

**STATEMENTS OF INTEREST
PACIFIC NORTHWEST CESU
NUMBER W912HZ-16-SOI-0018
PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN 2016**

Project Title: Evaluating Flora and Fauna Diversity in the John Day/ Willow Creek Project for Special Status Species Protection

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest will be used to identify potential research investigators for a project to be funded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Portland District, which will provide support for a comprehensive assessment of the quantity, diversity, abundance and long-term attributes of all flora and fauna in the John Day/ Willow Creek Project. Approximately \$285,000 is expected to be available to support this project for one (1) year, with the possibility of it being extended for additional years. Additional funding may be available for follow on work in subsequent fiscal years at a rate of \$50,000/year for a potential total of \$485,000 over 5 years to the successful Recipient/Awardee.

Background:

The River and Harbor Acts of 1950, 1958 and 1965 and Flood Control Acts of 1944, 1950, and 1965 (Public Laws 78-534, 81-516, 85-500, 89-298, and 92-500) provided the congressional authorities to construct and operate John Day Lock & Dam and Willow Creek Lake. John Day was authorized for the purposes of navigation, hydroelectric power, flood control, irrigation, recreation and fish and wildlife, with water quality being later authorized under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act), P.L. 92-500. Willow Creek Lake, which is part of the John Day/ Willow Creek Project is authorized for flood control, irrigation, water quality, fish and wildlife, recreation and water supply. Natural resources management prescriptions will support the Corps Environmental Stewardship mission, which is to manage, conserve, and/or protect the natural and cultural resources at Corps operating projects, consistent with: project authorities, ecosystem sustainability approaches, USACE Environmental Operating Principles, environmental laws and regulations

Public Benefit:

The results of this study are essential to guide natural resource management decisions affecting resource protection into the foreseeable future. The primary objectives of this study will be to protect special status species from the threat of invasive species and develop objectives for priority ecological communities for habitat restoration that remove or control invasive species using appropriate natural resource management prescriptions. The public will benefit from the identification, protection and restoration of these critical habitats for special status species as well as additional native fauna and flora so that these lands will continue to provide natural ecosystem functions and services for future generations.

Brief Description of Anticipated Work:

The project design will utilize available aerial photographs, on-the-ground global positioning and current, standard plant and animals keys at the John Day/ Willow Creek Project to complete a comprehensive inventory of most, if not all terrestrial species of flora and fauna on 13,600 acres of project lands and delineate the ecological communities. Additionally, the inventory will identify the presence, locations, coverage and habitat quality of terrestrial state and federal threatened

and endangered species (special status species) and invasive, nuisance and noxious species within delineated ecological communities. Data will be entered into a pre-formatted GIS database, Spatial Data Standards for Facilities, Infrastructure and Environment (SDSFIE database with ESRI software), to be provided by the John Day/ Willow Creek Project. GIS maps will be generated to show a detailed, scaled overview of Project ecosystems, species habitats, and habitat conditions.

The objectives of the proposed research effort include:

Objective 1 - Implement scientifically rigorous surveys to inventory and identify to species, resident wildlife and plants and their habitats, including native and non-native and invasive, threatened and endangered, noxious and nuisance plants and wildlife on 13,600 acres of project lands.

Objective 2 – Delineate and identify dominant ecological communities, including abiotic components on 13,600 acres of project lands;

Objective 3 - Assess the status, health, and viability of resident wildlife, plant populations, and their habitats, including special status species, as well as biological diversity, and environmental health of ecological communities on 13,600 acres on the John Day/ Willow Creek Project;

Objective 4 - Provide qualitative and quantitative information about the identity, location, and abundance of state and federal classified invasive and noxious species within dominant ecological communities;

Objective 5 – Utilizing metrics, develop an integrated pest management plan / strategy.

Necessary Skills and Education:

Candidates must be non-Federal partners of the Pacific Northwest CESU Unit willing to accept the nationally negotiated CESU Indirect Cost Rate of 17.5%. The skills required are summarized in the following list:

Successful candidates should have expert knowledge and understanding of ecosystem dynamics within the sagebrush-steppe communities of the John Day and Willow Creek areas and a record that demonstrates applied research and survey experience with plant and animal species. The successful candidates will be organized and skilled in taking notes in the field. The candidates will have training and experience with mapping vegetation features from aerial photographs and conducting ground surveys of vegetation communities, experience digitizing and editing in ESRI software and using Trimble GPS units. GIS will be used to add features to an existing database. These features will identify the location of flora and fauna in the John Day/ Willow Creek Project. The candidates will utilize appropriate, verifiable standard sampling techniques and accepted sampling protocols. Candidates will be required to submit 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. As practicable, successful recipients will upload GIS data and metadata onto the Corps GIS database on a regular basis to ensure regular QA/QC.

Government Participation:

Portland District will participate in meetings to design the work plan, select variables and methods, and field activities as appropriate. Portland District will provide go / no-go guidance as required. Portland District will also provide technical review and input regarding data analysis and conclusions for summary reports. Portland District will insure wide dissemination of data and study results for local, state, federal, and academic use.

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

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.).

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 Corps of Engineers missions.

Please send responses or direct questions to:

Deberay Carmichael

U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC)

ERDC Contracting Office (ECO)

3909 Halls Ferry Road

Vicksburg, MS 39180

Deberay.R.Carmichael@usace.army.mil

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.