



## UNITED STATES

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO AWARD**

This Funding Announcement is not a request for applications. This announcement is to provide public notice of the Bureau of Land Management’s intention to fund the following project activities without full and open competition.

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| **ABSTRACT** | |
| **Funding Announcement** | CA-NOI-08-0012 |
| **Project Title** | San Joaquin River Gorge “Hands on the Land” and Energy Education Program |
| **Recipient** | National Energy Education Development Project |
| **Principle Investigator / Program Manager** | Mary Spruill |
| **Total Anticipated Award Amount** | $250,000 |
| **Cost Share** | Estimated contribution of $100,000 over five years |
| **New Award or Continuation?** | Continuation |
| **Anticipated Length of Agreement** | Five Years |
| **Anticipated Period of Performance** | 08/15/08-09/30/13 |
| **Award Instrument** | Cooperative Agreement |
| **Statutory Authority** | Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (Public Law 94-579, Section 307(b)) |
| **CFDA # and Title** |  |
| **Single Source Justification Criteria Cited** | * 1. **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.   2. **Unique Qualifications** – The applicant is uniquely qualified to performed 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; |
| **BLM Point of Contact** | Tracy Rowland, Park Manager 559-855-3492 |

**OVERVIEW**

This is a “Follow-on” project to expand an existing national partnership to the local level to assist BLM in developing and presenting site-specific “hands-on”, interactive natural and heritage resource educational programs and products for K-12 audiences , including the role of public lands in meeting our nation’s energy needs. Programs will be correlated to California State Educational standards, and shall be developed in collaboration with BLM and partner technical experts. Programs and products will emphasize “Tread Lightly!” and “Leave No Trace” principles and practices in order to foster a new generation of responsible outdoor recreationists and land users.

**RECIPIENT INVOLVEMENT**

In collaboration with BLM and its public and private partners, NEED (Recipient) will provide site-specific curriculum and staffing assistance to BLM to present programs on a year-round basis at the San Joaquin River Gorge. NEED will assist BLM in marketing services and programs to educators, groups and the general public in the central valley region, one of the fastest-growing regions of the state, with a population of over 1.5 million people.

In collaboration with BLM staff and partners, NEED will assist BLM in developing and providing training and workshops for teachers and non-formal educators. NEED will assist BLM in evaluating existing programs and products as well as new programs and products for BLM and its partners.

NEED may assist BLM in operating and maintaining program facilities, including the visitor center, Learning Center and outdoor classrooms, trail maintenance, signage, etc..

In collaboration with BLM and its partners, NEED will seek grants and external partnerships to assist BLM in creating sustainable, long-term funding for these programs.

**BLM INVOLVEMENT**

Substantial involvement on the part BLM is anticipated for the successful completion of the objectives to be funded by this award. In particular, BLM will be responsible for the following:

* Provide technical assistance on resources to be interpreted, and site-specific information
* BLM shall facilitate the development of grade-appropriate educational and interpretive programming by sponsoring collaboration among local agency and partner technical experts, and the local tribal government representatives
* BLM shall define priority program areas and issues and provide resource expertise for the development and review of educational and interpretive materials
* BLM shall provide facilities for presentation of programs and projects , provide project supervision and funding NTE $50,000 per year for teacher training, program development, program review and evaluation of materials and collaborative marketing strategy and implementation actions, and for staffing assistance to present on-site programs

**SINGLE-SOURCE JUSTIFICATION**

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| **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. |

BLM did not solicit full and open competition for this award based the following criteria:

(2) CONTINUATION

**(4) Unique Qualifications**

**Single Source Justification Description:**

This award is made to the National Energy Education and Development Project as BLM has had an on-going partnership with this organization since 2004, collaborating on the development of materials that highlight the role of BLM in meeting the nation’s energy needs. The San Joaquin River Gorge “Hands on the Land” program is a continuation of this partnership, and brings the national relationship to the local level. NEED will work with BLM to adapt its existing energy education curriculum to fit local resources and environments, providing high-quality, customized educational programming that meets California Standards for grades K-12. By continuing this relationship and adapting existing curriculum, BLM will maximize time and financial investment in improving existing educational and interpretive programming. In addition, based on what has been learned from this partnership and past program efforts, such as the development of the California version of “Get Energized” an interactive CDROM, BLM can move forward to create new educational programs which expand these topics with a minimum of start up costs. NEED is a highly-skilled, non-profit organization specializing in energy education, with a broad array of public and private partnerships. NEED’s teacher networks and array of corporate sponsors will be of great benefit to BLM both in marketing the programs and products which are collaboratively produced, and also be of great benefit in enhancing program funding. NEED has an excellent track record of fundraising to meet mutual goals and objectives, bringing government and private partners such as energy corporations together.

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY**

Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (Public Law 94-579, Section 307(b)) ))….”(b) Subject to provisions of applicable law, the Secretary may enter into contracts and cooperative agreements involving the management, protection, development and sale of public lands.”