REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST

NUMBER W9126G-16-2-SOI-0003

PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN 2016

Project Title: Fort Polk Conservation Program Support

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest will be used to identify potential investigators for a project to be funded by Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) and Fort Polk which provides professional and technical support for its Conservation Program in order to facilitate successful implementation of the 16 USC 670c-1 Sikes Act. Approximately $1,203,000.00 is expected to be available to support this project. Additional funding may be available for follow on work in subsequent fiscal years to the successful Recipient/Awardee.

Background:

The project area covered under this request for statements of interest is within Fort Polk, Louisiana, United States. The Environmental and Natural Resources Management Division (ENRMD) at Fort Polk, Louisiana is responsible for assisting to the Installation in complying with a broad range of environmental laws and regulations. Fort Polk is the home of the Joint Readiness Training Center which conducts realistic light infantry training for the Army’s Light Infantry, Airborne, Ranger and Special Operations Forces. It is also home of several deployable resident units. In order to support the training, housing and administrative activities for these units, Fort Polk utilizes 231,669 acres of Army administered land and 100,000 acres of US Forest Service land, but may also be initiated on other federal, state, or private land several hundred miles from the Installation.

The ENRMD Conservation Branch consists of multiple program areas including Cultural Resources Management, Pest Control, Endangered Species Management, NEPA compliance, and Natural Resources Management. The programs are managed in accordance with approved management plans, including the INRMP, the Endangered Species Management Plan (ESMP), the ICRMP, and the Installation Pest Management Plan (IPMP). Supporting each of these major program plans are Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for carrying out the specific management activities. Implementation of the management plans and supporting SOPs help to ensure compliance with environmental laws and regulations; maintenance of quality training
lands on Fort Polk to accomplish JRTC and Fort Polk’s critical military mission on a sustained basis; and, natural resources conservation measures and Army military mission activities are integrated and consistent with federal stewardship requirements. Compliance NEPA is obtained through implementation of the Army’s guiding regulation (32 CFR Part 651), while Natural Resources of the Installation are managed in accordance with the Fort Polk’s INRMP. Adherence to NEPA and the INRMP provide a platform to analyze impacts to the environment prior to initiation of Army activities and maintain quality training lands following implementation.

**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 research focuses on the following objectives:

1) **Objective 1:** INRMP PROGRAM SUPPORT – support to execute INRMP management includes program oversight support; game, non-game, fish and wildlife, and botanical subject matter expertise support; game, nongame, and botanical invasive species technical support

2) **Objective 2:** ADVISORY SERVICES SUPPORT OF CONSECRATION PROGRAM – support to execute Conservation Program Advisory Capacity – includes NEPA Analyses – tacking of mitigation commitments and land rehabilitation; tracking of integrated efforts;

3) **Objective 3:** ENDANGERED SPECIES PROGRAM SUPPORT- support to execute ESMC management includes program oversight support; data management and field activities technical support

4) **Objective 4:** GIS repository and maintained system overlays for integrated components of Conservation Program.

**Period of Performance.** The base year of agreement will extend one year from award. Four option periods extending for one year are anticipated pending funds.
Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications:

Please provide the following via e-mail attachment to: lucille.r.smith@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:

USACE
Lucille Smith, Contract Specialist
CESWF-CT
Email: lucille.r.smith@usace.army.mil
Office: 409-766-3845

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 31 May 2016.