



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

26 May 2023

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF INTEREST
W9126G-23-2-SOI-3228**

*Applicants must be a member in one of the following Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units
Regions:
Gulf Coast/ Desert Southwest/ Great Plains*

Project Title: Joint Base San Antonio Natural Resource Habitat Management and Species Monitoring

A cooperative agreement is being offered ONLY to members of the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESU) Program Region(s) identified above. Award will be made upon mutual agreement and acceptance of the terms and conditions contained in the request for proposal and the of the recipient's CESU Master Agreement. Note the established CESU Program indirect rate is 17.5%.

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest will be used to identify potential organizations for this project. Approximately **\$237,500** is expected to be available to support this project for the **base period**. Additional funding may be available to the successful recipient for optional tasks and/or follow on work in subsequent years.

NOTE: This project will be awarded under the authority of 10 USC 670c-1, **Sikes Act**. For projects for the implementation and enforcement of integrated natural resources management plans, priority shall be given to award to Federal and State agencies having responsibility for the conservation or management of fish or wildlife.

Period of Performance. The base period of agreement will extend 12 months from date of award. There may be up to four 12-month follow-on periods based on availability of funding.

Description of Anticipated Work: See attached Statement of Objectives

NOTE: At this time we are only requesting that you demonstrate available qualifications and capability for performing similar or same type of work by submitting a Statement of Interest. A full proposal and budget are NOT requested at this time.

Preparation of your Statement of Interest: Provide the following (Maximum length: 2 pages, single-spaced, 12 pt. font):

1. Name, Organization, Cage Code, Unique Entity ID, and Contact Information (Email)
2. Brief Statement of Qualifications (including):
 - a. Biographical sketch of the Principal Investigator, to include specific experience and

capabilities in areas related to this project's requirements

- 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. Brief description of other capabilities to successfully complete the project: (e.g. equipment, laboratory facilities, greenhouse facilities, field facilities, etc.)

Submission of Your Statement of Interest

1. Statements of Interest are due by 5:00 P.M., Central Time, on **2 July 2023**.
2. Submit your Statement of Interest via e-mail attachments or direct questions to:
Audria Gill
Grants Specialist
USACE, Fort Worth District
Email: audria.j.gill@usace.army.mil

Kelsee Crawley
Project Manager
USACE, Fort Worth District
Email: kelsee.f.crawley@usace.army.mil

Review of Statements Received: All statements of interest received from a member of the CESU Region(s) identified above 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: offer the most highly qualified Principal Investigator, have the most relevant experience and the highest capability to successfully meet the program objectives. Submitters whose statements are determined to best meet the program objectives will be invited to submit a full proposal.

Timeline for Review of Statements of Interest: RSOI's are required to be posted on www.Grants.gov for 30 days prior to the Government making a decision and requesting full proposals.

Thank you for your interest in our Cooperative Agreements Program.

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Attachment: Statement of Objectives

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES

To Support

Joint Base San Antonio

Natural Resources

Habitat Management and Species Monitoring

Using the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU)

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA) natural resources program ensures military mission activities are conducted in compliance with all applicable environmental laws, regulations and policies. Article I B of the master agreement states the objectives of the CESU are to: provide research, technical assistance and education to federal land management, environmental and research agencies and their potential partners; develop a program of research, technical assistance and education that involves the biological, physical, social sciences needed to address resource issues and interdisciplinary problem-solving at multiple scales and in an ecosystem context at the local, regional, and national level; and place special emphasis on the working collaboration among federal agencies and universities and their related partner institutions.

1.2 In agreement with the above stated goals, the recipient/cooperator agrees to provide technical support and all necessary personnel, vehicles, field supplies, equipment, and materials required to conduct Sikes Act support, for the JBSA Natural Resources program located in San Antonio, Texas. All activities shall be coordinated with the appropriate JBSA Natural Resource personnel as well as with local, state, and federal officials as required.

1.3 In order to perform this work successfully, the cooperator must be located on site at JBSA-Camp Bullis (BUL). The work however may involve travel between the primary and auxiliary locations of JBSA within Bexar, Comal and Guadalupe counties, to conduct work at all 11 JBSA locations.

2.0 AUTHORITY/BACKGROUND

2.1 The Authority to enter into a Cooperative Agreement: 16 U.S.C. § 670(c) (1) – 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 JBSA responsibilities pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (16 USC 1531 et seq.), the Sikes Act Improvement Act (16 USC 670 et seq.), and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 USC 1361 et seq.).

2.4 The installation supports projects that carry out a public purpose of support or stimulation. Examples of carrying out a public purpose may include, but are not limited to, the following:

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

2.5 The installation agrees to provide substantial involvement as directed under Article II (A) CESU Master Agreements to include, but are not limited to, the following:

- JBSA is involved in development of study methodology, data gathering, analysis, and/or report writing
- JBSA actively participates and collaborates in carrying out the project plan of work, reviews and approves activities, helps train or select project staff or trainees

3.0 DESCRIPTION OF OBJECTIVES

3.1 Task 1: Nuisance Wildlife Management (Mandatory):

The cooperator shall continue an operational feral hog control program at JBSA-Bullis and at other JBSA locations, if necessary, in order to reduce feral hog populations, alleviate the damage caused by feral hog activity, and reduce safety concerns.

- The cooperator shall provide an adequate number of qualified personnel, technical support, and all vehicles, field supplies and equipment necessary to carry out feral hog control. Feral hog control activities will be coordinated with the JBSA Natural Resource Manager and the Feral Hog Control Program Manager, as well as with local, state, and federal officials as required.
- The JBSA feral hog management program requires a physical presence on the Base every day. The program also requires monitoring of cameras 24 hours a day. Monitoring can be done remotely from a cell phone, which can be monitored from anywhere or at the base. The cooperator shall coordinate with the JBSA Feral Hog Control Program Manager to ensure coverage.
- Wildlife damage management (WDM) techniques for controlling feral hogs will include trapping, snaring, and hunting.
 - The cooperator is responsible for acquiring, maintaining, and securing firearms and ammunition for dispatch and hunting. The Contractor will need 3 firearms: .22 rifle; 12 gauge shotgun; and a .30 caliber rifle. The .22 will be used to dispatch/depredate hogs in the trap while the other two firearms are mostly used for hunting purposes. The amount of ammo will depend on adequate training and depredation. The firearms will be stored in a locked

firearm storage contained within the Natural Resources Office which is Air Force approved.

- The cooperator shall adhere to established JBSA safety protocols and all local, state, and federal laws regarding firearms and their use.
- The cooperator shall dispatch or remove captured feral hogs. JBSA will coordinate carcass disposal areas with the cooperator.
- The cooperator is responsible for the deployment, baiting, operation, and maintenance of feral hog control devices. This includes other requirements such as, but not limited to:
 - accountability of traps, snares & equipment
 - Purchase corn/bait
 - Procuring traps/snares and related supplies
 - Vehicle fuel & maintenance
 - Jager Pro wireless camera subscriptions
- Accurate Set all capture devices to reduce the likelihood of non-target catches.
- Maintain a database that includes the date, location, morphometrics, and other pertinent data of the hogs removed.
- **The cooperator must:**
 - be able to perform field work at all times (including nights and weekends) and under all conditions such as but not limited to: high temperatures, high humidity, nighttime, weekends, remote areas, throughout multiple and remote locations within three counties, and with varying habitat types at each location.
 - maintain a valid driver's license throughout term of employment
 - maintain a Texas hunting license and the ability to use a firearm throughout the term of employment
 - maintain a current rabies vaccination
 - be able to dead lift/clean 75lbs and squat 100lbs
- Note: Cooperator personnel may be required to wear uniform items

3.2 Task 2 (optional): Support for the JBSA-BUL Hunting Program. *General Wildlife Management Support*

- Objective 1: Annual Nighttime Spotlight White-tailed Deer Surveys
Conduct surveys in mid-August, but not limited to line-of-sight surveys for data analysis, marking locations with handheld GPS, sex identification, population number, distance and direction.
- Objective 2: Assist JBSA with hunting program by collecting harvest data and health of deer.
JBSA-BUL allows recreational hunting within specific areas at the facility in accordance with federal, state, and local laws and other applicable regulations. TAMU-NRI personnel currently assist in white-tailed deer management and the respective hunting program at JBSA-BUL. We conduct annual white-tailed deer surveys along established transects throughout the month of August. We also record all incidental observations of white-tailed deer across the base. We use this

data to determine white-tailed deer age distribution, sex ratio, and fawn survival, which we use to generate harvest recommendations that promote a sustainable white-tailed deer population and allow for effective maintenance of endangered species habitat at JBSA-BUL (USFWS 2014).

4.0 QUALIFICATIONS

- The cooperator must have or be able to obtain prior to the performance period all federal, state, and local permits needed to conduct work in the region.
- Must be able to obtain appropriate permits and or certification for new employees or requirements during the performance period within 30 days of Notice to Proceed (NTP).
- Probation Period. To be considered qualified, new employees shall demonstrate proficiency/qualify in the following skills/tasks within 90 days: UTV operation, trailering, scouting, camera trap operation, Jager Pro system operation, firearms and dispatch qualification, solo hog processing, trap/snare deployment/maintenance, and remote camera monitoring/decision making. The JBSA Feral Hog Control Program Manager will maintain a database that records proficiency/qualifications.
- The cooperator must have sufficient field experience and depredation techniques with relevant species to accomplish the objectives defined in this SOO. The cooperator must have a Texas Hunting License and Texas Hunter Education prior to NTP. Upon qualification, the cooperator will be added to the existing JBSA-Camp Bullis Depredation permit.
- Due to the complexity of issues, previous knowledge military natural ecosystems management is preferred over other natural resource management system experience. Specific knowledge of the Endangered Species Act, Sikes Act, and INRMP implementation is highly preferred.

5.0 GOVERNMENT FURNISHED MATERIALS OR PROPERTY

The government will provide maps, previous reports, master plans, INRMP, as are available, two-way radios, sufficient office space.

- 6.0 FOLLOW-ON PERIODS:** Up to four follow-on periods of performance may be awarded based upon government need, recipient performance and fund availability.

7.0 PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE (POP)

7.1 The POP will be 12 months from date of award

7.2 Each follow-on period will be 12 months from date exercised.

8.0 COORDINATION

Kelsee Crawley
Project Manager
Fort Worth District
Kelsee.f.crawley@usace.army.mil

Joint Base San Antonio, Texas POC
Jacob Owen, Natural Resource Installation Support, JBSA
DSN 487-1873 Comm 210-295-7789
jacob.owen@us.af.mil

9.0 DELIVERABLES

9.1 Weekly technical staff summary of activities completed the previous week and activities planned for current week. Summary can be in person or via conference call.

9.2 Monthly Project status reports, no later than (NLT) the 15th of each month to Natural Resources, Joint Base San Antonio.

9.1 Progress Reports - One (1) typed letter report describing progress on the project. The report shall be due as of the last day of the third month (**quarterly**) and shall be transmitted via electronic mail 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. Invoice will be subdivided by Task.

9.2 Annual Report (if the project is longer than one year). One (1) digital copy of an annual report should be submitted no later than one month before end of each year. 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. USACE-SWF staff will review and provide comments, if any, within fifteen (15) calendar days after receipt.

9.3 Draft Final Project Report. One (1) electronic 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. USACE-SWF staff will review and provide comments, if any, within fifteen (15) calendar days after receipt.

9.4 Final Project Report. One (1) electronic copy of the final report, incorporating USACE-SWF review comments on the draft, if any, shall be submitted no later than fifteen (15) days after receipt of the USACE-SWF comments. Additionally, one (1) copy of the final report shall be submitted in a MSWord file(s), on digital media.

9.5 All data collected and/or created on JBSA for this scope to include but not limited to all hard and digital databases, spreadsheets, calculations used for results, field notes, filed data sheets, and GIS shapefiles and geo bases. The installation is requirement to steward endangered species data and to implement endangered species management decisions.

- 10.0 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.

- 11.0 Data Rights: The Air Force (AF) has unlimited rights to all documents/material produced under this agreement. All documents and materials, to include the source codes of any software, produced under this agreement shall be AF owned and are the property of the AF with all rights and privileges of ownership/copyright belonging to the AF. These documents and materials cannot be used or sold by the cooperator without written permission for the AF. All materials supplied to the AF shall be property of the AF and cannot be used for any other purpose. The right does not abrogate any other AF rights under the applicable Data Rights clause(s). The cooperator shall ensure that all documents of reports produced by the cooperator are suitably marked as cooperators products or that cooperators participation is appropriately disclosed.