



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

16 JUL 2022

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF INTEREST
Number W9126G-22-2-SOI-4064**

*Applicants must be a member in one of the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESU):
Colorado Plateau / Californian CESU Regions*

Project Title: Tricolored Blackbird Habitat for Beale AFB, CA

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest will be used to identify potential investigators for this project. Approximately **\$494,800.00** is expected to be available to support this project for the **base year**. Additional funding may be available for additional tasks and/or follow on work in subsequent fiscal years to the successful Recipient/Awardee.

Background:

Provide support to Beale Air Force Base, California, Natural Resources Program.

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 to be considered. In accordance with the 10 USC 670c-1, Sikes Act, projects for the implementation and enforcement of integrated natural resources management plans, priority shall be given to Federal and State agencies having responsibility for the conservation or management of fish or wildlife.

Brief Description of Anticipated Work:

This research focuses on the following objectives:

"See Attached DRAFT Statement of Objectives"

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 and qualifications demonstrated in your SOI.

Period of Performance. The base year of agreement will extend 18 months from date of award. There may be optional tasks with 12-18 month period of performance based on availability of funding.

Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications:

Please provide the following via e-mail attachments (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, Fort Worth District
Email: Sandra.justman@usace.army.mil
Office: 817-886-1073

David Leptien
Project Manager
USACE, RPEC
Email: david.b.leptien@usace.army.mil
Cell: 402-889-5570

Timeline for Review of Statements of Interest: RSOI's required to be posted on www.Grants.gov for 30 days, prior to the Government making a decision and requesting full proposals. Responses are due by 5:00 P.M., Central Time, on **17 AUG 2022**.

[End of RSOI]
[See attached DRAFT SOO]

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES
for
TRICOLORED BLACKBIRD HABITAT RESTORATION
PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION
for
NATURAL RESOURCES PROGRAM,
BEALE AIR FORCE BASE, CALIFORNIA

June 2022

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The Beale Air Force Base (Beale AFB) environmental program 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) Travis Installation Support Section (ISS).

1.2 This work requires on-site and off-site support for a large field project at Beale AFB in order to implement the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP). The work will involve: development and implementation of habitat restoration activities, field visits, reporting, coordination, travel to and from Beale AFB for off-site personnel, attendance at meetings, project management, and GIS data management.

2.0 AUTHORITY

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

2.1. In agreement with the above stated goals, the NFE agrees to provide the necessary personnel, equipment, and materials required to implement, in part, the EAFB 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 Manual 32-7003, *Environmental Conservation*; 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

2.2. 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.), 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 not limited to, the following:

- Beale AFB and AFCEC ISS are involved in development of study methodology, data gathering, analysis, and/or report writing
- Beale AFB and AFCEC 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
- Beale AFB and AFCEC ISS 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 staff time to work on the project

3.0 DESCRIPTION OF OBJECTIVES

Conduct tasks in accordance with this Description of Objectives, as prioritized by AFCEC ISS PM and Base NRM. Only work aligned with the original AF ACES programming and approved by the AFCEC ISS PM should be completed as part of this support.

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

Travel: Provide transportation and fuel for all NFE staff to get to and from all field sites. Retain current proof of insurance, current registration, and REAL ID-compliant driver’s licenses for all modes of transportation.

Coordination: Coordinate concurrently with the Base NRM, AFCEC Travis ISS, and USACE PM. All work shall be approved by the AFCEC and be consistent with the Project Schedule & Work Plan (Deliverable 9.3) approved by the Base NRM. Schedule changes can be made; trade-off decisions will be jointly made by the USACE-PM, Base NRM and AFCEC Travis ISS and align with the Sikes Act compliant INRMP and original budget 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 ISS only.

3.1 TRICOLORED BLACKBIRD HABITAT RESTORATION

Study, plan, implement, and monitor habitat restoration in the Blackbird Marsh and Blackbird Basins areas on Beale AFB to improve habitat conditions for the tricolored blackbird, a state-listed species that is also protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The project will replace the species’ habitat that was near the runway with new habitat >2 miles from the runway to address flight safety concerns.

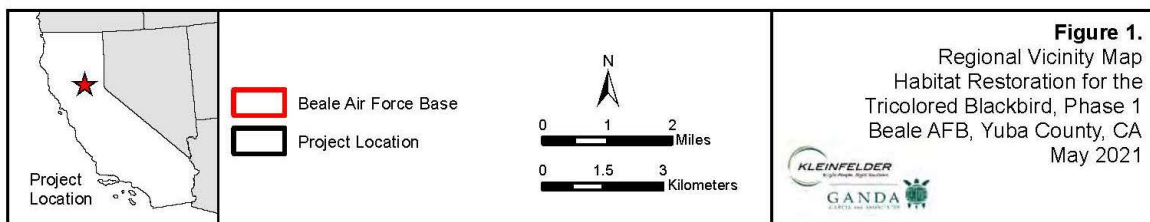
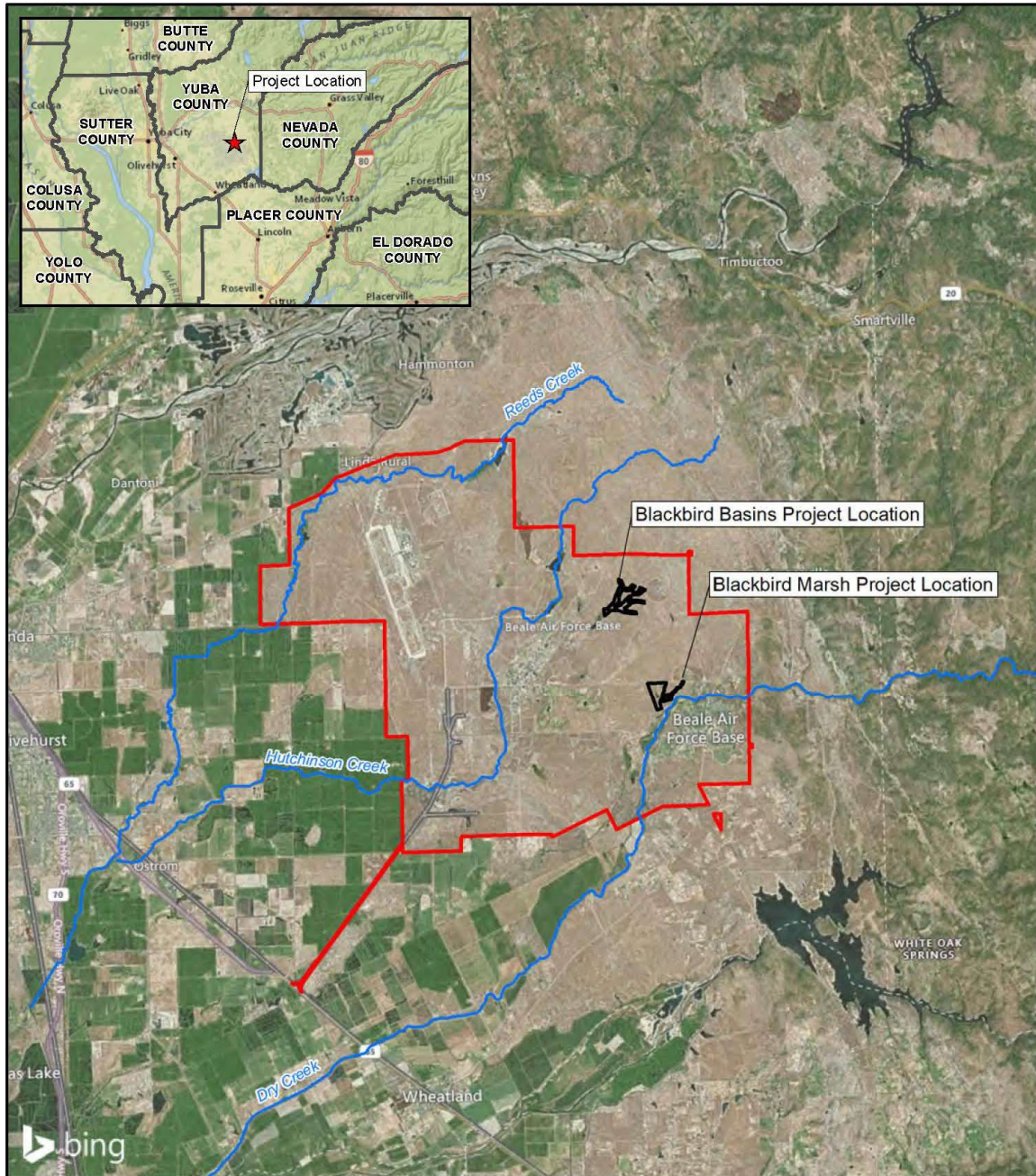
3.1.1: The project is intended to meet portions of ongoing efforts towards the following Goals and Objectives of the Beale AFB Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP 2021):

- *GOAL 2: MAINTAIN/INCREASE POPULATIONS OF SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES AND IMPROVE HABITAT CONDITIONS.*
 - *OBJECTIVE 2.2: Monitor, preserve, restore, and enhance special-status species, their habitats, and areas under regulator agreement.*
 - *Project 2.2.6: Conduct monitoring on 2019/2020 TRBL habitat mitigation project to determine success. Complete annual reports for six years (~2019-2024) and submit to the USFWS.*
- *GOAL 4: IMPROVE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AND ENHANCE HABITAT FOR FISH, WILDLIFE AND PLANT SPECIES ON BEALE AFB.*
 - *OBJECTIVE 4.3: OBJECTIVE 4.3: Improve habitat for nongame wildlife species.*
 - *Project 4.3.4: Implement TRBL habitat enhancement plan and design.*

3.1.2: Specific tasks will be accomplished in accordance with the following documents that have been prepared for the project: 1) Blackbird Marsh and Blackbird Basins Habitat Restoration Conceptual Plans, Phase 1, 2) Environmental Assessment, 3) Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 consultation, 4) National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 consultations, 5) Magnuson-Stevens Essential Fish Habitat consultation, and 6) Clean Water Act Section 404/401 permits.

- Base Year:
 - Task 1 - Blackbird Marsh Site: Develop detailed Restoration Plan to create or enhance nesting and foraging habitat through increasing the hydroperiod during the nesting season and installing small nesting cages and associated native plants for tricolored blackbirds
 - Task 2 - Blackbird Basins Site:
 - Conduct study of the area described in Phase 1 Conceptual Restoration Plan to explore and characterize the site subsurface soil and groundwater conditions in order to provide recommendations for the Final Restoration Plan
 - Install solar water well, as described in Phase 1 Conceptual Restoration Plan, in order to provide an augmented water supply to the stream and adjacent wetlands, and restoration plantings
 - Develop detailed Restoration Plan to enlarge and enhance seasonal wetlands to provide foraging habitat and install small nesting cages and associated native plants for tricolored blackbirds
- Task 3 (Optional): Blackbird Marsh Site: Implement Final Restoration Plan
- Sub-Task 3a (Optional): Blackbird Marsh Site: Conduct Monitoring, Maintenance, Repairs, Year 1 following restoration site development
- Sub-Task 3b (Optional): Blackbird Marsh Site: Conduct Monitoring, Maintenance, Repairs, Year 2 following restoration site development
- Sub-Task 3c (Optional): Blackbird Marsh Site: Conduct Monitoring, Maintenance, Repairs, Year 3 following restoration site development

- Sub-Task 3d (Optional): Blackbird Marsh Site: Conduct Monitoring, Maintenance, Repairs, Year 4 following restoration site development
- Task 4 (Optional): Blackbird Basins Site: Implement Final Restoration Plan
- Sub-Task 4a (Optional): Blackbird Basins Site: Conduct Monitoring, Maintenance, Repairs, Year 1 following restoration site development
- Sub-Task 4b (Optional): Blackbird Basins Site: Conduct Monitoring, Maintenance, Repairs, Year 2 following restoration site development
- Sub-Task 4c (Optional): Blackbird Basins Site: Conduct Monitoring, Maintenance, Repairs, Year 3 following restoration site development
- Sub-Task 4d (Optional): Blackbird Basins Site: Conduct Monitoring, Maintenance, Repairs, Year 4 following restoration site development



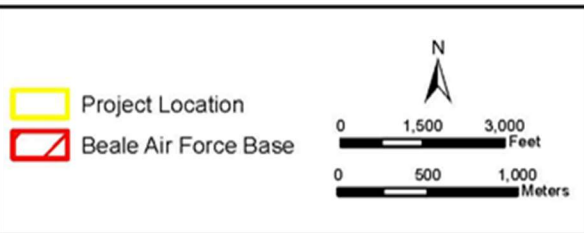
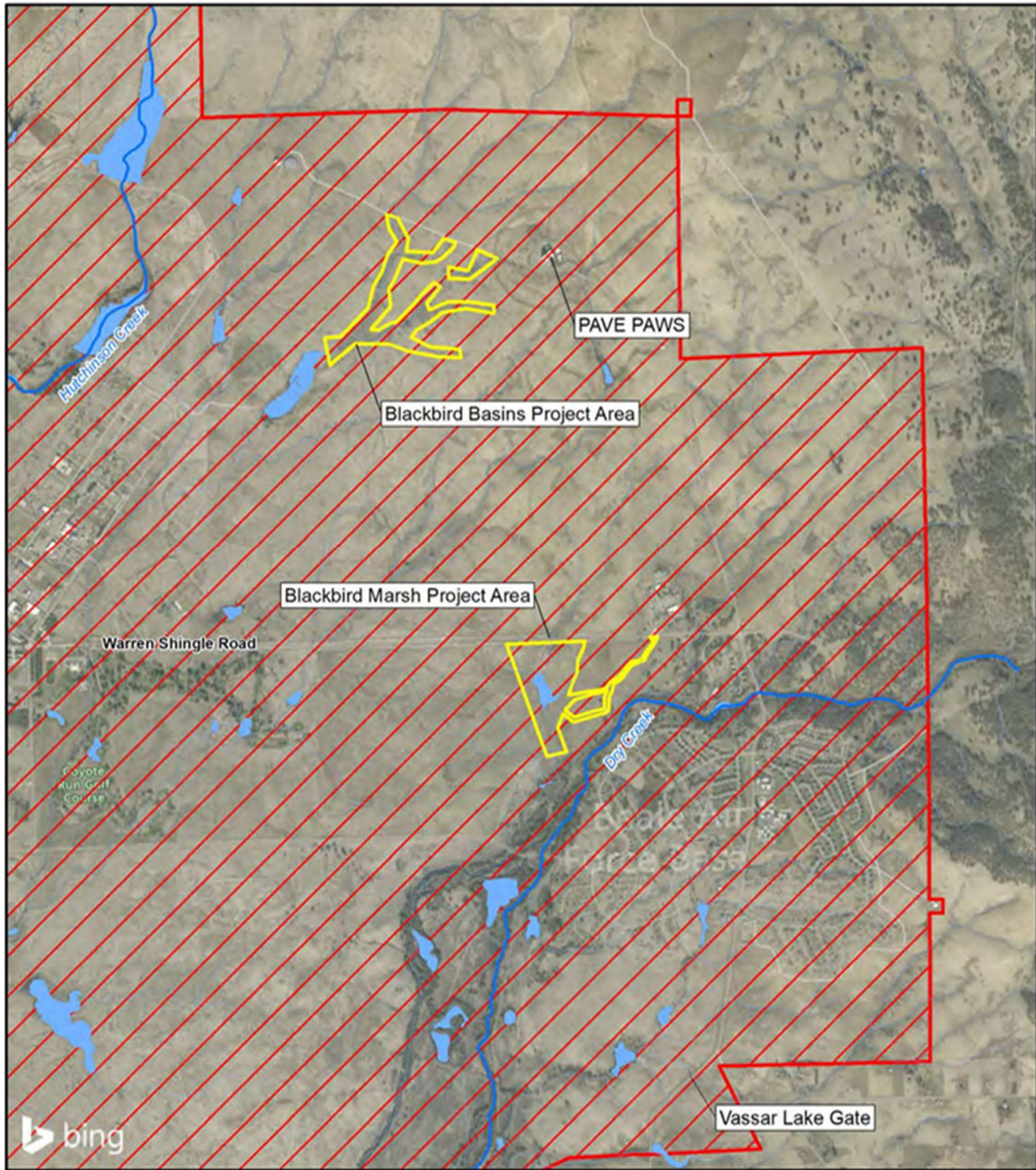


Figure 2.
Project Location Map
Habitat Restoration for the
Tricolored Blackbird, Phase 1
Beale AFB, Yuba County, CA
May 2021

4.0 QUALIFICATIONS

Project Managers and Field Managers require advanced experience in ecological restoration projects involving wetlands and/or riparian zones in California.

5.0 GOVERNMENT FURNISHED MATERIALS OR PROPERTY

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.

6.0 OPTIONS

Optional tasks are anticipated, refer to Section 3.1.2.

Optional Tasks 3&4 – May be funded at any time each year while the agreement is active.

Optional Sub-Tasks - May be funded at any time each year while the agreement is active, however the start of Year 1 monitoring is dependent on the completion of either Task 3 or 4. Each subsequent year of monitoring is dependent on the completion of its preceding year.

7.0 PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE (PoP)

BASE PERIOD: Tasks 1&2 are non-recurring to occur in the base period with a PoP of 18-months.

OPTIONS: Optional Tasks 3&4 will have a PoP of 18-months from date of award; all Sub-Tasks will have a period of performance of 12-months from date of award.

8.0 COORDINATION

USACE POC

Primary: David Leptien, PM, 402-889-5570, david.b.leptien@usace.army.mil

Alternate: Kali Evans, Kali.L.Evans@usace.army.mil

AFCEC Travis Installation Support Section, Natural Resources, AFCEC/CZOW

Primary: Kirsten Christopherson, 707-424-8622, kirsten.christopherson@us.af.mil

Alternate: Deanne Weber, 707-424-8627, deanne.weber@us.af.mil

Beale Air Force Base, Natural Resources Manager, 9 CES/CEIEC

Primary: Tamara Gallentine, 530-634-2738, tamara.gallentine.2@us.af.mil

Alternate: Eli Rose, 530-634-2382, eli.rose.1@us.af.mil

9.0 DELIVERABLES

- 9.1 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 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.
- 9.2 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.
- 9.3 Project Schedule and Work Plan – Provide an electronic copy of a work plan and project schedule in table format. Should be concise yet communicate what will be performed and when. The schedule should break down the work into sections with associated timetables. Document shall be reviewed at the monthly meetings to ensure we are on schedule.
- 9.4 Annual Inventory Federally Owned – 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, Beale AFB, and AFCEC/CZOW ISS.
- 9.5 Annual Inventory Acquired – 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. Copies of the inventory to be sent annually to USACE – SWF and AFCEC ISS.
- 9.6 Draft Restoration Plan (Blackbird Marsh) - Electronic copies of draft reports should be submitted no later than four months before end of the project. All draft deliverables shall be reviewed by an experienced editor to fix any editorial issues. Beale AFB and AFCEC Travis ISS staff will review and provide comments *within 30 calendar days after receipt*.
- 9.7 Draft Final Restoration Plan (Blackbird Marsh) – Electronic copies of draft reports should be submitted no later than four months before end of the project. All draft deliverables shall be reviewed by an experienced editor to fix any editorial issues. Beale AFB and AFCEC Travis ISS staff will review and provide comments *within 30 calendar days after receipt*.
- 9.8 Final Restoration Plan (Blackbird Marsh) – Deliverable shall be reviewed by an experienced editor to fix any editorial issues. Electronic copies of the final report, incorporating Beale and AFCEC Travis ISS review comments on the draft and shall be submitted no later than thirty (30) days after receipt of the government comments.
- 9.9 Draft Restoration Plan (Blackbird Basins) - Electronic copies of draft reports should be submitted no later than four months before end of the project. All draft deliverables shall be reviewed by an experienced editor to fix any editorial issues. Beale AFB and AFCEC Travis ISS staff will review and provide comments *within 30 calendar days after receipt*.
- 9.10 Draft Final Restoration Plan (Blackbird Basins) - Electronic copies of draft reports should be submitted no later than four months before end of the project. All draft deliverables shall be reviewed by an experienced editor to fix any editorial issues. Beale AFB and AFCEC Travis ISS staff will review and provide comments *within 30 calendar days after receipt*.
- 9.11 Final Restoration Plan (Blackbird Basins) – Final deliverable shall be reviewed by an experienced editor to fix any editorial issues. Electronic copies of the final report, incorporating Beale and

AFCEC Travis ISS review comments on the draft and shall be submitted no later than thirty (30) days after receipt of the government comments.

- 9.12 Draft Annual Monitoring Reports - Electronic copies of draft reports should be submitted no later than four months 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. Report should summarize work accomplished. Beale AFB and AFCEC Travis ISS staff will review and provide comments *within 30 calendar days after receipt*.
- 9.13 Final Annual Monitoring Reports – Final deliverable shall be reviewed by an experienced editor to fix any editorial issues. Electronic copies of the final report, incorporating Beale and AFCEC Travis ISS review comments on the draft and shall be submitted no later than thirty (30) days after receipt of the government comments.
- 9.14 Draft Comprehensive Report - Electronic copies of draft reports should be submitted no later than four months 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. Report should summarize all work accomplished over the 5-year effort. Beale AFB and AFCEC Travis ISS staff will review and provide comments *within 30 calendar days after receipt*.
- 9.15 Final Comprehensive Report - Final deliverable shall be reviewed by an experienced editor to fix any editorial issues. Electronic copies of the final report, incorporating Beale and AFCEC Travis ISS review comments on the draft and shall be submitted no later than thirty (30) days after receipt of the government comments.
- 9.16 Powerpoint Presentation – prepare a powerpoint presentation on the project including project background from prior task orders for presentation as a professional conference.
- 9.17 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:
- 9.17.1 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.]
- 9.17.1.1 AgriculturalTract_A
- 9.17.1.2 CoastalZoneMgtArea_A
- 9.17.1.3 DispersedRecArea_A
- 9.17.1.4 EssentialFishHabitat_A
- 9.17.1.5 FaunaIncidentPoint_P
- 9.17.1.6 FireArea_A

9.17.1.7 FireBreakLine_L
9.17.1.8 FloodPlainArea_A
9.17.1.9 ForestCompartment_A
9.17.1.10 ForestMgtArea_A
9.17.1.11 ForestProductHarvest_A
9.17.1.12 ForestStand_A
9.17.1.13 FuelBreakLine_L
9.17.1.14 FuelMgtArea_A
9.17.1.15 HabitatProtectiveZone_A
9.17.1.16 HazSuppressionArea_A
9.17.1.17 HistoricRiverAlignment_L
9.17.1.18 LandCover_A
9.17.1.19 NatResRecFeature_P
9.17.1.20 NatResRestReclProj_A
9.17.1.21 NatResRestReclProj_P
9.17.1.22 NatResSurvey_A
9.17.1.23 NatResSurvey_L
9.17.1.24 NatResSurvey_P
9.17.1.25 NoxiousOrInvasiveSpecies_A
9.17.1.26 NoxiousOrInvasiveSpecies_L
9.17.1.27 NoxiousOrInvasiveSpecies_P
9.17.1.28 PrescribedBurnUnit_A
9.17.1.29 RecNatureTrail_L
9.17.1.30 SoilSurveyArea_A
9.17.1.31 SpecialMgtArea_A
9.17.1.32 SpecialStatusSpecies_A
9.17.1.33 SpecialStatusSpecies_L
9.17.1.34 SpecialStatusSpecies_P
9.17.1.35 SpeciesArea_A
9.17.1.36 SpeciesPoint_P
9.17.1.37 SpeciesSpecificHabitat_A
9.17.1.38 SpeciesSpecificHabitat_L
9.17.1.39 SpeciesSpecificHabitat_P
9.17.1.40 SurfaceRiparianArea_A
9.17.1.41 Vegetation_A
9.17.1.42 WaterBody_A
9.17.1.43 WatercourseLine_L
9.17.1.44 WaterFeature_A
9.17.1.45 Watershed_A
9.17.1.46 Wetland_A
9.17.1.47 Wetland_L
9.17.1.48 Wetland_P
9.17.1.49 WildlandUrbanInterfaceArea_A
9.17.1.50 WildlifeMgtArea_A

- 9.17.2 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 Travis ISS before work begins to find work-arounds where fields aren't available to collect needed data.
- 9.17.3 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.
- 9.17.4 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.
- 9.17.5 NFE shall identify data errors for any DLS that they use and submit them with the final deliverables so that the AFCEC Travis 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.
- 9.17.6 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.
- 10.0 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.
- 11.0 Invoices and Closeout Documents. Per the standard Terms of Agreement and in accordance with 2CFR, SF270s and closeout documents are required deliverables for all projects. The recipient shall submit a SF270 with other required documentation to SWF[1]CESU-INVOICE@usace.army.mil at minimum on a quarterly basis. Closeout documents are due 90 after the end of projects. The documents for closeout include the following: 1. Final SF 270 2. Final SF 425 3. SF 428 with attachment B (C and S when applicable) 4. DD Form 882 5. Final report (See 2 CFR 200.328) 6. Cover Form SF 298.