

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST WITHIN COOPERATIVE
ECOSYSTEM STUDIES UNITS
N62473-23-2-0017**

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

Project Title: Pacific Pocket Mouse Species Status Assessment at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Camp Pendleton, CA

Timeline for Review of Statements of Interest:

We request that Statements of Interest be submitted by July 26, 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 July 26, 2023 2:00 PM PDT will be deemed “late” and may not be considered. Please submit requests for information/questions no later than July 19, 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 \$128,449.00 is expected to be available to conduct a Pacific Pocket Mouse (PPM) Species Status Assessment (SSA) at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton (MCBCP).

| Option Item | Anticipated Funding |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Base Period | \$128,449.00 |

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:

The Pacific Pocket Mouse (*Perognathus longimembris pacificus*; PPM) is an endemic, Federally Endangered subspecies and a California State Species of Special Concern. The species was rediscovered in 1993 when a population of 25 to 36 individuals was found at the Dana Point Headlands, Orange County, California, and the species was emergency-listed as Endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). PPM was subsequently reported to have been captured in 1997 at three (3) different locations on Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton (MCBCP): San Mateo North, San Mateo South, and the Santa Margarita River watershed. The San Mateo North population has since gone extinct. The San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance

(SDZWA) has a captive-bred population as well as an experimental introduced and augmented population in Laguna Hills. There are four (4) populations in the wild (one (1) previously introduced) and a captive population at SDZWA.

Brief Description of Anticipated Work:

The purpose of this Cooperative Agreement is to provide a PPM SSA. The primary focus of this Cooperative Agreement will include organizing available data for the PPM, conducting analysis for current and future conditions, and drafting a full SSA report. The SSA process has three (3) successive stages: 1) document the species life history and ecological relationships to provide the foundation for the assessment, 2) describe and hypothesize causes for the species current condition, and 3) forecast the species future condition. The future condition refers to the PPM’s ability to sustain populations in the wild under plausible future scenarios. The SSA results in a scientific report distinct from policy application, which contributes to streamlined, transparent, and consistent decision making and allows for greater technical participation by experts outside of the USFWS.

The Complete Scope of Work is provided as Enclosure 1.

Period of Performance. The period of performance for this Cooperative Agreement will be date of award through 30 June 2025.

| Option Item | Period of Performance |
|-------------|------------------------------|
| Base Period | Date of Award – 30 June 2025 |

Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications:

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

(Maximum length: 25 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;
3. Description of the Technical Approach (including):
 - a. Methods of quantitative analysis
 - b. Methods of geographical analysis
 - c. Timelines likely to stay within scope and fiscal deadlines.
 - d. Complexity and adaptability to alterations in the schedule.
 - e. Innovation and efficiency of approach and the transferability to other Navy and Marine Corps projects including scalability of methods.

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 person(s) and agencies must be appropriately certified to execute their duties or seek to become so before the commencement of Cooperative Agreement activities. Any certification required must be presented with the carrying person and will not count towards page counts. These certifications may include any paperwork supporting the requirements listed above. If the personnel are not yet hired, the group needs additional time from award to obtain certification, or there are other understandable delays, then the certifications may be provided as attachments to the work plan and APP. The proposal must also state that the personnel or certification will be obtained and state a reason for the delay.

With the Research & Related Senior/Key Personnel Form, the Applicant shall provide type written résumés, not to exceed 5 pages, single spaced with 12pt font for the project manager and field technicians that are assigned to the project. Résumés must state qualifications, experience with this type of project with dates of performance, professional registrations, and certificates.

Principal Investigator. This individual must have:

- At least three (3) years prior experience leading teams or projects for the proposing organization
- Prior experience working on Federal Government contracts. Preference may be given for prior experience working on contracts for any Service branch of the Department of Defense. Preference may be shown for applicants showing higher levels of experience.

Project Manager. This individual must have:

- Bachelor of Science or higher degree in zoology, biology, ecology, wildlife management, biostatistics, or a related field from an accredited college or university. Higher degrees may be given preference.
- Prior experience in preparing a published Species Status Assessment. Preference may be given to candidates who have published multiple Species Status Assessments, have performed such work for another small mammal species, or have prior background with species of pocket mouse.
- Three (3) years of experience in leading academic or governmental teams for analysis or policy. Preference may be shown for applicants showing higher levels of experience.

Technical Staff (Data Analyst or Ecologist). This individual(s) must have:

- Bachelor of Science or higher degree in biology, ecology, or data science (with concentrations or at least six (6) hours of coursework in statistics, GIS, or data management) or a related field from an accredited college or university.

- Specific knowledge and at least one (1) year experience of applied use of population statistics, population ecology, or population estimation. Preference may be shown for applicants showing higher levels of experience or more complex application.
- Direct experience in the analysis method proposed. Preference may be shown for applicants showing higher levels of experience or more complex application.

Factor 2 – Planned Approach – Not to exceed 5 pages, the Offeror shall develop an outline for their approach to addressing the anticipated work stated above. The Offeror shall be evaluated as to the soundness of the overall approach and use of any innovative techniques to accomplish project objectives. Factors for evaluation include:

1. Methods of quantitative analysis
2. Methods of geographical analysis
3. Timelines likely to stay within scope and fiscal deadlines.
4. Complexity and adaptability to alterations in the schedule.
5. Innovation and efficiency of approach and the transferability to other Navy and Marine Corps projects including scalability of methods.

Factor 3 – Reasonableness of Cost* – The proposal will be analyzed to determine whether it pricing is materially/mathematically balanced, and is fair and reasonable. ~~Please cost out separately the 3rd-component (pollinator networks on SND), as this is a performance option that may or may not be funded.~~ 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 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, Cooperative Agreement Administrator, ECOMP
kevin.e.magennis.civ@us.navy.mil.

Point of Contact Information:

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