

## **REQUEST FOR LETTERS OF INTEREST FOR A PROJECT TO BE INITIATED THROUGH THE COOPERATIVE ECOSYSTEM STUDIES UNITS (CESU) NETWORK**

### **PROJECT TITLE: UPDATE NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION FOR THE CHALONE CREEK ARCHEOLOGICAL DISTRICT, PINNACLES NATIONAL PARK, CALIFORNIA**

Pinnacles National Park (PINN) is seeking the assistance of principal investigator(s) for a project to re-evaluate and update a 40-year-old National Register district nomination for an assemblage of prehistoric archeological sites located on the west side of the park in San Benito County, California.

#### **ELIGIBILITY:**

This opportunity is open to non-federal members of the following CESU regional networks: Californian, Pacific Northwest, and Desert Southwest. Information on these CESU regional networks can be accessed at: [CESU Network - Californian Information Portal](#), [CESU Network - Pacific Northwest Information Portal](#), and [CESU Network - Desert Southwest Information Portal](#).

#### Background:

Pinnacles National Park is located in the Interior Central Coastal ranges of California, about 100 miles south of San Francisco. Most of the park lies in southwestern San Benito County with a small portion extending into eastern Monterey County, where the western entrance to the park is located.

The Chalone Creek Archeological District is located on the west side of the park at the Chaparral day use area just inside the San Benito County border. The district includes of three sites (CA-SBN-77, CA-SBN-78, and CA-SBN-79) which contain bedrock mortars, lithic scatter, midden deposits, and rock shelters. These features are similar to what are found at other recorded sites at Pinnacles, most of which are indicative of exploitation areas or temporary campsites with limited amounts of cultural material and are typical of the Late Period (cal A.D. 1250-1769) in this region of California. The Chalone Creek Archeological District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 1978. It is the only listed prehistoric site at the park and includes resources significant to at least one of the park's traditionally associated tribal partners and potentially others. The existing nomination does not provide adequate historic context, physical description or statement of significance; and it does not consider other related properties—including approximately 30 new sites that have been identified since 1978—that may also be eligible as contributors to the district.

#### Description of Anticipated Work:

This Request for Letters of Interest is intended to seek assistance of CESU members to prepare a revised and updated NR nomination of the Chalone Creek Archeological District that takes into

account new discoveries from field investigations made since 1978; identifies appropriate updated district boundaries based on existing and new field investigations; and provides historic context, physical descriptions, and statement of significance that meet current NRHP standards. The project will also develop an archeology management plan for the updated district. The work will be conducted by or under the direct supervision of a professional archeologist(s) meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards (36 CFR, Appendix A to Part 61).

#### Deliverables:

The principal investigator(s) will:

- Prepare a schedule that conveys to NPS the timing of the overall work and dates of deliverables and reviews.
- Define the study area based on existing documentation and prepare a plan for field investigations that will be sufficient to identify and update archeological district boundaries.
- Conduct field investigations to include condition assessments of recorded archeological sites and potential new discoveries within defined study area.
- Cooperate with one or more tribal volunteers from a traditionally associated tribe(s) who may be present to monitor and assist with field investigations.
- Prepare a revised and updated Chalone Creek Archeological District nomination that identifies a district boundary based on new field investigations and site records, and includes historic context, physical descriptions, and statement of significance that meet current NRHP standards. Reference should be made to National Register Bulletin #36, available online here: [National Register Bulletin 36](#).
- Prepare an archeological management plan for the updated district. This plan should provide best management practices for protecting and preserving sensitive cultural resources within the district. It should include recommendations for balancing park development (e.g., trails, access roads, comfort stations, etc.) with the preservation of archeological resources.
- Share all preliminary documents (site records, draft nomination, draft management plan) with traditionally associated tribes for peer review and comment.
- Submit updated National Register nomination to California SHPO, registration division. The principal investigator will be responsible for responding to initial SHPO comments and revising draft nomination accordingly.
- Submit final revised nomination and management plan to NPS following tribal peer review and SHPO review.

## **PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE:**

The period of performance of this Tacc Agreement will be determined when the partner is selected and the Agreement awarded. It is expected to extend 24 months.

Tentative start date: September 2025

Tentative end date: October 2027

## **MATERIALS REQUESTED FOR LETTER OF INTEREST/QUALIFICATIONS:**

A detailed study proposal and cost estimate is not requested at this time. Your Letter of Interest should include:

1. Name, department, university or organization; CESU affiliation; and contact information.
2. Brief Statement of Qualifications including: a) Biographical Sketch; b) Relevant past projects and clients with brief descriptions of these projects - demonstrated results including published works; c) Staff, faculty or students available to work on this project and their areas of expertise. (Maximum length 2 pages, single-space 12 pt. font).
3. A summary of your vision for implementing this project that includes strategy, approach, and special capabilities, timelines, roles and responsibilities of personnel, specific tasks to be conducted, and deliverables. Please be as specific as possible. (Maximum length: 4 pages, single-space 12 pt. Font)

**FUNDING:** The project will be funded up to \$80,405.00. This project will be administered by the National Park Service through a Task Agreement at the CESU Network IDC rate (17.5%). Applicants must have a Master Cooperative Agreement with NPS in place at the time of award.

**DEADLINE:** The deadline for responding to this letter of interest is **March 14, 2025, 5:00 PM Pacific.**

**REVIEW:** Letters of Interest will be evaluated based on qualifications and experience of principal investigator, and project team and proposed approach. Based on review of the Letters of Interest, a principal investigator will be invited to prepare a full application.

**CONTACTS:** Letters of Interest should be directed to Timothy Babalis (timothy\_babalis@nps.gov) by the closing date. Questions regarding the proposed scope of the project can be addressed to Timothy Babalis (timothy\_babalis@nps.gov, 971-219-2832).