



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

12 July , 2023

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF INTEREST  
W9126G-23-2-SOI-3899**

*Applicants must be a member in one of the following Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units Regions:*

Piedmont South Atlantic Coast / South Florida Caribbean CESU Regions

**Project Title:** Fish and Wildlife Management Support, Fort Stewart

A cooperative agreement is being offered ONLY to members of the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESU) Program Region(s) identified above. Award will be made upon mutual agreement and acceptance of the terms and conditions contained in the request for proposal and the of the recipient's CESU Master Agreement. Note the established CESU Program indirect rate is 17.5%.

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest will be used to identify potential organizations for this project. Approximately **\$727,700** is expected to be available to support this project for the **base period**. Additional funding may be available to the successful recipient for optional tasks and/or follow on work in subsequent years.

**NOTE:** This project will be awarded under the authority of 16 USC 670c-1, **Sikes Act**. For projects for the implementation and enforcement of integrated natural resources management plans, priority shall be given to award to Federal and State agencies having responsibility for the conservation or management of fish or wildlife.

**Period of Performance.** The base period of agreement will extend 12 months from date of award. There may be up to four 12-month follow-on periods based on availability of funding.

**Description of Anticipated Work:** See attached Statement of Objectives

**NOTE:** At this time we are only requesting that you demonstrate available qualifications and capability for performing similar or same type of work by submitting a Statement of Interest. A full proposal and budget are NOT requested at this time.

**Preparation of your Statement of Interest:** Provide the following (Maximum length: 2 pages, single-spaced, 12 pt. font):

1. Name, Organization, Cage Code, Unique Entity ID, and Contact Information (Email)
2. Brief Statement of Qualifications (including):
  - a. Biographical sketch of the Principal Investigator, to include specific experience and capabilities in areas related to this project's requirements

- 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. Brief description of other capabilities to successfully complete the project: (e.g. equipment, laboratory facilities, greenhouse facilities, field facilities, etc.)

### **Submission of Your Statement of Interest**

1. Statements of Interest are due by 5:00 P.M., Central Time, on 14 August **2023**.
2. Submit your Statement of Interest via e-mail attachments or direct questions to:

Paige E Poorman  
Grants Specialist  
USACE, Fort Worth District  
Email: [paige.e.poorman@usace.army.mil](mailto:paige.e.poorman@usace.army.mil)  
Office: 817-886-1124

Kathy Mitchell  
Project Manager  
USACE, Fort Worth District  
Email: [kathy.s.mitchell@usace.army.mil](mailto:kathy.s.mitchell@usace.army.mil)  
Office: 817-886-1709

**Review of Statements Received:** All statements of interest received from a member of the CESU Region(s) identified above 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: offer the most highly qualified Principal Investigator, have the most relevant experience and the highest capability to successfully meet the program objectives. Submitters whose statements are determined to best meet the program objectives will be invited to submit a full proposal.

**Timeline for Review of Statements of Interest:** RSOL's are required to be posted on [www.Grants.gov](http://www.Grants.gov) for 30 days prior to the Government making a decision and requesting full proposals.

Thank you for your interest in our Cooperative Agreements Program.

**AUSTIN.ALICE.MIL**

**NER.1076269790**

ALICE AUSTIN  
Contracting Officer

Digitally signed by  
AUSTIN.ALICE.MILNER.1076269790  
Date: 2023.07.12 14:58:57 -05'00'

Attachment: Statement of Objectives

**STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES**  
**for**  
**NATURAL RESOURCES SUPPORT**  
**for**  
**FORT STEWART, GEORGIA /HUNTER ARMY AIRFIELD, FISH AND WILDLIFE**  
**BRANCH**

**1.0 PURPOSE**

1.1 The Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield (FSGA/HAAF) 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, and 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 onsite support personnel located at FSGA/HAAF, Georgia. For wildlife technicians, work will involve outdoor duties in varying weather conditions, work outside of normal duty hours is often necessary to observe certain species behaviors, and work requires physical exertion, walking, bending, lifting, stooping, and carrying equipment in the outdoors, and climbing over and through uneven surfaces in dense vegetation.

1.3 For the logistics technician, the normal place of performance is at Building 1145, Fish and Wildlife Branch, Fort Stewart, GA 31314. Work may be required in different buildings/offices throughout the period of performance as mission requirements dictate.

**2.0 AUTHORITY**

2.1 This cooperative agreement will be awarded using authorities associated with the Sikes Act.

In agreement with the above, the recipient agrees to provide, on a reimbursable basis, the necessary personnel, equipment, and materials required to implement, and activities to support the implementation of the FSGA/HAAF responsibilities pursuant to the installation's Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan (INRMP) and Endangered Species Management Plan (ESMP), the Endangered Species Act (16 USC 1531 et seq.), the Sikes Act, Army Guidelines for Management of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker (RCW - 2007), the U.S. Fish and

Wildlife Service RCW Recover Plan (2003), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biological Opinions (1992, 2010), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 USC 1361 et seq.), National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. 300101 et seq.), Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.), the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.), the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), applicable implementing regulations, Army Regulation 200-1, and any other applicable regulatory guidelines. All actions will be implemented in order to manage natural and cultural resources in a responsible way that has the least impact on military missions and is beneficial to the region.

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 not limit to, the following:

- FSGA/HAAF is involved in development of study methodology, data gathering, analysis, and/or report writing.
- FSGA/HAAF actively participates and collaborates in carrying out the project plan of work, reviews and approves activities, and assists with training project staff and may participate in reviewing credentials for potential new employees.

- FSGA/HAAF 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 vehicles upon availability
  - Providing computers and networks access
  - Providing staff time to work on the project
  - Providing office facilities
  - Arranging for outreach events to share lessons learned with other natural resource managers and the public

### **3.0 DESCRIPTION OF OBJECTIVES**

#### **3.1 Assess Condition of Wildlife Populations and Habitats**

3.1.1 Provide assistance and technical support to the threatened and endangered species (TES) management program. Perform a wide range of activities in the conduct of these duties, including monitoring and observation, determining the condition of species and their habitat, and collecting and evaluating data and making recommendations for improvement. Seven species are currently monitored and/or managed on FSGA/HAAF including the red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW), wood stork, eastern black rail, bald eagle, frosted flatwoods salamander (FFS), eastern indigo snake (EIS), gopher tortoise (GT), various bat species, and smooth coneflower (SC).

#### **3.2 Maintain and Improve Wildlife Habitat**

3.2.1 Support conservation of endangered species habitat by mowing and raking away vegetation around resin-coated RCW cavity trees to prevent accidental ignition during prescribed fires. Approximately 120,000 acres are burned by Forestry personnel annually, containing 1,000's of cavity trees.

3.2.2 Support improvement of endangered species habitat by mowing, removal, and mechanical and chemical control of invasive plant species (e.g., kudzu, tung oil tree, Chinese tallow, water hyacinth). Efforts to control these species are conducted at various times of the year based on availability, efficacy of control method, and plant activity.

#### **3.3 Native Groundcover Restoration**

3.3.1 Assist in the collection of wiregrass seed using a flail-vac (supplied by the government). Wiregrass species (*Aristida*) and other native grasses flower in the fall following prescribed burns

conducted in the spring. These native bunch grasses are pyrogenic and are keystone components of the fire-dependent longleaf pine ecosystem. The goal will be to harvest as much seed as possible from the time seed matures in October until it falls off the stem in December. The amount of seed harvested is typically 1,000-1,500 lbs., but may be as much as 3,000 lbs.

3.3.2 Assist in the planting of wiregrass seed using a trailer-mounted hay blower (supplied by the government) at a rate of 10 lbs./acre on prepared sites.

### 3.4 Provide Logistical Support

3.4.1 Provide a logistics technician to act as primary liaison between the cooperator and FSGA/HAAF. Perform a wide range of activities in the conduct of these duties to include tracking, recording, and submitting Time and Attendance records, creating and maintaining Individual Training Requirements and Certifications as mandated by OSHA, and preparing/submitting reports on the status of the completion of activities within designated timeframes.

3.4.2 Logistics technician will assist with partnerships and training/travel arrangements. Provide guidance to ensure field personnel understand cooperator-specific information. Maintain records of required safety training for personnel. Advise federal agency staff when cooperator's personnel require annual training or certifications and provide tracking/reporting.

3.4.3 Logistics technician will provide weekly reports of task accomplishments to supervisor that will be used in preparing quarterly reports.

3.4.4 Equipment, supplies, and tools for this project will be initially provided by FSGA/HAAF, but additional supplies and equipment will be required for completion of many tasks. The cooperator will acquire supplemental materials and equipment on a reimbursable basis as required to achieve project objectives. Facilities will be provided by FSGA/HAAF.

3.4.5 Provide and compile material requests for procurement support as needed for the completion of tasks. Execute acquisition only after authorized by the FSGA/HAAF authority. Ensure that the procurement of supplies is documented appropriately.

3.4.6 Use appropriate software system to place and track purchases needed in support of the project including equipment repairs, fuel, supplies, etc.

3.5 Provide Customer Support for iSportsman users.

3.5.1 Maintain familiarity with the iSportsman system in order to respond to calls and queries. Review and understand the regulations in order to provide correct answers to questions.

3.5.2 Act as the initial point of contact for all customer calls regarding the iSportsman system and provide excellent customer service support.

3.5.3 Maintain administrative privilege for access to the iSportsman system and update area status and other system settings when primary system operators are not available as directed by the FS/HAAF authority.

## 4.0 QUALIFICATIONS

4.1 Wildlife Technicians.

4.1.1 Wildlife Technicians will maintain a Georgia driver's license, a Georgia Pesticide Applicator license, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service certifications for banding RCWs and installing artificial cavities. Specialized certification requirements may be waived for newly assigned personnel but will be acquired within 12 months. Educational requirements: Associate's or bachelor's degree (or current student) in Wildlife Management or a closely related field. This position requires vision in both eyes to allow depth perception, and the ability to distinguish colors. The incumbent must be able to climb a ladder, pick up 50-lb. bags of seed/fertilizer, and be able to work in all types of weather and working conditions including heat, allergens, and biting insects. The technicians will be knowledgeable in all aspects of the Longleaf/Wiregrass ecosystem. The cooperator will provide 3 wildlife technicians to support tasks 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3.

4.2 Logistics Technician.

4.2.1 The Logistics Technician will have a Georgia driver's license, will demonstrate strong organizational skills and possess excellent written and oral communications skills to prepare reports, and interact with customers as required. This position requires extensive knowledge of, and experience with time and attendance

programs, training requirements and financial programs. The incumbent must possess comprehensive knowledge of wildlife regulations, customer service standards, and procedures, methods and experience related to the iSportsman system. The technician will be proficient with Office 365 (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook). The cooperator will provide 1 logistical technician to support tasks 3.4 and 3.5.

## **5.0 GOVERNMENT FURNISHED MATERIALS OR PROPERTY**

### **5.1 Government furnished materials.**

5.1.1 FSGA/HAAF will provide all necessary equipment, tools and facilities to support this work. The cooperator will acquire supplemental supplies, services, and equipment on a reimbursable basis as noted in paragraph 3.4.4. All durable items acquired by the cooperator with government funds will be returned to FSGA/HAAF upon termination/completion of this agreement. FSGA/HAAF staff will identify sites where work is to be performed and coordinate access IAW established installation procedures to ensure safety of personnel and to avoid conflict with military training activities.

### **5.2 Public disclosure.**

5.2.1 The cooperator will not give news releases or conduct media interviews concerning the work performed or results thereof. All information for public release will be released by the FSGA/HAAF Public Affairs Office (PAO); all requests for information, including Freedom of Information Act requests, shall be directed to the PAO and installation project manager.

### **5.3 Facilities.**

5.3.1 The facilities available for use by the cooperator will include all buildings occupied by the Fish and Wildlife Branch. Cooperator personnel are not authorized entry into any other facilities on FS/HAAF.

### **5.4 Equipment and materials.**

5.4.1 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 PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE**

### **6.1 Base Effort**

6.1.1 The base period of performance will be 12 months from award.

#### Follow-on Efforts

### **6.2**

6.1.2 Based on project conditions, project needs, and funding available, there will be four, 12-month follow-on periods with the first follow-on period beginning at the end of the Base Period.

## **7.0 COORDINATION**

- USACE Fort Worth District POC  
Kathy Mitchell  
(817) 886-1709  
[kathy.s.mitchell@usace.army.mil](mailto:kathy.s.mitchell@usace.army.mil)
- FSGA/HAAF Fish and Wildlife Branch  
Lawrence Carlile  
(912) 767-8241  
[lawrence.d.carlile.civ@army.mil](mailto:lawrence.d.carlile.civ@army.mil)

## **8.0 DELIVERABLES**

### **8.1 Progress Reports**

8.1.1 One 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.

### **8.2 Annual Inventory of Federally Owned Property**

8.2.1 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 FSGA/HAAF Fish and Wildlife Branch.

### 8.3 Annual Inventory.

8.3.1 Required under 2CFR for Grants and Cooperative Agreements - Acquired Property purchased with funding from award. Property records must be maintained that include 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 2 years. Copies of the inventory to be sent annually to USACE – SWF and the FS/HAAF Fish and Wildlife Branch.

### 8.4 Annual Report per 2CFR.

8.4.1 One paper copy of an annual report should be submitted no later than 1 month before end of each year. At a minimum, the report shall contain an introduction section, and 1 section for each Task identified in the proposal. For each Task, the report shall summarize work accomplished for the Task. FS/HAAF Fish and Wildlife Branch POC will review and provide comments, if any, within 15 calendar days after receipt.

### 8.5 Draft Final Project Report.

8.5.1 One paper copy of a draft final report should be submitted no later than 1 month before end of the project. At a minimum, the report shall contain an introduction section, and 1 section for each Task identified in the proposal. For each Task, the report shall summarize work accomplished for the Task. FS/HAAF Fish and Wildlife Branch POC will review and provide comments, if any, within 15 calendar days after receipt. Must provide an electronic copy to the USACE POC at the time this document is submitted to the FS/HAAF POC.

### 8.6 Final Project Report.

8.6.1 One paper copy of the final report, incorporating FS/HAAF Fish and Wildlife Branch POC review comments on the draft, if any, shall be submitted no later than 15 days after receipt of the FS/HAAF Fish and Wildlife Branch POC comments. Additionally, 1 copy of the final report shall be submitted in a MSWord file(s), on digital media. Must provide an electronic copy to the USACE POC at the time this document is submitted to the FS/HAAF Installation POC.

- 9.0 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 the recipient/cooperator shall comply with 2 CFR 200.313 "Equipment", 200.314 "Supplies", and 200.315 "Intangible Property," which includes use of research data.