



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

30 April 2021

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF INTEREST
Number W9126G-21-2-SOI-3491
Project to be initiated in 2021

Applicants must be a member in one of the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESU)
Regions: Desert Southwest, Great Plains. Or Gulf Coast

Project Title: Boating Capacity Survey, Grapevine Lake, TX

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest will be used to identify potential investigators for a project to be funded by US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) which provides professional and technical support for Grapevine Lake in order to facilitate successful implementation of section 6305 – *Using cooperative agreements* of the *Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreements Act of 1977* (31 U.S.C. § 6301 et seq.) Approximately **\$150,000** is expected to be available to support this project. There will be no additional option periods.

Background:

Grapevine Lake's environmental programs ensure Civil Works 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.

In agreement with the above stated objectives, the recipient/cooperator agrees to provide the necessary personnel, equipment, and materials required to conduct a Recreational Boating Survey (RBS) at Grapevine Lake located in Tarrant and Denton counties, Texas, contingent on lake elevations being conducive to boating activities. Services include close coordination with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Fort Worth District Project Manager (SWF PM), key USACE personnel in the Regional Planning and Environmental Center (RPEC) in Fort Worth District, and the USACE Lake Manager at Grapevine Lake. The recipient/cooperator agrees to accomplish the following general tasks at Grapevine Lake:

- Utilization counts at boat ramp parking lots (including unauthorized parking).
- Marina slip occupancy counts at existing marinas.
- Empty boat trailer counts in all campgrounds.
- Empty boat trailer counts in designated day use areas where appropriate.
- On-the-water vessel counts at specified times and locations.
- Conduct boat ramp exit surveys at specified boat ramps at specified times and locations.

- Administer the Marina Tenant and Stakeholder surveys.
- Preparation of a report summarizing the count and survey data.

The work requires onsite personnel to be physically present at Grapevine Lake during the time required to perform the survey.

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. The benefit of this project is to the public including boaters, marina occupants, and resident of surrounding area. The results of the survey will provide the federal government the data required to make master plan decisions for the service of the public.

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%).

Description of Anticipated Work:

Conduct Kickoff Meeting

The goal of this task is to ensure the recipient/cooperator, the Regional Planning & Environmental Center (RPEC), and Fort Worth District Operations Division staff understand the purpose and process of the RBS and the timeline for accomplishing the overall tasks.

Conduct kick-off meeting with Fort Worth District Operations Division and RPEC Master Planning staff at Grapevine Lake.

Discuss and confirm the count and survey process, schedule, and deliverables, and conduct a site visit.

Prepare a preliminary work plan for conducting the RBS at Grapevine Lake.

Review government furnished material.

Monthly Report of Status

Monthly project status reports will take place via teleconference between the 1st and 5th day of each month during the period of performance. Project delays and progress shall be reported as

well as any other potential issues which may arise with the RBS. USACE staff will initiate the teleconference calls.

Conduct Recreational Utilization Counts

Recreational utilization counts to be conducted at official boat launching ramps, all camping areas and select day use picnic areas, commercial marinas, private marinas, and on the lake water surface.

RBS Locations

Recreational utilization counts to be conducted at the following locations on Grapevine Lake:

Boat Ramps:

At each of the official boat launching ramps. There are approximately 15 ramps at Grapevine Lake including: Katies Woods Ramp, Murrell Park Ramp, The Vineyards Ramp, Twin Coves Park Ramp, Meadowmere Ramp, Sand Bass Point Ramp, Tarwick Ramp, Lakeview Park Ramp, Trophy Club Park Ramp, McPherson Slough Ramp, Silver Lake Ramp, Silver Lake Marina Ramp, Dove Loop Ramp, Farris Branch Ramp and the members only ramps located at Twin Coves Marina, and Scott's Landing Marina. Approximately two ramps are undergoing repairs and may not be open for public use during the RBS.

Campgrounds and Day Use Areas:

At each of the following camping areas: The Vineyards Campground operated by the City of Grapevine and Twin Coves Park operated by the City of Flower Mound. Note: Day use areas and camping areas exist at Twin Coves Park where empty boat trailers may be parked and must be included in counts.

Water Surface:

On-the-lake water surface counts using boats with each boat being assigned to a water surface zone as indicated on the map to be finalized at the kickoff meeting prior to initiation of survey activities. Two (2) on-the-lake water surface counts to be conducted at Grapevine Lake on each survey day at 1:30 PM and 4:30 PM.

Commercial and Private Marinas:

There are three commercial marinas on Grapevine Lake as follows: Silver Lake Marina, Scott's Landing Marina, and Twin Coves Marina. Private marinas include the Northshore Club marina, Lake Forest Boat Club marina, Grapevine Yacht Club and High Ridge Boaters Association and are included as locations for recreational utilization counts.

RBS Dates

Three (3) survey days of recreational utilization counts are to be conducted at Grapevine Lake at all designated RBS locations. The range of possible dates begins June 12, 2021 and ends September 5, 2021 (Labor Day Holiday).

The counts are to be conducted on one (1) Saturday, one (1) Sunday and one (1) Federal Holiday on three (3) distinct weekends. Concurrent Saturday/Sunday counts are not allowed.

Note: Counts may not be conducted on Monday, July 5, 2021 or Monday, September 6, 2021. If counts are conducted on Sunday, July 4, 2021 or Sunday, September 5, 2021 (both Federal Holidays) then counts may not be conducted on Saturday, July 3, 2021, or Saturday September 4, 2021. If weather conditions prevent counting on July 4, USACE reserves the option to require counting on a Saturday or Sunday following July 4 in lieu of counting on September 5 (the Labor Day Holiday).

RBS Times

The recreational utilization counts at Grapevine Lake are to be conducted at the following times during each survey day at each of the designated RBS locations:

12:00 PM, 3:00 PM, and 6:00 PM (at boat ramp parking lots, campgrounds, and specified day use areas)

1:30 PM and 4:30 PM (on-the-water vessel counts)

RBS Conditions

Recreational utilization counts shall be conducted only if the following lake/weather conditions permit:

Only when weather conditions are conducive to recreational boating.

Only when rain is to be at or below a 20% chance or not in the forecast by the National Weather Service.

Only when winds are forecast to be at or below 15 miles per hour.

If any weather condition (rain, lightning, or wind) is not favorable, then the recreational utilization survey data collection day is canceled, and another day is added to the data collection calendar, subject to government approval. The decision to cancel a possible collection date will be based on the National Weather Service forecast and will be made by USACE no later than 12:00 PM on the Monday before any possible collection date.

The elevation of Grapevine Lake is greater than 525.0 feet and less than 545.0 feet. USACE will provide lake elevation information. The “normal” or conservation pool elevation of Grapevine Lake is 535.0 feet.

NOTE: If some data collection times were completed before weather conditions became unfavorable, or due to unforeseen technical and/or personnel difficulties, and the data collection was terminated for that day, then another day (a Saturday or Sunday) would be added to the

collection days and data collection would begin where the former day had ceased in terms of the 3 time slots identified for data collection each day.

RBS Protocol

The following standard operating procedures are to be followed prior to initiating data collection on days and times specified above:

A USACE representative must give approval to proceed with the surveys no later than 12:00 PM on the Monday prior to each survey day. This will allow approximately five (5) days notice prior to recipient/cooperator making travel plans and arrangements for counting/surveying staff to be in place. USACE point of contact will be provided upon award of the cooperative agreement. If both lake and weather conditions remain favorable (within specified guidelines), all data collection team members will be notified to be prepared to proceed with data collection at designated RBS locations.

Prior to the recipient/cooperator traveling to Grapevine Lake for each scheduled survey date, an assessment of the lake and forecasted weather conditions are to be made by both the Government and the recipient/cooperator to determine if conditions are favorable to conduct the survey. If both lake and weather conditions remain favorable, all data collection team members are notified to begin data collection at designated RBS times. If both lake and weather conditions are within the specified guidelines, the data collection team members are to begin data collection.

Data collection at all designated boat ramps as indicated in the RBS Locations, to include the number of empty boat trailers parked in both designated trailer parking spots and in locations that are not officially designated trailer parking spots (such as grassy area or along the road leading to the boat ramp). The recorded information should denote how many vessels each empty trailer is designed to carry (some trailers are designed to carry multiple personal watercraft). The number of vessels that are actively being launched or are waiting in line to launch (and the trailer has not yet been parked) should also be recorded. The recorded numbers should differentiate between trailers that are parked in designated and undesignated parking areas.

Data collection at the campgrounds indicated in the RBS Locations should include the number of empty boat trailers parked at or near campsites within all designated camping areas. The assumption is that these empty trailers indicate that the boat owner has launched a boat at a nearby boat ramp and then parked the empty trailer at a campsite.

On the lake water surface data collection to be conducted from a boat(s) positioned on the lake as specified in the RBS Locations listed above (zones if any) to be determined during kickoff meeting. Other methods of counting on-the-lake vessels may be appropriate if approved by USACE. Data collection should include counting all vessels by vessel type moored or underway on the lake surface. Vessels will be indicated as motorized (runabouts, personal watercraft (jet-ski's), pontoon, etc.), sailboat, and non-motorized (kayaks, paddle boards, etc). As vessels are counted note the location and type of each vessel on a lake map. Using a lake map denote where moving vessel congestion is the most prevalent and record the number of vessels by vessel type within the congested area. Also record on a lake map any areas where vessels are moored close

together in groups of approximately ten (10) or more. Counts should proceed quickly to capture the number of vessels on the lake surface at the prescribed times and to prevent double counting.

Data collection at the marinas indicated in the RBS Locations should include the total number of slips and the total number of empty wet storage slips or spaces. The total number of slips shall include the floating platforms intended for the storage of personal watercraft and shall also include the slips used for rental vessels. The count should also include the number of vessels that are moored in areas that are not designated slips (for example some vessels may be tied up (moored) on the side(s) of a floating dock but are not moored in a designated slip). The counting should proceed at a fast pace, so the count is accurate and captures all empty slips/storage spaces at the time of the count.

Two marinas have dry boat storage spaces(ground level storage units with lockable doors) that may result in boat launches by individual boat owners or by marina staff via a livery service. Some or all these launches may result in empty trailers parked near the marina-operated boat ramp, but some empty trailers may be parked in a dry storage space after the boat is launched. Coordination with the commercial marina staff is required of the recipient/cooperator to determine approximately how many boats are launched on RBS dates via a livery service where the empty trailer is parked in a dry storage space and would therefore not be counted during the required counts at the boat ramp. Coordination is also needed to ensure that the recipient/cooperator will be granted access to floating facilities to conduct counts of empty slips. Occupancy rates (to be provided voluntarily by the marina) of rented slips during count days should be collected as well. Occupancy rates are needed to convert the total number of empty slips to “empty rented slips.” Occupancy rates are to be included in draft and final reports but will not be made publicly available by USACE.

When all counts have been recorded for the specific area, the recipient/cooperator is to move to the next location for data counting. Representative photos are to be taken on the lake surface and at all RBS Locations during the count/survey periods. Digital copies of the photos to be provided by the recipient/cooperator with a digital time stamp, GPS coordinates, and the file will be labeled according to location and time.

Conduct Boater Exit Interview Surveys

Exit interviews are to be conducted at all boat ramp locations specified below, using a provided survey. Interviews to be conducted between 4:00 PM and 7:00 PM on each of the RBS days. Exit interviews should not delay the public’s ability to retrieve their boats or cause traffic congestion. Not every boat exiting the water during the specified timeframe will be asked to participate in the survey if delays are occurring at the ramp. Recipient/cooperator must be prepared to have a spanish-speaking (bilingual) surveyor available if the exit survey process at any of the designated boat ramp locations indicates a need for a bilingual surveyor.

Exit interview survey locations at Grapevine Lake include the following: Meadowmere Park Ramp, Dove Loop Ramp, Katie’s Woods Ramp, Murrell Park Ramp

Stakeholder and Marina Tenant Surveys

The recipient/cooperator is required to conduct surveys for two groups as follows:

Stakeholder Surveys:

Using a contact list to be furnished by USACE (see Section 5, Government Furnished Material), a stakeholder survey will be completed using a pre-approved survey form. The survey may be administered using standard mail, email or via a website. If standard mail is used, the recipient/cooperator must provide a prepaid return postage envelope to each stakeholder. The survey must be administered during the time specified for RBS.

Marina Tenant Surveys:

In order to protect Personally Identifiable Information (PII), the pre-approved Marina Tenant Survey must be made available to marina tenants via a methodology to be chosen by the marina owner/operator. This methodology may involve sending the survey to marina tenants via email or having marina tenants answer the survey using a web-based survey process. In either case, the resulting, completed surveys should be furnished to the recipient/cooperator by marina tenants during the time specified for the RBS. Under no circumstances should PII, such as names and addresses, be collected or stored by the recipient/cooperator. Completion of the Marina Tenant Survey will require close coordination between the recipient/cooperator and the marina owner/operator. The three marinas at Grapevine Lake are owned and operated by a single entity which should simplify coordination. There are approximately 1,500 total rentable wet slips at the three commercial marinas on Grapevine Lake, and approximately 121 total wet slips at the four private marinas. A minimum of 500 marina tenant surveys, spread approximately equally across the three commercial marinas, should be attempted to complete this task. No marina tenant surveys are to be sent to private marina slip occupants.

Upon mailing or emailing, the recipient/cooperator is to notify USACE of the number of surveys that have been mailed and the dates in which they were mailed/made available to potential respondents. The recipient/cooperator is to provide copies of all the returned surveys to government. To increase respondent percentages, the recipient/cooperator shall send a reminder to all potential respondents who have not responded after 15 calendar days following the initial mailing/availability of the survey. The respondents have 30 calendar days to respond.

Draft Summary Report

The recipient/cooperator is to prepare a draft report summarizing all data collected. The report should display data in a manner that clearly and graphically displays the data collected for each survey day and each location specified in the RBS. The draft report should also provide a clear summary and statistical trends of the exit interview surveys, stakeholder surveys and marina tenant surveys. The boater exit interview surveys shall be summarized for each boat ramp location by date and as an aggregate summary for Grapevine Lake. The data is to be reported to the government without any recommendations or suggestions for future use. It will be the government's responsibility to analyze the furnished data for future management decisions. The format of the draft summary report will be both hardcopy and electronic PDF format. Source data to include, but not limited to Adobe PDF, Microsoft Word, and Excel.

Final Summary Report

The recipient/cooperator to prepare a final summary report summarizing all data collected and incorporating government comments, if any, on the draft report. The format of the final summary

report will be both hardcopy and electronic PDF format. Source data to include but not limited to Adobe PDF, Microsoft Word and Excel.

Period of Performance: The period of performance is from award through 31 December 2021.

Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications:

(Maximum length: 2 pages, single-spaced 12 pt. font).

1. Name, Organization, Cage Code, Duns number, and Contact Information (Email)
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:

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Timeline for Review of Statements of Interest: The RSOI is required to be posted for at least 30 days prior to the Government making a decision and requesting full proposals. Responses due by 5:00 P.M., Central Time, on **28 May 2021**.

[End of RSOI]