



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

26JUL2018

REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST

NUMBER W9126G-18-2-SOI-3740

PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN 2018

Project Title: Natural Resources Support Beale/Travis, AFB (BAFB/TAFB), CA

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest will be used to identify potential investigators for a project to be funded by [the US Air Force](#), which provides professional and technical support for its [Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan \(INRMP\)](#) in order to facilitate successful implementation of the [16 USC 670c-1 Sikes Act](#). Approximately [\\$2,255,285.00](#) 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:

This work will require full-time onsite support personnel located at Travis and Beale AFBs. This work also requires off-site support for less than full-time projects that are seasonal in nature and require limited field work at Travis and Beale AFBs. The work shall involve: natural resource management activities, field surveys, reporting, coordination, travel to and from Travis and Beale AFB for off-site personnel, attendance at meetings, project management, and GIS data management.

Type of Award:

In accordance with the *Sikes Act* (Sec. 103A [16 USC 670c-1]) “the Secretary of a military department may enter into cooperative agreements with States, local governments, Indian Tribes, non-governmental organizations, and individuals” This project is in support of the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan, as directed in the *Sikes Act*, and 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 project focuses on the following objectives:

1) Objective 1: Natural Resources Program Support

a) Threatened and Endangered Species:

i) **MGT, HABITAT, ESA, VERNAL POOLS, GGS, VELB, STEELHEAD**

- (1) Write reports required by Section 7 concurrence letters, biological opinions (BOs), or programmatic biological opinions (PBOs).
- (2) Track project related impacts and take by BO/PBO for inclusion in reports to USFWS. Specific elements that need tracking are outlined in individual BOs/PBO.
- (3) Write not likely to adversely affect (NLAAs) and/or biological assessment (BAs) for select projects, prioritizing projects where CEI or CE is the proponent.
- (4) Complete field inspections of approved projects to ensure compliance with Section 7 documentation.
- (5) Review Work Clearance / Dig Permit / Environmental Impact Assessment documentation (aka 103s, 332s, 813s, EAs, etc.) as requested by natural resources management (NRM) to determine impacts to listed species, if any.

ii) **MGT, HABITAT, TRICOLORED BLACKBIRD**

- (1) Remove willow from dam and plant Himalayan blackberry to create a wall of blackberry over water.
- (2) Plant experimental plots of blackberry, cattails, and other experimental treatments to test alternative methods. Planting non-native species does not comply with INRMP goals/objectives.
- (3) Remove willow from and around existing blackberry patches.
- (4) Grade back shoreline to extend the width of blackberry.
- (5) Re-grade upper (eastern) portion of lake to create a mixture of emergent vegetation (cattail and bulrush) with islands of Himalayan blackberry protected by a moat. (Needs hydrologic study and wetland design).
- (6) Consider installation of solar well to provide supplemental water to extend hydro-period.
- (7) Explore opportunities to enhance with Himalayan Blackberries and/or cattails as they are a preferred nesting substrate over bulrushes since TRBLs use cattail thatch as a nest building material.
- (8) Possibly grade the eastern side of the lake to create large islands of cattail habitat, protected from cattle and predators by fencing.

iii) **ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT MONITORING**

- (1) The primary objective is to provide support and deliverables to the Travis Air Force Base (TAFB) NRM (60 CES/CEIE) in achieving compliance with Federal, State, and Local environmental regulations for base activities through biological oversight and monitoring and by providing support to staff biologists in a variety of environmental programs.
 - (a) provide support for regulatory field visits for Endangered Species Act consultations

- (b) provide technical expertise and field support to the natural/cultural resource project planning and implementation, data collection, wildlife surveys, habitat improvement, nature trail development, and invasive weed management
- iv) **PROGRAMMATIC BIOLOGICAL OPINION (PBO) IMPLEMENTATION**
- (1) Travis AFB has an Endangered Species Act, Section 7, Programmatic Biological Opinion (June 2018) that requires pre-notification to the USFWS in support of the base's primary mission, support mission, and environmental activities. Project shall prepare technical information for use in government prepared consultation packages by completing relevant field surveys, preparing project descriptions in conjunction with the proponent (project engineers) to ensure accuracy, effects analysis, PBO references, analysis of effects, suggest minimization measures, and provide GIS data, maps and project figures . Project shall support USFWS coordination and responses to questions on submittals. Project also supports review and coordination of proponent prepared Section 7 documents to ensure consistent submissions from Travis AFB to the USFWS. Assume that up to 25 projects shall need support annually.
- v) **MANAGEMENT PLAN, CALIFORNIA TIGER SALAMANDER BREEDING PONDS & MIGRATION ROUTES**
- (1) Develop a Study, Management Plan, and Design for on-site management actions at previously documented breeding ponds to offset mission impacts on California tiger salamander (CTS) to include consideration of: 1) re-establishing migration away from the known breeding ponds in the military family housing area, 2) studying/implementing new equipment/procedures for installation of storm drains, irrigation boxes, electrical boxes, and other equipment that may trap CTS, 3) installation of artificial burrows and/or relocating ground squirrels around historic breeding ponds. As a part of this effort, other basewide efforts shall also be considered, such as barriers and tunnels to allow the species' migration, while directing them away from mission activities (e.g., runway, taxiways, tarmac).
- vi) **CALIFORNIA TIGER SALAMANDER SURVEYS & GROUND SQUIRREL MANAGEMENT**
- (1) Produce recommendations and provide oversight to ground squirrel management in conjunction with the Integrated Pest Management Plan, Horizontal Maintenance, and Base Planners. This includes development and assisting in the implementations of new construction methods, retrofits at existing locations, or relocation of problem squirrels to more desirable areas.
- (2) Conduct surveys for California tiger salamander including eggs, larvae and adults.
- Drift fencing and pitfall traps will be required in 3 locations twice per year to study both juvenile and adult CTS movements with the intention of validating the Travis AFB CTS Risk Map. This includes the Wilcox West Pond directly adjacent to the base (City of Fairfield property).
 - Egg grids and visual egg surveys shall occur in up to 10 potential breeding ponds or waterways on the base and in the Wilcox West Pond directly adjacent to the base.
 - Larval surveys shall occur in up to 5 historic or potential breeding ponds and the Wilcox West Pond directly adjacent to the base.

b) Wetlands and Riparian Habitats Management:

i) **MGT, HABITAT, RIPARIAN**

- (1) Plan and implement riparian restoration projects; perform monitoring and maintenance of riparian planting sites and other tree planting sites throughout the base. Oak restoration activities should comply with new guidance in the 2017 Grazing Management Program Guidelines (Hopkinson, 2017). Non-native species shall not be planted. Native species shall be planted in ecologically appropriate areas to maximize success of plantings and minimize impacts to existing resources. This task only applies to wildlands, not cantonment or landscaped areas. Cumulative success monitoring and reporting should be conducted. Task includes thorough review and update of new standardized AF Natural Resource's geodatabase, specifically verifying that all historic data and report information is in the geodatabase and was correctly imported. Ensure 2018/2019 data is correctly imported and data is sufficiently maintained.

ii) **MGT, WETLANDS / FLOODPLAINS**

- (1) Assist with consolidation of technical information needed by the government to reply to agency comments and finalization of the RGP
- (2) Review mission projects to ensure they comply with RGP or individual 401/404 permit requirements.
- (3) Collect and consolidate technical information needed for the government to prepare individual permit applications for Section 404/401 of the CWA not covered by the RGP or required before RGP is issued.
- (4) Conduct site visits to verify mission projects are complying with 404/401/RGP permits.
- (5) Prepare annual RGP report; collect data required for its completion.
- (6) Prepare annual reports required by individual CWA Section 404/401 permits.
- (7) Conduct project-specific wetland verification and write up results so the government can determine whether CWA permits are required for proposed projects.

iii) **MONITOR, WETLANDS**

- (1) Task provides for the monitoring of wetlands in accordance with INRMP or Section 7 requirements. Project may include the following:
- (2) Vernal pool restoration/creation monitoring. Implement recommendations from the Final Compensation Plan where needed to maximize available wetland credits while ensuring no expansion of BASH hazards.
- (3) Minimize potential impacts on wetlands resulting from routine land management activities (e.g., firebreak disking, prescribed burning).

iv) **WETLAND MANAGEMENT & MONITORING**

- (1) The NFE will implement the Wetland Management Work Plan. Additionally, the NFE will provide documents to support the NEPA program and meeting materials, as necessary to satisfy the overall operational objectives of the 60th Civil Engineer Squadron (CES), Environmental Section, Installation Management Flight, TAFB. The primary objective is to provide NFE support and deliverables through performance of biological reviews of base projects.

- c) Wildland Fire Management:
 - i) **MGT, HABITAT, POST FIRE REHAB**
 - (1) Complete a 2018 Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) analysis that reports on wild or prescribed fire effects to natural and cultural resources. Implement recommendations in the 2018 BAER report to minimize the effects of wildland fire to important natural resources (listed species, species of concern, wetlands, rare and native plants, water quality, cultural resources, etc). Types of post-fire restoration work include follow-up treatments on previous wildland fires as prescribed by previous BAER reports, invasive plant or erosion control to reduce immediate and/or long-term damage, and native restoration plantings. Type of restoration is site dependent. Note that weed or erosion control measures may need to be implemented prior to the wet season as early as August. Task includes pre/post fire habitat assessment and monitoring related to planned prescribed burn activities completed by the Travis Fire Department and/or the AFCEC Wildland Fire Center.
- d) Invasive Species Management:
 - i) **MGT, INVASIVE SPECIES, MULTIPLE, WORK PLANS YEAR ONE**
 - (1) Control giant reed (*Arundo donax*) in Dry Creek to remove blockage to federally-listed anadromous fish passage
 - (2) Manage and control other invasive species (yellow starthistle, tree of heaven, etc) in accordance with the Invasive Species Management Guidelines (Nov 2017).
 - (3) Increase awareness of base residents and employees regarding proper management of native vegetation and the need to avoid the introduction and spread of nonnative plant species.
 - (4) Select pesticides/herbicides that have the lowest possible toxicity, degrade rapidly in the environment, minimize exposure to non-target organisms, and do not contribute to nonpoint-source pollution
- e) Fish and Wildlife Management:
 - i) **MGT, NUISANCE WILDLIFE**
 - (1) Manage and control pest wildlife species through close coordination between the pest management section, natural resources manager, and safety section, and implementation of the Beale AFB pest management plan (and BASH plan).
 - (2) Feral cat control program. Cats will be trapped base wide as they are reported and taken to shelter or euthanized.
 - (3) Reduce or eliminate yellow starthistle around the airfield per the IPSMG BASH Work Plan (Appendix I IPSMG Nov 2017)
 - ii) **MGT, SPECIES, MIGRATORY BIRDS**
 - (1) Implement FY2014 Avian Protection Plan to reduce raptor/animal electrocution hazards through 1) monitoring of bird electrocutions, 2) specialized training for Civil Engineer Squadron (CES) Exterior Electric personnel, and 3) technical support to CES on purchase of bird protection hardware for poles. Specifically, conduct work outlined in APP Monitoring Procedure, Section 13.2.4: Avian Mortality and Injury Tracking. Beale AFB tracks avian mortality and injury to identify problem areas. A qualified biologist inspects the most hazardous poles

that have not been retrofitted to look for avian carcasses twice per year, summer and winter. When personnel encounter injured or dead birds, the NRM shall contact the USFWS and initiate an internal review to identify the retrofitting measures needed to prevent future incidents.

iii) **MIGRATORY BIRD SURVEYS & MANAGEMENT**

- (1) Prepare an Avian Management Report that summarizes all special-status bird occurrences (with a focus on nesting locations) from past and current (below) surveys. Produce a set of guidelines for TAFB in order to comply with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act for typical mission operations.

iv) **PLANT & ANIMAL SPECIES LIST UPDATE**

- (1) The NFE shall use recent survey reports and fish and wildlife surveys conducted under this task to update the existing Plant & Animal List in the INRMP (Appendix E). Project covers ~4,000 acres. Wildlife surveys shall occur base wide, and fish surveys shall occur in Union Creek, North Gate Park Pond and perennial ponds in the Castle Terrace Conservation Area to determine presence/absence of species. Plant surveys are not needed, but the plant list should be updated from existing reports.

f) **Grazing Management:**

i) **MGT, HABITAT, GRASSLANDS & GRAZING EXPANSION**

- (1) Monitor Grazing Impacts: Implement a grazing monitoring program that evaluates and measures grazing impacts on the vernal pools and associated grasslands within grazed areas. Measurements include Residual Dry Matter (RDM), animal counts, and pasture assessment to prevent overgrazing and associated negative impacts. [Complete only if full time GS Biological Technician hasn't started yet].
- (2) Expand the native grassland restoration program in accordance with the grassland restoration plan.
- (3) Specifically, conduct any needed planning required to expand grazing operations to new pastures. Build fence (approximately 490 acres, 15,500 feet, 3-5 stranded, 13 corners, 4 single gates) and water troughs (2) for pasture G or other similar pastures as determined at the kick-off meeting.
- (4) Identify appropriate areas of the base that can be converted from improved land uses to semi-improved or unimproved land uses such as oak and riparian forest, grasslands, or agricultural outleasings (e.g., abandoned facilities, unused lawns, unnecessary roads).

ii) **GRAZING MONITORING**

- (1) Perform rangeland monitoring activities within grazed pastures at Travis AFB. Methods should follow the drafted "Monitoring Methodology for the TAFB Grazing Mgmt Plan" (HT Harvey, May 2018) and the Grazing Management Plan (2017). Work includes compliance and effectiveness monitoring within grazing pastures 1-10 and 14 and control plots located in adjacent grasslands. Data collection efforts include livestock counts, spring biomass, fall RDM, photo points, bare ground cover, dominant plant presence, native and non-native plant cover, RDM mapping, grass height, small mammal burrow density, and biomass

production. Data from invasive species mapping efforts (separate contract) will be available for review/analysis in addition to the Travis Aero Club grazing study (separate contract). Additional parameters or monitoring points (~20 in 2018) may be required depending on the results of the 2018 data.

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 one year from award.](#)

Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications:

Please provide the following via e-mail attachment to: sandra.justman@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
Sandy Justman, Contract Specialist
CESWF-CT
Email: sandra.justman@usace.army.mil
Office: 817-886-1073

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 **10 August 2018.**