

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT (FOA)

Funding Agency: US Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District PO Box 6898 JBER AK 99506	Funding Instrument: CESU (Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit) Cooperative Agreement Funding Opportunity No: W911KB-22-2-0007 CFDA No: Program Authority: 16 U.S.C. 670c-1 (Sikes Act)
Issue Date: 28 February 2022	Application Due Date: 30 March 2022
Overview:	
(CESU Partners Only) AFCEC ENVIRONMENTAL GIS SUPPORT PACAF Air Force Installations	
Estimated Total Funding: \$816,068.00	Estimated Number of Awards: 1
Contents of Full Text Announcement	
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<p>Contact Information: Questions relating to Grants.gov including the registration process and system requirements should be directed to the Grants.gov Contact Center at 1-800-518-4726. For assistance with the requirements of this Funding Opportunity Announcement, please contact the Grants Officer, Kimberly.d.tripp@usace.army.mil</p>	
<p>Instructions to Applicants: The complete funding opportunity announcement, application forms, and instructions are available for download at Grants.gov.</p> <p>Applications in response to this Funding Opportunity Announcement shall be submitted by the application due date. Applications may be submitted by mail, email, or via the internet through Grants.gov.</p> <p>Applicants shall have a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number, register with the System of Award Management (SAM), and if submitting application via the internet, register with Grants.gov.</p> <p>See Section IV of the Funding Opportunity Announcement for complete application submission information.</p>	

Section I: Funding Opportunity Description

**To provide biosecurity and invasive species technical expertise. This FOA is available only to CESU Partners on the CESU network.
Cooperative Ecosystem Unit Studies (CESU)**

STATEMENT OF WORK

AFCEC ENVIRONMENTAL GIS SUPPORT PACAF Air Force Installations

Project Ceiling \$816,068

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Statement of Work (SOW) provides the details of work to be performed in support of the US Air Force through a Cooperative Agreement (CA) between the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Alaska District, and a Cooperator to Collect, Analyze, and Apply Environmental, Natural and Cultural Resource Data to Implement Land Rehabilitation and Maintenance for Optimal Management of Public Lands Under Control of the Department of Defense.

The Air Force Civil Engineer Center (AFCEC) 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.

The purpose of this task is to perform mapping/field inventories to support development and maintenance of mapping efforts described above and detailed in tasks described below.

2.0 AUTHORITY

This Cooperative Agreement is authorized by 16 U.S.C. § 670(c) (1) - Cooperative and Interagency agreements for land management on Installations

In agreement with the above stated goals, the recipient/cooperator agrees to provide the necessary personnel, equipment, and materials required to implement, in part, the AFCEC GIS Support responsibilities pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (16 USC 1531 et seq.), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 USC 1361 et seq.), the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 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.), the Sikes Act Improvement Act (16 USC 670 et seq.), and Air Force and Department of Defense natural resources directives and instructions.

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. The GIS support at multiple Air Force Installations provides academic and other nonfederal partner institutions (and their personnel) the ability to 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.

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.

3.0 DESCRIPTION OF OBJECTIVES

TASK 1. MAINTENANCE PHASE UPDATES.

The Cooperator shall update/maintain 73 map layers that support environmental, natural and cultural resources at prescribed frequency (see Attachment A).

There shall be three (3) analysts seated at installation locations. One (1) at JB Elmendorf-Richardson, one at Yokota AB, and one located at Kadena AB. The level of effort is expected to be the equivalent of 1 FTE at each location. Analysts at overseas locations (and immediate family members) will fall under Status or Forces Agreements (SOFA) status.

The Cooperator shall provide QA/QC and reach back support via the Technical Support Center (TSC). The TSC will also be responsible for providing AD maintenance packages to the GIS Analysts to support the data maintenance effort.

The GIS data that are maintained shall meet the standards described in the Air Force's adaptation of the (Spatial Data Standards for Facilities, Infrastructure, and Environment) current SDSFIE standards.

TASK 2. CARTOGRAPHIC/ANALYTIC SUPPORT.

The Cooperator shall offer cartographic/analytic support to ISSs and associated installations, Regional Support Branches (RSBs), and AFCEC. Mapping assistance and analytical support are needed to utilize the 73 layers (See Attachment A). GIS Analysts shall assist Installation Program Managers and ISS/RSB personnel with program-specific analysis. Support includes but is not limited to: Cartographic Support, Spatial Analysis/Queries, Data Delivery/Calls, Data Collection/Development, GIS Assistance.

Task 1 and 2 includes support at the installations and geographically separated units (GSUs) listed in Attachment B – GIS Support Installation List.

OPTIONAL TASK 3 – VEGETATION MAPPING

Perform mapping/field inventories to support development of vegetation data to the United States National Vegetation Classification (USNVC) standard as defined in the Air Force Data Layer Specification for vegetation area. The USNVCS is an 8 level hierarchy emphasizing vegetation classification for physiognomic, biogeographic, and floristic levels. The Alliance level 7 classification is needed to provide fuel load information for wildland fire purposes. AFCEC Wildland fire tiers have been used to prioritize installations to perform vegetation mapping. This task is to provide support for the maintenance, analysis, and application of data used to maintain the compliance of environmental management programs. This support includes: identification and definition of data requirements; to recommend, develop, and implement natural resources data strategies; recommend and implement sampling protocols and sampling design for field data collection activities; field data collection and post-collection field validation of data, i.e. "ground-truthing"; integration, and interpretation of remotely sensed imagery; automated data collection; automated and non-automated data management; the recommendation, development, and implementation of analytic models; the recommendation of strategies to optimize the performance of environmental programs; and the development of data models in support of the Natural Resources and Environmental Management portions of the current AF SDSFIE data model. The Cooperator will gather aerial photos and load them into the GIS and field systems (ArcPad or equivalent), identify and "pre-delineate" areas that need inventories from aerial photos, travel to the area with GPS equipment, perform field inventories to the National Vegetation Classification Standard (NVCS) Version 2 Level 7 Alliance, and develop the vegetation map to the AF Adaptation of the current SDSFIE standard.

OPTIONAL TASK 4 – WETLAND DELINEATION

Conduct wetland delineation to assess the presence of wetlands on the installation and, if present, identify the boundaries. Perform wetland delineation in accordance with the 1987 Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual and the most current Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineations Manual for the given region.

Gather existing data and information including previous wetland delineations, vegetation specific natural resource survey reports/data, soil maps, and existing aerial/satellite imagery of the installation.

Identify areas that contain hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils, and wetland hydrology. Survey points both within the boundary (wetland) and out of the boundary (upland) to verify the precise wetland delineation boundary. Complete Regional Supplement field forms and record GPS points at each survey point. Mark verified wetland boundaries with flags or tape upon request and record with Survey Grade (1m accuracy) GPS unit. Upon returning from field data collection, create wetland boundary polygons using GPS data.

Deliverables:

The wetland delineation report will consist of an introduction to the project, wetland delineation descriptions and methods, Regional Supplement field forms, written results, and map(s) depicting the wetland boundary. Additionally, a geospatial database representing wetland GPS points and boundary will be provided. The final dataset will conform to the current SDSFIE standard AF Adaptation geospatial data standard including fully developed Federal Geodetic Data Committee (FGDC) compliant metadata.

OPTIONAL TASK 5 – ENVIRONMENTAL DATA DEVELOPMENT

Develop environmental data for the 73 layers in attachment A where applicable to an installation. The environmental data development at the installation shall include the following;

1. Develop 73 layers where applicable to an installation in support of the Cultural Resources, Environmental Management, and Natural Resources portions of the SDSFIE.
2. Provide technical expertise in the acquisition of geospatial information to support cultural and natural resources field collection protocols.
3. Provide quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) for geospatial data acquired in the field.
4. Collect, aggregate, integrate, and standardize geospatial data for inclusion in Cultural Resources, Natural Resources, and Environmental Management data models.

Data shall be migrated if they exist digitally or entered if not. Environmental data shall be developed, confirmed with the Installation Program Managers for correctness, QA/QC'd by TSC staff, corrected, and displayed in the GeoBase viewer for the installation. Data must be developed to the current SDSFIE standard.

4.0 QUALIFICATIONS

The Cooperator shall have experience performing GIS support as related to the tasks listed above. The Cooperator shall be capable of providing technical expertise in the acquisition of geospatial information to support cultural and natural resources field collection protocols for Air Force installations.

5.0 GOVERNMENT FURNISHED MATERIALS OR PROPERTY

Physical Data: Applicable GIS information for environmental, natural and cultural resources at all installations/GSUs listed in Attachment B – Installations GIS Support Installation List.

The Government will provide key Contractor personnel with Common Access Cards (CACs) and network user accounts, with appropriate permissions necessary to perform the tasks described in this PWS, and facility access badges for onsite personnel. Off-site contract personnel will need government laptop(s) to access government-required training. The number of laptops and other appropriate IT equipment will be agreed upon by contractor and government representatives.

6.0 PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

The period of performance for the base is 12 months from date of award with the option to extend for up to 4 options years subject to availability of funding. Each option year will be for an additional 12 months.

7.0 PROJECTED TRAVEL

Travel Assumptions: Minimum of two trips per year to each supported installation. Minimum of one trip per year to each supported GSU.

8.0 GOVERNMENT FURNISHED MATERIALS OF PROPERTY

Physical Data: Applicable GIS information for environmental, natural and cultural resources at all

installations/GSUs listed in Attachment B.

The Government will provide key Contractor personnel with Common Access Cards (CACs) and network user accounts, with appropriate permissions necessary to perform the tasks described in this PWS, and facility access badges for onsite personnel. Off-site contract personnel will need government laptop(s) to access government-required training. The number of laptops and other appropriate IT equipment will be agreed upon by contractor and government representatives.

9.0 DELIVERABLES

9.1 The Cooperator shall submit monthly electronic updates on the 10th day of every month to the USACE GOR and AF POC summarizing activities as follows:

- Plans, reports, and briefings prepared; action items supported and tasks accomplished.
- Meetings attended including purpose/objective, attendees, and items identified for follow-on action.
- Action item support and taskers supported.
- Percentage of project completion, problems identified, solutions implemented, and schedule adjustments if appropriate
- Status of project progress, problems identified, solutions implemented, any critical communications, and schedule adjustments if appropriate

9.2 The Cooperator shall submit updated data layers (reported monthly regardless of interval).

9.3 The Cooperator shall deliver data layers to be up loaded to the respective GeoBase viewer.

9.4 The Cooperator shall submit a list of time spent on installation/ISS/RSB/AFCEC projects.

9.5 Annual Inventory – Federally owned property - an annual inventory listing Federal property (to include description of the property, a serial number or other identification number) that is in the custody of the recipient; Copies to be sent to USACE – Alaska District and AFCEC ISS POCs.

9.6 Annual Inventory – 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 – Alaska District and AFCEC ISS POCs.

9.7 The vegetation data layer in the current SDSFIE standard version.

9.8 Upload of the vegetation layer to the AFGIMS GeoBase viewer.

10. QUALIFICATIONS

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.

11. COORDINATION

The USACE GOR and POC for Project Management is Katie Russell. Cooperative agreement questions should be addressed to the Grants Officer, Kim Tripp. Correspondence should be addressed as follows:

Katie Russell, P.E.
Environmental and Special Programs
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Alaska District
P.O. Box 6898

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Air Force Technical POC:
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USAF AFCEC/CZCA
Environmental Management
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12. QUALIFICATIONS

Attachment A: Update Frequency of GIS Layer
Attachment B: Installation_GSU GIS Support Installation List

END STATEMENT OF WORK

Section II: Award Information

This is for a competed CESU partner, Cooperative Agreement, with funding not to exceed \$816,068.00. Expect a period of performance for this task is 12 months from date of award with the option to extend for up to 4 options years subject to availability of funding. Each option year will be for an additional 12 months.

Anticipated Award Date
Announcement Issue Date: **28 February 2022**
Application Due Date: **30 March 2022**
Estimated Award Date: On or About 24 May 2022

Section III: Eligibility Information

1. Eligible Applicants – Open to **all CESU network partners** that meet the criteria of this announcement.
2. Cost Sharing – This action will be 100% funded by USACE.
3. Other Information – None noted.

Section IV: Application and Submission Information

1. Address to Request Application Package:
The complete funding opportunity announcement, application forms, and instructions are available for download at Grants.gov. USACE is not responsible for any loss of internet connectivity or for an applicant's inability to access documents posted at the referenced website.

The administrative point of contact is Benjamin Becker (907) 753-2593,
Benjamin.becker@usace.army.mil.

2. Content and Form of Application Submission

All mandatory forms and any applicable optional forms must be completed in accordance with the instructions on the forms and the additional instructions below.

- a. SF 424 - Application for Federal Assistance
- b. SF 424 A – Budget Information for Non-construction Programs
- c. SF 424 B – Assurances – Non-Construction Programs
- d. Program Narrative – Brief program description illustrating applicant's ability to meet the goals and objectives described in Section VI Scope of Work of this announcement.

3. Application shall be submitted **NO LATER THAN 30 March 2022; 2:00 PM Alaska Time (AKT)** via email or Grants.Gov.

4. Submission Instructions

Applications may be submitted by email or via the internet at Grants.Gov. Choose ONE of the following submission methods:

Via Email: Format all documents to print on Letter (8 ½ x 11") paper. E-mail proposal to benjamin.becker@usace.army.mil and Kimberly.d.tripp@usace.army.mil.

Via Grants.Gov: Applicants are not required to submit proposals through Grants.gov. However, if applications are submitted via the internet; applicants are responsible for ensuring that their Grants.gov proposal submission is received in its entirety and within the date and time required. The Government bears no responsibility for data errors resulting from transmission of conversion processes associated with electronic submissions. The Government will bear no responsibility for delays in submissions due to technical difficulties at or with the Grants.gov website. All applicants choosing to use Grants.gov to submit proposals must be registered and have an account with Grants.gov. ***It may take up to three weeks to complete Grants.gov registration.*** For more information on registration, go to <http://www.grants.gov/ForApplicants>.

Section V: Application Review Information

Proposal Submission Evaluation Criteria and Basis of Award AFCEC GIS SUPPORT MAPPING PACAF Air Force Installations

The Government will evaluate technical proposals in accordance with the criteria described herein and award a Cooperative Agreement task order to the responsible grantee whose proposal is determined to represent the best overall value to the Government. Proposals will not be ranked. The Government will not award a Cooperative Agreement to a grantee whose proposal contains a deficiency.

The evaluation factors for this action are:

- Factor 1, 40%: Experience (most important technical factor)
- Factor 2, 35%: Technical Approach (2nd most important technical factor)
- Factor 3, 25%: Cost (reviewed after the technical package for fairness and reasonableness, 3rd most important factor)

After listing proposal strengths, weaknesses and deficiencies, the Government will assign an adjective rating of Outstanding, Good, Acceptable, Marginal, or Unacceptable to each technical factor which reflects the Government's confidence in each offeror's ability, as demonstrated in its proposal, to perform the requirements stated in the grant. The adjectival ratings shall be assigned, using the following criteria, which incorporate a proposal risk assessment:

Weight	Adjectival Rating	Description
4	Outstanding	Proposal indicates an exceptional approach and understanding of the requirements and contains multiple strengths.
3	Good	Proposal indicates a thorough approach and understanding of the requirements and contains at least one strength.
2	Acceptable	Proposal indicates an adequate approach and understanding of the requirements.
1	Marginal	Proposal has not demonstrated an adequate approach and understanding of the requirements or contains an element of risk.
0	Unacceptable	Proposal does not meet requirements of the solicitation and, thus, contains one or more deficiencies and is unawardable.

PROPOSAL AND SELECTION CRITERIA

The Cooperator shall be evaluated in accordance with the selection criteria below. The selection criteria are listed in descending order of importance.

Factor 1 Experience

The Cooperator shall demonstrate prior project experience relevant to the attached SOW, completed within 5 years of the RFP, and other qualifications and technical competence in all of the following areas:

- (1) Experience with data management supporting conservation of natural resources on installations.
- (2) GIS, cartographic, analytic expertise; experience developing inventory methodologies.
- (3) Planning and managing time critical work, providing reports and other communications, and performing projects in accordance with applicable guidance and regulations
- (4) Experience with SDSFIE 3.1x standards

The Cooperator shall provide examples of up to four (4) past projects of similar size, scope and complexity that best demonstrate the above qualifications. Submit projects that are at least 25% complete or were completed within the past five (5) years. The example project summaries shall be limited to one (1) page each. The example project summaries shall identify:

- Title/Subject
- Location
- Duration
- Brief description
- Roles and work self-performed
- Date project began and if completed
- Complexities or key accomplishments
- Client contact information

The Government will utilize the example project summaries to evaluate the capability and experience as a basis for comparing offerors to determine best value.

Factor 2 Technical Approach

The Cooperator shall provide a brief narrative of their technical approach and a milestone schedule. The narrative shall be no more than 1 page per main task and must include:

- A discussion of the technical approach to accomplish the performance work statement requirements, detailing number of hours anticipated to complete the project deliverables.
- A discussion of the quality assurance, quality control, and other technical activities that will be implemented to ensure that quality data are collected to support project data quality objectives
- A discussion of applicable regulatory requirements and how project requirements will be implemented.
- A discussion of all assumptions.

The Cooperator shall also provide an organizational chart with the proposed project team with defined roles, responsibilities, and lines of communication for all key personnel and sub-cooperators.

The evaluation standard has been met when the Cooperator demonstrates an understanding of the work that adequately addresses the task order requirements. The inclusion of numerous assumptions that significantly "assume away" Cooperator risk with regard to major issues or problems that may be encountered on the project will be considered unacceptable.

Factor 3 Cost

Provide proposed cost to the government. Allowable costs incurred by institutions of higher education is determined in accordance with the provision of OMB Circular A-21, "Cost Principles for Educational Institutions," ONR negotiated rates, and institutional policies. OMB's cost principles are contained in 2 CFR 200.400-.475 et seq.

Cost is considered less important than non-cost factors and will be evaluated for fairness and reasonableness per FAR 15.402 and OMB cost principles. If more than one proposal are rated as having equal non-cost factors, the lowest cost tender of the proposals received would be granted as the preferred tender unless there are extraordinary reasons for not doing so.

Section VI: Award Administration Information

1. Award Notices

Written notice of award will be given in conjunction with issuance of a cooperative agreement signed by a Grants Officer. The cooperative agreement will contain the effective date of the agreement, the period of performance, funding information, and all terms and conditions. The recipient is required to sign and return the document before work under the agreement commences. Work described in this announcement SHALL NOT begin without prior authorization from a Grants Officer.

2. Administrative Requirements

The cooperative agreement issued as a result of this announcement is subject to the administrative requirements in 2 CFR Subtitle A; 2 CFR Subtitle B, Ch. XI, Part 1103; and 32 CFR Subchapter C, except Parts 32 and 33.

3. Reporting

The cooperative agreement issued under this announcement will establish reporting requirements which, in general, will consist of those in 2 CFR Sections 200.327 for financial reporting requirements, 200.328 for performance reporting requirements, and 200.329 for real property reporting requirements.

Section VII: Agency Contact

Benjamin Becker, Grants Specialist
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Kimberly Tripp, Grants Officer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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Section VIII: Other Information

Please email or the Agency Contacts in Section VII for any questions regarding this Cooperative Agreement.

See attachments A and B for further information.