National Park Service  
Southwest Border Resource Protection Program  
Guidelines and Selection Criteria

PURPOSE OF PROGRAM:  
To provide technical and financial assistance to parks along the international border to achieve common goals with our Mexican partners, maintain cooperative relationships, mitigate impacts on cultural and natural resources, engage new partners and communities in environmental stewardship, and increase appreciation and understanding of our shared cultural heritage.

WHO MAY APPLY:  
Any park unit, national heritage area or central office program in the Intermountain Region is eligible to apply for SWBRPP funding funds. Educational institutions, private non-profit organizations, state and local governments and tribal governments are also eligible to apply. Foreign organizations and governments outside the United States and its territories are not eligible to apply.

WHAT KINDS OF PROJECTS WILL BE FUNDED:  
Projects must benefit a unit of the National Park Service or national heritage area within the Intermountain Region as well as a protected area in Mexico by addressing cultural or natural resource issues shared by both countries. Project categories include:

- Research  
  - Documentation involving cultural resources such as:
    - Identification, research, and evaluation of archeological and historic sites  
    - National Register of Historic Places nominations  
    - National Historic Landmark nominations.
  - Research involving natural resource issues such as:
    - Wildlife habitat management  
    - Inventory and monitoring of invasive plants and animals  
    - Impacts from climate change to endangered species  
    - Assessments the effects of border activities on threatened and endangered species

- Protection:  
  - Preservation of cultural resources such as:
    - Stabilization, rehabilitation, and restoration of historic structures, archeological sites, and landscapes  
    - Conservation of collections
  - Conservation and preservation of natural resources such as:
    - Reestablishment of natural processes and ecological systems  
    - Monitoring of resource damage caused by human developments  
    - Protection and conservation endangered and threatened species  
    - Integrated pest management planning  
    - Restoration of native wildlife and vegetation, including removal of exotic species
Education/ Information Sharing

- Professional training and exchange such as:
  - Student intern programs
  - Workshops, seminars, symposia, training programs
  - Binational conferences
  - Informational network gatherings
- Establishment of sister parks including:
  - Initial workshops/meetings to develop partnership agreements, and follow up activities to create action plan

WHAT MAY NOT BE FUNDED:

- Fundraising or the formulation of fundraising plans
- Lobbying
- Long-term maintenance or curatorial work.
- Core organizational operations / permanent staff positions

HOW TO APPLY:

Non-NPS applicants:

- Submit a completed proposal via Grants.gov
- For more information, please contact Krista Muddle, Program Manager, at (303) 969-2356 or Krista_Muddle@nps.gov.

NPS applicants:

Submit a PMIS (Project Management Information System) Statement following the instructions below. This allows you to submit a request for SWBRPP funding outside of the Service-wide Comprehensive Call.

1. Log into PMIS and click on Create Non-facility project

2. Enter all information necessary for developing a project in PMIS (be sure to select Requested Funding FY = 2023).

3. Click on the Review Project icon at the top of the project and then click on the Approved button. Click "Save Changes". If you don't have rights to do this, please have your Park PMIS Administrator complete this step.

4. If you want to remove the Add-On costs, scroll down to the Project Funding Component section, click on the Edit Component icon, scroll down to the Add-Ons section, change the default percentages to zero, scroll down and click on "Save Add-Ons", scroll to and click on "Save and Continue", and click on "OK".

5. Next, click on the Eligible Funding Categories icon in the Project Funding Component section. Scroll down the alphabetical list to "SW Border Resource Protection Program" and click on the box next to it. Then scroll down to the bottom of the screen and click "Save Changes".
6. Click on the Additional Criteria icon in the Project Funding Component section and write a narrative addressing the 5 evaluation criteria (see below).

7. E-mail "IMR PMIS Support" or call Eric Holliday 303-969-2639 or Rod Rivera at 303-969-2531 with the PMIS number so we can execute a "Mark Exception" on the project.

8. Once this is done, we will let you know that you can then submit the Project Funding Component section. To do so, click on the Submit Component icon, click on the Submitted button, click "Save Changes", and click "OK".

NOTE: Please send in letters of support and/or any supporting documentation separately by mail (see address below) or email to Krista_Muddle@nps.gov. Call her at 303-969-2356 with questions.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS:
The maximum funding limit is $55,000 annually per applicant unless extraordinary circumstances, deemed appropriate by Department of Interior leadership, apply. Applicants may submit as many projects as needed for consideration. While funds will not require matching contributions, it is highly recommended that a match is sought through partners.

MULTI-YEAR/RECURRING PROJECTS:
Due to laws governing federal financial assistance, funding support will only be provided for projects per the requirements of this Notice of Funding Opportunity in the anticipated term of the agreement listed above. However, applicants are encouraged to identify the intention to submit future year continuation applications. For projects that intend to submit future year continuation applications, please provide a short description of the scope of work for any continued work related to the project within the Project Narrative. That summary should include the significance of project continuation, measurable results, and an estimated total future cost. Continuation summaries must also be based on the current $10,000 - $55,000 project limit. While continuation projects cannot be guaranteed funding in future years, consideration by the current panel will be noted and heavily considered by future panels.

PROJECT REPORTING:
All funded recipients must provide annual and completion reports. Reports must show progress towards or completion of Scope of Work, Goals and Objectives. In addition, Federal Financial Reports (SF-425) need to be completed annually and at the completion of the project.

PLEASE NOTE: Failure to comply with required reports may jeopardize opportunities to compete for SWBRPP funds in the future.

ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR NON-NPS APPLICANTS:

- Applicants must have a DUNS number to receive funding. To determine if your organization has a DUNS number, contact your institution’s administrator or chief financial officer, or go to Dun & Bradstreet’s website at www.dnb.com/US/duns_update/index.html. Applicants may request a free number at the website by following the steps for federal government contractors and recipients, or by calling 1-866-705-5711.
• Applicants must be registered with the System for Award Management (SAM) to receive funding. Applicants may register at http://www.sam.gov/. Please note that you must have a DUNS number in order to register with SAM.
• Selected applicants must sign a cooperative agreement with the NPS, and agree to all attachments, certifications and assurances. The agreement must show how the project meets a public purpose and has substantial involvement by the National Park Service.

PROGRAM EVALUATION CRITERIA AND SELECTION PROCESS:
Each application will be evaluated by a panel of subject matter experts using the criteria specified below. All projects must directly benefit a National Park Service unit.

All applicants must provide a brief description either on the proposal template or, for NPS applicants, in your PMIS proposal template for each of the following evaluation criteria.

EVALUATION CRITERIA:

• NPS will evaluate and consider only those applications that separately address each of the merit review criterion.
• Each applicant is required to provide a detailed narrative of the following criteria elements. It is **HIGHLY** recommended that the Project Narrative have sections labeled as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Criterion 1</strong> Project Addresses a Critical Need</th>
<th>Weight 20%</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 Project is critical to protecting resource(s). Delaying the project will result in resource damage that is extensive or likely irreversible. Undertaking the project now will prevent significantly worse problems later and loss of an important opportunity. Delaying the project will result in a significant health or safety to people.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Project is less urgently needed to protect resource(s). Delaying the project will cause or continue resource degradation. A potential threat for public health and safety exists.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Potential threat to resource has been identified.</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Criterion 2</strong> Significance of the Resource or Issue</th>
<th>Weight 20%</th>
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<tr>
<td>5 Resource possesses national or international significance, such as a World Heritage Site or National Natural or Historic Landmark status for cultural resources and is defined as unique, or unparalleled. Resource is an integral component of the park or protected area’s ecosystem and purpose. The project addresses a resource that is considered significant to both the U.S. and Mexico.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Resource possesses moderate, state, or regional importance. For cultural resources, resource is listed in the National Register of Historic Places at the state level. For natural resources, resource is important but not singular for that park and project.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Resource is of local or peripheral value in terms of the park’s purpose, uses, or long-term condition.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criterion 3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Partnership Participation</strong></td>
<td>Weight 20%</td>
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<td><strong>Note:</strong> Letters of support from each national park unit involved in the project as well as potential partners should accompany the proposal to document the willingness to participate in the project if funded and how.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>The partnership includes multiple resource providers such as non-governmental organizations, land management agencies or educational institutes that have demonstrated success in working directly with Mexico. The partner or partners will provide <em>matching funds</em> for the project. The project involves resource protection and/or educational activities on both sides of the international border. The project enhances sister park relationships and efforts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Project focuses mainly on U.S. resources with NPS providing a proportionately greater share of responsibilities for the project as well as <em>in-kind</em> services and support.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Partnership is not new or innovative, but has international interest. One partner will implement the project with limited involvement from the partner.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Criterion 4</th>
<th>Weight 20%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cost Effectiveness</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>The budget is well-developed, describing costs associated with specific tasks, and reflects reasonable costs and allocation of funds. Alternative ways of doing this project have been researched, and this is the most cost-effective way of achieving the project benefits. <em>(Describe the alternatives that have been considered.)</em> The benefit to the resource, in relation to the cost, is very high. Costs are realistic, well-researched, clearly spelled out in a detailed budget, apportioned for each deliverable/product or result, and supported by examples. All work elements are specifically identified with their associated costs; all expenses are necessary, reasonable and appropriate. Partner costs and contributions are clearly identified. The proposal uses funding monies to leverage non-National Park Service funds or in-kind services.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>The budget is moderately-well developed. Costs appear reasonable to achieve the stated objectives, procedures, deliverables, products or results. If costs are high, they are justified by the proportionate value of benefits to be achieved or proposal only generally describes how costs were determined and provides only general supportive data. Most work elements are identified with their associated costs. Partner costs and contributions are identified.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>The budget is absent or vague. The proposed project is only generally related to the development of management actions to resolve a specific problem. The proposed project will contribute basic information about park natural resources. Work elements are not identified with their associated costs; expenses do not appear necessary, reasonable and appropriate. Partner costs are not clearly identified.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Criterion 5</td>
<td>Weight 20%</td>
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<td>-------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Project Produces Tangible Results</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>The proposed project implements specific management prescriptions that will result in the final resolution of a natural or cultural resource issue or threat; or the project develops the information necessary for implementing management actions that will resolve the issue or threat. For a management problem, no additional actions other than follow-up monitoring are anticipated; or for projects involving lack of information, no additional information is needed or required and the park has specific plans to take action as a result of having this information. Needed expertise has been identified and compliance requirements will be met.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>The proposed project will contribute to resolution of the problem, but will not fully resolve it or the proposed project will contribute to the future resolution of the problem, such as by clarifying management issues, articulating techniques or procedures, or supporting an interagency or regional strategy. Information gained through this project will help in future resolution of the problem, but the park does not currently have concrete plans to take action. Additional studies, management actions, and/or planning will be necessary to completely resolve the stated problem.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>The proposed project is only generally related to the development of management actions to resolve a specific problem. The proposed project will contribute basic information about park natural resources.</td>
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Each criteria element will be scored on a 0–5-point scale:

- **5 = Superior** (100 % of weighted average)
- **4 = Good** (80 % of weighted average)
- **3 = Satisfactory** (60 % of weighted average)
- **2 = Marginal** (40 % of weighted average)
- **1 = Poor** (20 % of weighted average)
- **0 = Not Acceptable** (No score)

The following numerical rating values may be assigned: 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 and 0. The scoring of each criterion must be based on the strengths and weaknesses of the application narrative and budget. To assist in assigning an appropriate score, the following will be used as a guideline:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Descriptive Statement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td><strong>Superior:</strong> Applicant fully addresses all aspects of the criterion, convincingly demonstrates that it will meet the Government's performance requirements and demonstrates no weaknesses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td><strong>Good:</strong> Applicant fully addresses all aspects of the criterion, convincingly demonstrates a likelihood of meeting the Government's requirements, and demonstrates only a few minor weaknesses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td><strong>Satisfactory:</strong> Applicant addresses all aspects of the criterion and demonstrates the ability to meet the Government's performance requirements. The Application contains weaknesses and/or a number of minor weaknesses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td><strong>Marginal:</strong> Applicant addresses all aspects of the criterion and demonstrates the ability to meet the Government's performance requirements. The Application contains significant weaknesses and/or significant minor weaknesses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td><strong>Poor:</strong> A low likelihood of successfully meeting the Government's requirements. Significant weaknesses are demonstrated and clearly outweigh any strength presented.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td><strong>Not Acceptable:</strong> Applicant does not address all aspects of the criterion and the information presented indicates a strong likelihood of failure to meet the Government's requirements.</td>
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**Selection and Program Policy Factors**

The Selection Official may consider the merit review recommendation, program policy factors and the amount of funds available when making selections.

1. Geographic distribution of project performance and impact
2. Leveraging of Federal funding
3. Project addresses a critical resource
4. Diversity of project partners
5. Leveraging of resources of associated programs
**HOW PROJECTS ARE SELECTED:**

The selection panel, a panel of experts representing applicable cultural and natural resource disciplines, will review and evaluate all eligible applications according to the criteria above. The panel will provide recommendations to the Director of the Intermountain Region Office, who will announce the list of funded projects.

**WHEN FUNDING WILL BE ANNOUNCED:**

We anticipate that the successful recipients and projects will be announced in Fall and the funding will be awarded in the new fiscal year as soon as funds are appropriated by Congress, which more than likely will be around Spring.