



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

June 4, 2024

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF INTEREST
W9126G-24-2-SOI-3228**

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

Piedmont South Atlantic Coast/Gulf Coast/South Florida Caribbean CESU Regions

Project Title: Habitat Conservation and Improvement for the federally endangered Small's milkpea and candidate species sand flax at U.S. Army Garrison Miami, Homestead/SOCSOUTH Site, Homestead, Florida.

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 **\$50,000** 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 for a total project cost of \$210,000 (base + four follow-on periods).

NOTE: This project will be awarded under the authority of 10 USC 2684a: Agreements to limit encroachments and other constraints on military training, testing, and operations, UAI Part 5101, Version 4 dated 25 Jan 2017, revised July 2018. Re-Delegation of Authority in 10 U.S.C § 2684a.

Period of Performance. The base period of agreement will extend 12 months from date of award. There may be up to four 12-month follow-on periods based on availability of funding.

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 **15 July 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.k.justman@usace.army.mil

Kelsee Crawley
Project Manager
USACE, Fort Worth District
Email: 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: RSOL'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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PAIGE POORMAN
Grants Officer

Attachment: Statement of Objectives

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES

Habitat Conservation and Improvement for the federally endangered
Small's milkpea and candidate species sand flax at
U.S. Army Garrison Miami, Homestead/SOCSOUTH Site,
Homestead, Florida
Using the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU)

PURPOSE

- 1.0 1.1 The U.S. Army Garrison Miami environmental program ensures military mission activities are conducted in compliance with all applicable environmental laws, regulations and policies. Article I B on 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, and conservation 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 In agreement with the above stated goals, the recipient/cooperator agrees to provide the necessary personnel, equipment, and materials required to conduct natural resource conservation support, for the USAG-Miami Homestead/SOCSOUTH site natural resource program managed by the US Army Garrison Miami Directorate of Public Works (DPW) offices located in Doral and Homestead, Florida. The scope of this agreement includes supporting the program manager (PM) through various program management duties including, but not limited to conservation and management of endangered Small's milkpea and candidate sand flax, establishment of baseline conditions for existing rare taxa populations, conduct annual population monitoring and annual reporting requirements of rare taxa populations, control and removal of invasive plant species, native plant species planting and establishment, prescribed burning, and mowing to reduce invasive plant species and native hardwoods.
- 1.3 This work requires a local support person who will conduct work at the USAG-Miami Homestead/SOCSOUTH site in Homestead, Florida. The work may include: technical report preparation, an annual Monitoring and Maintenance Report, monthly status reports, and communication of concerns with installation points of contact (POC). Access to the USAG-Miami Homestead/SOCSOUTH site property will be coordinated with the USAG-Miami DPW POC.

2.0 **AUTHORITY**

2.1 This cooperative agreement will be awarded using the authority associated with 10 U.S.C. § 2684a - Agreements to limit encroachments and other constraints on military training, testing, and operations, UAI Part 5101.

2.2 The recipient/cooperator shall perform all necessary work, supporting USAG-Miami DPW in understanding and meeting its natural resource conservation needs in accordance with United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) protocols, requirements of the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

2.3 A Cooperative agreement is a legal instrument which, consistent with 31 U.S.C. 6305, is used to enter the same kind of relationship as a grant, except that 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.

Specifically USAG-Miami will

1) provide administrative assistance, as appropriate and necessary to execute this Agreement and subsequent modifications 2) will participate in the initial planning meetings and will through consultation with the recipient approve the final methodology to be used on site by the recipient 3) will participate in the technical coordination meetings at the beginning of the project to approve implementation protocol of the plans developed and at the end to evaluate and approve written document, and 4) will be available daily to coordinate activities with the recipient. The POC will review and approve progress reports submitted by the recipient.

3.0 DESCRIPTION OF OBJECTIVES

3.1 Task 1 (Mandatory): Monitoring of endangered Small's milkpea and candidate sand flax in accordance to USFWS protocol. Two management areas (designated Management Areas 1 and 2) will be monitored that includes areas surrounding substantial populations of Small's milkpea and sand flax growing within pine rockland habitat undergoing restoration. Management Area 1 encompasses a 12.6-acre area south of St. Lo Boulevard and west of Rabaul Road. Management Area 2 encompasses a 2.1-acre area east of the intersection of Rabaul Road and Bikini Boulevard.

3.2 Task 2 (Mandatory): Control of Invasive Species. Control measures would include mechanical removal, herbicide application (e.g., basal, directed foliar application or hack and squirt), mowing and prescribed burning. The technique applied would depend on the species of invasive plant to be targeted and whether it is woody or herbaceous. Invasives include Brazilian pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*), *Zoysia* species (*Zoysia sp.*), silk reed (*Neyraudia reynaudiana*), napier grass (*Pennisetum purpureum*), and Leadtree (*Leucaena leucocephala*). Major exotic plant control has been previously completed at the site but regular follow-up activities are needed. See also Task 5 below.

3.3 Task 3 (Mandatory): Reestablishment of Appropriate Density and Cover of Native Pine and Understory Species. Pines: Within Management Area 1, reduce density of pines to regionally agreed density of no more than 50-70 mature pines per acre. Understory: Should it be determined that recolonization is not sufficient to re-establish native grasses and other understory in some areas, seeds would be collected and direct seeded using best practices for seed-based restoration.

3.4 Task 4 (Optional): Seed Collection/Distribution. While the Army does not have resources to fund such activities, the Army would consider cooperating with other agencies or organizations that wish to conduct research on the populations of Small's milkpea and sandflax occurring on the property. The Army would arrange to allow researchers to access sites containing the species, as necessary and within mission limitations, to complete their investigations. Such cooperation could include allowing access to:

- Collect seeds to support restoration efforts in Miami-Dade County.
- Conduct ecological or genetic population studies
- Conduct manipulative investigations where U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) determines in advance that the proposed study is feasible and would not jeopardize existence of Small's milkpea and sand flax.

3.5 Task 5 (Mandatory): Restoration of Mixed Weedy Areas. Some areas have responded to the cessation of mowing and/or prior treatment of invasive species with the growth of mixed native and exotic weedy vegetation. In these areas, different management techniques would be trialed, including removal of biomass with follow-up herbicide treatments, and mowing, to create optimal substrate for re-establishment of native pine rockland vegetation.

3.6 Task 6 (Mandatory): Reduction of Native Woody Vegetation. Nearly throughout both Management Areas, the cessation of mowing and the removal of invasive species has led the recruitment of native woody vegetation. In some areas, the density and cover of native woody vegetation may become too high, with negative effects on Small's milkpea, sand flax, and other native understory plants. Where too dense, native hardwood trees and shrubs would be reduced, especially along the perimeter and in dense patches where fire will not carry. A variety of techniques can be employed, including basal herbicide treatments, cutting and removal, mulching and mowing, and prescribed fire.

3.7 Task 7 (Mandatory): Implementation of Prescribed Burning or Analog Activities. The preferred method of managing pine rockland habitat is through prescribed burning, which would be implemented if practicable. If this is not possible, or until such time as prescribed fire is possible, fire analog activities, such as conservation mowing regimes, would be implemented.

4.0 QUALIFICATIONS

4.1 Cooperators are considered experts in the identification and life history of Small's milkpea and sand flax and other endemic pine rockland plant species in South Florida, the control of invasive species, and the restoration of pine rockland habitat.

5.0 GOVERNMENT FURNISHED MATERIALS OR PROPERTY

5.1 Physical Data: USAG Miami-Garrison will provide maps, previous reports, master plans, INRMP, as are available. JB SA will provide access to all applicable documents.

5.2 Facility: USAG Miami-Garrison will facilitate access and communications (meetings in person or virtually) for the recipient on to the base.

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

Base Period will be 12-months from date of award and 4 follow-on periods may be available dependent on availability of funding.

7.0 PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

Period of Performance will begin with Notice to Proceed (NTP). Four follow-on Periods may be available to award.

8.0 COORDINATION

8.1 USACE

Kelsee Crawley
Project Manager
Fort Worth District
Regional Planning and Environmental Center
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Phone: 405-923-0053
Kelsee.f.crawley@usace.army.mil

8.2 The USAG-Miami POCs are as follows:

8.2.1. Primary POC

Alain Pierre
USAG-Miami DPW Environmental Officer
Phone: (305) 437-3494
Email: alain.pierre.civ@mail.mil

Alternate POC

John E. Burgess
Director, Public Works (DPW)
Phone: (305) 437-1742/1363
Cell: (786) 236-2960.
Email: john.e.burgess18.civ@mail.mil

8.2.2. Secondary POC on site is

Bruce Bernard
USAG-Miami DPW Homestead/SOCSOUTH site manager
Phone: 786-415-2066
Email: bernard.bruce.mil@socom.mil

9.0 DELIVERABLES

9.1 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 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 monthly progress reports. No partial payment will be approved unless the government has received all progress reports which are due. Invoice will be subdivided by Task.

9.2 Annual Report (if the project is longer than one year). One (1) digital 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. USACE-SWF staff will review and provide comments, if any, within fifteen (15) calendar days after receipt.

9.3 Draft Final Project Report. One (1) electronic 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. USACE-SWF staff will review and provide comments, if any, within fifteen (15) calendar days after receipt.

9.4 Final Project Report. One (1) electronic copy of the final report, incorporating USACE-SWF review comments on the draft, if any, shall be submitted no later than fifteen (15) days after receipt of the USACE-SWF comments. Additionally, one (1) copy of the final report shall be submitted in a MSWord file(s), on digital media.

9.5 All data collected and/or created at SOCSOUTH 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.

9.6 This cooperative agreement is subject to and recipient/cooperator shall comply with 32 CFR subpart 32.34 "Equipment", 32.35 "Supplies", and 32.36 "Intangible Property" which includes use of research data.

10.0 POST AWARD REQUIREMENTS and DOCUMENTATION

10.1 Invoicing and Progress Reports - Submit Payment Request and additional required documents to: swf-cesu-invoice@usace.army.mil. Carbon Copy the assigned USACE Project Manager as well as your organization's POCs for the additional required documents as well as the delinquent accounts POC.

10.1.1 Frequency: Quarterly plus 30-day grace period. If the coverage dates are not quarterly or preapproved by the PM (or the first/last submittal), the payment request will be **rejected**.

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

- 10.1.2 Payment Requests must be submitted on form SF270 with the accompanying SF-PPR progress report. SF270s will be **rejected** if the SF-PPR progress report has not been received.

Please ensure to include the following on the SF-PPR progress report:

- Separate details by CLIN
- Achievements
- 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, it will be rejected causing the SF270 to also be rejected.
SF-PPR Forms with above fields may be requested at: swf-cesu-invoice@usace.army.mil

The SF270 may have multiple pages.

May request Excel version @ swf-cesu-invoice@usace.army.mil

Must be submitted in PDF or it will be rejected.

SF270 Block 11 (a), (b), (c) are for the description of funds. Preferred description is: CLIN/POP Type, POP start and end dates, amount awarded. At minimum include the CLIN.

Example:

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

Funding must be separated as specified on the Award document. For Sub-CLINs that specify “*for funding only*”, may be rolled into the primary CLIN unless otherwise instructed. All others require PM approval. If the description is missing; payment request will be **rejected**.

- 10.1.3 The **FINAL** invoice package must include the following documents. The entire Final invoice package is due no later than 90 days from the period of performance (POP) end date:

- Final SF270
- SF-PPR
- Final SF425
- DD882
- SF428 plus attachment B (C&S if applicable)
- SF298
- Final Report

Missing any of the above required documents, the Payment Request will be **rejected**.

- 10.1.4 “For successful set up of Electronic Transfer of Funds (EFT) the recipient must assure

that the SF270 Recipient Organization your documents reflects the exact name and physical address that appears in the System for Award Management (SAM) Website at www.sam.gov.”

Forms may be requested from the district office or found at: www.grants.gov

- 11.0 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.

- 12.0 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 cooperator 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 cooperator shall ensure that all documents of reports produced by the cooperator are suitably marked as cooperators products or that cooperators participation is appropriately disclosed.

[End of SOO]