



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-16-2-SOI-0001

PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN 2016

Project Title: SAN CLEMENTE BELL'S SPARROW MONITORING, SAN CLEMENTE ISLAND, CA

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest will be used to identify potential investigators for a project to be funded by Naval Base Coronado which provides professional and technical support for its Natural Resources Management Program in order to facilitate successful implementation of the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biological Opinion (BO) FWS- LA-09B0027-09F0040, per the Endangered Species Act (16 USC 1531 et seq.), the Sikes Act Improvement Act (16 USC 670 et seq.), and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 USC 1361 et seq.). Approximately \$292,874.00 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:

The San Clemente Bell's sparrow, formerly called the San Clemente sage sparrow (*Artemisiospiza belli clementeae*), is a non-migratory subspecies endemic to San Clemente Island, California. This subspecies was listed as a threatened under the Endangered Species Act in 1977 (USFWS 1977). This project continues San Clemente Bell's sparrow population monitoring to estimate population size and to determine distribution, as well as assessing annual reproductive success. Monitoring is a requirement of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biological Opinion FWS- LA-09B0027-09F0040 on San Clemente Island Military Operations and Fire Management Plan 2008 and the Southern California Range Complex Final Environmental Impact Statement / Overseas Environmental Impact Statement that stipulate that the Navy will continue surveys and population analysis for the San Clemente Bell's sparrow. In 2010, the Navy began to redesign breeding season surveys to better assess current Bell's sparrow distribution and population size. New survey methods (2013-2015) are based on double-sampling and involve rapid (one-visit) and intensive (multi-visit) surveys of randomly selected plots distributed across the island

Type of Award:

In accordance with section 6305 – *Using cooperative agreements of the Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreements Act of 1977* (31 U.S.C. § 6301 et seq.), all CESU projects must carry out a public purpose of support or stimulation, instead of acquiring goods or services for the exclusive direct benefit of the United States Government.

In accordance with section 6305 – *Using cooperative agreements of the Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreements Act of 1977* (31 U.S.C. § 6301 et seq.), substantial involvement is expected between the federal partner and the nonfederal partner when carrying out the activities specified in the project agreement. The exact nature of the government’s involvement will be defined in the statement of objectives, issued with a request for full proposal.

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 CESU Unit to be qualified to be considered.

Brief Description of Anticipated Work:

This research focuses on the following objectives:

Objective 1: San Clemente Bell's Sparrow Population Monitoring

Use double sampling methods, specifically rapid and intensive survey plots comparable to 2013-2015 to determine Bell's sparrow densities by strata (refined in 2016), to estimate island wide population.

Objective 2: San Clemente Bell's Sparrow Nest Monitoring

Use intensive plot surveying to determine nest success and to spot map territories. Nest monitoring is not limited to intensive plots, if nests are opportunistically located outside of intensive plots they may be included within the sample. Nest monitoring should include documentation of nest substrate, nest chronology, and assessments of nest success.

Objective 3. San Clemente Bell's Sparrow Training and Range Area Impact Assessment Support

Monitor plots adjacent to and overlapping two Training and Range Areas as well as control plots to support an assessment of impacts to Bell's sparrows from training activities.

Objective 4. San Clemente Bell's Sparrow Technical Program Assistance

Coordinate with Predator Research and Ecosystem Management project to maximize the placement of nest cameras to determine nest outcomes and cause specific nest failures. Purchase equipment and supplies for the Natural Resources Field Stations through direct coordination with the Navy SCI Wildlife Biologist and Natural Resources Operations Manager. Attend meetings, coordinate, and prepare deliverables as necessary to provide regular project updates, coordinate logistics, and provide project methods, results and discussion of results.

Period of Performance. The base year of agreement will extend 18 months year from award. Four option periods extending for 18 months are anticipated pending funds.

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, Cage Code, Duns number, and Contact Information
2. Brief Statement of Qualifications (including):
 - 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, 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 **6 Jan 16**.