the enjoyment of visitors.

STATEMENT OF WORK SUMMARY

1. SBWLG Outreach Coordinator will: 1) Engage the public and the ranching community in gathering technical information to assist the grazing study, and coordinate site visits and meetings; 2) Inform the ranching community and conservation partners about the project through quarterly SBWLG e-newsletters, bi-annual SBWLG partner round table meetings, and watershed stakeholder meetings; 3) Coordinate two workshops for ranchers and conservation partners to explore topics related to the prairie restoration study, and to highlight prairie restoration results; and 4) Assist with miscellaneous restoration study activities including experimental fencing.
2. Rangeland Technical Advisor and Community Connector will: 1) Provide technical advice and assistance in setting up the fencing and enclosures for the prairie restoration study; and 2) Assist the Outreach Coordinator in reaching out to the local community to help engage them in the public workshops and provide information related to conservation opportunities.
3. PNPf Project Manager will: 1) Collaborate with PINN on the prairie restoration and study interpretive materials and be responsible for their fabrication; and 2) Track the work of the Outreach Coordinator and Rangeland Technical Advisor.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

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

1. Appoint an Outreach Coordinator who will carry out outreach activities.
2. Appoint a Rangeland Technical Advisor and Community Connector who will carry out activities.
3. Coordinate and oversee the activities of the Outreach Coordinator and Rangeland Technical Advisor.
4. Follow the requirements for pass-through entities described in §2 CFR 200.331.
5. Collaborate with PINN to develop interpretive materials on the prairie restoration and study and be responsible for their fabrication.
6. Acknowledge the NPS in any published or formally presented material developed or derived from this Cooperative Agreement.

B. The NPS Responsibilities:

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A task agreement is proposed;

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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 PNPf with educational training regarding environmental and NPS values.
2. Provide on-site project guidance and orientation.
3. Provide content and content oversight for all interpretive materials.
4. Participate in public workshops, including helping coordinate and plan those workshops that occur at PINN.
5. Ensure that all permits and compliance are completed for activities occurring at PINN.
6. Acknowledge PNPf in any published or formally presented material developed or derived from this Cooperative Agreement.

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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.

PNPF possesses unique qualifications to coordinate outreach activities with the local community under this agreement because PNPF is located in one of the park's gateway communities, and founded and has grown the San Benito Working Landscapes Group (SBWLG). Formed in 2012, the SBWLG is a "voluntary partnership among agencies, ranchers, and non-governmental organizations that work with the ranching community and other landowners to identify conservation opportunities that help ranches stay viable to preserve the open landscapes of San Benito County." This combination of agency experts and local ranchers is unique within the region and is matchlessly situated to carry out the necessary outreach activities which are aimed at collecting region-based technical expertise from the local ranching community to inform the restoration activities, and at using the experiment at PINN as a teaching opportunity for ranchers and landowners interested in the use of grazing as a conservation tool. PNPF is located in close proximity to the park, which allows for regular in-person meetings, site visits, and the level of communication necessary to implement and oversee project activities. No other similar entity capable of combining both hands-on ranching and professional expertise with interest in conservation is known to exist in the region, and is the work of several years.

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: