DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ENGINEER RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING RESEARCH LABORATORY
P.O. BOX 9005
CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS 61826-9005

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST (SOI)
NUMBER W9132T-15-SOI-0002
PROJECT TO BE INITIATED in FY 2015

Project Title: Demographic Monitoring of Endangered and At-risk Bird Species at Fort Hood, Texas

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest will be used to identify potential investigators for a project to be funded by the Engineer Research and Development Center – Construction Engineering Research Laboratory (ERDC-CERL), which seeks to conduct research and provide support for natural resource management at Fort Hood, TX. Approximately $98,000 is expected to be available to support this project for a period of twelve (12) months after award.

Note that the CESU F&A rate will be applied to any awards that result from this Request for SOIs.

Background:

The U.S. Army must maintain an adequate land base to meet current and future requirements for realistic training and operations in support of its mission. To fulfill long-term mission requirements, the military must achieve environmental objectives of sustainability of training lands and full compliance with conservation requirements under law. The Army is committed to maintaining its role as a national leader in the conservation and management of sensitive natural resources on Army lands.

Fort Hood currently supports the heaviest Army training activity as the only installation providing training facilities for the equivalent of two mechanized divisions as well as support units. Within this military context, Fort Hood is also home to large numbers of two federally endangered bird species (black-capped vireo and golden-cheeked warbler) and numerous at-risk migratory bird species. Fort Hood must balance military training requirements with species conservation requirements imposed by the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA).

Work under this proposal will provide research support to determine demographic information for endangered and migratory bird species that reside at Fort Hood. Research efforts will include monitoring of endangered and migratory bird species abundance and productivity on Fort Hood, Texas in response to military related habitat alterations.

Brief Description of Anticipated Work:

The government seeks research and technical support for demographic monitoring of endangered and migratory bird species, to include abundance and productivity, on Fort Hood, Texas. Study design and focal study sites will be decided based upon input from Fort Hood, ERDC-CERL, and CESU partners. Details of primary tasks are as follows:

Task 2: Monitoring of demographic parameters of migratory bird species.

During the 2015 breeding season (March-August) this task will collect required demographic data on migratory bird occurrence, density and nest placement at selected field monitoring sites on Fort Hood. Sites will include areas with and without maneuver lane habitat modifications. Nest placement will be investigated by locating and monitoring nests of all migratory species at established monitoring plots. This work will be conducted under current state and federal permits held by Fort Hood staff. This monitoring will be performed in accordance with protocols outlined in the Fort Hood ESMC.

Task 1: Monitoring of demographic parameters of endangered bird species.

During the 2015 breeding season (March-July) this task will collect required demographic data on endangered bird (black-capped vireo and golden-cheeked warbler) occurrence, density and reproductive success at selected field monitoring sites on Fort Hood. This work will require population census by conducting point count surveys on established point count routes for both species. Reproductive success will be investigated by locating and monitoring vireo nests at established monitoring plots. This work will require repeated nest visits and banding of nestlings. Adult warbler demography will be conducted by capturing and banding of breeding adults. This work will require personnel that either have current experience capturing passerine species using mist net capture techniques or can be trained and supervised by permitted personnel. This work will be conducted under current state and federal permits held by Fort Hood staff. This monitoring will be performed in accordance with protocols outlined in the Fort Hood ESMC.

Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications:

Please provide the following via e-mail attachment (Maximum length: 2 pages, single-spaced 12 pt. font).

1. Name, Organization 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 proposed budget is NOT requested at this time.

Review of Statements Received: 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:

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Timeline for Review of Statements of Interest: Review of Statements of Interest will begin **ten working days** after posting of SOI.