# 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-19-NERO-0110 |
| **Project Title** | Repair Rehab New York - Vermont Mod 001 |
| **Recipient** | Appalachian Trail Conservancy |
| **Anticipated Federal Funding** | $24,000.00 |
| **Non-Federal Cost Share** | 0.00 |
| **Total Anticipated Award Amount** | $114,134 |
| **Award Instrument** | ☑ Task Agreement<br>☐ Cooperative Agreement<br>☐ Grant Agreement |
| **Anticipated Period of Performance** | Date of final signature and extend through 07/30/2020 |
| **Legal Authority** | 4 U.S.C. §101702(a), 82 Stat. 919, 16 USC § 1246(h)(1) |
| **CFDA # and Title** | 15.935 / National Trails System Projects |
| **Single Source Justification Criteria** | |
| **National Park Service Point of Contact** | Keith Stegall |

## Section 1. Project Summary

### PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

A. Project Goals –Engage volunteers and partners in preserving and protecting natural and cultural resources along the Appalachian National Scenic Trail (APPA) through the completion of deferred maintenance projects for continued visitor access.

B. Project Objectives – The objective of this task agreement is to - through partnerships - accomplish identified deferred maintenance tasks as outlined in the PMIS projects to reduce the Parks deferred maintenance backlog list. Accomplishing these efforts will directly support DOI Secretary Priority " 10: 8.c.3. Prioritize DOI infrastructure needs to highlight: 3. Deferred Maintenance".

### STATEMENT OF PUBLIC PURPOSE

The public purpose of this project is to support the Government's objectives to provide opportunities for its partners, volunteers and local communities to learn about the environment, by spending time working on collaborative projects within APPA. Through the unique cooperative management system between APPA and ATC, contributing recipients, partners, and communities undertake critical deferred maintenance projects, and learn on the ground land management skills, and share in environmental stewardship of their National Parks system. This agreement also assists in the creation, promotion, facilitation, and 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. APPA receives the indirect benefit of completing deferred maintenance conservation projects.

## STATEMENT OF WORK SUMMARY

This project addresses public safety and enjoyment by conducting critical work at three key locations along the Appalachian Trail: Nuclear Lake Parking Area in New York, and two sections of Appalachian Trail treadway in Vermont. At the Nuclear Lake Parking Area, project work will repair significant drainage issues and parking challenges, including sightlines and ingress/egress concerns. The Appalachian Trail Conservancy will oversee the development of a formal parking area, install trailhead informational signs, and implement vehicle barriers to increase accessibility. At the two AT treadway sections in Vermont, project work will rehabilitate and install approximately 1600 linear feet of treadway, 75 rock steps, 55 waterbars, 34 step stones, 36 linear feet of wood puncheon, and 160 square feet of retaining wall. These improvements will reduce impacts to natural and cultural resources through reduced erosion, off-trail trampling, and soil compaction, and provide for a safe and more enjoyable visitor experience.

## RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

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

1. Work cooperatively with the NPS, the US Forest Service, volunteer trail clubs, and other partners to identify and prioritize facility cyclic maintenance projects for inclusion on the A.T. Capital Plan.

2. Prior to beginning work, submit annual itemized/costed work plans per project in a mutually agreed upon format. Work plans are to include: site locations, and work to be performed.

3. Directly provide oversight of repair rehabilitation maintenance work performed by clubs, and other special crews as needed within each ATC region, as described on the A.T. Capital Plan. This includes: project planning, coordination, implementation, logistics, administration support, supervision, staff and volunteer recruitment, training, performing quality control, solving unforeseen on-site problems, ensuring adherence to safety regulations, and reporting accomplishments.

4. Ensure staff and volunteers participating on trail crew projects are provided with necessary safety skills and training

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 directly with ATC to coordinate with other federal, state, and local agency partners to identify, plan, prioritize, select and implement cyclic facility maintenance projects.

2. Work with ATC to develop project cost estimates utilizing approved NPS methods. Track project status and accomplishments for backlog maintenance projects.

3. Provide technical trail and trail facility design, and maintenance standards support to ATC and partners.

4. Provide worker's compensation and tort protection as appropriate for volunteers per the Volunteer-in-Parks Act and coordinate directly with US Forest Service with Volunteer-in-Forest Act for activities on National Forest lands.

5. Review and approve annual workplans submitted by ATC.

☐ 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.*

## 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.
- [x] 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: