

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF
INTEREST NUMBER N62473-15-2-0021
PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN 2015**

Coastal California Gnatcatcher Habitat Use Study and Population Surveys at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, California

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest (RSOI) will be used to implement a cooperative agreement to provide professional and technical support for surveys and studies of the coastal California gnatcatcher (CAGN), *Poliophtila californica californica*. Work is located at Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Miramar, California (also referred as to Station). The authority for this Cooperative Agreement is 16 USC §670c-1 (Sikes Act) (Natural Resources Management). Approximately \$193,448.00 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:

The federally threatened CAGN, *Poliophtila californica californica*, is known to occur on MCAS Miramar, California. Multiple United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) protocol surveys for CAGN have been conducted on the Station between 1997 to 2013. Surveys were conducted in 1997 and 2001 for a study on the effects of helicopter noise on the CAGN at MCAS Miramar (Hubbs-Sea World Research Institute 2006). In 2003 the quantity and quality of CAGN habitat on Station was severely altered in the Cedar Fire. Prior to the Cedar Fire, approximately 4,600 acres of potentially suitable CAGN habitat had been identified on Station. The Cedar Fire burned an estimated 17,600 acres of the total 23,015 acres on Station. In 2004, a Station wide CAGN presence/absence survey was conducted and all unburned vegetation was mapped. Subsequent CAGN surveys occurred in 2007, 2009, and 2013.

CAGN is known to live in coastal sage scrub habitat. In previous surveys MCAS Miramar has had between 1,200 to 4,000 acres of suitable habitat for CAGN. In 2013 a base-wide vegetation and land cover mapping study was conducted to define vegetation alliances throughout the Station. The study broke coastal sage scrub down into multiple vegetation alliances

This new cooperative agreement will consist of a focused survey of at least ten CAGN pairs in order to determine use throughout each vegetation alliance. It will involve collecting intensive area use data on a subset of CAGN, taking into consideration vegetation alliances. Information collected shall include nest monitoring and nesting and fledging success data for the selected pairs. Additional information to be collected could include cowbird parasitism, structural analysis of habitat use, temperature monitoring and an analysis of food abundance and diversity. Furthermore,

this cooperative agreement will conduct a base-wide USFWS protocol CAGN survey of all suitable habitat to determine the number of nesting pairs and trend over time of the Station's CAGN population.

This cooperative agreement will promote a better understanding of the species and its habitat use across vegetation alliances which can ultimately be used by the Department of Defense and United States Fish and Wildlife Service for species recovery.

Brief Description of Anticipated Work:

The habitat analysis and survey efforts (1) use the 2013 vegetation mapping survey to determine current suitable habitat on MCAS Miramar, (2) select a subset of CAGN pairs and conduct a survey analyzing habitat use within coastal California sage scrub, and (3) conduct base-wide USFWS protocol surveys for CAGN. Within a regulatory framework, the proposed cooperative agreement would ensure compliance with the 2011 MCAS, Miramar Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan. Please see enclosure 1 for full scope of work and enclosure 2 for applicable terms and conditions.

Period of Performance.

The Agreement is for a period of 18 months. The end date is the anticipated date that the Final Report is accepted by the Government, The parties may extend the term of the Agreement by Written modification. Total duration of this agreement, including any option periods shall not exceed 54 months. The proposed period of performance consist of a 18-month base period and two (2) 18 month option periods. The exercise of any all option periods are subject to the availability of funds. Total duration of this Agreement, including any modifications shall not exceed 54 months.

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 two factors: 1) Credentials of Key Personnel, 2)

NOTE: All requirements listed are minimum requirements. 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.

1. Criteria

Factor 1 – Credential of Key Personnel

A. Principal Investigator/Project Manager. This person shall have, at the minimum:

- i. A graduate-level degree (MSc required, PhD strongly preferred) in ecology, biology, wildlife biology, zoology or a field related to wildlife sciences from an accredited college or university and the appropriate experience to comply with the requirements of this Agreement.
- ii. A minimum of two (2) projects in the past five (5) years acting as the Principle Investigator.
- iii. A minimum of two (2) projects in the past five (5) years acting as the Project Manager.

B. Principle Biologist. This person shall have, at the minimum:

- i. A bachelor's degree in ecology, biology, wildlife biology, zoology or a field related to wildlife sciences from an accredited college or university and the appropriate experience to comply with the requirements of this Agreement.
- ii. Strong project management experience, have a minimum of four (4) seasons in the past eight (8) years of field experience conducted permitted unsupervised surveys for CAGN's and associated report preparation. Principle Investigator/Project Manager can be the same individual as the Principle Biologist as long as all qualifications are met.

C. Field Assistants. These persons shall have, at the minimum:

- i. A bachelor's degree in ecology, biology, wildlife biology, zoology or a field related to wildlife sciences from an accredited college or university or at least two field seasons in the past five (5) years conducting supervised surveys for CAGN to comply with the requirements of this Agreement.
- ii. At least three field seasons in the past five (5) years of experience and knowledge in conducting visual and acoustic surveys for all species of birds that have the potential to occur in southern California or two field seasons in the past five (5) conducting supervised surveys for CAGN.

Please provide your key personnel on the provided pdf titled, "Research & Related Senior/Key Personnel Form"(Enclosure 4).

Factor 2 - Reasonableness of Cost

After technical evaluation of the proposal, the Offers 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. A clear cost breakdown of work elements to be accomplished detailing quantities for the various work items, unit, unit prices and extended prices will be required and will be evaluated. Evaluation will include an analysis to determine the Offeror's comprehension of the requirements of the proposed agreement as well as to assess the validity of the Offeror's approach. Please be sure to provide a proposal for the optional work years as listed within the statement of work.

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. Proposer 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 – Factor 1 and 2 are of equal importance.

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

Mr. Reagan Pablo, Contract Specialist Environmental Acquisition Core 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 September 9, 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 September 9, 2015 2:00 PM local standard time exact is “late” and may not be considered.