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-20-REG1-0010
Project Title	Enhance Rare Lichen Protection by Assessing Distribution and Vul
Recipient	New York Botanical Garden
Anticipated Federal Funding	$22,180.00
Non-Federal Cost Share	$0
Total Anticipated Award Amount	$22,180.00
Award Instrument	☐ Task Agreement ☑ Cooperative Agreement ☐ Grant Agreement
Anticipated Period of Performance	Through October 31, 2023
Legal Authority	54 U.S.C. §101702(a)
CFDA # and Title	15.944 Natural Resource Stewardship
Single Source Justification Criteria	Unique Qualifications
National Park Service Point of Contact	Patrick Reidy, Grants Management Specialist 215-597-5949

Section 1. Project Summary

PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

This project will overcome a major knowledge gap for lichens in SHEN through a comprehensive assessment of lichen species. Project products will help the park prevent additional loss of rare lichen species, preserve park and regional lichen diversity, and illuminate the global and national significance of Park lichen diversity. It will: 1) Assess areas of SHEN likely to support rare lichen species and communities, 2) Look for lichens on at-risk substrates, 3) Provide distribution data for rare species, 4) Provide information on population size and health for rare species, 5) Summarize the above information to provide guidance on protecting sensitive species from current and potential threats, 6) Create a voucher-supported list for all lichen species in SHEN.

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC PURPOSE

The scientific community and/or researchers external to NPS gains by new knowledge provided through research and related results dissemination of natural, cultural and/or historical resource information.

STATEMENT OF WORK SUMMARY

Shenandoah National Park is a core natural landscape element of the central Appalachians. The park hosts a remarkable diversity of habitats, including numerous rare and narrowly localized plant communities. The 338 lichen species known from the park include globally unique and imperiled components of these outstanding natural communities, but are among the least understood. Recent discoveries by expert lichenologists demonstrate the lack of knowledge about park lichen species and the vulnerability of rare lichen species to loss or damage. This project will leverage existing knowledge of the park's lichens to design and complete an assessment of rare lichens throughout the 197,000 acre National Park Service unit. The three-year field study will locate and document individuals of rare species, and summarize their sensitivity and vulnerability to current and potential threats. This information will directly be used by park managers to identify best practices to manage these resources and adapt to changes in the environment.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

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

1. The Recipient shall carry out the Statement of Work in accordance with the terms and conditions stated herein. The Recipient shall adhere to Federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and codes, as applicable.
2. Submit a Yearly Progress Summary to SHEN summarizing key discoveries by December 31th of 2020.
3. Submit an Investigators Annual Report (IAR) that provides a brief narrative of work completed through the NPS IRMA Research Permit and Reporting System by March 30 of 2021.
4. Submit to SHEN electronic spreadsheets documenting SHEN specimen catalog numbers and other required information about each collection made in the SHEN during the previous field season by March 30 of 2021.
5. Submit to SHEN georeferenced occurrence data for all rare and threatened lichen populations within SHEN discovered in the previous field season in electronic format by March 30 of 2021.
6. Submit to SHEN georeferenced digital images of all individuals of rare and threatened lichen populations within SHEN discovered in the previous field season in electronic format by March 30 of 2021.
7. Provide to SHEN assessments of the size and health of all rare and threatened lichen populations within SHEN discovered

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:

Monitor and provide Federal oversight of activities performed under this Agreement. Monitoring and oversight includes review and approval of financial status and performance reports, payment requests, and tasks identified below. Additional monitoring activities may include site visits, conference calls, and other on-site and off-site monitoring activities. At the Recipient's request, NPS may also provide technical assistance to the Recipient in support of the objectives of this Agreement.
2. Create and provide to the recipient a set of 50 or more GIS maps detailing suggested survey areas throughout SHEN. These maps will focus on areas of the park known to contain occurrences of rare plant species and restricted habitats.
3. Provide SHEN natural resource staff time, as available, to assist the recipient with specimen collection and processing during each of the recipient's two collecting trips each year.
4. Provide up to 24 cubic feet of climate controlled, dry, indoor storage space for lichen specimens obtained during collecting trips and awaiting transport back to New York.
5. Assist the recipient with obtaining housing and work space in the SHEN Pinnacles Research facility according to the guidelines of that facility.
6. Guide the recipient through the process of obtaining a SHEN scientific research and collecting permit and NEPA

☐ 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.

Dr. Lendemer from the New York Botanical Garden is uniquely qualified to perform this activity because of his demonstrable technical expertise in field and lab lichen identification. He has 17 years experience doing large scale lichen diversity studies in the Eastern U.S. He has proposed, led, and completed major lichen inventories in the Mid-Atlantic Region and southern Appalachians, including previous work in SHEN. Those projects have led to the publication of more than 200 scientific articles and development of a national network for lichen training and education. He also has extensive experience evaluating the vulnerability of lichens to management actions, applying national and international conservation policy guidelines to lichens, and working with Nature Conservancy and others to protect rare lichen populations. Dr. Lendermer is the only person with this unique combination of extensive survey and identification experience in the northeastern united states and experience surveying lichens in Shenandoah National Park. The work required by this project is not possible without Dr. Lendemer's experience and extensive regional and local lichen knowledge.

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: