



**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's intention to fund the following project activities without full and open competition.

ABSTRACT	
Funding Announcement	P14AS00244
Project Title	Amphibian and Reptile Conservancy
Recipient	The Amphibian and Reptile Conservancy, Inc
Principle Investigator / Program Manager	Jeff Holmes
Total Anticipated Award Amount	\$25,000.00
Cost Share	None
New Award or Continuation?	New Award
Anticipated Length of Agreement	From date of award for five years
Anticipated Period of Performance	From date of award for five years
Award Instrument	Cooperative Agreement
Statutory Authority	16 USC 1(g) 16 USC 1a-2(j)
CFDA # and Title	15.944 Natural Resource Stewardship
Single Source Justification Criteria Cited	(4) Unique Qualifications
NPS Point of Contact	June Zastrow 303-987-6718 june_zastrow@nps.gov

OVERVIEW

The NPS along with ten other federal agencies, entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC) in October of 2011. PARC is a coalition of Federal and State agencies, tribes, organizations, and industry groups who have agreed to contribute to PARC's mission "to conserve amphibians, reptiles, and their habitats as integral parts of our ecosystem and culture through proactive and coordinated public/private partnerships."

One objective of PARC is the "development of procedures, practices, and programs that promote conservation of amphibians and reptiles and that reduces risks or averts threats." The NPS currently funds a portion of the Federal Agencies Coordinator for PARC position salary under its fixed costs and travel cap; it is a shared position among other federal agencies who also contribute to salary and travel.

ARC is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization that supports conservation of amphibians and reptiles. ARC's mission is "to assist in and develop amphibian and reptile conservation projects and partner efforts that support the mission and goals of Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC)." As a corporation, ARC is legally bound to support PARC and is the not-for-profit fiscal agent of PARC.

PARC products implemented by ARC include, but are not limited to, capacity-building trainings both in habitat management and improvement (including wetland restoration), and in inventory and monitoring, for the benefit of amphibians and reptiles, education and outreach efforts, as well as development and production of PARC publications.

The NPS is responsible for increasing the public knowledge, awareness, and appreciation of natural and cultural resources. NPS policies promote the scientific management of natural and cultural resources, including the conservation of native ecosystems, cultural landscapes, and the integrity of resources found therein.

B. Objectives

The objectives of this agreement are to:

- Document the cooperation between the parties to provide the capacity-building trainings and e-reader versions of existing publications through PARC.
- Improve partnership efforts with adjacent and related protected areas (federal, state, tribal, private, and international) to conserve natural resources and landscapes.
- Collaborate with state, federal and tribal agencies to develop trainings and publications that contribute to advancing knowledge and/or increasing practical skills with regard to natural resource management, as well as fostering partnerships and information exchange among government agencies, and nongovernmental organizations.

C. Public Purpose

The public purpose for the ARC and the NPS are furthered by the following:

- Projects completed through this cooperative agreement assist in the promotion, facilitation, and improvement of the public's understanding of inventory and monitoring for amphibians and reptiles, habitat management for the benefit of amphibians and reptiles, and wetland restoration with respect to amphibian and reptile conservation.
- The information, products and/or services identified or developed under separate task agreements will be shared through a variety of strategies to increase public awareness, knowledge, and support stewardship of the nation's natural heritage. These materials will be shared with the public, scientific community and educational institutions through posting on the PARC website and presentations at scientific meetings.
- The public will see on-the-ground results from resource management projects, such as increased use of wetlands by various wildlife, particularly amphibians and reptiles.
- The task to develop e-reader publications will allow the NPS to adhere to Executive Order 13514.
- The mutually beneficial arrangement enables the NPS to not only advance its own mission but to share nonproprietary information with members of the public through helping to advance PARC's mission.

RECIPIENT INVOLVEMENT

1. Administer NPS funds to implement capacity-building trainings in inventory and monitoring for amphibians and reptiles, habitat management and improvement (including wetland restoration) to benefit amphibians and reptiles, as well as to develop e-reader versions of some of PARC's existing publications.
2. Ensure proper planning, management and completion of the projects detailed in this agreement via ARC's institutional, managerial, and financial capabilities.
3. Find and hire trainers appropriate for PARC training in habitat management to benefit amphibians and reptiles, inventory and monitoring of amphibians and reptiles, or wetland restoration.
4. Select locations for these trainings.
5. Ensure a set number of seats for US Fish and Wildlife Service and other federal employees.
6. Ensure travel monies are available for some federal employees.
7. Ensure that e-reader or other electronic versions of PARC publications will be made free to federal employees (e.g., via a special code) indefinitely.

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. Work cooperatively (via the Federal Agencies Coordinator for PARC, who is part of the Wildlife Conservation Branch of the Biological Resources Management Division) with

ARC at the national, regional, and local levels to accomplish the objectives of this agreement.

2. Make available to ARC any suggestions from PARC's Federal Agency Steering Committee or Joint National Steering Committee.

Both parties agree that:

1. The terms of this Cooperative Agreement will apply to all tasks/projects executed under it, and may only be amended through the issuance of a written modification to this Agreement.
2. Activities provided under this Cooperative Agreement shall not count toward career status in Government service nor toward the accumulation of, or eligibility for, benefits available to Federal employees.
3. The projects or activities under this Agreement will be individually authorized by separate task agreements, with each fiscal year program or activity having a separate budget developed cooperatively between the National Park Service and ARC.

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

SINGLE SOURCE JUSTIFICATION DESCRIPTION:

The National Park Service (along with nine other federal agencies) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Partners of Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, hereinafter referred to as PARC. PARC is a coalition of Federal and State agencies, tribes, organizations, and industry groups who have agreed to contribute to PARC's mission "to conserve amphibians, reptiles, and their habitats as integral parts of our ecosystem and culture through proactive and coordinated public/private partnerships."

The Amphibian and Reptile Conservancy (ARC) is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization that supports conservation of amphibians and reptiles. ARC's mission is "to assist in and develop amphibian and reptile conservation projects and partner efforts that support the mission and goals of Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC)." As a corporation, ARC is legally bound to support PARC and is the not-for-profit physical agent of PARC.

PARC products implemented by ARC include, but are not limited to, habitat management trainings, inventory and monitoring training, and wetland restorations and associated workshops, as well as e-reader versions of existing PARC publications.

ARC coordinated the development of, and assisted with managing the funds toward the publication of, the PARC regional Habitat Management Guide series. ARC staff are currently offering trainings for habitat management and inventory and monitoring using these PARC publications. In 2013, ARC partnered with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and others to restore four ephemeral wetlands in southern Ohio. Direct, immediate benefits included restoration of critical breeding habitat for four rare amphibian species; further, 43 trainees from at least five states learned how to restore even more wetlands for similar species in similar habitats.

PARC produced five books entitled:

1. Habitat Management Guidelines for Amphibians and Reptiles of the Northwestern United States and Canada
2. Habitat Management Guidelines for Amphibians and Reptiles of the Northeastern United States

3. Habitat Management Guidelines for Amphibians and Reptiles of the Southeastern United States
4. Habitat Management Guidelines for Amphibians and Reptiles of the Midwestern United States
5. Inventory and Monitoring: Recommended Techniques for Reptiles and Amphibians With Application to the United States and Canada

The Executive Director for ARC coauthored Habitat Management Guidelines for Amphibians and Reptiles of the Southeastern United States. This publication earned the Paul Moler Award for Excellence in Herpetofauna Conservation in 2007 from the FL Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

Also in 2013, ARC entered into a cooperative agreement with the US Forest Service. The responsibilities of ARC were to provide habitat management, inventory and monitoring, and law enforcement trainings/workshops and wetland restorations and associated workshops.

As an example, ARC, in cooperation with the US Forest Service, US Bureau of Reclamation, US Bureau of Land Management and the NW Region of PARC, initiated and assisted in the planning and implementation of a 2010 ephemeral wetlands restoration training workshop in the Trinity River Basin of Northern California. The workshop, which joins the suite of trainings offered by PARC, hosted 30 participants and emphasized the importance of planning design features to meet specific amphibian and reptile conservation objectives.

For the aforementioned specific unique qualifications and past / existing experience in providing these PARC trainings and coordinating PARC publications, as well as the specific mission of ARC “[t]o assist in and develop amphibian and reptile conservation projects and partner efforts that support the mission and goals of Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC),” ARC is being recommended as the sole source for this cooperative agreement.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

16 U.S.C. §1g, authorizes the NPS to enter into cooperative agreements that involve the transfer of NPS appropriated funds to nonprofit organizations for the public purpose of carrying out NPS programs.

16 U.S.C. § 1a-2(j), authorizes the Secretary of the Interior, in order to facilitate the administration of the National Park System, to carry out the following activity under such terms and conditions as he may deem advisable: ‘Enter into cooperative agreements with public or private educational institutions, states and their political subdivisions, for the purpose of developing adequate, coordinated, cooperative research and training programs concerning the resources of the National Park System, and, pursuant to any such agreements, to accept from and make available to the cooperator such technical and support staff, financial assistance for mutually agreed upon research projects, supplies and equipment, facilities, and administrative services relating to cooperative research units as the Secretary deems appropriate; except that this paragraph shall not waive any requirements for research projects that are subject to the

Federal Procurement Regulations.”

Because the aforementioned MOU was signed by ten federal agencies and this cooperative agreement will be for projects that benefit PARC as a whole and specifically, the Federal Agency Steering Committee for PARC, the following laws also apply:

National Park Service Organic Act of 1916 (16 U.S.C. §§1-3)

Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. § 742 *et seq.*)

Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960 (16 U.S.C. §§ 528-531)

Sikes Act (16 U.S.C. § 670a-670o)

National Wildlife Refuge Administration Act of 1966, as amended by the National Wildlife

Refuge System Improvement Act of 1977 (16 U.S.C. § 688dd *et seq.*)

Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. § 1531 *et seq.*)

Federal Land and Policy Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. § 1701 *et seq.*)

National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. § 1600 *et seq.*)

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 661-667)

Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. §§ 1641-1648)

National Parks Omnibus Management Act of 1998 (16 U.S.C. §§ 5931-5937)

USGS Organic Act of March 3, 1879, as amended, 43 U.S.C. § 31 *et seq.* and 43 U.S.C. § 36c.