



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

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF INTEREST
Number W9126G-21-2-SOI-4655
Project to be initiated in 2021

Applicants must be a member in one of the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESU):
Colorado Plateau Region
Great Plains Region
Rocky Mountain Region

Project Title: Cultural Resources Program Technical Assistance for AFCEC/CZ

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest will be used to identify potential investigators for a project to be funded by Air Force Civil Engineer Center (AFCEC), which provides professional and technical support for Hill, F.E. Warren, Malmstrom, Minot, and Peterson Air Force Bases, in order to facilitate successful implementation of the 16 USC 670c-1 Sikes Act. **\$255,162.00** is expected to be available to support this project during the **6-month base period**. Additional funding may be available for follow on work for up to 6 subsequent fiscal years to the successful Recipient/Awardee, subject to the availability of funds.

Background:

The Department of the Air Force (DAF) manages lands in all 50 states and territories in accordance with all appropriate environmental laws and regulations, including the Sikes Act, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), and other requirements. The AFCEC Environmental Directorate (AFCEC/CZ) requires technical support at AFCEC for the Cultural Resources and NEPA programs to ensure that DAF, federal, state, and local resource regulations are met while minimizing the impact of DAF activities on the environment. The cooperative agreement (CA) establishes a cost-effective, time-efficient, and flexible capability to support AFCEC programs.

The DAF has benefited greatly from the expertise and experience of non-Department of Defense (DoD) practitioners in the development and implementation of DAF policy concerning environmental compliance, Sikes Act issues, cultural resource regulations, and Executive Orders (EO). Extensive experience in environmental management, natural and cultural resource management (conservation), environmental compliance, and environmental law have proven to be instrumental in guiding DAF decision makers and DAF policy to make clear and sound legal decisions that benefit the needs of the DAF and the environment. Comprehensive support for the DAF natural and cultural resources and NEPA programs aids in efforts to partner with federal and State agencies along with external stakeholders, which in turn contribute to ensuring that the DAF mission is not impacted.

This work requires an onsite support person located at an installation location with the Midwest Region of the United States (e.g. Hill AFB, Petersen AFB) and at their home office. The work

involves travel to: Areas of Responsibility within the Midwest Region of the United States and San Antonio, TX.

Type of Award:

This project will be awarded under the authority of 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 one of the CESU Units, referenced above, to be qualified for considered.

Brief Description of Anticipated Work:

Planning and Decision Support: Planning and decision support to contribute to making sound decisions regarding land use, cultural resource management, military training impacts, project siting, etc. Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Reviews (ER) are routinely necessary on public, Native American reservation, and military lands prior to initiating testing and training exercises, implementation of various resource management plans, siting projects and construction activities. Such assessments and statements require large amounts of supporting data, information, and analysis.

Planning and decision support will include NEPA and NHPA Section 106 analyses that are required prior to initiation of implementation of resource management plans, project siting, or construction activities when such actions are to be completed using federal funds. NEPA and NHPA analysis requires collection and evaluation of large amounts of supporting data and services to be provided under this agreement, including the collection and analysis of data; preparation of required documents; and facilitation of all aspects of the NEPA process, to include public meetings and Native American consultations. Planning and decision support will include programmatic and technical expertise for AFCEC/CZ NEPA and the Cultural Resources Programs authorized by the NHPA, NEPA, and NAGPRA.

Tasks (Mandatory): Provide planning and decision technical expertise as described in Sections I & II listed above in support of the Air Force meeting its environmental requirements for the Ground Based Strategic Deterrent (GBSD) EIS and NHPA, Sections 106 and 110. Technical assistance tasks include:

- Oversee all Cultural Resources matters related to GBSD:
 - Interface between GBSD project offices, AFCEC, and contractor(s); gathering and facilitating frequent exchanges of information between GBSD; AFCEC/CZ offices, and contractors regarding all aspects of GBSD consultations with stakeholders, State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs), Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs), federally recognized American Indian Tribes (Tribes), the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), and landowners, including:

- Functioning as a point of contact (POC) for all stakeholder outreach regarding cultural resources matters
- Work closely with Public Affairs Officers
- Participate in the GBSD Cultural Resources Core Team (CRCT)
- Participate in development of website and outreach materials related to cultural resources
- Conduct technical review of contractor deliverables (with CRCT support/reachback), EIS, ROD, survey plan, consultation letters, baseline archaeological reports, background research reference report, meeting presentations, websites and outreach materials, Public Affairs guidance documents, etc.
- Liaison between project and installation CRMs for execution of monitoring/mitigation plans
- Act as the primary POC for continuity as the AF Cultural Resources representative and liaison for stakeholders through to signing of the GBSD EIS ROD
- Participate in project meetings, develop agendas, take applicable minutes, and lead meetings, as needed, to include:
 - The CRCT
 - Integrated Project Team (IPT), Public Affairs group, and other GBSD meetings as needed
 - Cultural resources portions/modules of tribal, stakeholder, and public scoping meetings, to include on-site support as/if needed
 - Coordinating meetings with non-lead federal agencies
 - Meetings with the ACHP, SHPOs, THPOs, Tribes, and other consulting parties.
- Assist NHPA, Section 110, to include:
 - Liaison between GBSD and installation Cultural Resources Managers (CRMs) and other federal agencies for Section 110 National Register of Historic Places determinations of eligibility and concurrences for cultural resources evaluated during the project
- Assist with NHPA, Section 106, to include:
 - Consultations with SHPOs, Tribes, and other consulting parties
 - Development of a Project Programmatic Agreement, to potentially include tribal affairs communication plans
 - Develop monitoring/mitigation plans
 - Development of a NAGPRA Comprehensive Agreement for the Project
 - Lead other individual Section 106 actions (if not covered by CA or PA)
- Assist with all other Tribal consultation activities, to include :
 - All government-to-government consultation actions and inquiries
 - Consultation/ascertaining capabilities regarding availability of tribal monitors/monitoring
 - NAGPRA comprehensive agreement consultation efforts
 - Consultation on monitoring and mitigation plans
- Supporting preparation of GBSD EIS

CONSIDERATION

1 Some tasks may require access to, or the review of material classified up to the Secret level. For this reason, support staff must have a final adjudicated Secret security clearance.

2 The Non-Federal Entity (NFE) may elect to sub award some of the work for other organizations (nonprofit, or for-profit entities as they see appropriate)

3 In addition, it is anticipated that the environmental support activities will require travel to attend meetings through the Midwest Region and in San Antonio, TX.

4 Estimated travel: two 1-week trips to San Antonio, TX (one person per trip); six 1-week trips within the Midwest Region (one person per trip).

Period of Performance. The base period of agreement will extend 6-months from award. Six optional periods extending for 12 months are anticipated pending availability of funds.

Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications:

(Maximum length: 2 pages, single-spaced 12 pt. font).

1. Name, Organization, Cage Code, Duns number, and Contact Information (Email)
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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Timeline for Review of Statements of Interest: The RSOI is required to be posted for at least 30 days prior to the Government making a decision and requesting full proposals. Responses due by 5:00 P.M., Central Time, on **23 July 2021**.

[End of RSOI]

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES
for
Cultural Resources Program Technical Assistance
for
The Air Force Civil Engineer Center (AFCEC/CZ)

Article III, (D) of the following Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Units (CESU)
Colorado Plateau Unit CESU Unit
Rocky Mountain CESU Unit
Great Plains CESU Unit

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The Air Force (AF) manages lands in all 50 states and territories in accordance with all appropriate environmental laws and regulations, including the Sikes Act, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), and other requirements. The AFCEC Environmental Directorate requires technical support at AFCEC for the Cultural Resources and NEPA programs to ensure that AF, federal, state, and local resource regulations are met while minimizing the impact of AF activities on the environment. The cooperative agreement (CA) establishes a cost-effective, time-efficient, and flexible capability to support AFCEC programs.
- 1.2 The AF has benefited greatly from the expertise and experience of non-Department of Defense (DoD) practitioners in the development and implementation of AF policy concerning environmental compliance, Sikes Act issues, cultural resource regulations, and Executive Orders (EO). Extensive experience in environmental management, natural and cultural resource management (conservation), environmental compliance, and environmental law have proven to be instrumental in guiding AF decision makers and AF policy to make clear and sound legal decisions that benefit the needs of the AF and the environment. Comprehensive support for the AF natural and cultural resources and NEPA programs aids in efforts to partner with federal and State agencies along with external stakeholders, which in turn contribute to ensuring that the AF mission is not impacted.
- 1.3 This work requires two support persons located within the Midwest Region of the United States. The work involves travel to: Areas of Responsibility within the Midwest Region of the United States and San Antonio, TX.

2.0 AUTHORITY

- 2.1 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*.
- 2.2 In agreement with the above stated goals, the recipient/cooperator agrees to provide the necessary personnel, equipment, and materials required to implement, in part, the Air Force responsibilities pursuant to the Sikes Act Improvement Act (16 USC 670 et seq.).
- 2.3 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 Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESU) program as accepted in the Master Memorandum of Understanding (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 Article II (A) of the above listed CESU Master Agreement # to include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The Air Force is involved in development of study methodology, data gathering, analysis, and/or report writing
- The Air Force actively participates and collaborates in carrying out the project plan of work, reviews and approves activities, helps train or select project staff or trainees
- The Air Force 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 computing services
 - Providing staff time to work on the project

3.0 DESCRIPTION OF OBJECTIVES

- I- Planning and Decision Support: Planning and decision support to contribute to making sound decisions regarding land use, cultural resource management, military training impacts, project siting, etc. Environmental Impact Statements

(EIS) and Environmental Reviews (ER) are routinely necessary on public, private, Native American reservation, other federal agencies, and military lands prior to initiating testing and training exercises, implementation of various resource management plans, siting projects and construction activities. Such assessments and statements require large amounts of supporting data, information, and analysis.

- II- Planning and decision support will include NEPA and NHPA Section 106 analyses that are required during and prior to initiation of implementation of resource management plans, project siting, or construction activities when such actions are to be completed using federal funds. NEPA and NHPA analysis requires collection and evaluation of large amounts of supporting data and services to be provided under this agreement, including the collection and analysis of data; preparation of required documents; and facilitation of all aspects of the NHPA, NAGPRA, and NEPA processes, to include public meetings and Native American consultations. Planning and decision support will include programmatic and technical expertise for AFCEC/CZ NEPA and the Cultural Resources Programs and the Ground Based Strategic Deterrent (GBSD) program offices authorized by the NHPA, NEPA, and NAGPRA.

- 3.1 Tasks (Mandatory): Provide planning and decision technical expertise as described in Sections I & II listed above in support of the Air Force meeting its environmental requirements for the GBSD EIS and NHPA, Sections 106 and 110. Technical assistance tasks include:

- Oversee all Cultural Resources matters related to GBSD:
 - Interface between GBSD project offices, AFCEC, and contractor(s); gathering and facilitating frequent exchanges of information between GBSD; AFCEC/CZ offices, and contractors regarding all aspects of GBSD consultations with stakeholders, State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs), Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs), federally recognized American Indian Tribes (Tribes), the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), and landowners, including:
 - Functioning as a point of contact (POC) for all stakeholder outreach regarding cultural resources matters
 - Work closely with Public Affairs Officers
 - Participate in the GBSD Cultural Resources Core Team (CRCT)
 - Participate in development of website and outreach materials related to cultural resources
 - Conduct technical review of contractor deliverables (with CRCT support/reachback), EIS, ROD, survey plan, consultation letters, baseline archaeological reports, background research reference report, meeting presentations, websites and outreach materials, Public Affairs guidance documents, etc.

- Liaison between project and installation CRMs for execution of monitoring/mitigation plans
 - Act as the primary POC for continuity as the AF Cultural Resources representative and liaison for stakeholders.
- Participate in project meetings, develop agendas, take applicable minutes, and lead meetings, as needed, to include:
 - The CRCT
 - Integrated Project Team (IPT), Public Affairs group, and other GBSD meetings as needed
 - Cultural resources portions/modules of tribal, stakeholder, and public scoping meetings, to include on-site support as/if needed
 - Coordinating meetings with non-lead federal agencies
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- Assist NHPA, Section 110, to include:
 - Liaison between GBSD and installation Cultural Resources Managers (CRMs) and other federal agencies for Section 110 National Register of Historic Places determinations of eligibility and concurrences for cultural resources evaluated during the project
- Assist with NHPA, Section 106, to include:
 - Consultations with SHPOs, Tribes, and other consulting parties
 - Development of a Project Programmatic Agreement, to potentially include tribal affairs communication plans
 - Develop monitoring/mitigation plans
 - Development of a NAGPRA Comprehensive Agreement for the Project
 - Lead other individual Section 106 actions (if not covered by CA or PA)
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 - All tribal inquiries
 - Consultation/ascertaining capabilities regarding availability of tribal monitors/monitoring
 - NAGPRA comprehensive agreement consultation efforts
 - Consultation on monitoring and mitigation plans
- Supporting preparation of GBSD EIS

4.0 CONSIDERATION

- 4.1 Some tasks may require access to, or the review of material classified up to the Secret level. For this reason, support staff must have a final adjudicated Secret security clearance.
- 4.2 The NFE may elect to sub award some of the work for other organizations (nonprofit, or for-profit entities as they see appropriate)
- 4.3 In addition, it is anticipated that the environmental support activities will require travel to attend meetings through the Midwest Region and in San Antonio, TX.

- 4.4 Estimated travel per FTE: two 1-week trips (travel on Monday and Friday, meetings Tuesday-Thursday) to San Antonio, TX (one person per trip); six 1-week trips (travel on Monday and Friday, meetings Tuesday-Thursday) to Midwest Region AOR (one person per trip).

5.0 QUALIFICATIONS

- 5.1. Biographical sketches are required for each of the personnel/project delivery team (PDT) members supporting this project. The NFE will coordinate with USACE/USAF before any key personnel changes or hiring.
- 5.2. Cooperator employees assigned to support these tasks shall have a demonstrable level of knowledge, skill, and experience in working with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and other cultural resources laws and executive orders. Cooperator personnel must meet at minimum the professional standards outlined by the Secretary of the Interior for archaeology and/or architectural history, as well as ten years of prior experience with land managing Federal agencies regarding cultural resources. Specific experience is required in Sections 110 and 106 of the NHPA and tribal consultation within the context of DoD, a Military Department (e.g., Air Force), and/or an individual military installation. The Cooperator shall provide technically proficient employees with skills required to carry out the requirements of this task order.

6.0 GOVERNMENT FURNISHED MATERIALS OR PROPERTY

- 6.1 Physical Data: Data sets and information associated with this project are the property of DOD, SAF, and HQ AF. No release of information or data is allowed without a written approval from the Department of the Air Force.
- 6.2 Equipment, Supplies, and Materials:
Government furnished materials or property is governed by 2 C.F.R. Part 200.312 which states that a) Title to federally owned property remains vested in the Federal government. The non-Federal entity must submit annually an inventory listing of federally owned property in its custody to the Federal awarding agency. Upon completion of the Federal award or when the property is no longer needed, the non-Federal entity must return the property to the Federal awarding agency for further Federal agency utilization.

7.0 OPTIONS

6 option periods are anticipated subject to availability of funds

8.0 PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

8.1 Base Period is 6 months from award date.

8.2 6 Option periods, 12 months each subject to availability of funds

9.0 COORDINATION

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10.0 DELIVERABLES

Detailed descriptions of any required deliverables required (reports, plans, etc.) and formats. Provide delivery schedules. At a minimum these deliverables should include:

10.1 Progress Reports - One (1) typed letter report describing progress on the project. The report shall be due as of the last day of each month (**Monthly**) and shall be transmitted via electronic mail (to USACE) and electronic mail and hard copies to USAF no later than the 10th calendar day following the end of the reporting period. Invoices for partial payment shall be submitted to coincide with receipt of the monthly progress reports. No partial payment will be approved unless the government has received all progress reports which are due. Reports should include:

- 10.1.1 Number of days, locations, and activities in travel status
- 10.1.2 List of plans, reports, and briefings prepared or reviewed
- 10.1.3 List of meetings attended including purpose/objective and attendees
- 10.1.4 List of major action item support accomplished
- 10.1.5 Status of project progress, problems identified, solutions implemented, and schedule adjustments if appropriate
- 10.1.6 Any critical communications not reported in other section

- 10.1.7 Plans, reports, and briefings prepared
- 10.1.8 Meetings attended including purpose/objective, attendees, and items identified for follow-on action
- 10.1.9 Schedule of work. Any changes can be presented as appropriate with the subsequent monthly report.
- 10.2 Bi-weekly teleconference progress briefings with USACE/AF POC
- 10.3 Annual Inventory – Federally owned property - an annual inventory listing Federal property (to include description of the property, a serial number or other identification number) that is in the custody of the recipient; Copies to be sent to USACE – SWF and AFCEC.
- 10.4 Annual Inventory – Acquired Property purchased with funding from award - property records must be maintained that includes description of the property, serial number or other identification number, source of funding, who holds title, acquisition date, cost of property, percentage of Federal participation in project costs, location, use and condition of property, and ultimate disposition including date of disposal and sale price. A physical inventory must be taken, and results reconciled every two years. Copies of the inventory to be sent annually to USACE – SWF and AFCEC.
- 10.5 Annual Report. Electronic copy as well as one (1) paper copy of annual report should be submitted no later than one month before end of each period of performance (POP). At a minimum, the report shall contain an introduction section, and one section for each Task identified in your proposal. For each Task, the report shall summarize work accomplished for the Task. USAF POC staff will review and provide comments, if any, within fifteen (15) calendar days after receipt to both the cooperator and USACE.
- 10.6 Draft Final Project Report. Electronic copy as well as (1) paper copy of a draft final report should be submitted no later than one month before end of the project. At a minimum, the report shall contain an introduction section, and one section for each Task identified in your proposal. For each Task, the report shall summarize work accomplished for the Task. AFCEC POC staff will review and provide comments, if any, within fifteen (15) calendar days after receipt.
- 10.7 Final Project Report. One (1) paper copy of the final report, incorporating AFCEC POC review comments on the draft, if any, shall be submitted no later than fifteen (15) days after receipt of the AFCEC POC comments. Additionally, one (1) copy of the final report shall be submitted in a MSWord file(s), on digital media to both the AFCEC and USACE POCs.

- 11.0 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]