



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

14 JUN 2020

REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST
Number W9126G-20-2-SOI-4263
Project to be initiated in 2020

***INTERESTED PARTIES MUST BE a partner in one of the
Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESU) National Network:***
Gulf Coast, W9126G-12-2-0019
Colorado Plateau, W9126G-14-2-0018
Southern Appalachian Mountains, W9126G-14-2-0015

Project Title: Seasonal Natural and Cultural Resources Support on Air Force Installations

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) and Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP)** in order to facilitate successful implementation of the **16 USC 670c-1 Sikes Act**. Approximately **\$415,000** is expected to be available to support this project for the base CLIN. Approximately **\$266,000** may be available for the option CLINs.

NOTE: Attached to this document you will find a **DRAFT Statement of Work/Objectives** for your reference only. Again, at this time we are only requesting that you demonstrate available qualifications and skills for performing similar or same type of work. **A full study proposal and proposed budget are NOT requested at this time.**

Background:

The primary objective of this project is to provide temporary natural resources/cultural resources support to AK PRSC NR Program, Bellows AFS, Dover AFB, Eglin AFB, Eielson AFB, Hill AFB, UTTR, JB Charleston, JBER, JBLE-Eustis, Offutt AFB, Ellsworth AFB, FE Warren AFB, Scott AFB, Robins AFB, and Tyndall AFB. See the attached Scope of Objectives (SOO) for further details.

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 objective:

The Cooperator shall provide semi-skilled and non-professional seasonal support to assist Air Force installations with the implementation of projects related to the stewardship of natural resources and cultural resources as indicated in the installation INRMP/ICRMP.

Conservation program tasks assigned at each installation are temporary and seasonal in nature. Work assigned to Cooperator employees will require only entry level knowledge in natural and cultural resources management. The Cooperator will provide supervision and oversight to Cooperator employees. Cooperator employees shall work closely with AF conservation program professionals for daily coordination and consultation for work activities at AF installations. The Cooperator and the AF personnel will mutually ensure the benefit to their respective programs and personnel in terms of learning/professional experience of the individual performers. The base CLIN includes support for five (5) installations. There are also eight (8) option CLINs to be awarded based on bona fide need.

Workforce development opportunities may include the following subject areas:

- Fish and Wildlife Management: fish and wildlife surveys, population monitoring, habitat mapping, invasive species control and management;
- Threatened and Endangered Species Management: species inventories, population monitoring, habitat mapping, and assistance for implementing conservation requirements;
- Outdoor Recreation Management: administration of hunting, fishing, and other authorized outdoor recreation activities;
- Conservation Program Planning Support;
- Forest Management: survey and update data;
- Wetlands Protection and Management: Inventory and restoration;
- Protection of Coastal and Marine Resources: habitat mapping, inventory, and analysis; and implementing shoreline habitat restoration projects;
- Livestock Grazing and Agriculture Outleasing: includes monitoring the effects of grazing on native ecosystems and sensitive species;
- Outdoor Recreation: monitoring recreation activities, maintenance of interpretive nature trails and recreation sites;
- Land Management: introducing native plants in landscapes, invasive species control, urban forest management, and soil erosion control;
- Cultural Resources support opportunities may include the following subject areas:
 - Archaeological site monitoring and identification: assist with recording data on standardized forms, photo documentation, and collection of artifacts;
 - Archaeological site stabilization: assist with preparing material for transport to archaeological site to be stabilized, installing stabilization materials, and documentation of stabilization efforts;
 - Tribal Relations Program: research and update data;
 - Public interpretation: Work with installation to interpret sites for a public audience;

- Cemetery Management: determine if historically mapped cemeteries are still on AF lands or if they were removed when the government acquired the land.

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 period of performance is 18 months from date of award

Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications:

Please provide the following via e-mail attachment to:

sandra.justman@usace.army.mil and sarah.j.miller2@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:

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Office: (402) 995-2625

Timeline for Review of Statements of Interest: The RSOI is required to be posted for 30 days prior to the Government making a decision and requesting full proposals. Responses due by 5:00 P.M., Central Time, on **14 JUL 2020**.

[End of RSOI]

[See below for DRAFT Statement of Work]

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES (SOO)
for
SEASONAL NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
SUPPORT
ON AIR FORCE INSTALLATIONS

Article III, (D) of the Applicable Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Unit (CESU)

1. PURPOSE

1.0 General. This request seeks to provide natural resources management support to the United States Air Force (AF) for the implementation of installation Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans (INRMPs) prepared in support of the Sikes Act (Title 16 United States Code, Section 670). Cooperative support shall consist of temporary and seasonal labor support to Air Force as required for the implementation of INRMP directed natural resource management activities. The Cooperator will provide temporary natural resources management support to Air Force installations as identified in this Performance Work Statement (PWS) and as directed by the Air Force Civil Engineer Center, Environmental Directorate, Technical Division (AFCEC/CZTQ). The Government shall not exercise any supervision or control over the Cooperator or Cooperator employees. Cooperator employees shall be accountable solely to the Cooperator.

1.1 The objective of the work to be performed under this task order is for temporary and seasonal Cooperator support services to maintain and enhance AF capabilities to implement installation Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) and Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP) project activities. This Performance Work Statement provides for on-site support at the designated AF installations herein.

1.2 Policy and Guidance. The Sikes Act (16 U.S.C. 670 *et seq.*) provides the direction for the management of natural resources on military installations. Air Force policy and guidance for fish and wildlife management and for outdoor recreation access can be found in Air Force Instruction (AFI) 32-7064 – *Integrated Natural Resources Management* and AFI 32-7065 – *Cultural Resources Management*. For each military installation, the installation Integrated Natural Resources and Cultural Resources Management Plans identifies the natural and cultural resources goals and objectives, as well as the allowable outdoor recreation uses and allowable participants for consumptive and non-consumptive use of those resources. The Sikes Act also authorizes military installations to issue permits and collect fees to support outdoor recreation management.

Article I B of the master agreement states the objectives of the CESU are to: provide research, technical assistance and education to federal land management, environmental and research agencies and their potential partners; develop a program of research, technical assistance and education that involves the biological, physical, social sciences needed to address resource issues and interdisciplinary problem-solving at multiple scales and in an ecosystem context at the local, regional, and national level; and place special emphasis on the

working collaboration among federal agencies and universities and their related partner institutions.

2. AUTHORITY

Authority to enter into a Cooperative Agreements (CA) for the work: Section 670c-1, Title 16 United States Code, Sikes Act.

2.1. In agreement with the above stated goals, the NFE agrees to provide the necessary personnel, equipment, and materials required to implement, in part, AFCEC's responsibilities pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (16 USC 1531 et seq.), the Sikes Act Improvement Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 USC 1361 et seq.), the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), and applicable implementing regulations, such as Air Force Instruction 32-7064, *Integrated Natural Resources Management*.¹¹ *Grant and Cooperative Agreements Act of 1977* (31 U.S.C. § 6301 et seq.), all CESU projects must carry out a public purpose of support or stimulation, instead of acquiring goods or services for the exclusive direct benefit of the United States Government. Examples of carrying out a public purpose may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Project results are made available to a wide audience (including nonfederal entities)
- Project results/outputs add to the scientific literature/knowledge base, with applicability and utility beyond the scope of the project footprint/study area
- Academic and other nonfederal partner institutions (and their personnel) gain professional experience, increase knowledge, and develop skills and abilities
- Students benefit from direct interaction with federal scientists, program and technical staff, and field unit managers

2.2. In accordance with section 6305 – *Using cooperative agreements* of the *Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreements Act of 1977* (31 U.S.C. § 6301 et seq.), substantial involvement is expected between the Department of Defense and the recipient when carrying out the activity contemplated by the cooperative agreement. The DoD agrees to participate at a national level in support of the CESU program as accepted in the Master MOU for the establishment and continuation of the CESU program Article II 1-4 and Article VI 1-7.

The installation further (hence DoD) agrees to provide substantial involvement as directed under the appropriate master agreement to include, but not limited to, the following:

- Air Force POC's are involved in development of study methodology, data gathering, analysis, and/or report writing
- Air Force POC's are active participates and collaborates in carrying out the project plan of work, reviews and approves activities, helps train or select project staff or trainees

- Air Force POC's incurs in-kind or direct expenditures in carrying out the activities specified in the project agreement. Examples include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - Providing staff time to work on the project

3.0 DESCRIPTION OF OBJECTIVES

3.1 The Cooperator shall support Air Force Installations with the implementation of projects related to the stewardship of natural resources and cultural resources as indicated in the installation INRMP/ICRMP. Conservation program tasks assigned at each installation are temporary and seasonal in nature and may be performed by semi-skilled and recent graduates who are knowledgeable and excel at performing field support that can be labor intensive and strenuous. Support from the cooperator employees will require only entry level knowledge in natural and cultural resources management. The Cooperator will provide supervision and oversight to Cooperator employees. Cooperator employees shall work closely with AF conservation program professionals for daily coordination and consultation for work activities at AF installations. The Cooperator and the AF personnel will mutually ensure the benefit to their respective programs and personnel in terms of learning/professional experience of the individual performers.

Workforce development opportunities may include the following subject areas:

- Fish and Wildlife Management: fish and wildlife surveys, population monitoring, habitat mapping, invasive species control and management;
- Threatened and Endangered Species Management: species inventories, population monitoring, habitat mapping, and assistance for implementing conservation requirements;
- Outdoor Recreation Management: administration of hunting, fishing, and other authorized outdoor recreation activities;
- Conservation Program Planning Support;
- Forest Management: survey and update data;
- Wetlands Protection and Management: Inventory and restoration;
- Protection of Coastal and Marine Resources: habitat mapping, inventory, and analysis; and implementing shoreline habitat restoration projects;
- Livestock Grazing and Agriculture Outleasing: includes monitoring the effects of grazing on native ecosystems and sensitive species;
- Outdoor Recreation: monitoring recreation activities, maintenance of interpretive nature trails and recreation sites;
- Land Management: introducing native plants in landscapes, invasive species control, urban forest management, and soil erosion control;
- Cultural Resources support opportunities may include the following subject areas:
 - Archaeological site monitoring and identification: assist with recording data on standardized forms, photo documentation, and collection of artifacts;
 - Archaeological site stabilization: assist with preparing material for transport to archaeological site to be stabilized, installing stabilization materials, and documentation of stabilization efforts;

- Tribal Relations Program: research and update data;
- Public interpretation: Work with installation to interpret sites for a public audience;
- Cemetery Management: determine if historically mapped cemeteries are still on AF lands or if they were removed when the government acquired the land.

3.2 The Air Force requires on-site support at designated AF installations. The Cooperator shall provide temporary employees to assist the designated installation natural resources manager with biological field work tasks needed to implement the installation ICRMP & INRMP. The Cooperator is encouraged, but not required, to provide temporary employee opportunity for current and recently graduated college students, when feasible, to gain entry-level experience in natural and/or cultural resources management field work.

3.3 Place of Performance. Work shall be performed at the installations listed below in this PWS. Cooperator employees assigned to installations will be provided office space and access to a telephone, but will not be assigned Air Force desktop or laptop computers, and will not require access to the Air Force internal information systems network. Communication with the Government will primarily be through telephone, e-mail, and internet conferencing. Cooperator travel to AF installations is anticipated for the supervision of Cooperator employees. For cost estimation purposes, the assumed travel would be three trips to each installation for one person for three nights for the purpose of supervision of Cooperator employees. The table below indicates the proposed locations at which Cooperator assistance is required. Indicated in the table are the number of personnel desired and the time period within which services will be provided. The “not to exceed” (NTE) days are the maximum number of days that can be worked at each location for each Cooperator employee within the designated time period.

<u>CLIN</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NO. OF PERSONNEL</u>	<u>FOCUS AREA</u>	<u>PROPOSED TIME PERIOD & NOT TO EXCEED (NTE) DAYS</u>
0001	AK PRSC NR Program (611 th CES/CEI)	2	Conservation Program Planning Support; Fish and Wildlife Management	May – Nov; NTE 140 days
	Bellows AFS	1	Threatened and Endangered Species Management; Wetlands Protection and Management; Land Management; Conservation Program Planning Support	20 Apr – 30 Sep; NTE 110 days
	Eglin AFB, FL	4	Wildlife Management (2); Forestry (2)	Year-round; NTE 250

	Eielson AFB	1	Outdoor Recreation; Wildlife Management; Land Management	20 Apr – 30 Sep; NTE 110 days
	JB Charleston	2	Wildlife Management; Forestry	15 Sep – 15 May, NTE 150 days
0002 (Optional)	Dover AFB	1	Wildlife Surveys; Land Management	Apr – Nov; NTE 140 days
0003 (Optional)	Hill AFB	1	Cultural Resources	15 Apr – 30 Sep; NTE 100 days
0004 (Optional)	Hill AFB and UTTR ¹	1	Wildlife Management	20 Apr – 28 Aug; NTE 90 days
0005 (Optional)	JB Elmendorf- Richardson, AK	2	Forestry; Avian and Aquatics Intern	Forestry: 15 Apr – 15 Oct, NTE 125 days; Avian and Aquatics: 15 May – 30 Sep, NTE 90 days
0006 (optional)	JBLE-Eustis, VA	1	Cultural Resources	15 Apr – 30 Sep; NTE 100 days
0007 (optional)	Offutt AFB ² , Ellsworth AFB, F.E. Warren AFB, Scott AFB	1	Wildlife Management	11 May – 14 Aug NTE 70 days
0008 (Optional)	Robins AFB, GA	1	All Natural Resources	15 Apr – 15 Nov, NTE 140 days
0009 (Optional)	Tyndall AFB	1	All Natural Resources	20 Oct – 21 Apr; NTE 110 Days
	TOTAL:	18		

¹ Primary Duties will be at Utah Test and Training Range. Will require overnight stays M-Th in the dorms at the range. Mission demands for Military lodging may require overnight stays in a camper or tent on range.

² Primary location is Offutt AFB. Intern is expected to travel, using their own transportation to the other listed (secondary) locations. Some weekend and holiday work is expected. Travel to secondary locations is expected 60% of the time. Primary duty will be creel surveys to include migratory bird inventory of fisheries, agricultural outlease management, and surveying burrowing terrestrial squirrel habitat.

4.0 Reports, Deliverables, and Schedule. Deliverables shall be submitted in electronic format to the identified USACE and USAF points of contact.

4.1 Monthly Progress Report. The Cooperative shall submit monthly electronic progress reports to the USACE and USAF POC summarizing activities as follows:

- Number of days, locations, and activities of Cooperator employees in the program
- Action item support and taskers supported
- Plans, reports, and briefings prepared

- Meetings attended including purpose/objective, attendees, and items identified for follow-on action
- Schedule changes for Cooperator employees

4.2 Other Deliverables. Other deliverables shall include:

- Monthly teleconference progress briefings
- A Final Summary Report of Cooperator Accomplishments describing the methodology, data gathered, and work/studies undertaken under this PWS
- Report from temporary Cooperator assigned employee/student at end of appointment describing the project and their experience (essay format).

5.0 QUALIFICATIONS

The Cooperator shall provide semi-skilled and non-professional seasonal support to assist Air Force installations with the implementation of projects related to the stewardship of natural resources and cultural resources as indicated in the installation INRMP/ICRMP. Conservation program tasks assigned at each installation are temporary and seasonal in nature. Work assigned to Cooperator employees will require only entry level knowledge in natural and cultural resources management.

6.0 GOVERNMENT FURNISHED MATERIALS OR PROPERTY

The Air Force will facilitate access to the installation for qualified Cooperator personnel. The Government will provide all policy, information, and guidance to the Cooperator necessary to fulfill the requirements of this PWS. The Government will provide all equipment necessary for Cooperator employees to conduct field surveys and analysis of natural resources data. The Government will provide two-way radio communication capability. The Government will not provide laptop computers or cellular phones to Cooperator employees. Cooperator employees will not require access to Air Force computers or access to the AF information systems network.

7.0 PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE. The period of performance for this cooperative agreement task shall be eighteen (18) months from date of award. The required period of performance for each temporary Cooperator employee shall differ by installation and need as indicated in this PWS. The start date and the number of days worked for each Cooperator employee shall be determined by consultation and mutual agreement between the Cooperator and the Air Force. Each Cooperator employee shall work no more than the NTE days within the time period specified for each installation.

Each optional task shall have a period of performance of 18 months and will be awarded based on bona fide need.

8.0 Quality Control. The Cooperator shall develop and maintain an effective quality control program to ensure services are performed in accordance with this PWS. The Cooperator shall develop and implement procedures to identify and prevent defective services.

9.0 Points of Contact.

USACE POC

Sarah Miller, PM
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Sarah.j.miller2@usace.army.mil

Mr. Kevin Porteck, Air Force Technical Point of Contact
Air Force Civil Engineer Center
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10. This cooperative agreement 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%).

Any resulting cooperative agreement will be subject to and recipient/cooperator shall comply with 2 CFR 200.313 "Equipment", 200.314 "Supplies", and 200.315 "Intangible Property" which includes use of research data.

[End of SOO]