



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

South Texas Wildlife Refuge Complex
3325 Green Jay Road, Alamo, TX 78516
Phone (956) 784-7540
Fax (956) 787-8338

April 12, 2011

Memorandum

To: Chief, Division of Contracting and General Services, Region 2

From: Project Leader, South Texas Wildlife Refuge Complex, Region 2

Subject: Request for Approval for Single-Source Award to National Wildlife Refuge Association for Beyond the Boundaries Project on South Texas Wildlife Refuge Complex

Approval is requested to provide notice of intent to make a single-source award (i.e., obligate FY 2011 funding) to the National Wildlife Refuge Association (NWRA) via this cooperative agreement. The single-source determination is in accordance with criterion #2 (Continuation) under the Department of the Interior guidance (505 DM 2 at 2.14B). The funding obligation in FY 2011 is expected to total approximately \$40,000.00. If funds are available in FY 2012 we will award an additional \$40,000.00 in 2012 for phase II of project.

The specific objectives of this project are to: (1) develop a landscape scale conservation effort and develop a list of strategic conservation priorities with plans and recommended tools for implementation; (2) help the Service with outreach, education and communication among partner organizations and other stakeholders concerning the need to conserve key habitats proximate to the refuges and related to boundary expansion of the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge; and (3) provide technical assistance with the research, development and drafting proposals for funding opportunities with Federal, State, and nonprofit organizations.

The objectives of this cooperative agreement, which are outlined above, can best be accomplished through the National Wildlife Refuge Association's unique and proven "Beyond the Boundaries Program", which currently has more than eight ongoing initiatives with national wildlife refuges across the nation to advance their landscape-level conservation efforts. Because the NWRA was founded as an independent NGO to help advance the goals and objectives of the National Wildlife Refuge System, and because it is not a land trust or other direct stakeholder, NWRA is uniquely suited to play a convening and coordinating role to help assure that refuge goals are met through partnership efforts. The NWRA is the only known non-profit working in landscape conservation with an established program (Beyond the Boundaries) that can provide the technical expertise, partnership coordination, and financial support to the South Texas Wildlife Refuge Complex to create a vision for habitat restoration, land acquisition, and climate change adaptation efforts for both internal and external audiences, including a plan for implementation and funding.

Request for Approval for Single-Source Award: National Wildlife Refuge Association for Beyond the Boundaries Project in South Texas.

APPROVE ✓

DISAPPROVE _____

Date 5/17/2011

Date _____

for T. Rucker

Agreement # F11AC00109