



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

20 January 2021

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF INTEREST
Number W9126G-21-2-SOI-1528
Project to be initiated in 2021

***Applicants must be a member in one of the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESU):
Californian 2018 Agreement DoD Number not on 2018 Agreement***

Project Title: Natural Resources Support - Migratory Birds, Vandenberg Air Force Base, California.

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 Vandenberg Air Force Base (VAFB) in order to facilitate successful implementation of the 16 USC 670c-1 Sikes Act. Approximately **\$82,800.00** is expected to be available to support this project during the **base period**. Additional funding may be available for follow on work in subsequent fiscal years to the successful Recipient/Awardee, subject to the availability of funds.

Background:

The VAFB environmental programs ensures military mission activities are conducted in compliance with all applicable environmental laws, regulations and policies with cooperation and assistance from the Air Force Civil Engineer Center's (AFCEC) Installation Support Section (ISS). 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.

In agreement with the above stated goals, the recipient/cooperator (hereafter Cooperator) agrees to provide the necessary personnel, equipment, and materials required to implement, in part, the Air Force responsibilities pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (16 USC 1531 et seq.), the Sikes Act Improvement Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 USC 1361 et seq.), the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), and applicable implementing regulations, such as Air Force Instruction 32-7064, *Integrated Natural Resources Management*.

Type of Award:

This project will be awarded under the authority of 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%).

Brief Description of Anticipated Work:

In order to perform this work successfully, the cooperator must have capabilities to support on site goals and objectives at VAFB.

This project focuses on the following objectives:

This project will perform point count surveys to provide data on migratory bird abundance and population trends in riparian or upland habitats on VAFB in California.

Trail clearing will likely be necessary to access the sample points. This work includes physical labor (vegetation clearing with hand tools, chainsaw, and/or machete). Poison oak is common throughout the base thus personnel should be comfortable identifying the plant, wearing proper protective clothing, and following common procedures to reduce exposure.

Upland Surveys: Upland surveys would follow the recommendations outlined in Roberts and Geupel (2012) and conduct point count surveys at the 27-point count arrays surveyed in 2016. Conduct point count surveys at all locations once between 15 May and 1 June and again between 1 June and 15 June. Perform five-minute point counts using standardized point count protocols (Ralph et al. 1993, Ralph et al. 1995), between sunrise and 10:00 am at each point only on days when the wind is less than 11 km per hour and precipitation is no heavier than mist. Record all birds seen or heard within a 50 m radius of the point location, along with the type of detection (song, call, or visual) and behaviors.

Riparian Surveys. Riparian point count surveys would be a comparable level of effort, following the recommendation protocols described in Roberts and Geupel (2012). Trail clearing may be needed to access survey points which will likely require physical labor to clear vegetation using hand tools, chainsaw, and/or machetes. Poison oak is common throughout the base thus personnel should be comfortable identifying the plant, wearing proper protective clothing, and following common procedures to reduce exposure.

Perform quality assurance and control on the resulting data and analyze to identify trends. Provide a draft and final report that states project goals, location, methods, analysis, conclusions, and recommendations.

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. A full study proposal and proposed budget are NOT requested at this time.

Preference will be given to statements of interest that demonstrate field technicians that have at least five years of experience conducting point count surveys and be able to accurately identify riparian birds by sight and audibly and estimate distance and direction using common field instruments, as well as a principal investigator that has the ability to synthesize collected field data into a cohesive report, including methods, results, statistical analysis, and management recommendations.

Period of Performance. The base period of performance is anticipated to be 18 months from date of award plus four optional periods are anticipated to be 18 months.

Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications:

(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:

Sandy Justman
Grants Specialist
USACE Ft. Worth District
Sandra.justman@usace.army.mil
Office: (817) 886-1073

McCullough Wells
Project Manager
USACE Omaha District
margaret.m.wells@usace.army.mil
Office: (402) 995-2590

Timeline for Review of Statements of Interest: The RSOI is required to be posted for at least 30 days prior to the Government making a decision and requesting full proposals. Responses due by 5:00 P.M., Central Time, on **20 Feb 2021**.

[End of RSOI]

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES
for
XUMUA53216120 MGT, SPECIES, MIGRATORY BIRDS
at
VANDENBERG AFB, (VAFB), CALIFORNIA

Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Unit (CESU) Cooperative Agreement

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. The Vandenberg AFB (VAFB) environmental programs ensures military mission activities are conducted in compliance with all applicable environmental laws, regulations and policies with cooperation and assistance from the Air Force Civil Engineer Center's (AFCEC) Installation Support Section (ISS). 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 is expected to be full-time seasonal, with off-site support and limited field work at VAFB. The work will involve natural resource management activities, field surveys, reporting, coordination, and travel to and from VAFB for off-site personnel, attendance at meetings, project management, and GIS data management.

2. AUTHORITY

Authority to enter into a Cooperative Agreements for the work: Section 670c-1, Title 16 United States Code, Sikes Act.

- 2.1. In agreement with the above stated objectives, the recipient/cooperator agrees to provide the necessary personnel, equipment, and materials required to implement, in part, the Air Force responsibilities pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (16 USC 1531 et seq.), the Sikes Act Improvement Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 USC 1361 et seq.), the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), and applicable implementing regulations, such as Air Force Instruction 32-7064, *Integrated Natural Resources Management*.
- 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 Agreements as accepted in the Master MOU for the establishment and continuation of the CESU program Agreements Article II 1-4 and Article VI 1-7.

2.4. The installation (hence DoD) further agrees to provide substantial involvement as directed under Article II (A) CESU Master Agreements to include, but are not limited to, the following:

- VAFB and AFCEC Edwards ISS are involved in development of study methodology, data gathering, analysis, and/or report writing
- VAFB and AFCEC Edwards ISS are active participates and collaborates in carrying out the project plan of work, reviews and approves activities, helps train or select project staff or trainees
- VAFB and AFCEC Edwards ISS incurs in-kind or direct expenditures in carrying out the activities specified in the project agreement.

3. DESCRIPTION OF OBJECTIVES

Conduct tasks in accordance with this Description of Objectives, as prioritized by AFCEC Edwards ISS and Base Natural Resources Manager (NRM). This Cooperative Agreement supports the efforts as described in SubTask 3.1 below.

Travel, Coordination, and Project Management for all tasks is as follows:

Travel: Provide transportation and fuel for all Non-Federal Entity (NFE) staff to get to and from all field sites. Retain current proof of insurance and current registration for all modes of transportation.

Coordination: Coordinate concurrently with the Base NRM, AFCEC Edwards ISS and USACE PM. All work schedules shall be approved by the AFCEC and be consistent with the Project Schedule & Work Plan (Deliverable 9.7) approved by the Base NRM. Schedule changes

will be jointly made by the USACE PM, Base NRM and AFCEC Edwards ISS and align with the Sikes Act compliant INRMP and original ACES programming. Any changes in scope or cost must be approved by the USACE Grants Officer. All coordination with state and federal regulators will be by the Base NRM or AFCEC Edwards ISS only.

Project Management: Each task includes a section on level of effort specific to that task. A Cooperative Agreement Project Manager should be assigned to coordinate across tasks, manage all personnel hired to complete work, and ensure all scoped objectives are completed under this Cooperative Agreement on time. *Level of effort for Cooperative Agreement Project Management is expected to be at least 4 hours per month with additional hours as needed,* generally at the beginning and end of the agreement period of performance and before and after monthly meetings. Project manager shall provide monthly meeting agenda, track deliverables, provide meeting notes, etc.

Table 1.

Task	Project Number	Title	Location
1	XUMUA53216120	MGT, SPECIES, MIGRATORY BIRDS	VAFB

Vandenberg AFB

3.1. Task 1: XUMUA53216120 MGT, SPECIES, MIGRATORY BIRDS

OBJECTIVE

This project will perform point count surveys to provide data on migratory bird abundance and population trends in riparian or upland habitats on Vandenberg Air Force Base (VAFB), California. The level of effort is comparable between upland or riparian, and only one area would be surveyed in the base year or each option year. The base year is expected to be riparian, and the option years would alternate with upland.

This work builds on work initiated in 1996 by the University of California, Santa Barbara, then expanded and refined by Point Blue in 2012. Conduct surveys per the riparian and upland area protocols established by Point Blue (Roberts and Geupel 2012a and 2012b).

Produce an annual report that summarizes trends in the abundance of California Partners in Flight (PIF) focal species.

Upland Surveys

Upland surveys would follow the recommendations outlined in Roberts and Geupel (2012) and conduct point count surveys at the 27-point count arrays surveyed in 2016. Conduct point count surveys at all locations once between 15 May and 1 June and again between 1

June and 15 June. Perform five-minute point counts using standardized point count protocols (Ralph et al. 1993, Ralph et al. 1995), between sunrise and 10:00 am at each point only on days when the wind is less than 11 km per hour and precipitation is no heavier than mist. Record all birds seen or heard within a 50 m radius of the point location, along with the type of detection (song, call, or visual) and behaviors.

Riparian Surveys

Riparian point count surveys would be a comparable level of effort, following the recommendation protocols described in Roberts and Geupel (2012). Trail clearing may be needed to access survey points which will likely require physical labor to clear vegetation using hand tools, chainsaw, and/or machetes. Poison Oak is common throughout the base thus personnel should be comfortable identifying the plant, wearing proper protective clothing, and following common procedures to reduce exposure.

Perform quality assurance and control on the resulting data and analyze to identify trends. Provide a draft and final report that states project goals, location, methods, analysis, conclusions, and recommendations.

QUALIFICATIONS

Primary field technician shall have at least five years of experience conducting point count surveys and be able to accurately identify upland and riparian bird by sight and audibly, and estimate distance and direction using common field instruments.

Principal investigator must have the ability to synthesize collected field data into a cohesive report, including methods, results, statistical analysis, and management recommendations.

TASK SPECIFIC DELIVERABLES

- Draft and final technical report.
- Draft and Final GIS Files: Shall follow VAFB GIO standards, include metadata, update existing files, and properly document all project activities with relevant GIS information.

4. GOVERNMENT FURNISHED MATERIALS OR PROPERTY

The government will provide maps, INRMP, master plans, and previous reports relevant to this Cooperative Agreement.

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.

5. OPTIONS: As discussed in 7.2 below, six optional periods are anticipated to support this project.

6. PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

7.1 BASE PERIOD: The base period of performance is anticipated to be 18 months from date of award.

7.2 OPTIONAL PERIODS: Four optional periods at 18 months.

7. COORDINATION

USACE POC
McCullough Wells, PM
402-995-2590
margaret.m.wells@usace.army.mil

AFCEC POC
Daniel F. Garcia, PE
AFCEC/CZOW - Vandenberg AFB
(805) 606-9834
daniel.garcia.23@us.af.mil

8. DELIVERABLES

The NFE may propose a schedule that fits within the period of performance and allows review periods as described here. Submit a draft report (two hard copies plus an electronic copy) for Government review, allowing at least 30 days for the review period. The draft shall be complete, including all tables, graphics, and narrative. Submit responses to comments via email within 21 days to indicate how each comment will be addressed and allow at least two weeks for this review. The final report submittal should include electronic deliverables on a compact disk (GIS files, the files used to prepare the report in their native formats, and a PDF of the entire report). GIS deliverables must conform with the Vandenberg “30th Space Wing GeoBase Spatial Data Submittal Standards” which is usually updated annually.

Submit quarterly progress reports via email to summarize work completed to date, work anticipated in the next quarter, and any concerns or recommendations.

- 8.1. Progress Reports - 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 quarterly progress reports. No partial payment will be approved unless the government has received all progress reports which are due.
- 8.2. Monthly Progress Agenda, Reports & Meeting Minutes - One (1) typed report describing progress on the project. The report shall be due two days before the scheduled monthly

meeting and shall be transmitted via electronic mail. Meeting minutes are due within 2 days following the monthly meeting to include a summary of action items.

- 8.3. 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 VAFB and AFCEC Natural Resource Managers.
- 8.4. 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 VAFB and AFCEC Natural Resource Managers.
- 8.5. Draft Final Project Reports – See each task for task specific reports. Electronic copies of draft final reports should be submitted no later than one month before end of the project. **All draft deliverables shall be reviewed by an experienced editor to fix any editorial issues.** At a minimum, the reports shall contain an executive summary, introduction, methods, results, discussion, and recommendations section. Each report shall summarize work accomplished for the Task. VAFB and AFCEC Natural Resource staff will review and provide comments *within 21 calendar days after receipt*.
- 8.6. Final Project Reports – See each task for task specific reports. **All final deliverables shall be reviewed by an experienced editor to fix any editorial issues.** Electronic copies of the final report, incorporating VAFB and AFCEC comments on the draft shall be submitted no later than thirty (30) days after receipt of the VAFB and AFCEC comments.
- 8.7. Project Schedule and Work Plan – Provide an electronic copy of a work plan and project schedule in table format that includes all tasks. Shall be concise yet communicate what will be performed and when. The schedule shall break down the work into sections with associated timetables. Document shall be reviewed at the monthly meetings to ensure we are on schedule.
- 8.8. GIS Deliverables – All tasks shall have at least one and likely several GIS deliverables that include all data layers used to create any and all maps within submitted deliverables. GIS deliverables shall include all new data collected throughout the course of the project. Draft GIS deliverables shall be submitted with draft reports that include their data, with final reports and GIS info submitted together. GIS deliverables must follow Air Force geospatial data standards, an adaptation of the SDSFIE 3.1x data model, as described in the data layer specifications (DLS)). Deliverables must comply with the latest version which are updated annually. All metadata associated with data layers must meet the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) Content Standard for Digital Geospatial Metadata (CSDGM) revised in June 1998. Metadata must also include all content stated in the metadata section of each layer's DLS, which includes layer specific verbiage for attribute fields and definitions. Additional requirements include:

9.8.1 All submitted data must use at least one of the pre-defined 50 Natural Resource DLS listed below and most likely at least two. NFE shall review the complete list before field work begins to identify which layers are needed and identify them in the Annual Work Plan. Note that the collection of “negative” data is as important as “positive” data. Survey areas are a key part of the data set even if target species are not detected. [A =area, L = line, P = point.]

- 9.8.1.1 AgriculturalTract_A
- 9.8.1.2 CoastalZoneMgtArea_A
- 9.8.1.3 DispersedRecArea_A
- 9.8.1.4 EssentialFishHabitat_A
- 9.8.1.5 FaunaIncidentPoint_P
- 9.8.1.6 FireArea_A
- 9.8.1.7 FireBreakLine_L
- 9.8.1.8 FloodPlainArea_A
- 9.8.1.9 ForestCompartment_A
- 9.8.1.10 ForestMgtArea_A
- 9.8.1.11 ForestProductHarvest_A
- 9.8.1.12 ForestStand_A
- 9.8.1.13 FuelBreakLine_L
- 9.8.1.14 FuelMgtArea_A
- 9.8.1.15 HabitatProtectiveZone_A
- 9.8.1.16 HazSuppressionArea_A
- 9.8.1.17 HistoricRiverAlignment_L
- 9.8.1.18 LandCover_A
- 9.8.1.19 NatResRecFeature_P
- 9.8.1.20 NatResRestReclProj_A
- 9.8.1.21 NatResRestReclProj_P
- 9.8.1.22 NatResSurvey_A
- 9.8.1.23 NatResSurvey_L
- 9.8.1.24 NatResSurvey_P
- 9.8.1.25 NoxiousOrInvasiveSpecies_A
- 9.8.1.26 NoxiousOrInvasiveSpecies_L
- 9.8.1.27 NoxiousOrInvasiveSpecies_P
- 9.8.1.28 PrescribedBurnUnit_A

- 9.8.1.29 RecNatureTrail_L
- 9.8.1.30 SoilSurveyArea_A
- 9.8.1.31 SpecialMgtArea_A
- 9.8.1.32 SpecialStatusSpecies_A
- 9.8.1.33 SpecialStatusSpecies_L
- 9.8.1.34 SpecialStatusSpecies_P
- 9.8.1.35 SpeciesArea_A
- 9.8.1.36 SpeciesPoint_P
- 9.8.1.37 SpeciesSpecificHabitat_A
- 9.8.1.38 SpeciesSpecificHabitat_L
- 9.8.1.39 SpeciesSpecificHabitat_P
- 9.8.1.40 SurfaceRiparianArea_A
- 9.8.1.41 Vegetation_A
- 9.8.1.42 WaterBody_A
- 9.8.1.43 WatercourseLine_L
- 9.8.1.44 WaterFeature_A
- 9.8.1.45 Watershed_A
- 9.8.1.46 Wetland_A
- 9.8.1.47 Wetland_L
- 9.8.1.48 Wetland_P
- 9.8.1.49 WildlandUrbanInterfaceArea_A
- 9.8.1.50 WildlifeMgtArea_A

- 9.8.2 An empty, SDSFIE 3.1x compliant ArcView geodatabase is available for use as is an excel data dictionary. Absolutely no changes may be made to the structure. All formatting and attributes must align with the current template in order to be accepted by the AF and transferred to the official geodatabase. NFE shall discuss any concerns with the Base Geodatabase Manager and AFCEC Edwards ISS before work begins to find work- arounds where fields aren't available to collect needed data.
- 9.8.3 NFE shall submit a geodatabase that includes only new data rows or existing data rows that have been changed so that they may easily be added to the official geodatabase.
- 9.8.4 NFE shall populate all fields within the tables. All data should comply with the DLS which often includes tables of available choices for each field. An excel data dictionary is also available.

- 9.8.5 NFE shall identify data errors for any DLS that they use and submit them with the final deliverables so that the AFCEC Edwards ISS may work to change them in the next standards update. This shall include formatting restrictions that limit usefulness of existing fields or missing fields.
- 9.8.6 NFE shall ensure that any interrelated data layers are updated for any newly created data. For instance, if new wetlands are identified (Wetland_A) and suitability for listed branchiopods is determined during the survey, the corresponding data needs to be updated in the species layer as well (SpecialStatusSpecies_A). Even if suitability is not determined, the new wetland needs to be added to the species layer and noted as unknown suitability.
9. This cooperative agreement may be administered 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 NFE shall comply with 2 CFR 200.313 “Equipment”, 200.314 “Supplies”, and 200.315 “Intangible Property” which includes use of research data.

10. REFERENCES

ROBERTS, L.J., AND G.R. GEUPEL. 2012a. Evaluation and Recommendations for Riparian Bird Monitoring on Vandenberg Air Force Base. Final Report to Vandenberg Air Force Base. PRBO Conservation Science, Petaluma, CA. PRBO Contribution Number 1909.

ROBERTS, L.J., AND G.R. GEUPEL. 2012b. Vandenberg Air Force Base: Recommendations for an Upland Bird Monitoring Program. Final Report to Vandenberg Air Force Base. PRBO Conservation Science, Petaluma, CA. PRBO Contribution Number 1910.

[End of SOO]