



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

26 JUL 2018

REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST

NUMBER W9126G-18-2-SOI-3737

PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN 2018

Project Title: [Natural Resources Support, Vandenberg AFB \(VAFB\), CA](#)

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest will be used to identify potential investigators for a project to be funded by [the US Air Force](#), which provides professional and technical support for its [Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan \(INRMP\)](#) in order to facilitate successful implementation of the [16 USC 670c-1 Sikes Act](#). Approximately [\\$2,067,258.00 with optional tasks](#) is expected to be available to support this project.

Background:

[This work requires full-time onsite support person\(s\) located at VAFB. This work also requires off-site support for less than full-time projects that are seasonal in nature and require limited field work at VAFB. The work will involve: natural resource management activities, field surveys, reporting, coordination, and travel to and from VAFB for off-site personnel, attendance at meetings, project management, and GIS data management.](#)

Type of Award:

In accordance with the *Sikes Act* (Sec. 103A [16 USC 670c-1]) “the Secretary of a military department may enter into cooperative agreements with States, local governments, Indian Tribes, non-governmental organizations, and individuals” This project is in support of the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan, as directed in the *Sikes Act*, and as a result, it is anticipated that a cooperative agreement through the CESU program will be awarded. Such awards may be administered through a CESU only upon mutual agreement and official authorization by both parties of the acceptance of the application of the CESU Network IDC rate (17.5%).

Note: Must be a non-federal partner in the CESU Unit to be qualified to be considered.

Brief Description of Anticipated Work:

This research focuses on the following tasks and objectives:

Task 1: XUMUOS200118 PLAN REVISION, INRMP

The NFE will provide support to complete annual INRMP updates as required by AFI 32-7064 (22 Feb 2016), and allowed by Sikes Act (16 USC 670a) and DODI 4715.03. Work includes assisting with annual reporting of projects and costs, participation in an interagency annual review meeting, and revision of existing INRMP text, graphics, and tables to incorporate changes as deemed appropriate by the Vandenberg Natural Resources staff.

Task 2: XUMUOS752418 MGT, SPECIES, ESA, MARINE MAMMALS

Conduct monthly marine mammal surveys (minimum 11 surveys per year) along the entire VAFB shoreline. Survey schedule is normally dependent upon tides and launch schedule. Currently, there are a total of 18 survey sites, 3 on north base, 14 on south base, and one at Point Conception though this may change depending on the year (Point Conception may not always be surveyed, pending land transfer and other factors). Surveys are conducted from a distance, using binoculars or a spotting scope. Observers are expected to approach the viewing position quietly and carefully so as not to disturb hauled-out individuals (pinnipeds in the water are usually not counted). Report periodic and incidental observations of federally listed southern sea otters when observed. Document and analyze threats. Complete standard monthly survey forms and complete an Annual Marine Mammal Monitoring Report (draft and final) for submission to the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Task 3: XUMUOS404518 MGT, SPECIES, T&E PLANT RESTORATION

Conduct recommended minimum follow up habitat restoration activities in accordance with Lompoc Yerba Santa Year 5 recommendations and Beach Layia Year 5 recommendations. The Lompoc yerba santa site occupies 375 acres on North Base; the beach layia site occupies 651 acres on South Base. Work in the South beach layia restoration area may include the railroad buffer area. Develop a 5-year workplan for Vandenberg monkeyflower restoration. The plan shall include monitoring, invasive plant removal consistent with invasive workplans in development, and potential for seed collection and planting strategy.

Task 4: XUMUOS464718 MONITOR, WETLANDS

Implement required elements of active CWA 401 and 404 Permits and associated Compensatory Mitigation and Monitoring Plans (CMMP) at VAFB such as federally-listed species surveys, habitat restoration, invasive weed eradication, habitat mapping, and erosion control activities.

VAFB anticipates between one (1) and two (2) active 404/401 permits within the San Antonio Creek watershed. The cooperator shall achieve at least 20% progress, annually, towards the CMMP Success Criteria by employing successful restoration methodologies.

Conduct required surveys to collect information necessary to support one (1) application for new CWA 401 and 404 Permits, which includes development of Wetlands Report, Biological Assessment, and 5-year Compensatory Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (CMMP).

Task 5: XUMU377516 RECORDKEEPING, OTHER, BIOLOGICAL

This deliverables-based project supports Vandenberg AFB in its compliance with the Endangered Species Act by performing site visits and proposed project reviews to assess

potential effects, and preparation of biological assessments and pre-notifications. This work requires an onsite support located at VAFB, Santa Barbara County, California. Travel will be required by four-wheel drive vehicle throughout the 100,000 acre base.

Task 6: XUMUOS101218 MGT, HABITAT, POST FIRE REHAB

After wildland fires, federal agencies must employ a Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) analysis and implementation schedule to minimize the effects of the wildland fire on resources. Based on the BAER team assessment, the wildland fire prescribed treatments to protect resources must be implemented quickly and effectively to reduce further damage on the land. General BAER objectives in the event of a wildfire are listed below:

- Determine if emergency resource conditions exist
- Alleviate emergency conditions to help stabilize soil; control water, sediment and debris movement; prevent impairment of ecosystems; and mitigate significant threats to downstream values at risk.
- Reduce further damage due to the land being temporarily exposed in a fragile condition
- Monitor the implementation and effectiveness of emergency treatments.

Task 7: XUMUOS101518 MGT, INVASIVE SPECIES

Remove invasive plant species in high priority areas with pampas grass (*Cortaderia* spp) and perennial veldt grass (*Ehrharta calycina*) that directly impact state- and federally-listed T&E species, sensitive habitats, and upwind locations. High priority areas directly impact and reduce listed species (i.e., Lompoc yerba santa, vernal pool fairy shrimp, El Segundo blue butterfly [ESBB]) and their habitats.

Provide early detection to reduce and control new invasives or invasives other than pampas grass and veldt grass that threaten sensitive habitats. Prevent small populations of invasive species from becoming base-wide concerns.

Task 8: XUMU106218 MGT, HABITAT, OAK TREE

Oaks are susceptible to Sudden Oak Death which has been detected in nearby San Luis Obispo County to the north. Sudden Oak Death is caused by a very invasive fungal pathogen (*Phytophthora ramorum*) that is best detected along pathways such as host trees including coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), streams, and vegetation. Approximately 9,550 acres of oak woodlands and 168 acres of tan oak (*Lithocarpus densiflorus* var *densiflorus*) occur on Vandenberg Air Force Base (VAFB). A plan was developed that provided a phased strategy to prioritize about 1,930 acres of oak woodland buffered by ¼ mile on each side of publicly accessible roads plus 168 acres of tan oak for inventory and sudden oak death evaluation. Implementation of Phase 1 started in early 2018 on 1,000 of the first priority 1,930 acres of oak woodland. The plan strategy Phases 2 and 3 addresses the remaining 7,452 acres as a second priority to inventory trees with GIS.

Complete the Phase 1 inventory on approximately 930 acres of oak woodland that are remaining from the initial 1,930 Phase 1 priority acres.

Task 9: XUMUOS920918 MGT, SPECIES, ESA VERNAL POOL FAIRY SHRIMP

This work requires onsite field work located at VAFB, Santa Barbara County, California. The work shall involve determining the extent of upland habitat which affects vernal pools, protocol-level survey for shrimp in impacted pools, and annual impact assessment. Travel will be required by vehicle and by foot throughout approximately a quarter

Task 10: XUMUOS486718 MGT, HABITAT, FEDERAL PRISON PERMIT

Monitor agricultural production and its effects on the natural resources of VAFB. Conduct a visual assessment of conditions on Vandenberg rangelands.

- Binders will be provided by VAFB for seven (7) management units and cropland monitoring sites. Aligning monitoring with historic methods would provide a comparable record of vegetation history so that rangeland trends can be properly tracked over time.
- At 121 different sites, complete photo point monitoring checklist and take one photo at each point of the compass (recreating photos in binder), rangeland habitat health monitoring checklist, estimate of vegetation coverage by species, estimate of residual dry matter, and Rangeland Similarity Index.
- At 17 different sites, complete a cropland photo monitoring checklist and take one to six (1-6) photos per point (recreating photos in binder). Methods of monitoring may require adaptation to best align goals with collected data.
- Photos and data tables will be hyper-linked to the corresponding GIS spatial layer.

Task 11: XUMUOS278418 MGT, HABITAT, ESA EL SEGUNDO BLUE BUTTERFLY

Enhance and restore eight (8) acres of potentially suitable habitat for special status invertebrates on VAFB, targeting the endangered El Segundo Blue Butterfly (ESBB), which relies on seacliff buckwheat as its host plant. Activities shall include seed collection, propagating, planting, and monitoring activities that evaluate success of management activities.

- VAFB has been conducting restoration for several years, investigating the most economically efficient means of restoring butterfly habitat. Actions may be conducted by California Conservation Corps or similar group, though all individuals must be US citizens.
- At least 7.5 acres shall be chemically treated to kill invasive species in an area that has at least 80% cover of invasive plant species. Work is expected at several locations, to be agreed upon by VAFB POC and the cooperator.
- Plant seedlings, representing a mosaic of dune community plants, at the appropriate time of year to maximize likelihood of successful establishment.
- Utilize methodologies for successful dune restoration.
- Collect native seeds at the appropriate time of year to propagate seedlings, in accordance with professional and scientific methodologies. Use of seedling starts sourced from other local sources shall require pre-approval from VAFB. Establish agreement with local nursery or other facility to propagate seedlings prior to revegetation. Seacliff buckwheat and other native species will be planted, at densities to be agreed upon by the project manager and VAFB POC. Buckwheat seedlings must be at least 2 inches tall prior to planting, and VAFB recommends use of 2-inch "supercells." Seedlings must be watered once; in certain drought conditions, one additional watering may be required.

Task 12: XUMUOS278518 MGT, SPECIES, ESA EL SEGUNDO BLUE BUTTERFLY
Survey for new populations and monitor existing populations of endangered El Segundo Blue Butterfly (ESBB), including searching for new and monitoring known populations on lands managed by other entities. Surveys off installation should enhance knowledge of populations and species distribution, lessening the Air Force burden.

Task 13: XUMUOS069718 MGT, HABITAT, ESA BEACH RESTORATION
The objective is to remove non-native ice plant and beach grass, which have significantly reduced available nesting habitat, and restore native vegetation to the treated areas, especially associated with special status plant species and sensitive cultural resource areas. The restoration areas under this task occur from San Antonio Creek to the Santa Ynez River (Areas A, B, and C [372 acres]), Wall Beach (60 acres), and Purisima (60 acres) along the coastal dunes.

Task 14: XUMUOS221018 MGT, HABITAT, ESA VERNAL POOLS
Perform habitat management activities necessary to 1) achieve the goals and objectives of an approved INRMP; and 2) achieve Endangered Species Act requirements within the VAFB Programmatic Biological Opinion and VAFB Endangered Species Management Plan for the threatened Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp (VPFS). Work includes inventory, survey, and monitor or otherwise manage habitats that support endangered, threatened, rare, sensitive or keystone flora or fauna species.

Task 15: XUMU034618 MGT, SPECIES, T&E PLANT SURVEY
This work requires an onsite support located at VAFB, Santa Barbara County, California. The work shall involve protocol surveys in suitable habitat on federally-listed species: Gaviota tarplant (*Deinandra increscens* ssp. *villosa*), La Graciosa thistle (*Cirsium loncholepis*), Beach layia (*Layia carnososa*), Lompoc yerba santa (*Eriodictyon capitatum*), and Vandenberg monkeyflower (*Diplacus vandenbergensis*). Travel will be required by four-wheel drive vehicle throughout the 100,000 acre base. ArcMap GIS coverage of areas surveyed for and occupied by each species shall be completed.

Task 16: FSPM157248 MGT, SPECIES, MOHAVE GROUND SQUIRELL (EDWARDS AFB)
This project is to conduct live trapping, tissue collection, and genetic testing on Mohave Ground Squirrels (*Xerospermophilus mohavensis*, MGS), Round-tailed Ground Squirrels (*Xerospermophilus tereticaudus*, RTGS), and any potential hybrids near existing study plots on the northeast corner and nearby areas of Edwards AFB to determine if RTGS have expanded into the Edwards AFB core MGS population, and if so, how far they have spread.

OPTION: XUMUOS999518 MGT, SPECIES, RED LEGGED FROG
Update the distribution and relative abundance of CRLF (*Rana draytonii*) on VAFB property. Conduct focused multi-generational CRLF surveys, to determine the presence and relative abundance of the species. The primary focus area for CY 2018/2019 survey actions will be within the Canyon Fire area of the Bear Creek drainage as well as several smaller ponds which may include but not be limited to Watt Road, Rawlinson/Triangle Pond, Mod Lake, Runway pond, and “dune swale back drainages” (the specific work effort can be determined at project

kick-off; if all of the smaller drainages cannot be surveyed OR if additional areas can be added with the available funding, a scope modification must be completed and approved by the GO).

NOTE: At this time we are only requesting that you demonstrate available qualifications and skills for performing similar or same type of work. You will be evaluated for request for a proposal based on skills and qualifications demonstrated in your SOI.

Period of Performance. The base year of [agreement will extend one year from award.](#)

Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications:

Please provide the following via e-mail attachment to: sandra.justman@usace.army.mil
(Maximum length: 2 pages, single-spaced 12 pt. font).

1. Name, Organization, Cage Code, Duns number, and Contact Information
2. Brief Statement of Qualifications (including):
 - a. Biographical Sketch,
 - b. Relevant past projects and clients with brief descriptions of these projects,
 - c. Staff, faculty or students available to work on this project and their areas of expertise,
 - d. Any brief description of capabilities to successfully complete the project you may wish to add (e.g. equipment, laboratory facilities, greenhouse facilities, field facilities, etc.).

Note: A full study proposal and proposed budget are NOT requested at this time.

Review of Statements Received: All statements of interest received will be evaluated by a board comprised of one or more people at the receiving installation or activity, who will determine which statement(s) best meet the program objectives. Based on a review of the Statements of Interest received, an investigator or investigators will be invited to prepare a full study proposal. Statements will be evaluated based on the investigator's specific experience and capabilities in areas related to the study requirements.

Please send responses or direct questions to:

Please send responses or direct questions to:
USACE
Sandy Justman, Contract Specialist
CESWF-CT
Email: sandra.justman@usace.army.mil
Office: 817-886-1073

Timeline for Review of Statements of Interest: The RSOI are required to be out for a minimum of 10 working days. Review of Statements of Interest will begin 10 Aug 2018. [End of RSOI]