REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST/REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS WITHIN THE COOPERATIVE ECOSYSTEM STUDIES UNIT INTEREST #N62473-19-2-0019 PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN 2019

Amendment 0001

Only the specific sections within the request for statements of interest/request for proposals and statement of work are amended through this amendment (noted below and in the statement of work). All other sections remain unchanged. Additions are noted with a red bold italic font. Deletions are noted with a strike through font. Also, please see the request for information document for responses to inquiries received.

Project Title: Vegetation Community Mapping at Chocolate Mountains Aerial Gunnery Range, Marine Corps Air Station Yuma

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest (RSOI) will be used to identify potential applicants to continue and complete the development of a landscape vegetation community map for the Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range (CMAGR). The CMAGR is currently under management by Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Yuma. There are 458,000 acres of the CMAGR that require complete vegetation community mapping. The objective of this cooperative agreement is to conduct as much vegetation community mapping as possible with the amount of funds available.

The vegetation map created will be used to provide for land management of the range by assisting in the identification of rare and/or sensitive vegetation types, and by developing a baseline for which to gauge vegetation changes. In addition, a flora collection will be compiled, with specimens archived at two herbaria, to be used as vouchers for future plant identification purposes. The authority for this Cooperative Agreement is 16 USC §670c-1 (Sikes Act). The following are approximate amounts expected to be available for this project.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Estimated Available Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Base Period Year</td>
<td>$85,976.91 to $95,529.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Option Period Year 1</td>
<td>$79,893.21 to $88,770.23</td>
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</tbody>
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Type of Assistance Instrument Anticipated: Cooperative Agreement

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

Eligible Applicants: Any Desert Southwest Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Unit partner potential cooperator who qualifies under the DoDGARS Part 32, 33, and 34 is eligible to apply.

Cost Sharing: Not required

Background:

The proposed action would be implemented at the CMAGR, in MCAS Yuma, Arizona. The CMAGR is bound on the west by the Salton Sea Basin; and on the east, by the Chuckwalla and Palo Verde mountains. The northern border is separated from the Orocopia Mountains by Salt Creek and includes part of the Chuckwalla Bench. The CMAGR extends south to Highway 78 near Glamis. The low-intensity land use requirement of the military mission has kept the CMAGR lands
as undeveloped and largely natural open space that supports a range of vegetation communities. The entirety of the CMAGR is located within three Macrogroups of the National Vegetation Classification (NVC). These three macrogroups are the (1) Mojave-Sonoran Semi-Desert Scrub; (2) North American Cliff, Scree and Rock Vegetation; and (3) North American Warm-Desert Xeric-Riparian Scrub. Within these macrogroups on the Station there are at least seven vegetation community alliances within the three macrogroups: (1) Opuntia bigelovii Cacti Scrub Alliance, (2) Larrea tridentata - Ambrosia dumosa Bajada & Valley Desert Scrub Alliance, (3) Larrea tridentata - Fouquieria splendens Upper Bajada & Rock Outcrop Desert Scrub Alliance, (4) Ambrosia dumosa Desert Dwarf Scrub Alliance, (5) Encelia farinosa Desert Scrub Alliance, (6) Atriplex hymenelytra Scrub Alliance, and (7) Acacia greggii - Hyptis emoryi - Justicia californica Desert Wash Scrub Alliance.

MCAS Yuma is required to manage their natural resources per the Sikes Act (16 USC §670(a)(1)(A)). This is an action that was identified as a requirement in the MCAS Yuma Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP Action Step 4.10-1 and 4.10-2) and is consistent with the requirements that are imposed through the Sikes Act.

**Brief Description of Anticipated Work:**

The purpose of this is to develop a vegetation map for the CMAGR that is currently under management by MCAS Yuma. The vegetation map will be used to provide for land management of the range by assisting in the identification of rare and/or sensitive vegetation types, and by developing a baseline for which to gauge vegetation changes. In addition, a flora collection will be compiled, with specimens archived at two herbaria, to be used as vouchers for future plant identification purposes. The specific tasks are the following:

1) Identify a portion of the range that can be vegetation community-mapped within the allotted budget that is representative of much of the habitat that can be expected to be found at CMAGR.

2) Develop a work plan and mapping strategy, utilizing a combination of ground surveys and aerial photography/imagery interpretation.

3) Develop a draft and final vegetation community map complete with GIS data.

4) Conduct an accuracy assessment that will indicate the map’s overall probability of accurately identifying the correct vegetation community for any given point. Accuracy confidence of at least 80% should be achieved; i.e., points assessed in the field should correctly fall within the vegetation community alliance or association assigned on the map at least 80% of the time.

5) Develop a floral collection from specimens collected during ground surveys.

For a full description of the work, please see enclosure 1 statement of work. Please see enclosure 2 terms and conditions for additional conditions.

**Period of Performance:**

The proposed period of performance for the Cooperative Agreement consists of an **18**-month base period and one (**18**-month option period. 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 Cooperative Agreement by written modification. Total duration of this Agreement, including any option periods, shall not exceed **36**-**24** months. The exercise of any option is subject to the
availability of funds and may be awarded unilaterally within the last six months of the base period.

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), Draft Work Plans, 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: 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 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 key personnel. To gather information needed for this important task, the applicant should submit the requested information for each identified key personnel 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. This data will be kept 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 and use these forms when submitting your statement of interest.

A brief proposal, maximum length: 10 pages, single-spaced 12 pt. font, addressing the factors listed below. Be sure to include Name, Organization, and Contact Information.

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 the Project Manager and Technical staff** – The Offeror shall provide type written resumes of the Project Manager, Technical Staff and GIS Analyst proposed for this project, stating their qualifications, experience with this type of project, and relevant publications. The Offeror shall submit evidence of the following technical requirements/qualifications:

**Project Manager.** This individual must have:

- a minimum of a Master’s degree in Ecology, Botany, or related science disciplines;
- a publication record (primary author in peer-reviewed or technical reports) demonstrating expert knowledge of vegetation community mapping using the National Vegetation Classification System (NVCS)
- a minimum of 3 years of experience in a responsible position providing oversight of, support to or directly involved in vegetation community mapping in the Colorado or Sonoran deserts of the southwestern US.

**Technical Staff.** This individual must have:

- a minimum of a Bachelor’s degree in Ecology, Botany, or related science disciplines; and
- demonstrated field experience with vegetation community mapping in the Colorado or Sonoran deserts of the southwestern US

**GIS Analyst.** This individual must have:

- a minimum of a Bachelor’s degree in Ecology, Botany, Geography, Environmental Studies, or related science disciplines; and
- demonstrated experience with collecting, processing, and analyzing vegetation community mapping data collected via remote imagery and/or field observations

Resumes shall be included with Enclosure 4 and shall not exceed 3 pages per key personnel.

**Factor 2 – Innovative Scientific Approach** – Not to exceed 3 pages, the Offeror shall develop a proposal addressing the requirement to map the vegetation community in a “pilot” portion of the range. The Recipient shall be evaluated as to the soundness and utility of the overall approach and the use of any innovative techniques to accomplish the objectives of the stated approach.
**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 and unit, unit prices and extended prices will be required and will be evaluated. Please be sure to provide a proposal for the option period year as listed within the statement of work. Please submit a proposed budget form for the option period year on a separate research and related budget form.

Please provide your proposed budget on the provided pdf titled, “Research and Related Budget” form.*

**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 (enclosure 1). Options must be separately priced. The form will generate a cumulative budget for the total project period. You must complete all the mandatory information on the form before the NEXT PERIOD button is activated. 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 4, 2019 2:00 Pacific standard time. This Request for Statements of Interest will remain open until an investigator team is selected. Statements of Interest received after September 4, 2019 2:00 PM Pacific standard time is considered “late” and may not be considered. Please submit requests for information/questions no later than August 28, 2019 2:00 PM Pacific standard time.

**Please send electronic responses and questions 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
reagan.s.pablo@navy.mil