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| National Park ServiceU.S. Department of the InteriorInventory & Monitoring Division |  C:\billy\NPS\images\MISC\NPS Logos\nps logo2.gifC:\billy\NPS\images\MISC\NPS Logos\nps logo2.gif  |

Request for Letters of Research Interest

**Title**: Inventory reptile and amphibian species present at Minute Man National Historical Park (MIMA), Morristown National Historical Park (MORR) and Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site (SAIR)

[Minute Man National Historical Park](https://www.nps.gov/mima/index.htm) (MIMA), [Morristown National Historical Park](https://www.nps.gov/morr/index.htm) (MORR) and [Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site](https://www.nps.gov/sair/index.htm) (SAIR) need an inventory of reptile and amphibian species of interest to document current reptile and amphibian population status within the parks. This inventory is needed to inform invasive species management, restoration/dredging and trail maintenance management actions at the parks. Rare species have been noted in two of the parks (MIMA and MORR).

## Goals and Objectives

This project will document reptile and amphibian species of interest presence and general habitat characteristics in the parks. Ideally, the sampling effort will occur during the 2025 field season to allow sufficient lead time for park planning and consultation workflows. NPS can provide supporting information to assist sampling design.

Specific Project Objectives:

1. Survey selected areas within the parks for reptile and amphibian species of interest occurrence using statistically valid sampling approaches, documenting spatial locations and habitat characteristics including relevant covariate data.
2. Produce a final report suitable for the NPS Science Report series, and provide data, GIS products, and metadata related to the project to the NPS using [NPS Inventory Program deliverable standards](https://irma.nps.gov/DataStore/Reference/Profile/2286435).

**Project Timeframe**

Deadline for responding to this request for LOI is September 6, 2024. Funds will be obligated in winter 2025, with work starting by April or May 2025. The anticipated completion date for the project is December 30, 2026.

**Funds Available**

Project funds available are approximately $190,000; this includes the CESU overhead rate of 17.5%. The project will be funded by the [National Park Service Inventory Program](https://www.nps.gov/im/inventories.htm) within the NPS Inventory and Monitoring Division.

**Materials Requested for Letters of Interest**

Letters of interest must include:

1. Name, Organization and Contact Information, including membership in a [CESU](http://www.cesu.psu.edu/).

2. Pre-Proposal (4 pages maximum): Description of the proposed approach for conducting the project, including proposed sampling methods that could be considered for this project. Describe in brief the proposed approach to collect new field data in a manner that will provide information on species presence and how you will use the new and existing data to summarize occurrence for this project and compare it to previous data.

3. Brief Statement of Qualifications (2 pages maximum) including:

a. Biographical Sketch(s) for key personnel (faculty, staff), including a description of discipline(s) of expertise. Curricula vitae can be submitted as an attachment.

b. Relevant past research projects.

Note: A proposed budget should be submitted (note CESU overhead rate above).

**Evaluation Letters of Interest**

Following a review of the Letters of Interest received, an investigator will be invited to prepare a full [detailed implementation plan](https://www.nps.gov/im/inventory-guidance.htm), schedule, and project budget by October 15, 2024. Letters will be evaluated based on the following criteria and scoring:

1. Soundness and validity of the proposed approach for meeting project objectives (15 points maximum)

2. Demonstrated experience surveying reptiles and amphibians and their habitat (10 points maximum)

3. Demonstrated experience assessing reptiles and amphibian populations, including rare species (5 points maximum)

4. Demonstrated ability to produce technical reports within schedule and budget and demonstrated record of professional publications (5 points maximum)

**Contact**

Direct questions and responses to Lisa Nelson, Inventory Project Manager (lisa\_l\_nelson@nps.gov). The deadline for responding to this request for LOI is September 6, 2024.