



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

NOTICE OF INTENT TO AWARD

This Funding Announcement is not a request for applications. This announcement is to provide public notice of the National Park Service (NPS), intention to fund the following project activities **without** competition.

ABSTRACT	
Funding Announcement	NPS-NOI-NOCA-P15AS00061
Project Title	Landbird Monitoring NCCN 2015 & 2016
Recipient	Institute Bird Population (IBP), P.O. Box 1346, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956
Total Anticipated Award Amount	Task Award \$56,200
Cost Share	Cost share funds, if applicable, in furtherance of this Agreement, will be authorized by individual Task Order's, no cost share is required at this time.
Anticipated Length of Agreement	Approximately One Year
Anticipated Period of Performance	05/01/15 – 07/31/16
Award Instrument	Cooperative Agreement (Task Award)
Statutory Authority	54 U.S.C. §101702(a)
CFDA # and Title	15.944 Natural Resource Stewardship
Single Source Justification Criteria Cited	(4) Unique Qualifications
Point of Contact	Barry Fetzer, Contracting Officer North Cascades National Park 810 State Route 20 Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284 Barry_fetzer@nps.gov

OVERVIEW

NPS, working with government agencies, universities, and private not-for-profit organizations, has designed a process and developed protocols for monitoring long-term ecological integrity of national park ecosystems in the North Coast and Cascades Network (NCCN) of national parks of the Pacific Northwest. The NCCN consists of three large natural area parks (Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks) and four smaller cultural and historical parks (Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve, Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, Lewis and Clark National Historical Park, and San Juan Island National Historical Park) in western Washington and Oregon. Breeding populations of landbirds have been identified as an important indicator of changes in ecological condition of these park units, and have been selected for long-term monitoring.

The Institute of Bird Populations (IBP) has a lengthy history of working with the National Park Service to inventory avifauna in park units throughout the country. In 2000, the Institute began working directly with NCCN parks, first, by working with North Cascades National Park to summarize recommendations of an expert panel for developing a spatially extensive inventory and monitoring program in North Cascades National Park (Siegel and Kuntz, 2000). Subsequently, the NCCN adapted those recommendations and established a cooperative agreement with the Institute to conduct large-scale avian inventories in North Cascades, Olympic, Mount Rainier, and San Juan Islands. The Institute completed fieldwork for these avian inventories in 2004 (Siegel et al. 2002, 2004a, 2004b, 2005a, 2005b). Consequently, the Institute has become the leading expert in conducting avian inventories and monitoring programs in national parks of the NCCN.

In October 2003, the Institute entered into a 3-year cooperative agreement with US Geological Survey to help the NCCN develop a Landbird Monitoring Plan that included a peer-reviewed monitoring protocol and a manual of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). A draft protocol and SOPs were written and peer-reviewed in summer/fall of 2006. Implementing this protocol enabled NCCN parks to track and understand how avian communities and their habitats respond to natural processes, to distinguish differences between human-induced disturbance effects and those caused by natural processes, to provide early detection of environmental impairment, and to provide park managers with comprehensive, scientifically-based information about the nature and status of selected biological resources occurring within park boundaries in a form that increases its accessibility and utility for making management decisions, for scientific research, and for educating the public.

STATEMENT OF JOINT OBJECTIVES/PROJECT MANAGEMENT PLAN

The National Park Service, U.S. Geological Survey, and Institute for Bird Populations are mutually interested in two main objectives for this project: 1) detecting trends in the density of landbird species (including passerines, near-passerines, and galliformes) throughout accessible areas of five NCCN parks during the breeding season, and 2) in tracking changes in distribution of as many of those species over the same time period.

This project will be managed as joint principal investigators, with IBP conducting all monitoring surveys (an annual panel and second panel of 5 rotating panels of point-counts for a total of 68 transects at MORA, NOCA, and OLYM) and at SAJH (54 points) as described in the protocol and SOP's. NPS and USGS personnel will assist with all aspects of implementation of the NCCN Landbird Monitoring Protocol and SOPs and other work as described in this Funding Announcement.

RECIPIENT INVOLVEMENT

The Institute Bird Population will:

1. Serve as Principal Investigator for all of the objectives identified in this agreement leading to the completion of an avian monitoring program in the NCCN (2015-2016).
2. Conduct monitoring surveys (point counts) at MORA, NOCA, OLYM (annual panel and second of 5

rotating panels, a total of 68 transects) and at SAJH (approximately 60 points) as described in the protocol and SOPs (see attachments). Collaborate with NPS on all aspects of implementation of the NCCN Landbird Monitoring Protocol and SOPs.

3. Supervise field operations and data management in the implementation of monitoring protocols.
4. Prepare and deliver reports, presentations, and technical papers as listed below under Article VI - Deliverables with assistance from NPS lead.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE INVOLVEMENT

Substantial involvement on the part the National Park Service is anticipated for the successful completion of the objectives to be funded by this award. In particular, the National Park Service will be responsible for the following:

1. Provide financial assistance to the Institute for work performed as outlined in this agreement.
2. Assign Wildlife Biologist Jason Ransom, NOCA Resource Management Division to represent the NCCN as the NPS Key Official.
3. NPS Key Official will provide technical support, guidance, documentation, consultation, and liaison with the Institute in connection with each task level of this pilot study. Substantial collaboration with the Institute will be necessary to accomplish each task cited in this agreement and attachments.
4. Coordinate and, where necessary provide funding for meetings between the Institute and National Park Service to plan and execute monitoring objectives and QA/QC goals.
5. Coordinate logistics with the Institute (e.g., training and management of field personnel).
6. Collaborate and review all written reports.
7. Facilitate review of products (reports, modifications to protocol narrative, SOPs, and appendices).
8. Participate with the Institute in presenting findings at professional meetings and in writing publications to submit to peer-reviewed professional journals, as applies.
9. In conjunction with IBP, review and approve each phase of the project work.
10. Other functions as outlined in the written Cooperative Agreement that adheres to Federal Financial Assistance regulations and guidelines.

SINGLE-SOURCE JUSTIFICATION

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR SINGLE SOURCE POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Department of the Interior Policy (505 DM 2) requires a written justification which explains why competition is not practicable for each single-source award. The justification must address one or more of the following criteria as well as discussion of the program legislative history, unique capabilities of the proposed recipient, and cost-sharing contribution offered by the proposed recipient, as applicable.

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, and 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, cost-sharing ability if applicable, 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.

The National Park Service did not solicit full and open competition for this award based the following criteria:

(4) UNIQUE QUALIFICATIONS

IBP is uniquely qualified to perform the activity based upon demonstrated factors, specifically, location, technical expertise, and other unique qualifications as outlined in this document. The National Park Service, North Cascades National Park, intends to award a Task Agreement (TA) to provide for avian studies based upon this announcement. Presently, a five year Cooperative Agreement is in place for avian monitoring and related services, this TA is to fund the following:

IBP will serve as Principal Investigator for all of the objectives identified in this agreement leading to the completion of an avian monitoring program in the NCCN (2015-2016). Conduct monitoring surveys (point counts) at MORA, NOCA, OLYM (annual panel and second of 5 rotating panels, a total of 68 transects) and at SAJH (approximately 60 points) as described in the protocol and SOPs (see attachments). Collaborate with NPS on all aspects of implementation of the NCCN Landbird Monitoring Protocol and SOPs. SOPs and other work as described in this Funding Announcement.

STAUTORY AUTHORITY

54 U.S.C. 101702(a) provides that the National Park Service may enter into cooperative agreements that involve the transfer of National Park Service appropriated funds to State, local and tribal governments, other public entities, educational institutions, and private nonprofit organizations for the public purpose of carrying out National Park Service programs pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 6305 to carry out public purposes of National Park Service programs.