



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

July 17, 2023

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF INTEREST
 W9126G-23-2-SOI-3729**

Project Title: Monitoring Endangered Cave Spring Population on the Property of the Garrison at Redstone Arsenal in Support of the Threatened and Endangered Species Program Support: Aquatic Species of Concern at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest will be used to identify potential organizations for this project. Approximately **\$45,568.00** 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 16 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 period of agreement will extend 18 months from date of award. There may be up to four 18-month follow-on periods based on availability of funding. Follow-on period fieldwork will begin from the date of award and extend at least 12 months with an additional 6 months for reporting, totaling an 18-month period of performance for each follow-on period (with 6 months of overlap with prior period).

Base Period - 18 Months	Months 1, 2, 3	Months 4, 5, 6	Months 7, 8, 9	Months 10, 11, 12	Months 13, 14, 15	Months 16, 17, 18														
Follow-on Period 1 - 18 Months			Months 1, 2, 3	Months 4, 5, 6	Months 7, 8, 9	Months 10, 11, 12	Months 13, 14, 15	Months 16, 17, 18												
Follow-on Period 2 - 18 Months					Months 1, 2, 3	Months 4, 5, 6	Months 7, 8, 9	Months 10, 11, 12	Months 13, 14, 15	Months 16, 17, 18										
Follow-on Period 3 - 18 Months							Months 1, 2, 3	Months 4, 5, 6	Months 7, 8, 9	Months 10, 11, 12	Months 13, 14, 15	Months 16, 17, 18								
Follow-on Period 4 - 18 Months												Months 1, 2, 3	Months 4, 5, 6	Months 7, 8, 9	Months 10, 11, 12	Months 13, 14, 15	Months 16, 17, 18			

Description of Anticipated Work: See 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 5:00 P.M., Central Time, on **12 August 2023**.
2. Submit your Statement of Interest via e-mail attachments or direct questions to:
Paige E. Poorman
Grants Specialist
USACE, Fort Worth District
mail: **paige.e.poorman@usace.army.mil**
Office: 817-886-1124
Chanley Jenkins
Project Manager
USACE, Fort Worth District
Email: **chanley.r.jenkins@usace.army.mil**
Office: 918-798-9628

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 for 30 days prior to the Government making a decision and requesting full proposals.

Thank you for your interest in our Cooperative Agreements Program.

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Grant Officer

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Attachment: Statement of Objectives

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES
for
Monitoring Endangered Cave Spring Population on the Property of the Garrison at
Redstone Arsenal in Support of the
Threatened and Endangered Species Program Support: Aquatic Species of Concern
at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The Redstone Arsenal environmental 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 This work requires an onsite support person located at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama. The work shall involve continuing the previously established monitoring program through water sampling and testing, and continuing quarterly habitat monitoring of Williams Spring and annual monitoring of the Tuscumbia Darter population in Williams Spring.

1.3 The knowledge gained from this effort will allow the Redstone Arsenal the opportunity to update current species management plans in order to support regional conservation goals and objectives as outlined in Redstone Arsenal's INRMP

2.0 AUTHORITY

2.1 This cooperative agreement will be awarded using one of the following authorities:

- 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 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

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, Army Regulations 200-1, 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:

- 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. Examples include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - Providing access support such as escorting and improvement of access routes to provide ease of access to sampling site;
 - Assisting in taking water samples as needed;
 - Providing chain of custody forms and transporting samples to installation laboratory, if needed.

3.0 DESCRIPTION OF OBJECTIVES

3.1 Task 1: Evaluating Groundwater

Evaluating the groundwater characteristics within the Bobcat and Matthews Caves areas using trace metals, nutrients, and other water quality parameters (conductivity, pH, concentrations of Na⁺, K⁺, Mg²⁺, Ca²⁺, Cl⁻, SO₄²⁻, and HCO₃⁻);

3.2 Task 2: Sampling Bobcat Cave Groundwater

Sampling groundwater from Bobcat Cave to establish background levels of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS); analysis and reporting of results will be the responsibility of the Department of the Army;

3.3 Task 3: Evaluating Surface Water Runoff

Evaluating water quality and discharge rates of surface water runoff at selected locations to quantify contamination threats to the existing Alabama Cave Shrimp and Tuscumbia Darter populations in response to changing land use conditions;

3.4 Task 4: Karts Assessment

Locating and assessing habitat in other karst features on RSA for potential populations of Alabama Cave Shrimp;

3.5 Task 5: Finalize Recharge Boundaries

Using data collected from Responsibilities (1-4) to finalize recharge boundaries for the project area;

3.6 Task 6: Cave Shrimp Population Monitoring

Performing annual monitoring of the Alabama Cave Shrimp population in Bobcat Cave;

3.7 Task 7: Tuscumbia Darter Population Monitoring

Performing annual monitoring of the Tuscumbia Darter population in Williams Spring;

3.8 Task 8: USACE Reporting
Submitting quarterly and final reports to the USACE;

3.9 Task 9: Financial Reporting
Submitting an SF425 Financial Report at the end of the project year to the USACE;

3.10 Task 10: Payment
Submitting payment requests to the USACE staff.

4.0 QUALIFICATIONS

4.1 Qualifications of Project Lead

4.1.1 The project lead shall, at a minimum, possess a Master of Science (M.S.) in Biology with a certification/minor in Fisheries. The Project Lead shall have a minimum of 25 years of professional work experience that includes knowledge of mussel, crayfish and fish distribution and taxonomy. Subject shall have a minimum of 15 years experience overseeing and performing water sampling and watershed investigations.

4.2 Qualifications of Project Principal Investigator for Groundwater

4.2.1 The role of the Project Principal Investigator shall be to support groundwater monitoring. Subject shall have experience investigating multiple hydrogeological water resource and water quality studies in karst terranes.

4.3 Qualifications of the Project Principal Investigator for Groundwater

4.3.1 The Groundwater principal investigator shall have a Ph.D. in Biological Sciences with experience working with Alabama rivers and streams, conducting field sampling, watershed investigations, and public outreach.

5.0 GOVERNMENT FURNISHED MATERIALS OR PROPERTY

5.1 Physical Data: Reports from previous testing performed in support of the Alabama Cave Shrimp program.

5.2 Facility: N/A (Work is performed in the field).

5.3 Equipment: N/A

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 FOLLOW-ON PERIODS:** This project will have a base period of 18 months and 4 follow-on periods beyond the base period.

7.0 **PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE**

7.1 Base Effort – Work will begin from the date of award and extend 18 months in total. Fieldwork will occur for a minimum of the first 12 months of the period of performance, with annual and cumulative analyses and reporting occurring within the 18-month period of performance. These elements are non-severable.

7.2 Follow-on Periods – Four 18-month follow-on periods. Follow-on period awards will occur 12 months after the base effort is awarded and annually thereafter for each follow-on period. This allows for continuous fieldwork (each 12 months) with overlapping periods of performance for analyses and reporting. Thus, fieldwork will begin from the date of award and extend at least 12 months with an additional 6 months for reporting, totaling an 18-month period of performance for each follow-on period (with 6 months of overlap with prior period).

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8.0 **COORDINATION**

USACE Project Manager (Primary)

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 Regional Planning and Environmental Center
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
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US Army Garrison – Environmental Management Division – Cultural and Natural Resources Branch, Redstone Arsenal, AL
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Cell. (256) 783-1718

9.0 DELIVERABLES

9.1 Project Schedule

September 15, 2023: Project initiation.

October 2023: Perform population evaluation of Alabama Cave Shrimp at Bobcat Cave; assess habitat in other karst features for potential Alabama Cave Shrimp populations.

October 2023 - December 2023: Conduct quarterly sampling of groundwater from Bobcat and Matthews Caves, surface water from Williams Spring, and stormwater from selected sites.

January 2024 – March 2024: Conduct quarterly sampling of groundwater from Bobcat and Matthews Caves, surface water from Williams Spring, and stormwater from selected sites.

April 2024 – June 2024: Conduct quarterly sampling of groundwater from Bobcat and Matthews Caves, surface water from Williams Spring, and stormwater from selected sites.

July 2024 – September 2024: Conduct quarterly sampling of groundwater from Bobcat and Matthews Caves, surface water from Williams Spring, and stormwater from selected sites.

August 2024: Perform population evaluation of Alabama Cave Shrimp at Bobcat Cave and Tusculumbia Darter at Williams Spring.

September 2024: Evaluate groundwater level, water quality, and population data and prepare final report.

March 2024: Submit final project report to USACE.

4.1 Reporting Submittal

A final report will be submitted to the USACE at the conclusion of the project that includes text detailing the methods involved during the study, mathematics/statistics used in calculating results, analytical results, and explanation of the project, tables, and maps that can be used to evaluate the re-defined source water protection area boundary and to identify potential sources of contamination. In addition, progress reports will be submitted on a quarterly basis, and a final report will be submitted upon work completion NLT the end of the 18 mo period.

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.