



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

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF INTEREST
Number W9126G-21-2-SOI-4792
Project to be initiated in 2021

Applicants must be a member in one of the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESU):
Gulf Coast Region
Southern Appalachian Mountains Region
Piedmont – South Atlantic Coast Region

Project Title: Invasive Species Control and Management for Maxwell-Gunter AFB, AL.

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest will be used to identify potential investigators for a project to be funded by AFCEC which provides professional and technical support for Maxwell-Gunter AFB in order to facilitate successful implementation of the 16 USC 670c-1 Sikes Act. Approximately **\$51,500.** is expected to be available to support this project during the **base period.** Additional funding may be available for follow on work in subsequent fiscal years to the successful Recipient/Awardee, subject to the availability of funds.

Background:

The Maxwell-Gunter AFB environmental programs ensure military 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 Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (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.

Type of Award:

This project will be awarded under the authority of 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%).

Brief Description of Anticipated Work:

In order to perform this work successfully, the cooperator must have capabilities to support on site goals and objectives at Maxwell-Gunter AFB, Alabama.

In agreement with the above stated goals, the recipient/cooperator (hereafter Cooperator) agrees to perform Mandatory/Anchor Task 1: Treatment and Removal of Invasive Species. Execute large-scale eradication efforts in accordance with the 2004 Management and Restoration Plan for Non-Native Species Control on Maxwell Air Force Base, Gunter Air Force Base and Maxwell-Gunter Lake Martin Recreation Area. Once the Invasive Species Treatment Plan is complete this will be the guidance to follow. Eradication efforts would include, but not limited to, killing and/or cutting and removing thick stands of mature tallow trees, bamboo, mimosa, privet, and other invasive species in accordance with the management plan. Adherence to the management plan is required and any planned deviations from the plan must be approved prior to execution of the deviations. Work will include, but not be limited to:

- Follow-up/maintenance treatment of bamboo removal areas, combination of mechanical and herbicide.
- Follow-up treatment for one previously cleared plot, removal of Chinese tallow trees.
- Initial removal of additional plot(s) of Chinese tallow trees.
- Spot treatment of other scattered invasives (Japanese climbing fern, kudzu, privet, etc.)
- Maintenance of areas cleared of invasives around outdoor recreational access points.
- Treatment of aquatic invasives in base lakes (according to survey results and management plan)

Period of Performance. The base period of agreement will extend 12 months from award. Four optional periods extending for 12 months are anticipated pending availability of funds.

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 **11 August 2021**.

[End of RSOI]

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES
for
INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT
for
MAXWELL-GUNTER AIR FORCE BASE, AL

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base (AFB) environmental program ensures military 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.

1.2 This work requires a full-time support team to execute the tasks described in the 2004 Alabama Natural Heritage Program “Management and Restoration Plan for Non-Native Species Control on Maxwell Air Force Base, Gunter Air Force Base and Maxwell-Gunter Lake Martin Recreation Area.” The work shall involve large-scale eradication efforts to kill and/or cut and remove thick stands of mature tallow trees, bamboo, mimosa, privet, and other invasive species in accordance with the management plan. Adherence to the maintenance plan is required and any planned deviations from the plan must be approved prior to execution of deviations.

2.0 AUTHORITY

2.1 Authority to award this Cooperative Agreement: Sikes Act CFDA number, 12.005. 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*.

2.2 In agreement with the above stated goals, the recipient/cooperator agrees to provide the necessary personnel, equipment, and materials required to implement, in part, the Maxwell AFB responsibilities pursuant to the Sikes Act Improvement Act (16 USC 670 et seq.) and EO 13112, Invasive Species.

2.3 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 DoD agrees to participate at a national level in support of the CESU program as accepted in the Master MOU for the establishment and continuation of the CESU program Article II 1-4 and Article VI 1-7.

The installation further (hence DoD) agrees to provide substantial involvement as directed under Article II (A) NAME CESU Master Agreement # W9126G-08-2-0029 to include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Maxwell AFB is involved in development of study methodology, data gathering, analysis, and/or report writing
- Maxwell AFB actively participates and collaborates in carrying out the project plan of work, reviews and approves activities, helps train or select project staff or trainees
- Maxwell AFB 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 site location for team field office with needed utilities
 - Providing staff time to work with team on execution of the project

3.0 DESCRIPTION OF OBJECTIVES

3.1 Task 1 - Treatment and Removal of Invasive Species (Mandatory): Execute large-scale eradication efforts in accordance with the 2004 Management and Restoration Plan for Non-Native Species Control on Maxwell Air Force Base, Gunter Air Force Base and Maxwell-Gunter Lake Martin Recreation Area. Once the Invasive Species Treatment Plan is complete this will be the guidance to follow. Eradication efforts would include, but not limited to, killing and/or cutting and removing thick stands of mature tallow trees, bamboo, mimosa, privet, and other invasive species in accordance with the management plan. Adherence to the management plan is required and any planned deviations from the plan must be approved prior to execution of the deviations. Work will include, but not be limited to:

- Follow-up/maintenance treatment of bamboo removal areas, combination of mechanical and herbicide.
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- Initial removal of additional plot(s) of Chinese tallow trees.
- Spot treatment of other scattered invasives (Japanese climbing fern, kudzu, privet, etc.)
- Maintenance of areas cleared of invasives around outdoor recreational access points.
- Treatment of aquatic invasives in base lakes (according to survey results and management plan)

Note: This project could serve as an educational research opportunity within the Gulf Coast CESU. The installation and its conditions would support field studies to evaluate treatment and eradication methods and their effectiveness.

4.0 QUALIFICATIONS

4.1 Possess appropriate licenses needed to meet work requirements of the State of Alabama.

5.0 GOVERNMENT FURNISHED MATERIALS OR PROPERTY

5.1 Physical Data: A September, 2002, "Natural Community and Rare Plant and Animal Survey for Maxwell Air Force Base, Gunter Air Force Base, and Maxwell-Gunter Lake Martin Recreation Area". This survey included an assessment of flora on Maxwell AFB, focusing on bottomland and floodplain forests and floodplain marsh along the northeastern edge of the installation. At that time, several non-native invasive plant species were identified that posed management and restoration challenges. The 2002 report included discussions of these species and potential control methods.

A 2004, Alabama Natural Heritage Program provides a "Management and Restoration Plan for Non-Native Species Control on Maxwell Air Force Base, Gunter Air Force Base and Maxwell-Gunter Lake Martin Recreation Area." A pilot (or demonstration) project was undertaken to remove Chinese tallow trees from one area. However, presumably due to lack of manpower and/or program funding, a long-term comprehensive management plan was not carried forward. Therefore, the tallow trees reestablished in this area.

Information from the previous surveys provides a baseline for updating the invasive species surveys, and the previous management suggestions provide a basis for formulating detailed control/removal plans for each of these species.

5.2 Facility:

Office space can be provided if necessary as well as secure storage for equipment.

5.3 Equipment:

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 OPTIONS – This project will have **four** 12-month Option Periods based on the availability of funds.

7.0 PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

7.1 The POP shall be 12 months from award.

8.0 COORDINATION

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Maxwell AFB POC
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9.0 DELIVERABLES

9.1 Monthly Progress Reports - One (1) typed letter report describing progress on the project. The report shall be due by 10th calendar day of each month and shall be transmitted via electronic mail. Invoices for partial payment shall be submitted to coincide with receipt of the monthly progress reports. No partial payment will be approved unless the government has received all progress reports which are due.

9.2 Annual Inventory – 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; Copies to be sent to USACE – SWF and the Maxwell AFB POC.

9.3 Annual Inventory – 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 every two years. Copies of the inventory to be sent annually to USACE – SWF and the Maxwell AFB base POC.

9.4 Annual Report (if the project is longer than one year). One (1) paper copy of an annual report should be submitted no later than one month before end of each year. At a minimum, the report shall contain an introduction section, and one section for each Task identified in your proposal. For each Task, the report shall summarize work accomplished for the Task. Maxwell AFB staff will review and provide comments, if any, within fifteen (15) calendar days after receipt.

- 10.0 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%).

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.

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