

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST/REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
NUMBER N62742-24-2-0002**

PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN 2024

Project Title: INTEGRATED WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR PROPOSED MARINE CORPS RANGE AND TRAINING AREA ON THE ISLAND OF TINIAN, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest (RSOI) will be used to identify potential Recipients for a project to be funded by the Department of the Navy (DoN) to develop an Integrated Wildland Fire Management Plan for the Military Use Area (MLA) on Tinian Island.

The approximate amounts are expected to be available to support this project.

Estimated Available Funding
\$74,272

Type of Assistance Instrument Anticipated: Cooperative Agreement

Authority: Cooperative Agreement under 16 USC §670c-1 (Natural Resources Management – Sikes Act)

Eligible Applicants:

Rocky Mountain Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU) and the Hawaii-Pacific CESU Network cooperative partners who qualify under the DoD Grant and Agreement Regulations (DoDGARS) Part 34 or 2 Code of Federal Regulations 200 are eligible to apply.

Cost Sharing: Not required

Background:

The U.S. Marine Corps (USMC) proposes to develop a realistic training environment within the Exclusive Military Lease Use Area (approximately 7,574 acres) and the Lease Back Area (approximately 7,779 acres) on Tinian Island, which encompasses approximately 15,353 acres and is referred to as the Military Lease Area (MLA), see Figure 1. The Exclusive Military Use Area on the northern tip of the island is where most U.S. Armed Forces training currently occurs. The Lease Back Area, immediately south of and adjacent to the Exclusive Military Use Area, was sublet back to the CNMI by the U.S. Government for agricultural and other approved uses. Limited military training occurs in the Lease Back Area with permission of CNMI government and local agricultural permit holders.

The proposed military training will include mostly non-live fire training (e.g. urban terrain training, bivouacking, land navigation, aviation training, etc.) with live fire training limited to two ranges within the MLA, as described below:

- Multi-Purpose Maneuver Range (MPMR) – A live-fire range occupying approximately 200 acres at the northern tip of Tinian to support platoon-size live-fire and maneuver, including three surface radar locations.
- Explosives Training Range (ETR) – A live-fire range on approximately 2.5 acres for the employment of demolitions and military explosives in support of offensive and defensive training operations.

The following are also included in the Proposed Action to support training activities:

- Establishment of Landing Zones and associated access roads to conduct training operations as well as to provide staging, bivouac, and gathering and rendezvous areas.
- Other ground and aviation improvements at North Field, including establishment of a drop zone and the placement of a metal airfield surface.
- Construction and operation of an expeditionary base camp.
- Clearance or improvements of roads in the Military Lease Area.

Vegetation community mapping has occurred to support the analysis of the proposed training and should be utilized to develop an Integrated Wildland Fire Management Plan for the MLA area on Tinian Island.

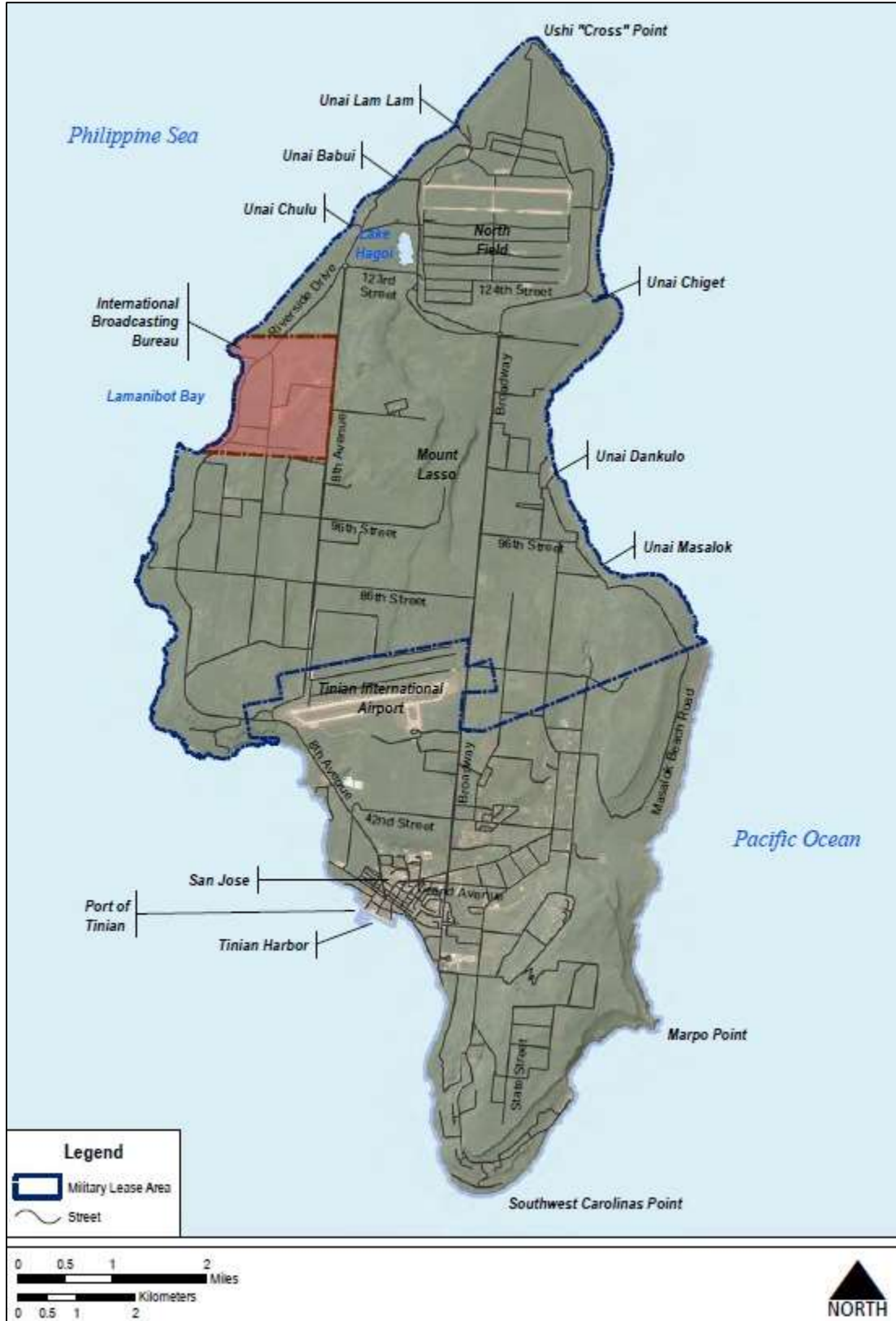


Figure 1. Proposed Military Training Area within Military Training Area

Brief Description of Anticipated Work:

The purpose of this Cooperative Agreement (Agreement) is to develop an Integrated Wildland Fire Management Plan (IWFMP) for the proposed USMC training area within the MLA on Tinian, CNMI.

The Recipient shall coordinate with the CATR and Marine Corps staff to be substantially involved in the Recipient’s activity. This includes participation in meetings to develop management strategies, developing the plan of actions and milestones, participating in the review process for the deliverables, and identifying data gaps in baseline information. The Tinian IWFMP will be developed in correlation with the RDEIS for CJMT and with the CJMT ESA formal consultation. The CATR will ensure language in the IWFMP aligns with language in the RDEIS and ESA formal consultation. The CATR will share pertinent information with the Cooperator to assist with development of the IWFMP.

The primary deliverables shall be a Draft IWFMP, Final Draft IWFMP and Final IWFMP that define a program of wildland and range fire management for the Marine Corps’ proposed training areas on Tinian. The IWFMP shall be developed collaboratively with all affected parties both on and off the ranges/installation that are required to be involved in both immediate response to brush fires as well as in the long-term management of the training landscape to sustain range training in a manner that ensures human health and safety, and is consistent with Marine Corps Natural Resources Management policy, the Joint Region Marianas Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (JRM INRMP), JRM Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP) where applicable, and other relevant military, federal, state, and local directives.

The Recipient will submit Draft and Final versions of: Plan of Actions and Milestones (POAM), Accident Prevention Plan (APP) with activity-specific Activity Hazard Analysis (AHA) sheets and a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Plan (HACCP) associated with fieldwork. The Recipient will provide monthly progress reports via email to the government and be involved in a kick-off meeting upon award of the cooperative agreement, to include submittal of draft and final meeting minutes from the kick-off meeting.

Period of Performance:

The proposed period of performance for the base Cooperative Agreement is 24 months from date of award; however, the parties may extend the period of the Cooperative Agreement by written modification.

Period of Performance	Anticipated Award Date
24 Months from Date of Award	Spring 2024

The Recipient may take up to fifteen (15)-days, starting on the date of award, to provide preliminary documents to the Cooperative Agreement Administrator (CAA) and Cooperative Agreement Technical Representative (CATR). Documents include, but are not limited to, Insurance documents and certificates, Draft and Final Work Plans, etc.

This project is a non-severable completion-based service that results in deliverables (Draft, Draft Final and Final Tinian IWFMP with associated data).

Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications:

Please provide the following via e-mail attachment to Melissa Tsuha (melissa.n.tsuha.civ@us.navy.mil) and Kristopher Tom (kristopher.m.tom.civ@us.navy.mil):

- 1) SF 424 (Enclosure 3)
- 2) Research & Related Senior/Key Personnel Form (Enclosure 4). Please see Factor 1 for additional submittal requirements.
- 3) Research & Related Budget Form (Enclosure 5). Please see Factor 3 for additional submittal requirements.
- 4) SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (Enclosure 6). If applicable, complete SF- LLL. Applicability: If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the grant/cooperative agreement, you must complete and submit Standard Form - LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying."
- 5) Research & Related Senior/Key Personnel Form (Enclosure 7). The Federal Government has a continuing commitment to monitor the operation of its review and award processes to identify and address any inequities based on gender, race, ethnicity, or disability of its proposed PDs/PIs and co-PDs/PIs. To gather information needed for this important task, the applicant should submit the requested information for each identified PD/PI and co-PDs/PIs with each proposal. Submission of the requested information is voluntary and is not a precondition of award. However, information not submitted will seriously undermine the statistical validity, and therefore the usefulness, of information received from others. Any individual not wishing to submit some or all the information should check the box provided for this purpose. Upon receipt of the application, this form will be separated from the application. This form will not be duplicated, and it will not be a part of the review process. This data will be kept confidential.

Reimbursement of pre-award costs will not be allowed.

Please note, that some of the forms functionality may be lost. Please visit <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/r-r-family.html#sortBy=1> to retrieve the forms directly from the Grants.gov website and use these forms when submitting your Statement of Interest.

Review of Statements Received:

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following three factors: 1) Credentials of Key Personnel, 2) Technical Approach, and 3) Reasonableness of Cost.

The Government considers it to be in its best interest to allow consideration of award to other than the lowest cost proposal or other than the highest technically rated proposal.

RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF EVALUATION FACTORS – Factor 1 and 2 are of equal importance; and when combined, are approximately equal importance to Factor 3.

NOTE: All requirements listed are minimum requirements. Offerors will be assessed on their ability to adhere to the listed requirements, complete responses, follow directions, comply with restrictions and provide quality control on their submittals. The Offerors shall provide a submission, not to exceed 10 single sided pages, single spaced with 12-point font. All page limits refer to 12-point font and single spaced one-sided pages. Submissions that exceed the page limitation specified within its corresponding factor may have additional pages removed from consideration.

Factor 1 - Credentials of Key Personnel

Due to the complexity of work, the Offeror shall provide the following key personnel with the following minimum qualifications:

- A. Principal Investigator: The Recipient shall designate one person as responsible for ensuring provisions are in place, project and personnel supervision, quality control and meeting of reporting requirements on a monthly basis. The PI shall be able to provide oversight, guidance, quality control; and be responsible for ensuring the professional quality and technical accuracy of all field work, report writing, graphics, and geographic information systems (GIS) conducted under this Agreement. This person shall verify the accuracy and integrity of all efforts by executing the signature page of each deliverable and shall be responsible to make sure the electronic product meets the scope of work and is compatible with the Government systems. This person shall have at the minimum:
 - i. Master's degree or higher in biology, environmental science, natural science, or closely related field.
 - ii. Minimum of 10 years documented professional experience applying theories, methods, and practices of fire ecology, biology, wildland fire management, and natural resources management in the Pacific.
 - iii. Minimum 5 years documented experience with wildland fire management on military lands as related to munitions use and range operations planning, natural resource management and laws to protect the natural environment. Documented experience should include but not be limited to fire management planning, risk analysis, and data management implementing wildland fire programs for military installations or and ranges, working with fire modeling computer programs.

- B. Project Manager: This person(s) shall provide direction in the field, execution of document development; and shall oversee all field or laboratory work, geographic information systems (GIS), statistical analysis, and shall analyze and interpret data, and present synthesis of findings in a written report and/or GIS, as required by the tasks. This person shall have at the minimum:
 - i. Bachelor's degree or higher and 5 years documented professional working experience in natural sciences such as biology, botany, or environmental Science, or closely related field working as project manager for natural resources studies, surveys, organizing projects, and environmental media areas with a focus in the Pacific.
 - ii. Documented experience (i.e. completed technical reports/publications) must demonstrate the individual has managed and implemented research design and sampling strategies; has made strategic and professional decisions in the field and has oral and written communication skills.

- C. Environmental Scientist or Field Technician: This person shall have at the minimum:
 - i. Bachelor's degree or higher in Biology, Environmental Science, Botany, Ecology, or other natural sciences as required by the deliverable.
 - ii. Two years demonstrated professional experience working with natural resources planning on military lands, fire management planning or implementation of fire management plans on military lands.

Factor 2 – Technical Approach

The Offeror shall develop an outline for their approach to addressing the anticipated work stated above. The Offeror shall be evaluated as to the soundness of the overall approach and use of any innovative techniques to accomplish project objectives.

Factor 3 - Reasonableness of Cost

After technical evaluation of the proposal, the offers will be analyzed for fair and reasonable pricing. The Offeror shall use OMB Circular A-21 “Cost Principles for Institutions of Higher Education”, 48 CFR part 31 “Contract Cost Principles and Procedures,” or 2 CFR 200 Subpart F “Audit Requirements” as applicable.

Evaluations will include an analysis to determine the Offeror’s comprehension of the requirements of the solicitation as well as to assess the validity of the Offeror’s approach. A clear cost breakdown of work elements to be accomplished detailing quantities for the various work items, unit, unit prices and extended prices will be required and will be evaluated. Evaluation will include an analysis to determine the Offeror’s comprehension of the requirements of the proposed agreement as well as to assess the validity of the Offeror’s approach.

Please provide your proposed budget on the provided pdf titled, “Research and Related Budget” form (Enclosure 5).

***Form: RESEARCH AND RELATED BUDGET:**

Complete the Research and Related Budget form in accordance with the instructions on the form. You must provide a detailed cost breakdown of all costs by cost category, by the funding periods described below, and by task/sub-task corresponding to the task number in the proposed SOW. You may request funds under any of the categories listed as long as the item and amount are necessary to perform the proposed work and meet all the criteria for allowability under the applicable Federal cost principles. The budget should adhere to the following guidelines:

The budget should be driven by program requirements. Elements of the budget shall include:

- Direct Labor - Individual labor category or person, with associated labor hours and unburdened direct labor rates.
- Indirect Costs - Fringe benefits, overhead, G&A, COM, etc. (must show base amount and rate). Justify in Field K.
- Travel - Number of trips, destination, duration, etc. Justify in Field K (on the form).
- Subcontract - A cost proposal as detailed as the applicant's cost proposal will be required to be submitted by the subcontractor. If applicable, include in Research & Related Subaward Budget Attachment Form.
- Consultant - Provide consultant agreement or other document that verifies the proposed loaded daily/hourly rate. Include a description of the nature of and the need for any consultant's participation. Strong justification must be provided, and consultants are to be used only under exceptional circumstances where no equivalent expertise can be found at a participating university. Provide budget justification in Field K.
- Materials - Specifically itemized with costs or estimated costs. An explanation of any estimating factors, including their derivation and application, shall be provided. Include a brief description of the applicant's procurement method to be used (competition, engineering estimate, market survey, etc.). Justify in Field K.

~~February March 7, 2024~~

March 12, 2024

- Other Direct Costs - Particularly any proposed items of equipment or facilities. Equipment and facilities generally must be furnished by the cooperator/recipient (justifications must be provided when Government funding for such items is sought). Include a brief description of the applicant's procurement method to be used (competition, engineering estimate, market survey, etc.). Justify in Field K.

Budget Justification (Field K on the form): Provide the required supporting information for the cost elements as shown above (see Research & Related Budget instructions) and listed as follows: indirect cost, travel, consultant, materials, and other direct costs. Provide any other information you wish to submit to justify your budget request.

NOTE: Every deviation from the scope of work requirement must be identified. Proposer must identify the paragraph in the scope of work that is applicable and provide sufficient information to justify why the deviation is in the best interest of the government.

Timeline for Review of Statements of Interest:

We request that Statements of Interest be submitted no later than ~~05-19~~ March 2024 2:00 P.M. Hawaii Standard Time. This Request for Statements of Interest will remain open until an investigator team is selected. Statements of Interest received after ~~05-19~~ March 2024 2:00 P.M. Hawaii Standard Time is considered "late" and may not be considered. Please submit requests for information/questions no later than ~~26-13 February~~March 2024 2:00 P.M. Hawaii Standard Time.

Please send electronic responses and questions to the following:

Mr. Kristopher Tom, Grants Officer
Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command, Pacific
258 Makalapa Drive, JBPHH, HI 96860
Phone #: (808) 474-4551
Email: kristopher.m.tom.civ@us.navy.mil

Ms. Melissa Tsuha, Cooperative Agreement Administrator
Naval Facilities Engineering System Command, Pacific
258 Makalapa Drive STE 100, JBPHH, HI 96860
Phone #: (808) 351-0674
Email: melissa.n.tsuha.civ@us.navy.mil