

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-22-2-0012 No. CFDA No: 12.0005 Program Authority 16 U.S.C. 670c-1 (Sikes Act)
Issue Date: 7 July 2022	Application Due Date: 8 August 2022
Overview: The work would support a collaborative study between Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) Natural Resources program involving a multi-phase project focused on survey of movements and habitat use by bats on JBER. The study includes deployment of passive acoustic monitors to identify bat species presence and habitat use. It also includes preliminary analyses and interpretation of acoustic sound files obtained during the deployment to provide information in seasonal use and behavior (when applicable). Lastly, the study will also focus on developing and implementing a feasibility study on tracking movements to identify high usage areas (roosts, maternity colonies, and hibernacula) and continuing to deploy acoustic monitors to inform peaks in bat activity (key capture windows) and seasonal distribution in other priority areas, as defined in the Work Plan. See full Funding Opportunity Description in Section I.	
Estimated Total Funding: \$55,280.00	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
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 the Grants Specialist, Cassandra.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

Management, Species, Bat Survey (Project # FXSBA53226120, ACES# FXSB61701022) Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson

Project Ceiling \$55,280

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this Statement of Work (SOW) is to provide details of work to be performed by a Cooperator in support of Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) Natural Resources program through a Cooperative Agreement (CA) between the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Alaska District and a Cooperator. The work would support a collaborative study between Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) Natural Resources program involving a multi-phase project focused on survey of movements and habitat use by bats on JBER.

1.2 Background

The Little Brown Myotis (also referred to as Little Brown Bat), *Myotis lucifugus*, is the most common and widely distributed bat species in Alaska and has been observed across much of the State south of the Brooks Range (Parker *et al.* 1997, Tessler *et al.* 2014). Bats play critical roles in ecosystem health in several ways; for example, bats are involved in pollination, seed dispersal, and insect population regulation. Although the range of *M. lucifugus* has been broadly described in Alaska, their role is far less understood, as very little is known about their ecology in Southcentral Alaska beyond a few general surveys (Whitaker and Lawhead 1992, Rydell *et al.* 2002, Loeb 2011) and anecdotal information gleaned from Citizen Science reports (Tessler *et al.* 2014). The locations of roosts, maternity colonies, and hibernacula remain almost entirely unknown throughout Southcentral Alaska, and habitat associations of this species are poorly characterized.

This species is currently sustaining major die-offs attributed to White Nose Syndrome (WNS), a disease that affects hibernating bats. Named for the white fungus that appears on the muzzle and other parts of hibernating bats, WNS is associated with extensive mortality of bats in eastern North America. First documented in New York in the winter of 2006-2007, WNS has spread rapidly across the eastern United States and Canada, and the fungus that causes WNS has been detected as far south as Mississippi and as far west as the state of Washington. Overall losses are expected to lead to regional extirpation and extinction (Frick *et al.* 2010). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is currently evaluating the status of the Little Brown Myotis with respect to population declines and WNS to determine if it may warrant protection under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), and the State of Alaska has identified all Alaskan bats as Species of Conservation Need (SCN) or Species at Risk (SAR) (Tessler, pers. comm.).

SAR warrant reoccurring monitoring. DoDI 4715.03 states, "To the extent practicable, all DoD Components shall establish policy and procedures for the management of SAR to prioritize proactive management of those species that, if listed, could adversely impact military readiness. Program objectives shall focus on efforts that have the greatest potential to prevent the listing of SAR (e.g., habitat conservation, planning level surveys, monitoring). Protecting these species is

critical;” therefore, the funding for SAR protection is a high priority. Implementation of a bat survey at JBER helps ensure airfield safety, speciates the variety of bats present, establishes relative abundance and habitat preference, minimizes military impacts, and ensures long-term species sustainability.

This is a multi-phase study designed to survey, map, and monitor bat species distribution, abundance, and activity regions on JBER to help land managers and natural resource staff identify appropriate management response(s) by identifying habitat valuable for bats, by quantifying the ecological parameters of active habitats, by identifying roost sites and hibernacula sites, and providing information on seasonal use to assist with management decisions.

Legal Drivers: Sikes Act (PL 105-85, as amended through 2004 including PL 108-136; 16 USC 670 *et seq.*); DoD Instruction 4715.03, *Natural Resources Conservation Program* (February 14, 2011); AFMAN 32-7003, Environmental Conservation (20 April 2020); and 3WGI 91-212, *Bird and Wildlife Aircraft Strike Hazard (BASH) Program*, and AR 200-1, *Land Resources*.

Projects provided for execution under this CA, by USACE, do not include any functions to be performed that are inherently governmental. This determination is made with the assessment that places emphasis on the degree to which conditions and facts restrict the discretionary authority, decision-making responsibility, or accountability of Government officials using contractor services or work products.

2.0 OBJECTIVES

The study includes deployment of passive acoustic monitors to identify bat species presence and habitat use. It also includes preliminary analyses and interpretation of acoustic sound files obtained during the deployment to provide information in seasonal use and behavior (when applicable). Lastly, the study shall also focus on developing and implementing a feasibility study on tracking movements to identify high usage areas (roosts, maternity colonies, and hibernacula) and continuing to deploy acoustic monitors to inform peaks in bat activity (key capture windows) and seasonal distribution in other priority areas, as defined in the Work Plan. This SOW refers to implementing all phases of the study on JBER.

Objectives shall include the following:

- Obtain baseline data for future, long-term monitoring by identifying areas of high seasonal use (roosts, maternity colonies, and hibernacula) and other suitable habitat in JBER-Richardson training areas.
- Implement long-term monitoring of identified areas of high seasonal use (roosts) and other suitable habitat.
- Improve upon methods of acoustic monitoring for bats.
- Define monitoring practices and locations.
- Provide informational, seasonal data summary to land and natural resource managers.

Anticipated Work Products:

- Continue to deploy a passive acoustic detection network at known locations and identify potentially new locations commonly used by bats to expand baseline data on bat presence and distribution.

- Implement targeted acoustic monitoring techniques to locate maternity colonies and identify likely hibernacula areas.
- Conduct ecological characterization of detection sites.
- Seasonal informational data summary content.
- Continue eco-behavioral mapping of JBER that identifies and classifies select geographic areas in terms of bat use and habitat occupancy.
- Relate and associate bat distribution and abundance with results of the standard ecological survey/habitat associations.

3.0 MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

Task 1: Work Plan

The Cooperator shall work with a Federal point of contact (POC) to develop a Work Plan to guide successful completion of Tasks 2-4, within 30 calendar days of Cooperative Agreement award. The Air Force shall provide electronic acceptance of the Final Work Plan through the Grants Officer within seven (7) calendar days of receipt of the Final Work Plan.

Task 2: Acoustic Monitoring

The Cooperator 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 JBER. During investigation of new areas, priority areas will be selected within JBER Training Areas (TAs) not yet surveyed. The Cooperator shall characterize habitats at survey and monitoring sites to determine habitat associations.

Subtask 2.1: Acoustic Monitoring of Maternity Roosts (Typically May-July)

The Cooperator shall implement a targeted acoustic monitoring technique to identify and monitor maternity roosts.

Subtask 2.2: Acoustic Monitoring of High Use Areas (Typically July-August)

The Cooperator shall identify and investigate areas of high use (roosts) on JBER with a focus on investigating new areas in JBER TAs.

Subtask 2.3: Acoustic Monitoring of Hibernacula (Typically August-November)

The Cooperator shall implement a targeted acoustic monitoring technique to confirm potential sites identified and potential new sites identified in subtask 2.2.

Task 3: Analyze, Develop, and Write Reports to Include Maps

The Cooperator shall produce a Field Summary Report describing survey methods applied; number of surveys completed by type (e.g., walking, paddling and/or driving point counts; landscape description, survey distance, detection rates and rates/time, summary, interim species distribution maps, and recommendations.) The draft Field Summary Report is due within 60 calendar days after completion of seasonal fieldwork. The final Field Summary Report is due 30 calendar days following JBER's review of the draft Field Summary Report. Data from all monitoring sites shall be uploaded to BatAMP – The Bat Acoustic Monitoring Portal. The Cooperator 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 Cooperator 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. A Final Comprehensive Report shall be prepared to consolidate all information of the study and shall include recommendations as to how the Air Force may identify roosting, feeding, and hibernacula sites in both developed and

undeveloped areas of JBER.

Task 4: Provide Slides for JBER's Installation Program Review (IPR).

Provides slides covering field methods, preliminary analysis, major findings, and management recommendations for JBER's Natural Resource program presentation.

4.0 REPORTS, DELIVERABLES, ESTIMATED PROJECT SCHEDULE, and SPATIAL DATA REQUIREMENTS

4.1 Reporting Requirement

4.1.1. Fieldwork Data Sheets – One (1) electronic copy of an Excel acoustic monitoring locations and habitat characterization, capture log identifying capture GPS locations, date and time, and any associated photographs.

4.1.2. Field Summary Report – One (1) electronic copy of the draft Field Summary Report should be provided to the JBER Technical POC within 60 calendar days after completion of seasonal fieldwork. One (1) electronic copy of the final Field Summary Report is due 30 calendar days following JBER's review of the draft Field Summary Report. The post field season summary should contain at a minimum: methodology, results, overall field season success, discussion, a species distribution map, and field data sheets.

4.1.3. Draft and Final Reports – Shall be required after analysis of all field collection data has been completed. Deliverable dates shall be established within that SOW. Standard document elements include at a minimum: abstract, acknowledgements, table of contents, list of acronyms, list of figures and tables, literature review, introduction, study area, methods, results, discussion, conclusion, and literature cited. One (1) electronic and two (2) hard copies of all reports are required. Draft and final reports shall be provided to JBER with the final(s) being due no later than 30 calendar days following the final post-work meeting. The final report(s) shall be provided via email and on an external hard drive/CD/DVDs containing the report, digitized imagery, photos, and any other data provided in appropriate usable format. One (1) external hard drive/CD/DVD copy of this record will be held by the POC and the electronic copies will be filed in the JBER Environmental Library.

4.2 Reports and Deliverables

Task	Deliverable	Details and Performance Period
Task 1	Work Summation Timetable and Work Plan	Within 30 calendar days of Cooperative Agreement award.
Task 2	Acoustic Monitoring and Habitat Characterization	May 1 – November 30 (or end of workable season)
Subtask 2.1	Acoustic Monitoring of Maternity Roosts	May – July
Subtask 2.2	Acoustic Monitoring of High Use Areas	July – August
Subtask 2.3	Acoustic Monitoring of Hibernacula	August – November
Task 3	Field Summary Report	Draft: within 60 calendar days after

		completion of seasonal fieldwork. Final: due 30 calendar days following JBER review of draft report
Task 4	Installation Program Review (IPR)	Provide slides for presentation in JBER program review: due with Final Comprehensive Report

4.3 Spatial Data Requirements

The geo-based requirements shall be specified at the kick-off meeting, refined and finalized in the Work Plan. All data shall be provided electronically to the JBER Technical POC.

All products associated with this SOW that provides data or a map representation of the location of installation features must adhere to the following requirements listed below.

All maps and associated data must comply with the latest version of Spatial Data Standards for Facilities, Infrastructure, and Environment (SDSFIE) available from the SDSFIE website (<http://www.sdsfie.org>).

This data shall be organized using the current version of the standard approved by the Headquarters Air Force Geo Integration Office (HAF GIO) as the functional lead for installation mapping and visualization. The SDSFIE will determine file and feature class identification and definition, attribution and valid domain values. When any geospatial information collected as a result of the Cooperative Agreement includes information identified in the Common Installation Picture (CIP) or recognized Mission Data Set (MDS), including environmental mission data sets, the Cooperator shall deliver data consistent with the established requirements for the data and shall ensure functionality with the receiving system.

Information must be collected at no less than 1:1,200 scale for base cantonment areas and 1:4,800 scale for larger undeveloped base areas. Spatial data shall meet or exceed National Map Accuracy Standards at those scales. Metadata shall be provided and will use Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) Content Standards for Digital Geospatial Metadata (CSDGM) for organization.

Geospatial data must be delivered in a geo-referenced GIS format (feature-based file structures with one-to-one cardinality between spatial records and attribute records) which would include Environmental Systems Research Institute's (ESRI) shapefile and geodatabase formats. All attribute data as specifically outlined in the Cooperative Agreement must be included either in the GIS data file or as a separate table with a SDSFIE key variable that may be used to relationally join the separate table with the GIS data file.

All geospatial data must be delivered in the following format: The horizontal coordinate system shall be Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) coordinate system, Transverse Mercator projection, Geodetic Reference System 1980 (GRS80) spheroid, World Geodetic System 1984 (WGS84) datum, (WGS84 UTM Zone 6 North) and use metric coordinate units.

The vertical datum will be the North American Vertical Datum 1988 (NAVD 88). Further guidance on mapping units, coordinate systems and projections is available from the Installation GIO (673 CES GeoBase section).

5.0 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements are common to all tasks listed above in Section 3.0.

5.1 Services

Provide services to include professional report preparation, editing and printing which present study findings for future JBER planning purposes.

5.2 Equipment, Supplies, and Materials

Provide supplies and materials, as necessary, to conduct fieldwork for this study and prepare reports. Provide computers, if needed, to collect, analyze, and report on data collected. For safety reasons, collaborator(s) are required to have a cellular phone and holstered bear spray on their person when operating in the field on JBER-managed lands.

5.3 Transportation

Provide 4X4 vehicle support, as necessary, to complete surveys and monitoring studies.

5.4 Travel

Travel is required to accomplish trapping, evaluation, and reporting requirements. In addition, travel is required to meet with various consulting agencies and stakeholders. Travel, as necessary, within and outside of Alaska to complete the study. Cooperator personnel may be required to travel on government-provided, fixed or rotary wing aircraft during the execution of this study on JBER-managed lands.

5.5 Cooperator Employee Government Access Requirements.

5.5.1 All cooperators shall comply with applicable installation, facility and area commander installation/facility access and local security policies and procedures. The Cooperator shall also provide all information required for background checks to meet installation access requirements to be accomplished by installation Provost Marshall Office, Director of Emergency services or Security Office.

5.5.2 The Cooperator shall ensure that its employees entering JBER 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.

5.5.3 The Cooperator shall return all issued US Government Common Access Cards (CAC), installation badges, and/or access passes to the Government Representative when the Cooperative Agreement is completed or when a cooperator employee no longer requires access to the installation or facility.

5.5.4 For fieldwork in training areas, training range access must be requested 30 calendar days in advance; thus, this access must be coordinated with the JBER Technical POC a minimum of 37 calendar days in advance.

6.0 GOVERNMENT FURNISHED MATERIAL

JBER shall provide access to the installation, training on how to access training areas, how to identify and report ordnance, and how to avoid negative interactions with wildlife. Additional government-furnished material includes:

- Coordination and signup for range training
- Historical and current aerial imagery and GIS data, if needed
- Military radio for field communication with Range Control, if available
- Technical guidance and fieldwork support (fieldwork support only if JBER personnel are available)

7.0 MEETINGS, REVIEWS, AND COORDINATION

7.1 Kick-Off Meeting and Work Plan Development

A kick-off meeting shall be held within fifteen (15) calendar days of award and shall discuss the project concerns and Work Plan, specifically the project objectives and reporting requirements. The Work Plan shall be based on the Tasks, Deliverables, and Schedule presented in this document and presented to the JBER Technical POCs for concurrence within 30 calendar days of Cooperative Agreement award. The Work Plan shall include a project summation and define the schedule for all required tasks and deliverables outlined in this SOW. Attendees at the kick-off meeting shall include at a minimum: the JBER Technical POC and Cooperator. The Cooperator or principal investigator is responsible for all meeting minutes if no coordinating agency representative is present at project meetings.

7.2 Coordination with Points of Contact (POC)

The Cooperator shall interact with the JBER Points of Contact (POC) listed below and provide quarterly progress reports, draft and final reports to the JBER and USACE Project Managers. The POC for USACE Project Management is Katie Russell. Cooperative Agreement questions should be addressed to Kimberly Tripp. Correspondence should be addressed as follows:

Katie Russell, P.E.
Civil Engineer
Environmental and Special Programs
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Alaska
District
Office: (907) 753-2535
Email: kathryn.russell@usace.army.mil

Kimberly D Tripp
Contracting Officer/Grants Officer
Chief Special Projects Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Alaska District)
Directorate of Contracting
Office: (907) 753-5690
kimberly.d.tripp@usace.army.mil

JBER POC and Cooperator shall hold regular meetings to discuss needs, priorities, and updates, as deemed necessary by parties to this agreement. The timing and frequency of the meetings shall be determined by the project needs and JBER POC staff.

The JBER Technical POC is:

Cayley Elsik
Biologist
673 CES/CEIEC
724 Quartermaster Rd
Door 5, 2nd Floor

JBER, Alaska 99505
Tel: (907) 384-3212
Email: cayley.elsik@us.af.mil

The following actions shall be coordinated with the JBER Technical POCs:

- Access to the installation
- Any/All photography and video
- All fieldwork shall be scheduled with and approved by the JBER Technical POC in writing, and coordinated with Range Control and others as appropriate

7.3 Regularity/Professional Interface

The Cooperator shall assist with oral/written interaction with interested parties related to the project. Requirements include, but are not limited to, presentation materials, agendas, minutes, publications, news releases, and public notices. The Cooperator shall assist in project technical review, analysis, and discussions to integrate comments from interested parties on programs and related data and studies. The Cooperator or Principle Investigator shall develop options for responses and prepare report(s) to communicate government priorities to regulatory agencies and other interested parties. All public or professional presentations/publications must be reviewed and approved for release by the JBER Technical representation and Public Affairs office.

7.4 Sharing of Information

All reports and data generated under this Cooperative Agreement are the property of the Government, and distribution by the awardee to any source, unless previously authorized by the USACE Grants Officer and JBER Technical POC, is prohibited. Any public dissemination and/or financial gain endeavor utilizing information obtained through this project requires mutual agreement and approval by JBER.

The awardee shall not make available to the news media or publicly disclose any data generated or reviewed under this Cooperative Agreement. If approached by the news media, the awardee shall refer them to the Grants Officer for response. Project reports and data generated under this Cooperative Agreement shall become the property of the Government and distribution to any other source, by the awardee is prohibited, unless approved by the JBER Technical POC. The Government reserves the right to review the awardee's proposed publications and approve or deny publication of data collected under the auspice of this Cooperative Agreement. Requests to publish shall be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

8.0 PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

The Base period of performance ends 18 months after the notice to proceed documentation is provided to the Cooperator. The tasks/projects outlined in this SOW are long-term monitoring projects. This SOW includes an 18-month Base Period for the tasks outlined in this SOW and two (2) additional 12-month Option Periods, dependent on funding.

9.0 LITERATURE CITED

Loeb, S. C. (2011). Bats of the Chugach National Forest: A Pilot Study. Final Report. Chugach National Forest, Alaska.

Parker, D. I., B. E. Lawhead, and J. A. Cook. (1997). Distributional limits of bats in Alaska. *Arctic* 50:256-265.

Rydell, J., D. P. McNeill, and J. Eklöf. (2002). Capture success of little brown bats (*Myotis lucifugus*) feeding on mosquitoes. *Journal of Zoology* 256:379-381.

Tessler, D. F., Snively, M. L., & Gotthardt, T. A. (2014). New insights on the distribution, ecology, and overwintering behavior of the Little Brown Myotis (*Myotis lucifugus*) in Alaska. *Northwestern naturalist*, 95(3), 251-263.

Whitaker, J.O. Jr. and B. Lawhead. (1992). Foods of *Myotis lucifugus* in a maternity colony in central Alaska. *Journal of Mammalogy* 73:646-648.

Section II: Award Information

This is for a competed Cooperative Agreement with funding not to exceed \$55,280.00. Expect an 18-month Base period of performance that ends 18 months after the notice to proceed documentation has been disseminated and two (2) additional 12-month Option Periods, dependent on funding.

Announcement Issue Date: 7 July 2022

Application Due Date: 8 August 2022

Estimated Award Date: On or About 30 August 2022

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 8 August 2022; 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 and the Grants Officer, Kimberly Tripp, at Kimberly.d.tripp@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

Proposal Submission Evaluation Criteria and Basis of Award Management, Species, Bat Survey Joint-Base Elmendorf Richardson

The Government will evaluate technical proposals, in accordance with the criteria described herein and award a Cooperative Agreement to the responsible offeror whose proposal is determined to represent the best overall value to the Government. The Government will not award a Cooperative Agreement to an offeror whose proposal 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 technical factor which reflects the Government's confidence in each offeror's ability, as demonstrated in its proposal, to perform the requirements stated in Section I: Funding Opportunity Description. The ratings shall be assigned, using the following criteria, which incorporate a proposal risk assessment:

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

PROPOSAL EVALUATION AND SELECTION CRITERIA

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

Factor 1 Experience

The Cooperator shall demonstrate prior project experience relevant to the attached SOW, completed within the last seven (7) years, and other qualifications and technical competence in all of the following areas:

1. Experience conducting surveys and investigations to map, monitor, and track bat species distribution, abundance, and activity.
2. Experience providing support to DoD natural resource programs in support of managing Species at Risk.
3. Experience planning and managing time critical work, performing studies, projects or plans, in accordance with applicable guidance and regulations.
4. Experience coordinating GIS natural resource data and other applicable data for geodatabase use.

The Cooperator 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 25% 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 Cooperator 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 Performance Work Statement or Scope/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 is 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 Cooperator 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-cooperators.

The evaluation standard has been met when the Cooperator demonstrates an understanding of the work that adequately addresses the requirements outlined in Section I: Funding Opportunity Description. The inclusion of numerous assumptions that significantly "assume away" Cooperator 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) proposal is rated as having equal non-cost factors, the lowest cost tender of the proposals received would be granted as the preferred tender unless there are extraordinary reasons for not doing so.

Section VI: Other Information

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