



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

July 25, 2019

REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST

NUMBER W9126G-19-2-SOI-8800

PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN 2019

Project Title: Vandenberg AFB (VAFB) Natural Resources Support

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 \$1,855,881.00 (base tasks) and \$118,483.00 (optional task 3.21) and \$544,000 (optional task 3.24) is expected to be available to support this project. Additional funding may be available for additional tasks and/or follow on work in subsequent fiscal years to the successful Recipient/Awardee.

Background:

This work requires full-time onsite support person(s) located at Vandenberg AFB (VAFB) and off-site support for less than full-time projects that are seasonal in nature and require limited field work at VAFB, Edwards AFB (EAFB), and Pillar Point AFS (PPAFS). The work will involve: natural resource management activities, field surveys, reporting, coordination, and travel to and from the installations for off-site personnel, attendance at meetings, project management, and GIS data management. NFE must have relevant experience and all required permits necessary to support this task at time of award.

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. PLAN REVISION, IRMP

- This project provides support for annual or periodic revisions to the Vandenberg AFB INRMP. The INRMP consists of about 900 pages in 9 chapters, 16 tabs, and 5 appendices, plus accompanying tables and graphics. Due to the heft of the document it is more practical to perform incremental annual updates rather than a single major 5-year revision.

2. MGT, SPECIES, ESA, MARINE MAMMALS

- Perform species-specific management activities required to 1) achieve the goals and objectives of an INRMP approved in accordance with the Sikes Act. Project provides seasonal surveys to determine relative abundance and breeding status of pinniped species and to evaluate overall health and distribution of marine mammal populations on VAFB. This project addresses the USAF's responsibilities per the MMPA Programmatic Take Permit including cumulative impact assessment. This project includes preparation of annual "Letter of Authorization" (LOA) reports.

3. MGT, SPECIES, T&E PLANT RESTORATION

- Conduct recommended minimum follow up habitat restoration activities in north and south beach layia restoration areas and potentially reduced 35th Street Lompoc yerba santa site, and improve Vandenberg monkeyflower habitat near occupied sites and upwind sources. The purpose of restoration in each of these federally listed plant species habitat is to improve habitat quality for these endangered and threatened species to support and reach recovery goals. The efforts of restoration directly supports the USFWS's consideration to down list beach layia from federally endangered to threatened.

4. 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.

5. RECORDKEEPING, OTHER, BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

- 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 PBO pre-notifications. This work requires onsite support located at VAFB, Santa Barbara County, California.

6. 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.

7. MGT, INVASIVE SPECIES

- Protect natural plant communities by identifying and eradicating invasive non-native plant species.

8. 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 2,100 acres of oak woodland completing the first priority areas. Inventory of tan oaks started in 2019. The plan strategy Phases 2 and 3 addresses the remaining 7,452 acres as a second priority to inventory trees including approximately 1,039 acres of Bishop pine (*Pinus muricata*) with GIS.

9. 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 of the 100,000 acre base.

10. 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, and analyze rangeland trends.

11. MGT, HABITAT, ESA EL SEGUNDO BLUE BUTTERFLY

- Conduct habitat restoration within occupied or suitable El Segundo blue butterfly (ESBB) habitat. Restoration offsets routine impacts of mission activities conducted by the 30th Space Wing and certain other organizations.

12. 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.

13. MGT, HABITAT, ESA BEACH RESTORATION

- The VAFB Beach Management Plan and Biological Opinion (1-8-05-F-5R) for Western snowy plover, a federally-threatened species, require dune habitat restoration. The restoration area occurs along the coastal dunes on VAFB.

14. MGT, HABITAT, ESA VERNAL POOLS

- Per the Programmatic BO, this project will restore impacted habitats at a 1:1 or 5:1 ratio depending on extent of disturbance. Work includes survey, evaluation, reevaluation, and/or monitoring of impacted and/or mitigation pools, totaling approximately 110 pools.

15. MGT, SPECIES, ESA SALAMANDER

- This work requires, likely in the winter/spring of 2019/2020, the completion of protocol surveys at a number of sites selected and agreed upon by the government in cooperation with the cooperator, to assess for presence of the California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*).

16. MGT, SPECIES, ESA ABALONE

- This project will assess the VAFB coastline for the presence of the (endangered) black abalone (*Haliotis cracherodii*). Related actions may include surveys for other species, to include Pinto abalone (*H. kamtschatkana*) and (not currently listed) red abalone (*H. rufescens*). Surveys for any or all of these species may require experienced and qualified SCUBA personnel.

17. 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.

18. MGT, HABITAT, POINT CONCEPTION

- This project will implement the Point Conception Property Restoration Plan that will improve habitat quality for federally endangered *Gaviota tarplant* and control or eradicate invasive plant species to levels that will allow for natural recovery.

19. INVASIVE SPECIES (PILLAR POINT AIR FORCE STATION)

- This project will focus on highly invasive pampas grass (*Cortaderia* spp) removal and continue follow-up treatment and removal of priority non-native weeds on 30 acres at Pillar Point Air Force Station (AFS).

20. MGT, HABITAT, COASTAL (PILLAR POINT AIR FORCE STATION)

- The purpose of this project is to improve diversity and ecosystem habitat for sensitive and native species unique to Pillar Point Air Force Station (PPAFS). The infestation of Cape ivy (*Delairea odorata*) has degraded habitat for California red-legged frog and encroached on native coastal terrace prairie. This project shall implement the Restoration Plan (MSRS 2017) to control Cape ivy at PPAFS while considering sensitive species and continued ecosystem function with a systematic approach would improve habitat conditions.

21. MGT, WETLANDS / FLOODPLAINS (EDWARDS AFB) (OPTION)

- Management actions such as vegetation control, dredging, rebuilding of the weir water control systems, and other activities constitute undertakings with potential to affect

cultural resources. The Piute Ponds complex has been surveyed for cultural resources, with many sites, features, and isolated artifacts being recorded but without eligibility recommendations. This project will build on that previous work, visiting previously-recorded locations to perform condition assessments and elucidate further information as necessary to enable making recommendations of eligibility (individually or as part of a district) and assessment of adverse effects from the proposed undertakings.

22. ESA CANDIDATE SPECIES -- Mohave Ground Squirrel (Edwards AFB)

- This project will 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 MGS study plots on Edwards AFB to determine if RTGS have expanded into the Edwards AFB core MGS population, and if so, how far they have spread.

23. BASEWIDE NATURAL / CULTURAL MONITORING (VANDENBERG AFB)

- This project supports the Installation Restoration Program (IRP) at Vandenberg AFB (VAFB) by providing surveys and assessments of natural and cultural resources in vicinity of IRP sites and proposed activities. This project supports the conservation of these resources by providing surveys, escorts, and monitors to avoid or minimize adverse impacts caused by activities at Installation Restoration Program (IRP) and the Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP) sites.

24. SURVEY / INVENTORY UPDATE, CULTURAL RESOURCES, ARCH-ARCU (VANDENBERG AFB) (OPTION)

- The 30th Space Wing of the United States Air Force, Vandenberg Air Force Base (VAFB), proposes to construct nine separate small vehicle launch complexes (SVLC) on the southern part of VAFB in Santa Barbara County, California. The nine SVLCs would allow multiple commercial space launch companies to launch up to 100 times per year and up to 2 times per day. The SVLCs would launch small launch vehicles only, not medium or heavy launch vehicles. Small launch vehicles, by definition, are capable of delivering payloads weighing up to 2,000 kg into Low Earth Orbit (LEO). VAFB determined the proposed Small Vehicles Launch Complexes Project is an undertaking subject to compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 [54 U.S.C. 306108], as amended, and the implementing regulations [36 CFR Part 800].

NOTE: At this time we are only requesting that you demonstrate available qualifications and skills for performing similar or the same type of work. Preference will be given to NFEs that demonstrate at least three years' experience writing Section 7 documents, working in central California coastal ecosystems, and possession of USFWS 10(a)(1)(A) permits. You will be evaluated for request for a proposal based on skills and qualifications demonstrated in your SOI.

Period of Performance.

Base period: The base period of performance is anticipated to be 12 months from date of award, except Task 21 for which the period of performance is 24 months and Task 24 which the period of performance is 18 months.

Option periods: Four option years are anticipated for this project. Each optional period will be for 12 months and will begin at the conclusion of the previous period.

Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications:

Please provide the following via e-mail attachment to: sandra.justman@usace.army.mil and david.b.leptien@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
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Timeline for Review of Statements of Interest: The RSOI is required to be out for a minimum of 10 working days. Review of Statements of Interest will begin **AUG 9, 2019**.