

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST/REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS WITHIN
THE
COOPERATIVE ECOSYSTEM STUDIES UNIT**

INTEREST #N62473-19-2-0017

PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN 2019

Project Title: Botany Management Program at Naval Auxiliary Landing Field San Clemente Island, California

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest (RSOI) will support the Botany Management Program at Naval Auxiliary Landing Field (NALF) San Clemente Island (SCI), California. The authority for this Cooperative Agreement is 16 USC §670c-1. Approximate funding range for this project is as follows:

Year	Estimated Funding Range
Base	\$178,365.40 to \$183,503.50
Option Year 1	\$183,359.63 to \$188,641.60
Option Year 2	\$188,493.70 to \$193,923.56
Option Year 3	\$193,771.53 to \$199,353.42
Option Year 4	\$199,179.13 to \$204,935.32

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:

SCI has been administered by the Navy since 1934. The island is currently used for a variety of training and research and development activities and supports buildings, roads, an electrical distribution system, a sewage treatment plant, an airfield, and quarries as infrastructure for existing uses. The island lies within a larger area recently identified as the Southern California Range Complex (SOCAL).

The Navy has a history of consultation and coordination with the United States Fish & Wildlife (USFWS) regarding the effects of various activities on federally listed species. USFWS has consulted formally or informally on numerous activities on the island, including training activities and fire management, installation of wind turbines, installation of hydrophones, missile tests, maintenance and construction of Ridge Road and the Assault Vehicle Maneuver Route (AVMR), Island Night

Lizard Management Area (INLMA) designation, construction of berthing buildings, and development and use of Training Area Ranges (TARs). USFWS has also coordinated on an ongoing basis as the Navy monitors the island-wide status of listed plant and animal species on SCI. The Navy has supported and managed several significant conservation programs on the island under the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP), and the USFWS has been involved in the development of this plan and review of plan implementation.

This requirement will address measures included in the 2008 USFWS Biological Opinion (BO) for Military Operations on 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. Another rare plant species, *Poa thomasii*, was discovered on SCI in 2010. Because this species was considered extinct, it is not currently listed as federally endangered. In order to prevent *Poa thomasii* from a possible listing, the SCI INRMP includes restoration of habitat in areas it currently inhabits on SCI. The Navy has had success in increasing the population sizes for each of these species over the last decade by implanting successful habitat management projects and through annual monitoring of the species through a previous Cooperative Agreement.

Brief Description of the Anticipated Work:

This Cooperative Agreement includes four tasks. First, the BO includes measures for implementing the SCI Fire Management Plan; this Cooperative Agreement will include some of the measures to develop and manage existing fuelbreaks through vegetation control. These fuelbreaks not only provide for continued military operations and human safety but also can protect the aforementioned sensitive plants and wildlife from loss of habitat from fire. Second, this Cooperative Agreement will continue efforts to support two existing populations of *Poa thomasii*, 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 formally listed by the USFWS. This effort will make listing less likely to occur and maintain training flexibility. Efforts will focus on increasing a seed bank for this species by raising plants in a greenhouse for seed production, outplanting seedlings and maintaining the plants and their habitat. The third effort is to enhance and expand native grasslands, historically degraded on SCI, which serve as vital habitat for several of the listed plant species in the BO. Previous and ongoing efforts have led to a 50% increase in the acreage of native grassland on the island. Finally, this Cooperative Agreement will continue annual rare plant surveys on SCI. These surveys enable the Navy to document the size, status and trends of rare plant populations on the island, which benefits efforts to delist species as they recover and to effectively manage these populations. Please see enclosure 1 for full scope of work and enclosure 2 for applicable terms and conditions.

Period of Performance:

The proposed period of performance for the Cooperative Agreement consists of a 12-month base period and four (4) 12-month option periods. 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 CA by written modification. Total duration of this Cooperative Agreement, including any option periods shall not exceed 60 months. The exercise of any options is subject to the availability of funds and may be awarded unilaterally.

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 & Related Budget Form (Enclosure 5). Please see Factor 3 for additional submittal requirements.
- 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."
- 5) Research & Related Senior/Key Personnel Form (Enclosure 7). The Federal Government has a continuing commitment to monitor the operation of its review and award processes to identify and address any inequities based on gender, race, ethnicity, or disability of its proposed PDs/PIs and co-PDs/PIs. To gather information needed for this important task, the applicant should submit the requested information for each identified PD/PI and co-PDs/PIs with each proposal. Submission of the requested information is voluntary and is not a precondition of award. However, information not submitted will seriously undermine the statistical validity, and therefore the usefulness, of information received from others. Any individual not wishing to submit some or all the information should check the box provided for this purpose. Upon receipt of the application, this form will be separated from the application. This form will not be duplicated, and it will not be a part of the review process. Data will be confidential.

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, 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 pages. Submissions that exceed the page limitation specified within its corresponding factor may have additional pages removed from consideration.

Factor 1 - Credentials of Key Personnel

A. Principal Investigator: The Recipient shall designate one person as responsible for ensuring that provisions are in place, project and personnel supervision are sufficient, quality

control and meeting of reporting requirements are on met a daily basis. This person shall have, at the minimum:

1. Bachelor of Science degree in botany, biology, ecology, wildlife management 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.
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, wildlife management, 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 a vegetation community or resource and an endangered species, threatened or rare species issues.

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 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 will be analyzed for fair and reasonable pricing. The proposal will be analyzed to determine whether its pricing is materially/mathematically balanced, and is fair and reasonable. The Offeror shall use OMB Circular A-21 “Cost Principles for Institutions of Higher Education,” 48 CFR part 31 “Contract Cost Principles and Procedures,” or 2 CFR 200 Subpart F “Audit Requirements” as applicable. 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. 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 option years as listed within the statement of work. Please submit a proposed budget each of the option years on a separate research and related budget forms.

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 a 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 13, 2019 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 13, 2019 2:00 PM local standard time is considered “late” and may not be considered. Please submit requests for information/questions no later than July 30, 2019 2:00 Pacific standard time.

Please send electronic responses and questions only 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