



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

24 APR 2019

REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST

NUMBER W9126G-19-2-SOI-5020

PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN 2019

Project Title: Natural Resources Support Beale/Travis, AFB (BAFB/TAFB), 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 [\\$2,323,632.00](#) is expected to be available to support this project. [Additional funding may be available for follow on work in subsequent fiscal years to the successful Recipient/Awardee.](#)

Background:

This work will require full-time onsite support personnel located at Travis and Beale AFBs. This work also requires off-site support for less than full-time projects that are seasonal in nature and require limited field work at Travis and Beale AFBs. The work shall involve: natural resource management activities, field surveys, reporting, coordination, travel to and from Travis and Beale AFB 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 project focuses on the following objectives (list is not all inclusive):

1) Objective: Natural Resources Program Support

a) Threatened and Endangered Species:

i) MGT, SPECIES, SENSITIVE SPECIES

(1) Complete non-migratory bird sensitive species management activities to support revised 2019 INRMP goals and objectives. Activities may include, but are not limited to:

- Monitor each state listed and other special status species (e.g. fall-run Chinook salmon, western spadefoot toad, northwestern pond turtle, bats, Greene's legenere, stinkbells) as required under law or agreement and for every project that may impact state listed species.
- Conduct assessment to determine threats to known stinkbell populations. Implement steps to protect stinkbells if necessary to preserve populations.
- Make annual efforts to implement survey and monitoring needs for at-risk species.
- Manage anadromous fish on base by capture/relocation in watersheds where they cannot spawn to Dry Creek/Best Slough.
- Re-locate western pond turtles and other native aquatic species from impoundments that will be drained during dam replacement or repair projects.
- Survey Dry Creek for Central Valley steelhead and fall-run chinook salmon above and below Beale Lake for five years after Beale Lake dam removal.
- Monitor western pond turtles at known locations after base-wide dam replacement and repair projects have been completed. Survey every other year for five years to determine response to modifications and re-location.
- Monitor drainages west of flightline for salmonids, and identify methods that can be used to prevent fish from entering artificial water channels onto the base.
- Install, maintain, and monitor wildlife habitat enhancement structures for bats in areas where they will not increase BASH risk.

ii) MGT, SPECIES, MIGRATORY BIRDS

(1) Complete migratory bird management activities to support revised 2019 INRMP goals and objectives. Implement 2017 Avian Protection Plan. Activities may include, but are not limited to:

- Monitor each state listed and other special status migratory bird (e.g. Western Burrowing Owl, California Black Rail) as required under law or agreement and for every project that may impact state listed species.
- Conduct monitoring on 2019 tricolored blackbird habitat mitigation project to determine success. Complete annual reports for six years post construction and submit to the USFWS. Conduct pre-construction surveys to provide baseline information at Broskey.
- Survey for presence of Tricolored Blackbirds at locations identified as suitable habitat in the 2017 CIRE assessment.
- Install, maintain, and monitor wildlife habitat enhancement structures (e.g., raptor perches, artificial burrowing owl burrows, kestrel boxes and barn owl boxes) in areas where they will not increase BASH risk.
- USFWS will conduct kestrel box repair and banding efforts.

- Re-locate the MAPS banding station and conduct mist netting during the migratory bird breeding season. Contact the Institute for Bird Populations to obtain missing MAPS data from prior years.
- Monitor avian electrocutions, perform study to prioritize poles needing retrofit, purchase retrofit materials, and coordinate work with base Electric Shop.
- Provide updated training to the base Electric Shop at least once every two years (last conducted in FY19).
- Apply for a MBTA Special Purpose Utility Permit (SPUT). Fund rehab costs associated with injured birds taken to authorized rehab facility as required by SPUT. Complete annual reporting requirement.

iii) MGT, HABITAT, ESA LISTED SPECIES BO REQ

(1) Apply for, implement, track, monitor compliance, and report on Endangered Species Act (ESA) consultations. To ensure proper ESA species management, provide GIS support to ensure consistent data collection methods and maintenance of NR geodatabase. Activities may include, but are not limited to the following INRMP projects:

- Conduct site-specific surveys as required to identify areas of potential conflict between mission projects and the protection of wetlands and special-status species.
- Conduct biological oversight and monitoring of routine mission activities and environmental awareness training for work crews.
- Monitor construction projects and sites for compliance with environmental regulations and construction Best Management Practices.
- Perform maintenance on GIS files, ensuring consistent file organization and naming conventions. Coordinate closely with AFCEC GIS NFE.
- As new natural resources data are available, update existing layers. Coordinate closely with AFCEC GIS NFE.
- Perform annual environmental awareness training to users of off-road vehicles (e.g., Security Forces).

iv) MGT, SPECIES, ES LISTED SPECIES

(1) Implement surveys, monitoring, and habitat management activities for federally listed species at Beale AFB. Align activities with the Resource Management Outcome below. Activities may include, but are not limited to:

- Monitor each federally listed species as required under law or agreement and for every project that may impact federally listed species.
- Conduct planning-level surveys in areas planned for future mission activities. List of locations pending.
- Conduct surveys for western yellow-billed cuckoo annually for five years to establish population baselines (Summer 2019-2022).
- Survey valley elderberry every three years for presence of valley elderberry beetle. Investigate threats to habitat and potential protection and improvement measures.
- Complete beetle surveys in 2020 and 2024
- Conduct elderberry shrub mapping verification in 2019 and 2020
- Mosquito management impacts to vernal pools and listed crustaceans
- Maintain flow in Reeds Creek through summer for GGS habitat suitability

v) MANAGEMENT HABITAT, ENDG, CALIFORNIA TIGER SALAMDER

(1) Implement the Plan developed in 2019 under previous task orders for on-site management actions at previously documented breeding ponds to offset mission impacts

on California tiger salamander (CTS) which reviewed/studied the following:

- re-establishing migration away from the known breeding ponds in the military family housing area,
- studying/implementing new equipment/procedures for installation of storm drains, irrigation boxes, electrical boxes, and other equipment that may trap CTS, and
- installation of artificial burrows and/or relocating ground squirrels around historic breeding ponds.

vi) MGT, SPECIES, AIRFIELD OPS CTS BO

- (1) This project is intended to implement requirements under an Emergency Biological Opinion, issued by the USFWS in October 2017. Over 150 federally endangered California tiger salamanders were found trying to cross the Airfield (Runway 21L) during daylight hours May-July 2017 resulting in unauthorized take of 39 salamanders. The USFWS conferred with numerous staff, experts, and supervisors to decide upon a path forward regarding the management of CTS & Continued Airfield Operations at Travis AFB.

vii) MGT, SPECIES, FEDERAL, STATE LISTED

- (a) Implement recommendations from 2019 Squirrel Management Report, and provide oversight to ground squirrel management in conjunction with the Integrated Pest Management Plan, Horizontal Maintenance, and Base Planners. This includes development and assisting in the implementations of new construction methods, retrofits at existing locations, or relocation of problem squirrels to more desirable areas.
- (b) Conduct surveys for California tiger salamander including eggs, larvae and adults.
- Drift fencing and pitfall traps will be required in up to 5 locations twice per year to study both juvenile and adult CTS movements with the intention of validating the Travis AFB CTS Risk Map in the Programmatic Biological Opinion. This includes the Wilcox West Pond directly adjacent to the base (City of Fairfield property).
 - Egg grids and visual egg surveys shall occur in up to 10 potential breeding ponds or waterways on the base and in the Wilcox West Pond directly adjacent to the base.
 - Larval surveys shall occur in up to 5 historic or potential breeding ponds and the Wilcox West Pond directly adjacent to the base.

viii) MGT, SPECIES, BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

- (1) Travis AFB has an Endangered Species Act, Section 7, Programmatic Biological Opinion (June 2018) that requires pre-notification to the USFWS in support of the base's primary mission, support mission, and environmental activities. Project shall prepare consultation packages by completing relevant field surveys and preparation of pre-notification project analyses including development of GIS maps and working with project engineers to ensure accurate project details. Project shall support USFWS coordination and responses to questions on submittals. Project also supports review and coordination of proponent Section 7 documents to ensure consistent submissions from Travis AFB to the USFWS.

b) Wetlands and Riparian Habitats Management:

i) MGT, HABITAT, RIPARIAN

- (1) Plan and implement riparian habitat restoration projects. Perform monitoring and maintenance of riparian planting sites. Oak restoration activities shall comply with guidance in the 2017 Grazing Management Program Guidelines (Hopkinson, 2017). Do

not plant non-native species (except possibly as recommended for naturalized grasses in the Grazing Management Plan). Plant native species in ecologically appropriate areas only to maximize success of plantings and minimize impacts to existing resources. This task only applies to wildlands, not cantonment or landscaped areas. Activities may include, but are not limited to the following INRMP projects:

- Conduct tree plantings and follow-on maintenance and monitoring; ensure all projects are IAW the Riparian Restoration Conceptual Design Plan.
- Replace and maintain wood duck boxes.
- Install, maintain, and monitor fish and wildlife habitat structures (e.g., quail roosts, dove nesting cones, blue bird boxes, and the fish ladder at Dry Creek).
- Expand the clinic restoration planting site using plants that are high value for pollinators.
- Monitor all restoration projects for three to five years to measure success of plantings and use by target wildlife (e.g. pollinators, monarchs). Incorporate lessons learned into future efforts.
- Continue to expand valley oak riparian woodland restoration efforts along the base creeks IAW riparian restoration plan and oak restoration plan.
- Initiate blue oak restoration and enhancement efforts on and around the saddle club, and other applicable places across base.
- Enhance shaded riverine aquatic habitat along Dry Creek/Best Slough.

ii) MGT, WETLANDS / FLOODPLAINS

- (1) Finish a ten + year effort to create vernal pools for use in offsetting mitigation requirements from historic and future projects under CWA Section 404. Final effort will work to finish monitoring requirements, complete a final report for the ACOE, and improve the compensation ratios at an existing on-base vernal pool mitigation site. This is the last year this project is programmed. Activities may include, but are not limited to:
- Complete further investigation and implement upgrades to existing created vernal pools to increase acreage that meets ACOE criteria (Site #2 near Wheatland Gate). Additional acres will be used to off-set future CWA 404 permits mitigation requirements.

iii) MONITOR, WETLANDS

- (1) Comply with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and NPDES Aquatic Weed Permit. Includes office and fieldwork required to implement the yet-to-be-submitted Regional General Permit and other 404 permit applications/permits. Review base projects to evaluate need for 404 permits. Prepare regulatory submittals for projects where CE and NR are the proponents. Conduct project-specific wetland verification for 404 applications. Implement requirements from existing permits. Implement NPDES Aquatic Weed Permit and perform needed tracking, monitoring, and reporting requirements. Activities may include, but are not limited to:
- Implement wetland restoration and creation when compensatory mitigation is required on base under a CWA permit (i.e., to meet Vernal Pool Recovery Plan Core Recovery Area requirements or when a mitigation bank is not available off-base) starting in 2021.
 - Minimize potential impacts on wetlands resulting from routine land management activities (e.g., firebreak disking, prescribed burning).
 - Implement annual compensatory mitigation and monitoring plan required under 404 Permit# TBD for the Salmonid Creek Restoration Project.

c) Wildland Fire Management:

i) MGT, HABITAT, POST FIRE REHAB

- (1) Complete a Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) analysis that reports on each fire year's wildfire affects to natural and cultural resources. Conduct pre- and post-habitat assessments and monitoring for prescribed fire activities. Implement recommendations from BAER reports to minimize the effects of wildland fire to important natural resources (listed species, species of concern, wetlands, rare and native plants, water quality, cultural resources, etc). Types of post-fire restoration work include follow-up treatments on previous wildland fires, invasive plant or erosion control to reduce immediate and/or long-term damage, re-contouring of wetlands, and native restoration plantings. Type of restoration is site dependent. Note that weed or erosion control measures may need to be implemented prior to the wet season as early as August. Provide needed support to AFCECs Wildland Fire Support Module

d) Invasive Species Management:

i) MGT, INVASIVE SPECIES, MULTIPLE

- (1) Control the presence and spread of invasive species as described and directed in the prioritized work plans included as appendices to the Beale AFB Invasive Plant Species Management Guidelines (IPSMG, November 2017), a component of the INRMP. Work Plans included under this task include Goatgrass, Riparian, and Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR plans). Focal species and areas for treatment in FY19-23 include barbed goat grass, giant reed in Dry Creek, blackberry in Reeds Creek, follow-up to the 2017 and 2018 treatments, and additional work as outlined in the work plans. Monitoring, data and geodatabase management, and reporting are key pieces of this project to ensure success of the program.

ii) MGT, NUISANCE WILDLIFE

- (1) Manage, control, study, and monitor nuisance wildlife species and their habitat. Coordinate closely with the pest management shop and airfield BASH team. Implement the Beale AFB INRMP, Integrated Pest Management Plan, BASH Plan, IPSMG (Nov 2017)'s BASH Work Plan (which targets reduction of wildlife around the airfield), and the Plan for Non-Native Red-Eared Slider and American Bullfrog Control. Species to be controlled include feral cats, bullfrogs, and red-eared sliders, which threaten the State Species of Concern and federally petitioned western pond turtle and other native wildlife. Activities may include, but are not limited to:
- Manage/maintain pond leveler/modifications and monitor/manage beaver populations in Reed's Creek.
 - Manage and control invasive species (yellow star thistle, tree of heaven, etc.) IAW the IPSMG, BASH Work Plan.
 - Remove attractants in the airfield, approaches, or WEZ that are attractive to wildlife or pose a BASH hazard. Sites include the islands in Pond 4, trees along the approach, and beaver ponds in Reeds Creek.
 - Partner with the Pest Shop to reduce or eliminate yellow star thistle (YST) around the airfield and Himalayan blackberry along Reeds Creek.
 - YST populations occur within and adjacent to mapped vernal pools and wetlands. Apply for applicable permits (NPDES Aquatic Weed Permit, Section 7) and implement all BMPs from the IPSMG.

- Develop and implement management recommendations for the control of nonnative aquatic wildlife in conjunction with habitat improvements for the western pond turtle.

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, qualifications and certifications demonstrated in your SOI.

Period of Performance. The base year of [agreement will extend 18-months from award](#) to allow for a full 12-month field support effort.

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:

USACE
Sandra 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 **May 10, 2019**.