

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST  
WITHIN THE COOPERATIVE ECOSYSTEM STUDIES UNIT  
N62473-22-2-0011  
PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN 2022**

**Project Title: DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP STUDY/SURVEYS ON MARINE CORPS AIR AND GROUND COMBAT CENTER, TWENTYNINE PALMS, CALIFORNIA**

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest (RSOI) will address measures in support of a desert bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*) study and surveys at Marine Corps Air and Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC) Twentynine Palms. \$230,520.00 is available to support the Base Period. An option period is anticipated and an estimated funding range exists between \$128,375.45 - \$135,132.05. Funding is not currently available for Option Period 1 but may become available in the future.

Item	Available Funding
Base Period	\$230,520.00
Option Period 1	\$128,375.45 - \$135,132.05

Type of Assistance Instrument Anticipated: Cooperative Agreement

Authority: Cooperative Agreement under 16 USC §670c-1

Eligible Applicants: Any Californian or Pacific Northwestern Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU) 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:**

In 1992, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and the MCAGCC worked together to relocate a herd of 20 desert bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*) to the MCAGCC. The sheep were relocated to the Bullion Mountains as a part of a reintroduction program. To support the introduction of the experimental population, CDFW and the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep constructed guzzlers in the Bullion Mountains in 1991 and 1999. These guzzlers are beneficial to other wildlife species and remote sensing has documented use by coyotes, foxes, bobcat, avian species and bighorn sheep. To date a total of 10 drinker devices (i.e., guzzlers) have been established on the landscape and are annually visited and maintained. Preliminary genetic analysis suggests that the network of water guzzlers aboard MCAGCC has contributed to genetic conductivity between the desert bighorn sheep in the Bullion Mountains and the Sheep Hole Mountains. To better understand and manage this population, including estimating population size, movement, connectivity, and health, MCAGCC seeks a cooperator to conduct research addressing these issues.

**Brief Description of the Anticipated Work:**

This Cooperative Agreement outlines terms and the cooperative effort of the Department of the Navy (DoN), Navy Facilities Engineering Systems Command, Southwest (NAVFAC SW), on behalf of the MCAGCC. The DON is seeking statements of interest that address requirements associated with the MCAGCC.

Please see Enclosure 1 for full scope of work and Enclosure 2 for applicable terms and conditions.

**Period of Performance:**

Base Period: The Base Period shall have a period of performance (PoP) of 18 months from date of award.

Option Period 1A: If exercised, Option Period 1A shall have a PoP of 18 months from date of award.

The PoP may be extended by written modification. The total duration of this Agreement shall not exceed 60 months.

Period	Description	Period of Performance	Anticipated Award Date
Base Period	DBS Fecal Pellet Sampling and Analysis, Population Estimation, Management Recommendations	Date of Award – 18 Months	September 2022
Option Period 1	DBS Health Assessments	Date of Award – 18 Months	April 2023

A fifteen (15) day period, starting on date of award, will be used for the cooperator 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), Draft Work Plans, etc. Cooperator 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:

- Mr. Kevin Magennis, Contract Specialist Environmental Acquisition Core ([kevin.e.magennis.civ@us.navy.mil](mailto:kevin.e.magennis.civ@us.navy.mil)).
  - Mr. Devon Gilpatrick, Contract Specialist Environmental Acquisition Core ([devon.j.gilpatrick.civ@us.navy.mil](mailto:devon.j.gilpatrick.civ@us.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**

The Recipient and any project personnel must be able to conduct all duties that will meet the objectives in this Agreement. Written documentation of experience (resumes and/or publication record) shall be submitted in order to demonstrate that minimum requirements for the Key Personnel have been met. Documentation may not exceed two pages per person.

A. Principal Investigator: 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 are met on a daily basis. This person shall have, at a minimum:

- 1) A Ph.D. Degree in Biology or related science. Identify the source of the degree.
- 2) At least 10 years of previous work or research experience on genetic analysis of desert bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*).

B. Research Associate(s): The Recipient shall designate one or more people as responsible for assisting the principal investigator. The person(s) shall have at a minimum:

- 1) A Bachelor's Degree in Biology or related science. Identify the source of the degree.
- 2) At least 2 years of work or research experience on desert bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*) and their habitats.

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

Not to exceed 5 pages, the Offeror shall develop an outline for their approach to addressing the anticipated work on MCAGCC stated above and in Enclosure 1. 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 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. 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.

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 of the options 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 SOW. 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 September 16, 2022 2:00 PM PDT. This Request for Statements of Interest will remain open until an investigator team is selected. Statements of Interest received after September 16, 2022 2:00 PM PDT is considered “late” and may not be considered. Please submit requests for information/questions no later than September 14, 2022 2:00 PM PDT.

Please send electronic responses and questions to:

- Kevin Magennis, Contract Specialist Environmental Acquisition Core  
([kevin.e.magennis.civ@us.navy.mil](mailto:kevin.e.magennis.civ@us.navy.mil))
- Devon Gilpatrick, Contract Specialist Environmental Acquisition Core  
([devon.j.gilpatrick.civ@us.navy.mil](mailto:devon.j.gilpatrick.civ@us.navy.mil)).

Point of Contact Information:

- Kevin Magennis, Contract Specialist Environmental Acquisition Core  
Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Southwest  
750 Pacific Highway San Diego, CA 92132  
619.705.5566