



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

May 10, 2023

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF INTEREST**  
**W9126G-23-2-SOI-3119**

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

Californian/Colorado Plateau CESU Regions

**Project Title:** Natural Resources Support at Edwards AFB, CA.

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 **\$939,147.00** is expected to be available to support this project for the **base tasks**. Additional funding in the amount of \$1,023,100.00 may be available to the successful recipient for up to three optional tasks.

**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 date of award. Each optional task will extend 18 months upon award.

**Description of Anticipated Work:** See attached Statement of Objectives (SOO)

**NOTE:** At this time we are only requesting that you demonstrate available qualifications IAW the SOO 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 5:00 P.M., Central Time, on **14 JUNE 2023**.
2. Submit your Statement of Interest via e-mail attachments or direct questions to:

Maria Lopez  
Grants Specialist  
USACE, Fort Worth District  
Email: **Maria.E.Lopez@usace.army.mil**  
Office: 817-886-1881

David Leptien  
Project Manager  
USACE, Fort Worth District  
Email: **David.B.Leptien@usace.army.mil**  
Office: 402-889-5570

**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 IAW the attached SOO: 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](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.

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Attachment: Statement of Objectives

**STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES (SOO)**  
**NATURAL RESOURCES SUPPORT ACTIVITIES**  
**EDWARDS AFB (EAFB), CALIFORNIA**

**Article III (D) of the Applicable Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Unit (CESU)**

**1. PURPOSE**

1.1. The Edwards AFB (EAFB) environmental program ensures military mission activities are conducted in compliance with all applicable environmental laws, regulations and policies with cooperation and assistance from the Air Force Civil Engineer Center's (AFCEC) Installation Support Section (ISS). 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 objective of the work to be performed under this agreement are to conduct natural resource tasks on the federal lands belonging to Edwards Air Force Base (AFB), and to prepare reports detailing the results of this work for submission to the USACE Project Manager (PM), AFCEC Edwards Installation Support Section (ISS) POC, and Edwards Natural Resource POC.

**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 NFE agrees to provide the necessary personnel, equipment, and materials required to implement, in part, the EAFB responsibilities pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (16 USC 1531 et seq.), the Sikes Act Improvement Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 USC 1361 et seq.), the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), and applicable implementing regulations, such as Air Force Manual 32-7003, *Environmental Conservation*; 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

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

- EAFB and AFCEC Edwards ISS are involved in development of study methodology, data gathering, analysis, and/or report writing
- EAFB and AFCEC Edwards ISS are active participates and collaborates in carrying out the project plan of work, reviews and approves activities, helps train or select project staff or trainees
- EAFB and AFCEC Edwards ISS incurs in-kind or direct expenditures in carrying out the activities specified in the project agreement. An example includes, but is not limited to, providing staff time to work on the project.

### 3. OBJECTIVE

Conduct tasks in accordance with this Statement of Objectives (SOO) and the CESU Master Agreement, as prioritized by AFCEC Edwards ISS and the respective base Natural Resources Manager (NRM). Only work aligned with the original AF ACES programming and approved by the USACE Grants Officer Technical Representative (GOTR) should be completed as part of this task order (TO).

**Table 1. Tasks Summary**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Section</b>
Task 1	Funded	FSPMA5323915 Mgt, Wetlands Floodplains: Maintain Existing Levees/Roads at Piute Ponds Complex	3.1
Task 2	Unfunded Option	FSPMA53236119 Mgt Habitat: Habitat Restoration of Branch Memorial Park Pond	3.2
Task 3	Unfunded Option	FSPMA53236119 Mgt, Habitat: Monitor 84 Habitat Quality Analysis Plots	3.3
Task 4	Unfunded Option	FSPMA53236120 Mgt, Species: Improve Branch Memorial Park Pond Fish Habitat to Naturally Sustain Fish Populations	3.4

Task 5	Funded	FSPMA53237119 Mgt, Species, T&E: Tricolored Blackbird Breeding Surveys at Branch Memorial Park Pond	3.5
Task 6	Funded	FSPMA53237119 Mgt, Species, T&E: Mohave Ground Squirrel Camera Surveys	3.6

**Project Period of Performance:**

**Base Year:** Eighteen (18) months from the notice to proceed.

**Option Years:** None

**3.1 TASK 1: FSPMA5323915 Mgt, Wetlands Floodplains: Maintain existing levees/roads at Piute Ponds Complex**

**3.1.1 Background:**

The upland and wetland area (excluding Rosamond Dry Lake) of the Piute Ponds Complex encompasses approximately 7,840 acres. Of the 7,840 acres, approximately 1,365 acres of ponds, wetlands, wet meadows, and clay pans are in an area where the water flow/levels can be managed to some degree. The primary source of water is effluent from the Los Angeles County District 14 Wastewater Treatment Plant (D14). Other seasonally flooded wetlands exist outside of this Water Management Area fed exclusively from natural surface water as it flows to the lakebed.

Numerous levees/roads are inaccessible or unsafe for use throughout the year due to deteriorated levee/road surface conditions. Access is required year-round for PPC infrastructure maintenance, habitat management, and public recreational access.

**3.1.2 Objectives:**

The primary objective of this project is to maintain existing levees/roads at the Piute Ponds Complex to allow year-round use by vehicles/equipment/recreationalists. The Non-Federal Entity (NFE) will establish procedures and provide services and equipment to implement the following at the Piute Ponds Complex: 1) Each year, maintain PPC levees/roads requiring up to approximately 16,365 cubic yards of subbase and road base/gravel from Edwards AFB recycled concrete stockpiles. The NFE will provide support to levees/roads of Levee/Road Condition-1 and then to levees/roads of Levee/Road Condition-2. The Natural Resource Manager will approve the priority selection of levees/roads to be maintained each year.

Existing levee/road surfaces should be covered with concrete aggregate subbase and road base/gravel and compacted. Finished top surface will be tapered from levee/road center to levee/road shoulder to allow for proper water runoff. Existing levee/road surfaces average between 16 to 25 feet in width. Depending on the Levee/Road Condition of the levees/roads they will require one of the three applications: 1) Approximately 2.1 miles of dirt levee/roads require: Concrete aggregate subbase (9,493 cubic yards) of approximately 10 - 12 inches in size placed on the existing dirt levee/road surface to a depth of approximately 18 inches and to the approximate width of the existing dirt levee/road surface. Additional concrete aggregate subbase (6,329 cubic yards) of approximately 3 – 6 inches in size will be placed on top of the 10 – 12

inches in size subbase to a depth of approximately 12 inches. Additional road base/gravel (4,749 cubic yards) of ¾ inch minus material will be placed on top of the concrete aggregate subbase of approximately 3 – 6 inches in size to a depth of approximately 6 – 8 inches. 2) Approximately 10.8 miles of dirt levee/roads will require: Concrete aggregate subbase (35,005 cubic yards) of approximately 3 – 6 inches in size will be placed on the existing dirt levee/road surface to a depth of approximately 12 inches. Additional road base/gravel (26,255 cubic yards) of ¾ inch minus material will be placed on top of the concrete aggregate subbase of approximately 3 – 6 inches in size to a depth of approximately 6 – 8 inches. 3) Approximately 4.6 miles of dirt levee/roads will require: Road base/gravel (13,464 cubic yards) of ¾ inch minus material placed on the existing dirt levee/road surface to a depth of approximately 6 – 8 inches.

Concrete aggregate subbase and road base/gravel is recycled material created from demolished runway concrete and a subsequent concrete crushing operation on EAFB. The stockpiled material has been chemically tested and found environmentally suitable for use on this project (Otie. 2019). The concrete aggregate subbase and road base/gravel will be loaded and hauled from recycled concrete stockpiles on EAFB located off Missile Road to the Piute Ponds Complex via Jones Road, Lancaster Boulevard, East Avenue E and Shuttle Road. The recycled concrete aggregate subbase and road base/gravel from EAFB stockpiled recycled materials will be provided at no cost for this project. The Non-Federal Entity (NFE) is responsible for the cost of loading, transporting, and spreading of EAFB stockpiled recycled materials. One-way travel distance from stockpiles to PPC is approximately 24 miles. Ten miles are on paved Edwards AFB roads, ten miles on public paved roads, and 2 miles on Edwards AFB unpaved roads. Reference: Otie. 2019. Final Project Completion Report, Environmental Restoration Support, Edwards Air Force Base, Kern County, California. July 2019.

### **3.1.3 Deliverables:**

Report Deliverables include: Work Plan, Technical Report, GIS Data, Weekly Status Report, Monthly Status Report, and Press Releases.

**Reports:** Edwards AFB requires use of the approved work plan template, standard report covers, and Standard Form 298 - Report Documentation Page. Reports shall generally be free of typos, grammatical errors, formatting inconsistencies and incorrectly labeled tables and figures. The reports shall provide proper citations for all documents referenced. It is requested that draft reports contain line numbering for ease of Government comment. Government and NFE comments shall be provided in a comment matrix provided by the Government. Project GIS Data shall be submitted along with draft and final reports. Final work plans, final technical reports, and final GIS data deliverables shall be submitted only after the NFE has addressed all Government comments satisfactorily.

**Work Plan:** The NFE shall submit a separate draft and final work plan describing in narrative format the plan of action for the accomplishment of the project tasks. The plan shall follow the Edwards AFB Work Plan Template. The NFE shall provide a proposed comprehensive timeline for completion of the required work element activities and submittals. Updated project schedules will be provided by the NFE when the schedule changes, regardless of whom is responsible for causing the change in schedule. Updated schedules shall be submitted within seven (7) calendar days of any documented change in project schedule.

**Technical Report:** The NFE shall submit a separate draft and final technical report describing in narrative format the accomplishments of the project tasks including pertinent maps, figures, tables, photographs. The report format shall follow that of a scientific publication and include the following section heading: Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion and Literature Cited, as well as original data sheets and/or copies thereof, laboratory reports, and other appendices as appropriate. Update as-built drawings of Piute Ponds Complex as required for work performed.

**GIS Data:** The NFE shall comply with all requirements in the most recent version of the *Edwards Air Force Base Standards for Geographic Environmental Support Section 412 CEG/CEVA*. This document provides all details required for a successful GIS delivery. A preliminary technical consultation with 412 CEG/CEVA GIS staff shall be accomplished after the Post Award Kick-Off Meeting and prior to the start of all data collection for this project.

**Weekly Status Report:** The NFE shall provide to the Edwards AFB NRM weekly status report via email when performing on-base project activities. Report shall include activities accomplished, activity planned for the upcoming week, issues, and updated timelines for completion of work.

**Monthly Status Report:** The NFE shall provide a brief monthly project status report to the Edwards AFB NRM that describes amount of work completed to date, work completed in the past month, upcoming work schedules, potential problems, and unresolved issues.

**Press Release:** The NFE shall prepare an editable press release for the general public. The press release shall identify the project as a 412 CEG/CEVA Natural Resource project, what the project’s objective is, where the project is located on base, when the project will be implemented, how it will be implemented. The press release shall be no longer than approximately 200 words. Write the narrative to the 9th grade level. Provide an editable electronic copy of both the Beginning of Project Press Release and End of Project Results Press Release.

**3.1.4 Deliverables Schedule:** Submit deliverables as listed below, or as otherwise specified in the NFE’s proposal. Deliverable schedule must be within the period of performance of the agreement. The NFE may propose an alternate schedule but should not reduce the opportunities for and duration of Government review periods.

<b>Description</b>	<b>When Due</b>	<b>Format</b>
Work Plan Draft	Notice to Proceed (NTP)+ 60 days	Microsoft Word editable: Electronic only (e-mail attachment, or file transfer)
Work Plan Comment Response	30 days after receipt of Government comments	Microsoft Word editable: Electronic only - comment matrix and work plan revision with track changes (e-mail attachment, or file transfer)
Work Plan Final	21 days after Government approval of NFE’s response to all Government	PDF: Electronic only (e-mail attachment or file transfer)

<b>Description</b>	<b>When Due</b>	<b>Format</b>
	comments	
Weekly Status Report	Friday prior to upcoming field work week	Email
Monthly Status Report	Within 14 days after end of each month	Microsoft Word editable: Electronic only (e-mail attachment, or file transfer)
Draft Technical Report	To be determined by NFE	Microsoft Word editable: Electronic only (e-mail attachment, or file transfer)
GIS Draft Technical Report Deliverables	Submit with Draft Technical Report	Per EAFB GIS Standards: Electronic (e-mail attachment, or file transfer)
Technical Report Comment Response	30 days after receipt of Government comments	Microsoft Word editable: Electronic only - comment matrix and technical report revision with track changes (e-mail attachment, or file transfer)
Final Technical Report	21 days after Government approval of NFE's response to all Government comments	PDF: Electronic (e-mail attachment or file transfer); 2 hard copies spiral or comb-bound, each with a CD containing the full document and all references.
GIS Final Technical Report Deliverables	Submit with Final Technical Report	Per EAFB GIS Standards Electronic (e-mail attachment, or file transfer) and CD
Press Release Initial	Submit with Work Plan Draft	Microsoft Word editable: Electronic only (e-mail attachment)
Press Release Results	Submit with Final Technical Report	Microsoft Word editable: Electronic only (e-mail attachment)

### **3.2 TASK 2: FSPMA53236119 Mgt Habitat: Habitat Restoration of Branch Memorial Park Pond (Unfunded Option)**

#### **3.2.1 Background:**

Branch Memorial Park (BMP) is a significant outdoor recreation site on Edwards AFB. The Management Area encompasses approximately 75 acres, is rectangular in shape, and is centered on Branch Memorial Park Pond (BMPP), a six-acre constructed pond stocked for fishing. The site is also important for natural resources management, offering an oasis in the desert that provides nesting and foraging resources for migratory and resident birds, and aquatic and riparian habitat for many other plants and animals. Tricolored blackbirds (TRBL, *Agelaius tricolor*)—listed as threatened in California—nest in the pond's vegetation. Mesquite bosques are located adjacent to BMP.



### 3.2.2 Objectives:

The primary objective of this project is to perform habitat restoration activities at BMP adjacent to BMPP. Field work can be performed from August through January. The Non-Federal Entity (NFE) shall establish procedures and provide services and equipment to implement the following at BMP as described in the Branch Memorial Park Management Plan dated April 2023:

- 1) Stabilize leaning trees at BMPP by adding emergent concrete aggregate piles at the foot of each tree.
- 2) Construct an inflow concrete aggregate apron at the BMPP pipe inflow.
- 3) Install a water flow meter at the outflow pipe to monitor pond water inputs.
- 4) Extend the outflow pipe an additional 10 feet and provide support for the outflow pipe.
- 5) Revegetate approximately 1.3 acres at the western edge of BMPP with mesquite trees and provide rainfall catch basins.
- 6) Terrace the banks surrounding BMPP.
- 7) Provide a 30-foot vegetated buffer of approximately 7 acres surrounding the BMPP bank. Use Baltic rush and saltgrass plugs and provide supplemental irrigation and temporary rope/post fencing around planted areas.
- 8) Provide and install barrier rocks or other approved barriers to preclude driving onto the 30-foot vegetated buffer.
- 9) Remove invasive Russian olive (approximately 800 square feet of cover).
- 10) Plant eight 15 gallon desert willows and eight 15 gallon broadleaf cottonwoods and provide supplemental irrigation. Surround with wire cages.
- 11) Revegetate approximately 1 acre of selected areas with alkali desert scrub species and provide supplemental irrigation.
- 12) Reconfigure roads and parking areas and cover with approximately 4,500 cubic yards of Edwards AFB provided on-base concrete aggregate.
- 13) Create berms exterior of the road from BMPP to preclude driving into the natural surrounding vegetation.
- 14) Repair the bollard and cable fence around the picnic area.
- 15) Provide and install up to 12 track-out grates at up to 3 locations.

### 3.2.3 Deliverables:

Report Deliverables include: Work Plan, Technical Report, GIS Data, Weekly Status Report, Monthly Status Report, Brochure, Poster, Video Script/Video, and Press Releases.

**Reports:** Edwards AFB requires use of the approved work plan template, standard report covers, and Standard Form 298 - Report Documentation Page. Reports shall generally be free of typos, grammatical errors, formatting inconsistencies and incorrectly labeled tables and figures. The reports shall provide proper citations for all documents referenced. It is requested that draft reports contain line numbering for ease of Government comment. Government and NFE comments shall be provided in a comment matrix provided by the Government. Project GIS Data shall be submitted along with draft and final reports. Final work plans, final technical reports, and final GIS data deliverables shall be submitted only after the NFE has addressed all Government comments satisfactorily.

Brochures, posters and video scripts shall be presented in draft versions to Natural Resource Manager for review prior to submission as final deliverable. Review is for agreement of general concept only.

**Work Plan:** The NFE shall submit a separate draft and final work plan describing in narrative format the plan of action for the accomplishment of the project tasks. The plan shall follow the

Edwards AFB Work Plan Template. The NFE shall provide a proposed comprehensive timeline for completion of the required work element activities and submittals. Updated project schedules will be provided by the NFE when the schedule changes, regardless of whom is responsible for causing the change in schedule. Updated schedules shall be submitted within seven (7) calendar days of any documented change in project schedule.

**Technical Report:** The NFE shall submit a separate draft and final technical report describing in narrative format the accomplishments of the project tasks including pertinent maps, figures, tables, photographs. The report format shall follow that of a scientific publication and include the following section heading: Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion and Literature Cited, as well as original data sheets and/or copies thereof, laboratory reports, and other appendices as appropriate.

**GIS Data:** The NFE shall comply with all requirements in the most recent version of the *Edwards Air Force Base Standards for Geographic Environmental Support Section 412 CEG/CEVA*. This document provides all details required for a successful GIS delivery. A preliminary technical consultation with 412 CEG/CEVA GIS staff shall be accomplished after the Post Award Kick-Off Meeting and prior to the start of all data collection for this project.

**Weekly Status Report:** The NFE shall provide to the Edwards AFB NRM weekly status report via email when performing on-base project activities. Report shall include activities accomplished, activity planned for the upcoming week, issues, and updated timelines for completion of work.

**Monthly Status Report:** The NFE shall provide a brief monthly project status report to the Edwards AFB NRM that describes amount of work completed to date, work completed in the past month, upcoming work schedules, potential problems, and unresolved issues.

**Brochure:** The NFE shall prepare an interpretive tri-fold brochure (8.5" x 11") that can be used to inform the general public about the findings of this project and the importance of Habitat Monitoring. Write narrative to the 9th grade level, using captioned photographs, maps, and some text boxes to convey the key messages. Provide an editable electronic copy. Brochure shall be formatted for reproduction by the 412 TW/PA.

**Poster:** The NFE shall prepare an interpretive poster that can be used to inform the general public about the findings of this project and the importance of Habitat Monitoring. Write narrative to the 9th grade level, using captioned photographs, maps, and some text boxes to convey the key messages. Provide an editable electronic copy, formatted for reproduction by the 412 TW/PA, and two flexible matte laminated posters (Large Poster – 24"w x 36"h).

**Video Script/Video:** The NFE shall prepare an editable video script 5 to 10 minutes in length that can be used to inform the general public about the findings of this project and the importance of project. Write narrative to the 9th grade level and provide photo suggestions for script narrative. Provide an editable electronic copy. A video approximately 5 minutes in length should be produced to document the project.

**Press Release:** The NFE shall prepare an editable press release for the general public. The press release shall identify the project as a 412 CEG/CEVA Natural Resource project, what the project's objective is, where the project is located on base, when the project will be implemented, how it will be implemented. The press release shall be no longer than approximately 200 words. Write the narrative to the 9th grade level. Provide an editable electronic copy of both the Beginning of Project Press Release and End of Project Results Press Release.

**3.2.4 Deliverables Schedule:** Submit deliverables as listed below, or as otherwise specified in the NFE's proposal. Deliverable schedule must be within the period of performance of the contract. The NFE may propose an alternate schedule but should not reduce the opportunities for and duration of Government review periods.

<b>Description</b>	<b>When Due</b>	<b>Format</b>
Work Plan Draft to include survey protocols	Notice to Proceed (NTP)+ 60 days	Microsoft Word editable: Electronic only (e-mail attachment, or file transfer)
Work Plan Comment Response	30 days after receipt of Government comments	Microsoft Word editable: Electronic only - comment matrix and work plan revision with track changes (e-mail attachment, or file transfer)
Work Plan Final to include survey protocols	21 days after Government approval of NFE's response to all Government comments	PDF: Electronic only (e-mail attachment or file transfer)
Weekly Status Report	Friday prior to upcoming field work week	Email
Monthly Status Reports	Within 14 days after end of each month	Microsoft Word editable: Electronic only (e-mail attachment, or file transfer)
Draft Technical Report	To be determined by NFE	Microsoft Word editable: Electronic only (e-mail attachment, or file transfer)
GIS Draft Technical Report Deliverables	Submit with Draft Technical Report	Per EAFB GIS Standards: Electronic (e-mail attachment, or file transfer)
Technical Report Comment Response	30 days after receipt of Government comments	Microsoft Word editable: Electronic only - comment matrix and technical report revision with track changes (e-mail attachment, or file transfer)
Final Technical Report	21 days after Government approval of NFE's response to all	PDF: Electronic (e-mail attachment or file transfer); 2 hard copies spiral or comb-bound, each with a CD containing the full document and all references.

<b>Description</b>	<b>When Due</b>	<b>Format</b>
	Government comments	
GIS Final Technical Report Deliverables	Submit with Final Technical Report	Per EAFB GIS Standards Electronic (e-mail attachment, or file transfer) and CD
Brochure Draft	Submit with Draft Technical Report	Microsoft Word editable: (e-mail, compact disk, or file transfer)
Brochure Final	Submit with Final Technical Report	Microsoft Word editable and PDF file: (e-mail, compact disk, or file transfer)
Poster Draft	Submit with Draft Technical Report	Microsoft Word editable: (e-mail, compact disk, or file transfer)
Poster Final	Submit with Final Technical Report	Microsoft Word editable and PDF file: (e-mail, compact disk, or file transfer) and two flexible printed posters
Video Script Draft	Submit with Draft Technical Report	Microsoft Word editable: (e-mail, compact disk, or file transfer)
Video Script Final	Submit with Final Technical Report	Microsoft Word editable and PDF file: (e-mail, compact disk, or file transfer)
Press Release Initial	Submit with Work Plan Draft	Microsoft Word editable: Electronic only (e-mail attachment)
Press Release Results	Submit with Final Technical Report	Microsoft Word editable: Electronic only (e-mail attachment)

### **3.3 TASK 3: FSPMA53236119 Mgt, Habitat: Monitor 84 Habitat Quality Analysis Plots (Unfunded Option)**

#### **3.3.1 Background:**

Quantitative long-term Habitat Quality Analysis (HQA) has occurred on Edwards AFB since 1993. In 2019, a new protocol was established to provide a statistically relevant measure of habitat changes over time. The first quantitative monitoring event under this Modified Monitoring Protocol was completed in 2019 at 70 monitoring plots. Per recommendations from the HQA Annual Monitoring Report and Cumulative Analysis, Edwards Air Force Base, California dated 13 December 2019 the total number of monitoring plots was increased to 84. These additional monitoring plots include 14 monitoring plots Joshua tree woodland plots with saltbush scrub understory and 2 replacement mesquite woodland plots. These additional 16 plots are identified on an updated figure, updated table, and updated GIS data layer. This monitoring effort should take place during peak flowering season in the Spring except for the western honey mesquite plots which will be monitored in late August.

#### **3.3.2 Objectives:**

The Non-Federal Entity (NFE) shall provide services and equipment necessary to implement the established quantitative sampling protocols described in the Habitat Quality Assessment Part III, Modified Monitoring and Data Analysis Protocol, Final Report, Edwards Air Force Base, California dated 13 December 2019. This includes: 1) Establishing initial plot characterization and habitat verification in the field for up to 16 new monitoring plots. 2) Permanently marking

in the field up to 16 HQA plots requiring initial plot characterization. 3) Monitoring up to 84 permanently established HQA plots. 4) Performing data analysis as described in the data analysis protocol. 5) Comparing/analyzing data from the previous 2019 HQA monitoring data to results of 2024 HQA monitoring effort for statistical relevance. 6) Providing recommendations for improving monitoring and data collection protocols.

### **3.3.3 Deliverables:**

Report Deliverables include: Work Plan, Technical Report, GIS Data, Weekly Status Report, Monthly Status Report, Brochure, Poster, Video Script/Video, and Press Releases.

**Reports:** Edwards AFB requires use of the approved work plan template, standard report covers, and Standard Form 298 - Report Documentation Page. Reports shall generally be free of typos, grammatical errors, formatting inconsistencies and incorrectly labeled tables and figures. The reports shall provide proper citations for all documents referenced. It is requested that draft reports contain line numbering for ease of Government comment. Government and NFE comments shall be provided in a comment matrix provided by the Government. Project GIS Data shall be submitted along with draft and final reports. Final work plans, final technical reports, and final GIS data deliverables shall be submitted only after the NFE has addressed all Government comments satisfactorily.

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**GIS Data:** The NFE shall comply with all requirements in the most recent version of the *Edwards Air Force Base Standards for Geographic Environmental Support Section 412 CEG/CEVA*. This document provides all details required for a successful GIS delivery. A preliminary technical consultation with 412 CEG/CEVA GIS staff shall be accomplished after the Post Award Kick-Off Meeting and prior to the start of all data collection for this project.

**Weekly Status Report:** The NFE shall provide to the Edwards AFB NRM weekly status report via email when performing on-base project activities. Report shall include activities accomplished, activity planned for the upcoming week, issues, and updated timelines for completion of work.

**Monthly Status Report:** The NFE shall provide a brief monthly project status report to the Edwards AFB NRM that describes amount of work completed to date, work completed in the past month, upcoming work schedules, potential problems, and unresolved issues.

**Brochure:** The NFE shall prepare an interpretive tri-fold brochure (8.5” x 11”) that can be used to inform the general public about the findings of this project and the importance of Habitat Monitoring. Write narrative to the 9th grade level, using captioned photographs, maps, and some text boxes to convey the key messages. Provide an editable electronic copy. Brochure shall be formatted for reproduction by the 412 TW/PA.

**Poster:** The NFE shall prepare an interpretive poster that can be used to inform the general public about the findings of this project and the importance of Habitat Monitoring. Write narrative to the 9th grade level, using captioned photographs, maps, and some text boxes to convey the key messages. Provide an editable electronic copy, formatted for reproduction by the 412 TW/PA, and two flexible matte laminated posters (Large Poster – 24”w x 36”h).

**Video Script/Video:** The NFE shall prepare an editable video script 5 to 10 minutes in length that can be used to inform the general public about the findings of this project and the importance of project. Write narrative to the 9th grade level and provide photo suggestions for script narrative. Provide an editable electronic copy. A video approximately 5 minutes in length should be produced to document the project.

**Press Release:** The NFE shall prepare an editable press release for the general public. The press release shall identify the project as a 412 CEG/CEVA Natural Resource project, what the project’s objective is, where the project is located on base, when the project will be implemented, how it will be implemented. The press release shall be no longer than approximately 200 words. Write the narrative to the 9th grade level. Provide an editable electronic copy of both the Beginning of Project Press Release and End of Project Results Press Release.

**3.3.4 Deliverables Schedule:** Submit deliverables as listed below, or as otherwise specified in the NFE’s proposal. Deliverable schedule must be within the period of performance of the contract. The NFE may propose an alternate schedule but should not reduce the opportunities for and duration of Government review periods.

<b>Description</b>	<b>When Due</b>	<b>Format</b>
Work Plan Draft to include survey protocols	Notice to Proceed (NTP)+ 60 days	Microsoft Word editable: Electronic only (e-mail attachment, or file transfer)
Work Plan Comment Response	30 days after receipt of	Microsoft Word editable: Electronic only - comment matrix and work plan revision

<b>Description</b>	<b>When Due</b>	<b>Format</b>
	Government comments	with track changes (e-mail attachment, or file transfer)
Work Plan Final to include survey protocols	21 days after Government approval of NFE's response to all Government comments	PDF: Electronic only (e-mail attachment or file transfer)
Weekly Status Report	Friday prior to upcoming field work week	Email
Monthly Status Reports	Within 14 days after end of each month	Microsoft Word editable: Electronic only (e-mail attachment, or file transfer)
Draft Technical Report	To be determined by NFE	Microsoft Word editable: Electronic only (e-mail attachment, or file transfer)
GIS Draft Technical Report Deliverables	Submit with Draft Technical Report	Per EAFB GIS Standards: Electronic (e-mail attachment, or file transfer)
Technical Report Comment Response	30 days after receipt of Government comments	Microsoft Word editable: Electronic only - comment matrix and technical report revision with track changes (e-mail attachment, or file transfer)
Final Technical Report	21 days after Government approval of NFE's response to all Government comments	PDF: Electronic (e-mail attachment or file transfer); 2 hard copies spiral or comb-bound, each with a CD containing the full document and all references.
GIS Final Technical Report Deliverables	Submit with Final Technical Report	Per EAFB GIS Standards Electronic (e-mail attachment, or file transfer) and CD
Brochure Draft	Submit with Draft Technical Report	Microsoft Word editable: (e-mail, compact disk, or file transfer)
Brochure Final	Submit with Final Technical Report	Microsoft Word editable and PDF file: (e-mail, compact disk, or file transfer)
Poster Draft	Submit with Draft Technical Report	Microsoft Word editable: (e-mail, compact disk, or file transfer)
Poster Final	Submit with Final Technical Report	Microsoft Word editable and PDF file: (e-mail, compact disk, or file transfer) and two flexible printed posters
Video Script Draft	Submit with Draft Technical Report	Microsoft Word editable: (e-mail, compact disk, or file transfer)
Video Script Final	Submit with Final Technical Report	Microsoft Word editable and PDF file: (e-mail, compact disk, or file transfer)
Press Release Initial	Submit with Work	Microsoft Word editable: Electronic only (e-

Description	When Due	Format
	Plan Draft	mail attachment)
Press Release Results	Submit with Final Technical Report	Microsoft Word editable: Electronic only (e-mail attachment)

### **3.4 TASK 4: FSPMA53236120 Mgt, Species: Improve Branch Memorial Park Pond Fish Habitat to Naturally Sustain Fish Populations (Unfunded Option)**

#### **3.4.1 Background:**

Branch Memorial Park Pond (BMPP) is a significant outdoor recreation site on Edwards AFB. It consists of a six-acre constructed pond stocked for fishing. The site is also important for natural resources management, offering an oasis in the desert that provides nesting and foraging resources for migratory and resident birds, and aquatic and riparian habitat for many other plants and animals. Tricolored blackbirds (*Agelaius tricolor*; TRBL)—listed as threatened in California—nest in the pond’s vegetation.

#### **3.4.2 Objectives:**

The primary objective of this project is to improve BMPP fish habitat to naturally sustain fish populations. Field work can be performed from August through January. The Non-Federal Entity (NFE) shall establish procedures and provide services and equipment to implement the following at BMPP as described in the Branch Memorial Park Management Plan: 1) Manage marsh vegetation by dredging approximately 500 linear feet along the pond’s shoreline to remove cattails/tules. 2) Remove vegetation from three boat launch areas. 3) Determine availability and cost effectiveness of using of a boat-mounted aquatic mower to manage marsh vegetation. Test use of mower if available and if use is determined cost effective. 4) Create 5 spawning beds totalling approximately 500 linear feet in length and approximately 10 feet wide, 1 foot thick positioned approximately 30 – 40 feet from the shoreline using approximately 190 cubic yards of NFE provided pea gravel. 5) Create up to 12 brush piles/complex structure additions submerged in the pond. Complex structure additions should be approximately 10 feet long by 6 feet wide by 4 feet tall consisting of large branches. Vegetative material is available from Edwards AFB. 6) Provide/install buoy markers to delineate submerged complex structures. 7) Engineer, construct, and install a fixed fishing pier/platform with access and associated parking per American with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines. Fishing platform shall be approximately 16 feet in width and 24 feet long located approximately 16 feet at the closest distance from the shoreline and connected with an 8 foot in width access ramp.

#### **3.4.3 Deliverables:**

Report Deliverables include: Work Plan, Technical Report, GIS Data, Weekly Status Report, Monthly Status Report, Brochure, Poster, Video Script/Video, and Press Releases.

**Reports:** Edwards AFB requires use of the approved work plan template, standard report covers, and Standard Form 298 - Report Documentation Page. Reports shall generally be free of typos, grammatical errors, formatting inconsistencies and incorrectly labeled tables and figures. The reports shall provide proper citations for all documents referenced. It is requested that draft



reports contain line numbering for ease of Government comment. Government and NFE comments shall be provided in a comment matrix provided by the Government. Project GIS Data shall be submitted along with draft and final reports. Final work plans, final technical reports, and final GIS data deliverables shall be submitted only after the NFE has addressed all Government comments satisfactorily.

Brochures, posters and video scripts shall be presented in draft versions to Natural Resource Manager for review prior to submission as final deliverable. Review is for agreement of general concept only.

**Work Plan:** The NFE shall submit a separate draft and final work plan describing in narrative format the plan of action for the accomplishment of the project tasks. The plan shall follow the Edwards AFB Work Plan Template. The NFE shall provide a proposed comprehensive timeline for completion of the required work element activities and submittals. Updated project schedules will be provided by the NFE when the schedule changes, regardless of whom is responsible for causing the change in schedule. Updated schedules shall be submitted within seven (7) calendar days of any documented change in project schedule.

**Technical Report:** The NFE shall submit a separate draft and final technical report describing in narrative format the accomplishments of the project tasks including pertinent maps, figures, tables, photographs. The report format shall follow that of a scientific publication and include the following section heading: Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion and Literature Cited, as well as original data sheets and/or copies thereof, laboratory reports, and other appendices as appropriate.

**GIS Data:** The NFE shall comply with all requirements in the most recent version of the *Edwards Air Force Base Standards for Geographic Environmental Support Section 412 CEG/CEVA*. This document provides all details required for a successful GIS delivery. A preliminary technical consultation with 412 CEG/CEVA GIS staff shall be accomplished after the Post Award Kick-Off Meeting and prior to the start of all data collection for this project.

**Weekly Status Report:** The NFE shall provide to the Edwards AFB NRM weekly status report via email when performing on-base project activities. Report shall include activities accomplished, activity planned for the upcoming week, issues, and updated timelines for completion of work.

**Monthly Status Report:** The NFE shall provide a brief monthly project status report to the Edwards AFB NRM that describes amount of work completed to date, work completed in the past month, upcoming work schedules, potential problems, and unresolved issues.

**Brochure:** The NFE shall prepare an interpretive tri-fold brochure (8.5" x 11") that can be used to inform the general public about the findings of this project and the importance of Habitat Monitoring. Write narrative to the 9th grade level, using captioned photographs, maps, and some text boxes to convey the key messages. Provide an editable electronic copy. Brochure shall be formatted for reproduction by the 412 TW/PA.

**Poster:** The NFE shall prepare an interpretive poster that can be used to inform the general public about the findings of this project and the importance of Habitat Monitoring. Write narrative to the 9th grade level, using captioned photographs, maps, and some text boxes to convey the key messages. Provide an editable electronic copy, formatted for reproduction by the 412 TW/PA, and two flexible matte laminated posters (Large Poster – 24”w x 36”h).

**Video Script/Video:** The NFE shall prepare an editable video script 5 to 10 minutes in length that can be used to inform the general public about the findings of this project and the importance of project. Write narrative to the 9th grade level and provide photo suggestions for script narrative. Provide an editable electronic copy. A video approximately 5 minutes in length should be produced to document the project.

**Press Release:** The NFE shall prepare an editable press release for the general public. The press release shall identify the project as a 412 CEG/CEVA Natural Resource project, what the project’s objective is, where the project is located on base, when the project will be implemented, how it will be implemented. The press release shall be no longer than approximately 200 words. Write the narrative to the 9th grade level. Provide an editable electronic copy of both the Beginning of Project Press Release and End of Project Results Press Release.

**3.4.4 Deliverables Schedule:** Submit deliverables as listed below, or as otherwise specified in the NFE’s proposal. Deliverable schedule must be within the period of performance of the contract. The NFE may propose an alternate schedule but should not reduce the opportunities for and duration of Government review periods.

<b>Description</b>	<b>When Due</b>	<b>Format</b>
Work Plan Draft to include survey protocols	Notice to Proceed (NTP)+ 60 days	Microsoft Word editable: Electronic only (e-mail attachment, or file transfer)
Work Plan Comment Response	30 days after receipt of Government comments	Microsoft Word editable: Electronic only - comment matrix and work plan revision with track changes (e-mail attachment, or file transfer)
Work Plan Final to include survey protocols	21 days after Government approval of NFE’s response to all Government comments	PDF: Electronic only (e-mail attachment or file transfer)
Weekly Status Report	Friday prior to upcoming field work week	Email
Monthly Status Reports	Within 14 days after end of each month	Microsoft Word editable: Electronic only (e-mail attachment, or file transfer)
Draft Technical Report	To be determined by NFE	Microsoft Word editable: Electronic only (e-mail attachment, or file transfer)

<b>Description</b>	<b>When Due</b>	<b>Format</b>
GIS Draft Technical Report Deliverables	Submit with Draft Technical Report	Per EAFB GIS Standards: Electronic (e-mail attachment, or file transfer)
Technical Report Comment Response	30 days after receipt of Government comments	Microsoft Word editable: Electronic only - comment matrix and technical report revision with track changes (e-mail attachment, or file transfer)
Final Technical Report	21 days after Government approval of NFE's response to all Government comments	PDF: Electronic (e-mail attachment or file transfer); 2 hard copies spiral or comb-bound, each with a CD containing the full document and all references.
GIS Final Technical Report Deliverables	Submit with Final Technical Report	Per EAFB GIS Standards Electronic (e-mail attachment, or file transfer) and CD
Brochure Draft	Submit with Draft Technical Report	Microsoft Word editable: (e-mail, compact disk, or file transfer)
Brochure Final	Submit with Final Technical Report	Microsoft Word editable and PDF file: (e-mail, compact disk, or file transfer)
Poster Draft	Submit with Draft Technical Report	Microsoft Word editable: (e-mail, compact disk, or file transfer)
Poster Final	Submit with Final Technical Report	Microsoft Word editable and PDF file: (e-mail, compact disk, or file transfer) and two flexible printed posters
Video Script Draft	Submit with Draft Technical Report	Microsoft Word editable: (e-mail, compact disk, or file transfer)
Video Script Final	Submit with Final Technical Report	Microsoft Word editable and PDF file: (e-mail, compact disk, or file transfer)
Press Release Initial	Submit with Work Plan Draft	Microsoft Word editable: Electronic only (e-mail attachment)
Press Release Results	Submit with Final Technical Report	Microsoft Word editable: Electronic only (e-mail attachment)

### **3.5 TASK 5: FSPMA53237119 Mgt, Species: Tricolored Blackbird Nesting/Breeding Surveys at Branch Memorial Park Pond**

#### **3.5.1 Background:**

Branch Memorial Park Pond (BMPP) was constructed in 1961. Historically, breeding colonies of Tricolored Blackbirds (TRBL: *Agelaius tricolor*) have occurred at Branch Memorial Park Pond (BMPP). Breeding TRBL were observed at BMPP in 2014, 2015, 2017, 2019, and 2020. No breeding surveys were done in 2018, 2021, 2022 or 2023. The 2016 nesting colony was abandoned in late April 2016. The 2020 nesting colony was abandoned between early March and late April 2020. Pre-breeding activity can occur as early as mid-January. Nesting activity begins in April with breeding typically occurring May – July. A total of 42 index monitoring sites were created throughout the extended survey area. Twenty-one TRBL Colony Survey

index sites (WS1 – WS21) are located adjacent to BMPP. The Habitat Survey index sites include the remaining index sites. The habitat surrounding BMPP is nearly unchanged or modified since BMPP was constructed. Summary results of monitoring are described in the Tricolored Blackbird Survey and Branch Park Pond Management Plan dated 15 June 2021. The survey protocol and project area are described in the Tricolored Blackbird Survey and Branch Park Pond Management Plan (Work Plan) dated 2 April 2019.

### **3.5.2 Objectives:**

The Non-Federal Entity (NFE) shall provide services and equipment necessary to implement TRBL monitoring surveys throughout the pre-breeding, breeding, and post-breeding surveys beginning in mid-January and lasting through July. This includes: 1) Reconciling the Tricolored Blackbird Survey and Branch Park Pond Management Plan (Work Plan) dated 2 April 2019 with the Tricolored Blackbird Survey and Branch Park Pond Management Plan dated 15 June 2021 and developing a revised work plan focused on the TRBL Colony Survey index sites (WS1 – WS21) and associated nearby feeding sites. 2) Performing weekly TRBL monitoring surveys throughout the pre-breeding, breeding, and post-breeding surveys beginning in mid-January 2024 and lasting through July 2024. 3) Documenting results of 2024 monitoring surveys. 4) Consolidating TRBL monitoring and non-monitoring data from 2014 – 2024 into a final report with consistent data presentation across the 2014 – 2024 data collection period. 5) Comparing/analyzing data from the previous monitoring data to results of 2024 TRBL monitoring effort for statistically relevant trends. 6) Providing recommendations for improving monitoring protocols and data collection.

### **3.5.3 Deliverables:**

Report Deliverables include: Work Plan, Technical Report, GIS Data, Weekly Status Report, Monthly Status Report, Brochure, Poster, Video Script/Video, and Press Releases.

**Reports:** Edwards AFB requires use of the approved work plan template, standard report covers, and Standard Form 298 - Report Documentation Page. Reports shall generally be free of typos, grammatical errors, formatting inconsistencies and incorrectly labeled tables and figures. The reports shall provide proper citations for all documents referenced. It is requested that draft reports contain line numbering for ease of Government comment. Government and NFE comments shall be provided in a comment matrix provided by the Government. Project GIS Data shall be submitted along with draft and final reports. Final work plans, final technical reports, and final GIS data deliverables shall be submitted only after the NFE has addressed all Government comments satisfactorily.

Brochures, posters and video scripts shall be presented in draft versions to Natural Resource Manager for review prior to submission as final deliverable. Review is for agreement of general concept only.

**Work Plan:** The NFE shall submit a separate draft and final work plan describing in narrative format the plan of action for the accomplishment of the project tasks. The plan shall follow the Edwards AFB Work Plan Template. The NFE shall provide a proposed comprehensive timeline for completion of the required work element activities and submittals. Updated project schedules will be provided by the NFE when the schedule changes, regardless of whom is responsible for

causing the change in schedule. Updated schedules shall be submitted within seven (7) calendar days of any documented change in project schedule.

**Technical Report:** The NFE shall submit a separate draft and final technical report describing in narrative format the accomplishments of the project tasks including pertinent maps, figures, tables, photographs. The report format shall follow that of a scientific publication and include the following section heading: Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion and Literature Cited, as well as original data sheets and/or copies thereof, laboratory reports, and other appendices as appropriate.

**GIS Data:** The NFE shall comply with all requirements in the most recent version of the *Edwards Air Force Base Standards for Geographic Environmental Support Section 412 CEG/CEVA*. This document provides all details required for a successful GIS delivery. A preliminary technical consultation with 412 CEG/CEVA GIS staff shall be accomplished after the Post Award Kick-Off Meeting and prior to the start of all data collection for this project.

**Weekly Status Report:** The NFE shall provide to the Edwards AFB NRM weekly status report via email when performing on-base project activities. Report shall include activities accomplished, activity planned for the upcoming week, issues, and updated timelines for completion of work.

**Monthly Status Report:** The NFE shall provide a brief monthly project status report to the Edwards AFB NRM that describes amount of work completed to date, work completed in the past month, upcoming work schedules, potential problems, and unresolved issues.

**Brochure:** The NFE shall prepare an interpretive tri-fold brochure (8.5" x 11") that can be used to inform the general public about the findings of this project and the importance of Habitat Monitoring. Write narrative to the 9th grade level, using captioned photographs, maps, and some text boxes to convey the key messages. Provide an editable electronic copy. Brochure shall be formatted for reproduction by the 412 TW/PA.

**Poster:** The NFE shall prepare an interpretive poster that can be used to inform the general public about the findings of this project and the importance of Habitat Monitoring. Write narrative to the 9th grade level, using captioned photographs, maps, and some text boxes to convey the key messages. Provide an editable electronic copy, formatted for reproduction by the 412 TW/PA, and two flexible matte laminated posters (Large Poster – 24" w x 36" h).

**Video Script/Video:** The NFE shall prepare an editable video script 5 to 10 minutes in length that can be used to inform the general public about the findings of this project and the importance of project. Write narrative to the 9th grade level and provide photo suggestions for script narrative. Provide an editable electronic copy. A video approximately 5 minutes in length should be produced to document the project.

**Press Release:** The NFE shall prepare an editable press release for the general public. The press release shall identify the project as a 412 CEG/CEVA Natural Resource project, what the project's objective is, where the project is located on base, when the project will be implemented,

how it will be implemented. The press release shall be no longer than approximately 200 words. Write the narrative to the 9th grade level. Provide an editable electronic copy of both the Beginning of Project Press Release and End of Project Results Press Release.

**3.5.4 Deliverables Schedule:** Submit deliverables as listed below, or as otherwise specified in the NFE’s proposal. Deliverable schedule must be within the period of performance of the contract. The NFE may propose an alternate schedule but should not reduce the opportunities for and duration of Government review periods.

<b>Description</b>	<b>When Due</b>	<b>Format</b>
Work Plan Draft to include survey protocols	Notice to Proceed (NTP)+ 60 days	Microsoft Word editable: Electronic only (e-mail attachment, or file transfer)
Work Plan Comment Response	30 days after receipt of Government comments	Microsoft Word editable: Electronic only - comment matrix and work plan revision with track changes (e-mail attachment, or file transfer)
Work Plan Final to include survey protocols	21 days after Government approval of NFE’s response to all Government comments	PDF: Electronic only (e-mail attachment or file transfer)
Weekly Status Report	Friday prior to upcoming field work week	Email
Monthly Status Reports	Within 14 days after end of each month	Microsoft Word editable: Electronic only (e-mail attachment, or file transfer)
Draft Technical Report	To be determined by NFE	Microsoft Word editable: Electronic only (e-mail attachment, or file transfer)
GIS Draft Technical Report Deliverables	Submit with Draft Technical Report	Per EAFB GIS Standards: Electronic (e-mail attachment, or file transfer)
Technical Report Comment Response	30 days after receipt of Government comments	Microsoft Word editable: Electronic only - comment matrix and technical report revision with track changes (e-mail attachment, or file transfer)
Final Technical Report	21 days after Government approval of NFE’s response to all Government comments	PDF: Electronic (e-mail attachment or file transfer); 2 hard copies spiral or comb-bound, each with a CD containing the full document and all references.
GIS Final Technical Report Deliverables	Submit with Final Technical Report	Per EAFB GIS Standards Electronic (e-mail attachment, or file transfer) and CD

<b>Description</b>	<b>When Due</b>	<b>Format</b>
Brochure Draft	Submit with Draft Technical Report	Microsoft Word editable: (e-mail, compact disk, or file transfer)
Brochure Final	Submit with Final Technical Report	Microsoft Word editable and PDF file: (e-mail, compact disk, or file transfer)
Poster Draft	Submit with Draft Technical Report	Microsoft Word editable: (e-mail, compact disk, or file transfer)
Poster Final	Submit with Final Technical Report	Microsoft Word editable and PDF file: (e-mail, compact disk, or file transfer) and two flexible printed posters
Video Script Draft	Submit with Draft Technical Report	Microsoft Word editable: (e-mail, compact disk, or file transfer)
Video Script Final	Submit with Final Technical Report	Microsoft Word editable and PDF file: (e-mail, compact disk, or file transfer)
Press Release Initial	Submit with Work Plan Draft	Microsoft Word editable: Electronic only (e-mail attachment)
Press Release Results	Submit with Final Technical Report	Microsoft Word editable: Electronic only (e-mail attachment)

### **3.6 TASK 6: FSPMA53237119 Mgt, Species: Mohave Ground Squirrel Camera Surveys**

#### **3.6.1 Background:**

The Mohave ground squirrel (MGS; *Xerospermophilus mohavensis*) is a medium-sized rodent endemic to the northwestern Mojave Desert. California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) listed the MGS as threatened under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) in June of 1971. MGS are found in remote undeveloped areas of the base, primarily to the east, northeast, and south of Rogers Dry Lake. MGS predominantly inhabit Joshua tree woodland, creosote bush scrub, and saltbush scrub communities, as well as rocky soils.

In 2018, Camera traps were used to document the presence or absence of MGS Edwards Air Force Base at the locations where they have been previously documented. Twenty-five study plots were surveyed in two sessions between 11 March 2018 and 14 June 2018 using camera traps. MGS were observed on 21 of the 25 study plots. In total, 1,770,636 images were recorded over the course of the study, of which 1,128,167 were taken during the day. MGS accounted for 3.3% of the total day-time images with an average of 11.7 images taken each day.

#### **3.6.2 Objectives:**

The Non-Federal Entity (NFE) shall provide services and equipment necessary to implement the established camera trapping protocols described in the Edwards Air Force Base Mohave Ground Squirrel Camera Trapping Work Plan dated September 2018. This includes: 1) Reconciling the Edwards Air Force Base Mohave Ground Squirrel Camera Trapping Work Plan dated September 2018 with monitoring recommendations from the Edwards Air Force Base Mohave Ground Squirrel Cumulative Report dated January 2019. 2) Performing camera surveys at 25 previously established study plots during two trapping sessions from mid-March 2024 to mid-June 2024. 3) Documenting results of 2024 monitoring surveys. 4) Comparing/analyzing MGS camera

monitoring data from 2018 to results of 2024 MGS monitoring for statistically relevant trends.  
5) Providing recommendations for improving monitoring and data collection protocols.

### **3.6.3 Deliverables:**

Report Deliverables include: Work Plan, Technical Report, GIS Data, Weekly Status Report, Monthly Status Report, Brochure, Poster, Video Script/Video, and Press Releases.

**Reports:** Edwards AFB requires use of the approved work plan template, standard report covers, and Standard Form 298 - Report Documentation Page. Reports shall generally be free of typos, grammatical errors, formatting inconsistencies and incorrectly labeled tables and figures. The reports shall provide proper citations for all documents referenced. It is requested that draft reports contain line numbering for ease of Government comment. Government and NFE comments shall be provided in a comment matrix provided by the Government. Project GIS Data shall be submitted along with draft and final reports. Final work plans, final technical reports, and final GIS data deliverables shall be submitted only after the NFE has addressed all Government comments satisfactorily.

Brochures, posters and video scripts shall be presented in draft versions to Natural Resource Manager for review prior to submission as final deliverable. Review is for agreement of general concept only.

**Work Plan:** The NFE shall submit a separate draft and final work plan describing in narrative format the plan of action for the accomplishment of the project tasks. The plan shall follow the Edwards AFB Work Plan Template. The NFE shall provide a proposed comprehensive timeline for completion of the required work element activities and submittals. Updated project schedules will be provided by the NFE when the schedule changes, regardless of whom is responsible for causing the change in schedule. Updated schedules shall be submitted within seven (7) calendar days of any documented change in project schedule.

**Technical Report:** The NFE shall submit a separate draft and final technical report describing in narrative format the accomplishments of the project tasks including pertinent maps, figures, tables, photographs. The report format shall follow that of a scientific publication and include the following section heading: Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion and Literature Cited, as well as original data sheets and/or copies thereof, laboratory reports, and other appendices as appropriate.

**GIS Data:** The NFE shall comply with all requirements in the most recent version of the *Edwards Air Force Base Standards for Geographic Environmental Support Section 412 CEG/CEVA*. This document provides all details required for a successful GIS delivery. A preliminary technical consultation with 412 CEG/CEVA GIS staff shall be accomplished after the Post Award Kick-Off Meeting and prior to the start of all data collection for this project.

**Weekly Status Report:** The NFE shall provide to the Edwards AFB NRM weekly status report via email when performing on-base project activities. Report shall include activities accomplished, activity planned for the upcoming week, issues, and updated timelines for completion of work.



**Monthly Status Report:** The NFE shall provide a brief monthly project status report to the Edwards AFB NRM that describes amount of work completed to date, work completed in the past month, upcoming work schedules, potential problems, and unresolved issues.

**Brochure:** The NFE shall prepare an interpretive tri-fold brochure (8.5” x 11”) that can be used to inform the general public about the findings of this project and the importance of Habitat Monitoring. Write narrative to the 9th grade level, using captioned photographs, maps, and some text boxes to convey the key messages. Provide an editable electronic copy. Brochure shall be formatted for reproduction by the 412 TW/PA.

**Poster:** The NFE shall prepare an interpretive poster that can be used to inform the general public about the findings of this project and the importance of Habitat Monitoring. Write narrative to the 9th grade level, using captioned photographs, maps, and some text boxes to convey the key messages. Provide an editable electronic copy, formatted for reproduction by the 412 TW/PA, and two flexible matte laminated posters (Large Poster – 24”w x 36”h).

**Video Script/Video:** The NFE shall prepare an editable video script 5 to 10 minutes in length that can be used to inform the general public about the findings of this project and the importance of project. Write narrative to the 9th grade level and provide photo suggestions for script narrative. Provide an editable electronic copy. A video approximately 5 minutes in length should be produced to document the project.

**Press Release:** The NFE shall prepare an editable press release for the general public. The press release shall identify the project as a 412 CEG/CEVA Natural Resource project, what the project’s objective is, where the project is located on base, when the project will be implemented, how it will be implemented. The press release shall be no longer than approximately 200 words. Write the narrative to the 9th grade level. Provide an editable electronic copy of both the Beginning of Project Press Release and End of Project Results Press Release.

**3.6.4 Deliverables Schedule:** Submit deliverables as listed below, or as otherwise specified in the NFE’s proposal. Deliverable schedule must be within the period of performance of the contract. The NFE may propose an alternate schedule but should not reduce the opportunities for and duration of Government review periods.

<b>Description</b>	<b>When Due</b>	<b>Format</b>
Work Plan Draft to include survey protocols	Notice to Proceed (NTP)+ 60 days	Microsoft Word editable: Electronic only (e-mail attachment, or file transfer)
Work Plan Comment Response	30 days after receipt of Government comments	Microsoft Word editable: Electronic only - comment matrix and work plan revision with track changes (e-mail attachment, or file transfer)
Work Plan Final to include survey protocols	21 days after Government approval of NFE’s response to all	PDF: Electronic only (e-mail attachment or file transfer)

<b>Description</b>	<b>When Due</b>	<b>Format</b>
	Government comments	
Weekly Status Report	Friday prior to upcoming field work week	Email
Monthly Status Reports	Within 14 days after end of each month	Microsoft Word editable: Electronic only (e-mail attachment, or file transfer)
Draft Technical Report	To be determined by NFE	Microsoft Word editable: Electronic only (e-mail attachment, or file transfer)
GIS Draft Technical Report Deliverables	Submit with Draft Technical Report	Per EAFB GIS Standards: Electronic (e-mail attachment, or file transfer)
Technical Report Comment Response	30 days after receipt of Government comments	Microsoft Word editable: Electronic only - comment matrix and technical report revision with track changes (e-mail attachment, or file transfer)
Final Technical Report	21 days after Government approval of NFE's response to all Government comments	PDF: Electronic (e-mail attachment or file transfer); 2 hard copies spiral or comb-bound, each with a CD containing the full document and all references.
GIS Final Technical Report Deliverables	Submit with Final Technical Report	Per EAFB GIS Standards Electronic (e-mail attachment, or file transfer) and CD
Brochure Draft	Submit with Draft Technical Report	Microsoft Word editable: (e-mail, compact disk, or file transfer)
Brochure Final	Submit with Final Technical Report	Microsoft Word editable and PDF file: (e-mail, compact disk, or file transfer)
Poster Draft	Submit with Draft Technical Report	Microsoft Word editable: (e-mail, compact disk, or file transfer)
Poster Final	Submit with Final Technical Report	Microsoft Word editable and PDF file: (e-mail, compact disk, or file transfer) and two flexible printed posters
Video Script Draft	Submit with Draft Technical Report	Microsoft Word editable: (e-mail, compact disk, or file transfer)
Video Script Final	Submit with Final Technical Report	Microsoft Word editable and PDF file: (e-mail, compact disk, or file transfer)
Press Release Initial	Submit with Work Plan Draft	Microsoft Word editable: Electronic only (e-mail attachment)
Press Release Results	Submit with Final Technical Report	Microsoft Word editable: Electronic only (e-mail attachment)

#### 4. TASK PROVISIONS AND COORDINATION

**Travel:** Provide transportation and fuel for all NFE staff to get to and from all field sites. Retain current proof of insurance and current registration for all modes of transportation.

**Coordination:** Coordinate concurrently with the Base NRM, AFCEC Edwards ISS and USACE PM. All work schedules shall be approved by the AFCEC and be consistent with the Project Schedule & Work Plan approved by the Base NRM. Schedule changes can be made; trade-off decisions will be jointly made by the USACE PM, Base NRM and AFCEC Edwards ISS and align with the Sikes Act compliant INRMP and original ACES programming. Any changes in scope or cost must be approved by the USACE Grants Officer. All coordination with state and federal regulators will be by the Base NRM or AFCEC Edwards ISS only.

**Project Management:** Within 30 days of award of this task order, the NFE will schedule an initial project kick off meeting with all parties involved (Edwards AFB, AFCEC/Edwards ISS, USACE, etc) to develop a project work schedule to implement the SOO. All deliverables/tasks will be submitted within the required timeframes as identified.

**Access:** Access to Edwards AFB is restricted. General base access requires sponsorship by a Government civilian employee, and should be coordinated at least two weeks prior to the visit. Long-term base access will require additional security clearances and access processing. Access to the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL), the Precision Impact Range Area (PIRA), the airfield, and other restricted facilities on EAFB may require additional security clearances and training. Access to some areas may be limited by ongoing military activities such that personnel access is limited to weekends or brief periods of a few hours. Access procedures are described in further detail in the most recent version of the Edwards AFB Contractor Access Request Procedures Template.

**Photography Use:** Photography at Edwards AFB is restricted, requiring an authorization letter that must be in the photographer's possession at all times. Cell phone photos are not allowed. Any photos/reports released to the public must be reviewed and authorized by Public Affairs. A non-disclosure agreement (NDA) is required for use of photographs for data analysis and report preparation prior to authorization by public affairs for release of photos/reports to the public. Biological Security Measure: The NFE shall follow applicable Biological Security Best Management Practices identified in the most recent version of the Edwards Air Force Base Invasive Species Management Plan.

**Environmental Awareness Training:** All NFE project personnel working on Edwards AFB shall attend desert tortoise awareness training prior to commencing work or visiting the work site.

**Biological Security Measure:** The NFE shall follow applicable Biological Security Best Management Practices identified in the most recent version of the *Edwards Air Force Base Invasive Species Management Plan*.

## **5. QUALIFICATIONS / PERMITS**

The NFE should meet the minimum qualifications necessary to perform tasks described in the project work statement. The principal investigator should have experience directing the efforts of the project team. NFE personnel shall have the technical experience, the field implementation experience, any required state and federal certifications, and any required state or federal handling or application permits likely to be used in this project. The NFE shall ensure that project activities, project reports, and project data are professionally executed with minimal errors.

## **6. GOVERNMENT FURNISHED MATERIALS OR PROPERTY**

The NFE will furnish all labor, materials, equipment, supplies, technical expertise, and supervision needed to perform all objectives.

## **7. OPTIONS:**

No options are anticipated for this project.

## **8. PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE**

**18 months from award** consisting of an administrative phase to complete on-boarding of employees and/or subcontractors, a 12-month technical phase for conducting fieldwork, and an administrative phase for completion of reports.

## **9. AGREEMENT REQUIRED DELIVERABLES**

In addition to the below, refer to Sections 3.1 – 3.4 for task specific deliverables.

9.1 A kickoff meeting, arranged by the Cooperator and including the installation POC and USACE Project Manager, shall be held via telephone or virtually within 30 days of the award and prior to September 30<sup>th</sup> of the Award year.

9.2 Progress Reports - One (1) typed letter report describing progress on the project. The report shall be due within 10 days of the end of each 3-month period (**quarterly**) and shall be transmitted via electronic mail, facsimile, or regular mail no later than the 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

9.2 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 – SWF and EAFB.

9.3 Annual Inventory – Required under 2CFR for Grants and Cooperative Agreements - 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 – SWF and EAFB

9.4 Annual Report per 2 CFR. One (1) paper copy of a 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. EAFB staff will review and provide comments, if any, within fifteen (15) calendar days after receipt.

9.5 Draft Final Project Report. One (1) paper 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. EAFB 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 Installation POC.

9.6 Final Project Report. One (1) paper copy of the final report, incorporating EAFB review comments on the draft, if any, shall be submitted no later than fifteen (15) days after receipt of the EAFB comments. Additionally, one (1) copy of the final report shall be submitted in a MSWord file(s), on digital media. Must provide an electronic copy to the USACE POC at the time this document is submitted to the Installation POC.

## **10.0 COORDINATION**

USACE POC:  
David Leptien  
Cell: 402-889-5570  
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AFCEC POC:  
Daniel F. Garcia  
Edwards ISS at Vandenberg AFB  
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## **11. ADMINISTRATIVE**

This cooperative agreement may be administered through 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.

Invoices and Closeout Documents: Per the standard Terms of Agreement and in accordance with 2 CFR, SF270s and closeout documents are required deliverables for all projects. The recipient

shall submit an SF270 with other required documentation to SWF[1][CESU-INVOICE@usace.army.mil](mailto:CESU-INVOICE@usace.army.mil) at minimum on a quarterly basis. Closeout documents are due 90 after the end of projects. The documents for closeout include the following:

1. Final SF 270
2. Final SF 425
3. SF 428 with attachment B (C and S when applicable)
4. DD Form 882
5. Final report (See 2 CFR 200.328)
6. Cover Form SF 298