REQUEST FOR LETTERS OF INTEREST FOR A PROJECT TO BE INITIATED THROUGH THE COOPERATIVE ECOSYSTEM STUDIES UNITS (CESU) NETWORK

PROJECT TITLE: IN-DEPTH HISTORIC RESEARCH STUDY ON THE FORT SPOKANE NATIVE AMERICAN BOARDING SCHOOL AT LAKE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL RECREATION AREA, WASHINGTON

Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area (LARO) is seeking the assistance of principal investigator(s) for a project to develop a comprehensive Historic Resource Study focused on Fort Spokane, primarily the Indian boarding school period. This study will help expand existing documentation and provide a clearer understanding of the site's administrative and educational history, supporting future interpretive and educational planning efforts.

ELIGIBILITY

This Request for Letters of Interest is open to qualified researchers, accredited academic institutions, Tribal organizations, and nonprofit entities that are members of the CESU and have demonstrated expertise in historical research, cultural resource studies, public history, or related professional fields.

BACKGROUND

Fort Spokane, located within Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area, possesses a complex institutional history, including periods of use as a U.S. Army post, an educational facility, and later a medical site. Documentation related to several phases of its administrative history, particularly the Indian boarding school period between 1899 and 1929, remains limited in scope. Enhancing the documentation of this era will support improved interpretive and educational programs while ensuring accuracy and completeness. This project is intended to develop a comprehensive Historic Resource Study that expands the factual understanding of this historical timeframe through archival research, consultation with Tribal partners, and, where appropriate, oral history collection.

Funding has been awarded to Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area to support research activities necessary for preparing a substantive historic study of Fort Spokane, including primary source review and compilation of findings in a final report.

DESCRIPTION OF ANTICIPATED WORK

This Request for Letters of Interest is intended to seek assistance of CESU members to prepare a Historic Resource Study for Fort Spokane that will synthesize, analyze, and summarize multiple sources of information. Specifically, the request is to:

- Collaborate with the National Park Service to design and implement the project.
- Conduct original research in archival collections relevant to Fort Spokane's boarding school period.
- Identify, review, and analyze historical materials located in regional and national repositories.
- Consult with Tribal partners to ensure appropriate handling of culturally significant or private information.
- Collect oral histories when appropriate and in accordance with established professional standards.
- Travel as needed to complete research tasks efficiently and thoroughly.
- Prepare a comprehensive Historic Resource Study that documents findings in a clear, factual, and professionally neutral manner suitable for interpretive and educational planning.
- Provide a final compiled report to the National Park Service and Tribal partners.

DELIVERABLES

- A research plan and project timeline.
- A summary of archival findings.
- Documentation of oral histories, where applicable.
- A complete Historic Resource Study manuscript.
- Recommendations for integrating research findings into interpretive programming.

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

The period of performance of this Cooperative Agreement will be determined when the partner is selected and the Agreement awarded. It is expected to extend 24 months.

Tentative start date: March 2027

Tentative end date: March 2028

MATERIALS REQUESTED FOR LETTER OF INTEREST

Please provide the following materials:

1. Name, department, university or organization; CESU affiliation; and contact information.

2. Brief Statement of Qualifications including: a) Biographical Sketch; b) Relevant past projects and clients with brief descriptions of these projects - demonstrated results including published works; c) Staff, faculty or students available to work on this project and their areas of expertise. (Maximum length 2 pages, single-space 12 pt. font).
3. A summary of your vision for implementing this project that includes strategy, approach, and special capabilities, timelines, roles and responsibilities of personnel, specific tasks to be conducted, and deliverables. Please be as specific as possible. (Maximum length: 4 pages, single-space 12 pt. Font)

FUNDING

The project will be funded up to $82,045. This project will be administered by the National Park Service through a Task Agreement at the CESU Network IDC rate (17.5%). Applicants must be a member of the CASU and have an active Master Cooperative Agreement with NPS in place at the time of award.

DEADLINE

Letters of Interest should be submitted by **December 15, 2026**, by 5:00 pm Pacific Time to **denise_bausch@nps.gov**

REVIEW PROCESS

Submissions will be evaluated based on qualifications, relevant experience, and the proposed approach. Selected applicants may be invited to prepare a full application or detailed scope of work.

CONTACT

Please submit Letters of Interest or questions to:

Denise Bausch Chief, Interpretation and Education Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area Email: denise_bausch@nps.gov, 509-754-7830