



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

July 15, 2024

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF INTEREST  
W9126G-24-2-SOI-3659**

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

Great Rivers/Great Plains/Rocky Mountains CESU Regions

**Project Title:** Baseline Biological Surveys at Naval Radio Transmitter Facility  
LaMoure, North Dakota

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 **\$221,000** is expected to be available to support this project for the **base period**.

**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 will be 28 months from the date of award. The 28 period of period of performance will start with field work in the spring of 2025 through the summer and conducting a second field season from spring to summer 2026 with an additional few months to compile the report.

**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 **12:00 P.M., Central Time, on 16 AUG 2024.**
2. Submit your Statement of Interest via e-mail attachments or direct questions to:

Sandy Justman  
Grants Specialist  
USACE, Fort Worth District  
Email: [sandra.justman@usace.army.mil](mailto:sandra.justman@usace.army.mil)  
Office: 817-866-1073

Brian Hesford, Project Manager  
USACE, Fort Worth District  
Email: [brian.d.hesford@usace.army.mil](mailto:brian.d.hesford@usace.army.mil)  
Office: 402-200-8268

**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  
Grants Officer

Attachment: Statement of Objectives

**STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES**  
**BASELINE BIOLOGICAL SURVEYS**  
**for**  
**NAVAL RADIO TRANSMITTER FACILITY LAMOURE, LAMOURE**

Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Unit (CESU) Cooperative Agreement

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The Naval Station Everett environmental program ensures military mission activities are conducted in compliance with all applicable environmental laws, regulations and policies within its Area of Responsibility (including Naval Radio Transmitter Facility LaMoure). 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 work shall involve travel to Naval Radio Transmitter Facility (NRTF) LaMoure on multiple occasions to conduct species surveys and collect data. The 835-acre NRTF LaMoure site contains a 1200-foot-tall tower and several buildings supporting a communications mission. A wide variety of habitats occur on the site such as freshwater wetland complexes, mixed prairie, and agricultural lands, which support a diverse wildlife community. The facility contains over 350 acres of wetlands and open water habitats that support a variety of wading birds and waterfowl. Extensive communities of native host and food plants for pollinators (such as milkweeds) are present in the prairie areas. The comprehensive surveys of the installation uplands and wetlands will fill baseline data gaps needed to update the Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan for NRTF LaMoure and inform management actions that will proactively benefit species considered for listing under the Endangered Species Act.

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)**

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. In general, cooperative agreements must carry out a public purpose of support or stimulation; however, under the authority of the Sikes Act (16 USC 670c-1 (c) (2)), notwithstanding chapter 63 of Title 31 (31 U.S.C. § 6301 et seq), a cooperative agreement under this section may be used to acquire property or services for the direct benefit or use of the United States Government.

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:

- Naval Station Everett and Navy Region NW (NRNW) core staff are involved in development of study methodology, data gathering, analysis, and/or report writing.
- Naval Station Everett and NRNW core staff actively participate and collaborate in carrying out the project plan of work, reviews and approves activities, helps train or select project staff or trainees.

### 3.0 DESCRIPTION OF OBJECTIVES

3.1 Task 1: Project coordination, planning, and management

The cooperators will schedule a kick-off meeting on MS Teams and any other needed coordination meetings; prepare plan of action and milestones (POAM) to be discussed during the kick-off meeting; schedule and coordinate field activities with the appropriate Navy personnel; and send monthly emails to the Navy PM and NSE Natural Resources Manager during the field season, summarizing field efforts and a general description of results from fieldwork. Progress reports will also include the following: a. any problems encountered, b. proposed solutions to the problems with estimated schedule impacts, and c. an update to the schedule or study plan if ordered by the Navy through coordination with the cooperators. The POAM will provide a schedule for all project tasks to include start and end dates. In addition, the cooperators will provide all information necessary to obtain security badges for all personnel and vehicles requiring access to NRTF LaMoure. The cooperators will submit the information necessary to obtain the security badges at least three weeks in advance of required access.

### 3.2 Avian Surveys

Surveys will inventory the native bird species, including migratory and resident species, identify habitats and locations used, and document seasonality and approximate abundance. Surveys must be timed to cover both the spring and fall migrations, as well as the summer breeding season. A variety of methods and technologies can be used, but may be limited to certain locations or times depending on the transmitter operations and whether the signal will affect electronic equipment. Use of drones will not be permitted. Any incidental observations of bird strikes on the tower or wires, or discovery of carcasses, should be noted.

### 3.3 Invertebrate Surveys

Surveys will inventory the native invertebrate species, document seasonality and approximate abundance, map locations for habitat (including host and food plants), and identify invasive species to be controlled. Invertebrate surveys should focus on butterflies, given the species proposed or listed under the Endangered Species Act. A variety of methods and technologies can be used, but may be limited to certain locations or times depending on the transmitter operations and whether the signal will affect electronic equipment. Use of drones will not be permitted.

### 3.4 Other Species Surveys

Surveys for other species must include, at a minimum, incidental observations of any other mammal, reptile, amphibian, or plant species while conducting surveys for the two tasks above. Additional targeted effort is desired, but not required. Bat species are being covered in a separate study and do not need to be surveyed as part of this project (incidental observations are still desired).

## 4.0 QUALIFICATIONS

- Survey lead must be able to identify bird, invertebrate, mammal, reptile, amphibian and plant species native to the north plains region with the emphasis on identifying bird and butterfly species. Preferably, all surveyors have experience identifying birds and butterflies in the region.
- All survey personnel must be able to pass a background check to gain site access

## 5.0 GOVERNMENT FURNISHED MATERIALS OR PROPERTY

5.1 Physical Data: The Navy can provide GIS data for the facility and natural resources if a non-disclosure agreement is signed.

5.2 Facility: The Navy will provide access to the facility for the cooperator personnel who obtain badges.

5.3 Equipment: None

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

The period of performance would preferably be for two field seasons making the total 28 months to cover reporting. There will be no options as funding is only available this fiscal year.

7.0 PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

7.1 Base Period - 28 months from the date of award.

The 28 period of period of performance will start with field work in the spring of 2025 through the summer and conducting a second field season from spring to summer 2026 with an additional few months to compile the report.

8.0 COORDINATION

USACE POC  
Brian Hesford, PM  
[Brian.d.hesford@usace.army.mil](mailto:Brian.d.hesford@usace.army.mil)  
(402) 200-8268

Forester - Matthew Ridgway  
[matthew.d.ridgway.civ@us.navy.mil](mailto:matthew.d.ridgway.civ@us.navy.mil)  
(253)-640-5998

Natural resources specialist - Christina Coppenrath,  
[christina.m.coppenrath.civ@us.navy.mil](mailto:christina.m.coppenrath.civ@us.navy.mil)

Natural Resources Manager Alicia Higgs  
[alicia.m.higgs.civ@us.navy.mil](mailto:alicia.m.higgs.civ@us.navy.mil)  
(425) 304-3464

LaMoure Site Director – Karin Baker  
[karin.m.baker.civ@us.navy.mil](mailto:karin.m.baker.civ@us.navy.mil)  
(701) 883-5227

## 9.0 POST AWARD REQUIREMENTS & INVOICE PROCESSES

Payment Requests and Progress Reports (Invoice Package) - Submit Payment Request and additional required documents to: [swf-cesu-invoice@usace.army.mil](mailto:swf-cesu-invoice@usace.army.mil). Carbon Copy the assigned USACE Project Manager as well as your organization's point of contacts (POCs) for the additional required documents and for delinquent accounts.

Frequency: Quarterly plus 30-day grace period (except for the final invoice package noted below). If the coverage dates are not quarterly or preapproved by the PM (or the first/last submittal), the invoice package will be **rejected**.

<b>Quarters</b>	<b>Invoice pkgs due No Later Than (NLT):</b>
Q1: Oct-Dec	Q1: 31 Jan
Q2: Jan-Mar	Q2: 30 Apr
Q3: Apr-Jun	Q3: 30 Jul
Q4: Jul-Sep	Q4: 31 Oct

Payment Requests **must** be submitted on form SF270 Request for Advance or Reimbursement **with the accompanying Standard Form-Performance Progress Report (SF-PPR), otherwise the SF270 will be rejected.**

SF270 Request for Advance or Reimbursement

Block 9, Recipient Organization. **For successful set up of Electronic Transfer of Funds (EFT), the Recipient's name and address shall reflect the exact name and physical address that appears in the System for Award Management (SAM), <https://sam.gov/>.**

Blocks 11, (a), (b), & (c) are for the description of funds. Preferred description is: CLIN/POP Type, POP start and end dates, amount awarded (see example below); at minimum include the CLIN. If the description or the minimum CLIN information is missing, the **SF270 and SF-PPR will be rejected.**

Example:

**CLIN 0001 / Base**  
**22SEP23 – 21SEP24**  
**\$100,000.00**

Funding must be separated as specified on the Award document. Sub-CLINs that specify "*for funding only*" (e.g., numbered 000101, 000102, etc.) may be rolled into the primary CLIN (e.g., 0001) unless otherwise instructed. All others required PM approval.

The SF270 may have multiple pages. An SF270 in Excel format may be requested at: [swf-cesu-invoice@usace.army.mil](mailto:swf-cesu-invoice@usace.army.mil), however, **must be submitted in pdf format otherwise will be rejected.**

SF-PPR Standard Form-Performance Progress Report : The Recipient shall tailor the SF-PPR to include, at minimum, the following information:

- Separate details by CLIN as applicable
- Achievements (must detail work during quarter associated with the invoice)
- Percent Completion

- Project Status
- Problems encountered and impact of activities and personnel on schedule.
- Anticipated work in next reporting period.

**If the SF-PPR is incomplete, the SF-PPR and SF270 will be rejected.**

A tailored SF-PPR form may be requested at: [swf-cesu-invoice@usace.army.mil](mailto:swf-cesu-invoice@usace.army.mil).

The **Final** invoice package is due no later than 90 days from final (funded/exercised) POP end date and must include the following documents: If any of the required information below is missing, the final invoice package will be **rejected**.

Final SF270

SF-PPR

Final SF425

DD882

SF428 plus attachment B (C&S if applicable)

SF298

Final Report

Forms may be requested from the district office at [swf-cesu-invoice@usace.army.mil](mailto:swf-cesu-invoice@usace.army.mil) or found at: <https://www.grants.gov/forms>.

## 9.1 DELIVERABLES

- Meeting minutes for kick-off or any other key meetings.
- Field Data and Photos. The cooperator will provide all files associated with final approved documents to the Navy PM in native file format (including raw data, photos, figures, and references).
- Progress Reports—One (1) typed letter report describing progress on the project. The report shall be due as of the last day of the third month (quarterly) and shall be transmitted via electronic mail, facsimile, or regular mail NLT 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.
- GIS Files. The cooperator will develop geospatial data files and products, as necessary, to help perform and document the above tasks. All geospatial data shall meet the electronic data deliverable specifications of the Navy GeoReadiness Center. Specifications will be provided to the USFS PM by the Navy PM. USFS will provide all geospatial data to the Navy PM in native file format including associated metadata (e.g., shapefile, geodatabase, Excel, Access). This includes all USFS-generated electronic files and appropriate references for, or links to, accessible GIS base layers of third parties used to create any printed or electronic map, so that NRNW has the capability to open and manipulate any geospatial feature.



- Draft Final Project Report. One (1) MSWord file 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. Reports will include summary statistics of the data collected as well as graphics as visual aids to interpret and summarize data, as appropriate. All reports shall state on the cover page "Funded by U.S. Navy under funding document #X", and shall include a suggested citation. Navy 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 Navy POC.
- Final Project Report. One (1) MSWord file and one (1) PDF of the final report, incorporating Navy review comments on the draft, if any, shall be submitted no later than fifteen (15) days after receipt of the Navy comments. Must provide an electronic copy to the USACE POC at the time this document is submitted to the Installation POC.
- All submittals/deliverables are expected to be of the highest professional quality and will be rejected if any of the following exists:
  - The document has considerable typographical errors, spelling, or grammar mistakes.
  - Results and discussion are not tied directly to the goal and objectives outlined in this agreement.
  - The document is not organized in a manner that flows well.
  - The document does not provide appropriate context, background, literature review, and comparison to other relevant studies, locations, and similar species.
  - The document is not fully formatted. Necessary components include functional table of content links, consistent fonts/styles throughout document, accurate page numbers, accurate and complete stand-alone appendices (if applicable), accurate and functional figure titles, table titles, section headers, and table of contents.
  - Abbreviations and acronyms are not consistent throughout each submitted document.
- Confidentiality. The cooperator shall not respond to any inquiries about this project from the news media, non-governmental organizations, and/or other persons during the term of this agreement unless the agency has first consulted with the Navy. All inquiries shall be directed to the NSE Public Affairs Officer and the Navy PM. All maps and photographs produced in relation to this project must be approved by the NSE Public Affairs Officer before being released to the public, including, but not limited to, scientific presentations and publications.

10.0 This cooperative agreement 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%).

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.

