

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST WITHIN THE
COOPERATIVE ECOSYSTEM STUDIES UNIT
INTEREST #N62473-16-2-0006
PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN 2016**

Project Title: San Clemente Botany Management Naval Auxiliary Landing Field San Clemente Island

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest (RSOI) will address measures included in the 2008 United States Fish & Wildlife (USFWS) Biological Opinion (BO) for Military Operations on San Clemente Island (SCI) related to plant management on SCI. The BO identified a requirement to study the status of the six listed plant species on SCI, *Sibara filifolia*, *Lithophragma maximum*, *Castilleja grisea*, *Delphinium variegatum* ssp. *kinkiense*, *Malacothamnus clementinus*, and *Acmispon dendroideus* var. *traskiae* specifically by conducting periodic surveys to determine the population status. Historic grazing by goats has left existing populations of these species geographically isolated, making an understanding of pollination strategies integral to their future survival. The BO also identifies the need to continue control of invasive weeds that may be limiting the recovery of these same species. Another rare plant species, *Poa thomasi*, was discovered on SCI in 2010. Because this species was considered extinct, it is not currently listed as federally endangered. In order to prevent the species from possible listing, the SCI Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) includes restoration of habitat of this grass in areas it is currently seen on SCI. Approximately \$217,761.00 is expected to be available to support this project.

Type of Assistance Instrument Anticipated: Cooperative Agreement

Authority: Cooperative Agreement under 16 USC §670c-1

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

Cost Sharing: Not required

Background:

This Agreement includes three tasks. The first is to conduct status surveys of six listed plant species on SCI. Previous surveys have documented the recovery of each of these species since the removal of nonnative goats from SCI. The Navy is currently working with the USFWS to develop a process to delist some or all of these plants. Current surveys are needed to provide information and support this process. Second, the BO includes measures for implementing the SCI Fire Management Plan; this Agreement will include some of the measures to develop and manage existing fuelbreaks through vegetation control. These fuelbreaks not only provide for human safety but also can protect sensitive plants and wildlife. Existing and potential habitat for these species would be targeted for control of non-native invasive species. SCI has had an ongoing program to treat invasive species since the late 1990's and it has proved instrumental in improving habitat for listed species. Finally, this Agreement will enhance the viability of the two existing

populations of *Poa thomasi*, a species thought to be extinct but recently found on SCI. Because of the scarcity of this species, and its location adjacent to active training areas, there is potential for this species to be listed by the USFWS. This effort will make listing less likely to occur and maintain training flexibility.

Brief Description of the Anticipated Work:

Rare Plant Surveys

Over forty plant species endemic to San Clemente Island or the Channel Islands occur on San Clemente Island. Six of these are federally listed as endangered, and others are under consideration for listing by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The US Navy, in accordance with the Endangered Species Act, is required to protect these species and their habitats. The purpose of the first part of this Agreement is to locate, map and collect data on federally listed, proposed and candidate plant species and other sensitive plant species that occur on San Clemente Island, and to develop an experimental design for monitoring all Training Areas and Ranges (TARs) that have Threatened or Endangered plant species in or adjacent to them in accordance with Conservation Measures TAR-M-1 and AVMC-M-2 of the San Clemente Island 2008 Biological Opinion FWS-LA-09B0027-09F0040 (SCI BO).

Fire Management Plan Implementation

The SCI Wildland Fire Management Plan includes several recommendations for controlling non-native weedy species in areas of high fire potential, as a means of protecting assets and for protecting plant and wildlife species sensitive to fire damage. Fuel load reductions can reduce fire intensity and intervals. The purpose of this task order is to implement measures in the SCI Wildland Fire Management Plan to reduce fuel loads in high fire vulnerability areas and help bolster fuelbreaks by reducing the amount of fuel adjacent to these breaks.

Restoration of *Poa thomasi* Habitat

Poa thomasi, an annual grass species known only from three of the Channel Islands, had not been recorded since being collected on San Clemente Island in 1903 and was presumed extinct. In July 2005, the species was located on Catalina Island at seven separate sites, primarily located in chaparral, across the island. The species was found in two locations on SCI in 2010 in boxthorn habitat at the northern end of the island. Both locations on SCI are within areas that are used for training and subject to occasional fire.

Because this species was thought to be extinct, it has not been listed under the Federal Endangered Species Act. One stated objective in the draft SCI Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) is for the Navy to manage the species in such a way as to keep it from being listed. The INRMP notes that due to its few locations on the island and their locations in areas of human activity, the species is particularly vulnerable to local extinction.

The purpose of this portion of the agreement is to enhance existing *Poa thomasi* habitat on SCI through outplanting of the species within the existing boundaries of the current populations, outplanting of native species that are beneficial to the target species, removal of non-native species, and other habitat modifications that may, but are not limited to, supplemental irrigation, erosion control, alteration of drainage patterns, and pruning of existing vegetation.

Please see enclosure 1 for full scope of work and enclosure 2 for applicable terms and conditions.

Period of Performance:

The period of performance for the base portion of this Cooperative Agreement begins upon award (approximately June 2016) and will be for a duration of 18 months. The exact period of work performance will be determined upon award, and will be subject to the Anti-Deficiency Act (31 U.S.C. § 1341). The end date is the anticipated date that the Final Report is accepted by the Government.

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 Form (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 three factors: 1) Credentials of Key Personnel, 2) Scientific Approach, and 3) Reasonableness of Cost

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.

Factor 1 - Credentials of Key Personnel

A. Project Manager: The Recipient shall designate one person as responsible for ensuring that provisions are in place project and personnel supervision, quality control and meeting of reporting requirements on a daily basis. This person shall have, at the minimum:

- A Masters degree or higher in Biology, Botany, Entomology, Ecology or related science.
- Experience and knowledge of conducting rare plant surveys, as demonstrated by at least 2 years of previous work or research experience.

- Specific knowledge of habitat management and/or restoration in Southern California, as demonstrated by at least 3 years of previous work or research experience.

With the Research & Related Senior/Key Personnel Form, the Applicant shall provide type written resumes, not to exceed 3 pages, single spaced with 12pt font for the Project Manager. Resumes must state qualifications, experience with this type of project, professional registration and certificates.

Factor 2 – Scientific Approach

Not to exceed 3 pages, the Offeror shall develop an outline for their approach to addressing the anticipated work stated above. The Offeror may only propose additional geographic and environmental variables to consider, not mentioned in the RSOI, but pertinent to the study issues. The Offeror shall be evaluated as to the soundness of the overall approach and use of any innovative techniques to accomplish project objectives.

Factor 3 - 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).

***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, 2, and 3 are of equal importance.

Timeline for Review of Statements of Interest:

We request that Statements of Interest be submitted by June 23, 2016 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 June 23, 2016 2:00 PM local standard time is considered “late” and may not be considered.

Please send electronic responses and questions to:

Mr. Reagan Pablo, Contract Specialist Environmental Acquisition Core
Reagan.s.pablo@navy.mil

Point of Contact Information:

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