

**SOLE-SOURCE JUSTIFICATION AND APPROVAL FOR ACQUISITION UNDER
THE SIMPLIFIED ACQUISITION THRESHOLD**

- 1. Contracting Agency and Activity.** The Department of the Interior, United States Geological Survey Reston Acquisitions Branch, Reston, VA, plans to contract on a sole source basis. This document sets forth the justification and approval as required by FAR 13.106-1(b)(1).
- 2. Nature of Action Being Approved.** The U.S. Geological Survey, Southeast Ecological Science Center, requests award of a new Firm Fixed Price contract to Geoadaptive, LLC, for scenario planning for landscape-scale collaborative conservation. Period of Performance is Oct 1, 2012 to Sep 30, 2013.
- 3. Description of Supplies or Services.** The delivery of integrated science is essential to improving conservation decision making under limited resources. This is particularly true in planning for collaborative public/private efforts, and in addressing potential climate change impacts that cross conventional jurisdiction, agency and program boundaries. Our research involves addressing this need by developing a common set of spatially-explicit base data sets and future scenarios for the State of Florida. To accomplish this we will coordinate amongst several major research and scientific organizations in the definition of a common geographic extent (the State of Florida), shared datasets, and compatible methodological approaches. We intend to use Geoadaptive to carry on work they have been doing in Florida for 4 years on scenario analyses under climate change for the State of Florida. First they will update and integrate descriptions of current conditions, including LiDAR-based terrain elevation, vegetative habitats from air-photo and satellite interpretation, and urban land uses from parcels, census and business point information. Second, they will develop shared representations of key future scenario elements, including sea-level rise, future species habitat, and future urban land uses. Third, they will evaluate the consequences of these scenarios on some critical ecosystem services (habitat, species, and carbon sequestration). Finally, they will jointly develop with USGS and others examples of new conservation scenarios which adjust conservation priorities or tactics to more effectively achieve landscape-scale conservation under climate change and future development pressure.
- 4. Estimated Dollar Value.** \$85,900.00
- 5. Statutory Authority.** The proposed action may be awarded on a sole source basis in accordance with: FAR 13.106-1(b)(1) "Only One Source Reasonably Available"
- 6. Rationale Supporting Use of Citation in No. 5.** Geoadaptive has received funding from USGS for the past four years for this work and for one year prior to that from Fish and Wildlife Services (FWS). Geoadaptive has worked with USGS over this five year period to provide results that have been used from city and county to statewide planning for climate change. The information they have collected for Florida represents one of the richest and most detailed set of "alternative futures" ever attempted at multicounty scale. During FY2012, Geoadaptive, supported by FWS and USGS extended the geographic and conceptual scope of a set of scenarios which had originally been focused on the Greater Everglades to include most of

peninsular Florida. In geographic terms, 15 counties were added, extending the scenario boundaries with those of the Peninsular Florida Landscape Conservation Cooperative (PFLCC) established by DOI. To switch to another research group at this stage would require an estimated year of learning time, data transfer, etc for a new research group to get started. In addition, the Geoadaptive team has spent countless hours over the last five years developing relationships down to the city and county levels for each of the 40 counties in the PFLCC. To begin again, developing these relationships and the trust gained would not only be challenging and time consuming, but also cause the duplication of efforts for the many hundreds of city and county level employees who have worked with the Geoadaptive team over the last five years. The estimated cost in start-up time to work with a new organization would cost an estimated \$200,000, likely \$100,000 of my time, and hundreds of thousands of dollars in the time that the community has put into making this work a success through many workshops and meetings throughout the 40 Florida counties.

7. Other Information. N/A

8. The Efforts to Identify Additional Sources Including the Market Research Conducted.


No other sources are known to possess the unique and essential qualifications outlined in Part IV of this Justification of Noncompetitive Procurement based on our modeling work, involvement in professional societies, and reading of professional literature. This capability is not currently available with any other contractor or vendor at this time. The recommendation of the USGS SESC in support of this noncompetitive justification is made in recognition of the fact that the competition must be obtained to the maximum extent possible.

9. Future Plans to Permit Competition. USGS Southeast Ecological Studies is continually searching for more competitive, cost efficient ways to conduct its research that would retain the integrity of the research through networking with professional societies and reading of professional literature. Future requirements will be competed to the maximum extent practical.

10. Recommendation from Program Office

Based on the above, I recommend this acquisition be conducted on a sole source basis and certify that the above statements are true and correct.

Stephanie S. Romanach _____
<Title>


Signature

11 Sep 12
Date

11. Certifications from the Contracting Officer

- a. The contracting officer will determine that the anticipated cost to the Government will be fair and reasonable on the basis of comparing the proposed pricing with the award amounts of the previous contract identified in Paragraph 6.

b. This justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

David P Ouellette, Contracting Officer

Date

12. Concurrence by Competition Advocate > \$25,000 (DIAPR 2008-10 Enhancing Competition)

Jennifer Farrell, Bureau Competition Advocate

Date