



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST

NUMBER W9126G-15-2-SOI-0037

PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN 2015

Project Title: Vegetation Mapping at NALF San Clemente Island, Naval Base Coronado, California

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest will be used to identify potential investigators for a project to be funded by the U.S. Navy, which provides professional and technical support for its Environmental Program in order to facilitate compliance with the Endangered Species Act. Approximately \$323,046.00 is expected to be available to support this project. Additional funding may be available for follow on work in subsequent fiscal years to the successful Recipient/Awardee.

Background:

San Clemente Island (SCI) is part of the Navy's Southern California Range Complex, which serves as the principal Navy training venue in the eastern Pacific. SCI supports eleven species listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act and numerous endemic species whose distributions are limited to SCI or the Channel Islands.

A current vegetation and land cover map for SCI is needed to provide vital spatial information to natural resources managers for assessing and monitoring species' habitats, ecosystem function, land use, and vegetation and land cover change. Vegetation mapping has been conducted for San Clemente Island using Thorne (1976), Holland (1986) and (modified) Sawyer and Keeler-Wolf (2009) systems. Due to rapid changes in vegetation on SCI since the eradication of feral goats in the early 1990s and concomitant increases in the distribution and abundance of federally listed species, an updated map that reflects current conditions and is based on a classification system more closely aligned with current management needs is essential to the continued success of the natural resources program. Developing a vegetation classification system that meets the needs of natural resources management and updating vegetation mapping to current conditions are the primary objectives of this agreement.

This project develops a vegetation classification system and creates an up-to-date map of vegetation and land cover types on San Clemente Island to facilitate the management and recovery of listed species in support of the military mission and fulfillment of requirements under Biological Opinion FWS- LA-09B0027-09F0040, San Clemente Island Military Operations and Fire Management Plan 2008 Naval Base Coronado.

Type of Award:

In accordance with the *Sikes Act* (Sec. 103A [16 USC 670c-1]) “the Secretary of a military department may enter into cooperative agreements with States, local governments, Indian Tribes, non-governmental organizations, and individuals,” This project is in support of the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan, as directed in the *Sikes Act*, and as a result, it is anticipated that a cooperative agreement through the CESU program will be awarded. Such awards may be administered through a CESU only upon mutual agreement and official authorization by both parties of the acceptance of the application of the CESU Network IDC rate (17.5%).

Note: Must be a non-federal partner in the CEU Unit to be qualified to be considered.

Brief Description of Anticipated Work:

The purposed of the anticipated work is to develop a vegetation classification system and create an up-to-date map of vegetation and land cover types on San Clemente Island to facilitate the management and recovery of listed species in support of the military mission and fulfillment of requirements under Biological Opinion FWS- LA-09B0027-09F0040, San Clemente Island Military Operations and Fire Management Plan 2008 Naval Base Coronado. Primary project objectives include: (1) development of a vegetation classification system that meets the needs of Navy natural resources managers and is consistent with the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) National Vegetation Classification Standard (NVCS); and (2) creation of a vegetation map using remote sensing and field based methods.

Period of Performance. The period of performance will extend from the award date through 30 June 2017.

Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications:

Please provide the following via e-mail attachment to: lucille.r.smith@usace.army.mil
(Maximum length: 2 pages, single-spaced 12 pt. font).

1. Name, Organization and Contact Information
2. Brief Statement of Qualifications (including):
 - a. Biographical Sketch;
 - b. Relevant past projects and clients with brief descriptions of these project;
 - 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, greenhouse facilities, field facilities, etc.).

Note: A full study proposal and proposed budget are NOT requested at this time.

Review of Statements Received: All statements of interest received will be evaluated by a

board comprised of one or more people at the receiving installation or activity, who will determine which statement(s) best meet the program objectives. Based on a review of the Statements of Interest received, an investigator or investigators will be invited to prepare a full study proposal. Statements will be evaluated based on the investigator's specific experience and capabilities in areas related to the study requirements.

Please send responses or direct questions to:

USACE

Lucille Smith, Contract Specialist

CESWF-CT

Email: lucille.r.smith@usace.army.mil

Office: 409-766-3845

Timeline for Review of Statements of Interest: The RSOI are required to be out for a minimum of 10 working days. Review of Statements of Interest will begin **24 Aug 2015**.