



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

12 September 2017

REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST
NUMBER W9126G-17-2-SOI-0009
PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN 2017
Master Cooperative Agreement No.: W9126G-12-2-0019

Project Title: Horse Capture & Maintenance, JRTC Fort Polk, LA.

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest will be used to identify potential investigators for a project to be funded by JRTC Fort Polk, Louisiana which provides professional and technical support for its Program in order to facilitate successful implementation of the Authority. Approximately **\$100,000** is expected to be available to support this project. Additional funding may be available for follow on work in subsequent fiscal years to the successful Recipient/Awardee.

Background:

The work will involve: Adhering to a 30 day Cyclic Process for trespass horses in accordance with the NEPA conducted at JRTC/FORT POLK, LA. The process includes Capture (3 days), Adoption (10 working days), Public Give Away (7 working days), and Sell (7 working days). The Trespass Horses will be captured in bands small enough for the adoption agency to handle. Up to 10% travel may be required, to fulfill agreement.

Type of Award:

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.), all CESU projects must carry out a public purpose of support or stimulation, instead of acquiring goods or services for the exclusive direct benefit of the United States Government.

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 federal partner and the nonfederal partner when carrying out the activities specified in the project agreement. The exact nature of the government's involvement will be defined in the statement of objectives, issued with a request for full proposal.

As a result, it is anticipated that a cooperative agreement through the CESU program will be awarded. Such awards 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%).

Note: Must be a non-federal partner in the CESU Unit to be qualified to be considered.

Brief Description of Anticipated Work:

This research focuses on the following objectives:

Task 1: Capture: To contain at large livestock in an enclosure that reasonably assures detention of the animals.

Limitations on number of animals captured: {on Fort Polk and under the Environmental Assessment – the number of animals captured at any given time is within a loose definition of one to three bands. The EA specifically states “This COA would start with the capture of lots of horses consisting of one to three bands (10-30 horses). The intent of capturing small groups of horses over an extended period of time is to permit the various participating organizations sufficient time to move the horses through their adoption programs rather than overwhelming those organizations with all of the horses in a one to three month period.” (§2.3.7)}.

Methods of capture: The method of capture is not specified, although the following commitment must be adhered to “Fort Polk intends to capture horses in the least stressful manner to the horses, provided that capture method is sufficiently efficient and successful. The preferred and intended primary method to be utilized for capture is the baiting of capture pens so that horses move into the capture pens without external pressure. The secondary method of capture which will likely be utilized is the employment of personnel to physically round up and capture the horses. Fort Polk will not use or permit the use of aircraft to drive the horses over a long distance in a swift manner for purposes of roundup and capture.” (§EA2.3)

Capture by Fort Polk Personnel: FPLA reserves the right to opportunistically capture horses. In such cases, the co-opportunity partner still executes tasks 2-6 below

Government furnished materials: Fort Polk has available two capture/holding pens. These pens are constructed of cyclone fence to enclose a 2 acre area. The pens have two gate access points. Within this enclosure a ¼ acer lot is constructed. The fence for this lot is constructed of wood and is six feet tall. Besides on main gate the lot also has an exit that is a 30’ long chute (also constructed of wood and fully enclosed with a slat board top. At the end of this chute is a fabricated material squeeze chute. There are no wing or drift fences inside of the larger (2ac) or smaller (¼ ac) enclosures however heavy duty portable panels (as discussed below) can be used for these purposes.

Fort Polk has available sixty (60) heavy duty portable panels. These panels are 10’ by 6’ and are constructed with 1.5 – 2” tubing. These may be used within the above mentioned enclosures or otherwise for capture, but if used for capture a sufficient number should be held in reserve for flexibility when working captured animals

Access to Range Areas: Access to range areas is controlled by range control and adherence to daily check-in and check-out procedures is required. Range access will be limited or denied on certain days. Other suitable capture sites may be developed or current infrastructure may be used, coordination with Fort Polk Range Control is required on a case by case basis.

Task 2: Unique Identification: If a 501(c)3 organization cannot provide scanner, the co-operator conducts physical or electronic Inspection to determine if an animal has a unique identification of ownership. This includes scanning for microchips; inspection for brands; inspection for tattoos. The co-operator makes a good faith effort to determine if the horse is stolen, and if so, to locate the owner. To contain at large livestock in an enclosure that reasonably assures detention of the animals.

Task 3: Blood Samples: To immobilize an animal sufficient for a veterinarian and assisting veterinarian technicians to draw blood samples to be used to test for various equine diseases. The Chutes and panels mentioned in Line Item 1 above are available, but there are no other government furnished materials for this line item.

Task 4: Maintain Captive Horses: To provide sufficient feed and water to sustain and care for the animals while in the capture/holding pen(s) and until they are removed from the installation. Co-operator must be able to transport water.

Task 5: Load: Load horses onto trailers (government, private, or 501C3) for transport of capture animals on or off of the installation.

Task 6: Transportation: Must be able to transport horses to a different location (whether to a different pen on Post or off Post). Co-operator provides cost per mile for recoupment up to 30 miles and between 30 to 250 miles.

NOTE: At this time we are only requesting that you demonstrate available qualifications and skills for performing similar or same type of work. You will be evaluated for request for a proposal based on skills and qualifications demonstrated in your SOI.

Period of Performance. The base year of agreement will extend twelve (12) months from award. Three option periods extending for one year are anticipated pending funds.

Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications:

Please provide the following via e-mail attachment to: alisa.marshall@usace.army.mil
(Maximum length: 2 pages, single-spaced 12 pt. font).

1. Name, Organization, Cage Code, Duns number, and Contact Information
2. Brief Statement of Qualifications (including):
 - a. Biographical Sketch,
 - 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. Any brief description of capabilities to successfully complete the project you may wish to add (e.g. equipment, laboratory facilities, greenhouse facilities, field facilities, etc.).

Note: A full study proposal and proposed budget are NOT requested at this time.

Review of Statements Received: All statements of interest received 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. Based on a review of the Statements of Interest received, an investigator or investigators will be invited to prepare a full study proposal. Statements will be evaluated based on the investigator's specific experience and capabilities in areas related to the study requirements.

Please send responses or direct questions to:

USACE

Alisa Marshall, Contract Specialist

CESWF-CT

Email: alisa.marshall@usace.army

Office: 817-886-1068

Timeline for Review of Statements of Interest: The RSOI are required to be out for a minimum of 10 working days. Review of Statements of Interest will begin **September 18, 2017.**

[End of RSOI]