**Request for Letters of Research Interest**

**For Project to be Initiated through the**

**Chesapeake Watershed Cooperative Ecosystem Study Unit**

**Project Title:** Ethnographic Overview and Assessment for Antietam National Battlefield

**Submission Deadline: Friday, June 28, 2013**

**Project Overview:** Antietam National Battlefield, established in 1890, is administered by the National Park Service (NPS) and is considered one of the best preserved Civil War areas in the national park system. The farms and farmlands in and near the battlefield appear much as they did on the eve of the battle in 1862. The battlefield is in a rural area of Washington County, Maryland; agriculture is the predominant land use. The entire battlefield, including the private properties within the boundary, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district. Most privately owned lands within the park boundary are farmed by local residents.

The project will produce an ethnographic overview and assessment for Antietam National Battlefield, completing needed baseline documentation of ethnographic groups associated with park resources. The ethnographic overview uses anthropological and sociological methods to identify and describe the park neighbors, park residents, ethnic groups, or others with historical and cultural ties and associations with, or special knowledge of, park resources, including former residents and their descendants who remain attached to the area despite having relocated. In the ethnographic overview and assessment, the primary research emphasis is on the collection, evaluation and analysis of pre-existing data and literature of all types that document the associations with, and traditional uses of, resources in the park or surrounding area by park-associated groups. Depending on the availability of pre-existing data, a secondary research emphasis is placed on the collection of information through ethnographic and oral history interviews.

The NPS will work closely with the Cooperator and provide access to relevant planning and other documents, park museum collections, knowledgeable park staff, and introductions to known potential interviewees. The Cooperator and the NPS will discuss a public involvement process to inform community representatives about the project prior to the beginning of field research. Guidelines for this project include the policies and ethical statements of the American Anthropological Association and the Society for Applied Anthropology. The NPS strongly encourages the Cooperator to produce peer-reviewed publication(s) from this research.

**Project Timeframe:** Final deliverables are expected to be submitted eighteen months after the date the task agreement is executed. It is anticipated that the project will begin September 2013 and be completed by April 2015.

**Products:**

An ethnographic overview and assessment for Antietam National Battlefield is the primary final deliverable. Other project deliverables include a work plan and methodology; quarterly progress reports; a draft outline and draft report; and a presentation of findings to the park superintendent and staff. GIS data associated with the ethnographic overview may also be collected by the research team and provided to the NPS (to be determined).

**Requirements:**

The research will be overseen by a Principal Investigator (PI) who is an applied cultural anthropologist with a Ph.D., or comparable research experience and a record of applied experience, and high professional standing in the anthropological community. The PI must have significant involvement in the research and writing of the Final Report. Only universities or partners within the Cooperative Ecosystem Study Units (CESU) network are eligible to apply. It is preferred that applications come from within the Chesapeake Watershed CESU, but applications from other CESU networks will be considered. For a current list of universities and other partners within the network, please visit: <http://www.cesu.psu.edu/>

**Funds Available:**

The project will be funded by the National Park Service. Funds available are $35,000 to $50,000, including the CESU overhead rate of 17.5 percent. Note: A proposed budget is not requested at this time.

**Materials to Include in the Letter of Research Interest:**

Please prepare a letter (not to exceed 2 pages) describing your research interest in this project. Include your name, organization, contact information, CESU affiliation, as well as information about any relevant experience, or past projects that relate to the research topic (in particular, please list ethnographic projects underway or previously completed for the NPS, if any). You may also identify staff, faculty, or students who would be available to work on the project and include any relevant staff CV’s (curriculum vitae are not required; if submitted, they are not included in the two-page limit).

**Submit Questions and Letters of Research Interest to:**

*Inquiries or letters of interest should be directed before the closing date of June 28, 2013 to: Jennifer Talken-Spaulding, NPS National Capital Region Ethnography Program Manager at 202-619-7205 or jennifer\_talken-spaulding@nps.gov.*

**Inquiries Regarding the CESU Network:**

Please contact: Walter Zachritz, NPS Chesapeake Watershed CESU Coordinator at 301-689-7108 or walter\_zachritz@nps.gov.