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

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF INTEREST
Number W9126G-22-2-SOI-2923
Project to be initiated in 2022

***Applicants must be a member in one of the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESU)*:**
Colorado Plateau (No DoD Number issued for 2019-2024 Agreement)
Desert Southwest (No DoD Number issued for 2020-2025 Agreement)
Gulf Coast (No DoD Number issued for 2017-2022 Agreement)

Project Title: Seasonal Natural and Cultural Resources Management Program Support on Air Force Installations

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 Plans (INRMPs) and Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plans (ICRMPs) in order to facilitate successful implementation of the 16 USC 670c-1 Sikes Act. Approximately **$1,309,000** is expected to be available to support this project, depending on availability of funds.

Background:
The primary objective of this project is to provide temporary natural / cultural resources support to the locations listed below. See the attached Scope of Objectives (SOO) for further details.

Altus AFB
Avon Park AFR
AK PRSC NR Program (611th CES/CEI)
Barksdale AFB
Bellows AFB
Columbus AFB
Dover AFB
Eglin AFB
Eielson AFB
Hill AFB
Hill AFB and UTTR
JB Charleston
JB Elmendorf-Richardson
JBLE-Eustis
JB McGuire Dix Lakehurst
JBSA Camp Bullis
Little Rock AF
Nellis AFB
Offutt AFB
McConnell AFB
F.E. Warren AFB
Scott AFB
Wright-Patterson AFB
Shaw AFB
Sheppard AFB
Tinker AFB
Tyndall AFB

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%).

Note: Must be a non-federal partner in one of the CESU Units, referenced above, to be qualified for considered.

Brief Description of Anticipated Work:

- The Cooperator shall provide semi-skilled and non-professional seasonal labor to assist AF installations with the implementation of projects related to the stewardship of natural resources as indicated in the installation INRMP. Conservation program tasks assigned at each installation are temporary and seasonal in nature. Work assigned to Cooperator employees will require only entry level knowledge in natural resources management. The Cooperator will provide supervision and oversight to Cooperator employees. Cooperator employees shall work closely with AF conservation program professionals for daily coordination and consultation for work activities at AF installations. The Cooperator and the AF personnel will mutually ensure the benefit to their respective programs and personnel in terms of learning/professional experience of the individual performers.
- The Cooperator shall provide semi-skilled and non-professional seasonal labor to assist AF installations with the implementation of projects related to the stewardship of cultural resources as indicated in the installation Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP). Conservation program tasks assigned at each installation are temporary and seasonal in nature. Work assigned to Cooperator employees will require only entry level knowledge in cultural resources management. The Cooperator will provide supervision and oversight to Cooperator employees. Cooperator employees shall work closely with AF conservation program professionals for daily coordination and consultation for work

activities at AF installations. Familiarity with ArcGIS and ESRI products preferred. Familiarity with Sections 106 and 110 of the National Historic Preservations Act and National Register of Historic Places, individuals with primary interest in archaeology and Tribal relations but all aspects of cultural resources management are relevant and preferred. One intern experienced intern with background in history/military history and interest in WWII and Cold War preferred for AK positions.

- The Air Force requires on-site support at designated AF installations. The Cooperator shall provide temporary employees to assist the designated installation natural resources manager with biological field work tasks needed to implement the installation ICRMP & INRMP. The Cooperator is encouraged, but not required, to provide temporary employee opportunity for current and recently graduated college students, when feasible, to gain entry-level experience in natural and/or cultural resources management field work.

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.

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.

Period of Performance.

(**For Sikes Act Authority awards**, the POP can be up to 18 months for severable services, and longer for non-severable. If the PoP will be greater than 18 months, explain what work is non-severable and **WHY** it is non-severable):

This agreement is non-severable as it requires final reports to be prepared and submitted once the surveys and the final data analysis have been completed.

The period of performance is anticipated to be 18 months from date of award.

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:

Audria Gill
Grants Specialist
USACE Ft. Worth District
audria.j.gill@usace.army.mil
Office: (817) 886-1925

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 12 June 2022.

[End of RSOI]

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES

SEASONAL NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PROGRAM SUPPORT ON AIR FORCE INSTALLATIONS
Article III, (D) of the Applicable Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Units (CESU)

1. PURPOSE

This request seeks to provide natural resources management support to the United States Air Force (AF) for the implementation of installation Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans (INRMPs) prepared in support of the Sikes Act (Title 16 United States Code, Section 670). Cooperative support shall consist of temporary and seasonal labor support to Air Force as required for the implementation of INRMP directed natural resource management activities. The Cooperator will provide temporary natural resources management support to Air Force installations as identified in this Statement of Objectives (SOO) and as directed by the Air Force Civil Engineer Center, Environmental Directorate, Technical Division (AFCEC/CZTQ). The Government shall not exercise any supervision or control over the Cooperator or Cooperator employees. Cooperator employees shall be accountable solely to the Cooperator.

1.1 Description of Need.
The objective of the work to be performed under this agreement is for temporary and seasonal Cooperator support services to maintain and enhance AF capabilities to implement installation Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) and Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP) project activities. This SOO provides for on-site support at the designated AF installations herein.

1.2 Policy and Guidance.
The Sikes Act (16 U.S.C. 670 *et seq*.) provides the direction for the management of natural resources on military installations. Air Force policy and guidance for fish and wildlife management and for outdoor recreation access can be found in Air Force Manual (AFMAN) 32-7003 – *Environmental Conservation*. For each military installation, the installation Integrated Natural Resources and Cultural Resources Management Plans identifiy the natural and cultural resources goals and objectives, as well as the allowable outdoor recreation uses and allowable participants for consumptive and non-consumptive use of those resources. The Sikes Act also authorizes military installations to issue permits and collect fees to support outdoor recreation management.

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.

2. AUTHORITY

2.1 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 (INRMP), as directed in the Sikes Act.

2.2 In agreement with the above stated goals, 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.

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.), 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

2.4 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.

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

- INSTALLATION is involved in development of study methodology, data gathering, analysis, and/or report writing
- INSTALLATION actively participates and collaborates in carrying out the project plan of work, reviews and approves activities, helps train or select project staff or trainees

- INSTALLATION incurs in-kind or direct expenditures in carrying out the activities specified in the project agreement.

3. DESCRIPTION OF OBJECTIVES

3.1 The Cooperator shall provide semi-skilled and non-professional seasonal labor to assist AF installations with the implementation of projects related to the stewardship of natural resources as indicated in the installation INRMP. Conservation program tasks assigned at each installation are temporary and seasonal in nature. Work assigned to Cooperator employees will require only entry level knowledge in natural resources management. The Cooperator will provide supervision and oversight to Cooperator employees. Cooperator employees shall work closely with AF conservation program professionals for daily coordination and consultation for work activities at AF installations. The Cooperator and the AF personnel will mutually ensure the benefit to their respective programs and personnel in terms of learning/professional experience of the individual performers.

Workforce development opportunities may include the following subject areas:

- Fish and Wildlife Management: fish and wildlife surveys, population monitoring, habitat mapping, invasive species control and management;
- Threatened and Endangered Species Management: species inventories, population monitoring, habitat mapping, and assistance for implementing conservation requirements;
- Outdoor Recreation Management: administration of hunting, fishing, and other authorized outdoor recreation activities;
- Conservation Program Planning Support;
- Forest Management: survey and update data;
- Wildland Fire Training and operational experience working prescribed fires (including equipment, PPE, insurance, approx. 250 hours of overtime for after workday-hour fire operations);
- Wetlands Protection and Management: Inventory and restoration;
- Protection of Coastal and Marine Resources: habitat mapping, inventory, and analysis; and implementing shoreline habitat restoration projects;
- Livestock Grazing and Agriculture Outleasing: includes monitoring the effects of grazing on native ecosystems and sensitive species;
- Outdoor Recreation: monitoring recreation activities, maintenance of interpretive nature trails and recreation sites;
- Land Management: introducing native plants in landscapes, invasive species control, urban forest management, and soil erosion control;
- Assisting with Burrowing owl surveys, mist netting and banding neotropical birds, avian point counts, reptile surveys, small mammal surveys, vegetation surveys, and camera trap surveys. Assist the Natural Resource Manager in other work in plant propagation in a greenhouse, maintenance and care of the Base pollinator garden, and helping oversee a citizen science bird project.
- The intern will be able to shadow the Natural Resource Manager, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biologists, a biologist and a Graduate Student from a local University, and seasonal technicians. The goal would be to provide a breadth and exposure to the day-

to-day natural resource management on a military installation and could also include NEPA, GIS, and data analysis
- Office Management: data processing, filing, and records management;

3.2 The Cooperator shall provide semi-skilled and non-professional seasonal labor to assist AF installations with the implementation of projects related to the stewardship of cultural resources as indicated in the installation Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP). Conservation program tasks assigned at each installation are temporary and seasonal in nature. Work assigned to Cooperator employees will require only entry level knowledge in cultural resources management. The Cooperator will provide supervision and oversight to Cooperator employees. Cooperator employees shall work closely with AF conservation program professionals for daily coordination and consultation for work activities at AF installations. Familiarity with ArcGIS and ESRI products preferred. Familiarity with Sections 106 and 110 of the National Historic Preservations Act and National Register of Historic Places, individuals with primary interest in archaeology and Tribal relations but all aspects of cultural resources management are relevant and preferred. One intern experienced intern with background in history/military history and interest in WWII and Cold War preferred for AK positions.

Workforce development opportunities may include the following subject areas:
- Archaeological site monitoring and identification: assist with recording/processing data on standardized forms, photo documentation, and collection of artifacts; administrative records reports for historic sites;
- Archaeological site stabilization: assist with preparing material for transport to archaeological site to be stabilized, installing stabilization materials, and documentation of stabilization efforts;
- Tribal Relations Program: research and update data;
- Public interpretation: Work with installation to interpret sites for a public audience;
- Development of Section 106 (National Historic Preservation Act) agreement documents, ethnobotanical study, exhibit development & public outreach;
- Drafting correspondence with State Historic Preservation Officer and other consulting parties;
- Conducting field work, processing data, and preparing reports in support of undertakings under the National Historic Preservation Act;
- Working with other installation and installation partners on cultural resources projects;
- Building assessments, site delineations, subsurface testing, and preparing interpretive materials;
- Evaluation of buildings and districts for historic significance to update evaluations forms and real property records;
- Cemetery Management: determine if historically mapped cemeteries are still on AF lands or if they were removed when the government acquired the land; historical research on cemeteries and their occupants; some interviews may be needed;

3.3 The Air Force requires on-site support at designated AF installations. The Cooperator shall provide temporary employees to assist the designated installation natural resources manager with biological field work tasks needed to implement the installation ICRMP & INRMP. The

Cooperator is encouraged, but not required, to provide temporary employee opportunity for current and recently graduated college students, when feasible, to gain entry-level experience in natural and/or cultural resources management field work.

3.4 **Place of Performance**

Work shall be performed at the installations listed below in this SOO. Cooperator employees assigned to installations will be provided office space and access to a telephone but will not be assigned AF desktop or laptop computers and will not require access to the Air Force internal information systems network. Communication with the Government will primarily be through telephone, e-mail, and internet conferencing. Cooperator travel to AF installations is anticipated for the supervision of Cooperator employees. For cost estimation purposes, the assumed travel would be three trips to each installation for one person for three nights for the purpose of supervision of Cooperator employees. The table below indicates the proposed locations at which Cooperator assistance is required. Indicated in the table are the number of personnel desired and the "not to exceed" (NTE) days, which are the maximum number of days that can be worked at each location for each Cooperator employee within the designated time period. The designated time period within which services will be determined after award.

LOCATION	**NO. OF PERSONNEL**	**FOCUS AREA**	**NOT TO EXCEED (NTE) DAYS**
Altus AFB	2	Fish and Wildlife Management; Land Management	NTE 130 days
Avon Park AFR	2	Vegetation Inventory/Sampling, Invasive Species Surveys, Fish and Wildlife Management	NTE 140
AK PRSC NR Program (611th CES/CEI)	2	Conservation Program Planning Support; Fish and Wildlife Management	NTE 140 days
611th CES/CEI	1	Cultural Resources	NTE 250 days
Barksdale AFB	1	Conservation Program Planning Support; Fish and Wildlife Management, Wetlands protection and management	NTE 140 days
Bellows AFS	1	Threatened and Endangered Species Management; Wetlands Protection and Management; Land Management; Conservation Program Planning Support	NTE 250
Columbus AFB	1	Threatened and Endangered Species Management; Wetlands Protection and Management; Land Management; Wildlife Surveys	NTE 140 days
Dover AFB	1	Wildlife Surveys; Land Management	NTE 140 days
Eglin AFB, FL	4	Wildlife Management (2); Forestry (2)	NTE 250
Eielson AFB	1	Outdoor Recreation; Wildlife Management; Land Management	NTE 110 days

Hill AFB	1	Cultural Resources	NTE 100 days
Hill AFB and UTTR[1]	1	Wildlife Management	NTE 90 days
JB Charleston	2	Wildlife Management; Forestry, Wildland Fire	NTE 175 days
JB Elmendorf-Richardson, AK	2	Forestry; Avian and Aquatics Intern	Forestry: NTE 125 days Avian and Aquatics: NTE 90 days
JB Elmendorf-Richardson, AK	1	Cultural Resources	NTE 140 days
JBLE-Eustis, VA	1	Cultural Resources	NTE 120 days
JB McGuire Dix Lakehurst	1	Cultural Resources	NTE 100 days
JBSA – Camp Bullis	1	Cultural Resources –	NTE 40 days
JBSA-Camp Bullis	1	Natural Resources Management	NTE 145 days
Little Rock AFB	1	Fish and Wildlife Habitat Improvements; Vegetation Surveys	NTE 120 days
Nellis AFB	2	Office Management; Land Management	NTE 140 days
Offutt AFB[2], McConnell AFB, F.E. Warren AFB, Scott AFB; Wright-Patterson AFB	1	Wildlife Management	NTE 70 days
Shaw AFB	1	Forestry	NTE 140
Sheppard AFB	1	Natural and Cultural Resources, Wildlife Surveys, Program Development/Expansion	NTE 229 days
Tinker AFB	2	Herptile and Fisheries Surveys; Trail and Recreation Fishing Access Improvements; Fish and Wildlife Habitat Improvements; Urban Tree and Forestry Management	NTE 110 days
Tyndall AFB	2	Outdoor Recreation; Wildlife Management	NTE 110 Days
TOTAL:	37		

[1] Primary Duties will be at Utah Test and Training Range. Will require overnight stays M-Th in the dorms at the range. Mission demands for Military lodging may require overnight stays in a camper of tent on range.

[2] Primary location is Offutt AFB. Intern is expected to travel, using their own transportation to the other listed (secondary) locations. Some weekend and holiday work is expected. Travel to secondary locations is expected 60% of the time. Primary duty will be creel surveys to include migratory bird inventory of fisheries, agricultural outlease management, and surveying burrowing terrestrial squirrel habitat.

4. REPORTS, DELIVERABLES, AND SCHEDULES

Deliverables shall be submitted in electronic format to the identified USACE and USAF points of contact (POC).

4.1 Monthly Progress Report.

The Cooperator shall submit monthly electronic progress reports to the USACE and USAF POC summarizing activities as follows:

- Number of days, locations, and activities of Cooperator employees in the program
- Action item support and taskers supported
- Plans, reports, and briefings prepared
- Meetings attended, including purpose/objective, attendees, and items identified for follow-on action
- Schedule changes for Cooperator employees

4.2 Other Deliverables.

Other deliverables shall include:

- Monthly teleconference progress briefings
- A Final Summary Report of Cooperator Accomplishments describing the methodology, data gathered, and work/studies undertaken under this SOO
- Report from temporary Cooperator assigned employee/student at end of appointment describing the project and their experience (essay format).

5. QUALIFICATIONS

The Cooperator shall provide semi-skilled and non-professional seasonal support to assist AF installations with the implementation of projects related to the stewardship of natural resources and cultural resources as indicated in the installation INRMP and ICRMP. Conservation program tasks assigned at each installation are temporary and seasonal in nature. Work assigned to Cooperator employees will require only entry level knowledge in natural and cultural resources management.

6. GOVERNMENT FURNISHED MATERIALS OR PROPERTY

The Air Force will facilitate access to the installation for qualified Cooperator personnel. The Government will provide all policy, information, and guidance to the Cooperator necessary to fulfill the requirements of this PWS. The Government will provide all equipment necessary for Cooperator employees to conduct field surveys and analysis of natural resources data. The Government will provide two-way radio communication capability. The Government will not provide laptop computers or cellular phones to Cooperator employees. Cooperator employees will not require access to Air Force computers or access to the AF information systems network. All materials, records, documents, and files created or used during fulfillment of this support work are the property of the US Government. Cooperator personnel shall not duplicate or transfer materials for personal use. All electronic and hardcopy files and materials shall not be removed from the installation in any form, nor possessed by Cooperator personnel.

7. PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

The Period of Performance (PoP) for this cooperative agreement task shall be 18 months from date of award. The required PoP for each temporary Cooperator employee shall differ by installation and need as indicated in this SOO. The start date and the number of days worked for each Cooperator employee shall be determined by consultation and mutual agreement between the Cooperator and the AF. Each Cooperator employee shall work no more than the NTE days within the time period determined for each installation.

8. QUALITY CONTROL

The Cooperator shall develop and maintain an effective quality control program to ensure services are performed in accordance with this SOO. The Cooperator shall develop and implement procedures to identify and prevent defective services.

9. POINTS OF CONTACT

USACE POC:
Ms. McCullough Wells
Project Manager
1616 Capital Avenue
Omaha, NE 68116
Phone: 402-995-2590
margaret.m.wells@usace.army.mil

USAF Technical POC:
Dr. Paul Jurena
Air Force Civil Engineer Center
ATTN: Paul Jurena, AFCEC/CZTQ
2261 Hughes Avenue, Suite 155
JBSA Lackland, TX 78236-9853
Phone: (210) 925-4448
paul.jurena.1@us.af.mil

10. ADMINISTRATION

10.1 This cooperative agreement 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%).

10.2 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.

[End of SOO]