

Funding Opportunity Announcement

Rare Plant Development for the United States Army on Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) in Washington State

Funding Agency : <i>US Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District 4735 E Marginal Way South Seattle, WA 98134</i>	Funding Instrument: Cooperative Agreement Funding Opportunity No: W912DW-24-2-0002 CFDA No: 12.005 Program Title: Rare Plant Development for the United States Army on Joint Base Lewis- McChord (JBLM) in Washington State
Issue Date: 6 March 2024	Application Due Date: 27 March 2024
Overview: This announcement represents an opportunity to enter into a Cooperative Agreement with an organization for express purpose of research work and habitat enhancement necessary to protect and sustain the rare habitats (wetland and upland) that exists on Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) in Washington State. The goal of this cooperative effort is to conduct rare plant development to further restore, support, and sustain the rare habitats that occur within the JBLM installation area. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is seeking organizations that are qualified, knowledgeable, capable, and have experience providing natural resource survey and habitat enhancement support to assist the Government in its' protection and enhancement of ecosystems and habitat. Interested parties should possess the materials and qualified personnel necessary to provide, at a minimum, ecological restoration program support, species and habitat survey and monitoring support, and habitat enhancement and invasive species control support. Statutory Authority: Title 16 of the U.S. Code § 670 Sikes Act, Title I – Conservation Programs on Military Installations.	
Estimated Total Funding: Project Cost Ceiling: \$2,000,000	Estimated Number of Awards: One (1)
Contents of Full Text Announcement	
I. Funding Opportunity Description	V. Application Review Information
II. Award Information	VI. Award Administration Information
III. Eligibility Information	VII. Agency Contacts
IV. Application Information	VIII. Other Information
Contact Information: Questions relating to Grants.gov including the registration process and system requirements should be directed to the Grants.gov Contact Center at 1-800-518-4726. For assistance with the requirements of this Funding Opportunity Announcement, please contact roger.d.williams@usace.army.mil	
Instructions to Applicants: The complete funding opportunity announcement, application forms, and instructions are available for download at Grants.gov. Applications in response to this Funding Opportunity Announcement shall be submitted by the application due date. Applications may be submitted by mail, email, or via the internet through Grants.gov. Applicants shall have a Unique Entity ID (UEI) number, register with the System of Award Management (SAM), and if submitting application via the internet, register with Grants.gov. See Section IV of the Funding Opportunity Announcement for complete application submission information.	

Section I: Funding Opportunity Description

The Government and the Cooperator are bound to each other by a duty of good faith and best effort to achieve the goals of the agreement. This agreement is not intended to be, nor shall it be construed as, by implication or otherwise, a partnership, a corporation, or other business organization.

Statement of Work

This Scope of Work (SOW) directs the research and habitat enhancement work necessary to protect and sustain the rare habitats (wetland and upland) that exists on Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington State. This SOW provides the tasks to be performed in support of the Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) Fish & Wildlife Program to be implemented through a Cooperative Agreement (CA) administered by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Seattle District office. The goal of this project is to conduct native plug and seed production for rare habitats that occur within JBLM.

Hazards Information

Cooperator support to complete the tasks identified in this SOW may involve handling or being exposed to batteries, fuels, paints, and environmental conditions such as bees, poison oak, and Pacific Northwest weather. Cooperator shall be exposed to military tracked and wheeled vehicles and aircraft, pyrotechnics, and tactical lasers. Cooperator shall work in proximity to weapons firing, including artillery, and shall occasionally be beneath the trajectory of ammunition that has been inspected and cleared for overhead fire. Cooperator shall complete tasks within or in vicinity of the Live Fire Areas and the associated explosions, unexploded ordnance (UXO), and weapons noises and may be required to wear military grade body armor as PPE for entering duded areas. Prior to working in a Live Fire Area, Cooperator will ensure all safety assessments and training are complete prior to entering these areas.

Task 1. Rare Plant Development

This Statement of Work (SOW) directs the habitat enhancement efforts necessary to protect and sustain the rare habitats (wetland and upland) that exists on Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) in Washington State. This SOW provides the tasks to be performed in support of the JBLM Fish & Wildlife Program to be implemented through a Cooperative Agreement (CA) administered by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Seattle District office. The goal of this project is to conduct native plug and seed production for rare habitats that occur within JBLM.

The recipient shall anticipate growing of plants that are not commercially viable due to the lack of existing growing protocols, cost to grow, and other factors that make these unsuitable for commercial growth. Species selected by the Government may be exceedingly difficult to grow, may have significant genetic issues (need to isolate from sympatric species, species amplification, building genetic diversity through multiple growing iterations).

Recipient shall use their own nursery infrastructure to grow additional plugs, trees, shrubs, wetland plants, or other restoration plants at the request of the Government. Rare plant seed production shall be produced and procured by row foot, per the specifications of the Government.

- The Recipient shall use their own nursery infrastructure to grow seed rows, or obtain seed from partner nurseries capable of producing seed rows from locally sourced seed, plants, or other restoration plants at the request of the Government. Seed row development shall be produced and procured by gram, per the specifications of the Government.
- The recipient shall anticipate using grow-space for long-term amplification projects, providing seed necessary to increase specific, hard-to-grow species into quantities necessary to sustain within an ecosystem or larger scale growing operation as determined by JBLM.
- The Recipient shall anticipate growing seed that may be ordered under this specific task, throughout the duration of this CA. Seed requests may change yearly, depending on the greatest conservation need at the behest of JBLM. Some species will be held over for amplification purposes, but the recipient shall anticipate turnover of some species rows to accommodate needs for increasing genetic diversity, and changes in restoration needs as determined by JBLM.

Section II: Award Information

1. Type of Award Instrument – One (1) Single Cooperative Agreement
2. Substantial Involvement – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Directorate of Public Works, Environmental Division will team with another entity (i.e., non-federal public or non-profit entities) to prepare and implement an integrated natural resources management plan for Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM). USACE and the Directorate of Public Works, Environmental Division will assist in the execution and oversight of this effort.
3. Funding – The Base Cooperative Agreement will be an unfunded action that the Government can place individual funded Task Orders against. As noted on the first page of the Funding Opportunity announcement, the Project Cost Ceiling is \$2,000,000.00. Funding for this agreement will total no more than \$2,000,000.00 for the entire duration referenced below in the Period of Performance section.
4. Performance Period – This Cooperative Agreement has a five (5) year ordering period, May 1, 2024 through September 30, 2029. Task Orders can be issued at any point throughout this performance period until it terms or until the \$2,000,000.00 Project Cost Ceiling is reached, whichever comes first. The Cooperator shall complete all work and services as required by each Task Order(s) placed under this agreement within the period of performance specified in said Task Order(s).

Section III: Eligibility Information

1. Eligible Applicants – Non-Federal public or non-profit entities.
2. Cost Sharing – Not required for this requirement.
3. Other – As stated on the first page of the Funding Opportunity Announcement, the Cooperator should possess the materials and qualified personnel necessary to provide, at a minimum, ecological restoration program support, species and habitat survey and monitoring support, and habitat enhancement and invasive species control support.

Section IV: Application and Submission Information

1. Address to Request Application Package

The complete funding opportunity announcement, application forms, and instructions are available for download at Grants.gov. USACE is not responsible for any loss of internet connectivity or for an applicant's inability to access documents posted at the referenced website.

The administrative point of contact is the Grants Specialist, Monique Paano,
Monique.a.paano@usace.army.mil.

2. Content and Form of Application Submission

All mandatory forms and any applicable optional forms must be completed in accordance with the instructions on the forms and the additional instructions below.

- a. SF 424 - Application for Federal Assistance
- b. SF 424 A – Budget Information for Nonconstruction Programs
- c. SF 424 B – Assurances – Non-Construction Programs
- d. Program Narrative – Brief program description illustrating applicant's ability to meet the goals and objectives described in Section I of the announcement.
- e. SF-LLL – Disclosure of Lobbying Activities
- f. Certificate of Authority
- g. Attachment A – Certifications
- i. Lobbying

- ii. Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters
- iii. Drug-Free Workplace (Recipient other than individuals)
- iv. Environmental Tobacco Smoke

3. Application shall be submitted NO LATER THAN 27 Mar 2024.

4. Submission Instructions

Applications may be submitted by e-mail or via the internet. Choose ONE of the following submission methods:

a. E-mail:

Format all documents to print on Letter (8 ½ x 11”) paper. E-mail proposal to the Grants Specialist at Monique.a.paano@usace.army.mil.

b. Internet:

Applicants are not required to submit proposals through Grants.gov. However, if applications are submitted via the internet, applicants are responsible for ensuring that their Grants.gov proposal submission is received in its entirety. The Government bears no responsibility for data errors resulting from transmission of conversion processes associated with electronic submissions. The Government will bear no responsibility for delays in submissions due to technical difficulties at or with the Grants.gov website.

All applicants choosing to use Grants.gov to submit proposals must be registered and have an account with Grants.gov. It may take up to three weeks to complete Grants.gov registration. For more information on registration, go to <http://www.grants.gov/ForApplicants>.

Section V: Application Review Information

1. Criteria

The following criteria shall serve as the standard against which any response to this announcement will be evaluated.

a. Initial Review

The Government will perform an initial review to determine that the applicant is (1) eligible in accordance with Section III of the announcement; (2) all information required by Section IV has been submitted; and (3) all mandatory requirements are satisfied.

b. Merit Review

The application and program narrative will be evaluated on whether the applicant demonstrates the ability to meet the goals and objectives of the program. Specifically, the narrative will be evaluated to ensure the applicant:

1. Has the materials and personnel required to successfully execute under the terms and conditions outlined in this announcement.
2. Demonstrated their knowledge and ability to provide, at a minimum, ecological restoration program support, species and habitat survey and monitoring support, and habitat enhancement and invasive species control support.
3. Possesses adequate qualified personnel and sufficient financial and technical resources to successfully execute the agreement.
4. Maintains a satisfactory record of executing Government programs (if a prior recipient).
5. Has a record of integrity and business ethics.
6. Is able to gain access to and routinely work on Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington State.

c. Budget Review

Budget realism and reasonableness of costs. Submit a preliminary budget estimate based

on the information in Sections I and II.

Page 5 of 6

2. Review and Selection Process

Proposals will undergo a multi-stage evaluation procedure. First, the proposals will be screened to confirm all required submittals and information have been received, and the applicant is eligible to receive Federal awards. Second, a technical team from within USACE will review the proposals to determine if the merit criteria have been met. Third, the program manager will review recommendations from the technical team to reach a final decision for award.

3. Anticipated Award Date

- a. Announcement Issue Date: 6 March 2024
- b. Application Due Date: 27 March 2024
- c. Estimated Award Date: 15 April 2024

Section VI: Award Administration Information

1. Award Notices

Written notice of award will be given in conjunction with issuance of a Cooperative Agreement signed by a Grants Officer. The Cooperative Agreement will contain the effective date of the agreement, the period of performance, funding information, and all terms and conditions. The recipient is required to sign and return the document before work under the agreement commences. **Work described in this announcement SHALL NOT begin without prior authorization from a Grants Officer.**

2. Administrative Requirements

The cooperative agreement issued as a result of this announcement is pursuant to the administrative requirements in 2 CFR 200. (2 CFR Subtitle A; 2 CFR Subtitle B, Ch. XI, Part 1103; and 32 CFR Subchapter C, except Parts 32 and 33)

3. Reporting

Recipient will be required to submit progress, financial, and property reports quarterly, semiannually, or annually as stipulated in the terms and conditions of the final Cooperative Agreement. (requirements and frequency]. See 2 CFR Sections 200.327 for financial reporting requirements, 200.328 for performance reporting requirements, and 200.329 for real property reporting requirements.)

Section VII: Agency Contact

Monique Paano, Grants Specialist, Contracting Division
Email: Monique.a.paano@usace.army.mil

Section VIII: Other Information

1. Only Grants Officers are legally authorized to bind the Government to an agreement.
2. Responses should reference Program Announcement W912DW-24-2-0002.
3. Questions regarding the proposal submission should be submitted no later than noon (PT) on March 22, 2024. Questions received after this date may not be answered.

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY

To be completed by counsel for the Recipient

I, _____, do hereby certify that I am the designated legal representative of the *(Insert Recipient here)* for purposes of this Cooperative Agreement between *(Recipient)* and the U.S. Department of Defense, that *(Recipient)* is a legally constituted public body with full authority and legal capability to perform the terms of the Cooperative Agreement between the Department of Defense and *(Recipient)* administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and that the persons who have executed this Cooperative Agreement on behalf of the *(Recipient)*, in particular, _____ have acted within their legal authority.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have made and executed this certification this _____ day of _____ 2018.

[fill in name and address of attorney]

ATTACHMENT A - CERTIFICATIONS

1. LOBBYING

The undersigned certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

(1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of an agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

(2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," in accordance with its instructions.

(3) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

2. DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION, AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITY MATTERS

(1) The recipient certifies, to the best of its knowledge and belief, that it and its principals:

(a) Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any Federal department or agency;

(b) Have not within a three-year period preceding this application been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State, or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes; or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;

(c) Are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a government entity (Federal, State, or local) with commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph (1)(b) of this certification; and

(d) Have not within a three-year period preceding this application had one or more public transactions (Federal, State, or local) terminated for cause or default.

(2) Where the prospective primary participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this proposal.

(3) The applicant shall communicate the requirements to comply with Subpart C of the OMB guidance in 2 C.F.R. Part 180, as implemented by the Department of Defense in 2 C.F.R. part 1125, to persons at the next lower tier with whom the recipient enters into transactions that are "covered transactions" under Subpart B of 2 C.F.R. part 180 and the DoD implementation in 2 C.F.R. part 1125.

3. DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE (RECIPIENTS OTHER THAN INDIVIDUALS)

As required by the Subpart B of 32 C.F.R. Part 26, which implements Sections 5151-5160 of the Drug Free Workplace Act of 1988 (Pub. L. 100-690, Title V, Subtitle D, 41 U.S.C. § 701, *et seq.*)--

(1) The applicant certifies that it will or will continue to provide a drug-free workplace by:

(a) Publishing a statement notifying employees that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of a controlled substance is prohibited in the recipient's workplace and specifying the actions that will be taken against the employees for violation of such prohibition;

(b) Establishing an ongoing drug-free awareness program to inform employees about:

(i) The dangers of drug abuse in the workplace;

(ii) The applicant's policy of maintaining a drug-free workplace;

(iii) Any available drug counseling, rehabilitation, and employee assistance programs; and

(iv) The penalties that may be imposed upon employees for drug abuse violations occurring in the workplace;

(c) Making it a requirement that each employee to be engaged in the performance of the cooperative agreement be given a copy of the statement required by paragraph (a);

(d) Notifying the employee in the statement required by paragraph (a) that, as a condition of employment under the cooperative agreement, the employee will:

(i) Abide by the terms of the statement; and

(ii) Notify the employer in writing of his or her conviction for a violation of a criminal drug statute occurring in the workplace not later than five calendar days after such conviction;

(e) Notifying the agency, in writing, within ten calendar days after receiving notice under subparagraph (d)(ii) from an employee or otherwise receiving actual notice of such conviction. Employers of convicted employees must provide notice, including position title, to every grant officer or other designee on whose cooperative agreement activity the convicted employee was working, unless the Federal agency has designated a central point for receipt of such notices. Notice shall include the identification number(s) of the each affected cooperative agreement;

(f) Taking one of the following actions, within 30 calendar days of receiving notice under subparagraph (d)(ii), with respect to any employee who is so convicted:

(i) Taking appropriate personnel action against such an employee, up to and including termination, consistent with the requirements of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, or

(ii) Requiring such employee to participate satisfactorily in a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program approved for such purposes by a Federal, State, or local health, law enforcement, or other appropriate agency;

(g) Making a good faith effort to continue to maintain a drug-free workplace through implementation of paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), and (f).

(2) The applicant may insert in the space provided below the site(s) for the performance of work done in connection with the specific cooperative agreement.

Place of performance:

☐ Check if there are workplaces on file that are not identified here.

4. CERTIFICATION REGARDING ENVIRONMENTAL TOBACCO SMOKE

Public Law 103227, Part C Environmental Tobacco Smoke, also known as the Pro Children Act of 1994, requires that smoking not be permitted in any portion of any indoor routinely owned or leased or contracted for by an entity and used routinely or regularly for provision of health, day care, education, or library services to children under the age of 18, if the services are funded by Federal programs either directly or through State or local governments, by Federal grant, contract, loan, or loan guarantee. The law does not apply to children's services provided in private residences, facilities funded solely by Medicare or Medicaid funds, and portions of facilities used for inpatient drug or alcohol treatment. Failure to comply with the provisions of the law may result in the imposition of a civil monetary penalty of up to \$1000 per day and/or the imposition of an administrative compliance order on the responsible entity by signing and submitting this application, the applicant/grantee certifies that it will comply with the requirements of the Act.

The applicant/grantee further agrees that it will require the language of this certification be included in any subawards which contain provisions for the children's services and that all subgrantees shall certify accordingly.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I hereby certify that the applicant will comply with the above certifications.

Name of Applicant: _____

Printed Name and Title of Authorized Representative

Name: _____

Title: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____