



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

March 1, 2024

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF INTEREST  
W9126G-24-2-SOI-1645**

*Applicants must be a member in one of the following Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units Regions:*

Gulf Coast/Great Plains/Rocky Mountain CESU Regions

**Project Title:** Biological Assessment for Water Draw on the Edwards Aquifer –Joint Base San Antonio for NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE, JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS.

A cooperative agreement is being offered ONLY to members of the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESU) Program Region(s) identified above. Award will be made upon mutual agreement and acceptance of the terms and conditions contained in the request for proposal and the of the recipient's CESU Master Agreement. Note the established CESU Program indirect rate is 17.5%.

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest will be used to identify potential organizations for this project. Approximately **\$138,000** is expected to be available to support this project for the **base period**. Additional funding may be available to the successful recipient for optional tasks and/or follow on work in subsequent years.

**NOTE:** This project will be awarded under the authority of 10 USC 670c-1, **Sikes Act**: For projects for the implementation and enforcement of integrated natural resources management plans, priority shall be given to award to Federal and State agencies having responsibility for the conservation or management of fish or wildlife.

**Period of Performance:** The base year of agreement will be up to 12 months from date of award. There will be no option years.

**Description of Anticipated Work:** See the attached Statement of Objectives

**NOTE:** At this time we are only requesting that you demonstrate available qualifications and capability for performing similar or same type of work by submitting a Statement of Interest. A full proposal and budget are NOT requested at this time.

**Preparation of your Statement of Interest:** Provide the following (Maximum length: 2 pages, single-spaced, 12 pt. font):

1. Name, Organization, Cage Code, Unique Entity ID, and Contact Information (Email)
2. Brief Statement of Qualifications (including):
  - a. Biographical sketch of the Principal Investigator, to include specific experience and

capabilities in areas related to this project's requirements

- 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. Brief description of other capabilities to successfully complete the project: (e.g. equipment, laboratory facilities, greenhouse facilities, field facilities, etc.)

**Submission of Your Statement of Interest**

- 1. Statements of Interest are due by **2:00 P.M., Central Time, on 01 April 2024.**
- 2. Submit your Statement of Interest via e-mail attachments or direct questions to:

Nicholas A. Aprea  
Grants Specialist  
USACE, Fort Worth District  
Email: [nicholas.a.aprea@usace.army.mil](mailto:nicholas.a.aprea@usace.army.mil)

Kelsee F. Crawley  
Project Manager  
USACE, Fort Worth District  
Email: [kelsee.f.crawley@usace.army.mil](mailto:kelsee.f.crawley@usace.army.mil)

**Review of Statements Received:** All statements of interest received from a member of the CESU Region(s) identified above 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: offer the most highly qualified Principal Investigator, have the most relevant experience and the highest capability to successfully meet the program objectives. Submitters whose statements are determined to best meet the program objectives will be invited to submit a full proposal.

**Timeline for Review of Statements of Interest:** RSOI's are required to be posted on [www.Grants.gov](http://www.Grants.gov) for 30 days prior to the Government making a decision and requesting full proposals.

Thank you for your interest in our Cooperative Agreements Program.

*Paige E. Poorman*  
PAIGE E. POORMAN  
Grants Officer

Attachment: Statement of Objectives

**STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES**  
**for**  
**Biological Assessment for Water Draw on the Edwards Aquifer –**  
**Joint Base San Antonio**  
**for**  
**NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE, JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS**

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA) natural resources program ensures military mission activities are conducted in compliance with all applicable environmental laws, regulations, and policies. 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.

1.2 The purpose of this Biological Assessment (BA) is to determine effects of JBSA's groundwater withdrawal on species listed pursuant to Section 4 of the ESA or aquifer dependent species on USFWS five year workplan over the next 15 years. This BA will be submitted to and utilized by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) to develop a Biological Opinion (BO) and Incidental Take Statement for effects of ongoing Edwards Aquifer well withdrawals by JBSA. JBSA withdraws water from the Edwards Aquifer to sustain its military mission. Water use varies at each base depending on the activities supported at that time. Although water use is likely to remain consistent through 2042 (2027 plus 15 years), continued flexibility is required to assure national security. The biological opinion resulting from this BA ensures that JBSA has sufficient groundwater withdrawals to support the existing and foreseeable future missions.

2.0 AUTHORITY

2.1 This cooperative agreement will be awarded using one of the following authorities (Check the appropriate box by double clicking the square):

- 16 U.S.C. § 670(c) (1) – (SIKES ACT)**, USACE Acquisition Instruction (UAI) Part 5101, Version 4 dated 25 Jan 2017, revised July 2018, re-delegation of Authority in 16 U.S.C. §670C-1.
- 10 U.S.C. § 2358** - Research and Development, UAI Part 5101.

- 10 U.S.C. § 2684a** - Agreements to limit encroachments and other constraints on military training, testing, and operations, UAI Part 5101.
- 10 U.S.C. § 2684** – Cultural Resources, Delegation of Authority under Title 10 United States Code, Section 2684 – Cooperative Agreements for Management of Cultural Resources.
- 10 U.S.C. § 2701d** - Responsibilities under the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP), UAI Part 5101.

In agreement with the above stated goals, the recipient agrees to provide the necessary personnel, equipment, and materials required to implement, activities to support the installation's commitment toward environmental stewardship to manage natural and cultural resources in a responsible way that has the least impact on military missions and is beneficial to the region. In addition, the activities performed by the recipient must be completed in a manner conducive to guidelines outlined in the Endangered Species Act (16 USC 1531 et seq.), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 USC 1361 et seq.), National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. 300101 et seq.), Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.), the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.), the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), applicable implementing regulations, AFMAN 32-7003, and any other applicable regulatory guidelines.

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.), 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.

2.3 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.), 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 are not limited to, the following:

- JBSA is involved in development of study methodology, data gathering, analysis, and/or report writing.
- JBSA actively participates and collaborates in carrying out the project plan of work, reviews and approves activities, helps train, or select project staff or trainees.
- JBSA will participate in status meetings including kick-off meeting and document reviews.

### 3.0 DESCRIPTION OF OBJECTIVES

3.1 Complete required biological assessment of JBSA water draw on the Edwards Aquifer that fulfills the requirements of the United States Fish and Wildlife Services.

- Examine historical and current JBSA water withdrawal from the Edwards aquifer for existing and future mission requirements.
- Recipient will coordinate and meet with large water users on the installation to include aircraft maintenance, FSS, LRS, and others as directed by the JBSA NRM. During these coordination meetings, each water user will document current water conservation measures currently in place and any deviation from conservation for safety reasons.
- Recipient must include all species listed pursuant to Section 4 of the ESA and USFWS 5-yr workplan species in their biological assessment.
- Review and analyze the effects of the JBSA water withdrawal on the species in terms of effects to both individuals and populations, including consideration of cumulative effects of the proposed usage on the species and its habitat.
- Review literature and scientific data to determine species distribution, habitat needs, and other biological requirements.
- Address the potential effect of JBSA's water withdrawal on the Comal and San Marcos spring flows associated with the Edwards aquifer.
- Detail current conservation efforts that have been implemented
- Analyze alternative actions that may provide conservation measures.
- Evaluate and include the quantity of water contributed by Camp Bullis into the Edwards aquifer.
- Include a discussion of study methods used and other relevant information.

- Utilize historical biological assessments and biological opinions within this current biological assessment.
- Recipient will consult with JBSA natural resources manager (NRM) on progress, drafts, and updates.

The Biological Assessment must meet the following objectives:

1. Support and document ESA Section 7 consultation between JBSA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).
2. Provide information and analyses as part of the official record that will assist in the consultation process.
3. Document the JBSA Determination of Effect from the existing water draw allocation of 12,012 acre-feet a year to meet anticipated mission activities.
4. The BA must include all information required for formal consultation (50 CFR §402.14)

#### 4.0 QUALIFICATIONS

- 4.1 The recipient shall be familiar with 50 CFR Part 402 and applicable implementing regulations and must comply with them in preparing the biological assessment.
- 4.2 The biological assessment must adhere to all federal, state, local, DoD, and Air Force requirements.
- 4.3 The recipient shall provide the electronic final report as a Microsoft Word document and as one single PDF, including maps, supporting documentation, etc.
- 4.4 The recipient must be able to obtain appropriate permits and/or certification for new employees or requirements during the performance period within 30 days of Notice to Proceed.
- 4.5 The recipient must have a great deal of experience on military installations throughout the United States and be prepared for the demands of invasive species eradication requires.
- 4.6 The recipient must have worked with state and federal entities (e.g., Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, etc.) and other stakeholders to synergize research programs and management plans.
- 4.7 Due to the complexity of issues, previous knowledge of military natural ecosystems management is preferred over other natural resources management system experience. Specific knowledge of the Endangered Species Act, Sikes Act, Clean Water Act/Wetlands of the US, and INRMP compliance and implementation is highly preferred.

- 4.8 The recipient must be able to perform field work in all times and under all conditions such as but not limited to high temperatures, high humidity, nighttime, weekends, remote areas, and varying habitat types.
- 4.9 The recipient shall be available to discuss questions arising from US Fish and Wildlife Service during their review process.

5.0 GOVERNMENT FURNISHED MATERIALS OR PROPERTY

5.1 Physical Data: JBSA will provide maps, previous reports, master plans, INRMP, as are available. JBSA will provide access to all available historical biological assessments, biological opinions, well withdrawal logs, and applicable documents.

5.2 Facility: JBSA will facilitate access and communications (meetings in person or virtually) for the recipient on to the base. There will be no need to access any facilities on base for the purposes of this SOO.

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 BASE PERIOD and OPTIONS


Project will be twelve (12) months and no option periods or optional tasks.

7.0 PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

Period of Performance will begin with the Notice to Proceed (NTP) and expire after 12-months from the date of the NTP.

8.0 COORDINATION

**USACE Project Manager (Primary)**

Kelsee F. Crawley  
Project Manager  
Regional Planning and Environmental Center  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers   
819 Taylor Street  
Fort Worth, TX 76102  
[kelsee.f.crawley@usace.army.mil](mailto:kelsee.f.crawley@usace.army.mil)  
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Joint Base San Antonio, Texas AFCEC/CZOW POC  
Jacob Owen, Natural Resource Installation Support, JBSA

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JBSA POC  
Rustin Tabor, Natural Resources Manager  
Office Phone: 210-295-8339  
[rustin.tabor@us.af.mil](mailto:rustin.tabor@us.af.mil)

## 9.0 DELIVERABLES

9.1 A kickoff meeting, arranged by the recipient and including the AFCEC POC, installation POC, and USACE Project Manager, shall be held via telephone or virtually within 30 days of the award and prior to September 30<sup>th</sup> of the Award year.

9.2 Progress Reports - One (1) typed letter report describing progress on the project. The report shall be due within 10 days of the end of each 3-month period (**quarterly**) and shall be transmitted via electronic mail, facsimile, or regular 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.

9.3 Annual Inventory – Required under 2CFR for Grants and Cooperative Agreements - 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 every two years. Copies of the inventory to be sent annually to USACE – SWF and the JBSA NRM.

9.4 Annual Report per 2CFR. One (1) paper copy of an annual report should be submitted no later than one month before end of each year. At a minimum, the report shall contain an introduction section, and one section for each Task identified in your proposal. For each Task, the report shall summarize work accomplished for the Task. JBSA NR's staff will review and provide comments, if any, within fifteen (15) calendar days after receipt.

9.5 Draft Final Project Report. One (1) paper copy of a draft final report should be submitted no later than one month before end of the project. At a minimum, the report shall contain an introduction section, and one section for each Task identified in your proposal. For each Task, the report shall summarize work accomplished for the Task. JBSA NR's staff will review and provide comments, if any, within fifteen (15) calendar days after receipt. Must provide an electronic copy to the USACE POC at the time this document is submitted to the Installation POC.



9.6 Final Project Report. One (1) paper copy of the final report, incorporating JBSANRM review comments on the draft, if any, shall be submitted no later than fifteen (15) days after receipt of the JBSA NRM comments. Additionally, one (1) copy of the final report shall be submitted in a MSWord file(s), on digital media. Must provide an electronic copy to the USACE POC at the time this document is submitted to the Installation POC.

9.7 All data collected and/or created on JBSA for this scope to include but not limited to all hard and digital databases, spreadsheets, calculations used for results, field notes, filed data sheets, and GIS shapefiles and geo bases. The installation is requirement to steward endangered species data and to implement endangered species management decisions.

9.8 Data Rights: The Air Force (AF) has unlimited rights to all documents/material produced under this agreement. All documents and materials, to include the source codes of any software, produced under this agreement shall be AF owned and are the property of the AF with all rights and privileges of ownership/copyright belonging to the AF. These documents and materials cannot be used or sold by the recipient without written permission for the AF. All materials supplied to the AF shall be property of the AF and cannot be used for any other purpose. The right does not abrogate any other AF rights under the applicable Data Rights clause(s). The recipient shall ensure that all documents of reports produced by the recipient are suitably marked as recipient's products or that recipient's participation is appropriately disclosed.

10.0 This cooperative agreement may be administered through 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%).

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.