

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST WITHIN THE COOPERATIVE
ECOSYSTEMS STUDIES UNIT, CALIFORNIAN REGION
PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN 2017**

**Project Title: BOTANY MANAGEMENT AT NAVAL AUXILIARY LANDING FIELD
SAN CLEMENTE ISLAND**

The Cooperator selected in responses to this Request for Statements of Interest will be used to identify potential investigators for a project to be funded by the Department of the Navy (DoN) to conduct; 1. Grassland Restoration, 2. Fire Management Plan Implementation and 3. Restoration of *Poa thomasi* Habitat located at Naval Auxiliary Landing Field San Clemente Island (SCI). The authority for this Cooperative Agreement is 16 USC §670c-1 (Sikes Act). Approximately \$87,768.00 is expected to be available to support the base requirements of 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 requirement 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 and manage the status of six listed plant species on SCI; *Sibara filifolia*, *Lithophragma maximum*, *Castilleja grisea*, *Delphinium variegatum* ssp. *kinkiense*, *Malacothamnus clementinus*, and *Acmispon dendroideus* var. *traskiae*. Historic grazing by goats has left existing populations of these species geographically isolated, making an understanding of pollination strategies and other caretaking actions integral to their future survival. The BO 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. However, in order to prevent *Poa thomasi* from a possible listing, the SCI Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) includes restoration of habitat in areas it currently inhabits on SCI. This is a new requirement not previously procured.

Brief Description of Anticipated Work:

San Clemente Island (SCI) is the southern-most member of an archipelago of eight islands called the Channel Islands off the southern California coast (Figure 3-1). The northern group includes the islands of San Miguel, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz, and Anacapa; the southern group consists of

Santa Barbara, San Nicolas, Santa Catalina, and San Clemente Islands. The islands vary in size and distance from each other and the mainland, and these sizes and distances have changed with fluctuating sea levels over the geologic history of the region. SCI harbors large numbers of endemic organisms. Many are listed as endangered or threatened by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. The U.S. Navy, in accordance with the Endangered Species Act and the Federal Noxious Weed Act, has an on-going program to preserve the unique ecosystem of San Clemente Island. As part of an ongoing program, this Agreement will manage natural resources on SCI by focusing on three components: 1. Grassland Restoration, 2. Fire Management Plan Implementation and 3. Restoration of *Poa thomasii* Habitat located at Naval Auxiliary Landing Field San Clemente Island (SCI). 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 24 months upon award. This will allow for maintenance and monitoring of restoration sites following installation. 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)

- a) SF 424 (R & R)(GG Version 2.0) (Enclosure 3)
- b) Research and Related Senior/Key Personnel Form (Expanded) (GG Version 1.3) (Enclosure 4)
- c) Please see Factor 1 for additional submittal requirements.
- d) Research & Related Budget Form (GG Version 1.4) (Enclosure 5)
- e) 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

NOTE: All requirements listed are minimum requirements. Offerors will be assessed on their ability to adhere to the listed requirements, fully complete responses, follow directions, comply with restrictions and provide quality control on their submittals. All page limits refer to 12 point font and single spaced 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 for project and personnel supervision and quality control and reporting requirements are met on a daily basis. This person shall have, at the minimum:

1. Bachelor of Science degree in botany, biology, ecology, or a related field experience from an accredited college or university.
2. One (1) year of relevant habitat restoration experience, including some experience in supervising field crews.
3. Specific knowledge of monitoring techniques as demonstrated by at least one year of previous work or research experience of similar scope.
4. Three years of local experience in identifying and sampling southern California coastal plant communities including familiarity with flora, restoration and ecology.
5. Two years of practical horticultural experience (i.e. maintenance and/or growing and propagating of native plants).

B. Field Technicians. The person(s) shall have, at the minimum:

1. A Bachelor of Science degree in botany, biology, ecology, botany, landscape architecture or horticulture or other related field from an accredited college or university.
2. General knowledge of reintroduction and monitoring techniques.
3. Ability to keep clear, legible and accurate notes.
4. A thorough understanding of regulations regarding vegetation community or resource and an endangered species, threatened or rare species issues.

With the Research & Related Senior/Key Personnel Form, the Applicant shall provide typed written resumes, not to exceed 3 pages (per key personnel), single spaced with 12pt font for the

project manager and field technicians. Resumes must state qualifications and experience with this type of project, and provide photocopies of required permits.

Factor 2 – Scientific Approach – The Offeror shall develop and submit a proposal (maximum 10 pages, single-spaced, 12 pt. font), addressing the botany management projects relating to native grasslands, fire management and *Poa thomasii* restoration on SCI. The Offeror will be evaluated as to the soundness of the overall approach and the use of any innovative techniques that can be adopted for management efficiency. The project proposal shall include timelines across the base period.

Factor 3 – Reasonableness of Cost – After technical evaluation of the proposal, the offers will be analyzed to determine whether they are balanced with respect to prices or separately priced items, and for fair and reasonable pricing. Evaluations will include an analysis to determine the Offeror’s comprehension of the requirements of the solicitation as well as to assess the validity of the Offeror’s approach. Please submit the proposed budget for the option years on a separate research and related budget forms. One year per form is required.

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 August 31, 2017 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 August 31, 2017 2:00 PM local standard time is considered “late” and may not be considered.

Please send responses or direct questions to:

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