

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

**INTEREST #N62473-19-2-0015**

**PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN 2019**

**Project Title:** Herpetological, Bat, and Botanical Surveys on Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach Detachment Fallbrook, California Fallbrook, CA

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest (RSOI) will be to survey for and study the habitat of the federally listed Arroyo Toad (ARTO), conduct surveys of reptiles, amphibians, bats, and plants to assess diversity, trends, and look for the presence of rare or noxious species. Below are the approximate amounts expected to be available:

Base Cooperative Agreement Efforts	Estimated Available Funding
ARTO Research/Study Efforts and Reporting, Bat Research/Study/Survey Efforts and Reporting and Data Collection and Analyses	\$81,954 to \$91,060
Optional Task 1: Additional Herpetological Surveys (award up to 12x)	\$12,600 to \$14,000
Optional Task 2: Additional Bat Surveys (award up to 12x)	\$7,920 to \$8,800
Optional Task 3: Botanical Survey (award up to 12x)	\$6,480 to \$7,200
Optional Task 4: Digital Herbarium (100 scans) (award up to 12x)	\$1,440 to \$1,600

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:**

Naval Weapons Station (NAVWPNSTA) Seal Beach Detachment Fallbrook (Detachment Fallbrook, installation) is located in north San Diego County close to the border of Riverside and adjacent to Camp Pendleton and the town of Fallbrook. Detachment Fallbrook resides within the California Floristic Province, which is a Mediterranean type and is recognized as a biodiversity hotspot of global significance ecosystem known for high biodiversity and endemism. On the installation, there is a diversity of flora and fauna. The low-intensity land use requirement of the military mission has kept over 90% of Detachment Fallbrook lands as undeveloped and largely natural open space that supports a range of plant communities and provides habitat for many sensitive species, including federally listed threatened and endangered species. The intent of this project is to study four taxonomic groups including the federally endangered Arroyo Toad (ARTO, *Anaxyrus californicus*); reptiles (and other amphibians); bats; and plants.

One species, the ARTO, is both a California species of special concern and a federally listed endangered species. The ARTO is surveyed regularly per a 2003 United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Biological Opinion (BO) to support the implementation of fire management on the installation (enclosure 1). The installation also supports a diverse herpetofaunal population (reptiles and other amphibians). Numerous herpetofaunal species on the installation are considered California species of special concern. This taxonomic group is routinely surveyed to assess diversity and trends in species within the installation, as well as monitor for exotic or rare species that may not have been detected yet. One group of mammals, the bats, has received a lot of conservation attention in North America in recent years. This is due in part to their ecological and economic value in the face of alarming population declines following the spread of a fungal disease known to be associated with white-nose syndrome. Bats occur throughout the installation, to include roosting in bat boxes and within manmade structures such as magazines; there are current mission/bat conflicts that require evaluation. Finally, approximately 600 plant species have been documented on Detachment Fallbrook. The majority of plant species are classified as native; however, approximately 30% are non-native. Detachment Fallbrook's 2016 Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) identifies which species have voucher specimens on file and which species are on the Detachment Fallbrook Watch List because more information (e.g., confirmation of presence) is needed. In response, botanical diversity at Detachment Fallbrook is surveyed periodically for differing management purposes, including early detection of invasive species, vigilance for rare or listed species, assessing parameters for wildlife habitat, etc. The need to study flora and fauna on the installation has been conducted for more than 20 years in various capacities and is predicated on diverse needs.

**Brief Description of the Anticipated Work:**

The Department of the Navy (DoN) is seeking statements of interest that address two objectives: 1) This will be a follow on action to continue mandatory surveys for ARTO along with surveys for reptiles (and other amphibians), bats and plants as required by the aforementioned BO's and DoD instructions. 2) The need to continue surveys for these taxonomic groups is a requirement in accordance with the installation's INRMP as enforced through 16 USC §670c-1 (Natural Resources Management - Sikes Act), Department of Defense (DoD) Instruction 4715.03 and Operation Naval Instruction 5090-1D. 2)

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 60 months upon award. The total duration of this agreement, including the option tasks and any time-extension modifications, shall not exceed 60 months. The option tasks are subject to the availability of funds and may be awarded unilaterally throughout the duration of this Cooperative Agreement

A fifteen (15) day period, starting on date of award, will be used for the Recipient to provide preliminary documents to the IR and CATR. Documents include, but are not limited to, Insurance documents or certificates, Accident Prevention Plans/Site Health and Safety Plans (as applicable), Draft Work Plan, etc. Recipient may not begin performance before preliminary documents (work plan documents) are submitted and accepted/approved.

**Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications:**

Please provide the following via e-mail attachment to: Reagan Pablo ([reagan.s.pablo@navy.mil](mailto: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."
- 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 one-sided pages.

### **Factor 1 - Credentials of Key Personnel**

a. Field Investigator/Biologist – Herpetological Study: This position shall be responsible for being the liaison between Recipient personnel and the Grants Officer, CAA or CATR and shall serve as the main point of contact for all required results and/or progress reports on the herpetological study; the individual may also be the lead on the bat study if desired and if the qualifications are met. The Field Investigator/Biologist that oversees the herpetological portion of this Agreement shall have the minimum qualifications:

- 1) A graduate degree with an emphasis in herpetology, or field experience commensurate with a graduate degree (minimum of 10 years of upper level project management/study design and oversight within herpetological fields).
- 2) Expertise in life history and survey methodologies for amphibian and reptiles in coastal Southern California.
- 3) Five (5) years of demonstrated experience conducting surveys and research projects on amphibians and/or reptiles.
- 4) Specific knowledge of, and all required state and federal permits related to, amphibians and reptiles, including the federally listed Arroyo Toad, to effectively implement the work and comply with the requirements of this Agreement. A copy of all required permits or evidence of renewable permits must be

submitted with the proposal.

b. Field Investigator/Biologist – Bat Study: This position shall be responsible for being the liaison between Recipient personnel and the Grants Officer, CAA or CATR and shall serve as the main point of contact for all required results and/or progress reports on the bat study; this individual may also be the lead on the herpetological study if desired and if the qualifications are met. The Field Investigator/Biologist that oversees the bat portion of this Agreement shall have the minimum qualifications:

- 1) A Bachelor of Science degree in zoology, biology, ecology, wildlife management or a related field experience from an accredited college or university.
- 2) Expertise in bat ecology and knowledge of flora, fauna, climate, soil, topography, hydrology, vegetation and wildlife of the California Floristic Province and how these factors relate to bat distribution, behavior, and natural history.
- 3) Ten (10) years of relevant field monitoring experience, including: identifying and sampling bats that are found in coastal southern California; experience in mist-netting and handling bats and acoustic detection; and ability to visually recognize bat species in roosts.
- 4) Specific knowledge of, and all required state and federal permits related to, the study and handling of bats to effectively implement the work and comply with the requirements of this Agreement. A copy of all required permits or evidence of renewable permits must be submitted with the proposal.

c. Field Investigator/Biologist – Botanical Work: This position shall be responsible for being the liaison between Recipient personnel and the Grants Officer, CAA or CATR and shall serve as the main point of contact for all required results and/or progress reports on the botanical work. The Field Investigator/Biologist that oversees the botanical portion of this Agreement shall have the minimum qualifications:

- 1) A graduate degree plant taxonomy, botany, or a related field from an accredited college or university.
- 2) Ten (10) years of experience in plant taxonomy within southern California, including at least five (5) years of expertise with the flora of coastal southern California.
- 3) Specific knowledge of, and all required state and federal permits related to, plants to effectively implement the work and comply with the requirements of this Agreement. A copy of all required permits or evidence of renewable permits must be submitted with the proposal.

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

- 1) A Bachelor of Science degree in zoology, biology, ecology, wildlife management, botany, landscape architecture or horticulture or other related field from an accredited college or university.
- 2) Ability to provide clear, legible and accurate field notes and data.
- 3) Expertise and knowledge of flora, fauna, climate, soil, topography, hydrology, vegetation and wildlife of the California Floristic Province.

- 4) A thorough understanding of regulations regarding plant, herpetological (including Arroyo Toad), and/or bat issues depending on the study they are supporting.

### **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 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 Option Tasks 1 through 4 as listed within the statement of work.

Please provide your proposed budget on the provided pdf titled, "Research and Related Budget" form\* (Enclosure 5). Please submit one budget form for the base year of work and separate budget form for Option Task 1 through 4 as specified in the Statement of Work.

### **\*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 L.
- Travel - Number of trips, destination, duration, etc. Justify in Field L (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 L.
- 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 L.
- 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 L.

Budget Justification (Field L 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 26, 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 26, 2019 2:00 PM local standard time is considered “late” and may not be considered. Please submit requests for information/questions no later than August 19, 2019 2:00 Pacific standard time.

**Please send electronic responses and questions to:**

Mr. Reagan Pablo, Contract Specialist Environmental Acquisition Core [Reagan.s.pablo@navy.mil](mailto:Reagan.s.pablo@navy.mil)

**Point of Contact Information:**

Mr. Reagan Pablo, Contract Specialist Environmental Acquisition Core  
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