

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF  
INTEREST NUMBER N62473-15-2-0010  
PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN 2015**

**Stephens' Kangaroo Rat Genetic Study Naval Weapon Station Seal Beach Detachment  
Fallbrook, CA**

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest (RSOI) will be used to implement a cooperative program to provide professional and technical support for surveys and studies of a federally endangered species, the Stephens' kangaroo rat (SKR) (*Dipodomys stephensi*) and its congener, the Dulzura kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys simulans*). Accurate and comprehensive identification of taxa are essential for effective management and conservation of natural resources and the formation of natural resource policies at any particular site. Conducting surveys and inventories for wildlife species on Navy lands is a requirement (OPNAVINST 5090.1D [10 January 2014; page 12-15]), directly supporting Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans (INRMP) and assisting with restrictions prevention (e.g. designation of critical habitat) by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on testing and/or training exercises. Work is located at Naval Weapon Station Seal Beach Detachment Fallbrook, CA ("Detachment Fallbrook" or "Station). The authority for this Cooperative Agreement is 16 USC §670c-1 (Sikes Act) (Natural Resources Management). Approximately \$37,817.92 is expected to be available to support this project.

Type of Assistance Instrument Anticipated: Cooperative Agreement

Authority: Cooperative Agreement under 16 USC §670c-1 (Sikes Act)

Eligible Applicants: Any Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unite Californian cooperative partner who qualifies under the DoDGARS Part 34 and 2 Code of Federal Regulations 200 is eligible to apply.

Cost Sharing: Not required

**Background:**

This new project will occur on Station in northwestern San Diego County, California. The federally listed SKR occurs in upland habitats on the Station, primarily in open areas. Also occurring on the station is the sympatric Dulzura kangaroo rat, which is not federally protected. The diagnostic characters between the Stephens' and Dulzura kangaroo rats are notoriously difficult to differentiate in live individuals during capture. Unfortunately, this makes defining captured kangaroo rat locations somewhat suspect without 100% confirmation. Ensuring proper project and mission support is essential, and this difficulty in identifying kangaroo rats can be costly if they are mis-identified as SKR.

**Brief Description of Anticipated Work:**

The primary purpose of this project is to determine accuracy of field identifications of the federally protected SKR. Please see enclosure 1 for full scope of work and enclosure 2 for applicable terms and conditions.

**Period of Performance.** The period of performance covered by this agreement is 18 months upon award. The end date is the anticipated date that the Final Report is accepted by the Government. The total duration of this Agreement, including any modifications shall not exceed three years.

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

Please provide the following via e-mail attachment to: Reagan Pablo (reagan.s.pablo@navy.mil).

- 1) SF 424 (Enclosure 3)
- 2) Research & Related Senior/Key Personnel Form (Enclosure 4). Please see Factor 1 for additional submittal requirements.
- 3) Research and Related Budget (Enclosure 5)
- 4) SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (Enclosure 6). If applicable, complete SF-LLL. Applicability: If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the grant/cooperative agreement, you must complete and submit Standard Form - LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying."

Reimbursement of pre-award costs will not be allowed.

**Review of Statements Received:** Proposals will be evaluated based on the following four factors: 1) Credentials of Key Personnel 2) Scientific Approach 3) Technical Approach to Safety 4) Reasonableness of Cost

**NOTE:** All requirements listed are minimum requirements. Information provided must be recent (within last seven (7) years) and relevant. Offerors will be assessed on their ability to adhere to the listed requirements, completeness of responses, follow directions, comply with restrictions and provide quality control on their submittals. All page limits refer to 12 point font and single spaced one-sided pages.

**Factor 1 – Credentials of the Key Personnel**

The applicant shall provide type written Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) of the Project Manager and Technical staff proposed for this project. Each SOQ shall provide the following:

- a. Biographical Sketch,
- b. Relevant past projects and clients with brief descriptions of these projects,
- c. Staff, faculty or students available to work on this project and their areas of expertise,
- d. Any brief description of capabilities to successfully complete the project you may wish to add (e.g. equipment, laboratory facilities, field facilities, etc.).

In addition, each key personnel must have the following:

Project Manager

- A minimum of a Master's degree in the field of Biology with emphasis in the field of Genetics; and
- A minimum of 4 years' experience in a responsible position providing oversight of, support to or directly involved with genetic analysis.
- Previous direct experience with conducting genetic analysis to differentiate between and among species, including resulting population genetic data analysis and interpretation.

Technical Staff

- A minimum of 2 years' experience in a responsible position conducting DNA extraction, DNA amplification, DNA sequencing, electrophoresis, and genetic analysis, particularly among closely related taxa.

Please provide your proposed Project Manager and Technical staff on the provided pdf titled, "Research & Related Senior/Key Personnel Form" (Enclosure 4). Maximum length is 12 pages, single-spaced with 12 pt font (of note, the 12 page limitation does not include the Research & Related Senior/Key Personnel Form) per key personnel.

**Factor 2 – Innovative Scientific Approach**

The applicant shall develop a proposal addressing the approach and techniques to accomplish the genetic analysis of kangaroo rat hair samples/follicles from Detachment Fallbrook. Specific methods and timing of activities shall be discussed in the proposal. Applicant's proposals will be evaluated by a team of technical and contracting personnel from NAVFAC SW and installation personnel. Applications will be evaluated based on their soundness of the overall approach to accomplish the anticipated work's stated objectives. Maximum length is 6 pages, single-spaced with 12 pt font.

**Factor 3 – Approach to Safety**

The applicant shall provide a narrative of describing how safety practices/procedures will be implemented to complete the proposed work. Applications shall be analyzed to determine how the Applicant will implement safety practices/procedures and determine the degree to which innovations are being proposed that may enhance safety on this proposed cooperative agreement. The Government is seeking to determine that the applicant has demonstrated a commitment to safety and that the applicant plans to properly manage and implement safety procedures for itself. Maximum length is 6 pages, single-spaced with 12 pt font.

**Factor 4 - Reasonableness of Cost**

After technical evaluation of the proposal, the applications shall be analyzed to determine whether they are materially/mathematically balanced with respect to prices or separately priced items, and for fair and reasonable pricing. The Offeror shall use OMB Circular A-21 "Cost Principles for Institutions of Higher Education," or 48 CFR part 31 "Contract Cost Principles and Procedures," as applicable. Evaluation will include an analysis to determine the Offeror's comprehension of the

requirements of the solicitation as well as to assess the validity of the Offeror's approach.

Please provide your proposed budget on the provided pdf titled, "Research and Related Budget" form\*(Enclosure 5). Be sure to include a separate budget form proposal for the work described in Option 1 as described in the statement of work.

**\*Form: RESEARCH AND RELATED BUDGET**

Complete the Research and Related Budget form in accordance with the instructions on the form. You must provide a detailed cost breakdown of all costs, by cost category, by the funding periods described below, and by task/sub-task corresponding to the task number in the proposed Statement of Work. You may request funds under any of the categories listed as long as the item and amount are necessary to perform the proposed work and meet all the criteria for allowability under the applicable Federal cost principles. The budget should adhere to the following guidelines:

The budget should be driven by program requirements. Elements of the budget shall include:

- Direct Labor - Individual labor category or person, with associated labor hours and unburdened direct labor rates.
- Indirect Costs - Fringe benefits, overhead, G&A, COM, etc. (must show base amount and rate). Justify in Field K.
- Travel - Number of trips, destination, duration, etc. Justify in Field K (on the form).
- Subcontract - A cost proposal as detailed as the applicant's cost proposal will be required to be submitted by the subcontractor. If applicable, include in Research & Related Subaward Budget Attachment Form.
- Consultant - Provide consultant agreement or other document that verifies the proposed loaded daily/hourly rate. Include a description of the nature of and the need for any consultant's participation. Strong justification must be provided, and consultants are to be used only under exceptional circumstances where no equivalent expertise can be found at a participating university. Provide budget justification in Field K.
- Materials - Specifically itemized with costs or estimated costs. An explanation of any estimating factors, including their derivation and application, shall be provided. Include a brief description of the applicant's procurement method to be used (competition, engineering estimate, market survey, etc.). Justify in Field K.
- Other Directs Costs - Particularly any proposed items of equipment or facilities. Equipment and facilities generally must be furnished by the cooperator/recipient (justifications must be provided when Government funding for such items is sought). Include a brief description of the applicant's procurement method to be used (competition, engineering estimate, market survey, etc.). Justify in Field K.

Budget Justification (Field K on the form): Provide the required supporting information

for the cost elements as shown above (see Research & Related Budget instructions) and listed as follows: indirect cost, travel, consultant, materials, and other direct costs. Provide any other information you wish to submit to justify your budget request.

**NOTE:** Every deviation from the scope of work requirement must be identified. Offerors must identify the paragraph in the scope of work that is applicable and provide sufficient information to justify why the deviation is in the best interest of the government.

**RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF EVALUATION FACTORS** – 1) Credentials of Key Personnel 2) Scientific Approach 3) Technical Approach to Safety 4) Reasonableness of Cost are approximately equal to one another.

**Please send electronic responses, questions and statements of interest to:**

Mr. Reagan Pablo, Contract Specialist Environmental Acquisition Core [reagan.s.pablo@navy.mil](mailto:reagan.s.pablo@navy.mil)

**Point of Contact Information:**

Mr. Reagan Pablo, Contract Specialist Environmental Acquisition Core  
Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southwest  
1220 Pacific Highway  
San Diego, CA 92132  
619.532.2090

**Timeline for Review of Statements of Interest:**

We request that Statements of Interest be submitted by August 5, 2015 2:00 PM local standard time. This Request for Statements of Interest will remain open until an investigator team is selected. Statements of Interest received after August 5, 2015 2:00 PM local standard time exact is “late” and may not be considered.