



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

27 June 2025

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF INTEREST  
W9126G-25-2-SOI-4998**

*Applicants must be a member in one of the following  
Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units Regions:*  
Pacific Northwest, Hawaii-Pacific Islands, and Californian Regions

**Project Title:** Management of Invasive Species – Biosecurity Wake Island Airfield

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 recipient's CESU Joint and Cooperative Agreement (also known as the 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 **\$230,402.00** 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 the agreement will extend 18 months from the date of award. There may be up to four 18-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, CESU Region, 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 (SOI) are due by **2:00 P.M., Central Time, on 27 July 2025** via email to the parties listed below.
2. Direct questions no later than **9 July 2025** to the parties listed below.

Maria Lopez  
Grants Specialist  
USACE, Fort Worth District  
Email: Maria.E.Lopez@usace.army.mil  
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David Leptien  
Project Manager  
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**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:** RSOIs 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.

**TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR AWARD, THE RECIPIENT AND ANY PROPOSED SUBRECIPIENTS AND CONTRACT VENDORS MUST HAVE AN ACTIVE NIST SP 800-171 DOD ASSESSEMENT (PERFORMED WITHIN THE LAST 3 YEARS). Additional details are provided as a separate attachment to this document.**

Thank you for your interest in our Cooperative Agreements Program.

PAIGE E. POORMAN  
Grants Officer

Attachment: Statement of Objectives

**STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES (SOO)**  
**MANAGEMENT INVASIVE SPECIES – BIOSECURITY**  
**WAKE ISLAND AIRFIELD**  
**Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU) Cooperative Agreement**  
**YGFZA53256121 – SPLIT FUND B**

**20 MAR 2025**

**1. PURPOSE**

**1.1.** The overall goal of this project is to make attempts to eliminate the ability for invasive flora and fauna to establish on Pacific Air Forces Regional Support Center (PRSC) properties including Johnston and Wake Atoll, Koke’e Air Force Station (AFS), and Mt Ka’ala AFS. Invasive species biosecurity tools and best management practices exist and can be used to control and potentially in some cases eliminate future incursions and subsequent establishment. The Non-Federal Entity (NFE) must be capable of travel to remote austere tropical locations outside of Hawaii and be capable of embarking on travel via oceanic vessels and long airplane trips of 4 or more hours.

**1.2.** This project aids the PRSC in its endeavor to achieve implementation of goals and objectives within the 2023 PRSC Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) specific to biosecurity. The PRSC INRMP in question was signed in 2023 by all tripartite parties and placed a focus on invasive species management both on PRSC properties as well as offshore locales. The NFE shall utilize the June 2015 Wake Island Biosecurity Management Plan Edition 4.0 and INRMP as a guide for implementation. This project supports implementation of INRMP Goal No 8 of the aforementioned INRMP specifically described as follows:

*“GOAL 8: DEVELOP AND EMPLOY A SYSTEMATIC APPROACH FOR ONSHORE AND OFFSHORE BIOSECURITY, INCLUSIVE OF EARLY DETECTION AND RAPID RESPONSE METHODOLOGY AND ONGOING COMMITMENT TO CONTROLLING EXISTING PLANT AND ANIMAL INFESTATIONS TO MINIMIZE THEIR IMPACT TO MISSION AND NATURAL RESOURCE ACTIVITIES.”*

**2. AUTHORITY**

Authority to enter into a Cooperative Agreements (CA) for the work: Section 670c-1, Title 16 United States Code, Sikes Act.

**2.1.** In agreement with the above stated goals, the Non-Federal Entity (NFE) agrees to provide the necessary personnel, equipment, and materials required to implement, in part, the PRSC responsibilities pursuant to the Sikes Act Improvement Act (16 USC 670 et seq.),

the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), and Air Force and Department of Defense natural resources directives and instructions.

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.

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, following necessary coordination with the PRSC project manager
- 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

**2.2** 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.), 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 AFCEC/PRSC further (hence DoD) agrees to provide substantial involvement as directed under the appropriate master agreement to include, but not limited to the following:

- AFCEC/PRSC is involved in development of study methodology, data gathering, analysis, and/or report writing
- AFCEC/PRSC actively participates and collaborates in carrying out the project plan of work, reviews and approves activities, helps train or select project staff or trainees.
- Coordinate research activities with other installation entities and scheduling of range time.
- Collaborating on appropriate course of action for attainment of site-specific objectives, including technical assistance and DoD guidance.
- Participation in status meetings including kick off meeting and Quarterly project update meetings.

### **3. DESCRIPTION OF OBJECTIVES**

**3.1.** NFE shall provide one (1) full time employee to conduct biosecurity operations up to eighty (80) hours per Federal pay period (14 calendar days) excluding Sundays and federal holidays and be available during core business hours of 0900-1500 HST. Personnel will be located on the Island of Oahu Hawai'i and travel intermittently to Koke'e AFS, Mt Ka'ala AFS, Wake Island Airfield, Johnston Atoll and offshore transportation depots used for staging and deployment of cargo to the aforementioned atolls.

**3.1.1. Task 1: Professional Biological Document Review Assistance**

Perform review of environmental assessments, construction designs, and proposed actions descriptions related to biosecurity for the protection of human health, safety, agriculture, natural resources and wildlife in alignment with Sikes Act, NEPA, ESA, MBTA, CWA and Air Force Manual 32-7003. Assume average participation in 3 document reviews and 3 corresponding comment resolution meetings per month. Review comments shall reference peer reviewed journals, accredited government publications, and other credible sources. Assessments include but are not strictly limited to: (a) PRSC invasive species control projects; (b) Wake, Koke'e, Mt Ka'ala, Wake, and Johnston Atoll INRMP's; construction designs for Wake Atoll, Koke'e AFS and Mt Ka'ala AFS; Johnston and Wake Atoll biosecurity procedures; preliminary ESA section 7 effects analysis; USAF NEPA 813's.

Assumptions:

- a. Assume average participation in 3 document reviews and 3 corresponding comment resolution meetings per month.
- b. Assume average participation in 3 document creations and 3 corresponding comment resolution meetings per month.

**3.1.2. Task 2: Wake and Johnston Atoll Invasive Species Inspections and Management**

Perform invasive species inspections at offshore locations of cargo destined for Wake and Johnston atoll. Serve as the biosecurity first responder to invasive species discoveries on Wake Atoll, Johnston Atoll, Koke'e AFS, and Mt Ka'ala AFS. Document completion of all biosecurity inspections, site visits, and compliance procedures for all operations at Johnston Atoll and associated departure and staging areas. Submit reports and meeting minutes for all biosecurity site visits and meetings attended. Provide regulatory status updates during response events and ensure USAF client and chain of command is included in notifications to regulators. Attend all Wake Island Barge meetings and provide biosecurity education materials and guidance to all shipping participants utilizing the atoll. Provide Air Force POCs with meeting minutes and recommendations on how to tighten biosecurity requirements on barges, both Air Force funded and contractor barges. Coordinate biosecurity with Wake Island Base Operations Support Contractor (BOSC) to document if BOSC is completing biosecurity requirements. Implement Coconut Rhinoceros beetle

monitoring on Wake Atoll. Provide client with annual records displaying the frequency of trap checks and contents discovered during such inspections. Purchase 50 New Zealand Department of Conservation (NZDOC) traps/boxes and ensure that they are available for deployment during Wake Island trips.

Assumptions:

- a. Assume minimum of four-week notice prior to scheduled departure date.
- b. Assume all travel shall require population of Site Arrival Requests and letters of authorization and prior to travel in accordance with base support letters.
- c. Assume all travel to Wake Island shall be via rotator airplane which visits the atoll every two weeks.
- d. Assume all travel to Johnston Atoll shall be provided by the USAF and will be either charter vessel or airplane. Such transport costs and mechanisms may be provided by SpaceX transportation platforms required by USAF agreements.
- e. Assume austere living conditions, limited food options, and extreme heat as well as humidity on Wake and Johnston Atoll.
- f. Assume seven (7) 2-week trips to conduct invasive species investigations on Wake Island Airfield, aim for overlap with barge arrival.
- g. Assume Three (3) 1-week trips to Seattle Washington for barge inspections.
- h. Assume Two (2) 1-week trips to mainland USAF SpaceX inspections
- i. Assume One (1) month long trip to Johnston Atoll to oversee biosecurity inspections, assist with on shore validation of cleanliness and compliance with operations or work conducted at the site in accordance with Final NEPA Environmental Assessment.

**3.1.3. Task 3: INRMP Project Development Support Specific to Invasive Species Management**

Assist 611 CES NRM with development of strategies and new monitoring techniques applicable to natural resource and invasive species management projects at Johnston, Wake Atoll, Koke'e AFS, and Mt Ka'ala AFS. Project development may include refinement of methodologies, survey definitions, or estimation of level of effort and labor categories to achieve goals and objectives of invasive species projects depicted in the current INRMP. During annual updates and 5-year revisions to the INRMP participate in reviews and resolution of comments specific to invasive species management.

- a. Assume editing, task definition and authorship to at least 8 documents involving the research and or management of invasive species on PRSC lands.
- b. Assume performing update to the current Wake biosecurity plan at least once during the period of performance; notification of date of update will be given by USAF NRM at least 6 months prior to need by date of revised document.

**3.1.4. Task 4: Invasive Species Awareness Training**

Provide annual invasive species awareness and rapid response training to the BOSC on Wake, as well as active duty and Air National Guard staff present at Koke'e and Ka'ala AFS. During each site visit the biologist shall utilize historic training materials to brief staff on the dangers associated with bright lights and explain the phenomena of seabird fallout and how invasive predators prey upon fallout victims in the region. In addition to awareness training the biologist shall also survey the installation for presence/absence of invasive species and report such findings to the 611 CES NRM. The PRSC offices are located in Anchorage, Alaska and in house training shall be provided to 611 CES support staff twice during the PoP. The NFE shall utilize the same training materials used at Koke'e and Ka'ala and deliver that training to in house civilian, contract and active-duty personnel in the anchorage, Alaska based offices housed on Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson. The 611<sup>th</sup> NRM shall give the NFE a 3 months' notice of when to hold the in house 611<sup>th</sup> invasive species awareness training to allow for ample travel planning time.

Assumptions:

- a. Assume Three (3) two-day trips to both Koke'e AFS and Ka'ala AFS to conduct invasive species surveillance and seabird awareness training. Seabird training shall be performed prior to the fallout season for Hawaiian Seabirds.
- b. Assume 1 (one) invasive species outbreak response trip per year at Koke'e and Ka'ala AFS and 7 days of labor at each site for immediate response and monitoring/detection of sighting.
- c. Assume two (2) 7-day trips to Anchorage Alaska to deliver training to in house civilian, active duty, and contract support staff based on Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson.

**3.2. NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS** - The NFE is required to notify the 611 CES NRM of critical issues that may affect the performance of this SOO and/or human health and the environment. The types of issues that require notification include, but are not limited to, health risks, spills, unexpected utility crossings, unusual weather conditions, unacceptable materials, changes in critical personnel, and Unexploded Ordinance (UXO). As an example, if UXO was discovered during field activities, the NFE would be required to immediately stop work, report the discovery to the base POC and lead island officer on post, and implement the appropriate safety precautions. On critical issues, oral notification should be made immediately, followed by written notification as soon as practical. The NFE by accepting funds associated with this scope of work agrees to not release any information generated by this award to a non-USAF party without prior approval by USAF public affairs and security offices. The USAF encourages publication of scientific literature but reserves the right to review all draft literature prior to issuance to any non-USAF publication body or media entity. Any publication generated from this project shall give financial credit and acknowledgement to the Air Force Civil Engineer Center and project management support by the Pacific Air Forces Regional Support Center, JBER.