



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

June 26, 2023

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF INTEREST
W9126G-23-2-SOI-3594**

*Applicants must be a member in one of the following Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units:
Piedmont South Atlantic / South Florida Caribbean CESU Regions*

Project Title: Natural Resource Support Forestry for 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 **\$1,834,480** 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 10 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 year of agreement will extend 12 months from date of award. There will be four 12 month follow-on efforts 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 **26 July 2023**.
2. Submit your Statement of Interest via e-mail attachments or direct questions to:
Sandra Justman
Grants Specialist
USACE, Fort Worth District
Email: Sandra.justman@usace.army.mil
Office: 817-886-1073
Kathy Mitchell
Project Manager
USACE, Fort Worth District
Email: 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 for 30 days prior to the Government making a decision and requesting full proposals.

Thank you for your interest in our Cooperative Agreements Program.

ALICE AUSTIN
Contracting Officer

Attachment: Statement of Objectives

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES
for
NATURAL RESOURCES SUPPORT
for
FORESTRY BRANCH, FORT STEWART/HAAF, GEORGIA

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield (FS/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, 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 an onsite support person located at FS/HAAF Georgia. The work shall involve duties outdoors in extreme weather conditions, work outside of normal duty hours, and work that requires physical exertion, walking, bending, lifting, stooping and carrying equipment in the outdoors, climbing over and through uneven surfaces in dense vegetation.

1.3 For the program technical, the normal place of performance is at Building 8064 and occasionally the Lawson Fire Tower, Fort Stewart, GA 31314. Work may be required at different buildings/offices throughout the period of performance as mission requirements dictate.

2.0 AUTHORITY

2.1 This cooperative agreement will be awarded using one of the 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, activities to support the implementation of the FS/HAAF responsibilities pursuant to the Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan, the Endangered Species Act (16 USC 1531 et seq.), Installation Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP), Endangered Species Act (PL 93-205; U.S.C. 1531-1544_, Biological Opinion's dated 1992 and 2010, 2007 Army Guidelines for RCW

Management and Endangered Species Management Plan, 2001 RCW Recovery Plan, The Sikes Act (PL 99-561).

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:

- FS/HAAF is involved in development of study methodology, data gathering, analysis and/or report writing
- FS/HAAF actively participates in carrying out the project plan of work, reviews and approves activities, helps train/select project staff or trainees
- FS/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:
 - Providing vehicles
 - Providing computing services
 - Providing staff time to work on the project

3.0 DESCRIPTION OF OBJECTIVES

3.1 Task 1: FOREST MANAGEMENT

1. Forest Technician

1.1. Provide assistance and technical support to the Forest Management Program. Perform a wide range of activities and functions in support of the forestry mission. Duties will include independently select and mark timber for sale, lay out boundaries of cutting areas, establish plot centers, examine for insect damaged trees, provide inventory data, provide support as fire tower lookout and make overall recommendations for improvement.

1.2. Assist in timber field surveys and timber cruising to perform sample surveys and locate and estimate quantity of commercial timber. Summarize data and prepare reports and GPS maps regarding the quantity of timber, condition of areas, and difficulties encountered and conduct surveys and samples for recently planted stand to determine tree survival.

2. Prescribed Burning Support

2.1. Support and assist with prescribed burning operations on the installation. Approximately 115,000 acres are burned by Forestry personnel annually.

2.2. Provide tower lookout in support of prescribed burning operations.

2.3. Provide and maintain good communications with all forestry related ground crews utilizing 2-way radio or computer.

3. Longleaf Pine Restoration Support

3.1. Provide and assist with determining locations of longleaf pine restoration sites.

3.2. Use hand operated paint guns to mark trees for retention of required habitat and development of future support areas for endangered species, forest health and military mission.

3.3. Lay out boundaries to identify the restoration site.

3.4. Assist in the planting of longleaf as required.

4. Provide daily reports of task accomplishments to supervisor that will be used in preparing quarterly reports.

5. This Statement of Objectives includes all labor for completing this project. Equipment, supplies, tools, and facilities will be provided by FS/HAAF.

3.2 Task 2: LOGISTICAL SUPPORT

1. Program Technician

1.1. Act as primary liaison between vending contractor and FS/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 timeframe.

1.2. Assist with partnerships and training/travel arrangements. Provide guidance to ensure field personnel understand contract/vendor-specific information. Maintain records of required safety training for personnel. Advise federal agency staff when personnel require annual training or certifications and provide tracking/reporting.

2. Material Augmentation Support

2.1 Provide and compile budgetary requirement for procurement support needed for the completion of the milestone plans. The procurement of supplies and equipment, including

specialized wildland firefighting and prescribed burning equipment and other heavy equipment needs for logging and road construction on an as needed basis and documented appropriately.

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

3. Customer Support

3.1. Assist with presentations relating to education, conferences, tours and outreach information as needed for the branch.

3.2. Act as the initial point of contact for all customer calls relating to conferences, tours outreach information for the branch.

4. Technical Support

4.1. Maintain Fire Tower lookout and be proficient in smoke management and the use of alidade equipment.

4.2. Ability to communicate on a 2-way radio and telephone with Range Control regarding location of and access to wildfires.

4.3. Knowledge of weather and fire behavior.

4.4. Knowledge of Arc-GIS, downloading data from the GPS data loggers to Arc-GIS.

4.5. Communicate with vendors concerning various contracts to include: Weather Station Maintenance, Arc-GIS maintenance, Longleaf Pine Restoration, etc. contracts between Ft. Stewart and vendors.

5. Maintain daily log of task accomplishments to be used in preparing quarterly reports.

6. This Statement of Objectives includes all labor for completing this project. Equipment, supplies, tools and facilities will be provided by the government.

4.0 QUALIFICATIONS

4.1. Forestry Technicians will have a Georgia driver's license, CPR/First Aid certification, Forestry and Land Management experience, education and training required in related field preferred. Extensive knowledge in instruments to assess readings and measurement used in tree measuring devices. Ability to use compass, logger/diameter tape, increment borer, prism, hypsometer. Familiar with variations in tree species and age classes. Must be able to independently make choices on timber to mark, determine age, density and species to obtain a representative sample for timber sale. Ability to read maps, aerial photographs, and compasses. Experience with Arc-GIS software. Possess excellent written and oral communication skills to prepare reports as required. The technician will be knowledgeable in all aspects of the Longleaf Pine/Wiregrass ecosystem.

4.2. Program Technician will have a Georgia driver's license, will demonstrate strong organizational skills and possess excellent written and oral communications skills to prepare reports, give briefings and presentations as required. This position requires extensive knowledge of, and experience with time and attendance programs, training requirements and financial programs. The incumbent must have 6 years or higher experience and education in management and leadership abilities. High level of Forestry and Land Management experience, education and

training required. The incumbent must possess comprehensive knowledge of state and federal forestry regulations, policies and laws, customer service standards, and procedures, methods and experience. The technician will be proficient with MS Office Suite: Word, Excel, Access and Powerpoint and Arc-GIS. Must maintain CPR/First Aid/AED Certification.

5.0 GOVERNMENT FURNISHED MATERIALS OR PROPERTY

5.1 Government furnished materials. FS/HAAF will provide all necessary equipment, tools and facilities to support this work. FS/HAAF staff will identify sites where work is to be performed and coordinate access IAW established installation SOP to ensure safety of personnel and to avoid conflict with military training activities.

5.2 Public disclosure. Vendor 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 installation PAO; all requests for information, including freedom of information act, shall be directed to the PAO and installation project manager.

5.3 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. Vendor 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 - The Base Period of performance will be 12 months.

6.2 Follow On Efforts – Based on project conditions, project needs and funding available, there will be four 12 month follow on periods with the first one 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
- USAG, Forestry POC
Jeffrey S. Mangun
912-435-8125
Jeffrey.s.mangun.civ@army.mil

8.0 DELIVERABLES

8.1 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.

8.2 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 FS/HAAF Forestry Branch.

8.3 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 FS/HAAF Forestry Branch.

8.4 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. FS/HAAF Forestry POC will review and provide comments, if any, within fifteen (15) calendar days after receipt.

8.5 Draft Final Project Report. One (1) paper copy of a draft final report should be submitted no later than one month before end of the project. 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. FS/HAAF Forestry POC will review and provide comments, if any, within fifteen (15) calendar days after receipt. Detailed descriptions of any required deliverables required (reports, plans, etc.) and formats. Provide delivery schedules. At a minimum these deliverables should include:

- 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 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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