



DoD Natural Resources Program

Enabling the Mission, Defending the Resources

Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESU) Network

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CESU Network

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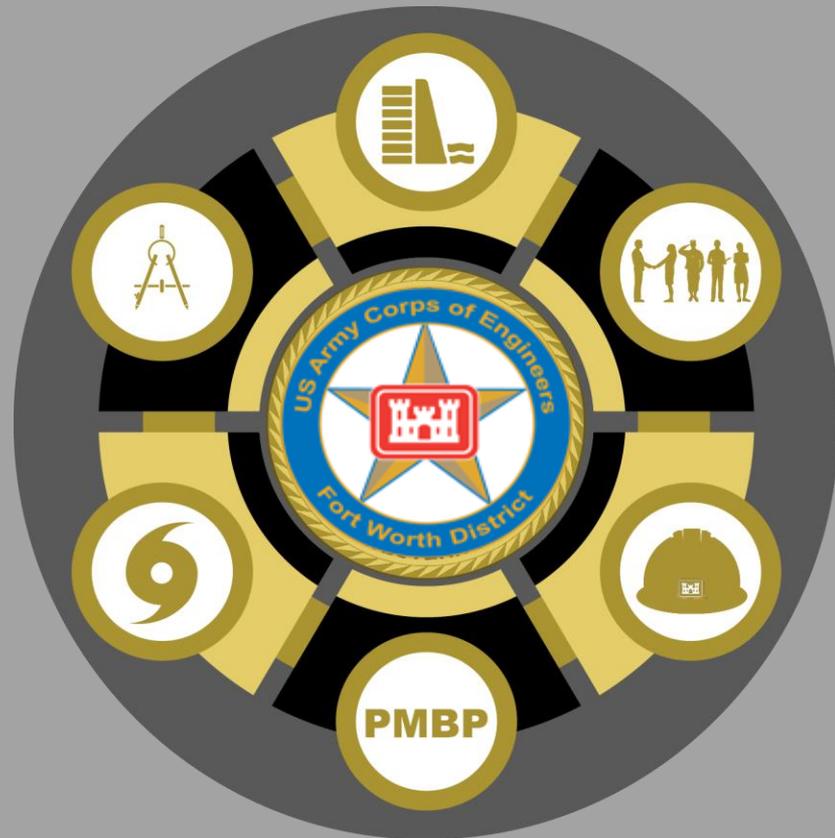
CESU Network Overview



- The Network is a national consortium of federal agencies, tribes, academic institutions, state and local governments, nongovernmental organizations, and other partners working together to support informed public trust resource stewardship
- CESUs provide research, technical assistance, and education to federal land management, environmental, and research agencies and their partners
- The CESU Network has the following objectives
 - provide usable knowledge to support informed decision making
 - ensure the independence and objectivity of research
 - create and maintain effective partnerships among the federal agencies and universities and other partners to share resources and expertise
 - take full advantage of university resources while benefiting faculty and students
 - encourage professional development of current and future federal scientists, resource managers, and environmental leaders
 - manage federal resources effectively
- The CESU Network is coordinated by the CESU Council that includes reps of the federal agency partners who have signed a MOU
- The Network is led by a National Coordinator, appointed by the Council, and a small national office staff

GRANTS & COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS PROGRAM FORT WORTH DISTRICT

MARCH 2020



File Name



MISSION / PEOPLE / TEAMWORK



US Army Corps
of Engineers®



Cooperative Agreements



Background

- History dates back to 1862
- 1958 Federal Grants Statue
- Grants = gift
- Need for government involvement
- Need for definition → 1977 Federal Grants and Cooperative Agreement Statue



Contract Vs. Cooperative Agreement

- Differences between assistance and acquisition are substantial and fundamental in kind not in degree

Contract	Coop Agreements	Grant
Acquisition vehicle	Assistance Vehicle	
Service or tangible product for the govt	Service that is mandated by statute for the benefit of the public	
	Considerable and substantial involvement of the government	No govt involvement
Governed by FAR	Governed by 2.CFR.200	

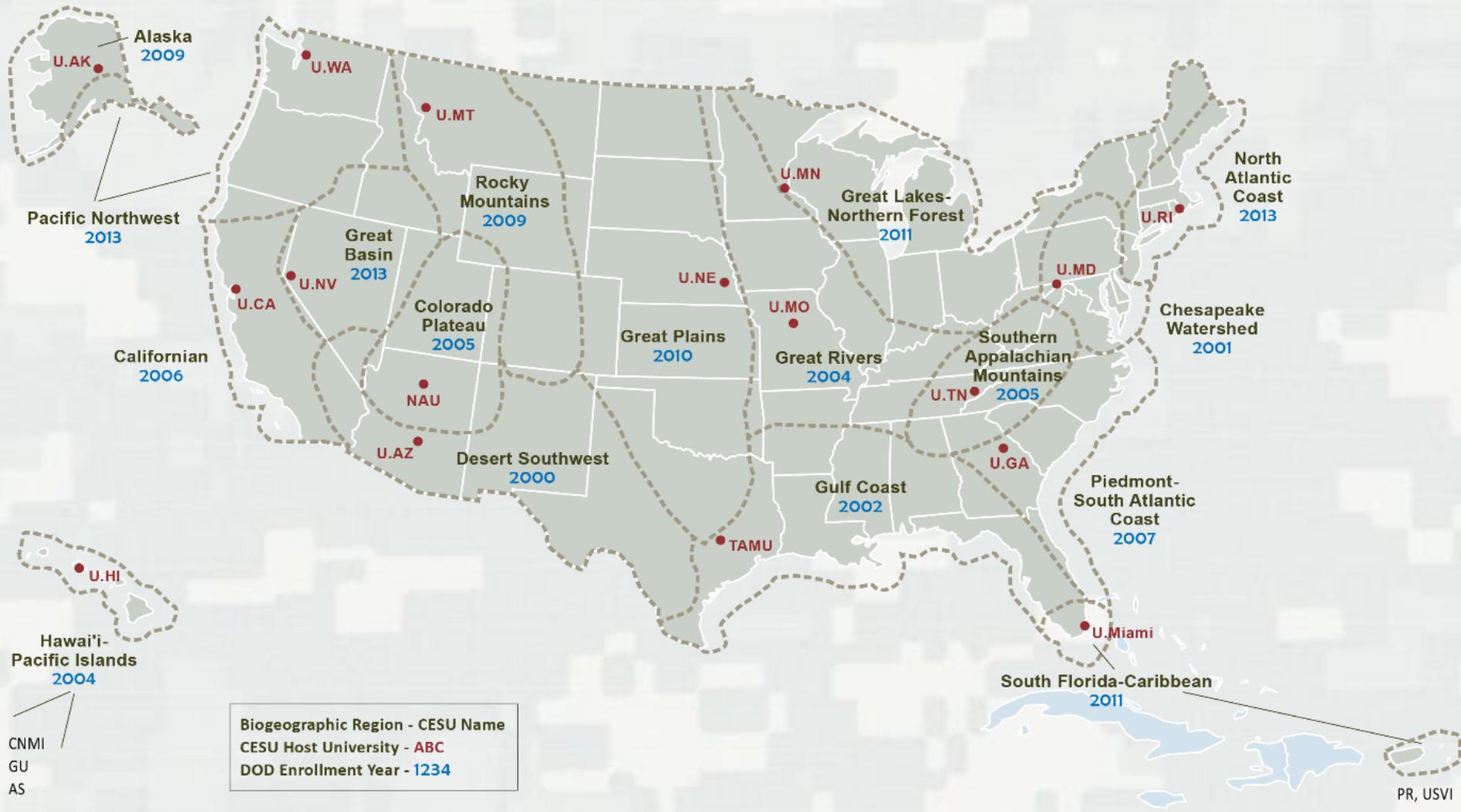


Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESU)

- CESU Network overview: 17 Geographic Regions
- CESU Project Location Map: Dispersed with DoD presence, primarily CONUS
- CESU Project Description: Mandatory Installation Plans (e.g. INRMP/ICRMP) are most common



COOPERATIVE ECOSYSTEM STUDIES UNITS



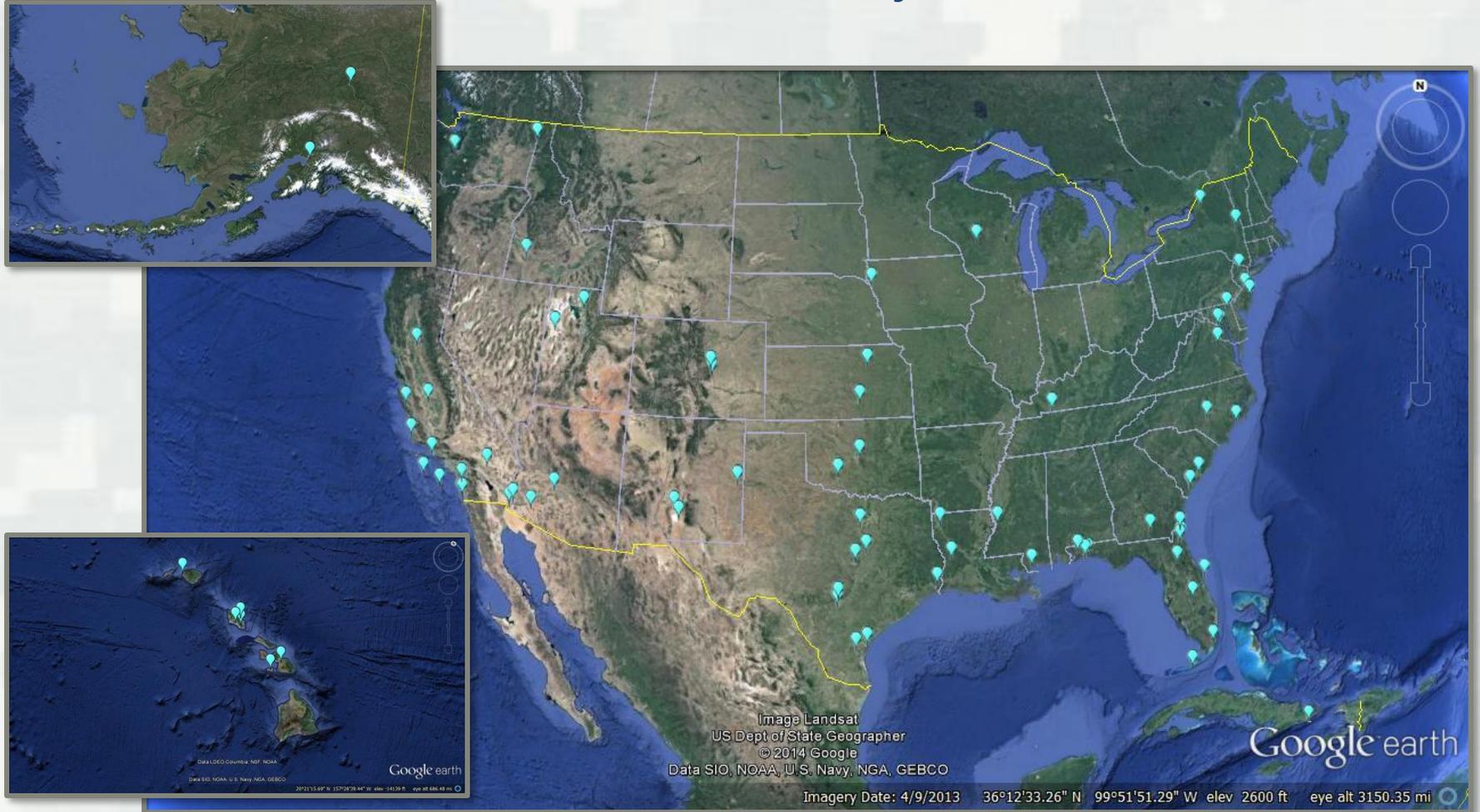
Biogeographic Region - CESU Name
 CESU Host University - ABC
 DOD Enrollment Year - 1234

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SWF Projects



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Types of Cooperative Agreement Projects

- Types of projects:
 - INRMP
 - ICRMP
 - Natural Resource Support
 - Conservation Management
 - Forestry Tech Support
 - Habitat Conservation
 - Plant Species Improvement
 - Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program
 - Policy examination and improvement
 - Natural Resource Law Enforcement
 - GIS in support of Habitat/Archeology
 - Hydrology support
 - STEM



Authorities

- 10 U.S.C. § 2358: Research and Development
- 10 U.S.C. § 2684a: Agreements to limit encroachments and other constraints on military training, testing, and operations,
- 10 U.S.C. § 2701 d: Responsibilities under the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP),
- 16 U.S.C. § 670(c) (1): (SIKES ACT), USACE Acquisition Instruction
- Water Resources Development Act of 2000: Delegation of Authority under Section 213(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000



Award Type

- **Competed**
 - ▶ Require competition
 - ▶ Installation sets the amount available, the Statement of Objectives (SOO), and deliverables
 - ▶ Must compete on CESU and Grants.gov
- **Principal Investigator (PI) Initiated**
 - ▶ No competition needed
 - ▶ PI proposes budget, tasks, and deliverables and installation and USACE can request adjustment.
- **Modification**



Phases of Award

Pre-Award Phase

- SOO, RSOI, & funding are negotiated
- Schedule established
- Funding provided
- GO and OC review

Solicitation and Award

- USACE advertises
- Review SOI
- RFP
- Proposals evaluated
- Technical analysis and acceptance
- OC and GO final review
- Award package sent to NFE for signature
- GO signs

Post Award

- Kickoff call
- Quarterly reports and invoices
- Annual compliance and reporting forms
- Closeout phase



Competed

Pre award

- Need mandated by statute
- Ex: INRMP, ICRMP, RDT&E
- Installation provides SOO, RSOI, and MIPR

Solicitation & Award

- Funding Opportunity posted
- SOIs evaluated- RFP extended- Most technically sound proposal selected
- Project awarded

Post Award

- Project progress monitored
- Post award management- financial, equipment, permits, any other as needed
- Closeout requirement: Financial, equipment, non tangible property, and final report

100-110 Days



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PI Initiated

Pre
award

- PI proposes an unsolicited project
- Installation finds technical merit in proposal- and submit to USACE
- Installation provides MIPR

Award

- Proposal evaluated
- Project awarded

Post Award

- Project progress monitored
- Post award management- financial, equipment, permits, any other as needed
- Closeout requirement: Financial, equipment, non tangible property, and final report

20-40 Days



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Modifications

Bilateral

- Change in scope or budget
- Requires signature of the GOVT and NFE
- Time schedule: Approximately 60 days

Unilateral

- Exercising an option period or optional task/ No cost POP extension
- Require the GOVT signature only
- Time schedule: Approximately 15-20 days

Administrative

- Budget Realignment/ Change of key personnel
- Require internal GOVT approval and the PM relays the decision to the NFE
- Time schedule: Approximately 15 days



SWF Fee Schedule

New Agreement

(CA Amount)	With No Competition Required	Competition Required
1. Less than \$50,000	\$9,000.00	\$10,250.00
2. \$50,000 - \$100,000	\$10,750.00	\$13,000.00
3. \$100,000 - \$150,000	\$12,250.00	\$15,625.00
4. \$150,000 - \$200,000	\$13,500.00	18,000.00
5. Greater than \$250,000	\$14,500.00	\$19,500.00-20,000.00

Modification

Mod Type	Amount
Bilateral Mod	5% of the amount or \$9,000
Unilateral Mod, and NCPE	\$6,000



Acquisition Process



- ❖ Cooperative Agreement Technical Representative (CATR) develops a point paper to justify why a cooperative agreement is an appropriate vehicle for the requirement.
- ❖ CATR submits point paper, Independent Government Estimate (IGE), Statement of Work (SOW) and Request for Statements of Interest (RSOI) to ACQ and legal for review.
- ❖ After necessary revisions, ACQ forwards package to Grants Officer for approval.
- ❖ ACQ posts SOW and RSOI to CESU host university's website for a minimum of 10 days.
- ❖ CESU partners submit applications, and CATR and ACQ select a cooperator based on published criteria.

Acquisition Process (CONT'D)



- ❖ CATR prepares Technical Evaluation Report, which is reviewed by ACQ and legal and approved by the Grants Officer.
- ❖ ACQ requests latest financial and audit report (OMB Circular A-133) from selected cooperator
- ❖ Negotiations are conducted with cooperator if necessary regarding scope and/or budget.
- ❖ ACQ prepares Business Determination and draft cooperative agreement, which are reviewed by legal and approved by the Grants Officer.
- ❖ Once funding is received, cooperative agreement is signed by cooperator and Grants Officer.

Acquisition Process (CONT'D)



- ❖ Modifications are issued as required (i.e. period of performance extensions, exercise of options, etc.).
- ❖ Invoices are paid electronically through Wide Area Workflow (WAWF).
- ❖ Excess funding is deobligated by modification at the end of the project.

Legal Considerations



HOW DO WE KNOW WHETHER TO USE A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT OR CONTRACT?

- ❖ Public Purpose - Project should support base INRMP (fill knowledge gaps for, support of, natural resources on base) vs. just need a service or goods that benefits DOD. Project must support objectives of CESU network.
- ❖ Consider statutory authority: Sikes Act – project should provide for the maintenance and improvement of natural resources on base (and off-base if project addresses restrictions related to military activities but requires higher level of review).

Legal Considerations



- ❖ Consider the level of government involvement in the project – SUBSTANTIAL government participation.
- ❖ More than just contract administration type activities.
 - ❖ Scope of Work MUST identify the participation of BOTH parties including government participation
 - ❖ Substantial – govt involved in development of study methodology, data gathering, analysis, report writing.
 - ❖ Not substantial – approving invoices, performance monitoring, sharing data from previous research

Legal Considerations



WHAT ISSUES SHOULD I BE AWARE OF?

- ❖ Competition – all govt initiated projects require competition
- ❖ Period of Performance / Fiscal Issues – Severable / Non-severable services:
 - ❖ Severable (single project that can't be divided) -fully funded, can be longer than 18 mo.
 - ❖ Non-severable services (continuing and recurring) – PoP cannot exceed 18 mo.
- ❖ Government vehicles / Government Lodging limitations – generally NOT authorized for non-DOD personnel.

Example Project



- ❖ CESU Partner: University of Florida
- ❖ Project Objective: Conduct surveys for the American crocodile at Naval Air Station Key West to determine their spatial distribution, nesting behavior and habitat use; 2015 and 2020
- ❖ Survey Techniques: Visual Surveys/Mark and Recapture
- ❖ This project supports the installation's Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan and involved substantial govt involvement



Example Project



- ❖ CESU Partner: Texas A&M-Natural Resource Institute
- ❖ Project Objective: To development a population estimation methodology and spatial ecology assessment for the Cuban hutia on Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
- ❖ Hutia population has wide-spread impacts to both the natural resources and urban environments of the installation
- ❖ Survey Techniques: Driving and walking surveys in addition to radio telemetry



Example Project



- ❖ CESU Partner: Virginia Tech
- ❖ Project Objective: Monitor Red-cockaded Woodpeckers at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune; 2014-2019
- ❖ Survey Techniques: Population monitoring, banding birds, artificial cavity construction, implementation of management actions
- ❖ This project supports the endangered species program at MCB Camp Lejeune





Points of Contact

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