REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST
NUMBER W912HZ-10-2-0017
PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN 2010

Project Title: CAPE SABLE SEASIDE SPARROW HABITAT MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest will be used to identify potential investigators for a project to be funded by the U. S. Army Corp of Engineers Jacksonville District to provide monitoring and assessment of Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow habitat. Approximately $200,000 is expected to be available to support this project for one (1) year. Additional funding may be available for further work in subsequent fiscal years for the successful Recipient/Awardee.

Background:
Vegetation pattern in Cape Sable seaside sparrow (CSSS) habitat is a manifestation of several interacting environmental factors, including hydrology and fire. Both of these factors are intensively managed, the first through structural operations throughout the extensive south Florida canal system, and the second through the activities of crews at Everglades National Park (ENP) and Big Cypress National Preserve (BCNP) carrying out prescribed fires and suppressing wildfires (or allowing them to burn). Sparrow populations may respond to changes in hydrology or fire regime directly, through their nesting success or failure within the spring breeding season, or indirectly, mediated through vegetation change in their habitat.

Brief Description of Anticipated Work:
The recipient shall adapt a vegetation monitoring program that is congruent with the CSSS census network. Study design shall include sampling at 160-200 sites per year late in the dry season, using methods similar to those described in Ross et al. (2003). The number of sites to be sampled is expected to vary depending on the number of sites that were burned during the previous year.

Methods:
Successful applicants should have expert knowledge of the Everglades ecosystem and a record that demonstrates research experience in collecting and analyzing CSSS habitat data within this region. The candidates will be required to prepare a Work Plan regarding the research to be conducted. The candidates will also be required to submit one (1) mid year status report and one (1) final report each year of the cooperative agreement to provide updates on monitoring, data collection and analyses, and assessments. The applicant must show ability to complete all of the following:

- Field preparation: Helicopter reservations, procurement of field items.
- Field work: Vegetation sampling at 10 sites per day, 2-3 times a week for 8 weeks.
- Data entry: Entry of vegetation structural and compositional field data
- Data analysis: Data processing and statistical analysis
- Report writing
• Presentation at the CSSS Fire meeting: Everglades National Park organizes the Cape Sable seaside sparrow Habitat Fire Meeting, at which the recipient shall give presentations summarizing the findings from the field study.

Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications:

Please provide the following via e-mail attachment to: Deberay.R.Carmichael@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.