



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

10 March 2026

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF INTEREST
W9126G262SOI8658**

*Applicants must be a member in one of the following
Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units Regions:
Californian/Great Basin Regions*

Project Title: Gaviota Tarplant Genetic Analysis at Vandenberg Space Force Base, CA

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 recipient's CESU Joint and Cooperative Agreement (also known as the CESU Master Agreement).

NOTE: The established CESU indirect rate is 17.5%.

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest will be used to identify potential organizations for this project. Approximately **\$168,000.00** 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 16 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 the agreement will extend 18 months from the date of award. There may be up to two (2) 18-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, CESU Region, 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 (SOI) are due by **2:00 P.M., Central Time**, on **10 April 2026** via email to the parties listed below.
2. Direct questions no later than 10 calendar days from RSOI posting date to the parties listed below.

Maria Lopez
Grants Specialist
USACE, Fort Worth District
Email: Maria.E.Lopez@usace.army.mil
Office: 817-886-1881

David Leptien
Project Manager
USACE, Fort Worth District
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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: RSOIs are required to be posted on www.Grants.gov for 30 days prior to the Government making a decision and requesting full proposals.

TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR AWARD, THE RECIPIENT AND ANY PROPOSED SUBRECIPIENTS AND CONTRACT VENDORS MUST HAVE AN ACTIVE NIST SP 800-171 DOD ASSESSEMENT (PERFORMED WITHIN THE LAST 3 YEARS). Additional details are provided as a separate attachment to this document.

Thank you for your interest in our Cooperative Agreements Program.

CHERYL R. VENDEMIA
Grants Officer

Attachment: Statement of Objectives

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES (SOO)
for
NATURAL RESOURCES SUPPORT ACTIVITIES – GAVIOTA TARPLANT
on
VANDENBERG SPACE FORCE BASE, CALIFORNIA

March 4, 2026

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The Vandenberg Space Force Base (VSFB) environmental program ensures military mission activities are conducted in compliance with all applicable environmental laws, regulations and policies with cooperation and assistance from the Air Force Civil Engineer Center's (AFCEC) Installation Support Section (ISS). Article I B of the Cooperative and Joint Venture Agreement (also known as 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 The work will involve natural resource management activities, field surveys, reporting, coordination, and travel to and from VSFB.

2.0 AUTHORITY

Authority to enter into a Cooperative Agreements (CA) for the work: Section 670c-1, Title 16 United States Code, Sikes Act.

2.1. In agreement with the above stated goals, the NFE agrees to provide the necessary personnel, equipment, and materials required to implement, in part, the VSFB responsibilities pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (16 USC 1531 et seq.), the Sikes Act Improvement Act, the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), and applicable implementing regulations, such as Air Force Manual 32-7003, *Environmental Conservation*; Grant and Cooperative Agreements Act of 1977 (31 U.S.C. § 6301 et seq.), projects must carry out a public purpose of support or stimulation, however, under the authority of the Sikes Act (16 USC 670c-1 (c) (2)), notwithstanding chapter 63 of Title 31 (31 U.S.C. § 6301 et seq), a cooperative agreement under this section may be used to acquire property or services for the direct benefit or use of the United States Government.

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

2.2. In accordance with section 6305 – *Using cooperative agreements of the Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreements Act of 1977* (31 U.S.C. § 6301 et seq.), substantial involvement is expected between the Department of Defense and the recipient when carrying out the activity contemplated by the cooperative agreement.

The installation further (hence DoD) agrees to provide substantial involvement as directed under the appropriate master agreement to include, but not limited to, the following:

- VSFB and AFCEC ISS are involved in development of study methodology, data gathering, analysis, and/or report writing.
- VSFB and AFCEC ISS are active participates and collaborates in carrying out the project plan of work, reviews and approves activities, helps train or select project staff or trainees.
- VSFB and AFCEC ISS incurs in-kind or direct expenditures in carrying out the activities specified in the project agreement. Examples include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - Providing maps, master plans, and previous reports relevant to this project
 - Providing staff time to work on the project

3.0 DESCRIPTION OF OBJECTIVES

Provide labor, materials, equipment and supplies to perform the tasks described below. Conduct tasks in accordance with this Statement of Objectives, as prioritized by AFCEC ISS Project Manager (PM) and Base Natural Resources Manager (NRM).

Travel: Provide transportation and fuel for all NFE staff to get to and from all field sites. Retain current proof of insurance, current registration, and REAL ID-compliant driver’s licenses for all modes of transportation.

Coordination: Coordinate concurrently with the Base NRM, AFCEC ISS, and USACE PM. All work shall be approved by the AFCEC and be consistent with the Project Schedule & Work Plan (Deliverable 9.3) approved by the Base NRM. Schedule changes can be made; trade-off decisions will be jointly made by the USACE PM, Base NRM and AFCEC ISS and align with the Sikes Act compliant INRMP and original budget programming. Any changes in scope or cost must be approved by the USACE Grants Officer. All coordination with state and federal regulators will be by the Base NRM or AFCEC ISS only.

Project Management: A Project Manager should be assigned to coordinate across tasks, manage all personnel hired to complete work, and ensure all scoped objectives are completed on time. Level of effort for Project Management is expected to be at least 6 hours per month with additional hours as needed, generally at the beginning and end of the agreement period of performance and before and after monthly meetings. Project manager shall provide monthly meeting agenda, track deliverables, provide meeting notes, etc.

Within 30 days of award, the NFE will schedule an initial project kick off meeting with all parties involved (VSFB, AFCEC/Edwards ISS, USACE, etc) to develop a project work schedule to implement the SOO. All deliverables/tasks will be submitted within the required timeframes as identified.

Access: Access to VSFB is restricted. General base access requires sponsorship by a government civilian employee, and should be coordinated at least two weeks prior to the visit. Long-term base access will require additional security clearances and access processing. Access to some areas may be limited by ongoing military activities such that personnel access is limited to weekends or brief periods of a few hours. Access procedures are described in further detail in the most recent version of the VSFB Contractor Access Request Procedures Template.

Photography Use: Photography at VSFB is restricted, requiring an authorization letter that must be in the photographer's possession at all times. Any photos/reports released to the public must be reviewed and authorized by Public Affairs. A non-disclosure agreement (NDA) is required for use of photographs for data analysis and report preparation prior to authorization by public affairs for release of photos/reports to the public.

Biological Security Measure: The NFE shall follow applicable Biological Security Best Management Practices identified in the most recent version of the installation Invasive Species Management Plan.

3.1 TASK 1: Mgt, Species: Gaviota Tarplant Genetic Analysis

The objective of this project is to assess the genetic distinctiveness of *Deinandra increscens* subsp. *villosa* (Gaviota tarplant) on Vandenberg SFB and Space Force property at Point Conception relative to *D. increscens* subsp. *increscens*, *D. paniculata*, and other members of the genus species off base.

This project follows up with previous and ongoing genetic analysis conducted to date on *Deinandra*, including both Sanger sequence-based and genome resequencing-based analyses focused on Gaviota tarplant. Information from other genetic analyses, e.g., the high-quality reference genome from the resequencing based studies, will inform work and analyses for this project.

Tasks include collection of up to 192 tissue samples of *Deinandra*, with a focus on *Deinandra increscens* subsp. *villosa*, *D. increscens* subsp. *increscens*, and morphological intermediates. Sampling may also include other members of the genus to serve as phylogenetic outgroups. All plants sampled for this study will be phenotyped in the field (e.g., measurements will be taken for

plant height, peduncle length, extent of head clustering, number of ray florets, number of disk florets), potentially with some further morphological analysis performed in the lab. Use of previous tissue samples collected on base property may be used where applicable, but only as a last resort as phenotype data would not be available for historical samples.

The project will employ a genome resequencing approach (i.e., a whole genome approach) with depth of sequencing for individual samples targeting 4x coverage across the genome. Low coverage samples will be assembled against the high-quality reference genome developed for the Strauss Windfarm project. Analyses will include standard population genomic and phylogenomic analyses. In addition, the whole genome approach used here will allow the assessment of the relationship between genotype and phenotype. Collectively these analyses will permit the evaluation of the taxonomy of *D. increscens* and its currently recognized subspecies on Vandenberg and Point Conception.

Deliverables

Project deliverables include a draft and final report. GIS data includes sample collection and photo points.

4.0 QUALIFICATIONS

The NFE shall possess the ability to perform tasks described in the statement of objectives. Botanical expertise in all federally listed species and possession of a USFWS 10(a)(1)(A) research permit for endangered plants and applicable state permits for beach layia (*Layia carnosa*), Lompoc yerba santa (*Eriodictyon capitatum*), Vandenberg monkeyflower (*Diplacus vanderbergensis*), Gambel's watercress (*Nasturtium gambelii*), and Gaviota tarplant (*Deinandra increscens* ssp *villosa*). Botanical facility to support these species including storage of seeds and outplanting as needed.

The NFE shall ensure that project activities, project reports, and project data are professionally executed with minimal errors.

5.0 GOVERNMENT FURNISHED MATERIALS OR PROPERTY

The government will provide maps, master plans and previous reports relevant to this agreement.

Government-furnished materials or property is governed by 2 C.F.R. Part 200.312 which states that a) Title to federally-owned property remains vested in the Federal government. The non-Federal entity must submit annually an inventory listing of federally-owned property in its custody to the Federal awarding agency. Upon completion of the Federal award or when the property is no longer needed, the non-Federal entity must return the property to the Federal awarding agency for further Federal agency utilization.

6.0 PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE (PoP)

Base Period: 18 months from date of award, 12 months technical support and 6 months administrative for onboarding, preparation, seasonal delays, analysis and reporting.

7.0 FOLLOW-ON PERIODS (FOP)

Two (2) 18-month Follow-On Periods subject to funding availability. Any overlap between base and follow-on periods is to accommodate field planning, subcontracting activities, and reporting activities.

Example POP Schedule:

Base Period: 06 JUN 2026 - 05 DEC 2027 (18 months)

FO Period 1: 06 JUN 2027 - 05 DEC 2028 (18 months)

FO Period 2: 06 JUN 2028 - 05 DEC 2029 (18 months)

8.0 COORDINATION

The NFE is required to notify the AF Technical POC and the USACE PM of critical issues that may affect the project performance and/or schedule.

USACE POC

David Leptien, PM, 402-889-5570

david.b.leptien@usace.army.mil

AFCEC POC

Daniel Garcia, Natural Resources, AFCEC/CZOW, 805-606-9834

daniel.garcia.23@us.af.mil

9.0 DELIVERABLES

- 9.1 Progress Reports – Submit quarterly progress reports describing progress on the project throughout the period of performance. 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 quarterly progress reports. No partial payment will be approved unless the government has received all progress reports which are due.
- 9.2 Reports - Reports shall generally be free of typos, grammatical errors, formatting inconsistencies and incorrectly labeled tables and figures. The reports shall provide proper citations for all documents referenced. It is requested that draft reports contain line numbering for ease of Government comment. Government and NFE comments shall be provided in a comment matrix provided by the Government. Project GIS Data shall be submitted along with draft and final reports. Final work plans, final technical reports, and final GIS data deliverables shall be submitted only after the NFE has addressed all Government comments satisfactorily.
- 9.3 Work Plan – The NFE shall submit a draft work plan, NFE reconciled comment matrix of government comments of draft work plan, and final work plan. The plan

shall follow the VSFB Work Plan Template. Methodology section shall be described in sufficient detail to allow study or work to be replicated by persons unfamiliar with the project. Methodologies shall also include planned data analyses. Raw data collection methodology shall provide sufficient data for planned analyses. The NFE shall provide a proposed comprehensive timeline for completion of the required work element activities and submittals. Updated project schedules will be provided by the NFE when the schedule changes, regardless of whom is responsible for causing the change in schedule. Updated schedules shall be submitted within seven (7) calendar days of any documented change in project schedule.

- 9.4 Technical Report: The NFE shall submit a draft technical report, NFE reconciled comment matrix of government comments of draft technical report and GIS data, and final technical report. The report shall describe in narrative format the accomplishments of the project tasks including pertinent maps, figures, tables, photographs, and GIS data. The report format shall follow that of a scientific publication and include the following section heading: Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion and Literature Cited, as well as original data sheets and/or copies thereof, laboratory reports, and other appendices as appropriate. A separate report will be required for follow-on periods, if funded.
- 9.5 GIS Data: The NFE shall comply with all requirements in the most recent version of *Vandenberg SFB GeoBase Spatial Data Submittal Standards*, as amended (current version is dated 1 April 2021). This document provides all details required for a successful GIS delivery. A consultation with the Vandenberg GeoBase manager is strongly encouraged. When GIS Data is required for reports it shall be delivered with the draft and final reports for reconciliation with the reports.
- 9.6 GIS Deliverables: All tasks shall have at least one and likely several GIS deliverables that include all data layers used to create any and all maps within submitted deliverables. GIS deliverables shall include all new data collected throughout the course of the project. Draft GIS deliverables shall be submitted with draft reports that include their data, with final reports and GIS info submitted together. GIS deliverables must follow VSFB geospatial data standards, an adaptation of the SDSFIE 3.1x data model, as described in the data layer specifications (DLS)). Deliverables must comply with the latest version which are updated annually. All metadata associated with data layers must meet the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) Content Standard for Digital Geospatial Metadata (CSDGM) revised in June 1998. Metadata must also include all content stated in the metadata section of each layer's DLS, which includes layer specific verbiage for attribute fields and definitions.
- 9.7 Annual Inventory Federally Owned – Federally Owned Property - an annual inventory listing Federal property (to include description of the property, a serial number or other identification number) that is in the custody of the recipient and available at the request of the government.
- 9.8 Annual Inventory Acquired – Acquired Property purchased with funding from award - property records must be maintained that includes description of the property, serial number or other identification number, source of funding, who holds title, acquisition date, cost of property, percentage of Federal participation in project costs, location, use and condition of property, and ultimate disposition including date of disposal and sale

price. A physical inventory must be taken and results reconciled. Copies of the inventory to be sent annually following each year of support to USACE – SWF and AFCEC ISS.

10.0 ADMINISTRATION

10.1 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%).

10.2 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. NOTE: In addition to the General Terms and Conditions, the Recipient shall request disposition instructions from the Federal Awarding agency (USACE) PM, as applicable.

11.0 POST AWARD & INVOICE PROCESSES

11.1 Payment Requests and Progress Reports (Invoice Package) - Submit Payment Request and additional required documents to: swf-cesu-invoice@usace.army.mil. Carbon Copy the assigned USACE PM as well as your organization’s point of contacts (POCs) for the additional required documents and for delinquent accounts.

11.1.1. Frequency: Quarterly plus 30-day grace period (except for the final invoice package noted below). If the coverage dates are not quarterly or preapproved by the PM (or the first/last submittal), the invoice package will be **rejected**.

Quarters	Invoice pkgs due No Later Than (NLT):
Q1: Oct-Dec	Q1: 31 Jan
Q2: Jan-Mar	Q2: 30 Apr
Q3: Apr-Jun	Q3: 30 Jul
Q4: Jul-Sep	Q4: 31 Oct

11.1.2. Payment Requests **must** be submitted on form SF270 Request for Advance or Reimbursement **with the accompanying Standard Form-Performance Progress Report (SF-PPR), otherwise the SF270 will be rejected.**

11.1.3. SF270 Request for Advance or Reimbursement

11.1.3.1 Block 9, Recipient Organization. **For successful set up of Electronic Transfer of Funds (EFT), the Recipient’s name and address shall reflect the exact name and physical address that appears in the System for Award Management (SAM), <https://sam.gov/>.**

11.1.3.2. Blocks 11, (a), (b), & (c) are for the description of funds. Preferred description is: CLIN/POP Type, POP start and end dates, amount awarded (see example below); at minimum

include the CLIN. If the description or the minimum CLIN information is missing, the **SF270 and SF-PPR will be rejected.**

Example:

***CLIN 0001 / Base
22SEP23 – 21SEP24
\$100,000.00***

Funding must be separated as specified on the Award document. Sub-CLINs that specify “*for funding only*” (e.g., numbered 000101, 000102, etc.) may be rolled into the primary CLIN (e.g., 0001) unless otherwise instructed. All others required PM approval.

The SF270 may have multiple pages. An SF270 in Excel format may be requested at: swf-cesu-invoice@usace.army.mil, however, **must be submitted in pdf format otherwise will be rejected.**

11.1.4. SF-PPR Standard Form-Performance Progress Report : The Recipient shall tailor the SF-PPR to include, at minimum, the following information:

- Separate details by CLIN as applicable
- Achievements (must detail work during quarter associated with the invoice)
- Percent Completion
- Project Status
- Problems encountered and impact of activities and personnel on schedule.
- Anticipated work in next reporting period.

If the SF-PPR is incomplete, the SF-PPR and SF270 will be rejected.

A tailored SF-PPR form may be requested at: swf-cesu-invoice@usace.army.mil.

11.2. The **Final** invoice package is due no later than 90 days from final (funded/exercised) POP end date and must include the following documents: If any of the required information below is missing, the final invoice package will be **rejected**.

Final SF270
SF-PPR
Final SF425
DD882
SF428 plus attachment B (C&S if applicable)
SF298
Final Report

Forms may be requested from the district office at swf-cesu-invoice@usace.army.mil or found at: <https://www.grants.gov/forms>.

[End of SOO]