**REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF INTEREST**

**FOR**

**PROJECT TO BE INITIATED**

**THROUGH THE**

**COOPERATIVE ECOSYSTEM STUDIES UNITS (CESU) NETWORK**

**Project title:** Culturally-Integrated Ethnography of Fire Management at Lassen Volcanic National Park

**Objectives:** This project seeks to achieve baseline documentation for Lassen Volcanic National Park (LVNP) by completing an ethnographic inventory of traditional use of fire. For centuries prior to Euro-American occupation, indigenous peoples utilized LVNP for cultural, ecological, and even agricultural ends. The genocide of California native peoples in the mid-1800s removed one of the most important ecological processes at LVNP, thus, there is limited documentation of how indigenous peoples manipulated the landscape for food, fuel, and fiber. This work intends to fill a significant knowledge gap of indigenous use; help shape future eco-ethnographic studies; improve relationships with tribal communities by listening and incorporating their perspectives; and will inform future resource management by identifying areas in LVNP where traditional use of fire is employed as a management tool in conjunction with tribal partners.

**Background and Overview:** This project will focus on documenting descriptions, methods, locations, and significance of traditional use of fire by indigenous people within the LVNP landscape. This information will be attained through research and, primarily, through consultation with traditionally associated groups. Consultation will occur via meetings and interviews with tribal members, focusing on incorporating previously excluded or ignored voices into an ongoing and iterative fire management conversation. The project seeks to emphasize that effective management never excludes perspectives nor reaches a definitive endpoint at which the conversation stops. This project will result in a foundation for a stronger social network of culturally integrated fire management for LVNP through direct interaction and maintained via the production of integrated reports, spatial information, and summary documents.

Through this work LVNP intends to: 1) increase knowledge of indigenous land management techniques and promote collaboration between park administration and tribal stakeholder groups; 2) identify traditional ecological knowledge and techniques related to the use of fire that may improve stewardship and protection of park natural and cultural resources; 3) make significant contributions to the scholarly understanding of traditional use of fire through the documentation of historic indigenous uses of fire in the LVNP landscape; 4) facilitate planning processes to improve overall ecological health and resilience, including areas designated as wilderness and cultural landscapes; 5) improve overall fire management practices by complementing western modes of knowing with better understanding of indigenous techniques; and 6) identify spatially explicit instances of known resource manipulation using fire and also general instances of areas where informants are able to identify cultural practices that may have influenced the area. This spatial dataset will inform park efforts to develop a new spatial fire management plan and facilitate cultural information being better incorporated into ongoing management. Overall, this effort will attempt to understand the implications of these results for future fire management and will provide recommendations for next steps in engaging local tribal communities in a future directed research program. Lastly, this work will inform stewardship and protection of cultural/natural resources and will contribute to future park management decisions.

**Deliverables:** Deliverables shall include 1) a report on the traditional use of fire by California native peoples at LVNP, as well as a specific set of recommendations for how such traditional uses may be better integrated into current fire management, this report will be distributed to park management, partners, tribal entities, and interested public; 2) a GIS spatial dataset for informant derived information about utilization of fire for traditional purposes, generated and edited in line with the standards of NPS cultural resource enterprise data; and 3) a section 110 ethnographic inventory document on the detailed results of ethnographic interviews with tribes, including information pertaining to locations, description, and significance or culturally sensitive meaning. All deliverables may contain specific modes of knowledge that tribes could determine restricted or sacred, or not for general distribution.

**Funding:** The NPS will provide $50,000 in financial assistance to the investigators

**Start Date:** June 1st, 2021

**End Date:** September 30th, 2023 (or as appropriate for the academic year)

**Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications**

Please prepare a 2-3 page summary of how you would envision implementing this project. Include your name, department, university or organization, and contact information, as well as information about any relevant experience, past projects, and staff, faculty, or students who would be available to work on the project. In your statement, please discuss the outreach and involvement of students from indigenous communities as potential co-investigators or as students. Please submit Statements of Interest to Steve Buckley by **March 17th, 2021. Note: a proposed budget is not requested with the summary**

**Contact Information**

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