# Request for Statements of Interest

# Funding Opportunity Announcement

# Federal Awarding Agency:

# U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,

# Engineer Research and Development Center

# 3909 Halls Ferry Road

# Vicksburg, MS 39180-6199

# Funding Opportunity No: W81EWF-20-SOI-0007

# CFDA No: 12.630

# Statutory Authority: 10 USC 2358

# Program Title: Willow Creek Reservoir Water Quality Research and Evaluation Studies

# Announcement Type: Initial announcement

# Issue Date: 6 January 2020

# Statement of Interest/Qualifications Due Date: 5 February 2020

# Full Application Package Due Date, if Invited: 28 February 2020

# Estimated Total Funding: $100,000.00 per year for potentially 5 years for a total of $500,000.00

# Estimated Number of Awards: 1

###### Section I: Funding Opportunity Description

**Background:**

The overall goal of this project is to improve water quality conditions in Willow Creek Reservoir for the benefit of the community in and surrounding Heppner, Oregon. Water quality issues that plague the lake include: dense cyanobacteria (or blue-green algae) blooms, low dissolved oxygen concentrations, and high nutrient concentrations. Blooms of cyanobacteria are known to produce toxins, thereby threatening the aquatic ecosystem and potentially exposing humans and animals to risk of death or chronic illness such as neurodegeneration and liver damage. Each summer, Willow Creek Reservoir is posted with health advisories warning users of the potential hazards associated with recreating on the lake. Furthermore, fish kills, foul odors and other nuisances are common in Willow Creek Reservoir affecting the community’s ambiance, limiting tourism and recreation on the lake.

This analysis draws upon prior research, readily available data, and new research and data to develop and implement an evaluation program for the restoration of Willow Creek Reservoir and its upper basin. Research results will provide public benefit through enhanced water quality in Willow Creek Reservoir producing public recreation opportunities and natural resource benefits.

**Brief Description of Anticipated Work:**

Objective 1: Conduct biweekly monitoring of in- and outflows and a site in the reservoir to continue the long-term dataset development for Willow Creek Reservoir to support management decisions and evaluate their effectiveness if and when implemented.

Objective 2: Develop a whole-lake hydrodynamic model to evaluate reservoir water quality trajectory under future management strategies.

Objective 3: Re-evaluate the currently installed aeration system for efficiency, modification in operation (e.g., timing, or air vs pure oxygen) or deployment (physical location in reservoir, and specific configuration). Once evaluation of equipment is complete, efficacy of aeration system within the reservoir could lead to a long term study.

Objective 4: Present research results at public and technical meetings to disseminate findings.

**Public Benefit:**

Willow Creek Reservoir is considered eutrophic, dominated by severe cyanobacteria blooms in the summer months. These harmful algal blooms (HABs) result in Oregon Health Authority (OHA) public health advisories which affect the tourism and recreation on the lake each year. The HABs also cause fish kills and the overall deterioration of reservoir water quality and lake ambiance. Issues like these have led to growing pressure by Willow Creek community leaders, requesting that the Corps employ lake restoration efforts and improve water quality conditions in Willow Creek Lake.

The research and data collected through this project will be used to develop a comprehensive lake restoration plan for Willow Creek Reservoir aimed at improving overall water quality conditions in Willow Creek Reservoir for the benefit of the public.

###### Section II: Award Information

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest will be used to identify potential investigators for studies to be sponsored by the Portland District and the Engineer Research and Development Center to provide research and evaluation services in Willow Creek Reservoir. The estimated level of funding for FY20 is approximately $100,000. Additional funds of $100,000/year for 4 additional years may be available, providing the potential funding of $500,000 over 5 years to the successful Recipient/Awardee. Depending on findings in the early years of this effort, funding needs may increase above the anticipated $100,000/year in subsequent years of this project; however, total funding will not exceed $500,000 over the life of this cooperative agreement.

**Government Involvement:**

The Portland District will provide full access to Willow Creek Reservoir and participate in field site selection and field trip sample collection trips as appropriate. Water quality equipment including multi-parameter probes, continuous water samplers, water temperature probes, and weather station equipment will be provided by the Portland District. The Portland District will review reports and offer advice and opinion on the restoration solutions that are proposed. The Portland District will also facilitate and participate in coordination and meetings with local, state and federal agencies as needed.

###### Section III: Eligibility Information

* 1. Eligible Applicants – This opportunity is restricted to non-federal partners of the Pacific Northwest Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Unit (CESU).
  2. Cost Sharing – This action will be 100% funded by USACE.
  3. Other – n/a

###### Section IV: Application and Submission Information – Two Step Process

###### Step 1: Submission of a Statement of Interest/Qualifications.

1. Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications:
   1. Please provide the following via e-mail attachment to: Amanda.Andrews@usace.army.mil (Maximum length: 2 pages, single-spaced 12 pt. font).

1. Name, Organization and Contact Information

2. Brief Statement of Qualifications (including):

* + - * Biographical Sketch,
      * Relevant past projects and clients with brief descriptions of these projects,
      * Staff, faculty or students available to work on this project and their areas of expertise,
      * 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.

The administrative point of contact is Amanda Andrews, 601-634-5249; [Amanda.Andrews@usace.army.mil](mailto:Amanda.Andrews@usace.army.mil)

1. Statement of Interest/Qualifications shall be submitted NO LATER THAN 5 February 2020.

Based on a review of the Statements of Interest received, an investigator or investigators will be invited to move to Step 2 which is 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.

1. **Step 2: Submission of a complete application package to include a full technical proposal including budget, if invited.**

Address to Request Application Package

The complete funding opportunity announcement, application forms, and instructions are available for download at Grants.gov. USACE is not responsible for any loss of internet connectivity or for an applicant’s inability to access documents posted at the referenced website.

The administrative point of contact is Amanda Andrews, 601-634-5249; [Amanda.Andrews@usace.army.mil](mailto:Amanda.Andrews@usace.army.mil)

1. Content and Form of Application Submission

All mandatory forms and any applicable optional forms must be completed in accordance with the instructions on the forms and the additional instructions below.

* 1. SF 424 R&R - Application for Federal Assistance
  2. SF 424 B - R&R – Assurances for Non-Construction Programs
  3. Full Technical Proposal – Discussion of the nature and scope of the research and technical approach. Additional information on prior work in this area, descriptions of available equipment, data and facilities, and resumes of personnel who will be participating in this effort should also be included.
  4. Cost Proposal/Budget – Clear, concise, and accurate cost proposals reflect the offeror’s financial plan for accomplishing the effort contained in the technical proposal. As part of its cost proposal, the offeror shall submit cost element breakdowns in sufficient detail so that a reasonableness determination can be made. The SF 424 Research & Related Budget Form can be used as a guide. The cost breakdown should include the following, if applicable:

1. Direct Labor: Direct labor should be detailed by level of effort (i.e. numbers of hours, etc.) of each labor category and the applicable labor rate. The source of labor rates shall be identified and verified. If rates are estimated, please provide the historical based used and clearly identify all escalation applied to derive the proposed rates.
2. Fringe Benefit Rates: The source of fringe benefit rate shall be identified and verified.
3. Travel: Travel costs must include a purpose and breakdown per trip to include destination, number of travelers, and duration.
4. Materials/Equipment: List all material/equipment items by type and kind with associated costs and advise if the costs are based on vendor quotes and/or engineering estimates; provide copies of vendor quotes and/or catalog pricing data.
5. Subrecipient costs: Submit all subrecipient proposals and analyses. Provide the method of selection used to determine the subrecipient.
6. Tuition: Provide details and verification for any tuition amounts proposed.
7. Indirect Costs: Currently the negotiated indirect rate for awards through the CESU is 17.5%.
8. Any other proposed costs: The source should be identified and verified.

Application package shall be submitted NO LATER THAN 28 February 2020.

1. Submission Instructions

Applications may be submitted by mail, e-mail, or via the internet. Choose ONE of the following submission methods:

* 1. Mail one unbound copy of your complete proposal to:

US Army Corps of Engineers, Engineer Research and Development Center

Attn: Amanda Andrews

3909 Halls Ferry Road

Vicksburg, MS 39180-6199

* 1. E-mail:

Format all documents to print on Letter (8 ½ x 11”) paper. E-mail proposal to [Amanda.Andrews@usace.army.mil](mailto:Amanda.Andrews@usace.army.mil)

* 1. Internet:

Applicants are not required to submit proposals through Grants.gov. However, if applications are submitted via the internet, applicants are responsible for ensuring that their Grants.gov proposal submission is received in its entirety. The Government bears no responsibility for data errors resulting from transmission of conversion processes associated with electronic submissions. The Government will bear no responsibility for delays in submissions due to technical difficulties at or with the Grants.gov website.

All applicants choosing to use Grants.gov to submit proposals must be registered and have and account with Grants.gov. It may take up to three weeks to complete Grants.gov registration. For more information on registration, go to [http://www.grants.gov/ForApplicants.](http://www.grants.gov/ForApplicants)

###### Section V: Application Review Information

1. **Peer or Scientific Review Criteria:** In accordance with DoDGARS 22.315(c), an impartial peer review will be conducted. Subject to funding availability, all proposals will be reviewed using the criteria listed below (technical and cost/price). All proposals will be evaluated under the following two criteria which are of descending importance.

a. **Technical (items i. and ii. are of equal importance):**

i. Technical merits of proposed R&D.

ii. Potential relationship of proposed R&D to DoD missions.

b. **Cost/Price:** Overall realism of the proposed costs will be evaluated.

2. **Review and Selection Process**

a. **Categories:** Based on the Peer or Scientific Review, proposals will be categorized as Selectable or Not Selectable (see definitions below). The selection of one or more sources for award will be based on the Peer or Scientific Review, as well as importance to agency programs and funding availability.

1. **Selectable:** Proposals are recommended for acceptance if sufficient funding is available.

ii. **Not Selectable:** Even if sufficient funding existed, the proposal should not be funded.

Note: The Government reserves the right to award some, all, or none of proposals. When the Government elects to award only a part of a proposal, the selected part may be categorized as Selectable, though the proposal as a whole may not merit such a categorization.

b. No other criteria will be used.

c. Prior to award of a potentially successful offer, the Grants Officer will make a determination regarding price reasonableness.

###### Section VI: Award Administration Information

1. Award Notices

Written notice of award will be given in conjunction with issuance of a cooperative agreement signed by a Grants Officer. The cooperative agreement will contain the effective date of the agreement, the period of performance, funding information, and all terms and conditions. The recipient is required to sign and return the document before work under the agreement commences. **Work described in this announcement SHALL NOT begin without prior authorization from a Grants Officer.**

1. Administrative Requirements

The cooperative agreement issued as a result of this announcement is subject to the administrative requirements in 2 CFR Subtitle A; 2 CFR Subtitle B, Ch. XI, Part 1103; and 32 CFR Subchapter C, except Parts 32 and 33.

1. Reporting

See 2 CFR Sections 200.327 for financial reporting requirements,

200.328 for performance reporting requirements, and 200.329 for real property reporting requirements.

###### Section VII: Agency Contact

Amanda Andrews, Grants Specialist

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3909 Halls Ferry Road

Vicksburg, MS 39180-6199

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