

STATEMENT OF PROGRAMMATIC INVOLVEMENT FOR A PROPOSED ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT (AA)

1. Title and Description:

A. Proposed Name or Title of Project/Program:

California Bureau of Land Management WildCorps

B. Description of Project/Program:

The recipient will actively remedy impacts and improve resource conditions to Congressionally designated Wilderness, Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs), National Monuments, National Conservation Areas, the Pacific Crest Trail, Wild and Scenic Rivers and Headwaters Reserve all being administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) throughout the state of California. Projects vary at each site but could include trail construction and maintenance, campground maintenance, trash clean-up, invasive weed removal, inventory, wildlife and fisheries habitat restoration, fuels reduction, planning, seeding, sediment and erosion control, user education, water developments, and fence and barrier installations.

The recipient will also be required to travel to numerous work sites during the term of the Assistance Agreement (AA). Projects will primarily use primitive skills such as non-motorized equipment and non-mechanized travel to accomplish assigned tasks. In addition, backcountry skills such as remote camping are necessary. All equipment must be furnished by the recipient. Generally all projects will require at a minimum a two member crew and a crew leader.

BLM will work cooperatively with the recipient to provide direction at the local project sites to obtain the necessary permits to complete each project. The goal, if the recipient includes younger adults, is to also introduce young adults to the natural environments, *Natural Landscape Conservation System* (NLCS) management, and natural resources as part of an education experience.

C. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number and title?

00.000

2. Legislative Authority that authorizes BLM to enter into this AA:

A. Specific legislative authority for this project/program?

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (Public Law 94-579), Title III, Section 307 (43 U.S.C. 1737) (b), provides that the Secretary may enter into contracts and cooperative agreements involving the management, protection, development, and sale of public lands.

The Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999, Public Law 106-107, was enacted to improve the effectiveness and performance of Federal financial assistance programs, to simplify Federal financial assistance application and reporting requirements, to improve the delivery of services to the public, and facilitate greater coordination among those responsible for delivering such services.

The 1964 Wilderness Act and the various Acts that designated each of the NLCS areas.

B. How does the legislative authority apply?

The BLM is required to manage all the NLCS areas for conservation purposes and to often

balance resource protection with resource use. The projects described above will enhance the values for which the areas were originally designated. In addition, if a plan was completed for the NLCS area, projects identified in the plan will be completed through the work identified in the SPI. These are all valuable for the BLM's mission

BLM is also authorized to enter into contracts and cooperative agreements with any qualified youth or conservation corps to perform appropriate conservation. First hand experiences for young adults to meet the unmet human, educational, environmental, and public safety needs of the United States, without displacing existing workers; expands and strengthens existing young adult service programs with demonstrated experience in providing structured service opportunities with visible benefits to the participants and community. Cooperative agreements may be entered into involving the management, protection, and development of public lands

3. **Principle Purpose:**

A. What is the principle purpose of this proposed project/program?

The NLCS areas were designated by Congress for the public to both use and appreciate appropriately. And these areas are known to be the "crown jewels" of lands being managed by the BLM. The principle purpose of this proposed program is to reclaim and restore NLCS areas for the purpose they were designated so the public can enjoy them. This not only benefits the public but also benefits the recipient (i.e. organization) as well as their children for future generations.

The intent is also to select a recipient that uses crew members who are young adults (approximately 18-26). The goal is also to use crew members who have an interest in the out-of-doors and who may want to continue working in the natural resource field. The members will gain experience and training in NLCS management, government agency policies and procedures, public outreach and education, data collection and management, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Global Positioning Systems (GPS). On-the-ground natural resource management experience will be gained by the members and should fulfill the mission statement of the organization conserving public lands for resource benefits. The recipient will gain experience for its crew members in the area of outreach and education to local community groups, educational institutions, recreational-user coalitions, and presentations at national, state, and regional restoration conferences. The recipient organization will receive experience in working with a federal agency and the associated policies and regulations that govern federal agency activities, providing accomplishment reports and GIS mapping.

A large part of the work is also to provide young adults with opportunities to work and complete a variety of natural resource projects that will further empower themselves and promote greater community unity through the use of organized teams of participants of varied social and economic backgrounds, skill levels, physical and developmental capabilities, ages, ethnic backgrounds, or genders.

B. How does the principle purpose of this proposed agreement support or stimulate a public purpose?

To meet national expectations for conserving, protecting, and restoring ecosystems and for protecting landscape qualities on lands managed in the public trust by the BLM. To provide educational outdoor activity, valuable job training, and development of programs for young conservation professionals, as well as to contribute to projects for the public welfare and

ecosystems.

C. Identify the BLM Performance Measure(s) and number that apply to this project/program.

1.1 End Outcome Goal – Improve health of watersheds, landscapes, and marine resources that are DOI managed or influenced in a manner consistent with obligations regarding the allocation and use of water.

1.1.02; End Outcome Measure: Riparian Areas – Cumulative percent of riparian miles (stream miles) achieving desired conditions where specified in management plans and condition is known, consistent with applicable substantive and procedural requirements of State and Federal water law. (SP)

1.1.03; End Outcome Measure: Upland Areas - Cumulative percent of acres achieving desired conditions where specified in management plans and condition is known, consistent with applicable substantive and procedural requirements of State and Federal water law. (SP)

1.1.09; Intermediate Outcome Measure: Restore Fire Adapted Ecosystems/Fire rehabilitations: Cumulative percent of acres degraded by wildland fire with post-fire rehabilitation treatments underway, completed, and monitored. (SP)

1,1,13; Intermediate Outcome Measure: Reduce Hazardous Fuels: Number of total acres treated that are in condition classes 2 or 3 in fire regimes 1 through 3 outside of wildland-urban interface, and are identified as high priority through collaboration consistent with the 10-Yr. Implementation Plan - in total. (SP)

1.1.17; Intermediate Outcome Measure: Forge Effective Partnerships: Satisfaction scores on resource protection partnerships. (SP)

1.2.01; End Outcome Measure: Invasive Plant Species: Percent change from baseline in the number of acres infested with invasive plant species. (SP)

1.2.02; End Outcome Measure: Threatened & Endangered Species -- Percent of the plant/animal species listed or proposed for ESA listing achieving a stable or increasing trend in their resident populations. (BUR) 2

1.2.03 Intermediate Outcome Measure: Habitat Restoration: Number of streams/shoreline miles restored or enhanced to achieve habitat conditions to support species conservation consistent with management documents, program objectives. (SP)

1.2.04 Intermediate Outcome Measure: Habitat Restoration: Number of acres restored or enhanced to achieve habitat conditions to support species conservation consistent with management documents, program objectives. (SP)

3.1.03; Intermediate Outcome Measure: Recreation Opportunities: Number of acres made available for recreation through management actions and partnerships. (SP)

3.1.04; Intermediate Outcome Measure: Number of river and shoreline miles sustained accessible for recreation through management actions and partnerships. (SP)

3.1.05: Intermediate Outcome Measure: Universal Access: Percent of universally accessible facilities in relation to the total number of recreation areas. (SP)

4. **Funding:**

A. Estimate the total Federal funding amount and any other assistance to be provided to the recipient during the term of the agreement.

Approximately \$1.5 million over the life of the agreement.

BLM staff specialists will provide support to the recipient during the life of the program. This support will include resource and recreation specialists working with the recipient to implement the all projects, providing guidance on BLM policies, and mentoring the restoration crew members on biological, recreational and cultural resource management and values.

The term of this agreement will be five (5) years.

- B. Estimate the total commitment by the recipient(s) during the term of the agreement if known. Recipient commitments could be in the form of cash expenditures for supplies or services, the value of contributed services, etc. List third party commitments below.

Approximately \$250,000 during the term of the agreement.
The recipient will commit to funding part of the labor/subsistence costs for the WildCorps interns.

- C. Is there a requirement for matching funds for this project/program? If yes, what amount?

Yes. \$300,000 **what is the requirement?**

- D. Estimate the total amount a third party(s) will commit to the program/project if known.

Approximately \$100,000 over 5 years, or less than the estimated total (if CA State Parks funding is reduced in future years). The California State Parks Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division Grants and Cooperative Agreements program provides support for CA Desert District wilderness restoration projects.

- E. Estimate the number of awards to be made for this project/program.

Approximately twenty (20)

5. Involvement:

- A. Describe the nature of the relationship between the recipient and BLM during performance of the agreement if known. Will the BLM be substantially involved?

BLM staff specialists will provide direction and guidance to members of the recipient organization complete the NEPA or other related requirements, project development and planning, training in restoration techniques, compilation of the data, follow-up compliance and effectiveness, and where necessary, on-the-ground training such as species identification, ecology, resource management techniques, etc. BLM staff will provide mentorship to any crew member in conservation and restoration employment and management.

- B. Who will be the BLM program office point of contact (POC) before and after award?

Paul Brink, Natural Resource Specialist; California State Office; 916-978-4641
Chris Roholt, Wilderness Coordinator; California Desert District 951-697-53965

6. List any special issues to be considered in selection of the appropriate instrument.

Substantial involvement is expected between the BLM and the recipient during this program.

7. Does the legislative authority restrict the type(s) of recipient(s) for this project/program?

No.

8. Provide the name(s) of potential eligible recipients if known.

Student Conservation Association (SCA)

Program Officer Signature: /s/Paul Brink Date: 06/29/2007

Program Officer Name: Paul Brink Title: NLCS Coordinator/Natural Resource Specialist

INSTRUMENT SELECTION DETERMINATION

1. Title and Description:

A. Proposed Name or Title of Project:

California Bureau of Land Management WildCorps

B. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number and title?

15.225 Recreational Resource Management

2. Legislative Authority that authorizes BLM to enter into this AA:

A. Specific Legislative Authority for this project/program?

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The 1964 Wilderness Act and the various Acts that designated each of the NLCS areas.

B. How does this authority apply?

The BLM is required to manage all the NLCS areas for conservation purposes and to often balance resource protection with resource use. The projects described above will enhance the values for which the areas were originally designated. In addition, if a plan was completed for the NLCS area, projects identified in the plan will be completed through the work identified in the SPI. These are all valuable for the BLM's mission

BLM is also authorized to enter into contracts and cooperative agreements with any qualified youth or conservation corps to perform appropriate conservation. First hand experiences for young adults to meet the unmet human, educational, environmental, and public safety needs of the United States, without displacing existing workers; expands and strengthens existing young adult service programs with demonstrated experience in providing structured service opportunities with visible benefits to the participants and community. Cooperative agreements may be entered into involving the management, protection, and development of public lands

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The intent is also to select a recipient that uses crew members who are young adults (approximately 18-26 yrs old). The goal is also to use crew members who have an interest in the out-of-doors and who may want to continue working in the natural resource field. The members

will gain experience and training in NLCS management, government agency policies and procedures, public outreach and education, data collection and management, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Global Positioning Systems (GPS). On-the-ground natural resource management experience will be gained by the members and should fulfill the mission statement of the organization conserving public lands for resource benefits. The recipient will gain experience for its crew members in the area of outreach and education to local community groups, educational institutions, recreational-user coalitions, and presentations at national, state, and regional restoration conferences. The recipient organization will receive experience in working with a federal agency and the associated policies and regulations that govern federal agency activities, providing accomplishment reports and GIS mapping.

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B. Identify the BLM Performance Measure and number that apply to this project/program.

SEE ABOVE question 3C

4. Funding:

A. Estimate the total Federal funding amount and any other assistance to be provided to the recipient during the term of the project/program.

BLM will make no more than 20 awards, each ***not*** exceeding \$750,000 over the life of agreement

B. Estimate the total amount of cost share or matching and any other types of contributions by the recipient(s) during the term of the project/program. Are there required matching requirements?

Recipient commitment is expected to include funding part of the labor/subsistence costs for the WildCorps interns. Approximately \$250,000 during the term of the agreement.

C. Estimate the total amount any third parties will provide or contribute to the project/program.

Unknown at this time

D. Estimate the number of awards to be made.

Approximately twenty (20) agreements will be awarded, and each agreement will not exceed \$750,000 over its life.

5. Involvement:

A. What will the nature of the relationship be between the BLM and the recipient after award?

BLM staff specialists will provide direction and guidance to members of the recipient organization complete the NEPA or other related requirements, project development and planning, training in restoration techniques, compilation of the data, follow-up compliance and effectiveness, and where necessary, on-the-ground training such as species identification, ecology, resource management techniques, etc. BLM staff will attempt to provide mentorship to any crew member in conservation and restoration employment and management.

B. Is the BLM POC, nominated above, technically qualified to become the PO for this program/project?

Yes

6. List any special issues to be considered in selection of the appropriate instrument.

Substantial involvement is expected between the BLM and the recipient during this program.

7. Is the legislative authority for this project/program restricted to a specific type(s) of recipient(s)?

No

8. Determination and Certification:

Based upon the above findings, I have determined that a financial assistance agreement is the appropriate instrument that most accurately reflects the nature of the proposed relationship between the Bureau of Land Management and a recipient. Final determination will be made on the type of assistance agreement (grant agreement or cooperative agreement) at time of award. At time of award, if it is determined that the award will be a cooperative agreement, an explicit statement of Federal programmatic involvement will state the nature, character, and extent of the anticipated Federal involvement. This statement will be included in the official agreement file.

I hereby certify that the above project/program will be announced (synopsis and full announcement) in Grants.gov and will follow the procedures as required in the Department of the Interior Manual 505 DM 2, Grants Administration, Procurement Contracts, Grant Agreements and Cooperative Agreements and BLM Instruction Memorandum No. 2006-151, Assistance Agreements.

Requested/Approved By: Traci D. Thaler August 1, 2007
Grants Management Officer Date

Approved/Concurrence By: /s/ Julia B. Lang 08/01/2007
Procurement Analyst/Chief of the Contracting Office Date

9. Regional Solicitor, Pacific Southwest Region, (funding over \$750,000.00 per agreement)

LEGAL REVIEW OF PROPOSED ACQUISITION ACTION, see attached form, if applicable.

10. Washington Office (WO-850) Approval:

If Required

Approved: /s/ Chris Shaver, Acting 08/04/07
Procurement Analyst (WO-850) Date