POINT PAPER

Species and Habitat Surveys at Naval Air Station Oceana/Dam Neck Annex/Naval Auxiliary Landing Field Fentress (NASO/DNA/NALFF) and Naval Support Activity Hampton Roads – Northwest Annex (NSA HR – NWA) and Naval Subbase New London (SUBBASE NLON)

Background:

The purpose of this project is to implement cost-effective and standardized surveys for various species and habitats within the project areas. Detailed task descriptions are found in the scope of work (SOW) with the appropriate level of effort. The principal investigator will carry out plans, deploy necessary hardware, provide data analysis, and provide reports and recommendations for inclusion into installation's Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans, respectively and other decision documents. Projects identified in this project consist of sampling for flora and fauna (priority on State and federally listed and at-risk species), habitat monitoring and management and wildlife management. Physical surveys will provide quality assurance checks for previously collected data and document new species occurrences and new habitats. Habitat management activities will allow the installations to respond quickly to pest, disease, invasive species, and environmental change threats. Projects related to wildlife management will inform and assist with human/wildlife conflict, protect sensitive habitats, and evaluate potential for management and recreational opportunities. All data collected will be consistent with the installations' INRMP goals and objectives and will be used to inform annual data calls and INRMP updates. The details for each task are found in the SOW.

Project areas cover Naval Air Station Oceana (NASO), Naval Auxiliary Landing Field Fentress (NALFF), NASO Dam Neck Annex (DNA), and Naval Support Activity Hampton Roads, Northwest Annex (NWA) and Naval Subbase New London (NLON).

Description of requirement:

The DoN is seeking statement of interests that address sampling for federally and state listed species as well as habitat management at the five Navy sites listed above. Accurate and comprehensive biotic inventories are essential for effective management and conservation of natural resources and the formation of natural resource policies at any particular site. Conducting surveys and inventories for wildlife species on Navy lands is a policy requirement (OPNAV M-5090.1E *Environmental Readiness Program* [chapter 12; page 12-21], directly supports Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans (INRMP), and assists with preventing restrictions on training exercises and military missions (for example critical habitat designations) by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Competition:

It is our intent to use the North Atlantic Coast Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Unit (CESU) Network of which DoD is a member to solicit qualified universities, tribal, federal and other partners for filling this requirement. By competing the requirement, the Navy hopes to realize the best combination of price and technical expertise possible. NAVFAC Mid Atlantic will seek competition within the CESU region through the issuance of a Request for Statement of Interest (RSOI). Widespread dissemination of the RSOI will be obtained by posting the RSOI on the website (https://naccesu.uri.edu/) maintained by the host University for the relevant CESU region.

Partners within the North Atlantic Coast CESU include:
Tribal Partner: Narragansett Indian Tribal Historic Preservation Office on behalf of the Narragansett Indian Tribe;
Federal Partners: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Civil Works; Bureau of Indian Affairs; Bureau of Ocean Energy Management; Department of Defense; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; National Park Service; Natural Resources Conservation Service; and U.S. Geological Survey.
University Partners include:
University of Rhode Island (host); Bates College; Brown University; Bryn Mawr College; City University of New York; College of the Atlantic; Columbia University; Cornell University; Harvard University; Manhattan College; Mansfield University; Northeastern University; Rutgers University; Stevens Institute of Technology; Stockton University; Stony Brook University; SUNY, College of Environmental Science and Forestry; University of Connecticut; University of Maine, Orono; University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science; University of Maryland, Eastern Shore; University of Massachusetts, Amherst; University of Massachusetts, Boston; University of New England; Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution; Yale University.
Other Partners include: American Turtle Observatory; Biodiversity Research Institute; Marine Biological Laboratory; Maryland Coastal Bays Program; Natural Areas Association; New Jersey Audubon; Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies; Schoodic Institute at Acadia National Park; Vermont Center for Ecostudies; Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center Foundation, Inc.; Wildlife Management Institute.

This proposed project contributes to the objectives of The North Atlantic Coast Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU) by engaging federal agency scientists and managers, in collaboration with academic and other non-federal scientists and students, to understand how fundamental ecosystem functions and processes are affected by increasing urban development, climate change, and other stressors, and then to devise management strategies for preserving and restoring coastal ecosystems, cultural resources, and maritime heritage.

Estimated value and funding:
The Government Cost Estimate (GCE) for the proposed project is approximately $921,000.

Period of Performance:
The period of performance is expected to be 18 months from the date of award.

Type of assistance vehicle recommended:
Competitive Cooperative Agreement

Why an assistance vehicle is the appropriate action:

We believe that a Sikes Act cooperative agreement using the CESU network is the appropriate vehicle for this action for the following reasons:

- Better value and cost anticipated based on competition among partners with the North Atlantic Coast CESU Network.

- CESU Fringe &Administration cost rate is pre-negotiated at 17.5%, which is typically much lower than non-CESU cooperative agreements (some as high as 50%).
- No pass through fees from a prime contractor.
- This project assumes substantial involvement between Navy and the recipient during the performance of the activity, establishing the agency as a "partner" during performance. Agency "control" as might be typical of a contract is not anticipated.

Statutory Authority:
The authority for this Cooperative Agreement is the Sikes Act, 16 U.S.C. § 670c-1(a) (on-base natural resource maintenance and improvement).

Conclusion/Recommendation:
It is recommended that this project be awarded by Cooperative Agreement through competition through the CESU Network.

Recommended:

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Grant Harter, Natural Resource Specialist, NAVFAC MIDLANT
Date Reviewed:_____

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Stewart Blake Wittmann, NAVFAC MIDLANT Contracting Officer
Date Approved:_____

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency:

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David Nimmich, Legal Counsel
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Kimberly Kahler, Chief of Contracting Office, NAVFAC Mid-Atlantic
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