



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

26 June 2020

REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST
Number W9126G-20-2-SOI-4876
Project to be initiated in 2020

***INTERESTED PARTIES MUST BE a partner in one of the
Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESU) National Network:
Californian, W9126G-12-2-0012
Colorado Plateau, W9126G-14-2-0018***

Project Title: Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) Support at Fort Hunter Liggett (FHL) and Parks Reserve Forces Training Area (PRFTA)

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest will be used to identify potential investigators for a project to be funded by Fort Hunter Liggett, which provides professional and technical support for the FHL and PRFTA Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans in order to facilitate successful implementation of the 16 USC 670c-1 Sikes Act. Approximately **\$89,987** is expected to be available to support this project.

Background:

Provide INRMPs support to both Fort Hunter Liggett and the Parks Reserve Forces Training Area in California.

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 for consideration. Suggested areas are the Californian and Colorado Plateau CESU Regions.

Brief Description of Anticipated Work:

This research focuses on the following objectives:

The Cooperator shall accomplish preparation of two (2) revised INRMPs, one each for FHL and PRFTA Directorate of Public Works, Environmental Division, Natural Resources Program.

Background Research:

The Cooperator shall accomplish review and analysis of existing information provided by the installation or publically available necessary for preparation of the revised INRMPs to include but not limited to:

- Recent Installation Master Plans, Biological Opinions, Biological Assessments, INRMPs and component plans, and National Environmental Policy Act documents provided by each installation.
- PRFTA wetland delineation report provided by PRFTA.
- Geographic Information System (GIS) database provided by FHL.
- Department of Defense Instruction and Manual 4715.03; Army Environmental Command *INRMP Template Overview* (2015); DOD *Climate Adaptation For DoD Natural Resources Managers*; DOD *Guidance for Addressing Migratory Bird Management in Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans*; DOD Guidelines for Streamlined INRMP Review; DOD Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) Template; DODI 5525.17 Conservation Law Enforcement Program; Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense Memorandum (11 April 2018), *Incidental Take of migratory Birds*.
- California State Wildlife Action Plan
- State and local regulations and ordinances for protection of native plants, wildlife, and land management.
- Federal regulations, or guidance applying to Army Reserve actions affecting native plants and wildlife.
- USFWS Guidelines for Coordination on Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans
- Interviews of installation stakeholders, to include but not limited to key personnel from Directorate of Public Works Environmental and Master Planning Divisions, Conservation Law Enforcement Officers, Fire Department; Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security (DPTMS); and Family Welfare and Recreation (FMWR).

INRMP Sikes Act Coordination:

The Cooperator shall accomplish coordination with installation Directorates and personnel, to include but not limited to Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security, Operations and Integrated Training Area Management; Directorate of Public Works, Master Planning, Cultural Resources Management, and Pest Management; Directorate of Emergency Services, Fire Department and Conservation Law Enforcement; and Family Morale Welfare and Recreation, Outdoor Recreation. Assist installation POC with coordination with Federal, state, and local regulatory agencies, such as U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).

Revise INRMPs:

The Cooperator shall accomplish revision of the INRMPs to address items including but not limited to the following:

- Reorganize each INRMP's elements to be consistent with DOD and Army guidance. It shall include the appropriate maps, graphs, and charts to display the information in a clear manner. An executive summary shall be included in the beginning of the plan.
- Develop Table of Contents and information gap analysis for Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division (PWE) review.
- Incorporate installation goals and objectives.
- Update INRMPs contents to reflect changes in land use, real property actions (development and property exchanges), changes to the military mission that affect natural resources (i.e. off-road vehicle maneuvers at FHL, and live-fire ranges at PRFTA), and other relevant changes to the installation.
- Update INRMPs contents to reflect changes to the installation's natural environment, including changes to native and introduced flora and fauna, climate change effects and adaptation, known or potential special-status species, migratory birds and eagles, invasive species, and dominant vegetation. Incorporate State Wildlife Action Plan Species of Greatest Conservation Need into INRMPs sensitive species list.
- Revise INRMPs to incorporate changes to management issues and concerns including operational and environmental constraints that could affect natural resources management on the installation such as locations of restricted areas or clear zones, archaeological sites, and future development.
- Revise INRMPs to incorporate new guidance on migratory bird management and to discuss potential management actions in the face of climate change.
- Identify data gaps and recommend projects to enhance ecosystem integrity and sustainability in order to support the military mission.
- The vegetation management plan shall be consistent with laws, regulations, policies and technical report writing standards.

INRMP Deliverables:

Work Plan, Schedule, Progress Reports: The Cooperator shall accomplish a draft workplan listing tasks required for revision of the two INRMPs, and provide an estimated schedule for completion of each task within the period of performance. The Cooperator shall incorporate changes as needed, and provide monthly progress reports, to include updating status for work plan tasks, as well as problems encountered, and notes of coordination and communication efforts, to the USACE Project Manager.

Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan: The Cooperator shall prepare six report versions. Each report cover shall be clearly marked with the date and the report version ("Draft 1", "Draft 2", "Draft 3", "Draft 4", "Check Final", or "Final").

The Cooperator shall accomplish one each for each installation draft Table of Contents with Appendices, and review of information gaps for completion of the revised INRMP.

The Cooperator shall accomplish one initial draft revised PRFTA INRMP, and one initial draft revised FHL INRMP (Draft-1), and a comment matrix, for PWE review and comment.

The Cooperator shall incorporate PWE comments and provide responses to comments in the comment matrix, and accomplish one installation coordination draft revised INRMP for each installation (Draft-2) for directorate review and comment.

The Cooperator shall incorporate installation comments and provide responses to comments in the comment matrix, and accomplish one Major Command draft revised INRMP for each installation (Draft-3) for IMCOM, AEC and ARIMD review and comment.

The Cooperator shall incorporate IMCOM, AEC and ARIMD comments and provide responses to comments in the comment matrix, and accomplish one cooperator draft revised INRMP for each installation (Draft-4) for USFWS and CDFW review and comment.

The Cooperator shall incorporate USFWS and CDFW comments and provide responses to comments in the comment matrix, and accomplish one check-final revised INRMP for each installation (Check Final) for installation review and comments.

The Cooperator shall incorporate installation comments and provide responses to comments in the comment matrix, and accomplish one final revised INRMP for each installation (Final) for signatures.

The Cooperator shall provide an administrative record to include draft and final INRMPs submitted, comment matrices, progress reports, field and interview notes, and data collected during the revision of the INRMPs.

PRFTA Vegetation Management Plan

The Cooperator shall accomplish a Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) for PRFTA. The purpose of the VMP is to improve the quality of grasslands for training, native flora and fauna, and fire management using grazing and other tools to enhance native species and reduce invasive plant species. The Cooperator shall take into account improving training area usability for Soldier foot maneuvers, enhancing ecosystem health and grassland habitat for native species to include sensitive species, and the increased fire risks posed by invasive thistles, mustards, and other dense weeds. The plan shall include the necessary information to develop a grazing program at PRFTA, to include appropriate stock animal types, rates, and season(s) for the climate, vegetation, topography and land-use limitations at PRFTA. The VMP shall be consistent with laws, regulations, policies and technical report writing standards. An executive summary shall be included in the beginning of the plan. The administrative record shall include but not be limited to, datasheets (scanned digital copies), spreadsheets, and GIS data associated with the plan (e.g., polygon dataset of grazing units). GIS data shall be compatible with ArcGIS Desktop Version 10.6. This plan shall include at a minimum the following items:

- Prepared by experienced rangeland professional
- Conduct range analysis
- Post-grazing residual dry matter – goal RDM and monitoring method to protect waters from sedimentation and nutrient loss

- Water and salt sources resulting in minimal impacts to native species, and effective distribution of livestock
- Protect water quality
- Plan for climate change
- Maintain or improve remnant native perennial grass stands
- Incorporate existing annual burn regimens into planning

Recommended Vegetation Management Actions:

The plan shall prescribe actions to reduce invasive weeds, shorten vegetation height, reduce thatch layer, and promote healthy native grasslands. The PRFTA Vegetation Management Plan shall be prepared by an experienced Rangeland Management professional and it shall describe vegetation management techniques to include grazing, mowing, prescribed burning, chemical control, and mechanical removal. The plan shall include maps to show specific geographic locations of the training areas to implement different types of vegetation management actions, and describe the recommended timing and method of each management action prescribed.

Strategies for Minimizing Conflict with Other Land Uses:

The Cooperator shall analyze, evaluate and suggest strategies to avoid conflicts between vegetation management activities and other land uses including military training and environmental restoration efforts.

Description of the Facilities Available for Grazing:

The Cooperator shall analyze and evaluate existing facilities, land conditions, and fencing options within the PRFTA training area that maybe suitable for agricultural grazing outlease including description of productive capacity of the land and potential sources of water for livestock.

Site-Specific Grazing Prescriptions and Rotation Plan for Livestock:

The plan shall prescribe courses of action under an adaptive management framework for implementing a grazing program at PRFTA. The Cooperator shall analyze, evaluate and suggest potential grazing options at PRFTA for various types of livestock (e.g., cows, sheep, and goats) and forage availability. The plan shall recommend residual dry matter targets, species of grazing livestock (species, singular or plural), recommended stocking rates (per species), and develop plan for rotational grazing (to include spatial and seasonal patterns) to minimize mission conflicts and allow for maximum benefit for natural resources management objectives. Maps shall be used to show grazing units and rotational grazing plan.

Invasive Weed Management:

The Cooperator shall include analysis and specific recommendations on how vegetation management activities should be implemented to reduce invasive weeds within PRFTA's training areas and benefit overall native biodiversity on the installation.

Considerations for Sensitive Species:

The plan shall consider the potential benefits and potential negative impacts of vegetation management actions on sensitive species; including but not limited to, California tiger salamander, California red-legged frog, San Joaquin kit fox, western burrowing owl and

other migratory birds, and rare plants. Recommendations for management actions shall be made to maximize positive benefits and minimize negative impacts to sensitive species. Consideration of sensitive species may be incorporated into other sections of the plan, and need not be a stand-alone section.

FHL Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Component

The Cooperator shall accomplish a Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Component (SESCC) at FHL for the management of soil resources across the installation. The purpose of this plan is to identify sources of current and potential soil erosion sources, and identify methods that minimize erosion to prevent sediment pollution from entering San Antonio River, Nacimientto River, and tributaries from installation operations and training exercises, with a focus on military off-road vehicle maneuvers and supporting activities. The SESCO would address the following goals:

- Keep soil erosion within tolerance limits as defined in soil surveys prepared by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service.
- Keep soil sediment, as a pollutant, within compliance limits in wetlands and waterways.
- Minimize the impact of land uses on soil erosion and sedimentation when and where practicable, to include:
 1. Identifying land disturbing activities on the least erodible soils, using information from and interviews with FHL personnel, and recent satellite imagery.
 2. Identifying climatic/seasonal changes in soil erosion for FHL to consider as a factor in scheduling intensive mission operations and real property management activities.
 3. Identifying rehabilitation opportunities for land disturbed by operations and real property management activities.

Work Under this SESCO Task will encompass the following:

- Using Natural Resource Conservation Service Soils Classification Map and in conjunction with the site critical slopes to identify highly erodible soil type and field verify.
- Identifying and incorporating federal, state and local regulations regarding erosion and sediment controls.
- Identifying erosion and sedimentation problem areas and identifying applicable best management practices (BMPs).
- Describing methods to select, install, and maintain erosion-control and stabilization measures, and establish protocols for revegetation of disturbed areas.
- Developing a generic erosion and sedimentation control plan for a generic land-disturbing site that can be tailored for use at other land-disturbing sites, such as earth-moving activities conducted as part of military training or Cooperator operations.
- Including an overall location exhibit, brief description of the problems of each location, and recommended BMPs. If necessary, a sketch shall also be provided to help visualization.

Coordination

The Cooperator shall coordinate with FHL and PRFTA representatives, including but not limited to representatives from the Fire Department, Safety Office, DPW Environmental

and Master Planning, and Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security (Range Control). Development of the two (2) INRMPs and the two (2) component plans shall include a kick off meeting, site visits, progress reviews, teleconferences and other communications to exchange information, identify data gaps, and coordinate draft solutions with the FHL and PRFTA POCs, respectively.

NOTE: At this time we are only requesting that you demonstrate available qualifications and skills for performing similar or same type of work. Competence, knowledge, and experience in natural resources management, vegetation ecology, and botany are required by team members, with knowledge of military activities being preferred. Biologists shall have at minimum a Bachelor's Degree in Biology, Ecology, Wildlife Management, Rangeland Management, Forestry, or closely related field. At least one team member shall be a Certified Rangeland Manager (or equivalent, e.g., Rangeland Scientist) and certified by a professional or educational institution (e.g., California-Pacific Society for Range Management). The team shall possess knowledge and experience with California Central Coast and San Francisco Bay Area ecosystems. You will be evaluated for a request for a proposal based on skills and qualifications demonstrated in your SOI.

Period of Performance. The agreement will extend 12 months from date of award.

Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications:

Please provide the following via e-mail attachment to: Alisa.Marshall@usace.army.mil and brian.d.hesford@usace.army.mil (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: The RSOI is required to be posted for 30 days prior to the Government making a decision and requesting full proposals. Responses due by 5:00 P.M., Central Time, on **27 July 2020**.

[End of RSOI]