

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST WITHIN THE CALIFORNIAN AND
GREAT BASIN COOPERATIVE ECOSYSTEM STUDIES UNIT
N62473-23-2-0015**

**PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN 2023
CFDA 12.300**

Project Title:

Vegetation Conversion Monitoring and Management Naval Air Station Fallon, Fallon, Nevada

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest will be used to identify potential investigators for a project to be funded by the Department of the Navy. The project shall gather and analyze historical data and information to determine baseline conditions for public lands that were recently withdrawn from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) under fiscal year 23 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) legislation. Findings will be utilized to evaluate and understand potential ecosystem impacts (e.g., biodiversity loss, type conversion, vegetation health, fire return interval, etc.) of the change in land use. This effort may require additional monitoring to assess trend over time and current rangeland ecosystem health on newly withdrawn lands in the Fallon Range Training Complex (FRTC). Information shall support future data-driven decisions on how to improve, modify, or otherwise manage these lands for overall ecosystem health while maintaining the training mission to support military readiness. Additionally, this information is anticipated to inform climate models and provide support for identifying future climate resiliency efforts. The estimated total value of the requirement is \$288,500.00, to include one (1) Base Period in the amount of \$73,000.00, and two (2) Option Items totaling \$215,500.00 as detailed in the table below.

Item	Anticipated Funding
Base Period	\$73,000.00
Option Item 1	\$79,000.00
Option Item 2	\$136,500.00
Total potential value	\$288,500.00

Type of Assistance Instrument Anticipated: Cooperative Agreement

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

Eligible Applicants: Any Californian or Great Basin Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit 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 Air Station (NAS) Fallon is located in northern Nevada, approximately 65 miles east of Reno and is the Navy's premier integrated strike warfare training facilities supporting present and emerging National Defense requirements. The recent congressionally approved National Defense Authorization Act of 2023 expanded NAS Fallon by over 600,000 acres primarily in the Fallon Range Training Complex (FRTC). The FRTC is the Navy's premier aviation training range, supporting aviation and ground training, including live-fire training. The Navy trains 100 percent of the deploying naval aviation and naval special warfare units at the FRTC.

The expanded FRTC area includes the acquisition of lands previously under Bureau of Land Management (BLM) administration. Most of the acquired lands have been historically used for hunting, wildlife grazing and permitted livestock grazing. The newly withdrawn lands will require the closure of approximately 335,255 acres of active BLM grazing allotments. These lands will be incorporated into the Navy's natural resources management structure and will include the updating of management plans (e.g., Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) and Wildland Fire Management Plan (WFMP).

Brief Description of Anticipated Work:

The Department of the Navy (DON) is seeking statement of interests to conduct rangeland ecosystem monitoring on the expanded FRTC ranges. Once the withdrawal is complete, cattle grazing will be removed from portions of eleven existing BLM grazing allotments. Domestic livestock grazing has occurred on many of the allotments for over a century. It is anticipated when domestic grazing is removed from the ecosystem that vegetation composition will shift.

Monitoring is sought that will develop a baseline to assist in evaluating trends over time and changes in species composition, bare ground, basal cover, biodiversity, and other metrics that will evaluate overall rangeland health. Collected data must be compatible with existing long-term data collected by the BLM on the allotments. The change of land use from grazing to bombing range may increase fire risk due to vegetation composition changes. Monitoring and management of vegetation on the new expansion lands will be critical to ensure sustained mission capabilities of the land into the future. The project will include three (3) Tasks and multiple phases of work: Task 1: Development of a Rangeland Analysis and Trend Monitoring Plan, Task 2: Implementation of the developed Rangeland Analysis and Trend Monitoring Plan, and Task 3: Reporting.

The Complete Scope of Work is provided as Enclosure 1.

Period of Performance. The proposed period of performance for this CA consists of one (1) 36-month Base Period and two (2) 12-month Option Items. The exercise of any Option Item is subject to the availability of funds, and may be awarded unilaterally.

Item	Period of Performance
Base Period	36 months from date of award
Option Item 1	12 months from date of award
Option Item 2	12 months from date of award

Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications:

Please provide the following via e-mail attachment to kevin.e.magennis.civ@us.navy.mil and raquel.p.metz.civ@us.navy.mil.

(Maximum length: 10 pages, single side, single-spaced 12 pt. font).

1. Name, Organization and Contact Information
2. Brief Statement of Qualifications (including):
 - a. Biographical Sketch to include minimum qualifications required;
 - b. Relevant past projects and clients with brief descriptions of these projects;
 - c. Staff, faculty or students available to work on this project and their areas of expertise and qualifications;
 - d. Any brief description of capabilities to successfully complete the project you may wish to add (e.g., permits, equipment, laboratory facilities, field facilities, etc.);

Note: We are intending to use fiscal year 2023 funds for this project. A detailed study proposal and cost estimate are requested at this time.

Review of Statements Received: Proposals will be evaluated based on the three factors listed below and include the credentials of key personnel, innovative scientific approach, and reasonableness of the cost.

Factor 1 - Credentials of Key Personnel

Field Biologist/Project Manager. This individual must have:

- 1) A Bachelor of Science degree in rangeland ecosystem science from an accredited college or university or currently enrolled in a rangeland graduate degree program from an accredited college or university.
- 2) Five (5) years of experience in identifying and sampling vegetation and soils in the Great Basin Desert including familiarity with Great Basin Desert flora, fauna and ecology.
- 3) Five (5) years of experience implementing research to include conducting surveys; implementing scientific projects/following scientific methods; and participating in rangeland monitoring methodologies utilized in the Great Basin Desert.
- 4) 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 cooperative agreement. A copy of all required permits or evidence of renewable permits must be submitted with the proposal.

Assistant/Filed Technician. This individual must have:

- 1) At least one technician must have a Bachelor of Science degree in rangeland ecosystem science from an accredited college or university or currently enrolled in a rangeland graduate degree program from an accredited college or university.
- 2) Bachelor of Science degree in biology/rangeland ecosystem science/botany from an

- accredited college or university.
- 3) Three (3) years of experience in identifying and sampling vegetation and soils in the Great Basin Desert including familiarity with Great Basin Desert flora, fauna and ecology.
 - 4) Ability to provide clear, legible and accurate field notes and data.
 - 5) A thorough understanding of regulations regarding plant and Great Basin Desert habitats.

Factor 2 – Innovative Scientific Approach – The Offeror shall develop a proposal addressing the three components of the Scope of Work. The Offeror will be evaluated as to the soundness of the overall approach and the use of any innovative techniques to accomplish the objectives of the stated approach.

Factor 3 – Reasonableness of Cost* – The proposal will be analyzed to determine whether it 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,” or 48 CFR part 31 “Contract Cost Principles and Procedures,” as applicable. Evaluation 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.

Please provide your proposed budget on the provided PDF titled, “Enclosure 3” form.*

***Form: RESEARCH AND RELATED BUDGET (Enclosure 3)**

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. The Option Item 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 appropriate field.
- Travel - Number of trips, destination, duration, etc. Justify in appropriate field (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 appropriate field.

- 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 appropriate field.
- 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 appropriate field.
- Budget Justification: 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.

RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF EVALUATION FACTORS – Factors 1, 2, and 3 are of equal importance.

Please send electronic responses and questions to:

Kevin Magennis, Agreement Administrator and Raquel P. Metz, Cooperative Agreement Administrator

Point of Contact Information:

Kevin Magennis, Cooperative Agreement Administrator, ECOMP
Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Southwest
Environmental Conservation and Compliance Acquisition
750 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92132
Phone: 619-705-5566
Email: kevin.e.magennis.civ@us.navy.mil

Raquel P. Metz, Cooperative Agreement Administrator, ECOMP
Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Southwest
Environmental Conservation and Compliance Acquisition
750 Pacific Highway San Diego, CA 92132
Phone Number: 619.705.5566
Email: raquel.p.metz.civ@us.navy.mil

Timeline for Review of Statements of Interest:

We request that Statements of Interest be submitted by September 5, 2023 2:00 PM PDT. This Request for Statements of Interest will remain open for two weeks until an investigator team is selected. Statements of Interest received after September 5, 2023 2:00 PM PDT will be deemed “late” and may not be considered. Please submit requests for information/questions no later than August 29, 2023 2:00 PM PDT.