

REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN 2021

Applicants must be a member in one of the
Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESU) National Network (<http://www.cesu.psu.edu/>).

Gulf Coast
Desert Southwest
Colorado Plateau
Great Plains
Rocky Mountains

Project Title: Sec 110 Baseline Archaeological Inventory of High Priority Areas, LBJ Ranch Unit, Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park, Gillespie County, Texas.

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest will be used to identify potential investigators for a project to be funded by the National Park Service (NPS) which provides professional and technical support for its Cultural Resources Program in order to facilitate successful implementation of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 USC 470). Approximately \$160,000 is expected to be available to support this project.

Background:

The LBJ Ranch, a 590-acre district of the Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park (LYJO) in Gillespie County, Texas, requires additional, systematic subsurface archaeological testing to determine the vertical and lateral extent, integrity, and National Register of Historic Preservation (NRHP) eligibility of subsurface archaeological resources. Two previous shovel-test-pit surveys at the Ranch (in 2004 and 2018) partially inventoried and identified 11 archaeological sites. Among the 11 identified sites are four large precontact sites situated on level terraces overlooking the Pedernales River containing stratified cultural deposits of more than 1 meter in depth with abundant flaked stone artifacts. The smallest of these four stratified precontact sites is at least 3.5 acres in size, while the largest is at least 10.9 acres. This project will systematically survey 131 acres across the Pedernales River terraces where additional stratified lithic sites likely occur. Furthermore, the project will rigorously test the four previously identified stratified sites.

Type of Award:

This project is awarded under the authority of 54 U.S.C. §100703, formerly 16 U.S.C. §5933. The NPS manages areas of the National Park System “to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations” (54 U.S.C. §100101 et seq.). In support of this broad mission, the Secretary of the Interior “shall ensure that management of System units is enhanced by the availability and utilization of a broad program of the highest quality science and information” (54 U.S.C. §100702), and “shall enter into cooperative agreements with colleges and universities, including land grant schools, in partnership with other Federal and State agencies, to establish cooperative

study units to conduct multi-disciplinary research and develop integrated information products on the resources of the System, or the larger region of which System units are a part” (54 U.S.C. §100703). The NPS is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with public or private educational institutions, States, and their political subdivisions, for the purpose of developing adequate, coordinated, cooperative research and training activities concerning the resources of the National Park System (54 U.S.C. §101702(b)). Likewise, the NPS is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with public or private educational institutions, States, and their political subdivisions, so as to investigate, protect, preserve, maintain, or operate any historic or archaeological building, site, or object of national significance (54 U.S.C. §§ 320101-320103).

This project is in support of the NPS’s federal mandates to inventory the historic properties under the Service’s management (16 USC 470), and as a result, it is anticipated that a cooperative agreement through the CESU program will be awarded. Such awards may be administered through a CESU only upon mutual agreement and official authorization by both parties of the acceptance of the application of the CESU Network IDC rate (17.5%).

Brief Description of Anticipated Work:

The proposed project shall facilitate better future management and stewardship of LYJO archaeological resources by accomplishing the following:

- a) Phase I inventory of 131 acres of unsurveyed Ranch land along the Pedernales River terraces where there exists high probability for buried precontact archaeological sites with intact, stratified cultural deposits. This proposed survey area includes a 121-acre parcel on the north bank of the Pedernales River, situated between archaeological sites 41GL319 and 41GL317. It likewise includes a 10-acre parcel on the river’s south bank encompassing and extending east from archaeological site 41GL497.
- b) Phase II testing of the Ranch’s 4 previously identified sites containing stratified cultural deposits (sites 41GL135, 316, 317, and 319). Excavation units of at least 1×1 meter in size will be plotted across these sites and stratigraphically excavated to culturally sterile subsoil, in order to better discern the sites’ extent, integrity, significance, NRHP eligibility, and cultural affiliation.

This work will include photo documentation and instrument mapping. All survey personnel and documents will meet Texas Historical Commission (THC) standards and ARPA permitting requirements. Where appropriate, condition information collected during the project will be used to update archaeological records in the Cultural Resource Information System Archeological Resource (CRIS-AR) database. All work will be guided by a research design developed collaboratively with National Park Service staff at the beginning of the project.

Applicants should possess a strong knowledge of central Texas cultural history and archaeology. They should also possess expertise in lithic analysis and, ideally, familiarity with cherts from the Edwards Plateau.

Period of Performance. The base Period of agreement will extend 24 months from award. It is anticipated that award will be completed before end of Fiscal Year 2021 (Sept. 30).

Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications:

Please provide the following via e-mail attachment to:

Giselle_Mora-Bourgeois@nps.gov

(Maximum length: 2 pages, single-spaced 12 pt. font).

1. Name, Organization, Cage Code, 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, etc.).

Note: At this time, we are only requesting that you communicate your interest and demonstrate qualifications, skills, and experience on performing similar or same type of work. A full study proposal and proposed budget are NOT requested at this time.

Review of Statements Received: All statements of interest received will be evaluated by a panel comprising of park and regional staff, who will determine which statement(s) best meet the project objectives. Statements will be evaluated based on the investigator's specific experience and capabilities in areas related to the study requirements. Based on a review of the Statements of Interest received, an investigator or investigators will be invited to prepare a full study proposal and submit application through the Federal Grant Solutions financial assistance system.

Please send responses or direct questions by March 30, 2021 to:

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