REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST
NUMBER W912HZ-09-SOI-0004
PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN 2009

Project Title: Landscape Pattern – Marl Prairies/Slough Gradients

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 changes in prairie and slough communities in response to restoration efforts under the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) program. Approximately $234,000.00 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.

One key component of the MAP monitoring program is sampling of the marl prairie-slough gradient along Shark River Slough. In the past, water management-induced changes have altered the relative proportion of prairies and slough vegetation in the region, and future hydrologic restoration actions are expected to continue shifting the boundaries between prairie and slough vegetation communities. This project will draw upon prior research conducted in the area and continue to study how CERP restoration translates into impacts on prairie and slough landscapes.

Brief Description of Anticipated Work:

The purpose of this research is to monitor changes in vegetation along the prairie-slough gradient, in particular a number of transects previously established that extend across Shark River Slough and into the edges of the marl prairie on the eastern and/or western sides of the slough. Specifically, the objectives include:

Objective 1: Characterizing the composition, structure, and abundance of prairie and slough vegetation communities along the transects;

Objective 2: Identifying boundaries between differing vegetation types; and
Objective 3: Relating changes in vegetation structure to changes in hydrology resulting from CERP restoration projects.

Methods
Successful applicants should have expert knowledge of the Everglades ecosystem (in particular Shark River Slough) and a record that demonstrates research experience with marl prairie and slough vegetation communities. The candidates should have prior experience with sampling vegetation composition and structure at fixed locations, quantifying temporal changes in vegetation, and relating vegetation responses to hydrological changes. 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:
Amanda I. Campbell
U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC)
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.