

16 July 2018

REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST

NUMBER W9126G-18-2-SOI-0027

PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN 2018

Project Title: Avian Presence and Abundance Study

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest will be used to identify potential investigators for a project to be funded by Fort A.P. Hill (FAPH), which provides professional and technical support for natural resources management in order to facilitate successful implementation of a land bird monitoring program. Approximately **\$93,400.00** is expected to be available to support this project. Additional funding may be available for follow on work in subsequent fiscal years to the successful Recipient/Awardee.

Background:

Due to its size (approximately 76,000 acres), land use history, and geographic location, Fort A.P. Hill harbors a number of important biological communities. DOD guidance directs military installations to conserve biodiversity in a manner that is consistent with military use of the land. In addition, compliance with federal laws such as the Endangered Species Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and others, other base activities to proceed smoothly with minimal interruptions to training and mission readiness. Fort A.P. Hill requires updated information on its habitats and supported amphibian species to maintain compliance with DOD Instruction 4715.03 and Army Regulation 200-1.

One of the most effective ways to conserve avian diversity is to understand the mechanisms and life history stages that act as the strongest drivers to population change. The Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) Program, developed and administered by The Institute for Bird Populations, is North America's longest running and geographically most extensive network of demographic monitoring stations. Since the program began, more than 1,200 stations have operated in nearly every state and Canadian province; many dozens of stations have operated – and still operate -- successfully on DOD lands. The Institute for Bird Populations and personnel from Fort A.P. Hill operated two MAPS stations in mixed hardwood/pine forest at Fort A.P. Hill in the early 2000's and provided baseline data on productivity and survivorship for more than 40 species. Though funding for the stations was eventually diminished and the stations have not run in many years, the baseline data is archived and can provide a useful metric by which to measure changes over the ensuing time period. In addition, IBP administers the continental MAPS database, which can be used to compare and contrast avian populations at the Fort with regional and continental trends. The Fort now wishes to re-establish these stations, and expand the program to include four new stations (for a total of six, spanning a broader diversity of habitats).

Type of Award:

The government anticipates it will provide substantial involvement through the life of the project. The exact nature of the government's involvement will be defined in the statement of objectives, issued with a request for full proposal, after review of the statements of interest. As a result, it is anticipated that a cooperative agreement will be awarded.

Brief Description of Anticipated Work:

The MAPS Program protocol uses a network of constant effort, passive mist nets to capture birds, band them, and collect demographic data (such as species, age, sex, and reproductive status) along with body condition data (such as fat level, weight, molt condition, etc.) to derive estimates of productivity, survivorship, and recruitment – the “vital rates” that drive population change. Land managers then use this data to derive inferences about the health and status of individual populations, the effect of land management actions, etc.

The project will operate a series of six MAPS stations (the two existing stations, if accessible, plus four new stations). Locations will partly depend on accessibility, and which species and habitats base land managers are interested in gathering data on. Each station will consist of an array of approximately ten mist nets, operated once every ten days in a rotating fashion, from approximately mid-May to early August.

As complementary data, the project will conduct a series of point counts. The project will categorize FAPH into various habitat types, and ensure coverage of the most prevalent habitats. When combined, demographic (i.e. MAPS) and density (i.e. Point Count) data can provide a more robust data set, and stronger inferences about population dynamics.

The strongest inferences are derived when stations operate for five years or more (in order to generate data on annual survival). However, useful data can be gathered in shorter time frames, depending on funding.

The project will provide an annual report summarizing species captures by station and habitat, and estimates of productivity (young per adult). After Year 3, the project will begin to generate estimates of annual survival and after Year 4 the project will be able to generate preliminary trend data. In addition, researchers will use information from other regional MAPS stations to provide comparisons about avian vital rates on Fort A.P. Hill. (Though habitats and other variables may differ at other stations, regional trends may provide useful information).

Period of Performance. The initial period of performance shall be from September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019, with three additional option years running from September 1st through August 31st of each subsequent year.

Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications:

Please provide the following via e-mail attachment to: alisa.marshall@usace.army.mil and Kathy.s.mitchell@usace.army.mil

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

1. Name, Organization, Cage Code, Duns Number, 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:

USACE
Mrs. Ali Marshall, Contract Specialist
CESWF-CT
Email: alisa.marshall@usace.army.mil
Office: 817-886-1068

And

USACE
Kathy Mitchell, Environmental Agreement PM
CESWF-PEC
Email: kathy.s.mitchell@usace.army.mil

Timeline for Review of Statements of Interest: The RSOI are required to be out for a minimum of 10 working days. Review of Statements of Interest will begin **July 27, 2018.**

This Request for Statements of Interest will remain open until an investigator team is selected.

[End of RSOI]