

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

**INTEREST #N62473-20-2-0006**

**PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN 2020**

**Project Title:** Bat Surveys at Naval Base San Diego, California

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest (RSOI) will support the Bat Management Programs at Naval Base San Diego (NBSD), 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 Task	\$33,699.00
Option Period 1	\$34,709.97
Option Period 2	\$35,751.27

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:**

The purpose of this project is to provide Naval Base San Diego (NBSD), with an understanding of the diversity, relative abundance, habitat preference and roosting locations of bats across the installation and its component sites and to monitor for the presence of the fungus that causes White-nose Syndrome (WNS). For NBSD, this work will expand preliminary surveys by including more complementary methods and providing greater coverage by sampling auxiliary Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP)-supported sites (natural areas around Navy homes, recreational facilities, and other facilities covered by the NBSD INRMP outside of the Main Base). Very importantly, this survey will provide a pre-disease comprehensive baseline as WNS fungus begins to spread through California.

Bats are integral components of the ecological community as they control insects and more than 530 species of plants rely on them for pollination. With massive population declines of numerous eastern and central bat species (mainly *Myotis* spp.) from WNS and the recent findings of WNS in California from 2018 and 2019, the Navy needs more complete and frequent monitoring of bat species. The state's initial detection point is in Chester (Plumas County), and spreading along the mountains in the East has been rapid. Similar rapid expansion may occur along the Sierras and

adjacent mountain ranges. Elsewhere in the US, WNS has become a considerable burden for military natural resource managers and a significant mission encroachment.

NBSD was surveyed for bats previously under commercial contract in 2012 and MIPR in 2018 before the establishment of *Pseudogymnoascus destructans* (Pd) in California. Consultants and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers researchers primarily used acoustic methods and no disease or fungus testing was included. This study seeks to add additional field verification through concurrent capture (mist netting and roost visits) and disease survey. The previous studies chose mobile acoustic methods at the NBSD Main Base location, but they did not setup longer surveillance via stationary acoustics. This may cause an underreporting of bat diversity through under-sampling.

**This project will allow for species monitoring for currently rare bats as well as important documentation for species that may become rare because of the fungus. NBSD has one species that has proven susceptible to the fungus in laboratory conditions and another species known to carry the fungus. The arrival of WNS will alter work protocols and bat communities as effects appear in our endemic regional species previously un-introduced to WNS.**

**Brief Description of the Anticipated Work:**

This Cooperative Agreement includes five tasks for NBSD and its associated properties.

- a. Determine changes in bat species diversity, relative abundance, and habitat preference by using acoustic detectors as the primary method to conduct monitoring.
- b. Conduct netting to detect bat species not readily detected acoustically, to evaluate bats for the presence of WNS disease, and to confirm bat species identification of echolocation calls.
- c. Search for potential roosting sites in natural exposed rock, sheltering plant material, as well as bat-occupied Navy structures that may serve as hibernacula or maternity roosts.
- d. Determine suitable methods for the detection of WNS, likely points of initial reception, and suggest a managed response for initial outbreak.
- e. Sample and process specimens for WNS confirmation following any standards or processes set by cooperators California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and US Geological Survey.

With the exception of establishing mobilization efforts (i.e. post award meetings, work plans, safety plans, accident prevention plans, etc.), all option periods will be identical to the requirements of the Base Tasks described above. Please see enclosure 1 (statement of work) and enclosure 2 (terms and conditions) for additional information.

**Period of Performance:**

The proposed period of performance for the Cooperative Agreement will be 24 months from date of award. The parties may extend the term of this Cooperative Agreement by written modification. This Cooperative Agreement contains two (2) option periods, 18-months long. The total duration of this Cooperative Agreement, including any modifications, shall not exceed five (5) years. All option periods are subject to the availability of funds and may be unilaterally awarded.

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

Please provide the following via e-mail attachment to: Ms. Kellie Wilson ([kellie.wilson@navy.mil](mailto:kellie.wilson@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."

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. PROJECT MANAGER(s): The Recipient shall designate one person as responsible for ensuring that provisions are in place for project and personnel supervision, quality control and meeting of reporting requirements are met on a daily basis. This person is expected to be onsite for all field operations, unless exempted by the Installation representative (i.e. for equipment retrieval). This person shall have, at the minimum:
  1. Bachelor of Science degree in zoology, biology, ecology, wildlife management or a related field experience from an accredited college or university
  2. Ten (10) years of experience with acoustic capture and identification of bats in California.

3. Ten (10) years of experience in hand and mist netting capture, and physical identification of bats in California.
4. Five (5) years of previous inventory, monitoring, or research experience.

b. FIELD TECHNICIAN(s): The person shall have, at the minimum:

1. Bachelor of Science degree in zoology, biology, ecology, wildlife management, or a related field from an accredited college or university.
2. Specific knowledge of bat ecology, appropriate bat monitoring techniques, and demonstrated ability to competently capture and handle bats.
3. One (1) year of experience in the use and deployment of ultrasonic bat detectors, and bat hand capture equipment (e.g. mist nets and harp traps).
4. Ability to keep clear, legible, and accurate notes.

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 and field technicians that are assigned to the project. Resumes must state qualifications, experience with this type of project, professional registration and certificates.

### **Factor 2 – Scientific Approach**

Not to exceed 4 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. Factors for evaluation include:

1. Method of detection/capture to include acoustic and hand methods, handling techniques, decontamination/isolation measures, and bat safety protocols.
2. Methods used for detection and estimation of loading for *Pseudogymnoascus destructans*.
3. Protocols for structure-dwelling evaluations (to include human structures, rock outcrops, talus, cliffs, or adits).
4. Means of analysis and treatment of data and results to include acoustic analysis, statistical analysis, software programs, and data vetting procedures.
5. Innovation and efficiency of approach and the transferability to other Navy and Marine Corps projects.

### **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. Please be sure to provide a proposal for the option periods as listed within the statement of work. Please submit a proposed budget each

of the base tasks and option periods on a separate research and related budget forms (total of 6 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 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 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 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 May 28, 2:00 PM pacific standard time. This Request for Statements of Interest will remain open until an investigator team is selected. Statements of Interest received after May 28 2:00 PM pacific standard time is considered “late” and may not be considered. Please submit requests for information/questions no later than May 21 2:00 Pacific standard time.

Please send electronic responses and questions only to:

**Ms. Kellie Wilson, Contract Specialist Environmental Acquisition Core**  
[kellie.wilson@navy.mil](mailto:kellie.wilson@navy.mil)

Point of Contact Information:

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