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	P19AS00597
Project Title	SN Bighorn Sheep Research in the Northern Recovery Unit
Recipient	Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep Foundation
Anticipated Federal Funding	$80,302.50
Non-Federal Cost Share	none
Total Anticipated Award Amount	$80,302.50
Award Instrument	☐ Task Agreement ☑ Cooperative Agreement ☐ Grant Agreement
Anticipated Period of Performance	09/01/2019 – 08/31/2024
Legal Authority	54 U.S.C. §101702(d)
CFDA # and Title	15.944, Natural Resource Stewardship
Single Source Justification Criteria	Unique qualifications
National Park Service Point of Contact	Lilette J. Baltodano| Awarding Officer| National Park Service| Pacific West Region| 333 Bush Street, Ste 500 San Francisco, CA

Section 1. Project Summary

PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The goal of this Cooperative Agreement is to foster cooperation between the NPS and SNBSF in monitoring Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep (SNBS) within the Northern Recovery Unit through the use of Global Positioning System (GPS) satellite collars and ground surveys, and (2) genetic population structure through ongoing DNA analyses. Objectives include: 1) Collect pertinent data to inform decisions relative to augmentations of the Northern Recovery Unit herds; and 2) Collect long-term data that will guide management actions to provide maximum protection of the SNBS herds in Yosemite and encourage population growth.

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC PURPOSE

This project will be critical for informing the public about the status of SNBS in Yosemite National Park and the Northern Recovery Unit as part of the Sierra-wide recovery effort for these sheep. NPS personnel in Yosemite will use data collected through this agreement to update the public website for informational and educational purposes. As the herds increase and expand, park visitors will be able to experience a more complete wilderness experience that reflects the natural state of Yosemite and the Sierra Nevada. This is also part of a larger, range-wide effort to increase public awareness of Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep and their importance to high elevation ecosystems of the Sierra Nevada.

STATEMENT OF WORK SUMMARY

To monitor Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep in the Northern Recovery Unit, we propose to continue to develop high resolution data on population sizes, overwinter survival, and reproductive output and success, while attempting to determine any causes of death when feasible. This population monitoring is used to direct Recovery Program efforts to meet recovery goals (Recovery Plan, USFWS 2007) as quickly as possible. The Cathedral Range herd was reintroduced in 2015. Population and genetic monitoring in this herd is essential to implement adaptive management and ensure the bighorns persist and thrive. We will continue detailed genetic monitoring of the Mt. Warren herd and the Mt. Gibbs herd to evaluate the genetic effects of sheep translocated into those herd units. Furthermore, the Northern Recovery Unit requires intense monitoring to assess its progress towards recovery. The Mt. Warren herd is immediately adjacent to domestic sheep grazing and risk of contact must be regularly evaluated.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

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

The recipient's activities funded by the award include the following: purchasing laboratory reagents and other supplies to allow the continued development of genetic data in the Northern Recovery Unit herds, and contracting with wildlife biologists for SNBS data collection in the Northern Recovery Unit herds. SNBSF will be responsible for providing project coordination and field support in collaboration with the NPS, and will recruit and train necessary personnel. SNBSF will provide data (including relevant spatial data), data analysis, data summaries, reports derived from project activities. SNBSF will maintain communication with the NPS to coordinate research and monitoring activities and keep the NPS abreast of developments and data collected. Finally, SNBSF will assist NPS with interpretation and public outreach.

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:

In particular, the National Park Service will be responsible for the following: (1) Collaboratively undertake a project titled "Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep Research in the Northern Recovery Unit" as described in Attachment A in the Cooperative Agreement; (2) Provide financial assistance as provided for in Article VI in the Cooperative Agreement. The budget, included as Attachment B, is incorporated into the Cooperative Agreement; (3) Assign Sarah Stock as the Agreement Technical Representative (ATR); (4) Ensure project compliance with park requirements; (5) Assist with data collection and analysis, when possible; (6) Provide on-site project guidance and orientation, and provide all agreed upon materials for SNBSF use; (7) Provide logistical support in the way of field assistance, backcountry permits, and research permits; (8) Provide field coordination, including access to remote sites; (9) Maintain communication with SNBSF to coordinate survey activities and stay abreast of developments and data collected; (10) Provide project management through planning, compliance, budget, guidance, and analysis; (11) Provide information contained in park databases, such as GIS, as needed; (12) Provide field assistance when needed; (13) Review all draft reports within two weeks of receiving them, and return to SNBSF for finalization; (14) Cooperate with the SNBSF PI to ensure that the conduct of the project complies with "Quality Control of Scientific and Other Scholarly Products in the Pacific West Region." The ATR (or designee) is the peer review manager for

☐ 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;

(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. A single source on the basis of continuation must demonstrate that competition would result in a substantial duplicate cost to the government that cannot be recovered through competition;

(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;

(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 SNBSF is in a unique position to engage the services of highly skilled and experienced field biologists who can accomplish this highly technical and challenging work in high elevation environments. Without the data provided by these individuals, the recovery effort would lack information critical for informing decision making relative to the recovery of the Northern Recovery Unit.
In addition, SNBSF president and founder John Wehausen has 4 decades of experience studying Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep and is an integral part of the Recovery Team. His input and cooperation are crucial to the continued recovery of this subspecies.

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.
- [x] Creating jobs in the American economy.
- [ ] Access to outdoor recreation opportunities.

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

- [x] 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.
- [x] 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.
- [x] 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: