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	P19AS00613
Project Title	Channel Islands National Park Annual Landbird Monitoring 2020-2023
Recipient	Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology
Anticipated Federal Funding	$155,862.87, subject to available funding ($35,862.87 initially)
Non-Federal Cost Share	$0.00
Total Anticipated Award Amount	$155,862.87, subject to available funding
Award Instrument	☐ Task Agreement ☑ Cooperative Agreement ☐ Grant Agreement
Anticipated Period of Performance	09/20/2019 – 09/20/2024
Legal Authority	54 U.S.C. §101702(a)
CFDA # and Title	15.944, Natural Resource Stewardship
Single Source Justification Criteria	(4) Unique Qualifications
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Section 1. Project Summary

PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The National Park Service (NPS) has been conducting landbird monitoring at Channel Islands National Park (CHIS or park) since 1993 as part of the Inventory and Monitoring (I&M) program. The project fulfills NPS' responsibilities to "undertake a program of inventory and monitoring of System resources to establish baseline information and to provide information on the long-term trends in the condition of System resources," as required by 54 USC 100704. The I&M Program performs long-term monitoring of key ecological indicators, and landbirds are an excellent indicator of ecosystem health. The main objective of the monitoring program is to detect changes in the abundance and distribution of the breeding landbirds. This project supports annual landbird monitoring at CHIS in 2020 through 2023 by Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology (WFVZ) in collaboration with the NPS, with each year covering the annual training, monitoring, fieldwork, data entry, and final report publication.

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC PURPOSE

This project will provide accurate information about landbirds at CHIS, which will be available for use by the public, and will increase knowledge for science based park management of island birds. The results of this study will add to the body of knowledge about the state of CHIS's breeding landbirds and help NPS conserve these resources for the public. The results of CHIS's work are valued for the advancement of technical ecological knowledge that is spread to the scientific and natural resource conservation communities. The results of the study are shared with other parks, researchers, partners, and the general public through publication on the Mediterranean Network (MEDN) webpage.

STATEMENT OF WORK SUMMARY

Personnel from WFVZ and NPS will conduct annual monitoring activities at CHIS utilizing the CHIS Landbird Monitoring Protocol and field identification of island birds by sight and sound. This project will be conducted in multiple phases, with each phase covering one year's landbird monitoring activities. This agreement initially funds Phase 1 work (2020 landbird monitoring), but may be modified to add future phases, subject to the availability of funding and satisfactory progress of project work. Phase 1 tasks and objectives apply to future phases as well. Annual Tasks:

1. Annual planning sessions to review project objectives and methods and scheduling for the upcoming field season.
2. Annual safety review and orientation.
3. Provide training to observers and new NPS staff, including training in CHIS Landbird Monitoring Protocol for observing bird species on five islands; training in sight and sound identification of priority landbird species; making field observations; and data entry.
4. Conduct annual landbird monitoring on nine line transects and at 346 point count stations, utilizing the CHIS Landbird Monitoring Protocol and field identification of island birds by sight and sound.
5. Enter collected data in NPS Database and in cooperation with MEDN Data Manager. Complete annual data entry and QA/QC.
6. WFVZ prepare and submit draft annual reports to NPS for review.
7. NPS completes review of draft annual reports and provides recommendations for final revisions.
8. WFVZ submits revised draft annual reports to NPS.
9. Annual report finalized and published after review by the NPS I&M Program.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

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

1. Hire and train observers and new NPS staff in the CHIS Landbird Monitoring Protocol.
2. Perform landbird monitoring according to established NPS protocols.
3. Recruit, train, and provide logistical support for volunteers to assist with the monitoring.
4. Compile, review, enter and error-check data before providing it to NPS data managers for validation and archiving.
5. Summarize the monitoring findings in an annual report and address any comments, recommendations, or suggestions provided by NPS reviewers.
6. Assist new NPS staff with the transitioning of the management of landbird monitoring at CHIS. This includes engaging new staff in the project and providing them with training.
7. Ensure that reports and other formal materials, including publications and presentations, acknowledge the NPS.

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. Provide overview and orientation associated with all park visits including: briefings on safety procedures; introductions to park staff; and logistical support for field work operations, which include coordination with park and making safety a priority.
2. Provide a project leader to guide WFVZ personnel and to provide orientation, logistical support, technical expertise, and resource education throughout the project.
3. Provide maps, GPS devices, other specialized field monitoring equipment, data entry software and computer, associated background checks, and other necessary supplies.
4. Provide vehicle transportation and island expertise while on the park islands.
5. Provide transportation on a park boat or chartered aircraft from the islands back to the mainland, for the sole and limited purpose of transportation required for work authorized under this Agreement. Only NPS personnel may operate the boat, and only licensed pilots may operate the chartered aircraft.
6. Review the draft annual reports and provide technical assistance for revisions.
7. Assist with the safe undertaking of fieldwork within the park and have appropriate NPS staff accompany recipient workers when needed in the field.

☐ 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 Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology (WFVZ) is uniquely qualified to conduct landbird monitoring activities at Channel Islands National Park (CHIS or park) due to its location, technical expertise and voluntary support capacity. WFVZ is a local non-profit charitable organization that is a research and education institution dedicated to bird conservation. WFVZ has been involved with landbird monitoring at CHIS for at least a decade, and is located in the same county as park headquarters, making it time efficient and cost effective to meet regularly with park staff about the project and to conduct fieldwork. The staff have extensive knowledge of the unique avian fauna and experience with conducting point count bird surveys on the Channel Islands, including distinct dialects and island logistics and conditions. They also have extensive voluntary support from which they can draw upon and expertise with the NPS landbird database, including entering and performing Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) procedures on data and preparing figures, graphs, and reports from the database. Further, WFVZ staff have the technical expertise to train new park staff in the monitoring protocol, sight and sound identification, and data entry.

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: