# 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** | P20AS00086 |
| **Project Title** | An investigation of the Impact of the NPS to New Mexico's Outdoor |
| **Recipient** | New Mexico Highlands University |
| **Anticipated Federal Funding** | 13997 |
| **Non-Federal Cost Share** | 7299 |
| **Total Anticipated Award Amount** | 21296 |
| **Award Instrument** | ☐ Task Agreement<br>☑ Cooperative Agreement<br>☐ Grant Agreement |
| **Anticipated Period of Performance** | 09/30/2020-10/30/2022 |
| **Legal Authority** | 54 U.S.C. § 101702(b)- Cooperative Research and Training Progran |
| **CFDA # and Title** | 15.945; Cooperative Research and Training Programs |
| **Single Source Justification Criteria** | Unsolicited Proposal |
| **National Park Service Point of Contact** | Kelly Adams, Grants Management Officer |

## Section 1. Project Summary

### PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Using a geographic information system (GIS), this project is a first step in helping the NPS and the State visualize tourism and visitor-use trends and their associated economic contributions to NM. This information will help the NPS better determine which park units can handle an increase in visitation and which parks have reached, or are near, visitor capacity and questions the parks develop will be answered to help aid with better visitor use management.

B. Project Objectives – For NPS areas that have reached or are approaching visitor capacity, collaboration between local, state, and federal partners will help to determine alternative areas, or in some cases alternative national parks in NM, to promote outdoor recreation opportunities. This collaborative approach will help support cities and counties who want to highlight lesser known visitor

### STATEMENT OF PUBLIC PURPOSE

## STATEMENT OF WORK SUMMARY

• At least one student and professor will attend the NM superintendent summit that will identify issues to focus on over the course of 28 weeks and present results of visitor and NM economic results derived from a database developed by the NPS for public domain data that includes visitor use, jobs, visitor spending, affected sectors, labor income, economic output, annual budget, revenue, etc.)
o The student will build a database that includes businesses affected by park visits that were included in the NPS Visitor Effects Spending Report (2018) (i.e. camping, gas, grocery, hotel, recreation industries, restaurants, retail, and transportation). These data will be plotted on a map to provide a visual estimate (e.g., density) of local impact and compared to the park units' visitation statics.
• Spatial GIS layer development to display the 14 NPS units in NM as points and/or polygons overlayed on the state's six New Mexico True regions.
o The map will display major towns and cities. Population attributes will be obtained from the US Census Bureau and used in analysis as appropriate.
• Three cartogram maps based on the six New Mexico True regions where land area is distorted to display statistical information in a diagrammatic form to exhibit areas with an economic impact near NPS units (e.g. visitor use, economic output)
o Cluster and proximity analysis will be used to visualize areas of highest and lowest impact.
• One map showing in-depth analysis of White Sands National Park in New Mexico, selected because of its designation as a National Park on December 20, 2019. This map will be revised under guidance of the NPS to develop a template for future analysis of other recreation parks. Other state partners like the NM Outdoor Recreation Division, Office of Tourism, and State Parks will also have an opportunity to provide comments.

## 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. List activities the Recipient shall perform under this task agreement.

Develop questions with park unit input that need addressed based on spatial data explained under the Statement of Work.

WNMU project delivery includes: 1) a written report including spatial analysis and graphs, 2) a power point that can be used to depict results, and 3) an oral presentation summarizing results.

New Mexico Highland University project deliverables includes: developing questions in collaboration with the NPS and WNMU that will be asked of NPS units in NM and solutions to the questions asked.

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:

NPS will provide best available data for statistical analysis.
NPS will engage in bi-monthly meetings.
NPS will request assistance from additional partners as needed.

☐ 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.*

The two universities approached the National Park Service to help National Parks in New Mexico, Office of Tourism, Office of Outdoor Recreation, and State Parks come together to discuss ways the agencies can work together on sustainable visitation and tourism goals in the state and within geographic regions.

## 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.
- [x] 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: