

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST WITHIN THE
COOPERATIVE ECOSYSTEM STUDIES UNIT
INTEREST #N62473-20-2-0014
PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN 2020**

Project Title: Naval Base Coronado Rare Plant Surveys

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest (RSOI) will address measures included in the 2013 Candidate Conservation Agreement (CCA) for *Phacelia stellaris*. This agreement has been entered into by Naval Base Coronado, the United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), United States Marine Core base Camp Pendleton, the US Customs and Border Protection, and the California State Parks San Diego Coast District (enclosure 1). The purpose of this agreement is to conduct surveys to locate and evaluate the status of the sensitive plant species *Phacelia stellaris* so as to prevent the need for listing of this species. The CCA includes monitoring of *Phacelia* to document population trends of the species, and other associated species. Funding in the range of \$48,600 to \$54,000 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:

Naval Base Coronado is composed of several Naval installations in the San Diego area. The properties that will be addressed under this Cooperative Agreement include Naval Air Station North Island (NASNI), Naval Amphibious Base (NAB) Coronado, the Silver Strand Training Complex (SSTC) (which includes all training areas on the Silver Strand and the area formerly known as the Naval Radio Receiving Facility [NRRF]), and Naval Outlying Landing Field Imperial Beach (NOLF IB). (These areas are hereinafter referred to as the “Study Area”). Because of its coastal location and low level of disturbance relative to similarly situated non-Federal property, the Study Area supports a disproportionate number of federally listed and other sensitive flora and fauna, including the California least tern (*Sterna antillarum browni*), western snowy plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*), salt marsh bird’s beak (*Cordylanthus maritimus* ssp. *maritimus*) and Nuttall’s lotus (*Lotus nuttallianus*).

Over the past decade, management of botanical resources within the Study Area has focused on the eradication of highly invasive non-native plant species, which threaten native plant communities and the wildlife they support, and revegetation of disturbed areas using native species. Though these activities have presumably benefited sensitive plant species, the nature and magnitude of their impact cannot be discerned with certainty. In 2013, the Navy entered into a CCA with the

USFWS and three other government landowners for the plant species Brand's phacelia (*Phacelia stellaris*). This CCA includes several management actions for each landowner to execute on their property that will enhance the status of this rare species. One of the key elements is annual surveys for this and other rare species occurring in the area. The Navy has been conducting such surveys annually ever since 2013.

This Cooperative Agreement will implement status surveys for Brand's phacelia, Nuttall's lotus (*Lotus nuttallianus*), coast woolly heads (*Nemacaulis denudata* var. *denudata*), variegated dudleya (*Dudleya variegata*) and salt marsh bird's beak (*Chloropyron maritimum*) and surveys of suitable habitat for populations of these species that have not been previously documented.

Brief Description of the Anticipated Work:

This Cooperative Agreement includes two tasks. The primary task is for annual monitoring surveys of sensitive plant species occurring on NBC, including *Phacelia stellaris*. Annual monitoring of existing known populations of these species allows the Navy to determine the overall health of the populations and see long term population trends. Also, surveys and other restoration efforts will be conducted to identify new undiscovered populations of these species, many of which have turned up in recent years due to removal of invasive species. The Navy is required under the CCA to continue to provide annual monitoring reports and this task will fulfill that requirement.

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 12 months upon award. The proposed period of performance consist of one (1) 12-month base period and four (4) 12-month option periods. The total agreement shall not exceed 60 months. The end date is the anticipated date that the Final Report is accepted by the Government. The option periods may be unilaterally awarded and are subject to the availability of funds.

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

Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications:

Please provide the following via e-mail attachment to: Kellie Wilson (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 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."

Reimbursement of pre-award costs will not be allowed.

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. Project Manager: The Recipient shall designate one person as responsible for ensuring that provisions are in place project and personnel supervision, quality control and meeting of reporting requirements on a daily basis. This person shall have, at the minimum:

- A Masters degree or higher in Biology, Botany, Entomology, Ecology or related science.
- Specific knowledge of standardized surveys for rare plant species in Southern California, as demonstrated by at least 3 years of previous work or research experience.

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. Resumes must state qualifications, experience with this type of project, professional registration and certificates.

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 may only propose additional geographic and environmental variables to consider, not mentioned in the RSOI, but pertinent to the study issues. 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 the optional work years 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 each Option Period 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 18 August 2020 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 18 August 2020 2:00 PM local standard time is considered “late” and may not be considered. Please submit requests for information/questions no later than 13 August 2020 2:00 PM local standard time.

Please send electronic responses and questions to:

Ms. Kellie Wilson, Contract Specialist Environmental Acquisition Core
kellie.wilson@navy.mil

Point of Contact Information:

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