



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

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST**  
**NUMBER W9126G-21-2-SOI-4824**  
**PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN 2021**

**Project Title:** Oak Tree Mitigation Siting Plan Support at Fort Hunter Liggett

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest will be used to identify potential investigators for a project to be funded by Fort Hunter Liggett (FHL), 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 **\$49,000** is expected to be available to support this project for the base period. Additional funding may be available for additional tasks and/or follow on work in subsequent fiscal years to the successful Recipient/Awardee.

**Background:**

Provide Oak Tree Mitigation Siting Plan support to Fort Hunter Liggett, California, Natural Resources Program activities.

**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 Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESU) Program to be qualified for consideration. Suggested area is Californian or Colorado Plateau CESU Regions.

**Brief Description of Anticipated Work:**

This research focuses on the following objectives:

**FHL Oak Mitigation Planting Siting Plan Preparation**

The Cooperator shall accomplish an Oak Tree Mitigation Siting Plan (OTMSP) for FHL. The purpose of the OTMSP is to prescribe precisely where mitigation plantings for native oak trees should be sited within FHL's cantonment and important locations and facilities (to be identified by the installation) within FHL's training areas, and prescribe which oak tree species should be planted where. The cooperators shall use expert knowledge of oak tree ecology (each species' soil, rainfall, aspect, slope, requirements, etc.) to determine best location for plantings in coordination with FHL's most current master planning documents.

#### **BACKGROUND RESEARCH:**

The Cooperator shall accomplish review and analysis of existing information provided by the installation or publically available necessary for preparation of the OTMSP to include but not limited to:

- Recent Installation Master Plans, INRMPs and component plans, and National Environmental Policy Act documents provided by FHL
- FHL's Oak Management Plan
- Geographic Information System (GIS) database provided by FHL
- FHL Military Training Habitat Map (2014) report and GIS database
- Available soils data
- Topographical GIS data (elevation, slope, aspect, etc.)
- Current and historical areal imagery

#### **LONG-TERM PLANNING COORDINATION**

The cooperators shall coordinate early in the OTMSP development process to ensure integration with existing long-term development plans. The Cooperator shall accomplish coordination with installation Directorates and personnel, to include but not limited to Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security, Operations and Integrated Training Area Management; Directorate of Public Works, Master Planning, Cultural Resources Management, and Natural Resources Management; Directorate of Emergency Services, Fire Department and Conservation Law Enforcement.

#### **SITE VISIT**

The Cooperator shall visit FHL for fieldwork and interviews early in the plan development process. The Cooperator shall use master planning documents and interviews with installation staff to identify general locations for oak tree mitigation plantings to visit in person. Once onsite, the Cooperator shall survey existing site conditions to identify suitable ecological and environmental conditions for planting different tree species.

#### **SPATIAL DATA DEVELOPMENT**

The Cooperator shall create a series of detailed maps and a GIS layer(s) to show precise location for future oak plantings in accordance with FHL's Oak Tree Management Plan. The planting of individual trees shall be identified by points. The cooperators shall attribute the GIS layer with site- and species-specific instructions for planting such as soil amendment and/or watering schedule. The GIS data products shall be compatible with, and projected in the same coordinate system as, FHL's Master GIS Database.

#### **DRAFT THE OTSMP**

The Cooperator shall accomplish preparation of the OTSMP to address items including but not limited to the following:

- Based on master planning documents, interviews with FHL staff, and historic structure (i.e., Mission San Antonio De Padua) watershed protection, identify locations for mitigation plantings.
- Define precisely where individual trees should be planted, which species should be planted where based on ecological needs of each species.
- Give species-specific and site-specific care and monitoring instructions for each planting. Prescribe soil amendments and watering schedule (if needed) and growth threshold for terminating active care once the tree is independently established for each species identified.
- Instructions shall be detailed enough to allow implementation by DPW Operations and Maintenance staff (i.e., gardeners) or construction contractors (with minimal oversight from DPW Environmental Division staff) who may not have knowledge of forestry or arboricultural practices.
- The plan shall incorporate the FHL Oak Management Plan (2019) by reference and avoid reiterating content in existing documents.
- The plan shall include many detailed maps. The majority of information included in the plan shall be included in maps and associated GIS data.
- The plan shall include detailed description of the methods used to generate the data and report, sufficient such that the products could be replicated.

## **COORDINATION**

The Cooperator shall coordinate with FHL representatives, including but not limited to representatives from DPW Environmental and Master Planning, and Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security. Development of the OTMSP shall include a kick off meeting, site visits, progress reviews, teleconferences and other communications to exchange information, identify data gaps, and coordinate draft solutions with the FHL POCs.

**NOTE:** At this time we are only requesting that you demonstrate available qualifications and skills for performing similar or the same type of work. The Cooperator shall provide a project team that demonstrates competence, knowledge, and experience in natural resources, forestry, and oak tree ecology; with knowledge of military activities preferred. Biologists shall have at a minimum a Bachelor's Degree in Biology, Ecology, Wildlife Management, Rangeland Management, Forestry, or closely related field. At least one team member shall be a Certified Forester or Arborist (or equivalent) and certified by a professional or educational institution (e.g., Society of American Foresters). The team shall possess knowledge and experience with California Central Coast ecosystems. You will be evaluated for a request for a proposal based on skills and qualifications demonstrated in your SOI.

**Period of Performance.** The agreement will extend 12 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](mailto:sandra.justman@usace.army.mil) and [brian.d.hesford@usace.army.mil](mailto:brian.d.hesford@usace.army.mil) (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:**

USACE  
Sandra Justman, Contract Specialist  
CESWF-CT  
Email: [sandra.justman@usace.army.mil](mailto:sandra.justman@usace.army.mil)  
Office: 817-886-1073

Brian Hesford, Project Manager  
CENWO-PM  
Email: [brian.d.hesford@usace.army.mil](mailto:brian.d.hesford@usace.army.mil)  
Office: 402-995-2759

**Timeline for Review of Statements of Interest:** RSOI is required to be posted on [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) for a minimum of 30 days. Review of Statements of Interest will begin **08/06/2021**.

[End of RSOI]

**STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES  
OAK TREE MITIGATION SITING PLAN  
U.S. ARMY GARRISON FORT HUNTER LIGGETT, CALIFORNIA**

Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Unit (CESU) Cooperative Agreement

**1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1. The United States Army Garrison (USAG) Fort Hunter Liggett is responsible for natural resources management on installation lands at Fort Hunter Liggett (FHL) in California. Article I B of the masteragreement states the objectives of the CESU are to: provide research, technical assistance and education to federal land management, environmental and researchagencies and their potential partners; develop a program of research, technical assistanceand 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.
- 1.2. The objective of the work to be performed under this cooperative agreement is to provide support for development of an Oak Tree Mitigation Siting Plan (OTMSP) to the Environmental Division at USAG Fort Hunter Liggett for natural resources management, in accordance with FHL's Oak Management Plan, a component of FHL's Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP).

FHL is located in west-central California, approximately 70 miles southeast of Monterey and 23 mi southwest of King City in Monterey County. The installation encompasses 162,000 acres with elevations ranging from 760–3740 feet. The San Antonio and Nacimiento Rivers flow through FHL, and there are a high density of protected natural and cultural resources on post. In order to provide realistic and effective training in a natural environment and to comply with environmental laws and regulations, a foundation of sound natural resource, biological, ecological, cultural, and land use information is required.

- 1.3. Natural resource tasks associated with this Cooperative Agreement (CA) include development of an OTMSP for FHL.

Work conducted under this cooperative agreement must be in accordance with 16 U.S.C.671c-1, Cooperative and Interagency Agreements for Land Management on Installations. In accordance with its mission, USAG must comply with federal laws, including the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C § 4321 et seq.); Sikes Act (16 USC 670a-670o, 74 Stat. 1052); Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. ch. 35 § 1531 et seq); Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668c); other natural resource-related legislation, executive orders, and presidential memoranda; all implementing regulations; DoD directives, instructions, policy, and guidance; and U.S. Army regulations, policy, and guidance.

## 2. AUTHORITY

### **The AUTHORITY TO ISSUE A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT IS... Section 670c-1, Title 16 United States Code, Sikes Act.**

- 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 (INRMP), as directed in the Sikes Act.
- 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.), 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/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
- 2.3. 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 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 are not limited to, the following:

- Involved in development of study methodology, data gathering, analysis, and/or report writing.
- Actively participates and collaborates in carrying out the project plan of work, reviews and approves activities, helps train or select project staff or trainees.
- Coordinate research activities with other installation entities and scheduling of range time.
- Technical assistance and guidance.
- Participation in status meetings including kick off meeting and weekly, monthly, and quarterly project update meetings.

## 3. DESCRIPTION OF OBJECTIVES

The Cooperator shall provide an OTMSP for FHL. The OTMSP shall be consistent with FHL's 2019 Oak Management Plan and FHL's INRMP. The OTMSP shall be integrated with FHL's long-term planning documents, to include FHL's Master Plan, FHL's Range Complex Master Plan, and other long-term development plans identified by the installation.

### **3.1 TASK 1 – FHL Oak Mitigation Planting Siting Plan Preparation**

The Cooperator shall accomplish an OTMSP for FHL. The purpose of the OTMSP is to prescribe precisely where mitigation plantings for native oak trees should be sited within FHL's cantonment and important locations and facilities (to be identified by the installation) within FHL's training areas, and prescribe which oak tree species should be planted where. The cooperators shall use expert knowledge of oak tree ecology (each species' soil, rainfall, aspect, slope, requirements, etc.) to determine best location for plantings in coordination with FHL's most current master planning documents.

#### **3.1.1 BACKGROUND RESEARCH:**

The Cooperator shall accomplish review and analysis of existing information provided by the installation or publically available necessary for preparation of the OTMSP to include but not limited to:

- Recent Installation Master Plans, INRMPs and component plans, and National Environmental Policy Act documents provided by FHL
- FHL's Oak Management Plan
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- FHL Military Training Habitat Map (2014) report and GIS database
- Available soils data
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- Current and historical areal imagery

#### **3.1.1 LONG-TERM PLANNING COORDINATION**

The cooperators shall coordinate early in the OTMSP development process to ensure integration with existing long-term development plans. The Cooperator shall accomplish coordination with installation Directorates and personnel, to include but not limited to Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security, Operations and Integrated Training Area Management; Directorate of Public Works, Master Planning, Cultural Resources Management, and Natural Resources Management; Directorate of Emergency Services, Fire Department and Conservation Law Enforcement.

#### **3.1.2 SITE VISIT**

The Cooperator shall visit FHL for fieldwork and interviews early in the plan development process. The Cooperator shall use master planning documents and interviews with installation staff to identify general locations for oak tree mitigation plantings to visit in person. Once onsite, the Cooperator shall survey existing site conditions to identify suitable ecological and environmental conditions for planting different tree species.

#### **3.1.3 SPATIAL DATA DEVELOPMENT**

The Cooperator shall create a series of detailed maps and a GIS layer(s) to show precise location for future oak plantings in accordance with FHL's Oak Tree Management Plan. The planting of individual trees shall be identified by points. The cooperators shall attribute

the GIS layer with site- and species-specific instructions for planting such as soil amendment and/or watering schedule. The GIS data products shall be compatible with, and projected in the same coordinate system as, FHL's Master GIS Database.

### **3.1.4 DRAFT THE OTSMP**

The Cooperator shall accomplish preparation of the OTSMP to address items including but not limited to the following:

- Based on master planning documents, interviews with FHL staff, and historic structure (i.e., Mission San Antonio De Padua) viewshed protection, identify locations for mitigation plantings.
- Define precisely where individual trees should be planted, which species should be planted where based on ecological needs of each species.
- Give species-specific and site-specific care and monitoring instructions for each planting. Prescribe soil amendments and watering schedule (if needed) and growth threshold for terminating active care once the tree is independently established for each species identified.
- Instructions shall be detailed enough to allow implementation by DPW Operations and Maintenance staff (i.e., gardeners) or construction contractors (with minimal oversight from DPW Environmental Division staff) who may not have knowledge of forestry or arboricultural practices.
- The plan shall incorporate the FHL Oak Management Plan (2019) by reference and avoid reiterating content in existing documents.
- The plan shall include many detailed maps. The majority of information included in the plan shall be included in maps and associated GIS data.
- The plan shall include detailed description of the methods used to generate the data and report, sufficient such that the products could be replicated.

## **3.2 COORDINATION**

The Cooperator shall coordinate with FHL representatives, including but not limited to representatives from DPW Environmental and Master Planning, and Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security. Development of the OTMSP shall include a kick off meeting, site visits, progress reviews, teleconferences and other communications to exchange information, identify data gaps, and coordinate draft solutions with the FHL POCs.

## **4. QUALIFICATIONS / REQUIREMENTS**

Competence, knowledge, and experience in natural resources, forestry, oak tree ecology, and botany are required by team members, with knowledge of military activities are preferred. Biologists shall have at a minimum a Bachelor's Degree in Biology, Ecology, Wildlife Management, Rangeland Management, Forestry, or closely related field. At least one team member shall be a Certified Forester or Arborist (or equivalent) and certified by a professional or educational institution (e.g., Society of American Foresters). The team shall possess knowledge and experience with California Central Coast ecosystems.

### **4.1 Security Requirements:**

Installation Access. All requests for installation access will be coordinated through the USAG FHL Physical Security Office, and should be submitted 15 days prior to the



event/accessing the installations. The Cooperator and all associated subcontractors' employees shall comply with applicable installation, facility, and area commander installation and facility access and local security policies and procedures (provided by the Government representative). The Cooperator shall also provide all information required for background checks to meet installation access requirements to be accomplished by the FHL Physical Security Office. The Cooperator workforce must comply with all personal identity verification requirements as directed by Department of Defense (DoD), Headquarters, Department of the Army, and/or local policy. In addition to the changes otherwise authorized by the changes clause of this contract, should the Force Protection Condition at any individual facility or installation change, the Government may require changes in Cooperator security matters or processes. Access Control Documents (Microsoft Word fill-able formatted form) can be obtained and submitted by exchanging e-mails. Request the access control documents, complete and submit documents to [usarmy.hunterliggett.id-readiness.mbx.des-vcc@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.hunterliggett.id-readiness.mbx.des-vcc@mail.mil) or call (831) 386-3735/3875 for more information.

Access to Government Information Systems. Per AR 530-1 Operations Security, the Cooperator employees must complete Level I OPSEC Awareness training. New employees must be trained within 30 calendar days of their reporting for duty and annually thereafter. Training can be completed online at: <https://securityawareness.usalearning.gov/opsec/>. Certificates of completion must be provided to the COR within 15 days after contract start date.

Antiterrorism (AT) Training. All Cooperator employees, including subcontractor employees, requiring access to Army installations, facilities, or controlled access areas shall complete AT Level I awareness training within 7 calendar days after cooperative agreement start date or effective date of incorporation of this requirement into the cooperative agreement, whichever applies. The Cooperator shall submit certificates of completion for each affected cooperator employee and subcontractor employee to the designated FHL Point of Contact within 10 calendar days after completion of training by all employees and subcontractor personnel. The designated FHL Point of Contact will assure all Cooperators, Cooperator employees and all associated subcontractors' employees AT Level I Training is current, all current AT Level I certificates (new and refresher training), are provided to FHL AT Branch, Department of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security Building 290. AT Level I Awareness Training is available at <https://jkodirect.jten.mil>.

iWATCH Training. An ATO (Level II Trained and Certified) will facilitate, face to face in-person iWATCH Training for Cooperators and all associated subcontractors' employees via FHL ATO. This locally developed training will be used to inform employees of the types of behavior to watch for and instruct employees to report suspicious activity to the COR, iWATCH line (831) 386-3457 or DES Police (831) 386-2526. The COR will track completion of training. The designated FHL Point of Contact will provide a roster of attendees and the ATO will certify attendee roster after completion of training. The Cooperator and all associated subcontractors' shall provide the roster to the designated FHL POC no more than 10 days after project start and within 10 calendar days for new employees commencing performance. The designated FHL POC will give a copy to the ATO. Individual records will be updated to reflect completion of the iWATCH training. The Cooperator and all associated subcontractors'

shall encourage personnel to report suspicious activity and/or stolen equipment. iWATCH Training is an annual requirement.

Physical Security. The Cooperator shall be responsible for safeguarding all Government equipment, information and property provided for Cooperator use.

Identification of Cooperator Employees: All Cooperator and associated subcontractor personnel attending meetings, answering Government telephones, and working in other situations where their Cooperator status is not obvious to third parties are required to identify themselves as such to avoid creating an impression in the minds of members of the public that they are Government officials. They must also ensure that all documents or reports produced by Cooperators are suitably marked as Cooperator products or that Cooperator participation is appropriately disclosed.

Data Rights: The Government has unlimited rights to all documents/material produced and data collected under this cooperative agreement. All documents, materials and data, to include the source codes of any software, produced under this cooperative agreement shall be Government owned and are the property of the Government with all rights and privileges of ownership/copyright belonging exclusively to the Government. These documents, materials, and data may not be used, sold or disseminated by the Cooperator without written permission from the Grants Officer. This right does not abrogate any other Government rights.

Applicable Publications: The Cooperator must abide by all applicable regulations, publications, manuals, and local policies and procedures to include but not limited to Army Regulations such as AR 200-1, AR 200-2, and the current FHL INRMP.

## **5. GOVERNMENT FURNISHED MATERIALS OR PROPERTY**

The individual(s) conducting the support under this cooperative agreement will be allowed access to FHL archives, photographs, maps, and other historical information as needed.

## **6. OPTIONS: N/A**

## **7. PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE**

The period of performance will be 12 months from date of award.

## **8. COORDINATION**

Liz Clark, Environmental Division Chief  
Directorate of Public Works – Environmental Division  
USAG Fort Hunter Liggett  
Phone: 831-484-4174  
Email: [Elizabeth.r.clark14.civ@mail.mil](mailto:Elizabeth.r.clark14.civ@mail.mil)

USACE Project Manager  
Brian Hesford, Project Manager  
Office: 402-995-2759

Cell: 402-631-3246

[Brian.d.hesford@usace.army.mil](mailto:Brian.d.hesford@usace.army.mil)

**9. DELIVERABLES:**

Table of Contents/Outline –  FHL Oak Tree Mitigation Siting Plan	45 days after award.	1 copy	Electronic file	USACE Project Manager and designated FHL POC
Draft 1 Report –  FHL Oak Tree Mitigation Siting Plan	135 days after award.	1 copy each	Electronic Word file	USACE Project Manager and designated FHL POC
Draft 2 Reports –  FHL Oak Tree Mitigation Siting Plan		1 copy each	Electronic Word file	USACE Project Manager and designated FHL POC
Check/Preliminary Final Reports –  (1) FHL Oak Tree Mitigation Siting Plan (2) Related Data for each above (Datasheets, GIS)	255 days after award, or 30 days after receipt of government comments, whichever is later.	1 copy each	Electronic Word file, Draft Data	USACE Project Manager and designated FHL POC
Final Reports (1) FHL Oak Tree Mitigation Siting Plan (2) Related Data for each above (Datasheets, GIS)	345 days after award.	5 (4 reports)	Electronic Word file (1 ea.) Electronic PDF file (1 ea) Electronic Related Data (1 ea) Bound hardcopy (3 ea) For each report for a total of	USACE Project Manager and designated FHL POC

Deliverable	Frequency	# of Copies	Format	Submit To
			Electronic Word file (4) Electronic PDF file (4) Electronic Related Data (4) Bound hardcopy (12)	

#### 10. OTHER

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]