

**HAWAII-PACIFIC ISLANDS COOPERATIVE ECOSYSTEM STUDIES UNIT  
CALIFORNIAN COOPERATIVE ECOSYSTEM STUDIES UNIT  
PACIFIC NORTHWEST COOPERATIVE ECOSYSTEM STUDIES UNIT  
REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF INTEREST & QUALIFICATIONS**

**Natural Resource Condition Assessment for  
National Park of American Samoa**

***PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN 2014***

**Grants.gov Funding Opportunity Announcement: P14AS00043**

**Reply to:**

**Reply Due:** April 11, 2014, 23:59 PDT

Technical Contact:

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CFDA #: 15.945, Cooperative Research and Training Programs – Resources of the National Park System (CESU)

**Overview**

The National Park Service (NPS) is requesting information on the interest and qualifications of potential partner(s) to assist with a project to complete a Natural Resource Condition Assessment (NRCA) for the National Park of American Samoa (NPSA). Responses to this request will be used to identify potential collaborators for a project that will be funded by NPS. The NPS wishes to conduct this project in collaboration with a partner institution and Principal Investigator (PI) in one of the following Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESUs), under the auspices of the respective Unit's Cooperative Agreement: The Hawai'i-Pacific Islands CESU (HPI CESU), the Californian CESU (CA CESU), or the Pacific Northwest CESU (PNW CESU). The anticipated budget for this project is \$88,000 and is subject to availability of funding. The final award amount will be dependent on an approved project budget(s) and NPS determination of available funds.

Based on interest and responses received, NPS will select a partner(s) to assist with developing a study plan and formal Task Agreement under the Unit's master Cooperative Agreement. **Written Statements of Interest are due by April 11, 2014**, submitted to the technical and the administrative contacts listed above. The NPS intends to select a partner by April 23, 2014 and finalize a full study proposal by May 14, 2014. All parties submitting statements of interest will be notified via email of the selection results by April 25, 2014. The project will be initiated in September 2014 and conclude by February 2017.

**Eligibility Information**

This announcement is limited to partners of the following Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (including university, state and non-governmental organizations): Hawai'i-Pacific Islands CESU, Californian CESU, and Pacific Northwest CESU. A list of active partners and the master Cooperative

Agreements for these three CESUs are linked to the following webpage: <http://www.cesu.psu.edu/>. The NPS strongly encourages multiple partner engagement in these projects. This may occur through subawards to partner institutions from the primary awardee, or broad expertise from multiple PIs within a single institution.

### **Background**

In 2003, Congress instructed NPS to assess the condition of natural resources within NPS-managed lands. In response, NPS is conducting multi-scale ecological assessments to help managers develop actions to protect and restore natural resource conditions in parks.

NPSA is located in American Samoa, an unincorporated US territory 2,600 miles southwest of Hawai'i. The park preserves some of the most intact paleotropical rainforest and Indo-Pacific coral reefs in the United States. In keeping with the meaning of the word Samoa—"sacred earth"—the park also protects fa'asamoa, the customs, beliefs, and traditions of the 3,000-year-old Samoan culture. There are no federally-owned lands: All parkland is leased from native villages and the American Samoa Government. Lands and waters of NPSA are largely undeveloped and lack the usual facilities of most national parks. The 13,500-acre park includes sections of three islands—Tutuila, Ta'u, and Ofu--that are home to flying foxes (fruit bats) and seabirds such as frigatebirds, boobies, tropicbirds, white terns, and brown noddies. Because seaward boundaries of all park units are 1/4 mile from the mean high tide, NPSA also includes 2800 ac of reef approximately evenly split between shallow reef shelf and deeper reef slope, and sheltering hundreds of species of fish, corals, and other marine life.

This project will characterize the setting and significance of focal natural resources (terrestrial, coastal and marine) at NPSA, provide an interdisciplinary evaluation of current conditions and trends (where possible), and identify critical information gaps and primary threats. The project will include:

- The development of a Study/Implementation Plan that identifies the specific objectives and scope of the project and provides an implementation schedule and budget.
- The completion of a written report that will be published in the NPS Natural Resource Publication Series and include an executive summary, current condition status and identifiable trends for selected resource elements, critical knowledge or data gaps, and (in some cases) recommendations to park managers.
- The development and delivery of associated GIS data layers, map files, databases, and supporting metadata.

### **Project Objectives**

The natural resource assessment will use existing information sources to evaluate the condition of park natural resources, identify stressors or threats to park natural resources, and identify information gaps. Existing information is multidisciplinary and from a variety of sources including NPS; other federal and American Samoan agencies; published and unpublished documents; and available raw data and tabular and spatial databases. The NPS Pacific Island Network Inventory and Monitoring Program (<http://science.nature.nps.gov/im/units/pacn>) also is an important source of information. The assessment should include geospatial analyses and reporting (GIS) where relevant to maximize usefulness of the assessment findings in park planning and natural resource management activities.

A Statement of Work describing the project in detail, including lists of the focal resources to be addressed, is attached to the Funding Opportunity Announcement. In addition, current examples of Natural Resource Condition Assessment documents and project guidelines can be viewed and downloaded at: <http://www.nature.nps.gov/water/nrca/reports.cfm>.

### **Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications**

Please prepare a not-to-exceed 4 page summary of how you would envision such a collaborative project and include the following information:

1. Name, Organization, and Contact Information
2. Brief 'Statement of Qualifications' including
  - a) Biographical sketch(s) for key personnel including a description of the major discipline of expertise for each person. (Curriculum vitae can be submitted as an attachment not included in the above-stated 4-page limit.)
  - b) Relevant past projects
  - c) Brief description of the proposed approach to this project.

Note: A proposed budget is **NOT** requested at this time.

**Please submit electronic Statements of Interest and supporting material to both [sean\\_eagan@nps.gov](mailto:sean_eagan@nps.gov) and [william\\_nash@nps.gov](mailto:william_nash@nps.gov) by April 11, 2014 at 23:59 PDT.** Submissions after this deadline will not be considered.

**Review of Statements Received:** Based on a review of the Statements of Interest received, an investigator or investigators will be invited to prepare a full study proposal. Statements of Interest will be evaluated based on the investigator's specific experience and capabilities in: a) studying the ecological systems, species, and physical processes occurring in the park (previous experience in the park and/or with other local, on-island agencies, will be considered but is not required); b) strength of the proposed interdisciplinary team; c) ability to locate, manage, and interpret data from diverse databases and sources; d) team GIS capabilities; and e) demonstrated project management ability. The NPS intends to select a partner by April 23, 2014 and finalize a full study proposal by May 14, 2014. All parties submitting statements of interest will be notified via email of the selection results by April 25, 2014.