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

REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST

NUMBER W9126G-19-2-SOI-5688

PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN FY 2019

7 May 2019

Project Title: Natural Resources Support: Bird Airstrike Hazard Support, Vance AFB

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 $104,070.00 is expected to be available to support this project.

Background:

The background of the scope is associated with maintenance activities at Site SS007, Vance Air Force Base (AFB), Oklahoma, to meet the existing base requirements for areas designated as Bird Air Strike Hazard (BASH).

Passive Controls, which include grass management, are the most permanent methods of discouraging birds from roosting in dangerous habitats. There are many species of migratory birds on Vance, AFB. The objective of this project is to protect the migratory birds by discouraging them from using airfields as their habitat.

Site SS007 consists of two non-contiguous parcels of land totaling approximately 37 acres as shown in the attached Figure 1, both of which require vegetation maintenance. Site SS007 has an active groundwater extraction system and reinjection system that includes above ground components consisting of 31 extraction, injection, or monitoring wells and above-ground/at-grade piping between wells. Wells are shown in the attached Figure 1. A potential impact to damage of the wells/piping would be release of impacted groundwater to a nearby creek located south of the site. The underground piping is 18-24 inches below ground. The soil isn't compacted for heavy machinery. The land itself is very uneven and there are some large holes. If the piping is damaged it could leak. A leaking pipe should be reported immediately to the

POC. The NFE will be responsible for consulting with the PBR contractor to determine the best method for repair.

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 objectives:

The NFE will mow the site to Base BASH standards as detailed in *Vance AFB Plan 91-2* titled *Bird Aircraft Strike Hazard (BASH) Plan*, dated 4 January 2013 (attached). Mowing requirements are to maintain the grass between a height of 7 and 14 inches.

- Due to the presence of remediation system components, large mowing equipment will not be allowed; it is anticipated that a pull-behind mower shall be used up to 2' from the system. A weed trimmer (or equivalent) shall be used to cut vegetation in the vicinity of above ground remediation system components (i.e., piping, wells, etc. during each mowing event. The ground surface at the site is rough and uneven, which should be taken into account when estimating production rates. The NFE will be held liable and should be bonded incase the mowing causes damages the system.

Additional maintenance activities may include, but not be limited to:

- Use of an herbicide on an as needed basis to control weeds and promote grass growth. Herbicides shall be approved by the Base Entomology shop prior to use.
- Maintain grass growth across the site by planting bare areas and maintaining irrigation until vegetation growth.
- Fertilize on an as-needed basis to selectively stimulate a uniform vegetation cover. Fertilizers will be approved by the Base Entomology shop prior to use.
- Removal of dead vegetation, such as brush piles, grass clippings, hay bales, etc. as needed.
- Removal of dead wildlife.
- Repair of monitoring well system damaged by mowing
- Monthly inspection and maintenance of drainage ditches to keep them clear and free of obstacles.

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.

Period of Performance. The base year of agreement will extend one year from award with the potential of up to 4 optional base years, based on the availability of funding.

Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications:

Please provide the following via e-mail attachment to: sandra.justman@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.

Additional Specific Requirements are as follows:

a. Provides natural resources representative to the BHWG to monitor and advise the group of environmental modification.

b. Works with Wing Safety and Airfield Management to develop procedures for removal and control of wildlife attractants at and around Vance and Kegelman.

c. Facilitates environmental impact analyses as required. (Change 2, 4 Apr 16)

d. Corrects environmental conditions, within their span of control, as identified by Airfield Management or Wing Safety that increase BASH potential at Vance and Kegelman.

e. Modifies airfield habitat consistent with runway lateral and approach zone management criteria per AFI 32-7064. Modifying wildlife habitat beyond the 1,000' distance criterion is desired and will further reduce BASH potential.

f. Reduce BASH potential by incorporating the following practices into the base land management plan:

(1) Managing Grass Height: Maintain a uniform grass height between 7 and 14 inches per AFI 91-202. Do not permit grass to exceed 14 inches, as high grass will attract some wildlife species

and rodents. This in turn can attract raptors (birds of prey). Airfields with a variety of vegetation species may have a fast-growing strain, which reaches 14 inches sooner than the rest of the airfield. Mow when the average vegetation height reaches 14 inches. Obtain assistance in herbicide selection for weed control, appropriate grass seed selection, fertilization and erosion control vegetation from the US Soil Conservation Service or the Agricultural Extension Service as needed.

(2) Controlling Broad-leaved Weeds: Keep broad-leaved weeds to a minimum on the airfield.

(3) Weed Control Program: Use appropriate herbicides to control all weed growth to permit the normal growth of grass. Plan for a prescribed burn in the spring at three to five year intervals. This is a valuable tool for eliminating annual weeds and is cost effective because it reduces herbicide use.

(4) Planting Bare Areas: Note that wildlife frequently use bare areas as resting sites and to obtain grit for digestion. Plant grasses, as necessary, to avoid bare areas and maintain appropriate irrigation.

(5) Fertilizing: Selectively stimulate grasses to promote a uniform cover. Irrigation will be required to support turf growth.

(6) Reducing Edge Effect: Edge effect refers to the highly attractive transition zone between two distinct habitat types (e.g., brush to grassland). Maintain the airfield as uniformly as possible to reduce this effect.

(7) Leveling of Airfield: Level or fill high and low spots on the field to reduce attractiveness to wildlife and prevent standing water. If available, use surplus soil from other airfield projects to accomplish this.

(8) Removing Dead Vegetation: As soon as possible, remove dead vegetation such as brush piles, grass clippings, hay bales, etc.

(9) Removing Dead Wildlife: Remove dead wildlife from the field to avoid attracting scavenging animals.

(10) Maintaining Drainage Ditches: Inspect ditches monthly and keep them clear and obstacle free. Maintain ditch sides as steeply as possible (minimum slope ratio of 5:1) to discourage wading birds and emergent vegetation. Reference the Land Management Plan for procedures.

(11) Eliminating Standing Water: Coordination with the Army Corps of Engineers and the appropriate state environmental permit office is required prior to altering wetlands. Eliminate small ponds or puddles and some large bodies of standing water to reduce attractiveness to birds. Low spot and ditch maintenance is essential.

(12) Employing Erosion Control Vegetation: Use vegetation that is appropriate for the region and supports BASH reduction philosophy, i.e., do not control erosion using plants which produce seeds at heights below 14 to 18 inches.

(13) Eliminate Roosting Sites: Control blackbird and starling roosts by vegetation management of roost sites where possible to include airfield signs and structures. Prune trees or thin its strands to reduce the number of perches available and remove entire trees or stands if necessary. Refer to the UFC 3-260-01.

(14) Bird-proofing Buildings and Hangars: Pigeons', Sparrows' and Starlings' nests frequently occur in buildings and hangars. Denying access by screening windows, closing doors, and blocking entry holes is most effective.

(15) Preventing Other Animal Hazards to Aircraft: Coordinate with the USDA wildlife biologist to use appropriate trapping methods for animals such as coyotes. Consider fencing for deer control. Some species or individual animals may be removed by shooting. Coordinate with the USDA wildlife biologist for all depredation measures. Per AFI 91-202, para 7.3.1.5.8 there is "…zero tolerance toward large free-roaming animals on or adjacent to the aircraft movement area (free-roaming animals are, but not limited to, deer, canines, geese, etc)".

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 **21 May 2019**.