

February 25, 2008

University President
PSAC CESU Member University

Dear President:

Over the past few months, University and National Park Service (NPS) officials involved with the Piedmont–South Atlantic Coast Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (PSAC CESU) have discussed an NPS proposal for emergency provision of university experts under the auspices of the PSAC CESU Cooperative Agreement (No. H5000 03 5040). Your university is a member within the PSAC CESU. Specifically, your university would provide natural and cultural resources technical assistance, as needed, during NPS emergency responses to all-hazard incidents. The NPS has selected the PSAC CESU to test this concept, which, if successful, would be implemented in CESU networks throughout the country to expand NPS emergency response capability.

NPS responds to emergencies on NPS lands and on other federal, tribal, and state lands under the support of special agreements or through mission assignment from the Federal Emergency Management Agency under the National Response Plan. When NPS lacks or has exhausted its own resources for response, other sources, such as university cooperators, are sought to meet the need.

The concept would work as follows. When an emergency occurs, and as requested by the PSAC CESU in a Task Agreement and Scope of Work (SOW), your university would provide technical assistance. In order to prepare for an emergency response, your university would develop and maintain a list of qualified university experts, who could be deployed immediately at the time of an incident. Through the Task Agreement, your university would receive funding for provision of the expertise. Your university would absorb the costs of developing and maintaining the list of qualified university experts.

The concept and the actions required for your university to develop and maintain a state of readiness to respond are detailed in the enclosed non-binding Statement of Interest. The Statement of Interest is necessary for both parties to be prepared to respond immediately and effectively at the time of an emergency. Also enclosed is a summary highlighting university responsibilities step-by-step.

We would be most grateful if you would review the Statement of Interest, let us know of any changes that might be needed, and, when it meets with your approval, sign and return the document, keeping a copy for your files. A university point of contact person would need to be identified at that time, complete with contact information for that person.

A web page has been established at the PSAC CESU website (<http://psaccesu.uga.edu/>). Please reference this web page for more information. Questions can be directed to myself who serves

as the NPS point of contact person for this initiative. (Ph: 865/974-8443, Cell: 865/604-9357, Fax: 865/974-4714, Ray_Albright@nps.gov).

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Ray Albright

Ray Albright
NPS CESU Coordinator