




# United States Department of the Interior


NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO  
10C (2623)

**NOV 22 2019**

To: Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks  
Senior Advisor to the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget

Through: Deputy Director, Operations  
Exercising the Authority of the Director 

From: Deputy Director, Management and Administration 

Re: Request for Reportable Concurrence Regarding Specific NPS Financial Assistance Programs

The National Park Service is requesting pre-approval from the Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks for the following grant and cooperative agreement programs for FY 2020 and beyond.

For each of these programs a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), and subsequent award agreements, have previously been reviewed and approved through the required DOI review and approval process for financial assistance. There are no anticipated substantive changes to future NOFOs or resultant financial assistance agreements for these programs. In addition, many of the programs require Assistant Secretary or Departmental review of an apportionment or award certificate.

Any of the below pre-approved Financial assistance agreements will still require NPS Director review and approval unless otherwise waived or delegated by the NPS Director. NPS will also provide regular or as-needed reporting of the financial assistance agreements within these programs to you or the Department upon request. In addition, an elevated review to the Assistant Secretary for approval will be required if any of the following characteristics apply to the agreement, regardless of whether or not they fall within the pre-approved categories identified within this memo:

- The Program is identified by the Office of the Inspector General as having systemic risks or concerns
- Programs that contain any classroom curriculum development
- Any program or project identified as requiring review by DOI-PMB, AS-FWP, or the NPS Director.

Notification of financial assistance actions requiring elevated review based on OIG activity or as requested by leadership will be communicated to financial assistance staff through the NPS financial assistance webpage.

NPS requests DOI pre-approval for the following NPS grant and cooperative agreement programs:

**1. National Heritage Area Cooperative Agreements** – The National Heritage Areas are designated by Congress and receive a line-item appropriation for financial assistance funding for a portion of their operations dispersed through cooperative agreements.

**2. Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grants** - The LWCF State Assistance Program provides grants to states to acquire and/or develop public land for outdoor recreation purposes in accordance with the LWCF Act (54 USC 200305). NPS first prepares an apportionment certificate to distribute Congressionally appropriated as well as mandatory funds to each state; this is routed through DTS for NPS and DOI Surname and ultimately the Secretary's signature. Separately, States submit applications for individual grant projects.

**3. NPS Historic Preservation Fund Grant Programs** – The following two grant programs are designated by Congress to provide historic preservation funds to States, Territories, and Tribes to fund operations as mandated in the National Historic Preservation Act.

- Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) Grants to State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs)
- Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) Grants to Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs)

**4. NPS grant programs that require an apportionment or award certificate** – The Departmental Manual requires that these competitive grant programs be approved by the AS-FWP or above. To accomplish this, NPS prepares apportionment or award certificates for the AS-FWP to sign prior to awarding grants for each of these programs. The certificate package lists all the grants by title, recipient, and amount. These programs are contingent on appropriations each year:

- Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Grants
- American Battlefield Protection Program Planning Grants (ABPP)
- Battlefield Land Acquisition Grants (BLAG)
- Japanese American Confinement Sites (JACS)
- National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT) Grants
- Tribal Heritage Grants
- Save America's Treasures (SAT) Grants
- African American Civil Rights (AACR) Grants
- Maritime Heritage Grants
- Underrepresented Communities (URC) Grants
- Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCUs) Preservation Grants
- Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Fund (ESHPPF) Grant Programs (hurricanes, etc.)
- Historic Revitalization Subgrant Programs (HRSP)

**5. Recurring financial assistance programs that do not require an apportionment or award certificate** – The following are recurring programs that do not require the submission of an apportionment or award certificate, but do not change significantly each fiscal year. Each of these programs contain individual projects that are funded through financial assistance on an as-needed basis throughout the fiscal year.

- LWCF Outdoor Recreation Legacy Program - grants that assist low-income urban communities that are underserved with respect to parks and other outdoor recreation areas in accordance with the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act and Consolidated Appropriations Act. Funds for this program are appropriated by Congress. The NOFO was reviewed and approved in FY19 to compete the \$40 million in funding appropriated in FY18 and FY19 (\$20M each year). Average awards to date have ranged from \$500,000 to \$750,000.
- Southwest Border Resource Protection Program - cooperative agreements in support of natural and cultural resource initiatives along the United States and Mexico international border. The NOFO was reviewed and approved in FY19 with an estimated amount of \$275,000 in funding each fiscal year.
- Route 66 - cooperative agreements and grants to preserve and protect the physical and economic infrastructure along the historic Route 66 corridor in accordance with the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Act. The NOFO was reviewed and approved in FY19 with an estimated amount

\$100,000 in funding each fiscal year.

**6. Financial assistance funded by other agencies** – NPS grants and cooperative agreements that are 100% funded by other Federal agencies.

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**7. Other recurring financial assistance projects**– The following are recurring projects that align with departmental priorities.

- Youth Agreements - cooperative agreements awarded to youth or conservation corps to perform conservation projects under the Youth Conservation and Public Land Corp authority (16 USC 1704).
- Transportation Agreements - cooperative agreements in which the objectives of the agreement are to operate and maintain alternative transportation systems, such as bus services, to reduce traffic volume within National Parks.
- National Fire Plan Agreements - cooperative agreements to implement the National Fire Plan and assist communities at risk from catastrophic wildland fires.
- National Trail Agreements - cooperative agreements to operate, develop, and maintain portions of National Trails in accordance with the National Trail Act (16 USC 1246(h)(1))
- Historic Preservation/Cultural Resources Management - cooperative agreements to assist in identification, preservation, determinations of National Register eligibility or nominations, historical and archaeological database maintenance, or eligibility of Federal Preservation incentives in accordance with State Historic Preservation authority (54 USC 302304(b))
- Invasive Species Control - cooperative agreements in which the objectives of the agreement are for identification, management, controlling, eradication of invasive species and associated restoration activities within National Parks.
- Endangered Species Management - cooperative agreements in which the objectives of the agreement are in direct support of the protection or recovery of endangered species within the NPS in accordance with the Endangered Species Act (16 USC 1531).

In summary, upon approval of this memo, the overall financial assistance and approval process will change to the following:

The Senior Advisor to the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget will only be required to review and approve NPS financial assistance NOFOs or agreements on an as-requested basis.

The Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks (or delegated official) will be the approval authority for the following NPS financial assistance actions

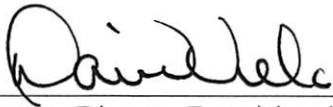
- NOFOs that are not identified within the pre-approved programs above
- Financial assistance agreements that obligate NPS funds in the amount of \$50k or higher that are not identified within the pre-approved programs above

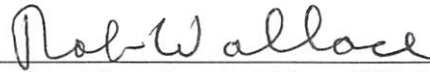
The NPS Director (or delegated official) will be the approval authority for the following NPS financial assistance actions:

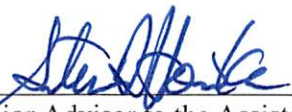
- Both the NOFOs and resulting financial assistance agreements for all pre-approved programs that do

not submit a separate apportionment or award certificate

- The NOFO only for all pre-approved programs that do submit a separate apportionment or award certificate
- All other financial assistance actions that obligate NPS funds in an amount of less than \$50k

Approved by:  12-10-19  
Deputy Director, Exercising the Authority of the Director Date

Approved by:  1-15-2020  
Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks Date

Approved by:  1/21/20  
Senior Advisor to the Assistant Secretary for  
Policy, Management and Budget Date