

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	P20AS00072
Project Title	Recover Condors by Sharing GPS Data at Pinnacles National Park
Recipient	Ventana Wildlife Society
Anticipated Federal Funding	\$98,480, subject to available funding (\$18,480 initially)
Non-Federal Cost Share	\$39,900 (\$7,900 initially)
Total Anticipated Award Amount	\$138,380, subject to available funding
Award Instrument	☐ Task Agreement ☒ Cooperative Agreement ☐ Grant Agreement
Anticipated Period of Performance	06/01/2020 – 05/31/2025
Legal Authority	54 USC §101702(d)
CFDA # and Title	15.944, Natural Resource Stewardship
Single Source Justification Criteria	Unique Qualifications (4)
National Park Service Point of Contact	Rachel Dell'Oso, Grants Management Specialist National Park Service (415) 464-5110 rachel_dell'osso@nps.gov

Section 1. Project Summary

PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Ventana Wildlife Society (VWS) and Pinnacles National Park (PINN or Park) will conduct critically endangered California condor monitoring and tracking by sharing GPS data. Both VWS and PINN conduct recovery efforts and condor monitoring under the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Recovery permits, which provide activities to be conducted that support the protection and recovery of condors in accordance with the Endangered Species Act. VWS, in partnership with the National Park Service (NPS), initiated PINN's release site, and works collaboratively to manage the condors in central California. That central California flock uses habitat within and beyond PINN's boundaries. PINN and VWS condor programs both have staff members who: 1) locate and map condor movements, 2) capture and handle condors in Big Sur and at PINN to conduct health exams, 3) interpret and record condor behavior, 4) locate and observe condor nests, and 5) place GPS wing tags on condors to collect data on their movements.

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC PURPOSE

This project will directly inform and positively impact recovery efforts currently conducted by PINN, USFWS Condor Recovery Program, VWS, The Peregrine Fund, the San Diego Zoo Safari Park, the Los Angeles Zoo, and the Oakland Zoo, and many other organizations. Endangered species recovery is a public value that supports public recreation and appreciation of wildlife on public and private lands beyond the boundaries of NPS. This project will enhance an existing collaboration and increase overall condor monitoring efficiency. It will also disseminate results to park visitors and the public, and partners involved in current condor recovery decision-making. PINN and VWS conduct public outreach and education about condors through presentations and their websites. In addition, stewardship of park resources through volunteerism is especially important to the public and is an important component of this project.

STATEMENT OF WORK SUMMARY

VWS and NPS will recruit, train, and mentor volunteers. VWS will ensure volunteers have access to PINN-managed condor GPS locations and schedule and oversee volunteers and training. VWS and PINN staff will meet bi-monthly to review project progress. PINN staff will train all PINN volunteers in condor monitoring methods, particularly on how to follow up on downloaded GPS condor wing tag data to find the birds so observations can be conducted.

VWS and PINN will collaborate on GPS data management, ensuring data downloads and proofing have consistent and compatible methods. In addition, VWS and PINN will cost-share GPS tag download fees. VWS will pay for a portion of each monthly invoice, the portion directly attributed to VWS-managed condors. NPS will provide financial assistance to pay for a portion of the invoices, that portion attributed to PINN-managed condors. VWS will ensure invoices for GPS fees are paid monthly so there is no break in service. Having VWS oversee and manage GPS invoices ensures their swift access to the data each morning and creates efficiencies for both VWS and PINN in terms of time savings and data management. VWS and PINN will both be able to view downloaded data from all VWS and PINN managed condors in central California. Management, monitoring, and care of condors will continue to be collaborate in nature, with VWS and PINN both assisting the other's field staff when possible.

Finally, both VWS and NPS will incorporate the observations from volunteer condor monitoring and downloaded GPS data into educational programs provided by VWS and NPS through presentations and websites.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

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

1. Provide coordination, technical assistance, guidance and monitoring as related to VWS operations and central California condor range.
2. Provide coordinate condor handling at the VWS site with NPS staff when PINN-managed condors are captured.
3. Support the NPS's research, restoration, educational, and interpretive goals, objectives, and operations at PINN related to its condor recovery.
4. Participate in planning meetings with NPS to establish goals regarding project needs.
5. Acknowledge the NPS in any published or formally presented material developed or derived from this Agreement.
6. Share research and monitoring results and their interpretation, including summary reports or publications, applicable to California condor management in central California.
7. Coordinate planning, personnel training, and implementation of wildlife research, monitoring, management, restoration, and other related activities, in addition to sharing GPS condor data.
8. Collaborate on joint research projects and/or funding requests that benefit condors, NPS, and VWS when feasible.

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. Capture, place and/or maintain wing tags on approximately 15-20 California condors per year.
2. Provide coordination, technical assistance, guidance and monitoring as related to PINN operations and central California condor range.
3. Assign Project Management staff who will work with VWS staff on condor recovery planning and field activities.
4. Acknowledge the VWS in any published or formally presented material developed or derived from this Agreement.
5. Share research and monitoring results and their interpretation, including summary reports or publications, applicable to California condor management in central California.
6. Coordinate planning, personnel training, and implementation of wildlife research, monitoring, management, restoration, and other related activities, in addition to sharing GPS condor data.
7. Collaborate on joint research projects and/or funding requests that benefit condors, NPS, and VWS when feasible.
8. Collaborate on media posts and press releases that involve central flock management or condors managed by the other release site.

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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.

VWS is uniquely qualified to perform the California condor monitoring and recovery activities of this project due to its location, technical expertise, and voluntary support capacity. VWS manages a California condor release site program in Big Sur, California -- only 45 miles from the Pinnacles National Park condor release site. The two managed flocks are interchangeable and therefore collaboration is essential for condor management. VWS has assisted in California condor recovery that first began in 2002 in Pinnacles National Park. VWS conducts recovery efforts and condor monitoring under a United States Fish and Wildlife Service Recovery permit, and its staff possess unique knowledge of the history of the individual condors and the locations of nests throughout central California. The most effective and efficient monitoring of condor survival is dependent on the knowledge that VWS staff have regarding prior years in combination with their release and capture facility in Big Sur, California. VWS also trains volunteers to track and monitor condors. Training can be extensive and involves how to radio-track condors, observe condor behavior, and record field data accurately. VWS also trains volunteers in interpreting condor recovery to the public, who regularly see volunteers observing condors along the Big Sur Coast and stop to ask questions. This public interface is one of the ways VWS promotes and supports condor recovery in all of central California.

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: