

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT (FOA)

Funding Agency: US Army Corps of Engineers Alaska District PO Box 6898 JBER AK 99506	Funding Instrument: Cooperative Agreement Funding Opportunity W911KB-23-2-0003 No. CFDA No: 12.005 Program Authority 16 U.S.C. 670c-1 Sike's Act
Issue Date: 14 March 2023	Application Due Date: 14 April 2023
Overview: Eielson Air Force Base 354 CES/CEIE, Natural Resources Management, Species (Migratory Birds, Little Brown Bats) - The goal of this work is to provide support to assist in wildlife surveying and monitoring with an emphasis on migratory birds and little brown bats as well as assisting in general natural resources management of multiple wildlife species and their habitats. See full Funding Opportunity Description in Section I.	
Estimated Total Funding: \$100,188.90	Estimated Number of Awards: 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
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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 the Grants Specialist, casandra.a.hutchins@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 electronically via email or through Grants.gov. Applicants shall have a Unique Entity Identification (UEI) number, registration with the System of Award Management (SAM), and registration with Grants.gov, if submitting application through Grants.gov. See Section IV of the Funding Opportunity Announcement for complete application submission information.	

Section I: Funding Opportunity Description

STATEMENT OF WORK EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE 354 CES/CEIE, NATURAL RESOURCES

Project Ceiling \$100,188.90

MGT, SPECIES (MIGRATORY BIRDS, LITTLE BROWN BATS)

RAM #: FTQWA53236120

PROJECT #: FTQWOS844123, FTQW851323

1.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this Statement of Work (SOW) is to provide details of work to be performed in support of Eielson Air Force Base's (EAFB) Natural Resources program. The goal of this work is to provide support to assist in wildlife surveying and monitoring with an emphasis on migratory birds and little brown bats as well as assisting in general natural resources management of multiple wildlife species and their habitats.

1.1 Objectives

This Statement of Work shall be utilized to guide implementation of wildlife and habitat management. Much of the data yielded from this project shall be used during Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan (INRMP) annual updates, which takes place on annual and five (5) year cycles. Records of wildlife species are of utmost interest to Eielson AFB and such data shall be utilized to manage these species populations and their habitats. Objective 8.4.7 in the INRMP is defined as follows: "Protect, conserve, and manage fish and wildlife and their habitats as vital elements of an integrated natural resources program and perform studies to enhance and maintain healthy sustainable populations." This project has three (3) objectives: (1) assist with migratory bird surveys and monitoring, (2) assist with little brown bat surveys and monitoring, and (3) provide general natural resources field duties related to multiple wildlife species and their habitats.

2.0 MAJOR REQUIREMENTS AND TASKS

Task 1 – Work Plan

The Recipient shall work with Federal point of contact (POC) to develop a work plan to guide successful completion of all Tasks 2-5. The Air Force shall provide electronic acceptance of the Final Work Plan through the USACE Project Manager within seven (7) calendar days of receipt of the Final Work Plan.

Task 2 – Migratory Birds Surveys and Monitoring

The Recipient shall assist with identifying, surveying, and monitoring migratory birds. Fieldwork efforts shall include spring migration, breeding season, fall migration, and winter (Christmas) bird counts.

Task 3 – Little Brown Bat Survey and Monitoring

The Recipient shall conduct targeted and randomized acoustic surveys using passive acoustic monitors (Wildlife Acoustics SM-4 Ultrasonic Detectors) to determine seasonality of bat presence and relative degree of use in different habitats around Eielson. The Recipient shall characterize habitats at survey and monitoring sites using methods implemented during previous studies on Eielson to determine habitat associations. To complement the acoustic surveys, the Recipient shall monitor existing bat houses and install new bat houses where high bat activity is detected, monitor usage, and track movements to identify roosts and maternity colonies. The Recipient shall provide an informational season data summary to the natural resources manager and continue to provide ecobehavioral mapping of Eielson.

Task 4 – General Wildlife and Habitat Monitoring

The Recipient shall assist EAFB natural resources staff in general wildlife management work such as, but not limited to, wildlife recreation and viewing improvements, data management, and species distribution and habitat mapping. Operation of ATV/UTV along with use of hand and power tools, gas power tools, and chainsaws is required to perform the duties.

Task 5 – Data Management, Analyze, Develop, and Write Reports to Include Maps

Migratory Bird -The Recipient shall produce a field summary report describing survey methods applied; number of surveys completed by type (e.g., walking, paddling, or driving point counts), landscape description, survey distance, detection rates and rates/time, summary, interim species distribution maps and recommendations. All data points are required to be uploaded onto the Department of Defense (DoD) Avian Knowledge Network at <https://www.dodakn.org/>.

Little Brown Bat -The Recipient shall produce a field summary report describing survey methods applied; number of surveys completed by type, (e.g., walking, paddling, or driving point counts), landscape description, survey distance, detection rates and rates/time, summary, interim species distribution maps and recommendations. Data from at least some of these monitoring sites will be shared with BatAMP – The Bat Acoustic Monitoring Portal. The Recipient shall analyze positive acoustic recordings, determine the behavior associated with the ultrasonic calls as catalogued from previous studies, and map behavior and ecology onto standardized GIS-compatible maps of surveyed areas. The Recipient shall relate and/or associate behavior (e.g., roosting, feeding, flyway use) with ecological variables of vegetation, nearness to water, presence of possible roosts, etc.

General Wildlife and Habitat Monitoring – If applicable, the Recipient shall provide a field summary report describing survey methods applied, number of surveys completed by type (e.g., walking, paddling, or driving point counts), landscape description, survey distance, detection rates and rates/time, summary, interim species distribution maps and recommendations.

3.0 REPORTS AND DELIVERABLES

Task	Deliverable	Details and Performance Period
Task 1	Work Plan	Draft: Within 30 days of agreement award. Final : 15 days of EAFB POC review.
Task 2	Migratory Birds Surveys and Monitoring	May 15 – January 31
Task 3	Little Brown Bat Survey and Monitoring	May 15 – January 1
Task 4	General Wildlife and Habitat	May 15 – November 1

	Monitoring	
Task 5	Data Management, Analyze, Develop, and Write Reports to Include Maps - Field Summary Report	Draft: Within 60 days after completion of seasonal field work, to include Tasks 2 & 3 Field Data Sheets. Final: Due 30 days following EAFB review of draft report.

4.0 GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS

4.1 Cooperator Employee Government Access Requirements

4.1.1 All Recipient and all associated sub-recipient employees shall comply with applicable installation, facility, and area commander installation/facility access and local security policies and procedures. The Recipient shall also provide all information required for background checks to meet installation access requirements to be accomplished by the installation Security Forces Squadron. The Recipient is responsible for ensuring that they possess all the necessary documents to gain access to EAFB. The list may include but is not limited to: A valid Alaska driver's license, current vehicle registration, proof of insurance, and Commercial Driver's License endorsements appropriate for the equipment being operated.

4.1.2 The Recipient shall ensure that its employees, entering Air Force-controlled installations or facilities, have obtained access badges and passes in accordance with facility regulations and that these badges and passes are obtained in advance so as not to delay the accomplishment of services.

4.1.3 The Recipient shall return all issued U.S. Government Common Access Cards (CAC), installation badges, and/or access passes to the Government Representative when the Cooperative Agreement is completed or when a recipient employee no longer requires access to the installation or facility.

4.1.4 The Recipient shall be capable of providing a pickup truck for technician(s) to use and all clothing required to perform duties in a safe manner in an outdoor setting.

4.1.5 The Recipient is responsible for contacting EAFB (as appropriate) for access before beginning work.

5.0 GOVERNMENT FURNISHED MATERIAL

EAFB shall provide necessary access to Air Force lands for project development and implementation. Eielson natural resources office shall supply all tools and equipment necessary to perform work tasks (hand tools, power tools such as electric saws and drills, chainsaws, gas powered weed trimmers, post hole diggers, ATV/UTV, etc.). Eielson Natural Resources shall provide GIS data and maps as needed to accomplish this task.

6.0 PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

The period of performance is up to 18 months from the date of award with an additional two (2)

18-month Option Periods. Option Periods shall be awarded subject to the availability of funding. This does not obligate the Government to extend this agreement beyond the initial 18-month period of performance.

7.0 POINTS OF CONTACT (POCs)

The Recipient shall coordinate directly with the Eielson Technical POC listed below. The POC for USACE Project Management is Kathryn Russell. Cooperative Agreement questions should be addressed to the Grants Officer, Michelle Mandel. Correspondence should be addressed as follows:

Kathryn Russell
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Environmental and Special Projects Branch
ATTN: CEPOA-PM- ESP
P.O. Box 6898
JBER, AK 99506-0898
Phone: (907) 753-2535
Email: kathryn.russell@USACE.army.mil

Michelle Mandel
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Contracting Division
ATTN: CEPOA-CT
P.O. Box 6898
JBER, AK 99506-0898
Phone: (907) 753-2502
Email: michelle.r.mandel@usace.army.mil

The Eielson AFB Technical POC is:

Ron Gunderson
Chief, Natural/Cultural Resources
USAF 354 CES/CEIEA, Bldg 2215
2310 Central Ave. STE 100
Eielson AFB, AK 99702
Phone: (907) 377-5182
Email: ronald.gunderson@us.af.mil

Section II: Award Information

This Funding Opportunity Announcement is for a competed, potentially multiyear, Cooperative Agreement. The period of performance is up to 18 months from the date of award with an additional two (2) 18-month Option Periods. Option Periods shall be awarded subject to the availability of funding. The total Project Cost Ceiling for the Base Period is \$100,188.90.

Announcement Issue Date: 14 March 2023

Application Due Date: 14 April 2023

Estimated Award Date: On or About 1 May 2023

Section III: Eligibility Information

1. Eligible Applicants – Open to all that meet the criteria of this announcement.
2. Cost Sharing – This action will be 100% funded by USACE.
3. Other Information – None noted.

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, Casandra Hutchins, casandra.a.hutchins@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 Non-construction 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 VI Scope of Work of this announcement.

3. Application shall be submitted **NO LATER THAN 14 April 2023; 2:00 PM (Alaska Time)** via email or through Grants.gov.

4. Submission Instructions

Applications may be submitted by email or via the internet through Grants.gov. Choose ONE (1) of the following submission methods:

Via Email: Format all documents to print on Letter (8 ½ x 11") paper. E-mail proposal to the Grants Specialist, Casandra Hutchins, at casandra.a.hutchins@usace.army.mil

Via Grants.gov:

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 and within the date and time required. 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 (3) weeks to complete Grants.gov registration.*** For more information on registration, go to <http://www.grants.gov/ForApplicants>.

Section V: Application Review Information

Offer Submission Evaluation Criteria and Basis of Award

Eielson Air Force Base 354 CES/CEIE, Natural Resources Management, Species (Migratory Birds, Little Brown Bats) Eielson AFB, Alaska

March 2023

The Government shall evaluate technical submissions in accordance with the criteria described herein and award a Cooperative Agreement to the responsible Offeror whose submission is determined to represent the best overall value to the Government. The Government will not award a Cooperative Agreement to an offeror whose submission contains a deficiency.

The evaluation factors for this action are:

- Factor 1, 40%: Experience (most important factor)
- Factor 2, 35%: Technical Approach (2nd most important factor)
- Factor 3, 25%: Cost (3rd most important factor)

The Government will assign an adjective rating of Outstanding, Good, Acceptable, Marginal, or Unacceptable to each factor which reflects the Government's confidence in each offeror's ability, as demonstrated in its submission, to perform the requirements stated in the Statement of Work. The adjectival ratings shall be assigned, using the following criteria, which incorporate a submission risk assessment:

Weight	Adjectival Rating	Description
4	Outstanding	Submission indicates an exceptional approach and understanding of the requirements and contains multiple strengths.
3	Good	Submission indicates a thorough approach and understanding of the requirements and contains at least one (1) strength.
2	Acceptable	Submission indicates an adequate approach and understanding of the requirements.
1	Marginal	Submission has not demonstrated an adequate approach and understanding of the requirements or contains an element of risk.
0	Unacceptable	Submission does not meet requirements of the solicitation and, thus, contains one (1) or more deficiencies and is unawardable.

OFFER EVALUATION AND SELECTION CRITERIA

Each Offeror shall be evaluated in accordance with the selection criteria below. The selection criteria are listed in descending order of importance.

Factor 1 Experience

The Offeror shall demonstrate prior project experience relevant to the attached Statement of Work (SOW), completed within the last five (5) years, and other qualifications and technical competence in all of the following areas:

- (1) Preparation of documents, aerial bird surveys, conducting/monitoring ground surveys for bird nesting/productivities, and preparing technical reports for studies, projects, or plans.
- (2) Experience conducting surveys and investigations to map, monitor, and track bat species distribution, abundance, and activity.
- (3) Experience supporting conservation and protection of natural resources on military installations and performing invasive species eradication and/or control.
- (4) Experience coordinating GIS natural resource data and other applicable data for geodatabase use, in accordance with Spatial Data Standards for Facilities, Infrastructure, and Environment (SDSFIE).

The Offeror shall provide examples of up to four (4) past projects of similar size, scope and complexity that best demonstrate the above qualifications. Submit projects that are at least 50% complete or were completed within the past five (5) years. The example project summaries shall be limited to one (1) page each. The example project summaries shall identify:

- Title/Subject
- Location
- Duration
- Brief description
- Roles and work self-performed
- Date project began and if completed
- Complexities or key accomplishments
- Client contact information

The Government will utilize the example project summaries to evaluate the capability and experience as a basis for comparing offerors to determine best value.

Factor 2 Technical Approach

The Offeror shall provide a brief narrative of their technical approach and a milestone schedule. The narrative shall be no more than two (2) pages per main task and must include:

- A discussion of the technical approach to accomplish the Statement of Work requirements, detailing number of hours anticipated to complete the project deliverables.
- A discussion of the quality assurance, quality control, and other technical activities that will be implemented to ensure that quality data are collected to support project data quality objectives.

- A discussion of applicable regulatory requirements and how project requirements will be implemented.
- A discussion of all assumptions.

The Offeror shall also provide an organizational chart with the proposed project team with defined roles, responsibilities, and lines of communication for all key personnel and sub-recipients.

The evaluation standard has been met when the Offeror demonstrates an understanding of the work that adequately addresses the requirements outlined in the SOW. The inclusion of numerous assumptions that significantly “assume away” Offeror risk with regard to major issues or problems that may be encountered on the project will be considered unacceptable.

Factor 3 Cost

Provide proposed cost to the Government. Allowable costs incurred by institutions of higher education is determined in accordance with the provision of OMB Circular A-21, "Cost Principles for Educational Institutions," ONR negotiated rates, and institutional policies. OMB's cost principles are contained in 2 CFR 200.400-.475 et seq.

Cost is considered less important than non-cost factors and will be evaluated for fairness and reasonableness per OMB cost principles. If more than one (1) offer is rated as having equal non-cost factors, the lowest cost tender of the offers received would be granted as the preferred tender unless there are extraordinary reasons for not doing so.

Section VI: Award Administration Information

Reserved.

Section VII: Agency Contacts

Reserved.

Section VIII: Other Information

Reserved.

All questions or inquiries regarding this Funding Opportunity Announcement shall be directed to the agency contact(s) noted in Section IV.