REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST

NUMBER W9126G-19-2-SOI-8977

PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN 2019

Project Title: Natural Resource Support for 56th Range Management Office (56 RMO), Luke Air Force Base (LAFB)

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest will be used to identify potential investigators for a project to be funded by the US Air Force, which provides professional and technical support for its Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) in order to facilitate successful implementation of the 16 USC 670c-1 Sikes Act. Approximately $113,743.00 is expected to be available to support this project for the base year.

Background:

Provide natural resource environmental expertise on BMGR/LAFB, to include, but not limited to; planning, monitoring, plotting, surveying, evaluating species, and providing optimal management of the installations natural resources.

Type of Award:

In accordance with the Sikes Act (Sec. 103A [16 USC 670c-1]) “the Secretary of a military department may enter into cooperative agreements with States, local governments, Indian Tribes, non-governmental organizations, and individuals” This project is in support of the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan, as directed in the Sikes Act, and as a result, it is anticipated that a cooperative agreement through the CESU program will be awarded. Such awards may be administered through a CESU only upon mutual agreement and official authorization by both parties of the acceptance of the application of the CESU Network IDC rate (17.5%).

Note: Must be a non-federal partner in the CESU Unit to be qualified to be considered.

Brief Description of Anticipated Work:

This project focuses on the following general tasks:
**TASK 1 – MGT, SPECIES, BALD & GOLDEN EAGLES, NURDOS1119**

Luke AFB has been a committee member of the Southwestern Bald Eagle Management Committee since at least the 1990′ and, in 2007, the 56 Fighter Wing became an MOU signatory to the Conservation Assessment and Strategy for the Bald Eagle in Arizona. In 2011, the Southwestern Golden Eagle Management Committee was formed and the 56 FW became a participant on that committee. Both the Bald and Golden Eagle are protected by the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940 and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. Each of these species has the potential to be impacted by military activities, and therefore, it is imperative that the Air Force maintains an understanding of the location of nesting eagles. Such surveys are paramount for the military mission to be in compliance with BGEPA, MBTA, and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Because of their high trophic level, Golden Eagles can be considered an indicator of the overall health of habitats in which they reside, which are among the most threatened in the western United States. In Arizona’s 2012 State Wildlife Action Plan revision, the Golden Eagle was elevated to a Tier 1b species due to concerns for range wide population declines (Arizona Game and Fish Department 2012).

The purpose of this task is to provide continued annual monitoring of Bald Eagle breeding areas via the Nest Watch program. The Non-Federal Entity (NFE) recipient will have adequate experience in working with eagles in the southwestern United States. Based on range access restrictions and mission training activities, field work will often be required to be conducted on weekends and holidays, in addition to normal weekdays. Required field work must be completed based on range access availability.

**TASK 2 – MGT, INVASIVE SPECIES, NURDOS1419, Invasive Weed Control on Barry M. Goldwater Range East**

The purpose of this project is to manage non-native, invasive weeds at BMGR East and prevent the future spread of these plants. Noxious weeds (e.g., Buffelgrasses (*Cenchrus ciliaris*), Fountain grass (*Cenchrus setaceus*), Sahara mustard (*Brassica tournefortii*) provide unnatural fuel for wildfires and crowd out native flora, which leads to an alteration of habitats and foraging resources available to native wildlife. Military training, public recreational activities, and illegal cross-border smuggling all provide avenues for invasion by these non-native species. Continual management efforts are needed to ensure invasive weeds do not become established across the relatively undisturbed Sonoran desert habitat of BMGR East.

The Non-federal Entity (NFE, cooperator) will have adequate experience in conducting non-native weed control within undeveloped areas of the southwestern United States. Supervisory personnel must have experience with mechanical and chemical control of exotic pest plant species. Herbicides shall be applied by licensed pesticide applicators only. Weed control shall comply with DoDI 4150.07 (DoD Pest Management Program), AFI 32-1053 (Integrated Pest
Based on range access restrictions and mission training activities, field work will often be required to be conducted on weekends and holidays, in addition to normal weekdays. Required field work must be completed based on range access availability.

**TASK 3 – MGT, SPECIES, VARIOUS BAT SPP (NURDOS1619)**

**EVALUATING BAT USE ON THE BARRY M. GOLDWATER RANGE EAST**

The overall purpose of this project is to continue to inventory bat species presently inhabiting caves, mines, seeps, springs, crevices, and other potential habitats on BMGR, and provide best management practices to sustain military air training operations, and readiness. These best management practices will provide awareness of habitat use of bat species, and sensitive areas that may impact bat health and overall populations, in order to prevent mission delays. The project’s product will be the continuation of mapping and updating BMGR bat species populations, habitat use, and seasonal distribution. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data such as bat species occurrence, seasonal habitat use, population densities, and known roosting areas will be collected and entered into the Natural Resources GIS data base.

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

**Additional Specific Requirements are as follows:**

**Qualifications include:**

The NFE should provide personnel with the necessary experience and background in order to perform the tasks at and around the BMGR and LAFB:

- Experience with Arizona State, Federal, and applicable environmental Laws and Regs,
- Experience on the Barry M. Goldwater Range and natural resources experience in the State of Arizona are highly desirable,
- The NFE requires a security clearance for unescorted entry into restricted or controlled areas prior to reporting for duty in support of the Task Order. It shall be the responsibility of the NFE to provide all documentation required for security certification. No foreign nationals shall be employed for any task order issued under this contract without prior approval of the Government..
- Personnel must be able to pass drug screening test, obtain and hold a Common Access Card, and pass and hold a National Agency Check with Inquiry (NACI). Personnel entering data into the ESOH EIS Data Base will need to complete a DD Form 2875 System Access Request Form.

**Review of Statements Received:** All statements of interest received will be evaluated by a board comprised of one or more people at the receiving installation or activity, who will determine which statement(s) best meet the program objectives. Based on a review of the Statements of Interest received, an investigator or investigators will be invited to prepare a full
study proposal. Statements will be evaluated based on the investigator’s specific experience and capabilities in areas related to the study requirements.

Please send responses or direct questions to:

USACE
Sandra Justman, Contract Specialist
CESWF-CT
Email: sandra.justman@usace.army.mil
Office: 817-886-1073

Timeline for Review of Statements of Interest: The RSOI are required to be out for a minimum of 10 working days. Review of Statements of Interest will begin AUG 9, 2019.