

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST WITHIN COOPERATIVE
ECOSYSTEM STUDIES UNITS
N62473-23-2-0016**

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

Project Title: Federally Listed Species Recovery and Dune Habitat Restoration and Monitoring for Naval Support Activity Monterey, Monterey California

Timeline for Review of Statements of Interest:

We request that Statements of Interest be submitted by August 30, 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 August 30, 2023, 2:00 PM PDT will be deemed “late” and may not be considered. Please submit requests for information/questions no later than August 24, 2023, 2:00 PM PDT.

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 (DoN), which provides professional and technical support for its Endangered Species Biology Programs in order to facilitate successful implementation of the installation’s Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) and compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Approximately \$150,000 is expected to be available to design and conduct one (1) 24 month base period of monitoring and restoration within Naval Support Activity Monterey (NSAM) sensitive dunes habitat per a signed Biological Opinion (BO) issued by United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). An additional \$189,750 may become available to fund three (3) Option Periods of 12 months, each with two (2) parts, to continue monitoring and restoration of the dune habitat.

Item	Anticipated Funding
Base Period (FY23/24/25)	\$150,000.00
Option Period 1A (FY25/26, Year 3)	\$37,950.00
Option Period 1B (FY25/26, Year 3)	\$25,300.00
Option Period 2A (FY26/27, Year 4)	\$37,950.00
Option Period 2B (FY26/27, Year 4)	\$25,300.00
Option Period 3A (FY27/28, Year 5)	\$37,950.00
Option Period 3B (FY27/28, Year 5)	\$25,300.00
TOTAL POTENTIAL VALUE	\$339,750.00

Type of Assistance Instrument Anticipated: Cooperative Agreement

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

Eligible Applicants: Any 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:

Naval Support Activity Monterey (NSAM) is located within the City of Monterey in Monterey County, California. While NSAM has authority over several disjoint properties, its “main property” encompasses approximately 612 acres and includes five functionally distinct properties in Monterey County, including the Main Grounds (137 acres), Laboratory/Recreation Area (100 acres), and the Dune/Research Area (DRA) (55 acres).

Among the Monterey Area Properties, the DRA was found to have the highest concentrations of rare plants. The dune habitat is home to the federally threatened Monterey spineflower (*Chorizanthe pungens* var. *pungens*) and the federally endangered Monterey gilia (*Gilia tenuiflora* ssp. *arenaria*) which have been found to have stable populations; however, they continue to be vulnerable to human associated disturbance. The dune habitat itself within the DRA is considered of moderate to high quality and its management and conservation are of high importance to NSAM.

This cooperative agreement is to design and implement rehabilitation of dune habitat that was inadvertently destroyed due to the grading of an unauthorized boardwalk path within the DRA in 2022. The grading resulted in the loss of approximately 0.48 acres of species habitat which predicated the need to reconsult with the USFWS for the unauthorized take of these federally listed species.

Brief Description of Anticipated Work:

The purpose of this Cooperative Agreement is to design and implement restoration activities in compliance with a signed BO by the USFWS. The goal of the rehabilitation and subsequent monitoring is to restore this sensitive dune habitat area. The effort will enhance the installation and regional knowledge of restoration options for these sensitive species and will meet the goals and objectives identified within the USFWS BO (2023-0010813-S7).

This project contributes to the implementation of NSAM’s 2014 INRMP, a requirement of the Sikes Act Improvement Act or SAIA (16 USCA Section 670a) and other regulations including but not limited to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act (16 USC 2901 et seq.); Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 USC 661 et seq.); DoDI 4715.03: Natural Resources Conservation Program; and the associated USFWS BO for this effort (2023-0010813-S7).

The restored habitat will promote the continued conservation of sensitive species, support regional restoration goals, promote increased knowledge of dunes restoration, and be enjoyed remotely by the public.

This project has two (2) base components to be completed within the 24-month base period: Base Task 1: Restoration and Monitoring Plan Development, Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting; and Base Task 2: Second Year Restoration Site Adaptive Management, Monitoring,

and Monitoring Reporting. These efforts are summarized here. Please see Enclosure 1 for the complete scope of work.

1. Restoration and Monitoring Plan Development, Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting:

The primary components of this work includes the following:

- a. Develop and submit a Health and Safety Plan and Accident Prevention Plan.
- b. Develop and submit for government USFWS review, a Draft Restoration and Monitoring Plan for review, comment, and final acceptance; the Recipient shall include multiple review periods given both Navy and USFWS review.
- c. Implement the developed restoration plan efforts which could include site stabilization/erosion control, seed gathering, seed broadcasting, soil amendments, seedling propagation and planting, watering, or similar. Documentation of existing and final site conditions following the restoration shall occur which could include the establishment of photo monitoring plots and qualitative and quantitative measurements.
- d. Conducting monitoring of the restoration area. Monitoring shall be described in the Restoration and Monitoring Plan to the extent that it is readily implementable and repeatable by different individuals annually and shall include quantitative and qualitative measurements and sampling mechanisms such as grid sampling and taking photo monitoring points along with gathering, processing, and providing Geographic Systems Information data per Navy specifications.
- e. Reporting. As a part of this effort, the Recipient shall provide periodic monthly reports and an annual report that is cumulative in nature.

2. Second Year Restoration Site Adaptive Management, Monitoring, and Monitoring Reporting:

The primary components of this work includes the following:

- a. Implement the second year of the developed restoration plan efforts, as needed based on initial findings, results, weather, and similar. Adaptive management shall be employed.
- b. Conducting monitoring of the restoration area following the methodologies established within the initial work plan, implemented in Year 1, and reported on in the annual monitoring report.
- c. Reporting. As a part of this effort, the Recipient shall provide periodic monthly reports and an annual report that is cumulative in reporting.

The following 2 part optional tasks may be awarded with three (3) 12 month Option Periods that can be awarded during the period of this Cooperative Agreement.

3. Optional Task 1: Additional Year Restoration Site Monitoring and Monitoring Reporting:

This option provides for an additional year of monitoring and reporting on the restoration site along with meetings/coordination. The monitoring and reporting shall follow the methods established in the first and second years, shall build on the previous data, be comprehensive, cumulative, and comparable. This effort may result in the need to update the Work Plan.

This effort may be awarded up to three (3) times during the course of this cooperative agreement.

4. Optional Task 2: Additional Year Restoration Adaptive Management

This option provides for an additional year of restoration efforts on the restoration site. The restoration efforts are adaptive and shall be in response to previous year's findings. Any methods implemented shall be scientifically defensible, adequately documented for repeatability in reporting, and shall follow established or otherwise reviewed and approved (potentially by the USFWS) methods. This may result in a need to update the Work Plan. This effort may be awarded up to three (3) times during the course of this cooperative agreement.

The complete Scope of Work is provided as Enclosure 1.

Period of Performance. The period of performance consists of one (1) 24 month Base Period and three (3) 12 month Option Periods with 2 part tasks.

Period of Performance Summary:

FY23 Base Year: 4 Sep 2023 – 3 Sept 2025

FY25 Option Year 1 (Optional Task 1 and 2; Year 3): 4 Sep 2025 – 3 Sep 2026

FY26 Option Year 2 (Optional Task 1 and 2; Year 4): 4 Sep 2026 – 3 Sep 2027

FY27 Option Year 3 (Optional Task 1 and 2; Year 5): 4 Sep 2027 – 3 Sep 2028

Item	Period of Performance
Base Period (FY23/24/25)	4 September 2023 – 3 September 2025
Option Period 1A (FY25/26, Yr 3)	4 September 2025 – 3 September 2026
Option Period 1B (FY25/26, Yr 3)	4 September 2025 – 3 September 2026
Option Period 2A (FY26/27, Yr 4)	4 September 2026 – 3 September 2027
Option Period 2B (FY26/27, Yr 4)	4 September 2026 – 3 September 2027
Option Period 3A (FY27/28, Yr 5)	4 September 2027 – 3 September 2028
Option Period 3B (FY27/28, Yr 5)	4 September 2027 – 3 September 2028

Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications:

Please provide the following via e-mail attachment to eleonor.m.tarrant.civ@us.navy.mil and kevin.e.magennis.civ@us.navy.mil

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

1. Name, Organization and Contact Information
2. Brief Statement of Qualifications (including):
 - a. Biographical Sketch;

- 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;
- 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.);
- e. Copy of existing pesticide permit(s) (off label use if necessary) or assertion of ability to obtain permit as necessary for project.

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, scientific approach, and reasonableness of the cost.

Factor 1 - Credentials of Key Personnel

The Cooperative Agreement will require the equivalent, at the minimum, of at least one (1) Principle Field Investigator/Biologist/Botanist, and one (1) Field Technician. However, the Recipient may also include the work of “Appropriately Accredited Staff”.

Individuals must provide details showing their proficiency as detailed below to the CATR as a part of the proposal submittal.

The following minimum qualifications identified below are applicable to the respective positions:

Field Investigator/Biologist/Botanist: The Field Investigator/Biologist/Botanist position shall be responsible for being the liaison between Recipient personnel and the Grants Officer, CAA or CATR and shall serve as the main point of contact for all required results and/or progress reports on the restoration work and subsequent monitoring work. The Recipient shall designate a 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:

- 1) A graduate degree in Ecology, Biology, Botany, Plant Taxonomy, or a field related to the biological sciences from an accredited college or university.
- 2) 250 hours of experience (collected over at least four (4) years) in conducting surveying, monitoring, and implementing dunes restoration within California or similar environments, to include scientific designs and methodologies for monitoring habitat recovery.
- 3) Possess specific knowledge of the general biology, ecology, and survey methodology of California dune plant species that have the potential to occur on the Station.
- 4) Familiarity with (e.g., at least one season surveying for) and the ability to consistently identify the threatened Monterey spineflower (*Chorizanthe pungens* var. *pungens*) and the federally endangered Monterey gilia (*Gilia tenuiflora* ssp. *arenaria*) in dune habitats.
- 5) Must possess or validate the ability to obtain any necessary permits (e.g., federal endangered species 10 (a)(1)(A) collection or similar) permit for the threatened Monterey spineflower (*Chorizanthe pungens* var. *pungens*) and the federally endangered Monterey gilia (*Gilia tenuiflora* ssp. *arenaria*).

Field Technician: The person(s) shall have, or have immediate access to personnel that have, at the minimum:

- 1) A Bachelor's degree in Ecology, Biology, Wildlife biology, Zoology or a field related to the biological sciences from an accredited college or university.
- 2) Individual(s) have at least two (2) years of experience in plant taxonomy/botany/efforts within California, including at least one (1) years of expertise with the flora of dunes within coastal California.
- 3) At least one (1) year of experience implementing research to include conducting surveys; habitat restoration efforts (e.g., implementing erosion control, stabilizing soils, collecting seeds, sowing seeds, controlling weeds via hand pulling and/or chemical usage, etc.) implementing scientific projects/following scientific methods; and participating in restoration/planting/soil/ or similar projects.
- 4) At least one semester's experience and knowledge in conducting dune restoration and monitoring work within dunes in California.
- 5) A thorough understanding of regulations regarding plant and dune habitats to include listed species permit understanding and the ability to be added to a permit if needed.
- 6) The ability to gather monitoring data per scientific protocols and procedures.

All field technician work shall be under the guidance and support of the Field Investigator/Biologist/Botanist.

Appropriately Accredited Staff: The person(s) could include individual(s) pursuing a graduate degree that meets the following requirements:

- 1) Individual(s) are actively pursuing a graduate degree in plant taxonomy, botany, landscape architecture, horticulture, habitat restoration, or a related field from an accredited college or university.
- 2) Individual(s) have at least two (2) years of experience in plant taxonomy/botany/efforts within California (coursework can suffice).
- 3) At least one (1) year of experience implementing research to include conducting surveys; implementing habitat restoration efforts (e.g., implementing erosion control, stabilizing soils, collecting seeds, sowing seeds, controlling weeds via hand pulling and/or chemical usage, etc.) implementing scientific projects/following scientific methods; and participating in restoration/planting/soil/ or similar projects (coursework can suffice).
- 4) At least one semester's experience and knowledge in conducting monitoring, study, and/or restoration work within native habitats to include some exposure to dune habitats.
- 5) A thorough understanding of regulations regarding plant and dune habitats to include listed species permit understanding and the ability to be added to a permit if needed.
- 6) The ability to gather monitoring data per scientific protocols and procedures.

All appropriately accredited staff work shall be under the guidance and support of the Field Investigator/Biologist/Botanist.

Factor 2 – Innovative Scientific Approach – The Offeror shall develop a proposal addressing the two 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. However, costs must be grouped by work task. The Option Items 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 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 Recipient/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:

Eleanor Tarrant, Cooperative Agreement Administrator and Kevin Magennis, Cooperative Agreement Administrator

Point of Contact Information:

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