

**National Park Service Desert Southwest CESU
2010 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Proposals are due Monday, January 11, 2010 to your Southwest Research Coordinator, Larry Norris via email at lnorris@ag.arizona.edu

Purpose: The purpose of the **NPS Desert Southwest CESU 2010 RFP** is to encourage partnership projects among the Desert Southwest parks and our DSCESU partners which focus on improving resource conditions and expanding resource information in the parks while providing learning opportunities for students. This annual RFP is aimed at distributing funding as widely as possible among Desert Southwest parks (the Desert Southwest CESU covers all NPS units in the Mojave, Sonoran and Chihuahuan deserts and in all of Texas and Oklahoma). The proposals will be scored, ranked, and awarded by a review panel using the process outlined below. The panel's intent is to fully fund as many qualifying proposals as possible. Proposals below the funding line will be retained in ranked order for potential awarding as other funds become available. Approximately \$100,000 is available this year. Any Desert Southwest park or geographically related I&M Network (N=5) proposing a collaborative project with a principal investigator from any Desert Southwest CESU partner institution or NGO is eligible to compete for these funds.

Project Categories: The NPS DSCESU program funds natural and interdisciplinary natural/cultural resource projects in three categories: research, technical assistance and education.

1) Research: NTE \$15,000 per project to provide funds for research projects (including supplementing monitoring activities) in parks. These proposals may include basic and applied research projects.

2) Technical Assistance: NTE \$10,000 per project to engage DSCESU partners with park managers in order to provide assistance such as analyzing data sets, providing expert advice and management recommendations, or performing specialized survey work.

3) Education: NTE \$6,000 per project to provide educational workshops, curricula and/or materials to park managers and staff using DSCESU partnership opportunities. Educational projects may also include community outreach projects.

This year there will be no limit on the number of proposals submitted by a park in each category. The DSCESU is interested in creating a file of competed and ranked projects which will be available for immediate funding from other sources should such become available. Parks submitting more than one proposal to this RFP must indicate the priority status of each proposal which will assist the panel in final ranking where a point-tie exists. No support letter from the park superintendent is required.

Format for Research, Technical Assistance and Education Proposals: FOR THIS CALL ONLY, proposals should be no longer than four pages, and include the following:

- 1) Project title and category of proposal (don't waste a whole page on this)
- 2) Objective and rationale (aka need)
- 3) Proposed scope of work
- 4) Paragraph on NPS substantial involvement and value to public
- 5) Amount requested and table of budget items/expenses/matching funds
- 6) Reports and products expected for the park
- 7) Project initiation date (must be in FY10)
- 8) DSCESU partner (PI name, phone, email)
- 9) Park contact person (NPS Key Official, phone, email)

RFP Process Schedule:

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| 1) January 11, 2010: | Proposals due to Larry Norris |
| 2) January 15, 2010: | Proposals given to DSCESU review panel |
| 3) February 04, 2010: | Panel finalizes scoring; proposals are ranked |
| 4) February 08, 2010: | Announcement of project awards; parks develop DSCESU coversheets and substantial involvement forms |