REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST
NUMBER W912HZ-09-SOI-0005
PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN 2009

Project Title: Monitoring of Tree Island Condition in the Southern Everglades

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest will be used to identify potential investigators for a project to be funded by the Engineering Research Development Center (ERDC) which provides information regarding tree island condition in the Everglades as restoration efforts under the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) program are implemented. Approximately $283,000.00 is expected to be available to support this project for two (2) years. Additional funding may be available for follow on work in subsequent fiscal years to the successful Recipient/Awardee.

Background:

The Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2000 authorized the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) as a framework for modifications and operational changes to the Central and Southern Florida Project needed to restore the south Florida ecosystem. Provisions within WRDA 2000 provided for specific authorization for an adaptive assessment and monitoring program. The CERP Monitoring and Assessment Plan (MAP) was developed as a framework for measuring and understanding system responses to CERP, determining how well CERP is meeting its goals and objectives, and indentifying opportunities for improving the performance of CERP where needed.

Tree islands are fundamental elements within both the ridge and slough and marl prairie landscapes of the Everglades. In the past decade, tree islands have been severely damaged by drought, fire, extreme flooding, and encroaching exotic plants. This research effort will study how hydrologic restoration efforts (through CERP implementation) impact the internal water economy of tree islands and their risk to fire. It will build upon and enhance prior research which established a monitoring network of permanent sampling plots.

Brief Description of Anticipated Work:

The purpose of this research is to focus on the response of tree island vegetation (e.g., recruitment and growth) to changes in the surrounding hydrology. Specifically, the objectives include:

Objective 1: Monitoring the current condition of tree islands (in particular within Shark River Slough); and

Objective 2: Exploring the relationships between short- and long- hydroperiod marshes, soil moisture, stress variables, and population dynamics of vegetation communities on tree islands.
Methods
Successful applicants should have expert knowledge of the Everglades ecosystem (in particular Shark River Slough) and a record that demonstrates research experience with tree island vegetation communities. The candidates should have prior experience with sampling tree island vegetation composition, quantifying temporal changes in vegetation, relating vegetation responses to hydrological changes, and understanding fire dynamics within the system. The candidates will be required to prepare a Statement of Work and Work Plan regarding the research to be conducted. The candidates will also be required to submit three (3) quarterly status reports and one (1) annual report each year of the contract to provide updates on monitoring, data collection and analyses, and assessments regarding the impacts of CERP implementation on marl prairie-slough gradients.

Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications:

Please provide the following via e-mail attachment to: Amanda.I.Campbell@usace.army.mil (Maximum length: 2 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 (e.g. equipment, laboratory facilities, greenhouse facilities, field facilities, etc.).

Note: A proposed budget is NOT requested at this time.

Review of Statements Received: Based on a review of the Statements of Interest received, an investigator or investigators will be invited to prepare a full study proposal. Statements will be evaluated based on the investigator’s specific experience and capabilities in areas related to the study requirements. Additionally, the evaluation method and selection criteria for research and development awards must be: (1) The Technical merits of the proposed research and development; and (2) Potential relationship of the proposed research and development to the Department of Defense missions.
Please send responses or direct questions to:
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ERDC Contracting Office (ECO)
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Timeline for Review of Statements of Interest: Review of Statements of Interest will begin after the SOI has been posted on the CESU website for 10 working days.