REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST

NUMBER W9126G-19-2-SOI-8594

PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN 2019

Project Title: Interagency/Interagency, Natural Resources Program Sikes Act Support
United States Air Force Civil Engineer Center (AFCEC) Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland AFB

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest will be used to identify potential investigators for a project to be funded by AFCEC, which provides for professional and technical support for the Air Force Natural Resources Management Program in order to facilitate successful implementation of the Sikes Act (16 USC 670 et seq.). Approximately $439,000 is expected to be available to support this project with option included. Additional funding may be available for follow on work in subsequent fiscal years to the successful Recipient/Awardee.

Background:

This statement of objectives (SOO) defines requirements for natural resources management support to the United States Air Force (AF) Civil Engineer Center, Environmental Management Directorate, Technical Support Division, (AFCEC/CZTQ), as it is the center of expertise for the administration and management of natural resources on Air Force installations. The AF manages lands in all states and territories in accordance with Federal environmental laws and regulations, including the Sikes Act, National Environmental Policy Act, National Historic Preservation Act, Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, and others. Basic Cooperator support shall include accounting services to support the natural resources management program as described in this SOO, and in accordance with Air Force and Department of Defense policy. Additionally, and as an option presented in this SOO, the cooperator may provide technical support for installation conservation programs to ensure that AF, federal, and state environmental regulations are met while minimizing the impact of AF activities on 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” for the maintenance and improvement of natural resources on, or to benefit natural and historical research on, Department of Defense installations. This project is in support of Air Force Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans, 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:

Task 1 (Anchor/Mandatory) Reimbursable Conservation Program Management Assistance. The Cooperator shall provide 2,040 hours of full-time professional natural resources accounting services to assist AFCEC with the preparation and execution of budgets for revenue-generating natural resources programs. Accounting services shall include tracking natural resource program revenues generated by installations, facilitating reimbursements, tracking program obligations, and preparing required quarterly and annual financial reports. Specific reimbursable conservation program requirements are described below. Each of these programs was created by separate congressional statutes and, as such, the financial regulations under which each program operates are different.

1.1. Forest Management Program. 10 U.S.C. § 2665 establishes the rules for forest management activities on Department of Defense installations. The law allows for the reimbursement of appropriations to support forest management. Reimbursements are from current year revenues collected from the sale of timber and other forest products. DoD Financial Management Regulation DOD 7000.14-R, Volume 11a, Chapter 16 provides further information on program accounting requirements. AFCEC tracks forestry revenue and obligations, and periodically reimburses the 3400 or 3080 appropriations to enable obligations that support forest management. At the end of each fiscal year, forty percent of any net revenue (gross revenue – expenses) is paid to the state in which the profit-making installation is located. The remaining net revenue balance is deposited into the DoD Forest Reserve Account (appropriation 5285).

1.2. Forest Reserve Account. Forest Reserve Account funds are essentially prior-year forestry program profits. As explained above, net revenues from forest management programs are disbursed at the end of each fiscal year as either state entitlement payments (40%), or to the Forest Reserve Account (60%). Deposits to the Forest Reserve Account (5285) are sent to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service in Indianapolis (DFAS-IN).
The Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Environment), ADUSD(E), controls the account. Each year, ADUSD(E) hosts a special meeting of the DoD Conservation Committee at which each military service presents their project proposals for funding from the account. AFCEC prepares and presents the Air Force project proposals to the Committee. The DoD Conservation Committee members then prioritize qualifying natural resources project proposals for ultimate review and approval by ADUSD(E). Upon ADUSD(E) approval, Forest Reserve Account funds are issued by DFAS to AFCEC. AFCEC, in turn, either executes the approved projects using in-house resources, or issues funds to installations for local execution.

1.3. Grazing and Cropland Program. Also referred to as the “Agriculture Program”, this activity involves the administration and management of livestock grazing and cropland leases on Air Force property, and the obligation of revenues collected from those leases. 10 U.S.C. § 2667 establishes the guidance for program management. Revenues from agriculture leases are deposited into a suspense account (57F3875.00AG) as a result of Intra-Governmental Payment and Collection (IPAC) transfers from the USACE (for the leases they administer) to the AFCEC suspense account managed by DFAS-LI. Additionally, installations also directly deposit to the centralized AFCEC O&M (3400) reimbursable account. Disbursements are subsequently made from the O&M (3400) or Other Procurement (3080) appropriations to support natural resources program management activities.

1.4. Fish and Wildlife Program. 16 U.S.C. § 670a-f (Sikes Act) established the authority for military installations to collect fees for hunting, fishing, trapping, and outdoor recreation access. User fees are collected into a special 5095 appropriation account established specifically for this program. Disbursements can then be made from the 5095 account as directed by AFCEC to support installation natural resources projects. Unlike other reimbursable conservation programs, revenues collected on an installation may only be used on the installation where they were collected.

1.5. USDA Forest Health Protection Funds. Forest Pest Suppression monies are allocated by Congress to the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) for the agency’s support of forest pest suppression of insect and disease problems on all Federal lands. If an installation believes they have a forest pest problem, they contact the USFS to provide survey support and a biological assessment to determine if control measures are needed. If the USFS indicates a need for control, funding is allocated to the Air Force to execute control measures. AFCEC manages USDA Forest Health Protection funds issued to Air Force, and facilitates the execution of approved projects.

1.6. Basic: Accounting for Reimbursable Conservation Program Vehicles and Equipment. Revenues generated from the sale of forest products, agricultural outleases, and the sale of fish and wildlife permits are used to procure vehicles and other equipment necessary to support these programs. The Cooperator shall provide accounting services to facilitate vehicle and equipment acquisition, and to maintain the inventory of vehicles and equipment owned by the program. AFCEC accounts for, inventories, and documents all equipment...
purchase and maintenance costs for vehicles purchased with Reimbursable Conservation Program funds.

Task 2 (Optional) Integrated Natural Resources Management Planning Assistance. The Cooperator shall provide an additional 2080 hours of technical support to AFCEC/CZTQ to help ensure that installation conservation programs comply with federal, state, Department of Defense, and Air Force environmental regulations while minimizing the impact of military activities on natural resources. The Cooperator shall assist AFCEC/CZTQ with the oversight and management of Air Force Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans (INRMPs), and preparing periodic reports on the status of INRMPs compliant with the Sikes Act criteria. Each Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) is updated annually at the AF installation. The Cooperator shall assist AFCEC/CZTQ with tracking the progress of each INRMP update, and with the review, edit, and insertion of updated text when necessary for compliance with applicable policy and regulations. Assistance shall include the management, formatting, and archiving of installation INRMPs in digital format for ready access by Air Force natural resources managers.

**Period of Performance.** The base period of agreement will extend 12 months from award. Five option periods extending for 12 months each are anticipated pending funds. The mandatory task is 12 months and the optional task is 12 months form award date

**Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications:**

Please provide the following via e-mail attachment to: Sandy Justman, Grant Specialist at sandra.justman@usace.army.mil and Project Manager Zia Burns zia.burns@usace.army.mil (Maximum length: 2 pages, single-spaced 12 pt. font).

1. Name, Organization, Cage Code, Duns number, and Contact Information
2. Brief Statement of Qualifications (including):
   a. Biographical Sketch,
   b. Relevant past projects and clients with brief descriptions of these projects,
   c. Staff, faculty or students available to work on this project and their areas of expertise,
   d. Any brief description of capabilities to successfully complete the project you may wish to add (e.g. equipment, laboratory facilities, greenhouse facilities, field facilities, etc.).

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

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

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