



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-22-2-SOI-3046**

*Applicants must be a member in one of the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESU):
Colorado Plateau and Gulf Coast CESU Regions*

Project Title: Forestry Branch Support, Fort Polk

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest will be used to identify potential investigators for this project. Approximately **\$485,300** is expected to be available to support this project for the **base year**. Additional funding may be available for additional tasks and/or follow on work in subsequent fiscal years to the successful Recipient/Awardee.

Background:

Provide support to the Fort Polk, Louisiana, Forestry and Wildland Fire Program activities.

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 Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESU) Program to be qualified to be considered. *In accordance with the 10 USC 670c-1, Sikes Act, projects for the implementation and enforcement of integrated natural resources management plans, priority shall be given to Federal and State agencies having responsibility for the conservation or management of fish or wildlife.*

Brief Description of Anticipated Work:

This research focuses on the following objectives:

“See Attached Statement of Objectives”

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 12 months from date of award. There will be four 12 month option years based on availability of funding.

Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications:

Please provide the following via e-mail attachments (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: RSOI's required to be posted on www.Grants.gov for 30 days, prior to the Government making a decision and requesting full proposals. Responses are due by 5:00 P.M., Central Time, on **6 July 2022**.

[End of RSOI]

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES
for
Forestry Branch Support
for
Environmental and Natural Resources Management Division, Fort Polk, Louisiana

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The Fort Polk 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.

The Environmental and Natural Resources Management Division (ENRMD) is at Fort Polk, Louisiana is responsible for management and reporting of forest stands and prescribed fire data, and the rehabilitation and monitoring of longleaf pine ecosystems on 142,000 acres of Army administered land and assists the US Forest Service in management of an additional 40,000 acres. Fort Polk is the home of the Joint Readiness Training Center which conducts realistic light infantry training for the Army's Light Infantry, Airborne, Ranger and Special Operations Forces. It is also home of several deployable resident units.

The Natural Resources of the Installation are managed in accordance with the Fort Polk's Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan (INRMP). Implementation of the INRMP conserves Fort Polk land and natural resources and helps ensure compliance with environmental laws and regulations. The INRMP helps ensure the maintenance of quality training lands on Fort Polk to accomplish JRTC and Fort Polk's critical military mission on a sustained basis and to ensure that natural resources conservation measures and Army military mission activities are integrated and consistent with federal stewardship requirements. In addition, the Army utilizes USFS lands via a Special Use Permit and Agreement (SUPA), and

under those provisions of the NEPA documents related to Army use and training activities on these lands.

1.2 This work requires onsite support personnel located at Fort Polk, Louisiana. The work shall involve: management and reporting of forest stands and prescribed fire data along with rehabilitation and monitoring of longleaf pine ecosystems and wildfire database management in accordance with the Sikes Act, the INRMP, AR 200-1 and the SUPA. The work also requires support to the installation for wildfire suppression/suppression activities and implementation (i.e., prescribed burning support).

2.0 AUTHORITY

2.1 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 Fort Polk responsibilities pursuant to the Sikes Act, NEPA and AR-200-1.

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.), 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. 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

2.3 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 the appropriate master agreement to include, but are not limited to, the following:

- INSTALLATION is involved in development of study methodology, data gathering, analysis, and/or report writing
- INSTALLATION actively participates and collaborates in carrying out the project plan of work, reviews and approves activities, helps train or select project staff or trainees
- INSTALLATION 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: (Choose what applies must have at least 2 and you can add others that apply)
 - Providing computing services
 - Providing staff time to work on the project

3.0 DESCRIPTION OF OBJECTIVES

3.1 Task 1: **Forest Inventory, Prescribed Fire and GIS Support**

It is anticipated that this task will require the equivalent of 2FTEs.

3.1.1 Task 1a: Rehabilitation and monitoring of longleaf pine ecosystems

Identify species composition and location of longleaf pine on Fort Polk and Peason Ridge. Assess individual stands for predominant species type, stand age, stand density, vegetative understory and mid-story compositions, growth rate, basal area, and tree heights. Conduct and analyze post-harvest inventory.

3.1.2 Task 1b: Wildfire database management

Enter wildfire information into database including date, location, acres burned and cause. Map and plot perimeter of wildfires in preparation for data sharing in GIS database as well as conduct wildfire damage assessments. In addition, provide US Forest Service information for all wildfires on IUA and LUA.

3.1.3 Task 1c: Database Management

Delineate stands using aerial photography based on timber type in ArcGIS. Produce maps of these forest stands and develop field ready protocol download for sampling points. Input timber cruise data into database and verify information including mapping fire data, output data for reporting, and cyclic maintenance and verification of geospatial data.

3.2 Task 2: **Forest Technician Support**

It is anticipated that this task will require the equivalent of 2FTEs.

3.2.1 Task 2a: Forest Road and Firebreak Maintenance and Site Rehabilitation

Roads and firebreaks are to be managed in conjunction with the compartment prescription plans. It is anticipated that the annual miles of forest roads and firebreaks to be maintained will range between 100 to 150 miles. The cooperator operates heavy

equipment with wheel-mounted or crawler type traction for maintaining and constructing forest roads and firebreaks. Some of the types of equipment operated include farm tractors, bulldozers, motor graders, backhoes, equipment transport trucks, and dump trucks. The Cooperator conducts site rehabilitation work in designated areas. This work will involve using a tractor, ATV, disk harrow and seeder to till and plant areas disturbed by forestry activities. Work is performed on flat or rolling terrain. Vehicles have a gross weight of more than 26,000 pounds up to 32,000 pounds, and are sometimes equipped with air brakes. The Cooperator is responsible for making minor equipment adjustments and for performing minor maintenance on tractors and equipment. The Cooperator maneuvers equipment in confined areas, such as between shrubs and trees. The Cooperator shall also identify and communicate areas that require rehabilitation and maintenance work and make corrective action recommendations as appropriate.

3.2.2 Task 2b: Prescribed Burning and Wildfire Suppression

The Cooperator performs (conducts) with prescribed burns and wildfire suppression. Tasks include performing ignition and mop-up operations, and equipment maintenance. These activities may require the use of an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) and/or bull dozers. The cooperator employees shall meet physical/medical requirements and other training required under the National Fire Protection Standards and the Federal Interagency Wildland Firefighter Medical Qualification Standards or Red Card.

3.2.3 Task 2c: Harvest Site Preparation

The cooperator provides support in the preparation of timber harvest sites for sale. The activities required at each area shall include establishing harvest block boundaries, skid trails, streamside management zones (SMZs), and marking trees for harvest or retention as indicated by the related marking guide or the Installation Forester. Global Positioning System (GPS) shall be used to accurately delineate boundaries, skid trails, and SMZs in the installation GIS. The annual number of timber sales range from 12 to 15 annually.

3.2.4 Task 2d: Forest Inventories

The cooperator assists in conducting field inventories required by the Forestry Branch. Specific inventories may include pre and post-harvest inventories and cyclic compartment inventories. Additional survey requirements may include support for cultural resource surveys, wildlife surveys, and aerial surveys of the forest for health threats (i.e., southern pine bark beetle). The cooperator implements established inventory field procedures and is capable of utilizing field data recorders and associated software.

3.2.5 Task 2e: INRMP Management Support - Fish and Wildlife management activities; RCW management activities; Ecosystem management activities; Implementation of prescriptive measures in Forest Compartment prescriptions.

4.0 QUALIFICATIONS

- 4.1 Cooperator lead personnel must have at least a Bachelor of Science in Forestry Management or a similar field of study and must demonstrate relative experience with applying Forest Management Best Practices such as controlled burning, and wildland fire management practices. Must demonstrate knowledge of endangered species and critical habitats known to exist within different forestry habitats, within the Gulf Coast Regions. It is strongly desired that the Cooperator has an in-depth knowledge of Army Regulation (AR) 200-1 as it applies to JRTC and Fort Polk. AR 200-1 is a site specific document to JRTC and Fort Polk that complies and documents compliance and other environmental performance regulations into one consolidated document.
- 4.2 It is strongly desired that the Cooperator is familiar with and has an in-depth knowledge of Army Regulation (AR) 200-1 as it applies to JRTC and Fort Polk. AR 200-1 is a site specific document to JRTC and Fort Polk that complies and documents compliance and other environmental performance regulations into one consolidated document.
- 4.3 It is strongly desired that the cooperator is familiar with and has an in-depth knowledge of Fort Polk's INRMP and SUPA

5.0 GOVERNMENT FURNISHED MATERIALS OR PROPERTY

- 5.1 Physical Data: Copies of or access to all data files, maps, aerial photography, satellite imagery, reports, studies, and Army Regulations available at Fort Polk that are relevant to the work.
- 5.2 Facility: Use of office space and access to Fort Polk network is necessary to complete the work associated with this agreement
- 5.3 Equipment: The Government will supply vehicles to support this effort.

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 Cooperator Furnished Equipment:

For Tasks 2a thru 2e:

- Laptop Computer (upgraded every 2 years) – capable of running ArcGIS
- Safety equipment (excluding NOMEX)

7.0 OPTIONAL TASKS

7.1 Forestry Technician Support, Vehicles and Supplies & Materials

Forestry areas are influenced over time by several environmental factors, and it is anticipated that project conditions may warrant the use of more than one forest technician discipline. It is anticipated that under normal to medium influence conditions it may be necessary to add additional personnel for 12 months of service with effort equivalent of up to 1 FTE. During medium to heavy influence conditions, it is anticipated that a second discipline may be necessary for 12 months of service with an effort equivalent up to 1 FTE. Therefore, there are two optional tasks for additional forestry technician disciplines to support the required tasks.

Optional Task 7a – Normal to Medium Influence Forestry Technician Support
The equivalent of up to 1 FTE for 12 months of Forestry Technician Support.

Optional Task 7b – Medium to Heavy Influence Forestry Technician Support
The equivalent of up to 1 FTE for 12 months of Forestry Technician Support

Depending on project conditions the need for transporting personnel, equipment and supplies to the field will vary. As stated in section 5.3 the government has vehicles available for use, however in some circumstances where Fort Polk personnel may need to use some of these vehicles for extended periods of time based on natural resource plans. Therefore, there may not be enough government vehicles for the forestry field teams to execute the necessary daily activities. Therefore, it may be necessary for the cooperator to obtain vehicles to support project executions. The technical field team must split up into smaller teams in order to cover multiple project areas across North and South Polk. It is anticipated that up to Two (2) 4X4 vehicles with Winches will be required to support tasks 3a thru c and up to Two (2) 4X4 vehicles with Winches will be required to support tasks 2a thru 2e.

Optional Task 7c – Vehicle Support Tasks 1a thru 1c
Up to Two (2) 4X4 Vehicles with Winches

Optional Task 7d - Vehicle Support Tasks 2a thru 2ceUp to Two (2) 4X4 Vehicles with Winches

Various project conditions each period of performance will influence materials and supply requirements. In some cases, the cooperator may have adequate supplies on hand and no supplies would be necessary while in other cases there may be the need for additional supplies not on hand. As stated in section 5.1 physical data will be available for the cooperator to review in order to determine materials and supply needs. Materials and supplies may include but not be limited to personal protection equipment such as safety vests, hardhats, ear & eye protection, work gloves, work boots, rain gear, ropes, hand tools, chainsaw chains and oils, other hydraulic fluids, equipment cleaners, backpacks, field notebooks, cameras, SDS memory cards, GPS data collection devices, batteries, various miscellaneous field supplies or equipment parts, and general office supplies.

Optional Task 7e – Materials and Supplies

8.0 PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

8.1 BASE PERIOD:

8.1.1 Tasks 1a thru 1c: The Base period of this effort will be 12 months from the date of award.

8.1.2 Task 2a thru 2e: The Base period of this effort will begin on 28 Sep 2022 and have the same end of period of performance for Tasks 1a thru 1c. After the Base Period of performance, these tasks will have the same POP start and end dates as tasks 1a thru 1c.

8.2 **OPTIONAL PERIODS:** This effort includes four 12 month option periods that will be awarded based on project conditions and needs. Each option period will start at the end of the previous effort to allow work to continue without a break in service.

8.3 **OPTIONAL TASKS:** This effort includes 5 Optional Tasks. Each of these tasks will be 12 months from the date of award and based on project conditions and needs. Each optional task may be exercised once during each period of performanc.

9.0 COORDINATION

USACE

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Fort Polk

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10.0 DELIVERABLES

10.1 **Progress Reports** - One (1) typed letter report describing progress on the project. The report shall be due as of the last day of the third month (quarterly) and shall be transmitted via electronic mail, facsimile, or regular 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 monthly progress reports. No partial payment will be approved unless the government has received all progress reports which are due.

10.2 Geospatial Data - Must ensure that all forest stand, prescribed burn, and wildfire data are collected, maintained, and verified through-out the year.

10.3 Output Report Data - Provide quarterly CLS data reports, inventory and prescribed burn information for SEMP reports, prepare volume summary reports and maps of harvest areas for inclusion in timber sale packet. Recipient shall also provide a Record of Availability (ROA) including stand maps, description of timber types, and stand volumes is prepared for the Army Environmental Command and shall provide volume reports and maps included in the forest management plan or prescription. Recipient shall provide prescribed burn and harvest information for the Army/RCW meeting.

10.4 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 Fort Polk.

10.5 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 Fort Polk.

11.0 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.