



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

13 MAY 2019

REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST

NUMBER W9126G-19-2-SOI-5821

PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN 2019

Project Title: Natural Resources Support: Pollinators, Edwards AFB, CA

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest will be used to identify potential investigators for a project to be funded by [the US Air Force](#), which provides professional and technical support for its [Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan \(INRMP\)](#) in order to facilitate successful implementation of the [16 USC 670c-1 Sikes Act](#). Approximately **\$380,000.00** is expected to be available to support this project.

Background:

The Non-Federal Entity (NFE) will perform a study of significant invertebrate pollinators for each major vegetation community to identify insect-plant associations, and relative abundance. Vegetation types are described in the INRMP and have been mapped in the Edwards geographical information system (GIS), and include xerophytic saltbush scrub, halophytic saltbush scrub, creosote bush scrub, Joshua tree / saltbush scrub, Joshua tree / creosote, dune systems, saltgrass-associated, and mesquite bosque.

The NFE will also work with the acoustic files, in the possession of Edwards AFB on an external drive, to perform further review and analysis of specific bat species to enable a more definitive confirmation of presence or absence of those species.

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 CESU Unit to be qualified to be considered.

Brief Description of Anticipated Work:

This project focuses on the following objectives:

1. MGT, SPECIES, POLLINATORS

This project will commence with a literature search and development of a research design, followed by field work, analysis, and reporting.

Field effort is likely to consist of active or passive collection of insects from plants and from the ground below the canopy, using sticky traps, pitfall traps, beating sheets, malaise traps, and other techniques. Document and photograph insects encountered, and identify to the lowest taxonomic level (minimally identified to family). Prepare mounted or preserved vial specimens of any unknown, uncommon, or otherwise unusual species including invasives; include labels with appropriate information (see https://entmuseum.ucr.edu/specimen_preparation/). Use mount boxes such as insect display cases or Riker mounts with clear glass front that allow the specimen to be studied without opening the case.

Analyze the field data across spatial and temporal scales to identify distribution, trends, phenology, associations, or other findings, then compare and contrast with previous information from the literature search.

Prepare an interpretive poster that can be used to inform the general public about the findings of this project and the importance of pollinators. Write narrative to the 9th grade level, using captioned photographs, maps, and some text boxes to convey the key messages.

The principal investigator must have experience directing the efforts of a research team. NFE personnel must have experience performing various field methods of the types likely to be used in this project, along with ability to identify plants and insect using taxonomic keys.

2. MGT, SPECIES, BLACKBIRD, VIREO, FLYCATCHER

This project was intended to address the three named bird species of interest but that specific requirement has morphed into a need to address other species of interest. Therefore this effort is more appropriately titled as Management, Species of Interest, and will address various bat species that are suspected to occur at Edwards AFB.

A bat acoustic survey was performed by the Center for Integrated Research on the Environment at the University of Montana on numerous Air Force installations across the country. At Edwards AFB, detectors were placed at five locations and operated for several weeks in summer 2017.

For Edwards AFB, the report states: “A total of 16 species were auto-classified by Kaleidoscope Pro, and seven were manually confirmed (Table 32). Confirmed species include the big brown

bat, Brazilian free-tailed bat, California myotis, canyon bat, hoary bat, western small-footed myotis, and Yuma myotis. The California myotis dominated species activity levels, followed by the Yuma myotis, canyon bat, big brown bat, and Brazilian free-tailed bat.”

Table 32 also states “Species presence not confirmed during manual review” for the following:

Fringed myotis
Little brown bat
Long-eared myotis
Long-legged myotis
Pallid bat
Spotted bat
Townsend’s big-eared bat
Western Mastiff bat
Western red bat

This project will work with the acoustic files, in the possession of Edwards AFB on an external drive, to perform further review and analysis to enable a more definitive confirmation of presence or absence of those species.

Field work includes revisiting approximately 10 maternity roosts to verify presence and to use exit counts or other methods to obtain estimates of abundance. Develop management strategies for those roost locations, which are mostly abandoned buildings in the AFRL area. The buildings will eventually be demolished or refurbished, so an exit strategy is needed.

The principal investigator must have experience directing the efforts of a research team. NFE personnel must have experience performing analysis of bat sonograms and performing field surveys for bats.

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, qualifications and certifications demonstrated in your SOI.

Period of Performance. Task 3.1: The period of performance is 36 months from award, which allows for two full field seasons due to the differing phenology of the vegetative communities. The remainder of the time allows for reporting and analysis.

Task 3.2: The period of performance is 18 months from award.

Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications:

Please provide the following via e-mail attachment to: alisa.marshall@usace.army.mil and david.b.leptien@usace.army.mil (Maximum length: 2 pages, single-spaced 12 pt. font).

1. Name, Organization, Cage Code, Duns number, and Contact Information
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

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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 **May 24, 2019**.

[End of RSOI]