United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

Midwest Region

 601 Riverfront Drive

 Omaha, Nebraska 68102-4226

**Midwest Regional Office, National Park Service**

**And Pea Ridge National Military Park, Arkansas**

**Request for Letters of Research Interest (LOI)**

**Title: Pea Ridge National Military Park Ethnobotany: Inventory and Documentation**

The Midwest Region Cultural Anthropology program, in collaboration with the Osage Nation, is soliciting interest in conducting a survey and inventory of culturally significant plant species that are present at PERI. The MWR Cultural Anthropology program, acting on behalf of PERI, is seeking a university-based partner to aid in identifying and understanding the best management practices for culturally significant plants located on land encompassed within the boundaries of the park. The study will be conducted in collaboration with the Osage Nation and document the plant species the tribe identifies as culturally significant and which may be the subject of a later request by the tribe to gather the identified species, subject to the provisions and criteria for tribal plant gathering agreements (36 CFR 2.6).

The cooperating partner will be tasked with completing an ethnographic study that will inventory and document such culturally significant plants. This project is a comprehensive evaluation based on ethnographic interviews of associated tribal members from the Osage Nation. The study shall conform to professional and scholarly standards regarding methodology of anthropological research and writing. Stylistic and bibliographical standards shall conform to the current requirements of the journal *American Anthropologist*, and the current *Chicago Manual of Style*.

Information about PERI is located at <https://www.nps.gov/peri/index.htm>

**Nature of Work Required**

The Midwest Regional Cultural Anthropology Program envisions the project will:

1. provide a meaningful exchange of knowledge between culturally associated American Indian tribes and the park about culturally important plants located within the park;
2. will identify the general location where these plants are located within the park’s legislated boundary on federal land;
3. will document each plant species and record the information necessary for the park to complete an Environmental Analysis (EA) examining the potential impacts of gathering the plants or plant parts, and whether such gathering can be done in a sustainable manner.
4. Will prepare recommendations for the management of the identified species, based on both western science and traditional ecological knowledge provided by participating tribal members.

The MWR Cultural Anthropology Program’s substantial involvement with the project will include: providing the cooperator previously collected ethnohistorical and ethnographic studies; coordinating and consulting the findings with the appropriate park units, the State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO), and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPO); assisting the cooperator in locating and determining park and jurisdictional boundaries; and aiding the cooperator in producing a report on the project that meets desires and requirements of the National Park Service.

**LOI Response Timeframe**

Deadline for responding to this letter of interest is April 13, 2018.

**Project Principal Investigator Requirements**

The research will be directed and overseen by a Principal Investigator (PI). The PI should be an applied cultural anthropologist with a Ph.D. in cultural anthropology, or someone with demonstrable and comparable research experience, evidenced by a publication record demonstrating a professional level of research, analysis, and report preparation. It is expected that this record of comparable experience will reflect an understanding and ability to apply ethnographic and cultural anthropology research methods, and a level of education and experience beyond that of a B.A. and two years of graduate study in cultural anthropology. The researcher must demonstrate significant involvement in the research, writing, and the timely completion of ethnographic research. In addition, a record of completing ethnobotanical studies from an ethnoscience and cultural significance perspective (traditional ecological knowledge studies included) is highly desirable.

**Products**

The products from this project will include a report documenting the ethnographic study.

**Funds Available**

Project funds available, subject to any future government funding recession, are approximately $90,000. The funding includes an overhead rate of 17.5 percent. The project will be funded by the National Park Service. Universities and other organizations within the CESU network are eligible to apply. ***This project is not a grant***, and will be administered as a research project through the CESU network and the Financial Assistance Division of the Midwest Regional Office, NPS, as a Cooperative Agreement.

The NPS anticipates that this project will require up to 18-24 months to complete due to the desire to include multiple seasons (spring, summer, fall) for plant species identification. The start date for the project will be Summer, 2018.

**Letters of Interest**

Letters of Interest (LOI) should be sent to the address located in the “contact” section. Responses to this LOI should identify the specific capabilities within the university or tribal organization that will allow them to address the needs of the project, including identification of the relevant departments, faculty, students, and resources that will be involved in the project. Response to this LOI should also outline the approach to the project envisioned by the Principal Investigator and a draft budget highlighting the primary research tasks.

The LOI should describe your research interest(s) in the projects, past projects that are similar in topic and/or form, and any relevant experience in completing ethnographic projects, along with a copy of a resume or vita for the Principal Investigator. Please include your name, affiliated organization(s), and contact information. After review of the LOI responses, a follow-up request for a more complete proposal package based on a proposed Scope of Work to be provided by the NPS will be made to the respondent identified as meeting the required qualifications and experience outlined above.

**Contact**

Responses of interest should be directed before the closing date to Michael J. Evans, Ph.D. (Michael\_Evans@nps.gov). Additional questions can be answered by contacting Michael J. Evans, Ph.D. , Chief, Cultural Anthropology Program, Midwest Region Ethnography Program, National Park Service (402-661-1926).