

REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST & QUALIFICATIONS (RFI)

To prepare a Cultural Landscape Inventory for Trail Ridge Road at Rocky Mountain National Park

PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN FALL 2010

On behalf of the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU) National Network, the National Park Service (NPS) is requesting information on the interest and qualifications of potential investigators to complete a Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) for Trail Ridge Road at Rocky Mountain National Park within the State of Colorado.

Responses to this request will be used to identify potential investigator(s) with the ability to complete a CLI. This project will be funded by the NPS at \$18,000-20,000. A detailed budget breakdown is **NOT** requested at this time.

Written Statements of Interest are **due February 26, 2010**. The investigator(s) will be selected by March 15, 2010. A full study proposal with timelines, deliverables, and budget will be jointly completed by the investigator(s) and the NPS in spring 2010, and the project will be funded by the federal partner by summer 2010. The final, completed CLI will be due to the NPS in early 2012. For a copy of CLI guidelines (c. 3.5 MB in size) contact Carrie Mardorf, NPS- Intermountain Region, CLI Coordinator at Carrie_Mardorf@nps.gov or (505) 988-6730; or Pei-Lin Yu, Cultural Specialist for the RM-CESU, at Pei-lin.yu@cfc.umn.edu or (406)-243-2660.

Summary

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory, a comprehensive inventory of all cultural landscapes in the national park system, is one of the most ambitious initiatives of the National Park Service (NPS) Park Cultural Landscapes Program. The CLI is an evaluated inventory of all landscapes having historical significance that are listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, or are otherwise managed as cultural resources through a public planning process and in which the NPS has or plans to acquire any legal interest. The CLI identifies and documents each landscape's location, size, physical development, condition, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, as well as other valuable information useful to park management. CLIs are complete when concurrence with the findings is obtained from the park superintendent and State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and all required data fields are entered into a national database. Landscapes that are not currently listed on the National Register and/or do not have adequate documentation require concurrence from the SHPO or the Keeper of the National Register.

The CLI assists the NPS in its efforts to fulfill the identification and management requirements associated with Section 110(a) of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. §470a(b)(6)), National Park Service Management Policies (2006), and Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management.

Project Objectives & Goals

The NPS wishes to conduct this project in collaboration with one or more investigators, through a Cooperative Agreement between the National Park Service and a partner institution included in one of the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESU). Eligible recipients **must be a participating partner of the CESU Program with a department in history, historic**

REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST & QUALIFICATIONS (RFI)
Cultural Landscape Inventory for Trail Ridge Road at Rocky Mountain National Park

preservation, landscape architecture or related field of study. The selected investigator(s) will assist with developing a scope of work and formal agreement for developing the CLI. The NPS will provide financial assistance to the investigators for an amount not to exceed \$16,000-\$18,000 (the final amount will be based on the scope of work).

The advantages of completing this CLI through a Cooperative Agreement are

- University faculty and students gain experience with a specialty within history, historic preservation, and landscape architecture that is not well-known, thus giving them exposure to potential career tracks
- NPS gains knowledge of the latest approaches and techniques for cultural landscape documentation and evaluation being taught at the university level.
- University faculty and students are provided with opportunities to become familiar with the NPS approach to documenting and evaluating cultural landscapes, while completing CLI documents needed by parks.

The objective of this project is to complete one CLI for the component landscape of the Trail Ridge Road at Rocky Mountain National Park. This CLI will inform the NPS of the features significant to the cultural landscape. The goal of this project is to provide the NPS with data and information that will inform them of the history, evolution, existing conditions, and significant features of the Trail Ridge Road at Rocky Mountain National Park. The result of this cooperative agreement would be an increased level of knowledge of the history, evolution and development, existing conditions, and historical significance and integrity of the district. The project will identify contributing landscape features that create the character of the district, and as a result, should be protected. The target audience for the CLI will be NPS resource managers and park staff, who are charged with preserving, protecting, and interpreting cultural resources.

Background

Trail Ridge Road was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984 for its significance in the areas of architecture, engineering, entertainment/recreation, and transportation from the 1925 to 1949.

Constructed between 1926 and 1932, the two-lane road was carefully designed by landscape architects to avoid damage to the fragile alpine scenery it crossed. During road construction, workers had only about 4 months of the year (mid-June to mid-October) to work. The presence of permafrost required that careful attention be paid to construction to avoid permanent quagmires. Planning efforts sought to reduce scarring on the surrounding landscape. The workers removed construction debris, and they constructed log and rock dikes to minimize scarring and scattering of rock blasting debris. They placed extra surface rocks lichen-side up and salvaged tundra sod, carefully replacing it in road shoulders. They used tractors, graders, horses, and a gas-powered steam shovel to make the road. During the peak of construction, 150 laborers worked on the road. The maximum grade on Trail Ridge does not exceed 7%, and eight miles of the road are above 11,000 feet in elevation. Reaching 12,183 feet on Trail Ridge, it is the highest continuous highway in the United States and provides spectacular views of the majestic scenery of Rocky Mountain National Park.

REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST & QUALIFICATIONS (RFI)
Cultural Landscape Inventory for Trail Ridge Road at Rocky Mountain National Park

The scope of the CLI will address the history, existing conditions, and analysis of features within the boundaries of the historic district; however, CLI research may recommend expanding the boundaries of the historic district and including additional contributing/non-contributing features.

Description of Anticipated Products

The final CLI deliverables will include:

- All required written narratives and graphics as outlined in the *Professional Procedures Guide* for cultural landscape inventories (January 2009), including, but not limited to, a landscape description, detailed chronology and landscape history, statement of significance, periods of significance, analysis and evaluation of integrity and contributing/non-contributing features;
- Wire or plastic comb-bound hard copies of the final CLI
- Digital copies of the final CLI on CD in Microsoft Word and PDF formats.
- Digital copies of graphics and photographs used in the CLI on CD in jpeg and/or PDF format. AutoCAD drawings should be submitted in both PDF format and in DWG format using “e-transmit.” GIS drawings should be submitted in PDF. Digital photographs should be in jpeg format.
- Entry of information into NPS CLI database.

The investigator(s) will coordinate with the NPS on graphic formats, CLI content, and technical reviews over the course of CLI completion. Investigators may anticipate conference calls and on-site training with the NPS during the course of project for discussion and coordination.

Roles and Responsibilities

The roles and responsibilities of the National Park Service (NPS) and principal investigator(s) are detailed below. Project contacts from the NPS will work with the investigator(s) to obtain data and applicable maps, site plans and/or GIS layers for the project area.

The Investigator(s) will:

- Collaborate with NPS park and regional staff via an agreed upon communications strategy.
- Jointly define the scope of work with NPS to ensure benefit to students.
- Follow NPS deliverable requirements, including complying with the agreed upon project timeline.
- Review appropriate data, information sources, and previous reports/studies in completing the CLI.
- Comply with the *Professional Procedures Guidelines* for cultural landscape inventories and other NPS publications, mapping, and graphic delivery standards and guidelines for all required deliverables.
- Review student work for quality and completeness prior to submitting draft CLI documents to NPS.
- Provide NPS all supporting data, metadata, graphics, photographs, documentation and reports generated through this project.
- Meet the terms and conditions of the scope of work and final agreement(s).

REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST & QUALIFICATIONS (RFI)
Cultural Landscape Inventory for Trail Ridge Road at Rocky Mountain National Park

- Clearly acknowledge NPS in any published material produced from this agreement.

The National Park Service will:

- Provide financial support to the investigator(s).
- Provide relevant source data, information, analyses, and previous reports/studies to the investigator(s).
- Jointly define the scope of work with investigator(s) to ensure quality product for park.
- Actively participate in on-site training and field investigations
- Provide technical review and expertise and provide review comments to the investigator(s).
- Provide any necessary training of the CLI website database
- Provide on-site orientation to the subject of park landscape and provide access as needed to park files.
- Provide access to park areas as required and logistical support as needed.
- Provide a team of park resource managers and other park staff at Colorado National Monument who will support and contribute to the project.
- Clearly acknowledge the investigator(s) in all published material and websites resulting from this project.

Statements of Interest and Qualifications

Please prepare a written statement, **not to exceed fifteen (15) pages (single-spaced, 12-point, Times New Roman font)**, that describes how you envision implementing this project. The application package **shall be assembled in the following order**.

1. Cover Page (not to exceed 1 page)
 - Shall include Project Name, University Name, and Contact Information
2. Brief Statement of Qualifications (not to exceed 10 pages)
 - Shall identify the Principal Investigator (Faculty member who will oversee the cooperative agreement), and Technical contact (Staff member(s) who will administer the cooperative agreement) including address, phone number, fax number, and email address
 - Other staff, faculty, students, and/or other partners available to work on this project and their areas of expertise;
 - A biographical sketch or curriculum vitae for key positions that includes expertise relevant to cultural landscapes;
 - Brief description of any other capabilities you may have to successfully complete the project (e.g., AutoCAD/GIS/data analysis capabilities, access to other relevant information sources, previous research experiences at the park or region, etc.).
3. Related Experience/Projects (not to exceed 4 pages)
 - Shall include a description of related past projects and experience in researching, assessing, and inventorying cultural landscapes or other historic properties. Related experience/projects should demonstrate familiarity with National Register

REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST & QUALIFICATIONS (RFI)
Cultural Landscape Inventory for Trail Ridge Road at Rocky Mountain National Park

of Historic Places evaluation, Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Properties, and other federal guidance related to cultural landscape preservation. Projects shall include brief description(s) and client references with contact information. References will be contacted regarding past performance.

Previous experience working in the northern Colorado will be advantageous, but is not an essential requirement. Please submit your response via an e-mail attachment to Carrie_Mardorf@nps.gov by **February 26, 2010**. Applicants are held responsible for their response being submitted electronically by the specified date and time.

Selection of Investigator(s)

Based on a review of the Statements of Interest and Qualifications received, a panel of experts will choose the investigator(s). The strongest candidates will have expertise and experience with cultural landscape preservation and experience in working within the northern Colorado.

The investigator(s) will be selected by March 15, 2010. Notification of a successful submittal **does not** constitute authority to incur costs. Costs incurred prior to receipt of a cooperative agreement and finalized scope of work will not be reimbursed. Costs for this project may be incurred **only after the receipt of an award** is signed by a Contracting Officer of the NPS. Once the award document has been received, the investigator(s) may incur costs as specified in their proposed and approved budget submittal. Funding is subject to the availability of appropriations from the Congress.

Once notified of their selection, the selected investigator(s) will jointly prepare a final scope of work with the NPS and a proposed budget. A CESU Task Agreement will be completed in summer 2010 and the project will begin immediately thereafter. For further information or questions regarding this RFI, please contact Carrie Mardorf, NPS-Intermountain Region, CLI Coordinator at Carrie_Mardorf@nps.gov or (505) 988-6730.