COOPERATIVE ECOSYSTEM STUDIES UNIT NETWORK
REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF INTEREST & QUALIFICATIONS

NATURAL RESOURCE CONDITION ASSESSMENT, CRATER LAKE NATIONAL PARK, LASSEN VOLCANIC NATIONAL PARK, AND LAVA BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT

PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN 2010

Reply to:       Reply Due: April 23, 2010
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Overview

The National Park Service (NPS) is requesting information on the interest and qualifications of potential partner(s) to assist with a project to complete Natural Resource Condition Assessments (NRCA) for Crater Lake National Park (CRLA), Lassen Volcanic National Park (LAVO), and Lava Beds National Monument (LABE). Responses to this request will be used to identify potential collaborators for a project that will be funded by NPS.

This project seeks to compile and assess information documenting the state of knowledge and known condition of natural resources for each of these three NPS units.

The National Park Service wishes to conduct this project in collaboration with a Partner Institution and Principal Investigator (PI), under the auspices of a Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit Cooperative Agreement. The NPS will provide financial assistance to the partner on a reimbursable basis in an amount not to exceed $225,000 over two years. The final award amount will be dependent on final approved project budget(s) and NPS determination of available funds.

Based on interest and responses received, the NPS will select partner(s) to assist with developing a study plan and formal agreement. Written Statements of Interest are due by April 23, 2010. The NPS hopes to select partner(s) in May 2010, finalize a full study proposal by July 2010, initiate project around August 2010, and finish project by March 2012.

For additional information and a more detailed Statement of Work, please contact David Larson at (530) 667-8106, or by email David_Larson@nps.gov

Project Goals

This project will interpret and translate existing scientific information on natural resources into a form that park managers will find useful in supporting park decision making and resource planning. This project will focus on a short-term ecological assessment that uses existing empirical data/analyses and, where necessary, depends on professional qualitative judgments. The project scope is comprehensive in that a wide range of biotic and abiotic resources and interactions will be considered. The project will result in park specific reports and a set of GIS files for each park that:

- Describe park resources in a regional context (significance, issues)
- Provide an interdisciplinary (holistic) evaluation of current resource conditions and where discernable, trends
- Define and recommend “high value” and “high vulnerability” park resources and areas
- Document high-priority data gaps and high-priority resource management issue

Background

CRLA, LAVO, and LABE reside in Southern Oregon and Northern California. They protect a diverse assortment of natural resources associated with the southern Cascades, western Great Basin, and northern Sierra Nevada ecosystems. The three parks vary significantly in size, biological, and physical character, and in the major land use issues present. However, like many NPS units, CRLA, LAVO, and LABE are faced with a similar suite of natural resource threats: loss of native species and degradation of natural habitats; altered fire regimes; invasive species; light pollution and night sky; climate change; habitat fragmentation; maintaining solitude and silence; and inadequate scientific data and analyses with which to make informed management decisions.

In 2003, Congress instructed the NPS to assess the condition of natural resources within NPS-managed lands. In response, NPS is establishing multi-scale ecological assessments of resource conditions at each park to assist managers in developing actions to protect and restore natural resource conditions in parks. These assessments represent a synthesis of existing information regarding the significance, current condition, trends, and current and emerging threats associated with park-managed natural resources and include a strong geospatial emphasis. Resultant reports identify key information gaps and include recommendations for additional research or monitoring to better evaluate future conditions within each park.

This new project will characterize natural resources at CRLA, LAVO and LABE in terms of their setting and significance, provide an interdisciplinary evaluation of current condition status for natural resources and trend of condition where sufficient historical data exists, identify critical resource data and knowledge gaps, and highlight existing/emerging resource condition threats and stressors. The project will include:

- The development of a Study/Implementation Plan, which identifies the specific objectives and scope of the project, the environmental assessment protocol to be utilized, implementation schedule, and budget.
- The completion of a final written report with executive summary for each park unit that addresses park resources context, current condition status and identifiable trends, critical knowledge or data gaps, and recommendations to park managers. These reports will be published in the NPS Natural Resource Publication Series and comply with series requirements.
- The development and delivery of associated GIS data layers, map files, databases, and supporting metadata.

Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications

Please prepare a not-to-exceed 3 page summary of how you would envision such a collaborative project. The summary should include your name, organization, and contact information, as well as a brief description of your organization’s capabilities and relevant experience, including GIS expertise, knowledge of ecosystems represented by the three parks, and information about staff, faculty, or students who would be available to work on the project. Also, you may include, in addition to the summary, supplemental materials such as descriptions or examples of past GIS projects, reports and/or client names and references. Please submit electronic Statements of Interest and supporting material to David_Larson@nps.gov by April 23, 2010. A proposed budget is NOT requested at this time.