

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST WITHIN THE
COOPERATIVE ECOSYSTEMS STUDIES UNIT**

N62473-17-2-0005

PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN 2017

Project Title: Terrestrial Flora Program Support Naval Base Ventura County, San Nicholas Island

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest (RSOI) will be used to address erosion control and habitat enhancement for Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) San Nicolas (SNI). Information gathered from these assessments will help support habitat protection, improvement of natural resources throughout the installation, and increase night lizard habitat (*Xantusia riversiana*) while providing guidance for future management and preventing potential impacts to mission as required by the NBVC SNI Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP).

Approximately \$150,407.00 is expected to be available to support this project.

Type of Assistance Instrument Anticipated: Cooperative Agreement

Authority: Cooperative Agreement under 16 USC §670c-1 (Natural Resources Management)

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

Cost Sharing: Not required

Background:

NBVC SNI's INRMP addresses terrestrial and adjacent waters of the near shore environment with which the Navy interfaces. Submerged lands and resources, including Begg Rock, within the 300-foot (91-m) isobaths (1.0 nautical mile distance from shore) are considered under this INRMP. In 2014, the INRMP was updated to incorporate data and changes in resources, U. S. Department of Defense and Navy INRMP guidelines, and resource goals and objectives. With such changes in place, the updated SNI INRMP incorporated changes in federal regulations and associated habitat conservation provisions, such as the de-listing of the island night lizard under the Endangered Species Act.

The new proposed project consists of erosion control tasks associated with habitat enhancement to comply with and implement the INRMP for NBVC SNI. The proposed project includes voucher specimen cataloging to meet the Data Integration, Access, and Reporting requirements detailed in the INRMP. This requirement addresses several comprehensive efforts to prevent soil erosion, reduce invasive plants through native vegetation and biological crust transplanting, and increase night lizard habitat (a federally-listed threatened species and managed as special status species in the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan). SNI suffered 80 years of sheep grazing and other ranching activities that stripped vegetation from the ground causing

immense soil erosion. Many acres of the island even today continue to look sparse, where erosion is still prevalent. These highly eroded sites not only reduce habitat for listed/protected species, but also reduce NBVC mission capabilities.

Brief Description of Anticipated Work:

The U.S. Navy is seeking statement of interests that addresses erosion control and habitat enhancement for NBVC on SNI. The statement of interest will be for on-the-ground actions on SNI. Activities associated with the proposed project include biological soil crust studies conducted at the NBVC Nursery on SNI, arthropod collections, field monitoring, voucher specimen cataloguing, and literature database organization. The requested deliverables will be a work plan, health and safety plan/accident prevention plan, monthly progress reports, Endnote database, and final reports.

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 agreement contains 5 option items. If awarded, the period of performance will be extended by the amount months specified within Section H. These options may be awarded at any time within the 18 month period of performance of the base scope of work and/or concurrently with other options. The end date is the anticipated date that the final report is accepted by the Government. However, the parties may extend the term of the Cooperative Agreement by written modification. Total duration of this agreement, including any option items shall not exceed 60 months. The exercise of any option items is subject to the availability of funds.

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 (R & R)(GG Version 2.0)(Enclosure 3)
- 2) Research and Related Senior/Key Personnel Form (Expanded)(GG Version 1.3)(Enclosure 4). Please see Factor 1 for additional submittal requirements.
- 3) Research & Related Budget Form (GG Version 1.4)(Enclosure 5)
- 4) Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)(GG Version 1.2)(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.

Please note, that some of the forms functionality may be lost. Please visit <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/r-r-family.html#sortby=1> to retrieve the forms directly from the Grants.gov website.

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

Factor 1 – Credential of Key Personnel

The Applicant shall provide type written resumes, not to exceed 3 pages, single spaced with 12pt font for the one project manager and all field assistants proposed for this project. Resumes must state qualifications, experience with this type of project, professional registration and certificates. The Applicant shall submit evidence of the following technical requirements/qualifications of their personnel. Resumes will be included as an attachment to the Research & Related Senior/Key Personnel Form (Enclosure 4).

The Recipient shall provide the CAA (via the CATR) the names and resumes of staff that will be overseeing and conducting the work required in this Agreement. At the minimum, the Recipient shall have the qualifications described below, but stipulated qualifications may, on a case-to-case basis, be waived by the cooperative agreement technical representative.

I. Principal Investigator: The Recipient shall designate ~~one~~ a person(s) as responsible for ensuring that provisions are in place project and personnel supervision, quality control and meeting of reporting requirements on a daily basis. ***The requirements for key position may be split between two individuals.*** This person(s) shall have, at the minimum:

- i. A PhD in Botany or related science.
- ii. Experience and knowledge of plant ecology or conservation biology, as demonstrated by at least 10 years of previous work or research experience.
- iii. Specific knowledge of Channel Islands conservation and management, as demonstrated by at least 10 years of previous work or research experience.

II. Research Associates: The person(s) shall have, or have immediate access to personnel that have, at the minimum:

- i. A minimum of a Bachelor's of Science degree in Botany or related science disciplines and a minimum of 5 years' experience in a responsible position providing oversight of, support to or directly involved in Channel Islands conservation and management.
- ii. Experience within the last 3 years with and/or oversight responsibility of applied habitat restoration and management practices.

Factor 2 – Scientific Approach

The Applicant shall provide a brief summary not to exceed 2 pages, single spaced with 12pt font that includes planned methodology and approach for agreement requirements pertaining to the scope of work; including qualifications of personnel overseeing and conducting the surveys. The Applicant shall be evaluated as to the soundness of the overall approach and the use of any innovative techniques to accomplish the objectives of the study.

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 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. Options (if applicable) must be separately priced. The form will generate a cumulative budget for the total project period. You must complete all the mandatory information on the form before the NEXT PERIOD button is activated. 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 Sub-award 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 – Factor 1 and 2 are of equal importance and when combined are approximately equal to Factor 3.

Please send electronic responses and questions 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 May 05, 2017 at 2:00 P.M Pacific Standard Time. This Request for Statements of Interest will remain open until an investigator team is selected. Statements of Interest received after May 05, 2017 at 2:00 PM Pacific Standard Time is considered “late” and may not be considered for evaluation. Please submit all requests for information no later than April 28, 2017 at 1:00 PM Pacific Standard Time.