

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	P20AS00057
Project Title	Baseline Archaeological Inventory in Western Arctic National Parks
Recipient	University of Alaska Fairbanks
Anticipated Federal Funding	\$177,250.00
Non-Federal Cost Share	0.00
Total Anticipated Award Amount	\$542,217.36
Award Instrument	☐ Task Agreement ☒ Cooperative Agreement ☐ Grant Agreement
Anticipated Period of Performance	May 15, 2020 - May 14, 2025
Legal Authority	54 USC § 100703. Cooperative Study Units
CFDA # and Title	15.945, Cooperative Research and Training Programs
Single Source Justification Criteria	Unique Qualifications
National Park Service Point of Contact	Erica_Cordeiro@nps.gov

Section 1. Project Summary

PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

This agreement is to fund an overall project with two National Park Unit components. One component is to survey the upper portion of the Rabbit Creek drainage and the northern portion of Cape Krusenstern National Monument. The second component is to survey the northern tributaries, which include the Salmon River, Tutuksuk River, Akiak Creek, Hunt River and Akillik River, that flow into the Kobuk River of Kubuk Valley National Park.

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC PURPOSE

- a) Provide research, technical assistance and education to federal land management, environmental and research agencies and their potential partners;
- b) Develop a program of research, technical assistance and education that involves the biological, physical, social, and cultural sciences needed to address resources issues and interdisciplinary problem-solving at multiple scales and in an ecosystem context at the local, regional, and national level; and
- c) Place special emphasis on the working collaboration among federal agencies and universities and their related partner institutions.
- d) Complete baseline documentation of archaeological sites within the study units and provide guidance for the preservation of archaeological and cultural material for future generations.

STATEMENT OF WORK SUMMARY

1) Conduct a literature review, making a systematic effort to track down all of the reports and references related to archaeological work in the park shall be included in the final report; 2) Conduct a pedestrian survey of the selected areas within Cape Krusenstern National Monument and Kobuk Valley National Park. 3) Complete site assessments for all known archaeological sites encountered during the survey and successfully record new archaeological sites using GPS mapping technology, sub-surface testing, and site record requirements that meet National Park Service standards. 4) Conduct any post-field analysis of samples or artifacts collected during the project and shall be included in the final report. 5) Provide recommendations for future projects based on the literature review and field work for both Cape Krusenstern National Monument and Kobuk Valley National Park. 6) Create a geographic Information System (GIS) database that meets the NPS standards containing all known archaeological sites and new sites found during the project.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

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

1. Participate in pre-field discussions between University of Alaska Museum of the North (UAMN) and NPS staff to organize survey design and field logistics;
2. Conduct Phase I archaeological survey of northern drainage in Cape Krusenstern National Monument (e.g. Rabbit Creek) and Kobuk Valley National Park (e.g. Salmon River, Tutuksuk River, Akiak Creek, Hunt River and Akillik River);
3. Coordinate 3-4 week field season, including outfitting (gear, food, tools), travel to the study area, and preparation of basic planning documents;
4. Work with NPS staff to coordinate involvement of local communities with the project that include but are not limited to community meetings, local hire for staff, and presentations of field work;
5. Conduct requisite post-field data-management (Alaska Heritage Resource Survey [AHRs] cards, NPS Cultural Resource Inventory System [CRIS] records, Geographic Information Systems [GIS]-based site maps and geodatabase components, photo-logs, artifact- catalogs, and field-notes).

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. Aggregate existing NPS gray literature and other documentation that is pertinent to the study for delivery to the Recipient and direct the Recipient to other known data sources.
2. Make available NPS technical specialists from multiple disciplines to coordinate with the Recipient researchers, provide technical input in their areas of expertise, and possible coauthor sections of the report as appropriate.
3. Make available NPS facilities in the park units for logistics and execution of field work.
4. Direct all phases of tribal consultation for the project, and both host and oversee all tribal consultation meetings.

- ☐ 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 Recipient is uniquely qualified and experienced to conduct archaeological research and survey in remote Northwest Alaska. The Recipient has previously conducted research with Western Arctic National Parklands with similar geographic and logistic challenges. The previous research includes raft float trips with limited access via regular ground or air transportation and pedestrian survey in arctic environments that pose challenges even with this valuable experience. The Recipient has the necessary systems infrastructure and trained staff to provide support for this project and acquire additional student and experienced staff members when needed. The Recipient is also located within the Unified Interior Region 11 that provides easier access to the base location (Kotzebue, AK) for the project, experience with contracting aviation assistance in the region, and reduce the costs for travel and other budget line items. Without these unique qualifications, another research would require more time, money, and infrastructure to begin this project in a timely fashion.

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: